

## Delray Beach

### Probe fails to disclose reason behind fatal shooting

Judge denies bond to suspect; defense aims to impugn witnesses

By Jane Musgrave

Nearly eight months after a popular computer tech was shot at a Delray Beach oceanside resort, it's still a mystery why



what was described as a friendly — if drug- and alcohol-soaked — gathering turned deadly.

**Camentz** Albert Camentz didn't know his accused killer, Mark David Anderson. He had no beef with the 45-year-old self-employed Lake Worth Beach carpenter who allegedly shot him during the impromptu get-together at Berkshire by the Sea, the only two witnesses told Delray Beach police.

Not only is there no known motive for the September shooting, but the witnesses insisted they didn't even know their 58-year-old friend was wounded even though he was having trouble breathing.

Jack Feinberg and Susan Schneider, who invited Camentz to join them at the timeshare

See **MYSTERY** on page 12

## Highland Beach



Gary Chancey, an engineer-driver for the new Highland Beach Fire Rescue, receives his department badge from his wife, Liz Chancey, an engineer-driver for Riviera Beach Fire Rescue. The ceremony at the new Highland Beach station included (l-r) Chief Glenn Joseph and his assistant chiefs Tom McCarthy and Matt Welhaf. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

### Fired up ... and ready to serve



The new station went into service May 1, the date Highland Beach officially launched its own fire rescue department.

### New department is first of its kind in Palm Beach County in 31 years

By Rich Pollack

The critics said it couldn't be done.

They said starting a new fire department in Highland Beach would be too expensive and would bankrupt the town. They said the quality of service would slide downhill, and that navigating the state and county bureaucratic requirements would prove insurmountable.

They even told the town's fire chief, who had been a chief in

Boynton Beach and a deputy chief in Boca Raton, that he was crazy to take the job.

Yet this month, Highland Beach Fire Rescue launched operations, the first new municipal fire department in Palm Beach County since Tequesta's in 1993, with promises to provide improved services at a significantly reduced cost.

"Everyone says you can't

See **FIRE** on page 16

## Along the Coast

### Pickleball popularity is reshaping recreational offerings

By Anne Geggis

The smashing success of pickleball has South Palm Beach County municipalities turning public property into rally zones with unprecedented speed.

Even though pickleball paddles weren't in sight 10 years ago, now nearly 60 dedicated pickleball courts are expected to be online in South County municipal parks before the year is over — not counting another Boca Raton facility due in September 2025

with 14 more pickleball courts. And that's in addition to other public recreation sites where pickleball lines have been painted on other sports' courts so they can be used to perfect that chop stroke capable of delivering a devilish backspin.

One row of courts at the Tennis Center at Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton buzzed with paddling activity on a recent Sunday morning — surrounded by tennis courts only occasionally occupied. As he waited his turn for a pickup game, along with nearly

two dozen others just before 9 a.m., Mike Gordon, 74, held forth on the difference between a tennis court and a pickleball court.

"A pickleball court has people on it," joked the semi-retired Delray Beach consultant.

There's no doubt: The surging demand for pickleball coupled with limited space means some other recreational activities have to

See **RECREATION** on page 24



Lisa Lagrega plays pickleball at one of the 12 courts at Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

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**Solo show**  
A talk with Norton's artist-in-residence on her current exhibition.  
Page AT7



**Signing**  
Sondheim Delray Playhouse enlists ASL interpreters for first time.  
Page AT1



**Water cutoff threatened**  
Delray gives Gulf Stream a year to get new provider.  
Page 22

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## Coastal Star



Katherine Parr with Tuxedo, her 7-year-old Havanese, at home in Manalapan. Parr, a former schoolteacher, does design for her Katherine Parr Jewelry brand. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

## Editor's Note

### Battles over home size pit property vs. community

Unintended consequences. Who would have guessed 20 years ago that big, white square houses would be all the rage? Who could have known FEMA, faced with the reality of rising water, would set new requirements for floor levels? And I suppose it shouldn't be a surprise, but who could have anticipated that a single-minded "personal property rights" mantra would come at the expense of the greater community?

Today we're seeing the results of these changes.

In coastal Delray Beach, the city has put additional limits on the square footage that can be built based on lot size in an effort to keep large boxy houses from looming over the smaller houses next door. The city is also finding that elevated construction is causing walls to rise higher than in the past, shading out their neighbors.

In Gulf Stream and Manalapan, the increase in large houses built at higher elevation is forcing a discussion around the "massing" of new homes.

Coastal Boca Raton hasn't seen these same issues as its northern neighbors (yet), but residents are paying attention, sharing what's happening in Delray Beach on social media.

Hopefully, Ocean Ridge, too, will pay attention.

Most of the town's 1,800 residents have been adamant about retaining the unique character of the town, and new building plans that push the limits of current zoning have angered neighbors — many reeling from seemingly never-ending construction next door. I feel their pain.

I've lived in Ocean Ridge for more than three decades,

and for much of that time there has been a less-than-subtle push to "increase the value of properties" to better fund the town without raising tax rates. The idea was brought up again at the town's annual goal-setting workshop.

What this translates to is increasing the approved floor area ratio for new and remodeled properties — creating larger taxable structures. It's a 20-year-old idea. Not the sort of new thinking the town deserves. At least one commissioner has asked for this topic to be addressed at a 10 a.m. May 13 workshop to discuss planning and zoning objectives. Residents should plan to attend.

Our coastal communities share many similar concerns and each municipality needs to pay close attention to how its neighbors are addressing the evolving issues of house size, massing, stormwater management and flooding — one of Ocean Ridge's most critical issues. It's imperative for residents to attend these meetings — which always seem to happen once the seasonal residents have gone North.

Since not all consequences are unintended, residents must pay close attention to what their elected officials are proposing, and make sure they don't ignore current and evolving problems.

The sustainability of our communities depends on it.

— Mary Kate Leming, Executive Editor



## A jewel in Manalapan: Designer is champion of women worldwide

By Brian Biggane

Katherine Parr calls meeting Beth Walton, CEO of the Town of Palm Beach United Way, as "one of the better things I've done."

But for Walton, it's the agency that has reaped more benefits from their relationship. "We're so happy to have met her," Walton said.

An entrepreneur, successful businesswoman, philanthropist and former schoolteacher who says she likes "to roll up my sleeves," Parr got that opportunity when she was assigned to the appropriations committee, which vets nonprofits seeking agency funds every year.

"That's where we really learn about our volunteers," Walton said. "We spent a great deal of time with her and she brought a tremendous amount of knowledge and depth into that process. Through that we really got to know her."

Parr, who lives in Manalapan, so impressed leadership that within two years she became a member of the board of directors.

She is founder of Katherine Parr Jewelry and the co-founder, with her husband, Gary, of Parré Chocolat, which offers chocolate delights out of Via Roma Cafe on Worth Avenue in Palm Beach.

Parr, 45, grew up in a family of educators in Sea Girt, New Jersey, was educated at Villanova University and spent 5½ years teaching first grade to mostly migrant students at a Title I school in Long Branch, New Jersey.

"I also developed programs including a leadership program and a world language program for the Spanish language,"

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said Parr, who had a minor in Spanish and then lived six months in Spain to understand the language better.

"I brought in resources from the United Nations and other places that would enhance the programming. I wrote the curriculum. Because it was mostly an immigrant population from Brazil, Mexico, India, all around the world, instead of showing what's different about us, I would show what's similar, because we have more in common than we do differences."

A designer for 15 years with her brand Katherine Parr Jewelry, Parr was recently commissioned by the Qatar Fund for Development to design a collection of carpets hand-made and hand-woven by women in Afghanistan. The effort was also commissioned by Turquoise Mountain, a nonprofit founded by England's King Charles III.

"There are a lot of talented weavers there but it's difficult for women (since) the Taliban took over; women's rights are extremely limited," Parr said. "It ranks 146th in human rights. They are making the carpets now and the marketing will launch in the fall to winter."

Parr got inspiration for the designs from poppy flowers she saw on a trip to the north of Jordan, near Syria.

"I converted them into a style you might see in some of the modern homes today," she said. "The muted tones, pastels, pinks, greens. I worked on it for a year in the design process."

"Similar to the jewelry

business, you start with a concept, then there's a hand sketch and then technical sketches on the computer, then color matching. It's pretty complicated but it's exciting."

Parr was days away from heading off to Jordan last month on behalf of the Fulbright Foundation, which has an advisory as well as a scholarship program, when the trip was postponed for security reasons. She expects to get the go-ahead when the region becomes safer.

"I'm bringing American expertise, resources and connections to help improve a university in Jordan for education and economic empowerment for women," she said.

"The focus is on fashion entrepreneurship, which takes the jewelry experience and applies it to improve the lives there. Women are seen as the largest untapped resource in Jordan and all through the Middle East, and the embassy has indicated this will be culturally acceptable and economically impactful."

Katherine met Gary Parr at a fundraiser for the New York Philharmonic in New York. They married and moved to Florida in 2020 when Gary, who is an executive with Apollo Global Management, was sent down to set up a Palm Beach office. They reside in the historic Vanderbilt mansion, Casa Alva, which was built by Consuelo Vanderbilt in 1934 in Point Manalapan.

"I always say Gary is a visionary and I'm a lucky girl," she said. ★

## Heading north for the summer?

Use the subscriber form on page AT22

Letters to the Editor

Crosswalks may be needed in South Palm, but how would that work?

In response to a letter in the April issue of *The Coastal Star* calling for the installation of crosswalks in South Palm Beach, I would ask the following questions: Placed where? And leading where?

Unlike the west side of A1A,

there is no shared path on the east side of the road, meaning that pedestrians would have to walk across unstable, often soaked grass lawns to arrive at their destination, or along the road, increasing the risk of being struck by a vehicle.

It is highly unlikely that pedestrians would traverse an additional distance to arrive at a crosswalk, then double back along an unstable surface to arrive at their building. The only alternative, although completely impractical, would be to have crosswalks leading to each building on the east side of A1A.

A concern at least equal to that of jaywalking involves cyclists riding two and three abreast, often at a high rate of speed, in the narrow shoulder at the edge of the road. In addition to forcing motorists to veer into the oncoming traffic lane, which is inherently hazardous, the condition poses a risk to pedestrians. In fact, some years ago *The Coastal Star* posted a tongue-in-cheek article wherein their reporter described her harrowing bike ride along A1A, between Delray Beach and Lake Worth Beach.

Unfortunately, these issues all tie into the fact that we are experiencing a post-pandemic influx of year-round residents in an area where the infrastructure is not prepared to handle the load. This has affected and will continue to affect everything from traffic patterns on a town level to overtaking of plumbing and electrical systems, parking availability and security in individual buildings.

Those of us who have lived in South Palm Beach have seen an onslaught of new arrivals to the point where there is little difference between the high

and off seasons. As statistics would dictate, more people means more bicycles, more transients in the form of guests and visitors, more pets and unfortunately more unwanted incidents.

While the recent hit and run in South Palm Beach was tragic, we need to plan for the future in a comprehensive manner that makes long-term sense, avoiding knee-jerk solutions.

— Richard Klein  
South Palm Beach

Obituary reminds reader of a stranger's generosity

Ira Friedman, I barely knew him, but what a really nice man. He was proud of Briny!

I'm a seasonal resident of Ocean Ridge and I'm a woodworker, but I have no equipment here.

I had a project, so I randomly called Briny Breezes to see if I could use their wood shop.

I was told that the shop was for residents only. I then asked if I could hire someone to cut some wood for me?

Two hours later Ira called me: "Sure, I'll meet you in one hour at the last quonset hut on the north end, it's our wood shop."

I met Ira for the first time. "I have a bad back so you'll need to carry the wood," which I happily did. He cut my wood and with extreme pride gave me a grand tour of not only the wood shop, introducing me to everyone there, but insisted on driving me around Briny pointing out his favorite features.

Ira refused to take my money or my offers of wine or alcohol or any sort of compensation for his time. Ira was simply willing to help a total stranger because he *could*.

Ira, in my short interaction, left a real imprint on me. When I read his amazing obituary I was truly saddened. It's rare when someone you've barely known passes and you're fundamentally struck by it. Ira was a truly good man.

— Harry Ehrlich  
Ocean Ridge

Ocean Ridge News

Beach sign case closed

— The "no trespassing" signage controversy that inspired a new Ocean Ridge ordinance — and then a code enforcement case against the Turtle Beach condominium association for violating it — may finally be resolved.

The code case has been closed with new beach signs acceptable to the town having been installed and Ocean Ridge billing the condo association \$172.53 for the case's administrative fees, according to Town Clerk Kelly Avery.

The case had gone before a special magistrate but ultimately negotiations ended with the town and association agreeing that the original placement of the signs should be adjusted and that the two signs had to be one-sided, not with printing on both sides.

The town has determined the association's current signage is now in compliance with the ordinance, Avery said.

— Anne Geggis

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Along the Coast

# Concern about oversized homes is spreading along coast

By Anne Geggis

Add Manalapan to the list of coastal municipalities in South Palm Beach County where officials are hearing about larger-sized homes that don't blend into their existing neighborhoods.

Delray Beach in March passed new limitations for how much square footage can be built based on lot size for homes east of the Intracoastal Waterway. It was a response to complaints about multistory homes with sheer walls that loom over their neighbors' homes, with every story just as close to the property line as the ground floor. Recent discussions in other coastal communities suggest there's wider concern with this building trend.

The Gulf Stream Town Commission impaneled a committee in March that could recommend guidelines with a similar impact. An Ocean Ridge commissioner said exploring how to regulate buildings' mass is one of her goals. And, at an April 24 Manalapan meeting, commissioners heard from upset neighbors about a Point Manalapan home that doesn't seem to fit there.

"Something has to be done because we are going to lose what we tried to create here in

Manalapan," said Bob Kirkland, who has lived in town since 2003 and works in the real estate business. He described coming out of his door in the morning and describing what he used to see and what he sees now.

"You'd open the door in the morning and the sun would be rising in the East — beautiful," he said. "Now it's ... an office building-type structure and two blank walls."

Manalapan Mayor John Deese spoke on behalf of a neighbor who couldn't be there and suggested that commissioners take a ride by the home on Spoonbill Road to see what they thought.

Commissioner David Knobel said it might be a topic that needs more discussion.

"These properties are worth a lot more money and people are willing to put a lot more money in, right?" Knobel said.

Ocean Blue Custom Homes, based in Delray Beach, is building the home on spec. The company's principal, Josh Khoury, said it was inspired by another he built not far from there that was featured in *Florida Design*.

"We feel confident that this will be a beautiful home consistent with other modern contemporary homes in Point Manalapan and the town of

Manalapan as a whole," he said.

At the Ocean Ridge Town Commission's goal-setting meeting, Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy said she wants more discussion about the stark style she sees emerging.

"They are out of context with the neighborhood," she said of new construction that has replaced older homes. "Just because you can doesn't mean you should."

Her view got some validation from the public at the meeting.

"People are getting sick and tired of looking at these things — metal roofs, concrete and stucco with some windows,"

said resident Terry Brown. "All of it is no imagination."

But Mayor Geoff Pugh, contacted after the meeting, said that Ocean Ridge is ahead of the curve in curbing oversized masses of square footage from taking shape in town.

Ocean Ridge already has greater setbacks than most of its neighbors and sheer, multistory walls can't be erected because town codes already require that a second story have 25% less square footage than the first.

"We tackled that many, many years ago," Pugh said, dating that effort to the time of Digby Bridges, a former commissioner

and mayor, who served from 1993 to 2002.

Pugh cautioned against further restraining investment that people want to make in their homes, or trying to legislate style. It could scare away investment, he said.

"When you can attract people to invest in a town ... knocking down an old home and building a new one ... that's a win-win," he said. "The cost of goods and services that we provide to our residents doesn't go down ... you have to have an influx of new money to keep pace with the costs of goods and services."★



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## Delray Beach

# Commission grapples with higher walls under new FEMA standards

By Anne Geggis

The old Parliament Inn's transformation into the Siréne Villas on George Bush Boulevard has its neighbors in a tizzy because builders erected higher-than-permitted walls.

However, the Delray Beach City Commission decided at its April 16 meeting that those walls are going to be allowed.

Blame it on new federal requirements to forestall flooding that add a new required height to lots under development — and on code violations that weren't caught until they were already solidified into actual walls.

In this case, the builder of the six-unit townhouse development in the 1200 block of George Bush, just west of State Road A1A, appeared in front of the commission to beg forgiveness — and get a variance to complete the wall. City leaders were none too happy with the development, but agreed the developer was trying to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements and preserve privacy all around when the walls were built.

The developer used private inspectors — not city ones — as state law allows.

Because of the additional fill needed to meet higher base building elevations as required by federal guidelines, the permitted mason wall complies with city requirements on the inside part of the wall. But the resulting difference in the grade on the other side of the wall makes the wall nearly 3 feet higher than city codes allow — from the view of neighbors.

"This wall is going to affect the sunshine, the sky, the view of any trees,"



A newly built concrete block retaining wall at Siréne Villas overshadows a neighbor's existing wooden privacy fence. **Photo provided**

said George Bush Boulevard neighbor Jack O'Connor.

The property is in the special flood hazard area, thus requiring a certain height in the base building elevation.

But the natural grade on the adjoining properties is 3 feet lower.

Neil Schiller, a lawyer for the project's developer, Stamm Development, said that if the wall was built to just the 8

feet that city codes stipulate, it would only appear 4 to 5 feet tall from inside the property. "And anybody of normal size would be able to look over into the neighbor's yard at their discretion," he said. "So we want to avoid that."

The commission agreed that the developer needs to meet with the neighbors to make some adjustments in the wall, be it new trees or the wall color.

Anthea Gianniotis, the city's development services director, says the city needs to develop new requirements for builders when the flood protection rules create this kind of a grade difference.

"This is not the last time you'll see something like this and ultimately we need to address in our (land development rules) what are the techniques we could require people to do if the grade changes exceed a certain amount," she said.

Vice Mayor Juli Casale said she didn't want to see this become part of a pattern, even if there are new federal elevation guidelines that must be met, and she called for better monitoring of projects in progress.

"We don't want to create a pattern of violations and corrections," she said.

The waiver was granted with the condition that the builder ameliorate neighbors' issues.

And it seems that's not going to be easy.

"I'm very upset right now," O'Connor said as he walked out of the city chamber after the 4-0 vote.

Mayor Tom Carney recused himself from the discussion because he is a registered agent for the applicant through his legal practice. ★

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## Delray Beach News

**Development authority member removed** — In an unprecedented action, the Delray Beach City Commission voted to remove a Downtown Development Authority board member.

The 4-1 vote at the commission's April 16 meeting came on the heels of a Palm Beach County Ethics Commission finding that Richard Burgess had provided false information about his business address on his application to the DDA. The city attorney said she hadn't found any example of previous removals like this.

Commissioner Rob Long, the lone holdout on the removal, said the problem the ethics panel found doesn't meet the criteria for removal in the legislation that created the DDA, and that the violation the ethics commission found has been fixed. He noted that Burgess's removal could open the door to a lawsuit.

Daniel Rose, Burgess's attorney, portrayed his client's removal as a "hit job" and a "witch hunt." Rose cross-examined nearly every person who came to the commission to urge Burgess's removal.

Ultimately, though, commissioners said they couldn't allow someone who had broken the rules to stay on. "I think our job here was to find if there was cause (for removal) and I think that this constitutes cause," Commissioner Angela Burns said.

**Preempting hate speech** — Invocations of Adolf Hitler and other antisemitic utterances at the April 2 Palm Beach County Commission meeting have the Delray Beach City Commission looking to beef up its rules for civility at meetings.

Commissioner Rob Long says he's never heard the kind of speech he's trying to prevent at Delray Beach's proceedings, but he doesn't want to take any chances that the chambers serve as any kind of platform for hate speech.

"It does seem like there are some opportunities to beef up language under civility in our local rules," Long said at the April 9 commission meeting. "And the goal here would be to give Mayor Carney additional tools to swiftly shut down this type of speech and even remove its perpetrators from City Hall."

City Attorney Lynn Gelin warned that city officials could not police speech for content, but she presented new guidelines adding prohibitions against "using terminology or gestures that cause a disruptive environment." The commission unanimously approved the guidelines at its April 16 meeting.

— Anne Geggis



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**MYSTERY**

Continued from page 1

Anderson was using, didn't immediately call 911 or take Camentz to the hospital.

Instead the couple drove Camentz, who lived in Delray Beach, to their home six miles away in suburban Delray before calling for medical help.

Still, when Schneider was interviewed by police, she was unequivocal. "Mark shot Al," she said, according to police reports.

Prosecutors insist that Schneider's statement along with the other evidence police gathered makes the second-degree murder case against Anderson ironclad.

"This is not a circumstantial case," Assistant State Attorney Jo Wilensky said at a court hearing earlier this year. "There is another human being who watched this happen."

However, at a February court hearing, Anderson's defense attorneys said the human beings who witnessed the shooting



The shooting happened at Berkshire by the Sea, on North Ocean Boulevard in Delray. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

aren't trustworthy. Schneider and Feinberg, a married couple, changed their stories. Feinberg initially refused to talk to police.

Both are hiding key information about Camentz's death, defense attorney Michael Dutko told Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Cymonie Rowe at the hearing.

As a former longtime director of the Broward Addiction Recovery Center, the 61-year-old Feinberg may have been trying to shield his reputation from the

fallout of a killing that occurred at a party that featured cocaine, marijuana, nitrous oxide and ketamine, Dutko said. Or he could have other motives.

Court records along with heavily redacted documents *The Coastal Star* obtained from the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office capture the confusion that surrounded Camentz's slaying at the complex on North Ocean Boulevard.

The three men were talking



**Anderson**

Anderson to get some towels from the bedroom. He emerged with what Schneider described as a "black object."

An ear-splitting boom filled the apartment and Camentz and Feinberg fell to the floor. Feinberg stood up laughing. Camentz complained he couldn't breathe, Schneider told police.

When asked by police how she knew Anderson was aiming at Camentz, she said, "Oh my God, because he was right next to me."

Schneider said she checked Camentz, but didn't see holes in his shirt or blood. She said she tried to convince Camentz to let her take him to the hospital. Camentz refused, insisting he simply wanted to go back to the

amiably, drinking and doing drugs when Schneider, 58, said she decided she wanted to take a dip in the hot tub. She asked

couple's house and go to sleep. However, when the three arrived at the home, Camentz turned ghostly white and began complaining of chest pain. Fearing he was having a heart attack, Schneider called 911.

Palm Beach Fire Rescue paramedics quickly realized Camentz had been shot. They rushed him to Delray Medical Center, where he died roughly 30 minutes later.

Feinberg had followed the ambulance to the hospital. Minutes after learning his friend had died of a gunshot wound, Feinberg refused to help police find Camentz's killer. Feinberg said he wouldn't answer any questions without an attorney, Police Detective John Caceres Duque said.

Later, when police arrived at the couple's house, the detective said he heard Feinberg yelling at Schneider to do the same.

Schneider ignored Feinberg. She told Caceres that the shooting occurred at the timeshare and identified Anderson as the gunman, records show.

Police found Anderson sleeping and arrested him. They discovered a handgun in a wicker basket.

The medical examiner later determined that the type of bullet that killed Camentz matched those found in Anderson's gun. There were four hollow-point .380-caliber bullets in the six-round magazine and one in the chamber.

"That tells me in my training that there was one round missing," Caceres testified at the hearing.

A day after the shooting, Feinberg agreed to talk to police. He said he had been friends with Anderson for years, but the relationship soured when Anderson became a huge fan of former President Donald Trump.

Still, he said, while they avoided talking politics, he and Anderson had other shared interests. They partied together and both enjoyed inhaling nitrous oxide, he told police.

Before the shooting, the mood was genial, he said. He said he and Anderson argued briefly about their spiritual and religious beliefs, but Camentz didn't offer his views.

Like his wife, Feinberg said he was stunned when the gunshot rang out. But, he said, he tried to make a joke of it.

"Mr. Anderson, did you accidentally discharge a weapon," he asked Anderson, according to Caceres' report. Feinberg said he asked Camentz if he was hit. "No, it's the sound," Camentz replied.

Feinberg, a licensed mental health counselor, suggested Anderson may have been in a psychotic state. He suspected that Anderson had taken liquid LSD, along with other drugs, causing him to hallucinate.

Still, Feinberg admitted, the shooting was inexplicable. "I don't know, why would he come out and done some sort of thing





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Continued on the next page

Ocean Ridge

# Getting dogs off beach, replacing more water pipes on town's to-do list

By Anne Geggis

Every dog may have its day, but canines shouldn't be having theirs on Ocean Ridge's beach.

That was among the priorities that town commissioners raised during their annual goal-setting session April 22, in addition to adding a crosswalk and maintaining momentum in replacing the town's aging water lines.

Commissioner David Hutchins said outlaw dogs are the No. 1 topic he's hearing about.

"In my world, people keep talking to me about dogs on the beach and I think that this would be something that I would like to work with the

chief on — we have to come to some kind of solution," Hutchins said, referring to Police Chief Scott McClure. "We have residents that routinely violate the rules and I know occasionally they're cited, but not often."

Town Manager Lynne Ladner said she planned to ask the commission to authorize signs prohibiting dogs on the beach at every beach crosswalk at the commission's May meeting to see how that works, after one citizen suggested that signage might help.

On another matter, Mayor Geoff Pugh said he'd like to build on the forward motion that was begun at the commission's April 1 meeting when replacement of the first 3,000 linear feet of water

pipng was approved at a cost of \$2.5 million. There's 68,000 feet left to go, but the town should make annual progress a priority, Pugh said.

Showing momentum in that goal could net the town some grant money, he said.

"We need to stay on budget, but water has to be part of our main goal," Pugh said.

Public safety was also a topic, with some discussion about the urgency for maintaining police staffing and making the town safer.

Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy said she hopes the town can make the streets safer from traffic, too. A crosswalk at East Anna Street across State Road A1A would help pedestrian safety, she said. ★

Continued from page 12

with some sort of weapon?" he told Caceres.

While Feinberg apologized to police for initially refusing to talk to them, Dutko said he suspects Feinberg had good reasons for waiting.

As Feinberg told Caceres, he and his wife had "corroborated each other's memories of the incident." The two had a chance to compare notes, correct their earlier statements and make sure their stories matched, Dutko said.

Initially, Schneider told police that the shooting took place near the pool at the complex. Later, she said, it was inside the apartment.

Feinberg also changed his story. At first, he said he was on his way to the hot tub when a shot rang out. He also remembered hearing a loud bang while he was still in his car.

Before Camentz was taken to the hospital, Feinberg told police he pulled up his friend's shirt and realized Camentz had been shot.

At the hospital, Feinberg attributed his confusion about the shooting to "a cognitive disorder." While Feinberg didn't elaborate, in his March 2023 resignation letter from Broward's government-run addiction center, he said poor health forced him to quit.

"I've been on (medical leave) and under care for some time now, due to the illness I contracted during the pandemic," he wrote. "It has become evident that my health has worsened recently."

Wilensky vigorously disputed the notion that Feinberg or his wife concocted stories. They both offered starkly similar accounts of what took place. Schneider's description matches the evidence. And, she said, Feinberg added a salient detail.

He said he saw a green light flash when the gun went off. Caceres said that the gun police found in Anderson's timeshare was equipped with a green laser sight.

Wilensky also said a laboratory analysis found Anderson's DNA on the gun's trigger and grip. The review showed that neither Schneider, Feinberg nor Camentz touched the gun, she said.

Wilensky described Anderson as a dangerous man. "This is someone who can flip on a dime this quickly," she told Rowe. "This cordial gathering turned into someone being shot in the chest."

Other than several arrests for drunk driving, Anderson has never been in trouble with the law, Dutko countered. Referring to the support Anderson had from the roughly 10 family members who gathered for the hearing, Dutko asked Rowe to

release Anderson on a \$100,000 bond with house arrest.

In a six-page ruling issued in March, Rowe rejected the request. Wilensky had provided "substantial evidence" that Anderson fatally shot Camentz, she wrote.

Questions Dutko raised about Schneider and Feinberg may eventually come into play, she added.

"The inconsistencies raised by (Anderson's attorneys) do not raise substantial questions of fact at this point, although with further discovery and proof, facts may exist which ultimately are more favorable to (Anderson) at trial," Rowe wrote.

Dutko has asked Rowe to reconsider her ruling.

So, Anderson remains jailed. No trial date has been set. If convicted, Anderson could be sentenced to life in prison. ★



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Gulf Stream

# Core construction plans change; school enrollment cap stays at 300

By Steve Plunkett

Roadway catch basins are stacked up behind Town Hall, and the right-of-way on Wright Way is staked out, but even before Gulf Stream's street and drainage improvement project in its Core district kicked off, officials were making changes.

First off, the project started on Wright Way at the north end of the construction zone and will work its way south, reaching Golfview Drive in December. That's the reverse of what town residents were told at an informational meeting on the

project in March.

At the April 12 Town Commission meeting, Town Manager Greg Dunham recommended at least two changes to the overall plan: keeping Old School Road wider than it seems to be and widening part of Banyan Road.

Old School, as approved, would have become 18 feet wide.

But, Dunham said, "There's actually about 20 to 21 feet there now. It's just all covered up with grass and some people don't even know that."

"Our preference is not to reduce the width of any of the

streets that we already have," he said.

The section of Banyan west of Polo Drive is now 18 feet wide, "but that's another street that is always subject to rutting" when vehicles go off the pavement. "And so we'd like to widen that to 20 feet," Dunham said.

Commissioners agreed that Baxter and Woodman Consulting Engineers should work up change orders and prices and Dunham should return for approval.

King tides due in October and November were the reason for starting the project on Wright Way and Old School, which Mayor Scott Morgan noted was the lowest point in Gulf Stream.

Baxter and Woodman has set up a hotline for residents to lodge complaints (855-228-3436) and a website to track progress ([www.CoreAreaRoadwork.com](http://www.CoreAreaRoadwork.com)). The website can also be accessed at the town's website ([www.gulf-stream.org](http://www.gulf-stream.org)).

## Gulf Stream School

Also on April 12, commissioners approved an amendment to the developer's agreement the town has with the Gulf Stream School keeping the number of students there "not to exceed 300" through the 2028-29 school year.

Commissioners were surprised in January 2023 to be told that the school had 294 students after enrolling 270 the year before and 260 the year before that — despite the 250-student cap to which the school had agreed in 1994.

Commissioners gave temporary permission setting the limit at 300 until a legal document could be hashed out and required the school to submit a head count every October.

Police Chief Richard Jones said he had personally monitored traffic for several days before the commission meeting to gauge the effect on traffic of parents dropping off

their children at the school.

"What we've seen and what we've timed is that at no point in time on Sea Road specifically have there been more than five vehicles lined up to exit onto A1A," Jones said. "And the longest that any of those vehicles waited was 1 minute 6 seconds, which is about half the time that you typically wait at a normal red light."

Before voting, Commissioner Joan Orthwein cautioned the school to pay attention to the 300-student limit.

"I am for this, but I wish it hadn't happened the way it did. And also I hope that we maintain 300 people and not go over that and have a count every year so that the commission isn't surprised by more students in the future," Orthwein said.

"And also I want to mention that the school is a very special place, but it should maintain a little school-by-the-sea, not let's-see-how-big-we-can-get." ★

## Delray Beach News

### Grant to fund license plate recognition cameras —

Delray Beach will receive nearly \$1 million for crime-fighting technology, U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel's office announced April 8.

The federal funding will pay for license plate readers for the city Police Department's Real Time Crime Center to improve its ability to observe, detect and prevent crime, Frankel's office said.

A license plate reader for the Old School Square parking garage won City Commission approval April 16 and serves as an example of the kind of technology that Police Chief Russ Mager said he envisions will be more widely installed as a result of the grant.

The parking garage reader was in the works when an incident occurred, providing an example of what police hope to forestall, Mager said. On March 30, a woman was shot in the ankle at what police called "a large gathering" on the top level of the garage. The injuries were not life-threatening. Police said they were looking for the culprit.

**City beach keeps eco-friendly recognition** — As it has for the past year, a blue flag raised over Delray Beach's sandy expanse throughout 2024-25 will signal that the city's shore is among the select for its environmental health.

Last year, when the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association first launched the Blue Flag USA program, the city's beach was one of two locations recognized as meeting 30 criteria for water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, safety and services, sustainable tourism, and social responsibility. And this year, the city has done it again.

The symbolic flag will be raised again at 9 a.m. May 8 at the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and State Road A1A.

— Anne Geggis

## Highland Beach/Delray Beach

# Start of A1A construction delayed

By Rich Pollack

The year-long State Road A1A improvement project through Highland Beach and part of southern Delray Beach has been pushed back and now isn't expected to start until late May or early June.

In an email to elected officials in both municipalities sent just after the project was scheduled to begin early last month, Florida Department of Transportation officials said that the \$3.3 million project was delayed "based on the latest coordination with the contractor."

The project, which is expected to result in major traffic delays, will still most likely continue through next summer.

A spokesperson for the FDOT said the contractor requested the extra time to pursue a "cost savings initiative" related to how the roadway will be milled and resurfaced.

That initiative, which gives contractors the opportunity to offer ideas that can reduce public impact, save money or save time, would not change the original scope of the work. Included in the project are

the repaving and widening of A1A from Linton Boulevard to the Boca Raton line. It will also include 5-foot bicycle lanes on either side of the road and significant drainage improvements through much of Highland Beach.

One area where the improvement will be most noticeable will be at the intersection of A1A and Linton Boulevard.

For years, Highland Beach town leaders and residents have complained about the long line of cars turning onto the Linton Boulevard bridge causing lengthy backups on northbound A1A.

Included in the new project is an almost quadrupling of the length of the left-turn lane for cars heading over the bridge, from 75 feet to 275 feet. The turn lane now accommodates only about three cars. That will expand to about 11 cars once the work at the intersection is complete, meaning that fewer cars will be blocking traffic heading north through the intersection, FDOT representatives say.

Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie believes that while the project will cause much disruption, it will have visible benefits once it is complete.

"My hope is that all the frustration residents experience will be well worth it when we have a newly paved road, a better intersection at Linton Boulevard and improved drainage," he said. ★

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## FIRE

Continued from page 1

do it because that's the easy answer," says Highland Beach Fire Rescue Chief Glenn Joseph. "But when you do an objective assessment, you see there's costs, but you weigh that against the benefits."

The benefits, town leaders say, are not just cost savings and enhanced service, but also long-term control over expenses and operations.

"This is another chapter in Highland Beach becoming a full-service community," said Town Manager Marshall Labadie. "Not only did we do it, we did it right."

Mayor Natasha Moore said getting the new department up and running took a "Herculean effort."

"This was an incredibly important and complicated task that Highland Beach was able to accomplish," she said. "The lesson here is that towns want to have services that address the specific needs of their residents and are willing to put in the work to make it happen."

### Contract costs escalate

For more than three decades, Highland Beach received fire rescue service from neighboring Delray Beach. However, as annual costs climbed above the \$5 million mark, town leaders began wondering if they could do better on their own.

In recent years, Highland Beach has challenged the city's billing and the method the city uses to calculate its charges.

While town leaders think that the city has overbilled for its services, a recent state audit showed that the town could actually owe Delray Beach as much as \$2 million that was never billed.

Three years ago, after receiving the conclusions of a consultant's study they requested, commissioners decided to create a town fire rescue department that they believed would meet the needs of residents at a lower cost.

They gave Delray Beach the required three years' notice and now that day has finally arrived.

"This new town-run fire rescue department allows us to fully reach our commitment to provide the best service to our residents so we can ensure their



The fire rescue staff trained at a facility in Riviera Beach. From left, James Steyn, Joe Nolan and Gary Chancey keep an eye on Erik Lenz as he goes up a ladder. Tim Stepien / The Coastal Star

health and safety to the best of our ability," Labadie said.

Essential to the town's success, Labadie said, was the support of the community, which in a 2021 vote overwhelmingly approved spending up to \$10 million on a new fire department, with just shy of 90% approval. "We were able to do this because the community wanted it, the community was willing to pay for it and to put in a leadership team to make it happen," he said.

### Small town, single station

That Highland Beach is small, just 3.3 miles long with a population under 5,000, also helped make a new fire department possible, since the department has only about 30 employees and operates one station. The town also has a wealthy population that can financially support a new fire department.

"A single-station community with a smaller staffing requirement is easier to start up than a department in a larger community," said Robert Finn of Matrix Consulting Group, which provided the study the town used in deciding to start the department.

Town leaders say that they expect to save more than \$1 million a year in operating costs

by having their own department and believe they can recover the estimated \$10 million in start-up costs — about \$8 million of which covered the cost of a new fire station — in five to seven years.

"Now the town has control over how the costs will escalate," Joseph said.

### More staff, more vehicles

Although the operating costs will shrink, the number of firefighter paramedics based in town will increase as will the number of trucks and rescue units, town leaders say.

Prior to the town's taking over, Delray Beach provided five firefighter paramedics per shift in Highland Beach. They staffed a rescue unit and a fire truck. With the new department in place, there will be seven firefighter paramedics on each shift and two rescue units and two fire trucks available.

Labadie has pointed out that in most cases there will be three firefighter paramedics on the rescue truck as opposed to the two on the rescue vehicle staffed by Delray Beach.

In addition to Joseph, the town has two assistant chiefs and a public safety administrative assistant on the team.

The Delray Beach firefighters in town responded to calls in

the city as well as in Highland Beach. Joseph said his new department would always have a rescue unit on the barrier island to respond to calls in the town.

### 'Concierge' department

Joseph and Labadie have both referred to the new department as a concierge fire department that will put a higher focus on the needs of residents.

"What makes it a concierge fire department is that we're going to be proactive," the chief said. "Most fire departments are reactive."

With an expected average of 2.5 calls per day, the new department staff will have more opportunity to meet with residents and address prevention issues.

Matt Welhaf, an assistant chief, focuses on risk reduction. Welhaf, who is also the town's fire marshal, will perform routine fire prevention inspections at no cost. Previously that service came with a charge to condo associations or residents.

Joseph said that the department hopes to bring a service called Community Connect online that will enable residents to volunteer information — such as pets and medications — that firefighter paramedics will receive when being dispatched to a specific

address.

The new fire station is named after former Mayor Doug Hillman, who led the charge for the new department before he died in March 2023. During a ribbon-cutting ceremony, residents had a chance to tour the facility.

The station includes an Emergency Operation Center, as well as a lobby with restrooms accessible to residents, and was completed on time and about \$200,000 under budget.

Highland Beach will keep the existing fire station, which town leaders said was obsolete, and use the two bays for the backup truck and rescue unit. The living quarters of the old station could eventually be transformed into a public area that would house community events.

Among those supporting the department is the town's Police and Fire Foundation, which provides items not included in the budget.

"We will continue to work with Chief Joseph on needs not met by the normal budget process," said Jason Chudnofsky, who serves as the foundation's president. "We will make sure that the men and women of the fire department have the community support needed to better serve all residents of Highland Beach." ★

## Highland Beach post office set to close after 60 years of service

By Rich Pollack

It has been a convenience, a place to go to mail packages or get your tax return in the mail without having to fight long lines and big crowds.

Now, however, it appears that the small community post office tucked in behind Town Hall and operated by the town of Highland Beach will close on May 15 after 60 years.

The decision to close the post office, which operates much like the commercial contract post offices sprinkled among

nearby shopping centers, comes following a decision by the U.S. Postal Service to remove its credit card processing machine combined with a decision by the town's postal clerk to retire after 24 years.

Town commissioners voted 3-2 to close the post office, which has been a cash-only operation since mid-April, with Vice Mayor David Stern and Commissioner Donald Peters voting against the shutdown.

"You never like to see a service diminish, but there are circumstances beyond our

control," said Commissioner Judith Goldberg.

In a notice to residents, town leaders said that about 90% of all transactions at the post office are done by credit card and that the number of cash payments is limited.

"The USPS's recent decision to discontinue the acceptance of credit cards has presented significant and insurmountable challenges," town leaders wrote in the public notice. "The conditions imposed by the USPS to use our own credit card machine are unmanageable and

highly inefficient."

Town Manager Marshall Labadie said that the town is continuing to look for ways to work around the post office's new policies but added that the requirement to provide receipts on a daily basis proved insurmountable.

Town leaders said that they have been unable to speak with anyone from the postal service regarding the issue despite numerous requests, leaving some to suspect that the post office would prefer not to have the town's post office open.

"It sounds like they don't want to do this," said Commissioner Evalyn David.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Postal Service said that Highland Beach did not renew its contract, but town officials said that was only after they received the letter discontinuing the credit card machine.

The spokesperson said that the post office is open to creating a contract post office nearby and is taking steps to let customers know of the Highland Beach Post Office closing. ★





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## Along the Coast

# Traffic tickets dismissed against driver who crashed into A1A cyclists

By Anne Geggis

The three traffic citations a Lantana woman received after driving her 2020 Kia Soul into a group of cyclists on State Road A1A in Gulf Stream in January — injuring three critically — won't leave any marks on her driving record.

A judge dismissed Betty Ann Ruiz's tickets on April 3 after the Florida Highway Patrol officer who wrote the tickets for her did not appear for the April 3 hearing. The trooper, Andy Ong, was on approved leave, said Lt. Indiana Miranda, FHP spokeswoman.

The dismissed citations carried a \$116 fine for failing to have proof of insurance, \$166 for driving with a suspended license and \$166 for failing to keep to a single lane.

A report on the crash shows that Ruiz, 77, was not tested for drugs or alcohol after the incident, but Miranda said

that Ruiz agreed to a blood draw for which the results will be available in three to six months.

Also, although Ruiz's failure to stay in her lane was attributed to "seizure, epilepsy, blackout," in the first report, that report has been updated, according to Miranda.

Now the report attributes Ruiz's failure to stay in her lane as fatigue instead of a medical emergency. Ruiz, who court records show attended both a March 20 pretrial hearing and the April 3 hearing, could not be reached, despite calls to more than a half dozen numbers listed for her and a visit to the Lantana address listed on her ticket. It appears the dwelling is not currently occupied, with construction debris in front. A man leaving the site said he had not heard Ruiz's name before.

Her license remains suspended, Miranda said.

Five people were taken to the hospital as a result of the crash that started with Ruiz's swerve into the wrong lane. The number of casualties prompted a discussion throughout the coastal areas about the tight space drivers and cyclists share. Several municipalities have pledged to find a way to make the scenic route safer for cyclists.

One of those critically injured, Diego Rico, 37, of Coconut Creek, said that no investigators ever contacted him to hear his view of the crash that broke his femur, dislocated his shoulder and shattered his pelvis. He expects that his injuries will keep him out of work for another two months.

"Literally, they are leaving us with nothing," said Rico, who said he had 20 stitches to his knee and 39 staples to his hip and racked up medical bills totalling more than \$1 million.

In response to a question about the citations' dismissal, a spokesman for State Attorney David Aronberg said that the office doesn't get involved in noncriminal cases.

The crash report on the Jan. 4 predawn incident found that Ruiz was heading south when she crossed the center line in the 2400 block of North Ocean Boulevard alongside the Gulf Stream Golf Club course.

The most severely injured person had to be revived before being taken to Delray Medical Center via the county's medical helicopter. He was released from the hospital nearly two months after the crash and has not fully regained his ability to walk and talk, Rico said.

Rico said that the driver has never contacted him or any of his fellow bicycle club members. He is part of the club Galera do Pedal, which is Portuguese for "Pedal Guys," that regularly cycles along A1A

from Deerfield Beach to Lake Worth Beach.

"She never tried to get in touch with us or say or do anything," Rico said. "She's acting like she's not at fault."

That Ruiz is not being held responsible in any way rankles Michael Simon, president of the Boca Raton Bicycle Club.

"It should be taken seriously, especially with something like this," said Simon, whose law practice is focused on civil litigation and corporate transactions. "Even if she had a medical incident. She shouldn't have been on the road to begin with."

"She shouldn't haven't been driving with a suspended license — we learn that in driving school," Simon continued. "And she had no insurance. The insurance is there to protect all of us, including her, and she didn't have any. She shouldn't have been driving." ★

## Delray Beach

# Investigation doesn't support allegations against city manager

By Anne Geggis

A special investigator found no evidence that Delray Beach City Manager Terrence Moore inappropriately touched Fire Chief Keith Tomez during an August 2022 outing to a city art exhibit, nor that he later retaliated against Tomez for refusing the advances.

The third-party investigator was unable to prove or deny whether Moore fondled the leg of Tomez as the two drove to and from an art exhibit on Aug. 3, 2022, according to a report the City Commission heard at a special meeting April 30. And no evidence

showed that Tomez had been retaliated against for refusing Moore's alleged advances, reported Brooke Ehrlich, the Fort Lauderdale lawyer the city hired in March to investigate the matter.

Tomez could not be reached for comment following the special commission meeting. Ehrlich provided a verbal, executive summary to commissioners. The official report wasn't going to be made publicly available for a few days while undergoing redaction, City Attorney Lynn Gelin said.

The investigation included interviews with nine people, Ehrlich told commissioners.

"While the investigation found no substantiated claims, it is essential to underscore the city's unwavering commitment to upholding its policies and values," a statement from the city released after the meeting says. "The city maintains strict standards of conduct, does not tolerate actions that compromise these principles or the safety of our staff, and recognizes the importance of supporting all employees."

After the special meeting, Mayor Tom Carney said he would confine his comments to the city's news release.

"The city of Delray Beach prioritizes the well-being

of its employees and takes all allegations seriously," the release quotes Carney as saying. "After a thorough investigation, no wrongdoings were uncovered."

The investigation started after the city received a letter from Tomez's attorney detailing the alleged unwanted touching and claimed retaliation days before the March 19 municipal election. The day after the election, which saw a new commission majority elected, departing Mayor Shelly Petrolia called a special commission meeting to authorize Gelin to appoint a special investigator to look into

the allegations.

The letter from Tomez's attorney said Moore "began to rub the inside of Tomez's left thigh" and touched the groin area as he drove the two to the Arts Garage to view an exhibit of works by city employees, Ehrlich recounted.

Despite Tomez's objections to the first touch, Tomez said that Moore did the same thing on the way back to the office, Ehrlich said, recapping the details of the complaint.

Ehrlich told the commission that Tomez, a 33-year city employee, had reported the incident verbally to the city attorney and others after it happened, but hadn't filed a formal report on it.

Ehrlich said that Tomez was claiming three incidents of retaliation. First was Tomez's decision to promote a fire captain. She said that Tomez claimed the promotion was questioned and criticized by Moore as a result of Tomez's rebuffing Moore's advances.

Next, Tomez went through a five-day suspension for a car accident that Tomez did not immediately report to Moore.

And finally, Tomez's role in having on-duty firefighters participate in a softball tournament came under a microscope because Tomez had rejected the city manager's advances, according to Tomez's allegations that Ehrlich recounted.

The results of the softball report, finding that Tomez had exercised poor judgment, became public record a few days after Tomez's allegations against Moore came to light. ★

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## South Palm Beach

# Council fills one vacancy; another emerges as vice mayor resigns

By Brian Biggane

Even as it works toward the construction of a new Town Hall and community center, the South Palm Beach Town Council finds itself in a period of upheaval.

Following the resignation of longtime member Robert Gottlieb in December, the council finally elected his replacement, Elvadianne Culbertson, at its April meeting. Two days later, Vice Mayor Bill LeRoy resigned, once again leaving the governing body one member short.

The election of Culbertson came as a bit of surprise. It occurred when Council member Ray McMillan asked for another vote as a follow-up to the 2-2 standoff in March and then switched his vote from Jennifer Lesh to Culbertson.



Culbertson

"She was on before and she does have the experience, and a lot of dedication," McMillan said afterward. "She'll do fine."



LeRoy

While LeRoy made no public comment on the switch, he had been the one pushing for Lesh and his body language made it clear he was unhappy with the outcome. He left the room immediately after the meeting, skipping a social gathering to which he had been invited.

"I felt my candidate was a much better fit for the town," LeRoy said two days later, on April 11. "Elva had already been on the council, and when she ran (for reelection) she lost."

Those comments came only moments after LeRoy had returned to Town Hall to submit his resignation to Town Manager Jamie Titcomb.

"I'm on the 10-year plan," LeRoy said of his decision. "I figure I've got 10 years to live, and I'm not going to do anything that makes me unhappy or stresses me out. And that to me is a stressful job. I don't need the job; I put in my five or six years. That's enough, I guess."

"Effective today, I'm out."

LeRoy joined the council in 2018 to finish another member's term and was elected to a three-year term a year later. He was reelected in 2022 to a four-year term that still has two years to run.

Mayor Bonnie Fischer said she was "saddened" by the news and felt the council had been working seamlessly toward construction of the new Town Hall building, which is expected to start shortly. But she said she was aware of the health issues LeRoy cited in his decision.

"That did concern me," she said. "He's been struggling for quite a while. I'm sorry that it ended like that, but that's his choice. He reached a point where he didn't want to do it anymore."

In her remarks after the meeting on her election, Culbertson extended an olive branch of sorts to LeRoy, stating that she wouldn't be as "chatty" as she was in her previous stint on the council, which ran from 2017 to 2019.

"The main thing Bill had against me before is that I would voice my opinion," she said. "But what I'm going to try to do now is, once I get the agenda, draft what I have to say, so at the meeting they'll say 'You're right' or whatever. My chattiness won't be as big a problem."

Culbertson also said she understood LeRoy's reasoning when it came to his health.

"If you look at pictures of him a few years ago and now, there's definitely been a change," Culbertson said.

When asked if the obvious solution to the problem would be to appoint Lesh to fill the vacant seat, Fischer demurred.

"I don't want to respond to that," she said. "This is just a shock and it needs to settle. None of this is my decision so we'll have to see what the council wants to do."

"I wish him well and I'm sorry he's not going to be with us during the Town Hall process. I feel bad about that. It was just unexpected."

Fischer said the matter will be addressed at the council's May 14 meeting. ★

# Woman jailed in hit-and-run death has long list of offenses

By Brian Biggane

The woman charged in the November hit-and-run death of a South Palm Beach woman has multiple DUI offenses and has been driving without a valid license for the past seven years, according to court documents.

Amneris Ramos, 43, listed as homeless, was booked into the Palm Beach County jail April 16 and charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving death, tampering with physical evidence, and driving with a suspended/revoked license.

Her bond was set at \$100,000. She was still incarcerated as of April 25, according to the jail's online booking blotter. Her arraignment was scheduled for May 2.

According to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office report, Ramos, who was driving a black 2016 GMC Terrain northbound on State Road A1A, struck and killed Hatixhe Laiqi, 73, at 6:03 p.m. Nov. 10, around dusk.

Laiqi, a resident of the nearby Barclay condominium, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The following morning, the report said, a "Good Samaritan" spotted a damaged car parked in Boynton Beach, bearing evidence that it had struck someone, and notified police.

The front driver's side of the SUV had extensive damage, including to the bumper, headlight, fender, hood, windshield and sideview mirror and was determined to be the same vehicle that struck Laiqi.

The investigating officer said Ramos had wiped down the hood and had thrown the side mirror toward a nearby lake in an attempt to destroy evidence.

Ramos has not been licensed to drive since 2017, the report said. "She has amassed suspensions and revocations for multiple DUI offenses, driving without a license, driving offenses, and failure to pay," the investigating officer reported.

Palm Beach County court records show Ramos was adjudicated guilty of driving under the influence in May 2021 following an arrest in Boynton Beach a year earlier.

The probable cause affidavit said Ramos admitted to driving the vehicle when the accident occurred.

"She gave specific details, which would have only been known to the driver," the investigating officer said. "She also described her travel path following the crash. The synopsis of events given by [Ramos] were substantiated by tag readers, video surveillance, and [her] cellular telephone records."

## Speed limit lowered

The hit-and-run upset town residents, who two months later packed a meeting with Florida Department of Transportation engineer Jonathan Overton. The speed limit has since been lowered in the town from 35 mph to 30 mph and several signs have been erected urging drivers to be careful and share the road.

Mayor Bonnie Fischer reported at the Town Council's April meeting that lowering the A1A speed limit has been well received in town, but there remains a strong desire among residents to install a crosswalk. The town has none.

FDOT has proposed adding one just south of the town line at the north end of Lantana Beach, which would require the cooperation of Lantana. Because Fischer considers the existing crosswalk at the Ocean Avenue intersection to be very dangerous, she spoke to Lantana's mayor and town manager and "they were very interested" in the idea, she said.

Fischer, Overton and Lantana officials met in late April to further address the issue. Fischer was expected to report on that meeting at the May 14 Town Council meeting.

Regarding the speed limit change, PBSD Sergeant Mark Garrison said the first statistics regarding traffic stops and tickets would also be available at the May meeting. ★

## Asthma attack caused death on beach, autopsy report says

The body of a 32-year-old man found March 17 on the South Palm Beach shore has been identified and an autopsy report shows that he died of natural causes — an asthma attack.

The body of Maximiliano Lujan-Rodriguez, 32, of Palm Springs, clad in a shirt, shorts, socks and shoes, was found near the Mayfair House Condominiums on the 3900 block of South Ocean Boulevard.

He was found face down in the sand, just beyond the water line, at 7 a.m.

A subsequent toxicology report found that he had no drugs or alcohol in his system at the time of his death. The "punctate abrasions" found on his body were determined to be caused by postmortem contact with the sand, the autopsy report says.

Lujan-Rodriguez, who had turned 32 just seven days prior to his death, had a history of bronchial asthma and often forgot his medicine at home, the autopsy report says.

— Anne Geggis

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## South Palm Beach News

**Legislative wrap-up** — State Rep. Mike Caruso and Sen. Bobby Powell, both of whose constituencies include the town, gave a 40-minute report on the recently concluded legislative session at the Town Council meeting in April. While their work was significant — Caruso sponsored seven bills that passed and Powell two — none of it involved the town. Both said they would be willing to pursue funds for the Town Hall project.

**Bird sanctuary designation being eliminated** — Two ordinances submitted by the Code of Ordinances Committee were approved on first reading without discussion, one of which would repeal a provision designating the town as a bird sanctuary. Committee Chairwoman Elvadianne Culbertson said it never should have been designated as such as it doesn't meet the necessary criteria.

— Brian Biggane



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## Along the Coast

# Delray gives Gulf Stream a year to find another water provider

By Steve Plunkett

With Gulf Stream officials saying they're close to a deal to get water from Boynton Beach, its longtime supplier Delray Beach has issued a drop-dead date — June 17, 2025 — to get off its system.

Gulf Stream and Boynton Beach elected officials have not approved — or even seen — a proposed contract yet, and connecting the municipalities' water pipes could take a year or more.

Nevertheless, on April 24, Delray Beach City Manager Terrence Moore sent Gulf Stream a "Notification" by certified mail that the relationship will end next year.

"The town has been on formal notice of the city's intention not to renew the agreement since May of 2022, if not before. Despite the city's repeated forewarnings to the town, the town has refused to acknowledge the city's position and has intentionally failed to take action on behalf of its residents," Moore said in the letter to Gulf Stream Town Manager Greg Dunham.

Moore alerted Delray Beach city commissioners to his stance in his April 26 weekly update to them, adding that "current and long-term water utility

operational functions do not support service delivery to other municipalities."

With the city starting to design a new water plant, he said, "future accompanying infrastructure and water resources need to likewise support current and future demand solely for the Delray Beach corporate limits."

Gulf Stream officials did not anticipate Moore's message.

"It was surprising and inconsistent with the conversations that we've had," Assistant Town Attorney Trey Nazzaro said.

As recently as April 12, Nazzaro had told town commissioners that it looked like the town would renew its 25-year water agreement with Delray Beach. But Dunham and Nazzaro continued to negotiate with Boynton Beach and on April 18 Dunham told Moore that the town planned to switch.

"We're right on the precipice" of reaching a deal with Boynton Beach, Nazzaro said.

In an interview, Moore said that Delray Beach had "graciously" supplied water for the past two years despite not having an agreement with Gulf Stream.

"I'm very gracious ... with everybody, including them," he said.

But it will take at least 12 months after an agreement with Boynton Beach is signed for new pipes to be installed from Seacrest Boulevard to a Gulf Stream transfer point at the Federal Highway entrance to its Place Au Soleil neighborhood.

"I'm sure we'll be able to work amicably" with Delray Beach, Nazzaro said.

Gulf Stream would have to pay \$2 million for the new connection. It is considering getting a loan for that plus additional millions to finance its ongoing road and drainage projects.

The new arrangement should also provide Gulf Stream residents with better water pressure because the Boynton Beach water plant is closer to the connection point, Nazzaro said.

Moore said Delray Beach anticipates growing by 7,000 more residents, whose water payments will more than offset the money it receives from Gulf Stream's 660 or so households.

"That's not a concern," he said.

Delray Beach has supplied Gulf Stream with water at least since 1976. It also provides fire rescue services for the town and until August 2022 handled its building permits.

Dunham said the first meeting with Moore on the water contract was in August 2022 and that Gulf Stream asked if the city would consider offering a rate less than the 25% surcharge it was collecting. The surcharge is the highest the state allows providers to charge nonresidents.

"The city said the renewal would be at a 25% premium, and encouraged the town to seek a better rate from other water providers," he said. "It was only at the Delray Beach city manager's direction that the town started talking with the city of Boynton Beach and its utility department."

At the April 12 Gulf Stream Town Commission meeting, Nazzaro said Delray Beach is charging the town \$3.81 per thousand gallons of water.

"But next year it'll jump to \$4.49 and then the following year to \$5.20. So there are some significant jumps because they're trying to finance the water plant," he said.

Boynton Beach was talking about a starting rate of \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons, Nazzaro said, with increases possible as it improves its infrastructure. That rate would also include the 25% maximum surcharge. ★

## Boynton Beach

# Ocean One downtown project seeks \$11.5 million CRA subsidy

By Tao Woolfe

Boynton Beach appears poised to approve an imposing 371-unit mixed-use development at the northeast corner of Ocean Avenue and Federal Highway early this month.

The developer also wants the city's Community Redevelopment Agency to approve an \$11.5 million subsidy for the project, using tax incentive funding revenues (also called tax increment revenue funding).

The project known as Ocean One, estimated to cost \$170 million, is not new to the city. One smaller version proposed several years ago had 358 apartments, 12,075 square feet of retail and a 120-unit hotel.

That proposal was revised last year to one with 371 rental units, 25,000 square feet of retail space, 21,000 square feet of green space, and another 36,000 square feet of sidewalks and paved areas that will include public plazas with outdoor seating.

The complex also will boast a parking garage with 90 spaces set aside for the public, as well as 70 commercial spaces. Too much traffic and too few parking spaces are the two biggest complaints residents lob at city officials whenever new developments are on the horizon.

Those criticisms surfaced again at the April 9 CRA board meeting at which the Ocean One plan was discussed. The board postponed a vote on the matter until a special hourlong CRA meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. May 7— just before a City Commission meeting that same night.

The developer, Miami-based Hyperion Development Group, has asked the CRA for a TIF subsidy up to a maximum amount of \$11.5 million over 15 years.

Hyperion has said the property will offer tenants a lap pool, a fitness area, a pickleball court, two public plazas and a courtyard.

Timothy Tack, the CRA's assistant director, told city commissioners



Residents may remember the Bank of America plaza that used to occupy the northeast corner of Ocean Avenue and Federal Highway in Boynton Beach, where this 371-unit mixed-use development is planned. **Rendering provided**

who make up the CRA board that an evaluation done of the developer's request for TIF funding determined it "appears to be generally in the range of reasonableness."

TIF payments amount to a portion of the increased taxes accruing from a project's increasing property values, taxes which under state law are then paid to the CRA. The funding is used by CRAs to pay for additional projects in a designated redevelopment area. Hyperion wants the CRA to use a portion of those revenues generated by its project to subsidize the project's costs, making the dollars unavailable for other CRA projects.

Bonnie Miskel, attorney for Hyperion, said the developers had been meeting with residents and business owners to hear concerns and work on solutions — especially those centered on parking and amenities.

Miskel has said the developer is not responsible for the city's parking problems, but his willingness to work with the neighbors resulted in the promise of 90 public spaces and the addition of amenities that everyone can enjoy.

"Let's be part of the solution. This is a really exciting project," said Hyperion Chief Executive Officer Rob Vecsler. "We love Boynton Beach."

But not all the city commissioners seemed convinced of the project's merits.

"This building does nothing for me in terms of attractiveness," said Commissioner Woodrow Hay. "I'm not convinced. I want more."

Commissioner Thomas Turkin agreed.

"We should have negotiated further," he said, adding that he would like to see a reduction in the TIF amount; public parking spaces preserved in perpetuity; and that residents from nearby Marina Village be given a seat at the negotiating table.

"My biggest fear is that we're getting something worse" than the earlier proposal, Turkin said.

The public, too, seemed skeptical.

"This project involves more rental and not enough office space," said longtime resident Susan Oyer. "What does this project add? Where are the jobs and hotels?"

Harry Woodworth, another longtime city resident, said the project should be sexier.

"If you're going to give that much TIF money, you've got to ask them to give something that would make people get off the highway," Woodworth said. "Get a little more creative."

In answer to residents' suggestion

that more office space be added, Miskel said office space is languishing on the market these days. She also said the public parking spaces would remain public, unlike some complexes where public parking expires after a set number of years.

Vecsler said he would love to add a hotel, but the financing simply would not work right now. He added that the smaller scale height — eight stories, rather than the 15 stories previously allowed by the downtown zoning code — helped to make the project friendlier.

"It's a transformative project," Vecsler said.

Some of the commissioners' hard feelings about the project stem from the failure of the site under its original owner, Davis Camalier.

Camalier had also negotiated a TIF agreement for his project, but that lapsed after several extensions when he failed to start construction. As a result, the 3.7-acre site has been vacant for years.

In 2018, the CRA sold a half-acre parcel of adjacent land to Camalier for \$10. That land, valued now at more than \$500,000, allowed the project to extend north to Boynton Beach Boulevard.

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



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**RECREATION**

Continued from page 1

give up ground.

Because courts and nets are easily adaptable, tennis is the ripest to lose ground to pickleball — even in Delray Beach, which produced international tennis star and U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff.

Among Boca Raton, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach, eight public tennis courts have been sacrificed to a sport that combines elements of tennis, table tennis, badminton and squash. Also, weekday sessions of pickup basketball have been curtailed and the constant beat of dribbled basketballs has been replaced by the thwacking sounds of pickleballs in those three cities' public gyms, with extra lines in place according to pickleball rules.

More than pickleball's popularity, however, changing plans for public lands have put less popular pursuits in danger of completely disappearing from cities that once hosted them.

**On the way out ...**

Shuffleboard was played for the last time at a Boynton Beach public recreation area in 2018 when the Madsen Center at 145 SE Second Ave. was turned over to a developer. Today, that land still stands vacant, behind a chain link fence and screening.

A March staff report shows the latest plans are for 465 multifamily units and nearly 7,000 square feet of retail space — a proposal that won City Commission approval April 2.

Meanwhile, the shuffleboard courts and lawn bowling space at Delray Beach's Veterans Park are on the way to being sacrificed as second-phase construction of the massive development Atlantic Crossing moves forward.

Samuel Metott, director of Delray Beach's Parks and Recreation Department, said that the expanse now occupied by shuffleboard courts and lawn bowling at the park, which sits along the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway, is to be paved over in the not-too-distant future to serve as the



**LEFT AND ABOVE:** A crowd of pickleball players waits for courts to open up at Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton. Reserving your place in line is as easy as placing your paddle in a staging rack. **BELOW:** Lantana Recreation Center shows the confluence of tennis and pickleball, with the yellow stripe marking the edge of a pickleball court. Mike Lauro of Boynton Beach plays pickleball as John Doren of Lantana goes for tennis. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



shuffleboard and lawn bowling site stands one commission vote away from oblivion — unless the new majority decides to make a last stand there.

Mayor Tom Carney said he hasn't seen the proposal and will withhold judgment until he does, but he does say that he voted against Atlantic Crossing when it came up during his first stint on the City Commission back in 2012.

"I thought the project was too big for the site — that's what I said in 2012," Carney said, calling Veterans Park "an important city park."

"I was concerned about traffic and how it would affect the neighborhood."

Lawn bowling player John Everett, 76, an Atlantis retiree, said he's hoping and praying he doesn't have to consider another sport instead of the one that brings him to Veterans Park three times a week, where he tries to hit a small white ball using a weighted, slightly oblong, softball-sized bowling ball, usually alongside 10 other people.

"This is the greatest sport," he said of the challenge he took up around the time of the pandemic because of the mental and physical workout it offers.

"It's a sport that I can play

park's new parking lot.

Already, Atlantic Crossing construction cranes are at work on giant piles of dirt just west of the park and motorists can no longer turn north into the park from Atlantic Avenue due to construction activity.

"There's not much of a demand for lawn bowling ... it's a very niche sport," Metott said. "So there's two thoughts there. One is, we're one of the last remaining lawn bowling sites

in the state. But part of that is because no one is playing lawn bowling, right?"

Still, the Delray Beach Preservation Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving places significant to the city's heritage, passed a resolution in December asking the City Commission to halt the deal allowing Edwards Group, Atlantic Crossing's developer, to proceed with its plan to change Veterans Park.

"It is a small piece of paradise

for seniors that should not be paved over to put in a parking lot," the Preservation Trust's resolution reads.

The original plan for the parking lot received consensus support from the previous City Commission. But March's election installed three new members who campaigned on restraining development in the city, invoking the effects of Atlantic Crossing in particular.

So, Delray Beach's 57-year-old

Continued on the next page



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Along the Coast

# Pickleball doesn't have the juice in Briny, where shuffleboard is king

By Ron Hayes

Pickleball is everywhere. Except in Briny Breezes. Residents of this 484-unit trailer town are blessed with a woodworking club, a boating club, a billiards club, a bingo club, a bridge club. We could go on.

But Briny Breezes has no pickleball club.

After all, who needs pickleball when your town's unofficial official sport is shuffleboard?

"We have about 155 members," boasts Deb Tagliareni.

That means about a quarter of the town's 600-plus residents play shuffleboard.

Drop by most any evening and you'll find them on the 14 shuffleboard lanes, sliding their discs down the court in hopes of landing in the 10-point scoring zone, or knocking an opponent's disc out.

Drop by March 13-15 and you'd have found the South East Coast District's masters tournament, with players from West Palm Beach to Davie playing 14 games in three days to crown the eight top-ranked players.

A retired elementary school teacher from Mexico, New York, Tagliareni, 73, arrived in town



The South East Coast District's masters tournament brought dozens of players to the Briny Breezes courts. They included (l-r) Chuck Busscher, Briny Club; Jocelyne Vigneault, Park City Club; Dan Smith, Briny; Maurice Jacques, Park City, and Rich Curtis, Briny. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

11 years ago.

"A neighbor said, 'You're going with me tomorrow,' and that's how I started," she recalled. "They took me around and helped me."

Now she's the club's incoming president.

"It's fun, it's outdoors, it's good exercise because you're always moving, and it's a lot better than sitting in front of the

TV. Shuffleboard is what keeps us young around here."

Shuffleboard is such an institution in town that some club members are second-generation players.

"I'm playing with my dad's stick," said Dan Smith, 62. "He passed away two years ago and I inherited the stick."

"Shuffleboard is much better than pickleball," he explained.

"There's less injuries, and it's something to do other than knitting."

What those who disparage the game as an old geezers' lazy pastime don't understand is the strategy involved, players say. Pickleball may raise a bigger sweat, but shuffleboard works the brain more.

"It's a more strategic game than I thought it would be," said

Greg Lougheed, 66, another second-generation player. "It's more like pool. You're blocking shots."

Or trying to.

The club's oldest member is Charles Hatfield, 93, who's been playing since he was a mere 73.

"I tried pickleball a couple of times," he says. "It's more strenuous than you might think. But shuffleboard is a game old people can play. There's competition and you meet new people. It gets you out and gets you moving."

In 2017, the Sports & Fitness Industry Association of America counted 3,132,000 pickleball players in the U.S.

In 2022, it counted 8,900,000.

That's an increase of 184%, with the number of players almost tripling in a mere five years.

And still tiny Briny has no pickleball club, though the town offers twice-a-week pickleball sessions in the town's auditorium during the season. About a dozen players typically turn out.

Will there be outdoor courts for the sport?

"I hear there's some talk of putting in a couple of pickleball courts," Lougheed confided, "over in the empty space by the pool, where the dogs poop."★

Continued from page 24

if I live to 100," he said, noting he recently read a report on the outbreak of pickleball injuries among older adults.

## Golf holds steady

Private golf clubs might be closing to sprout new homes in South Florida, but public courses remain popular. Tee time reservations for 10 days ahead at the Palm Beach County-run golf courses are often fully booked one minute after they open. And reports from the golf courses in Boca Raton, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach show that usage remains steady, if not growing.

With 30 years as an elected member of the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Board of Commissioners, Bob Rollins said he has heard pitches about ballfields and pleas for a skate park in addition to numerous other kinds of sporting advocacy. Only one group, he says, has matched the passion of pickleball petitioners during his tenure — lacrosse players. And now turf on three fields at Patch Reef Park is not getting the lacrosse players that were anticipated, Rollins said.

Rollins voted against plans to build 18 new covered pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park this year, but he was outvoted.

"I think we're going to wake up four, five years from now and say, 'My God, what did we do? Why did we build all these pickleball courts?'" Rollins said. He experienced some



Veterans Park in Delray Beach is home to one of the few remaining lawn bowling venues in Florida, but it appears likely to become a parking lot. Atlantis resident John Everett bowls as Richard Flater focuses on his own game. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

backlash for the sentiment.

"The pickleball people ... I think some of them need to get rabies shots," he joked.

## A passion for pickleball

That fervor is reflected in usage reports. Delray Beach's show that pickleball games rose from a count of 9,729 adult plays in 2018 to 15,459 adult plays in 2019, an increase of nearly 60% in that year alone. In the last full year reported, the number of adult pickleball plays was at 32,650, representing a 235% increase in adult pickleball plays

from five years ago.

The idea that pickleball is a fad that will go the way of racquetball produces snorts of derision from players assembled on court. Racquetball's status has been in flux.

The county plans to repair some racquetball courts that were falling into disrepair at Caloosa Park in Boynton Beach this summer if the County Commission signs on. But when it comes to the two racquetball courts at Delray Beach's Pompey Park, parks and recreation head Metott says, "I don't know the

last time they were utilized as such."

Lisa Lagrega, 64, who splits time between Highland Beach and Long Island, said she played in U.S. Tennis Association events, but now a herniated neck disk and other injuries make pickleball a better fit. While players may experience a variety of injuries from pickleball, Lagrega finds the strokes not as hard on her body. She also loves how it brings together all ages and skills, she said.

"It gets me off the couch, away from the news," she said.

## Pickleball injuries How to avoid them Page AT14

"The second I get off (the court), I'm in line for another game."

Lagrega, who plays at Patch Reef Park, said she is at the courts for five hours at a time.

Lantana marked its tennis courts with pickleball lines years ago to accommodate the emerging demand for the game. But John Doren, 63, and his wife, Laura, 57, both self-employed, aren't joining in.

"I'm seeing a pingpong table," Laura Doren said of the pickleball lines on the dual-purpose tennis court.

Shortly after they walked off the tennis court, their place was taken by two younger men who had been practicing with pickleball paddles on the blacktop adjacent to the courts.

Meanwhile, there are rumblings of a new trend that's taking Miami by storm, and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District is ready to try it out. Two padel courts — something like pickleball with a Latin American influence — are going to be included in the new facility at North Park, a private-public venture built on the former site of the Ocean Breeze Golf Club.

"Padel has great growth potential," enthused Craig Ehrnst, who has been serving on the recreational district board since 2014. ★

## 10 Questions

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Rena Abrams

Growing up in New Jersey between World War I and World War II, Rena Abrams did just about everything right. She studied hard, earned two college scholarships and worked five jobs to help out her family during the Great Depression.

Then midway through her senior year at the women's branch of Rutgers University, two girlfriends introduced her to their brother and everything changed.

"When I opened the door, I saw this handsome lieutenant in his officer's uniform and I thought I would drop, and I just about did," said Abrams, a 102-year-old resident of the Carlisle in Lantana. "I saw him for the next five days and then he went back to his base in Louisiana."

He called her on the pay phone in the hallway of her dorm every night and when the holidays rolled around invited her to take the long train ride to visit him in Louisiana. After a week together, he asked her to marry him, and knowing he would soon head off to the South Pacific, she accepted.

"He was in one of the first groups of navigators going over there and at the time half of them were coming back dead, so I decided I couldn't miss this chance," Abrams said. "I decided to drop out of school and wait for him and when he came back, if he ever did, we would marry."

Arthur Lawrence Abrams would go on 26 missions and survive them all. Rena went back home, took midterm exams and then left school to wait. When Abrams returned, they were married and remained so until he died in 2010.

"We had a wonderful life together, a lifelong love affair that never ended," she said.

The couple had three



Rena Abrams, age 102, has lived at the Carlisle in Lantana since her husband died in 2010. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

children, including Nancy Ellen Abrams, a prominent author, Fulbright fellow and Woodrow Wilson designate whose husband is renowned astrophysicist Joel Primack; Judy Hollier, who is a member of the board of directors of a community garden initiative in Philadelphia; and Peter, who works in computers and lives in Philadelphia.

— 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 Elizabeth, New Jersey, and went to Batten High School, an all-girls school, and then the women's school at Rutgers University. My father gave me two dollars every week to live on, so I got five jobs to earn extra money and as a result I wrote my papers

at midnight every night and never got to sleep before 2 a.m. My father did well before the Depression, but then it hit and he lost everything, so I needed scholarships to go to school and got them.

I dropped out of college midway through my senior year to get married, but when my youngest child was in kindergarten I went back and finished my degree and also got my master's in social work and psychology. I thought of going on to get a Ph.D., but it was hard because my husband was a very accomplished lawyer and we had dinner parties and such for his clients. And it was a 45-minute drive each way to Rutgers.

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

**A:** After I got my master's degree I worked in social services for a number of years. I was a very good social worker, but there's not too much help you can give your clients. It's a difficult field.

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

**A:** Good luck. You have to be lucky to find a job you can live on. I look at all the people who work in our building and they can't afford to live in this area. They have to drive long distances, way inland, pay for the gas, the time involved. Some commute more than an hour each way. It's pitiful, bad news. I don't know what they're going to do about it.

**Q:** How did you come to live in Palm Beach/Lantana?

**A:** We bought a small apartment at the corner of Lake Avenue and A1A in 1982, very close to the ocean. There were

no big buildings at that time and we had a great view. On the corner was a Howard Johnson's, and they made great sandwiches and 36 flavors of ice cream. Our apartment was right next door so it was very convenient.

We had a two-bedroom apartment and all our family and friends wanted to come visit, so we decided we needed a bigger place. We looked up and down the coast and nothing stood out, but they were building a new building, the Oasis, at 3120 S. Ocean Blvd.

We walked in and I thought I would drop dead. It was just spectacular. At that time there was nothing else on the beach. We had the most magnificent view. It was 3,000 square feet, three bedrooms and four bathrooms, and a whole private dining room, and the views were north, south, east and west. ... You could sit on the toilet and watch the sailing ships go by. We lived there until 2010, when my husband died.

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

**A:** Six years before my husband died, he developed dementia and I took care of him. But he was over 6 feet tall and it got to a point I couldn't do it by myself, so I found a place to take care of him, the Vi at Lakeside Village in Lantana. I could visit him frequently because it was a 10-minute drive. My family worried about me being alone in that 3,000-square-foot place. There were only two apartments on my floor and in the summer the owner of the other one went home, so I would be alone. I decided to move here to the Carlisle because I had friends living here.

I've had a wonderful life here since 2010. It's really beautiful, I've got lots of good friends. Now a lot are dead, but I sit at

the table with people that I care about. They've become part of my family, and I've become a part of theirs. And I take Bobbi Horwich's fitness classes five days a week.

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

**A:** I read constantly, not with my eyes but my ears. The program Books on Tape is a lifesaver, so I read hundreds of books. My latest was a biography of the actress Hedy Lamarr, who was not only an actress but a brilliant scientist. She was fabulous in the movies, but scientifically she co-created [technology] still used today.

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

**A:** I like classical music. I'm not familiar with most modern music.

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

**A:** I had a professor in college named Weston La Barre with whom I was very close. He was also a very good friend. When I was deciding whether to leave and get married during my senior year, he sat with me and we analyzed the situation. It was nice to have someone who cared about me that much to help me come to a decision.

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

**A:** I think maybe Meryl Streep. She's a great actress.

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

**A:** Good wit. Having a good sense of humor. I believe I have one. My husband, along with high intelligence, he had both great wit and humor. We had many good laughs together.

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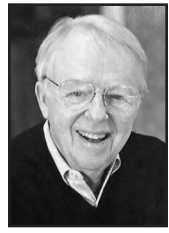
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## Obituaries

### Charles L. Lea Jr.

By Sallie James

OCEAN RIDGE — Charles L. Lea Jr. was a high-profile venture capitalist whose boyish grin and infectious charm could put anyone at ease. A consummate gentleman with an unusual ability to make others feel heard, Mr. Lea died on April 3 at his home in his sleep after a brief illness. He was 96.



Born on Dec. 2, 1927, in Richmond, Virginia, Mr. Lea grew up in Baltimore, where he graduated from St. Paul's School. He enlisted in the Army and served overseas in the Pacific at the end of World War II, then headed to college in 1948 after his discharge.

Mr. Lea attended Kenyon College in Ohio, then graduated from Cornell University in 1952. Years later he served as a member of Cornell University alternate investment committee at the Johnson School of Business. He was also a member of the Cornell Council.

Mr. Lea began his business career as an assistant to the president of Bessemer Securities, working in New York City from 1953 to 1961. Then in 1961, Mr. Lea became a partner of F.S. Smithers & Co., where worked until 1969.

In 1970, Mr. Lea became managing director of New Court Securities, the primary investment vehicle for the Rothschild family in the United States. He remained there until he joined Dillon Read in 1981, retiring in the late 1990s.

One of the highlights of his career included bringing Federal Express from a fledgling company through the venture capital process to its first public offering.

He met his wife, Kathleen, at work. They had known each other for years before they married on Dec. 1, 1984. Mr. Lea was an adventurer who loved sailing, golfing and traveling.

He was a true redhead and an impeccable dresser. "Everybody loved his laughter and loved his smile. He was charming," Kathleen Lea said. "He tried everything and he was good at everything."

Mr. Lea was a co-founder of the National Venture Capital Association where he served two terms as president. He was recognized in "Who's Who in America," "Who's Who in Finance and Industry," and "Who's Who in Venture Capital."

He was a former chairman and governor of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, Maryland; the former chairman of the investment committee of the Shore Health Systems, a hospital complex in Easton, Maryland, and a member of the investment committee of the Mid-Shore Community Fund. Mr. Lea was also an appointed governor of Washington College, of Chestertown, Maryland.

But despite his impressive, high-profile finance background, Mr. Lea was humble and approachable.

"He was not an intimidating person at all. He was very bright and he was always under the radar. He was not up there in your face," Kathleen Lea said.

Mr. Lea was beloved in Ocean Ridge, where he and his wife had lived since August 2008. In December 2022, the town issued a proclamation in celebration of his 95th birthday.

"Charles always had this boyish grin and a kind word for everyone. He made everyone feel heard, respected and liked," said neighbor Kristine de Haseth, a former Ocean Ridge commissioner.

"Whether it was someone new to the island or the trash collector or someone from the Ocean Club who walked their dog regularly on the island. He really tailored his remarks to the person — he would really take the time."

His wife said their romance ignited one night in New York when he called her up and said he was attending a function and needed a date. The rest was history.

"We traveled a lot. He had to go to Japan several times a year. We went to Africa one time and he went horseback riding. I rode in the jeep and he rode the horse," she said, laughing.

Another time they went camping in Idaho. The adventures were unforgettable.

Mr. Lea was sharp and engaged to the end.

"The night before he died he talked to a neighbor about local politics," his wife recalled. "He was always interested in the news and read a lot of books on world wars. He always found common ground with whomever he spoke."

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, in Ocean Ridge; two daughters from a previous marriage, Hilary Lea and Emily Lea Boudreault (Stephen); grandchildren Colin Bernard and Catherine Bernard; and niece Elizabeth Oswald.

He was preceded in death by two sisters.

Lorne and Sons Funeral Home in Delray Beach was in charge of arrangements. A celebration of life will be in Newport, Rhode Island, in the fall.

### Carol Burrow

OCEAN RIDGE — Avid skier, gardener and party host Carol Burrow of Ocean Ridge died April 3, surrounded by her husband and children. She was 70.



Born Aug. 15, 1953, in Washington, D.C., she spent most of her life in South Florida and graduated from South Broward High School in 1971.

Mrs. Burrow was married to the love of her life, Bob, for 52

years and together they had two children, Jessica and Andy. Carol and Bob started their own business where they worked together for 35 years before retiring in 2006.

Mrs. Burrow was a wonderful woman who loved her family and friends dearly. She was known as the "cool" parent and could host one hell of a party. She loved going water- and snow-skiing and was at every sporting event for her kids. She loved to dance and was a great cook. She loved being a member of the McCormick Mile Beach

Club as well as the Ocean Ridge Garden Club.

The last 15 years of her life was a tough battle. She fought every day to be here for her family. Her strength and courage were unwavering and truly inspirational.

She is survived by her husband, Bob Burrow; son, Andrew Burrow; daughter, Jessica Helmer; brother, Lee Gantz; and grandchildren Jacob Burrow, Zachary Burrow and Grady Helmer.

— *Obituary submitted by the family*

### Kathleen Bell

By Ron Hayes

DELRAY BEACH — Kathleen Bell was the power behind the phone.

When readers called to report that *The Coastal Star* had failed to appear in their



driveways, she reassured them we would not fail again. When they called to praise us, she passed the praise

along. When retailers called to advertise, she connected them with a salesperson.

She ordered our supplies. She made sure everyone got paid.

And when chaos threatened, she remained calm, assisted by Pippi, the office cat.

The paper's office administrator for the past 10 years, Ms. Bell died April 5. She was 73 and lived in Delray Beach.

"Kathleen brought a much higher level of organization to our bookkeeping and elevated our customer service," said Jerry Lower, the paper's publisher. "Occasionally her wry sense of humor would surface and trigger welcome laughter in our little office."

Ms. Bell was blessed with both a soft voice and a dry wit. When reporters and photographers dropped by the office, she liked to maintain the fiction that the sleeping Pippi was her feline co-worker, reporting with a straight face on the cat's workload and conversation.

Kathleen Therese Bell was born on June 25, 1950, in Mitchell, South Dakota, and grew up in Florida.

"She was also the keeper of family stories," recalled her youngest sister, Maureen

Kussler.

Their mother missed Kathleen's high school graduation in Jacksonville because she was busy giving birth to Maureen, 18 years younger, in Fort Myers.

"Kathleen used to say that I was her high school graduation gift," Kussler said.

She liked chocolate, books and being in charge.

"And she was good at it," her sister said. "She cultivated many lifelong friendships and was really good at keeping in touch with people."

Ms. Bell learned the art of telephone diplomacy in the early 1970s, while working as an assistant to editor Malcolm Balfour at *The National Enquirer*.

"She was the best thing that ever happened to me there," Balfour recalled. "In those days the paper had a horrible reputation and people didn't want to talk to us, but she could get anybody on the line. And then she'd demand they be polite. She was just dynamite, and I had the highest respect for her."

Chip Biays met Ms. Bell in 1981, when she served as matron of honor at his marriage to her best friend, Carol Wershoven, whom she'd met in 1969 while Carol was her teacher at Marymount College, now Lynn University.

"Carol was the only one to call her talented student Kathi," Biays said, "and both the name and quirky spelling endured."

Later, Ms. Bell went on to earn a master's degree in English at Florida Atlantic University, and spent most of her professional career in property management.

"She was as comfortable around the conference table discussing architectural

renderings and plat surveys as she was in a graduate seminar or cooking class," Biays added.

Working for the Arvida real estate corporation in the early 1980s, she met Kathy Assaf when both volunteered at her alma mater.

"We just hit it off," Assaf said. "We had the same view of life. Both Catholic and very religious and concerned with doing things in a prayerful manner."

That friendship endured, and when Ms. Bell was released from the hospital after surgery for a benign brain tumor in January 2023, Kathy and her husband, Ron, welcomed her into their Boca Raton home until she'd recovered.

"It was fun, we had a good time," Assaf recalled. "And then the last time she was in the hospital, near the end, I brought her a rosary from the Holy Land. She had it clutched in her hands and would mumble the prayers along with me."

Ms. Bell was predeceased by her mother, Cathleen; her father, Michael; and two sisters, Michelle and Suzanne. In addition to Maureen Kussler, she is survived by her sisters Monica and Julie; her brother Geoffrey; several nieces and nephews; and Pippi, the office cat.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1 p.m. May 3 at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd., in Delray Beach.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any of her favorite charities: Lynn Cancer Center, Lourdes Noreen McKeen Residence, Christ the King Monastery, Fisher House Foundation, the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County or the Florida Press Foundation Community News Fund.



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## Boca Raton

# First turtle in more than a year getting vet care at Gumbo Limbo

By Steve Plunkett

Armed with a new state permit, the nonprofit Coastal Stewards were poised to care for their first sick or injured sea turtle. That first patient, Terra, arrived on April 26.

The juvenile green sea turtle was discovered four days earlier, on Earth Day, with fishhooks in a flipper and down its esophagus. After X-rays and sedation, veterinarian Shelby Loos removed the hooks. Terra was receiving ongoing care to ensure it was eating and recovering before being released, the Coastal Stewards said.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission had issued the group a permit to rehabilitate and release ailing sea turtles on April 9. Even before Terra arrived, the Coastal Stewards had scheduled a “Grand Opening Splash” and open house at Boca Raton’s Gumbo Limbo Nature Center from 12:30 to 4 p.m. May 9.

“We are thrilled,” John Holloway, the nonprofit’s CEO and president, said in a news release.

“Sea turtles have long been synonymous with Gumbo Limbo Nature Center,” Leanne Welch, the center’s city-employed manager, said in the same release. “We are excited for our visitors to once again have the opportunity to witness firsthand the threats faced by turtles and share in their hopeful journey of rehabilitation and release.”



Two hooks, one old and rusty and one fresh with fishing line still attached, were removed from the turtle.

The FWC ordered all sea turtles transferred from Gumbo Limbo in March 2023 after the city terminated its sea turtle rehabilitation coordinator, who held the FWC permit, and her assistant coordinator. Also moved were the center’s two “resident” sea turtles, which could not survive on their own in the ocean and were deemed non-releasable.

The firings came as the city was developing a plan to transfer the rehab unit, including its financial

obligations, to the nonprofit and a month after the unit’s on-call veterinarian resigned.

Since then, the Coastal Stewards hired veterinarian Loos full-time and two other employees to qualify for a new permit. They also paid to repair the plywood floor under the rehab unit’s holding tanks and shortened their name from Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards to just Coastal Stewards.

Originally the group was called the Friends of Gumbo Limbo with a focus on caring for sick and injured sea turtles at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.

The road to the new permit was hampered by a series of missteps. The Coastal Stewards applied for a permit both to keep non-releasable turtles in captivity and to treat ailing turtles. As time went on, the city applied for a non-releasable permit without telling the nonprofit. When the Coastal Stewards objected, the city withdrew its application.

But later, the FWC said the

Coastal Stewards would have to show “ownership or control” of the nature center’s multimillion-dollar aquariums to be able to keep non-releasable turtles in them. The nonprofit withdrew its application, and the city submitted its own.

Again in an attempt to speed the process, the Coastal Stewards amended their application for veterinary care to delete seeking to treat sea turtles with Fibropapillomatosis (FP). But the state said treating FP, a tumor-causing disease, was one of the main reasons it issued a permit at Gumbo Limbo, so the application had to be resubmitted.

Under Holloway, the Coastal Stewards have expanded their mission to include saving sea grass, dolphins, manatees and whales with an eye to expanding their base of members and donors. Last summer they created a Youth Leadership Council.

In December, the group hosted a “Winter Wishes Celebration” at FPL’s Manatee

(l-r) Lauren Hitselberger, Dr. Shelby Loos and Kara Portocarrero work on Terra, the first turtle to be rehabbed at Gumbo Limbo since March 2023.

Photos provided by Coastal Stewards

Lagoon in West Palm Beach. In February they moved their offices from Federal Highway in Boca Raton to an unincorporated pocket on State Road A1A between Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes.

On April 13, the Coastal Stewards were the supporting sponsor for the city of Boynton Beach’s Earth Day celebration at Centennial Park.

With their announcement of receiving the FWC permit, the Coastal Stewards said they had increased their membership tiers. A student membership is now \$25 a year, individuals are \$65, couples are \$100 and families are \$200.

And they have renamed the rehab unit at the nature center “Robyn’s Place” after Robyn Morigerato, who died recently, a west Boca volunteer who joined the Friends of Gumbo Limbo 17 years ago and served in various posts on its board of trustees.

Morgan, one of Gumbo Limbo’s former resident turtles, returned to the center in January. A new resident, a Kemp’s ridley sea turtle named Lefty, arrived in February.

Gumbo Limbo continues to be a busy place, with work crews finishing construction of an observation tower, ADA-compliant restrooms, ADA parking spaces and new decking around the main building.

They are all on schedule to be completed in late May or early June, “but that is dependent on many factors,” said Welch, the nature center’s manager. ★

## The Boca Raton seeks to add residences

The Boca Raton wants to build more residential units on its 160-acre property.

The resort has proposed building two eight-story towers with a total of 80 units, a five-story parking garage and a new golf maintenance facility, according to a city summary of the project and a resort submission to the city.

The resort is seeking zoning and other changes that would allow the project to go forward.

The proposed residential buildings and parking garage exceed currently allowable heights and the residential units would be built on land now zoned for recreation and open space.

“As we consider ways to elevate The Boca Raton experience for our club members, resort guests, and community, we are assessing future projects,” Sara Geen Hill, the resort’s executive director of communications and brand management, said in an email. She declined to offer additional information about the project.

The resort’s owners — MSD Partners and Northview Hotel Group — completed a \$200 million renovation in 2022. In March, the resort announced a \$100 million renovation of the Beach Club hotel that includes upgrades to its 207 guest rooms and suites, new restaurants, fitness facility and outside event space, and a refreshed lobby with a new bar and cafe.

The changes, the resort said in its submission to the city, have returned it to being a “world-class resort. At this time, the ownership group are continuing to explore ways to further enhance the property to truly become a main player in the global luxury hotel market.”

— Mary Hladky

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be delivered the weekend of June 1

## Possible illegal dumping of trash during Boca Bash gets FWC’s attention

By Mary Hladky

Boca Bash lived up to its wild reputation this year as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission made 18 arrests for boating under the influence or drug possession during the April 28 bacchanal on Lake Boca.

The commission also is investigating a possible instance of illegal trash dumping after a video circulated on social media showing a group of young people on a boat throwing trash from two large garbage cans into the ocean near Lake Boca. The video was shot by Wavy Boats, a popular Instagram account. The video shows the boat’s name as Halcyon out of Gulf Stream.

“We cannot be more angered or disturbed by these actions,” Boca Bash organizers said on their Facebook page. They said they immediately began trying to identify who was on the vessel.

“By no means do we believe this is a representation of the gathering,” they added. “We implore and expect boaters to keep the waterways clean, uphold proper boating etiquette



A video posted on Instagram by Wavy Boats claimed to show boaters dumping trash into the ocean during Boca Bash. Photo provided

and follow state laws on the water.”

In a statement and video released on April 30, the FWC said several trash-dumping “subjects” have been identified and the agency is working with the Palm Beach County State Attorney’s Office to determine appropriate charges.

An agency spokesman said that anyone involved who wants to come forward can call the Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office posted 18 arrests made by FWC on April 28 and early April 29 on its booking

blotter.

During last year’s Boca Bash, the same number of people were arrested and five calls were received from people needing medical help.

Boca Bash, always held on the last Sunday in April, is loosely organized online and is not sponsored or endorsed by the city.

FWC takes the law enforcement lead because Lake Boca, actually a wide section of the Intracoastal Waterway, falls under state jurisdiction. Boca Raton police assist its officers.

This year’s crowd size was not immediately known, but in past years as many as 10,000 have attended the event that draws hundreds of boats.

FWC’s enforcement targets anyone boating under the influence.

As it has in the past, the city closed Wildflower and Silver Palm parks and limited access to Spanish River Park Marina in advance of Boca Bash.

They serve as staging areas for fire rescue and law enforcement. Limiting public access is intended to prevent people from coming to the parks to try to hitch rides on boats. ★

Lantana

# Town may consider 5-story buildings, land swap, new beach pavilion

By Mary Thurwachter

Lantana may allow five-story buildings on Ocean Avenue.

The decision is likely to be considered, at least, in the year ahead as the town grapples with redeveloping downtown, specifically four parcels on the north side of the road owned by sister-and-brother Marsha Stocker and Steven Handelsman.

The topic came up during a visioning session the Town Council and staff had on April 19 at the Finland House. Similar sessions have been held for the past two years and are a way for leaders to focus on priorities in advance of budget discussions.

Town officials have wanted to spruce up Ocean Avenue for

years and have been frustrated with the declining condition of the 12 cottages between Oak Street and Lake Drive. Last September, some progress on the project was reported by Nicole Dritz, Lantana's development services director, who said the vacant cottages, once home to restaurants and shops, were headed for demolition.

The siblings, who inherited the properties after the death of their parents, Burt and Lucille "Lovey" Handelsman, owe the town more than \$850,000 for code violations for the ramshackle buildings. But they're interested in a land lease and looking for a developer to build a mix of apartments, shops and restaurants.

Being flexible about building

heights, the officials say, could be helpful in negotiations with developers.

No votes could be taken at the visioning workshop, but council members agreed by consensus that they were willing to consider bending on the town's current three-story height limit. Council members also said they would be open to changing parking requirements and will consider forgiving all — or part of — the fines owed.

The council had consensus agreement on several other proposals as well, including looking into a possible land swap with the old bowling alley property owned by developers Michael and Tony Mauro at 200 N. Third St. and three town-owned properties on the Intracoastal Waterway at 202,

206 and 210 N. Lake Drive. The 1.1-acre Third Street parcel is adjacent to the town library and could be used to build a community/recreation center, Town Manager Brian Raducci said.

"We're waiting on appraisals and if we want to do this, we may have to take it to the voters," he said.

If the swap goes through and a recreation center is constructed, the current community center on South Dixie Highway would be redeveloped.

With the new master plan in mind, the town will also look at rebuilding the pavilion and Dune Deck restaurant at the public beach. To that end, the town will investigate private partnerships to help finance the

costly project.

A few council members said they would like to explore construction of a fishing pier, although Town Attorney Max Lohman warned permits may be difficult to secure and that the town may need to redo its charter.

Other proposals up for consideration include adding docks at Sportsman's Park, bringing in a kayak vendor at Lyman Kayak Park, expanding library hours to include Saturdays, adding a splash pad at Maddock Park or Bicentennial Park, resurfacing stamped concrete sidewalks on Ocean Avenue, and adding lighting to the beach parking lot. ★

## Federal money paying for drone, new radios for Lantana police

By Mary Thurwachter

As Lantana's population ages, the number of people with Alzheimer's who leave their homes and wander aimlessly is on the rise, too, Police Chief Sean Scheller says.

Finding those folks quickly and returning them to safety is

a concern for his department, which just received a new tool in that effort.

Last month, the Town Council agreed to purchase an Axon Air Skydio drone for \$26,598. The funds will come from American Rescue Plan Act money.

Finding lost elderly people

isn't the only way Scheller said his department will utilize the equipment.

"The uses of this drone will be monumental," he said. "We can also use it when looking for a fleeing felon and other dangerous individuals, and also monitoring community events in our town."

The drone will be helpful for emergency management, too, he said. "If we know a storm is coming, we could use drones to go around and take videos on town properties before and after the storm."

Two officers are licensed to operate law enforcement drones.

In addition to the drone, the police will get 50 Motorola Interoperability radios for \$381,091. ARPA funds are also being used for this purchase.

The radios will replace outdated handheld radios that are out of warranty. ★

Manalapan

# Additions planned for 23-acre ocean-to-Intracoastal estate

By Anne Geggis

An estate that fetched the heftiest sum ever paid for a Florida residence — and was bought by the world's fifth-wealthiest person — likely will be getting two new buildings and losing another.

The Manalapan Town Commission unanimously agreed to allow the owner of 2000 S. Ocean Blvd. to proceed with plans to tear down a boathouse and build two, two-story structures — a 10,000-square-foot "guest house" and a studio of nearly 4,000 square feet. The two-parcel lot totals nearly 23 acres, including a 7-acre sanctuary known as Bird Island.

The property has been known

as "Gemini" and the "Ziff estate" in the past.

The main house is a 52,396-square-foot structure — roughly 21,000 square feet of it under air — that dates back to the 1940s. The house is unique in Manalapan because it is situated on both sides of State Road A1A.

Three tunnels go under the road to connect parts of the house split by the road. It wouldn't be allowed to be built today, said Matthew Scott, a lawyer with Greenspoon Marder LLP, representing the owner.

The main house's position on both sides of the road triggers an automatic requirement that a variance from town development rules be sought any time that changes to the current

setup are proposed, according to town officials. The plans also include a detailed inventory of the property's trees and plans to relocate existing Copernicia palms.

"Our client purchased the property with an eye of being a good steward over the property, improving it," Scott said. "And so this is a first step in that larger stewardship goal."

The ocean-to-Intracoastal Waterway property is owned by Florida Realty LLC, according to records. The company, however, has the same California address as the Larry Ellison Foundation. Ellison is the founder and chief technology officer of the software giant Oracle.

Since 2022 when he bought the estate, Ellison, said to

be worth some \$142 billion, has advanced from eighth-wealthiest person in the world to fifth wealthiest, according to Forbes magazine.

The results of his upgrades to the property will be out of sight, Scott promised.

"The property section is below the grade of the road — something else that could never be done today," Scott said.

As a result, Scott said, "nothing will be visible to the town or the neighborhood for that matter."

No questions were asked of those representing the applicant and the variance was approved without any discussion among the commissioners.

The proposal now advances through the regular building approval process. ★

Manalapan News

**Bridge-raising changes sought** —

Assistant Town Manager Eric Marmer said he would ask the U.S. Coast Guard to confine raising of the Ocean Avenue Bridge in Lantana to scheduled times and halt boats weekdays during morning rush, 7 to 9 a.m., and late afternoon, 4 to 6 p.m. He said the traffic snarls from the raising of the bridge could have emergency vehicles stuck in traffic and unable to attend to an emergency over the bridge.

**Bicycle packs policed** —

Town police conducted bicycle traffic enforcement on four consecutive weekends from March 23 to

April 14 and issued a few citations and a half dozen warnings for those not following the law. Hundreds of cyclists were observed those weekends following the law correctly, moving into single file when vehicles approached them from behind, according to reports.

Two warnings were given to people who said they were from abroad and were not familiar with the correct side for cyclist traffic.

The patrols were done in response to "constant" complaints about the bicycling packs, said Police Chief Carmen Mattox.

— Anne Geggis



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## Business Spotlight

# First sale recorded for Bluewater Cove in Gulf Stream

The 14-home Bluewater Cove development on the north edge of Gulf Stream's Place Au Soleil has notched its first sale, and at least five more properties are spoken for.

Off the market is 2911 Bluewater Cove, on the north side of the street just past the entrance. County property records show the sale took place on March 13 and was recorded on March 19 with a price of \$4.8 million.

"Buyers have moved in and are loving it there," co-listing agent Linda Lake of Corcoran Group's Delray Beach office said in an email. The single-story, Bahama-style home has 4 bedrooms, 4½ baths and a 2½-car garage.

Also off the market at Bluewater Cove are both properties on the Intracoastal Waterway. Lake said the two parcels are "under agreement" with construction starting in approximately six months. A new sea wall will be coming soon, she said.

And there are reservation agreements on three dry-lot properties, she said, with clients working with the developer on their interior design selections. Lake said the model home next door at 2913 Bluewater Cove is being furnished with completion expected in June.

The builders anticipate starting on four new spec homes in late May with completion dates approximately 12 months from the start date, Lake said.

The spec homes already are listed with asking prices of \$4.04 million to \$4.07 million. Bluewater Cove is to the east of Federal Highway, just north of Gulfstream Boulevard.

Lake and Corcoran colleague Kelley Johnson represented seller Bluewater Cove-Gulf Stream LLC; LoKation agent Alexandria Lopresto represented buyer Augustus Sun LLC of Chelsea, Michigan.

— Steve Plunkett

Boynton Bay Preservation, part of Related Group, sold **Boynton Bay Apartments**, 1785 NE Fourth St., Boynton Beach, for \$53 million. The buyer is Boynton Bay Apartments LLC, an affiliate of Delray Beach-based Smith & Henzy Advisory Group.

The Boynton Bay Apartments affordable housing community, with 18 two-story buildings comprising 240 apartments, was built on the 21.4-acre site in 1991. It last traded for \$48 million in 2022. The Housing Finance Authority of Palm Beach County provided the buyer with a \$47.35 million mortgage with an 18-year maturity and a \$10.65 million mortgage with a 2.5-year maturity.

Mikhail Avrutin, owner of the Baltic Hotel Group, which operates hotels in



The first of the 14 homes in the Bluewater Cove development sold in March for \$4.8 million. Photo provided

Eastern Europe, and Olga Avrutin Schackler, a marketing executive at L'Oreal, sold their 9,692-square-foot home at **444 E. Alexander Palm Road**, Boca Raton, for \$28.45 million.

The new owner is a trust named for the address, with Boston attorney Brian Monnich as trustee. In the Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club along the Intracoastal Waterway, this new home was developed by Sarkela Corp. and designed by architect Randall Stofft and Firm D Editors. **Adam Elmer Jr.** and **Marie Mangouta**, of Fortune Christie's International Real Estate's the Worth Group, represented both the buyer and seller.

A new spec home on the Intracoastal Waterway at **480 E. Alexander Palm Road** in the Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club, Boca Raton, sold for \$26.5 million. The seller, represented by **David W. Roberts** of Royal Palm Properties, was 480 East Alexander Palm Road Trust, with attorney Jay M. Sakalo as trustee. The buyer, represented by **Ina Bloom** of Compass, is 480 EA Land Trust, with Robert G.W. Laute of New Jersey as trustee. The 8,921-square-foot, six-bedroom home was developed by SRD Building Corp., with P&H Interiors as the interior designer. The lot was purchased for \$7.75 million in 2022.

G. Robert Sheetz, a member of the family that owns the Sheetz convenience store chain, sold a six-bedroom, 10,673-square-foot home at **415 E. Alexander Palm Road** in the Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton, for \$25.92 million.

It was purchased by the Source Energy 111 Florida Land Trust, with West Palm Beach attorney Tasha K. Dickinson as trustee. **David W. Roberts** of Royal Palm Properties brokered the deal.

Built along a canal leading to the Intracoastal Waterway by Gulf Stream-based Wietsma Lippolis Construction, the home features a six-car garage, two reflecting pools, a club

room with a bar, a 900-bottle wine room, an infinity-edge pool, an elevator, a firepit, a summer kitchen and a dock.

Sheetz still owns the home at 1992 Royal Palm Way, which is listed as his homestead property.

Michael Henning Tuchen, the CEO of San Francisco-based facial-recognition company Onfido, and his wife, Sarasina Okiani Tuchen, sold their ocean-to-Intracoastal Waterway home at **973 Hillsboro Mile**, Hillsboro Beach, for \$18.4 million. The purchaser is Real Estate 1925 Land Trust, with Martina Velez in Hollywood as trustee. **Chad Carroll** with the Carroll Group at Compass represented the seller in the deal, while **Svetlana Izgarsheva** with Miami VIP Realty worked with the buyer. The five-bedroom, 10,846-square-foot home features a club room, a golf simulator, a wine cellar, a fitness room, a summer kitchen, a pool and a 70-foot dock with a boat lift. It last traded for \$16.59 million in 2021.

New data from researchers at **Florida Atlantic University** and **Florida International University** indicates overvalued housing prices in many markets in the country are starting to decline and move toward stabilization.

But South Florida — Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties — remains an area of concern, with housing prices continuing to trend up, as shown in the universities' Top 100 U.S. Housing Markets monthly index.

Of the top 100 metros measured, "South Florida is exhibiting something that the other housing markets are not," said Ken H. Johnson, Ph.D., real estate economist in FAU's College of Business. "Area home prices are rising faster than normal. Over the past several months prices are once again on the path for double-digit annual appreciation."

This fact is compounded by two additional worries, he added. "Rents are flattening out while home prices are



The exterior of Beach House Gift Boutique has a tropical coastal feel. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

going up and that should not be happening. Flattening or lowering rents favor lower home valuations.

Also, the price-to-rent ratio — that's the average price of the typical home in an area divided by the annual rent of that property — is very high, favoring renting over ownership, all else equal. When you combine these three things, it makes me worry about home prices in the area.

"Do I think we will have a significant crash? No. But I do expect a correction. It is very likely area prices will experience minimum property price appreciation or even slight price declines in the near future. This slowdown will eventually bring home prices back in line with the area's long-term pricing trend.

"Something is currently amiss in the South Florida market. Perhaps there are issues with the data — missing transactions or inaccurate rents. But this seems unlikely."

Johnson believes that rather than buying a home now, it might be better to wait.

"Renting and reinvesting typically outperforms buying and building equity in a home, but not by very much. Thus, it might be wise for families in South Florida to consider renting and reinvesting monies that they would otherwise have invested into homeownership at this point."

Janet Kysia Nadeau and her husband, Deziel Nadeau, owners of Boynton Beach's A

Pink Princess, a boutique in a pink-painted building that carried toys, dolls and some girls' apparel, have renovated their 1930s-era building and opened their new business as a coastal-colored retail store, **Beach House Gift Boutique**.

Located in the same historic building at 1120 S. Federal Highway, their store now carries women's clothing, shoes and jewelry, as well as tropical gifts and coastal home goods curated by Kysia Nadeau, who is a longtime retailer.

"I have a love for coastal products and I think the women in the area have a need for them," Kysia Nadeau says.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, visit <https://beachhousegiftboutique.com>.

People knew A Pink Princess, which opened in 2000, as "the pink house north of Woolbright," Kysia Nadeau said.

Earlier businesses at this location, according to Janet DeVries Naughton, past president and archivist of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, included the Lee Manor Inn bed-and-breakfast (circa 1935), a branch of Boca Raton Federal Savings & Loan (1975), and Era United Realty (1990s).

"The three-story building was originally the main dining room for Roland and Elsie Owens' Depression-era Lee Manor Inn," DeVries Naughton said. "The expansive property with seasonal rental cottages extended from U.S. 1 to the Intracoastal Waterway and had its own orange grove."

“It was an old-time Florida tourist court and has long served as a landmark in Boynton, with its signature banyan trees. The neighborhood to the east and Colonial Center to the south were all part of the original lush property. Mr. Owens’ daughter, Alice, married Paul Dreher, namesake of the Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park.”

Roomeightstudio.com, an online boutique offering a collection of clothing, jewelry, home accessories and skin care products, has opened its first brick-and-mortar location in a 1,000-square-foot space at 325 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. Founder Ashley Catronio’s curated denim collection includes brands such as Citizens of Humanity, Moussy Vintage and Amo. The **Room Eight Studio** store also carries jewelry by Zoe Lev, Agent Nateur skin-care products, and Madeworn T-shirts. Pledged to a climate commitment, the store is establishing its own carbon-neutral shipping processes for online orders.

Room Eight Studio is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info, call 561-908-2448 or visit [www.roomeightstudio.com](http://www.roomeightstudio.com).

BrandIt Hospitality’s **Bounce Sporting Club** debuted in Delray Beach in March.

Designed by Garrett Singer Architecture + Design and located at Delray Beach Market, Bounce occupies more than 5,000 square feet, accommodating 300 guests indoors and 100 on its outdoor patio. It is a combination sports bar, restaurant and nightclub.

Executive Chef Sean Olnowich’s menu features a refined twist on modern American cuisine, with dishes like mac-and-cheese bars, local wahoo ceviche, Bounce Smash Burger, and its signature wings, complemented by six house-made sauces.

Bounce Sporting Club is at 33 SE Third Ave. Hours are Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. For more info, visit <https://bouncesportingclub.com/delray>.

Boca Raton-based Windward Risk Managers, the management company behind Florida Peninsula and Edison insurance companies, launched **Ovation Home Insurance Exchange** in April.

“Ovation will be greatly beneficial for both homeowners and agents in Florida, by providing new dedicated capital, additional capacity, and coverage options for Floridians at competitive prices,” said Paul Adkins, CEO of Ovation.

The company planned to start selling policies through its existing agents across Florida in the second quarter of 2024. It also plans to participate in

Citizens Property Insurance Corp.’s clearinghouse program, which was designed to encourage policyholders to seek coverage from private insurers rather than relying on Citizens for coverage.

**DigitalBridge**, a digital infrastructure investment firm, is moving its corporate headquarters with 300 employees, from 750 Park of Commerce Drive, No. 210, Boca Raton, to the Sundy Village campus and has leased a 79,141-square-foot office at 100 SE First Ave., Delray Beach. DigitalBridge’s building is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2025.



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

## Briny Breezes

# Corporation starts ball rolling on next year’s taxes

By Steve Plunkett

Briny Breezes Inc. will pay 70% of the cost of police and fire rescue services in the next budget year, just like it has this year.

Susan Brannen, president of the corporation’s board, told town aldermen at their April 25 meeting that her board unanimously approved repeating the financial arrangement “in exchange for a lower millage rate.”

“Just wanted to let you know,” Brannen said. “This is what we asked for, so we should be happy,” Alderwoman Kathy Gross said.

“I’m happy,” Town Manager Bill Thrasher responded.

Thrasher had said at the March meeting that he planned to keep the tax rate the same as this year’s \$3.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value. If that rate is eventually adopted, the owner of a mobile home valued at \$150,000 would pay \$562.50 in property taxes.

It’s early in the budget cycle though, with the aldermen planning to have their first budget workshop in June and approving a final

property tax rate in September.

The money juggling does not translate into savings for residents. Briny Breezes Inc., the cop that leases land to the mobile homeowners, will again offset the 70% pledge by charging residents higher annual assessments.

Last fall was the first time since 2009 that the town did not levy \$10 per \$1,000 of taxable value, the maximum allowed by state law. The maneuver will give Briny Breezes room to raise taxes, perhaps back to the \$10 rate, to repay millions of dollars in loans it expects to take out to finance sea walls, drainage improvements and new streets to fight sea-level rise.

In prior years, the town used the maximum tax rate to enable residents to take a higher deduction on their federal tax returns.

At the meeting, aldermen also accepted the 2023 annual audit of the town’s finances by accounting firm Caballero Fierman Llerena + Garcia LLP.

“Overall a clean report. Nothing of significance to report today,” said Andrew Fierman, one of the firm’s partners. ★

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# Around Town

Celebrations - Page AT4  
Dining - Page AT6  
Tots and Teens - Page AT16  
House of the Month - Page AT23

May 2024

The Coastal  Star

## Along the Coast



American Sign Language interpreters worked the March 29 production of 'Merrily We Roll Along' at the Delray Beach Playhouse. Jessica Reiling (above) signed the second act and Kate Robertson (below) the first. Robertson says body language is important in conveying the music and mood. Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

# How do you sign Sondheim?

Delray Playhouse enlists ASL interpreters for first time so deaf girl can enjoy playwright's Broadway musical

By Ron Hayes

Not once in its 77 years had the Delray Beach Playhouse been asked. Not even once.

And then it decided to put on *Merrily We Roll Along*, Stephen Sondheim's 1981 musical.

"Devra Seidel, who plays Mary Flynn in the show, has a niece who's deaf and wanted to come," recalled Andre

Lancaster, the show's director. "So she asked me if I knew anyone who could sign the show for her."

Of course, he thought of Vera Follain-Grisell.

For 25 years, she had taught special education administration at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the world's first school for the education of people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Nowadays Follain-Grisell ushers at the playhouse and volunteers backstage on the lighting and curtains.

"That's beyond my scope," she told the director. You see the challenge.

See ASL on page AT11



## Inside



### Religion

Four monks share philosophies, skills with yogis in Delray Beach. Page AT12



### Health

Don't put yourself in a pickle. Here's how to avoid injuries. Page AT14



### Outdoors

Get your grouper (and hogfish) fishing fix this month. Page AT18



### Pets

Encountering other animal lovers in England and Greece. Page AT19

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Note: Events are current as of 4/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

Dinner at Dusk  
Trump International Golf Club

MAY

Saturday - 5/4 - Delray Beach Historical Society and Heritage Gardens'

Twilight in the Garden at 3 NE First St. Meander peaceful pathways to enchanting food and cocktail vignettes, bid on one-of-a-kind auction items and enjoy live music during the organization's annual fundraiser. 6-10 pm. \$150. 561-274-9578 or delraybeachhistory.org.

Saturday - 5/4 - Milagro Center's Back to the 90s Celebration

at Lakeside Terrace, 7880 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Stroll memory lane with The Memory Lane Band during an evening filled with music from the decade - the same decade Milagro Center opened. 7-11 pm. \$150. 561-279-2970 or milagrocenter.org.

Thursday - 5/9 - Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options' Mother's Day Luncheon at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Celebrate all the mothers out there while honoring Linda Beermann and Francee Ford. 10 am boutique, auction and mimosas followed by program and luncheon. \$150. 954-368-1879 or jafco.org.

Thursday - 5/9 - Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County's Business & Professional Division's Industry Icon Event

at 9901 Donna Klein Blvd., Boca Raton. Share the journey of Ira and Cathy Baer, of the fourth-generation, family-owned Baer's Furniture. 6-8 pm. \$65. 561-852-3128 or jewishboca.org/bpicon.

Friday - 5/17 - Tri-County Animal Rescue's Dinner at Dusk at Trump International Golf Club, 3505 Summit Blvd., West Palm. Be treated to an exquisite barbecue meal accompanied by live




May 17: Tri-County Animal Rescue's Dinner at Dusk fundraiser will include an exquisite barbecue meal, live music, shopping at pop-up boutiques, pet photos and exclusive silent-auction items. Time is 6 p.m. Cost is \$275. Call 561-482-8110 or visit tricountyanimalrescue.com. ABOVE: Event Co-Chairwoman Diana Maune with Lucy. Photo provided

music, shopping at pop-up boutiques, pet photos and exclusive silent-auction items. 6 pm. \$275. 561-482-8110 or tricountyanimalrescue.com.

Saturday - 6/15 - George Snow Scholarship Fund's Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony at Lynn University,

3601 Military Trail, Boca Raton. Recognize the Class of 2024 and express gratitude to the donors responsible for funding the students' grants. 9 am. Free. 561-347-6799 or scholarship.org.



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Philanthropy Notes

Boca Regional Hospital gifted \$5 million

South County philanthropists Rocco and Mary Abessinio will be acknowledged in the naming of the new energy plant on the campus of Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

The couple's \$5 million donation to "Keeping the Promise — the Campaign for Boca Raton Regional Hospital" is "most impactful," CEO Lincoln Mendez said.

"Our Keeping the Promise campaign has been both a revelation and a testament to the commitment this community has always had to Boca Regional," Mendez said. "One reason that emerges regularly is the enormous generosity of those in our service area who have partnered with us as we move health care forward in Boca Raton and the region."

Rocco Abessinio founded Applied Card Systems and Applied Bank, among several other successful business forays. Together with his wife, they formed the Rocco A. and Mary Abessinio Foundation.

"We moved to the Boca Raton area 24 years ago and were immediately impressed by the distinction of the hospital and the importance of it to so many who live here," he said. "We wanted to be part of this spectacular vision, leave a family legacy and play a role in the health of the community."

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

300,000 diapers donated by Children's Foundation

The ninth annual Diaper Drive sponsored by Boca West Children's Foundation collected 300,000 diapers, surpassing last year's record of 280,000 thanks to the efforts of foundation members.

Other groups also contributed to the drive — which supports the Diaper Bank, Covering South Florida — helping families that struggle with diaper needs.

"Clean diapers are as essential as food to eat and a place to live for a baby," said Pamela Weinroth, executive director of the foundation. "Whether or not a child has enough clean diapers impacts not only the child's health, but their parents' ability to work. We were thrilled to surpass last year's total, especially given the 20% increase in the cost of diapers from last year."

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

FAU athletes part of 'Baskets for Babies'

The law firm Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas, a supporter of Florida Atlantic University, raised \$2,240 for Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County.

Relying on the sharpshooting FAU men's and women's



Rocco and Mary Abessinio

basketball teams, SSRGA committed to donating \$10 for each three-point shot made during this season's home games. The initiative was part of a campaign called "Baskets for Babies."

"We are very proud to partner with FAU and Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies," SSRGA partner Joel Feldman said. "This nonprofit organization does a wonderful job providing programming and services to expectant mothers and their families and doing all it can to promote healthy

births."

Firm representatives presented a \$1,000 check to the nonprofit during halftime of a women's game late in the season. On March 9, they presented a check for \$1,200 during the men's game, an amount that grew as the game progressed.

"A big part of our law firm's culture is to give back to the community, and through Baskets for Babies, we were able to do it in a fun and creative way," said Robin Bresky, managing partner of SSRGA's Boca Raton office.

For more information about Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, call 561-665-4500 or visit [hmhbpbpc.org](http://hmhbpbpc.org)



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

Walsh Family Donation

Fishermen's Community Hospital, Marathon — April 9



Baptist Health Foundation received a \$5 million gift from the owners of Ocean Properties Hotels and Resorts/OPAL Collection in support of the construction of the medical arts building in the Middle Keys. The gift will result in the naming of the Walsh Family Medical Arts Building. 'We are very grateful to the Walsh family for this generous gift,' said Alex Villoch, CEO of the foundation. 'Their support is helping to expand access to high-quality health care and expert physicians in the Middle Keys so patients won't have to travel far to get care.' ABOVE: (l-r) Barbara James, Mark Walsh, Linda Walsh, Dr. Jack Ziffer, Michael Walsh, Drew Grossman, Jay Hershoff and Villoch. Photo provided

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## Celebrations

### Founders Luncheon

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — Feb. 28



The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, an agency that leads partnerships with donors and nonprofits, saw a crowd of almost 600 at the 11th annual benefit. Highlighting ‘Hope for Early Education,’ it celebrated the powerful philanthropic and charitable connections making a difference locally. George Elmore was the event’s guest of honor and the McIntosh Award recipient. **LEFT:** Marti LaTour and Elmore. **RIGHT:** (l-r) Dan Stoops, Lauren Stoops, Aggie Stoops and Jeffrey Stoops. **Photos provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

### Honor Your Doctor Luncheon

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — March 29



A total of 130 physicians nominated by the community were recognized at the 26th annual affair sponsored by Rotary Club Downtown Boca Raton. The gathering, which took place just prior to National Doctors Day, was attended by more than 250 guests who watched as each doctor received a crystal blue star atop a pedestal engraved with his or her name. The 2024 Doctor of Distinction — the one who earned the most votes — is Dr. Eli Cohen. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Holli Rockwell Trubinsky, Pat Thomas, Christine Lynn, Marilyn Weinberg and Terry Fedele. **Photo provided by Gina Fontana**

### 2024 Caron Florida Gala

Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, Delray Beach — March 15



Caron Treatment Centers, a nonprofit behavioral health care leader, welcomed rock ‘n’ roller Ricky Byrd to the inspirational evening, which celebrated recovery. Byrd, a member of Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, performed songs such as ‘I Come Back Stronger’ that lifted spirits. Nearly 200 attended, helping to raise almost \$300,000 for treatment programs and scholarships. **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Irimi Lygnos and Macy Foley; Craig Robinson and Alan Shurr; Douglas and Laura Dick; and Terry Shapiro and Jonathan Saltzburg. **Photos provided**

### Star Maker Awards

Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton — March 26



The gathering of the Florida chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters was a magnificent success that honored Yaacov Heller and raised funds for scholarships and competitions for young talent. Heller, a renowned sculptor and silversmith, received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the evening. ‘The Star Maker Awards Gala is a stellar gathering of the area’s foremost arts advocates,’ said Kirsten Stephenson, chapter president. ‘Each year, we are delighted to witness the incredible young talent that our fundraisers support while paying homage to a cultural icon.’ **ABOVE:** (l-r) A’Keyah Williams, Alyce Erickson, Shari Upbin and T.J. Pursley. **Photo provided by Amy Pasquantonio**

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### 50th Anniversary Gala

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — March 6



Palm Beach Symphony's posh production lived up to its glittering golden description and generated proceeds in excess of \$1 million. More than 500 well-dressed invitees enjoyed cocktails and a performance by the symphony under the baton of music director Gerard Schwarz. 'Tonight, we thank our generous sponsors who have elevated Palm Beach Symphony from a small group of local musicians to a leading orchestra on the national stage,' CEO David McClymont said. 'Just as important, our members, underwriters and donors are committed to ensuring the symphony's future.' **ABOVE LEFT:** Don and Mary Thompson. **RIGHT:** Carol and Joseph Hays. **Photos provided by Capehart**

### Backyard Battle

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — Feb. 28



Members of Men Giving Back South Palm Beach County, an organization that has donated nearly \$1.5 million to local charities since 2020, kicked off its fourth annual fundraiser with more than 100 guests. The night of fun, philanthropy and friendly competition included air hockey, ax throwing and putting. 'This is such a great way to raise awareness for our unique organization,' said Eddie Ventrice, a founding member. 'Keeping it simple and fun while fostering camaraderie really appeals to our members, and the success of the Backyard Battle is a testament to that.' **ABOVE:** Ventrice and Ary Khatchikian try their hand at air hockey. **Photo provided**

### Corporate Partners Luncheon

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — March 12



The performing arts center's third Business Speaker Series event of the season featured the Frisbie Group, a private family real-estate investment firm. Kravis Center Vice Chairman Paul Leone interviewed Frisbie executives Rob Frisbie Jr. and Cody Crowell. The two spoke about placemaking and the future of West Palm Beach. **ABOVE:** Diane Quinn and Jeffrey Stoops. **Photo provided**

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## Dining

## Former chef moves to Boca Raton, opens butcher shop

A choice between moving from Monterey, California, to Seattle or South Florida came down to weather and cost of living for Cameron Falls. He, his spouse and two kids decided on South Florida, and as a result, Boca Raton is home to Falls' first butcher shop.

Beauregard's Fine Meats and Butchery opened in mid-April on Northeast 20th Street at Federal Highway. It's the result of a culinary student-turned-chef's journey into butchery.

A graduate of New York's Culinary Institute of America, Falls had a successful career in fine dining restaurants in New York City.

"We had the best animals from area farms, and they came in whole to the restaurants, so I was used to working with whole animals. I fell in love with butchery," he said.

He had a knack for it, too, and after moving to California and getting experience in a butcher shop when restaurants closed during the coronavirus pandemic, he was encouraged by customers to open his own place.

"The hours were better for a family life and kids," he said.

He packed up his family to be with his in-laws in South Florida, and decided to open a butcher shop in Boca Raton.

Falls had help with the interior design from his wife, Gillian Generoso, a primary care physician, making the shop a family affair.

Meat in Florida is "wonderful," Falls said, contrary to some perceptions.

"There's a plethora of beautiful, pasture-raised cattle here," Falls said. "Heritage, grain-finished beef we get from Quincey Cattle Co. in Chiefland. It's some of the best anywhere. Fort McCoy cattle is grass-fed and grain-finished as well. There are many great



Cameron Falls with some of the offerings at his Beauregard's Fine Meats and Butchery in Boca Raton. Photo provided

Florida cattle farms, and I'm proud to carry their beef."

It's poultry that's impossible for him to get in Florida from the farmers.

"The small farms aren't allowed to sell to me for retail, yet they are able to sell direct to the consumer, to farmers' markets and to restaurants," Falls said. "It's a very strange code they have for selling to retailers."

The Florida Department of Agriculture has a law governing small poultry farmers. The farmers are offered a limited license to sell processed chickens to consumers, farmers' markets and restaurants, but not to retail outlets. The chickens are not USDA inspected, so they must be able to be traced from the farmer to the consumer.

Falls can buy chickens and

other birds such as pheasant and duck, but they must be cooked to sell as a retail product. For that reason, rotisserie chickens from Florida may be in the shop.

To buy from a small poultry farmer, Falls has gone to South Carolina, where he's found chickens he likes at a farm selling heritage breeds that taste like chicken should.

He'll source from Florida whenever possible, but knows some things are best outside the state. "I want to get in the best meats," Falls said. "I'll be getting in wagyu, lamb and other top meats. ...

"It's the pork I'm most proud of. We get pork from heritage hogs from a farm in the Panhandle. I couldn't find a good pork chop down here anywhere. These are the best chops I've ever had."

He'll cure and smoke his own products as well.

"We have very good bacon. It's cured for seven days then smoked, then sliced to order," Falls said.

He reverts to his chef days in producing charcuterie: pork rilette, duck confit, patés, sausages and specialties such as coppa di testa, or head cheese.

House-made pastrami is coming soon, using old recipes.

"I'm going to use brisket and navel plate. It's the traditional meat used for pastrami. Hardly anyone uses it anymore," Falls said. "Also, house-made ham. We cure a whole leg for one week, then smoke it eight to 10 hours. It's delicious."

The shop will be stocked with specialty products such as Spanish anchovies and sardines, a selection of olive oils, condiments and artisan breads. The bread will come from Sullivan Street Bakery in New York.

"I tried to get Zak the Baker in but it hasn't worked out so far. Maybe later," Falls said. Zak is a premier baker in Miami.

Falls will offer sandwiches cut to order for lunch, and prepared foods in a grab-and-go case. Eventually, he'll add things such as meatballs, Bolognese sauce and stocks to the cases.

Working as a butcher and a chef, Falls says, is "the best of both worlds."

*Beauregard's Fine Meats and Butchery, 497 NE 20th St., Boca Raton. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Phone 561-409-4783; online at beauregardsfinemeads.com.*

## Where's the beef?

Looking for other choices for picking up meats for a Memorial Day picnic or a special occasion meal? Here are some in the area.

**The Butcher Shop at The Butcher and the Bar** (510 E. Ocean Ave., 101 Suite B, Boynton Beach; butcherandbar.com): The shop sources "clean meats and produce" from Florida farms. The butcher cuts of beef, pork and lamb, as well as chicken, smoked meats, sausages and condiments, are produced on-site.

**Nicholson Muir** (480 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach; nicholsonmuir.com): A modern steakhouse which grew out of a gourmet meat market. Chef/owner James Muir named the place after his grandfather from Argentina, where grilling steaks is a tradition. A range of prime Angus, American wagyu and Japanese wagyu cuts are cooked on a Japanese konro grill. The shop sells high-end retail items to accompany the steaks — prepared foods, salads, grab-and-go spices, and wine.

**The Meating Place** (277 E. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton; facebook.com/meatingplaceboca): This is a family-owned butcher shop combined with a specialty grocery store. It specializes in prime grade meats, wagyu and Australian lamb. The shop is filled with specialty items to complement the meats, and it sells a variety of prepared foods.

**The Meat Dealer Market** (106 NE Second St., Boca Raton; themeatdealershop.com): This is both high-end butcher and international market. The family-owned boutique butcher carries Japanese Hokkaido and Miyazaki A5 beef, Australian wagyu, wild caught salmon, heritage poultry and more. Groceries, too.

## Sugar Factory replaces Lionfish on Atlantic Avenue

Lionfish's closing on Atlantic Avenue last month was big news to locals, but bigger news may be the chain brasserie replacing it. **Sugar Factory**, a popular themed restaurant centered on sweets, has established branches in Miami Beach, Tampa and Orlando.

Craig Menin, owner and landlord at Menin Development, sold the lease that Lionfish Delray held to the owners of Sugar Factory in mid-April in a deal that came as a surprise to diners, but had been in the works for months.

In a statement, Menin said Lionfish was the first new restaurant to open in Delray Beach during COVID, adding, "Lionfish has led the way for the introduction of the latest group of restaurants now open and opening in Delray Beach from across the country."

The owners of Sugar Factory chose Delray Beach as the chain's fourth outlet for strategic reasons and for the energy of Atlantic Avenue, which blends "local flavor and tourist buzz," company spokeswoman Bonnie Taylor said.

Sugar Factory is a social hot spot in its other locations. The bold colors and candy-themed decor are created especially for social media clicks. Special backdrops for selfies are positioned in key areas.

The menu starts at brunch with a waffle-burger, and heads through dinner and afterward with salads, sandwiches, more burgers and desserts.

Sugar Factory is famous for Rainbow Sliders, over-the-top milkshakes and oversize Goblets drink creations.

A retail area has more than 100 varieties of candies and party accessories. The indoor-outdoor restaurant has become a destination spot for celebrations.

## In brief

A new concept by celebrity chef **Todd English** is rumored to be opening in the former Mexican restaurant at 717 Lake Avenue in Lake Worth Beach. The Bostonian's most recent eatery in the county was at EmKo in West Palm Beach; the pandemic hit at its opening and it never made a full recovery. English is known for modern American cuisine that's earned him four James Beard awards. ...

Delray Beach is becoming a magnet for French bakeries. The latest is **Paris Baguette** at 1911 S. Federal Highway. Pastries, breads and signature cakes, including by the slice, are on the menu. ... Closed: **Fish Depot**, in downtown Boynton Beach. No word on whether it will reopen elsewhere.



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

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# The ArtsPaper

## Art

### Winding PATH

Nora Maité Nieves on her artistic process, Norton residency and current exhibition

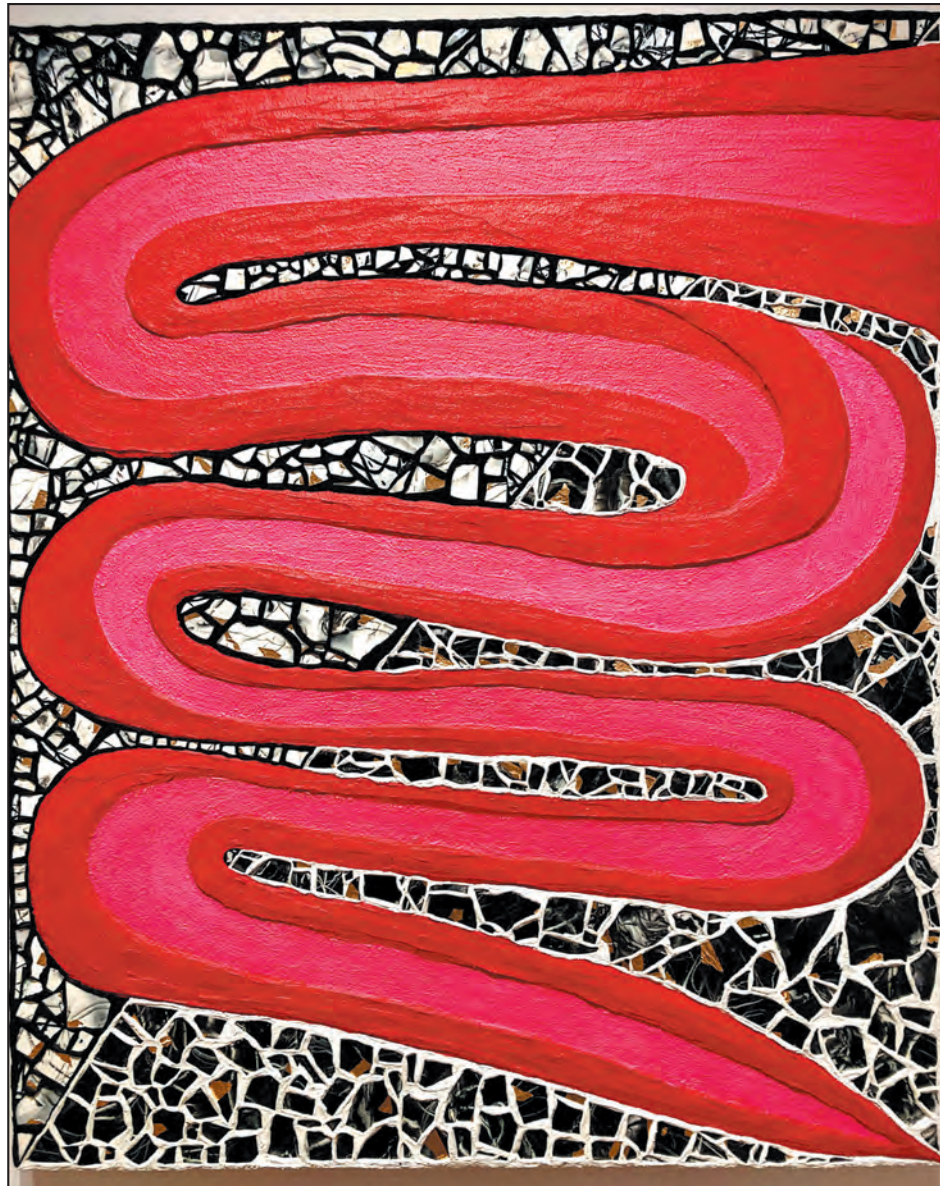
By Gretel Sarmiento  
ArtsPaper Art Writer

It's been a big year for Nora Maité Nieves. Her first solo museum exhibition, *Clouds in the Expanded Field (Nubes en el Paisaje Expandido)*, is showing at the Norton Museum of Art through July 7. The show is the climax of the two-month artist residency Nieves completed at the museum in January. In February, an animated version of her paintings aired on Times Square's electronic billboards every midnight for three minutes.

Nieves is now the first Puerto Rican artist to have an individual exhibition in the Norton's galleries and her work projected on more than 90 monitors as part of New York City's Midnight Moment initiative.

Her technique entertains possibilities outside of the norm and challenges traditional notions of aesthetics. She sets out to stretch the skin of painting, bulk up the surface with multiple layers of texture, bright colors, and media including gold leaf, resin, and coarse pumice modeling paste. The resulting 14 works on display (five of which Nieves finished while in residency at the museum) are playful, dynamic, and inviting. They are dying to be touched, and experienced.

Heavily inspired by the domestic spaces Nieves experienced growing up, the works dance between abstraction and figuration and speak of home and belonging. Ornamental architectural patterns, colonial floor tiles, breeze blocks, and floor plans from places the artist lived in are recurrent motifs in her



*Snake Dream* (2023), by Nora Maité Nieves, is on display at the Norton Museum of Art. Photo provided

sculptural paintings. Once she translated them into video, it was only a matter of time before Nieves — who holds a master of fine arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago — joined the 100-plus artists who have been part of the Midnight Moment, a digital public art program running since 2012.

Her stop-motion animation short *Eyes of the Sea* made a splash and introduced the masses to her inner world, where vivid memories and fantasy merge to bring about a message that is deeply personal and universal at once. Back at home in Brooklyn and expecting the imminent arrival of twins, the artist spoke with *Palm Beach ArtsPaper* about her career and her Norton show. This

conversation has been edited.

**Congratulations on your first museum solo exhibition and the artist residency. This chapter in your career must feel monumental. How would you describe this moment?**

The invitation from a museum like the Norton was a surprise, in a way. I felt like all the hard work that I have been putting in through the years in my career led to this incredible honor. I'm not super young; like I'm not in my early 20s or 30s, but I feel like it came in the right moment. I have been very in sync with my work and there's been a lot of growing and getting more mature.

See NIEVES on AT9

## Music

### Rudy's moves into Bamboo Room, restores tradition of live music

By Bill Meredith  
ArtsPaper Music Writer

As anyone 25 years or older knows, a lot changes during that span of time.

Such has been the case upstairs at 25 S. J St., in the 101-year-old Paradise Building in Lake Worth Beach, where Rudy's at Bamboo opened on Feb. 14. It marked the sixth grand opening at the club since it originally launched as the Bamboo Room in 1999.

MaryBeth Sisoian, whose Rudy's Pub has been a fixture directly downstairs at 21 S. J St. since 2018, took over after the Bamboo's previous tenants had miscast the heralded live music venue as a dance club. For the past several years, a room that's hosted recognizable roots music and jazz/fusion artists had featured mostly deejays.

Recurring live music, a staple at Rudy's since it initially opened in another location a block north in 2012, has returned to the Bamboo. Evidence was on display during a free admission show by local pop/rock cover band the Westminster Trio on March 28 and a \$5 admission show by veteran Grateful Dead nostalgia act Crazy Fingers on April 4.

The Westminster Trio audience was relatively sparse but appreciative, with patrons occasionally rising from their tables to dance up front. And the ever-popular Crazy Fingers, segueing into an every-Thursday house gig directly from one at the now-shuttered Fish Depot in Boynton Beach, drew a throng.

"I believe, including our large outdoor patio, that our capacity is 235 people," Sisoian says. "The room has such a great vibe to it, which I think is the main reason I took it over. It's just a gorgeous piece of property. I'm

See BAMBOO on AT8

## Music

### This year's SunFest brings the old, the new, and the tried & true



Music fans enjoy the sun, the scene and the songs during a past SunFest. The 2024 event will unfold May 3-5 along West Palm Beach's waterfront. Photo provided

ArtsPaper Staff

One of the most memorable hits and videos of the past half-century was the 1981 single "Once in a Lifetime" by the Talking Heads — in which vocalist David Byrne repeated the mantra "same as it ever was."

That phrase doesn't apply to SunFest, Florida's largest waterfront music and art festival.

For its 2024 installment May 3-5, a floating SunFest Electronic Barge will feature deejays, who have become main attractions in the selfie era. The festival only added the stage's schedule to its website in recent weeks;

evening hours were extended to accommodate, and it's sure to be all the rave.

Its closer on May 5 is Rony Seikaly, NBA center for the Miami Heat from 1988-1994, who's obviously found an easier way to earn a living than grinding against other 7-footers on a basketball court.

There are other differences from last year as well. Faced with criticism over canceling the festival's third dry-land music stage and popular Art Village, SunFest brings both back.

A nonprofit that's been in the red more often than the black, SunFest also caused an uproar in

2023 with its announcement that high school and area School of Rock acts would be featured in an attempt to change that equation.

For first-year executive director Dianna Craven and her team, the lead-up has been a wild ride since she succeeded longtime executive director Paul Jamieson, who retired last year. But it's hardly her first rodeo.

"I started working for SunFest in the fall of 1996," she says. "It's fun and rewarding, but it's also a hard job. We only have four full-time employees."

Jamieson had worked for

See SUNFEST on AT8

## BAMBOO

Continued from page 7

taking my time and seeing what works, and I think we've made great progress in getting where we want to be since February."

"It's really great to see you all," Crazy Fingers vocalist/guitarist Rich Friedman announced to the tie-dyed audience. "It's been a minute."

Friedman wasn't exaggerating overall, since the 35-year-old quintet had become a regular Rudy's booking on that back patio stage, but was rather referring to the long stretch since it had appeared on the heralded stage upstairs.

The Bamboo Room's initial run was from 1999-2008, and overseen by the husband-and-wife team of Russell Hibbard and Karen McKinley, who darkened its lights when the economy sagged. The couple reopened the venue in 2011, with Hibbard largely turning over booking duties to managers Donald Becker and Craig Young. Big names still appeared, although geared more toward classic rock — Pat Travers, Edgar Winter, Ray Manzarek — before Hibbard and McKinley shut things down in 2014.

The club reopened under new management in 2015 before closing again soon thereafter, and subsequently in 2018 as The Phoenix Charity Bar at the Bamboo Room before doing likewise. In-between, Sunday services under management by Mike Olive, pastor for Common Grounds Church, were the room's only gatherings. When the dance club version's lease



expired in January after nearly five years, Sisoian expanded upward from Rudy's (which, in the Bamboo Room's earlier days, was its office space).

Rudy's original location was a 500-square-foot room on North J Street that was roughly the size of Imelda Marcos' shoe closet. But the little club had a unique flair and character. It's now called Back of the Shak, and behind the Rhum Shak at Lake Avenue and J Street.

The current Rudy's is three times larger, yet no indoor facilities were big enough when COVID-19 restrictions hit. Sisoian started offering patrons a menu of sandwiches, allowing the venue to stay open. Rudy's at Bamboo now offers additional cooked fares like pizzas, tacos, fries, nachos and quesadillas from the small kitchen.

"We've expanded our menu," says Sisoian, "and people love our food."

Rudy's also offset COVID-19 restrictions by sharing the Paradise Building's back parking lot with the Bamboo Room's deejay and reggae band

presentations. All took place in the revamped, makeshift outdoor entertainment space, with its wooden stage, tables and chairs. Fenced and gated off from the alley to its west, the patio stage gave Sisoian an opening to try cover charges, and to book area jazz and R&B groups she hadn't before, like T's Express, the Delray Jazz Collective, and Solid Brass.

Yet the patio also became a bone of contention with Lake Worth Beach officials after pandemic restrictions were lifted. Negotiations are ongoing over whether the outdoor seating violates city codes that stipulate its parking lot status.

Unless or until she gets overruled, Sisoian currently oversees something akin to a musical three-ring circus. Rudy's now features free admission for its solo acts to trios, plus open mics and karaoke downstairs. Rudy's at Bamboo often charges a cover fee for larger acts either upstairs or on the back patio, or both simultaneously.

"The city has eased up on us,"

Crazy Fingers, a popular Grateful Dead tribute band, draws a large and appreciative audience at the newly opened Rudy's at Bamboo on April 4.

**Photo by Regina Campbell**

### If You Go

Rudy's at Bamboo is at 25 S. J St. in Lake Worth Beach  
**Hours:** 6-10 p.m. W; 6 p.m.-midnight Th and F; 4 p.m.-midnight Sat, 4-10 p.m. Sun  
**Info:** 561-602-5307, rudyspubinlakeworth.com

beer, wine, canned cocktails, and hard seltzer offerings by obtaining a full liquor license.

"So far, not many people are fussing about the drinks we offer," she says. "I'm tossing around the idea of a license, but we'll see. Insurance here is outrageously priced, and everything has to be cost-efficient at this point."

The same goes for the talent at Rudy's at Bamboo, which plays through some of the same sound equipment from the room's salad days, if often without a soundman up in the familiar crow's nest on its west wall. Most cover charges range between the \$5 Crazy Fingers admission and \$20 (the price for a visiting Jackson Browne tribute band in March).

"I'm extremely happy with the talent we have so far," says Sisoian. "J.P. Soars, Crazy Fingers, the Marshall Brothers, and Terry Hanck are all great local artists, and I'm not sure they'd all even want to have a soundman. I definitely want to work toward booking touring acts, maybe once a month, but slowly. And I do have a couple of surprises, and a band with a bigger name, that are upcoming possibilities that I can't name yet."

## SUNFEST

Continued from page 7

SunFest since 1990, hiring Craven six years later. Under his watch, the festival gradually turned away from jazz (second-year headliners in 1984 were legends Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Brubeck and Ramsey Lewis) to its current pop, rock, country, reggae, and hip-hop performers.

Because of coronavirus pandemic cancellations in 2020 and 2021, this year will mark the 40th SunFest.

"COVID hit everyone hard," Craven says. "But the community seems really engaged in our 40th anniversary. And a lot of people have moved to Palm Beach County in the past several years, many of whom haven't been to SunFest before. So we'll get a new portion of our 2024 audience as well."

SunFest initially featured local orchestras, visual art, and fireworks as well as jazz. A second stage was added in 1986, when the festival expanded from three to four days. That became a five-day format by 1993, and the Meyer Amphitheater was added as a third primary stage by 1996.

But in 2018, SunFest downshifted to four days. And post-pandemic, with the festival facing the costs of national acts charging more to tour again — largely to offset the royalty revenues they'd lost since streaming services supplanted

their recording labels — SunFest went back to three days, cutting out the art and its third stage.

"The feedback I got was that there weren't as many things to do as usual, and that people missed the art," Craven says. "So that's back this year, along with the Sandbar Stage, located in the open-grass park area between Evernia and Fern streets. The focus there will be on local bands, and high school and School of Rock acts. We're a regional more than a national festival, so our priority is the South Floridians who usually make up 60 percent of our audience."

Craven specifies that more national acts are featured than last year, even if some split the difference between locals and nationals to reduce costs, and that last year's expensive headliners like The Killers didn't prove cost-efficient despite drawing a huge crowd and delivering a quality performance.

For this year, the successful pop band Dashboard Confessional plays the Ideal Nutrition Stage on May 5, led by Chris Carrabba. The group formed in Boca Raton in 1999. Cassadee Pope, a rock and country vocalist who emerged from Wellington High School and became the 2012 winner of the TV singing competition show *The Voice*, also plays that stage earlier in the day. And on May 4 on the same stage, local

act the Lubben Brothers perform their blend of Americana and folk music.

"We'd never even applied to SunFest before," says Michael Lubben. "But we'd certainly heard about it, and even literally heard it, being in such close proximity while at Palm Beach Atlantic."

SunFest has several initiatives geared toward inclusion of local artists for 2024, whether musical, visual or culinary.

"In addition to the Art Village, we'll have a schedule of interactive area visual artists presenting their work and doing demonstrations," Craven says.

"And in addition to our food concessions, we're engaging local restaurants to participate and showcase their talented area chefs." These will be presented via themed pop-ups each day.

"We depend a lot on our volunteers while being on a shoestring budget," Craven notes. "Some years SunFest does well financially; some not. In a year like 2019, lots of rain hurt our numbers. But in the years when we do well, the money is invested to serve as future insurance for a rainy day."

Perhaps the only moisture regarding a successful SunFest 2024 will be surrounding its floating stage. The Electronic Barge is likely to be a profitable hit. Which means it will almost certainly not happen only once in a lifetime.

### If You Go

**SunFest 2024**, Flagler Drive between Banyan Boulevard and Lakeview Avenue, West Palm Beach.

**Hours:** 5-11:30 p.m. May 3; noon-11:30 p.m. May 4; noon-10:30 p.m. May 5

**Tickets:** \$80 daily

**Info:** 800-SUNFEST (800-786-3378); www.sunfest.com

#### Schedule:

**MAY 3: Ford Stage:** Kritikal 5:45-6:15 p.m., Leah Dibut 6:45-7:30, Shaggy 8-9:15, Nelly 9:45-11. **Ideal Nutrition Stage:** Fox Maple Band 6-6:30 p.m., SloFunkPump 7-7:30, Quiet Riot 8-9, Billy Idol 9:30-10:30. **Sandbar Stage:** Disbarred 5:30-6 p.m., Shaw Davis & The Black Ties 6:30-7, Vern Daysel & The Burning Breeze 7:30-8:15. **Electronic Barge:** Gabo & Nico 5-5:45 p.m., Falco 5:45-6:30, J Martinez & German Garcia 6:30-7:45, Patrick M 7:45-8:45, Sleepy & Boo 8:45-10, Stacey Pullen 10-11:30.

**MAY 4: Ford Stage:** Killbillies 1:45-2:30 p.m., The Aces 3-4, The Revivalists 4:30-5:45, Noah Hunton 6:45-7:30, Dylan Scott 8-9:15, Cole Swindell 9:45-11. **Ideal Nutrition Stage:** The Lubben Brothers 1:15-1:45 p.m., Hailey Whitters 2:15-3:15, Elle King 3:45-4:45, Matt Corman 5:45-6:15, anees 6:45-7:30, Bryce Vine 8-9, Yung Gravy 9:30-10:45. **Sandbar Stage:** Roosevelt Middle School Band 1-1:20 p.m., New Phi Thang Drumline 2:10-2:30, School of Rock South Palm Beach House Band 3-3:30, I'm Dru! 4-4:30, Brett Staska & The Souvenirs 5-5:30, Hello Sister 6-6:30, Nightbreakers 7:15-8. **Electronic Barge:** James Simmons noon-1:30 p.m., Machina 1:30-2:30, Wizzy & Wiley 2:30-3:30, Crazibiza 3:30-6:30, Harry Romero 6:30-8:30, Andreatens 8:30-9:30, Cocodrills 9:30-11:30.

**MAY 5: Ford Stage:** Brothers Within 1:30-2 p.m., Seranation 2:30-3:15, Little Stranger 3:45-4:45, The Elovaters 5:15-6:15, Matisyahu 6:45-8, Rebelution 8:30-10. **Ideal Nutrition Stage:** Steven James 1:30-2 p.m., Cassadee Pope 2:30-3:15, Valley 3:45-4:30, Boys Like Girls 5-6:15, Dashboard Confessional 6:45-8, Third Eye Blind 8:30-9:45. **Sandbar Stage:** West Boca High Jazz Band 1-1:20 p.m., John I. Leonard Jazz Band 2:10-2:30, School of Rock North Palm Beach House Band 3-3:30, Ben Krieger 4-4:30, Buko Boys 5-5:30, The Floridians 6-6:45, Jutt Huffman 7:30-8:15. **Electronic Barge:** MandyBeck 1-2:30 p.m., Nick Mac 2:30-3:30, Chase Creighton 3:30-4:30, 2Nomads 4:30-6, Eran Hersh 6-7:30, Adam Lipson ft. Mister Trombone 7:30-9, Rony Seikaly 9-10:30.



# NIEVES

Continued from page 7

The opportunity came in this specific moment when I feel very ingrained into my work.

**How did it feel to see your work *Eyes of the Sea* projected on that many monitors at Times Square?**

That was mind-blowing. I never thought that would happen. I would have never even considered the space or trying something like that. It's really thanks to Arden Sherman, the contemporary art curator at the Norton, who proposed me as an artist for this space. She really thought I could translate my paintings into a moving image. It was a lot of hard work, but it was great.

**They translate so well. It was such a stunning result.**

The bad thing is that it was so fast; it's only three minutes.

**Is there a particular moment or encounter growing up that sparked your interest in art? How did you come to this profession?**

When I was in fourth grade, I met this friend in my class and her dad was an artist. One day she invited me to her house ... it was full of paintings everywhere. They were by Andy Bueso and other artists. I loved the atmosphere and the colors. It was like magic.

It turns out Bueso had an art academy where he would teach art so, formally, I started taking drawing classes with him. That was my foundation. In 11th grade, I had the opportunity to attend Escuela Central de Artes Visuales, which is a famous high school specializing in the fine arts. On Saturdays, I would go back to Bueso's studio to have support and guidance. Many friends who attended the same school, and from the neighborhood who took classes with him, somehow all returned to his studio when we were 17, 18 years old. This time it was different because he treated us more like peers. Unfortunately, I think he died in 2001; it was devastating.

**What artist, dead or alive, would you say has influenced your artistic voice aside from your first art teacher?**

Mari Mater O'Neill, one of the most wonderful painters in Puerto Rico, pushed me to find my voice as a painter. Through the work of Ivelisse Jimenez, I found the spaces that live between colors. But when you look at works by these artists you might say, 'well, Nora is not painting like them.' My work is not like theirs, it's their wisdom and knowledge about painting that I took from them.

There's also Ana Mendieta; she is an artist who makes you think about what art can be and the importance of the human presence in the work.

Donald Judd and Eva Hesse were also big influences. Even though you might not think of them when you see my paintings, for me these artists made me think of breaking the



Among the Nieves works on display is a series of totemic-like sculptural paintings done in 2021 and 2023. Photo provided

## If You Go

**Nora Maité Nieves: *Clouds in the Expanded Field*** is on view through July 7 at the Norton Museum of Art, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach.

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. M, W, Th, Sat; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. F; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun.

**Admission:** \$18 adults, \$15 seniors, \$5 students

**Info:** 561-832-5196; www.norton.org

boundaries of painting and the importance of removing or adding yourself in the work.

**Sometimes that is precisely the lesson you extract. It's not so much the aesthetic, but the other information you get from other artists' evolution, and journey.**

Exactly. I'm interested in form and tridimensionality and material. Sometimes, I want it to break out of the wall. Sometimes, I want it to be a sculpture. But I also want it to feel very personal and open and make you think about memories; how our memories are our identity and not always attached to the place where we are born. Identity is something that evolves as we experience life. As things get attached to us, we become a collage of things. My paintings are trying to be

three-dimensional collages.

**To me, they resemble sculptures more than paintings. I was wondering how you developed your current artistic aesthetic or painting language.**

I've realized that I like to imitate things. If I see a texture on the wall, I start thinking about emulating that texture with painting materials. If I want to create the sensation of tiles, I don't want to buy them but recreate them using painting materials. The materials depend on what I want to represent and imitate. Sometimes, I would like to be more reduced, but I'm starting to accept that I'm also a maximalist. I like to add and add and add. I accept myself and the way I create. These are the things that I feel I can explain now that I'm feeling more mature.

**Among my favorite pieces in the show are *Snake Dream* and *Garden of Eden*. I like their simplicity; but reading the list of materials in these works surprised me. There's so much to them. That was an interesting discovery. What's the most unusual material you have ever used in your work?**

For that green that looks like grass in *Garden of Eden* I used this new material called kaolin, which is a kind of

plate-like ceramic. It has this soft dry quality, which makes sense because it's like clay dust, but it also makes me think of eyeshadow. I find makeup very seductive.

From the beginning of my career, I always wanted to seduce the viewer. I wanted to make painting an object of desire, so I started using glossy materials, which made the paintings look like candies and dessert, very edible. I feel that I have continued that objective.

**The name of your exhibition, *Clouds in the Expanded Field*, was born out of this interest you had in painting in the expanded field or stretching the skin of painting, in a way. Do you ever feel tempted to define this in-between of sculpture and painting that your works are suspended in, or do you prefer that they remain forever evolving, and unrestricted like clouds?**

I like to be in the in-between. There's something about the tension, being between two disciplines, that creates an open conversation. Things don't have to be just one thing.

**How do you balance the business side of things — the commercial aspect of being an artist — with your creative side?**

Different people will want different things from you; you must know yourself, know what you want, trust your aesthetic, and push through. That might take you on a longer road, but it's OK to not travel on the fast one. When an institution recognizes an artist, it validates the work on a different level. An invitation like this solo show tells me that it's OK to be strong in my way of thinking.

**Is there a particular ritual that gets you in the creative mood?**

I like to get to the studio and have some coffee.

My process starts with drawing. I need to have an idea of what I'm going to work on.

Because of how I paint, and the many layers involved, I kind of have to know where to start.

**Do you ever encounter a creative block in your artistic practice? How do you overcome it?**

Sometimes I try many things and the painting is still not working. When that happens, I have to step out or draw or move into something else because I'm waiting to find a bold move. Something drastic. Something that cancels a lot of what I did and takes it into a new direction. I call it a bold move.

**If you could have visitors walking away with one impression of the show, what would that be?**

If they are painters, I hope they go back to the studio and start painting. I hope it motivates them.

From everyone else, I want them to feel that they can be part of the works and be immersed in them and step inside of them.

You are not the first person to tell me that they feel a good vibe, and happy and motivated after the show. I like that because the work is about life, and it should make you appreciate being alive in these times.

**What's next for Nora Maité Nieves?**

I have a piece right now in a group show called *Entre Horizontes* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. It's closing on May 5.

But right now, I'm eight months' pregnant with twins so I'm nesting, taking a break. The belly is so very heavy; there's not much I can do right now. I'll be delivering probably by the end of April.

I have drawing materials at home and will probably be back in the studio in July or August. My plan is to draw whenever I have energy and time. But I don't know how this is going to be. I have never done this, it's something very new.

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## Book Review

## Music promoter's second novel hits sour notes

**Mayluna**, by Kelley McNeil.  
Lake Union Publishing, 381 pp.  
\$16.99.

By Sharon Geltner  
Contributing Writer

Lightning struck for Delray Beach resident Kelley McNeil, when popular fantasy author Barbara Davis posted a positive review of McNeil's debut novel, *A Day Like This*. The fledgling author's book was a best seller in the U.K. and in three days was No. 1 in the U.S. It stayed in the Top 5 of an Amazon chart for seven weeks, and United Talent Artists is shopping a screenplay.

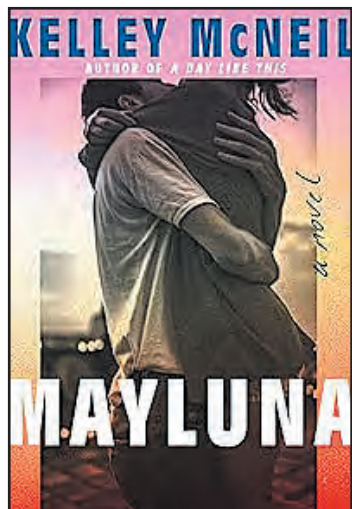
Wow! That's a hard act to follow.

The good news is that Amazon recommended her followup, *Mayluna*, for Women's Fiction in early 2024.

The not-so-good news is that this book, though sincerely written by an author with a background in the music industry, launched before it was ready. There is a lot of repetition. It should be 100 pages fewer.

*Mayluna*, similar to *A Day Like This*, aims for (but misses) that sweet spot between TikTok feels, *Twilight Zone* plot twists and Hallmark movie vibes.

The plot: Carter is the lead singer of a 1990s British alternative rock band, Mayluna,



writing "tortured heart" lyrics. He also has a secret connection to a mysterious woman.

Meanwhile, Spin magazine assigns 25-year-old Evie a long-shot, backstage interview of him and the band.

McNeil says, "Both books have elements of magical realism, intuition and manifestations, as well as mysticism, soulmates, interconnectedness and a divine plan for everyone."

However, it takes extremely precise writing to make the unbelievable real.

McNeil's characters seem realistic because they equivocate, are tentative and uncertain. But this makes for frustrating reading.

Example: "I think she was planning to stay at a local hotel, or maybe we were going to

drive back. I can't remember now."

In *Mayluna*, McNeil pulled from experience to convincingly portray the guilt and self-loathing of a rock star. "That's a common trait among very successful artists," she said. "Although you do find the ones that are full of themselves, but those types are very rare."

From early childhood, McNeil loved writing and music equally, but publicizing bands "was my goal ever since I went to my very first concert."

She worked at DiCesare Engler Productions (now Live Nation) in her hometown of Pittsburgh, promoting hundreds of bands and stadium tours, including Bon Jovi, Tim McGraw, NSYNC, Eagles, Steve Miller Band, Dave Matthews and Lilith Fair.

McNeil left the music industry to raise her two young daughters. "I then had the mental bandwidth and space to open up and become an author."

Her family moved to Delray Beach about 10 years ago, when her husband became a vice president at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

Sharon Geltner is the author of *Charity Bashed*, a *Palm Beach mystery and social satire*, available on Amazon.

## Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through May 31, were current as of April 25. Check with the presenting agency for changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

## ART

**Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens:** Through June: *Savage Garden*. \$15, \$10 seniors 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. [Info@ansg.org](mailto:Info@ansg.org).

**Armory Art Center:** Summer art camps run June 3 to Aug. 2. Free. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm M-F, 10 am-2 pm Sat. 561-832-1776 or [armoryart.org](http://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](http://bocamuseum.org).

**Cultural Council for Palm Beach County:** Through June 22: *Beyond Blossoms: The Power of Pollinators*. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F and second Sat. of month. 561-471-2901, [palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions](http://palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions).

**Flagler Museum:** \$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](http://www.flaglermuseum.us)

**Lighthouse ArtCenter:** Through Aug. 2: *Artistry Through the Ages: 60 Years of Inspiration*. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, [lighthousearts.org](http://lighthousearts.org).

**Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens:** Through Oct. 6: *Musha-Ningyo: Avatars of the Samurai Spirit* \$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](http://morikami.org).

**Norton Museum of Art:** Through July 7: *Nora Maité Nieves: Clouds in the Expanded Field*; *Ellen Graham: Unscripted*, candid images by the celebrity photographer. Through Sept. 1: *Rose B Simpson: Journeys of Clay*, works by the potter based at the Santa Clara Pueblo in New Mexico. \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196, [www.norton.org](http://www.norton.org).

**Society of the Four Arts:** Through May 6 in the Hultar 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](http://fourarts.org).

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

Opens Thursday, May 9

**Miami Chamber Fest 2024:** The indefatigable Marina Radiushina brings her Miami Chamber Music Society back for another summer with concerts by Israel's Ariel Quartet (May 9), featuring music by Schumann, Ravel and Dvořák; pianist Zhu Wang (May 18-19) in music by Mozart, Schubert, Grieg, Brahms and Debussy; clarinetist Moran Katz, violinist Arnaud Sussmann and Radiushina (May 23-24) playing works by Mozart, Ravel, Bartók and Schoenfeld; cellist Alexander Hersh and Radiushina (May 25) in works by Debussy, Webern, Janáček, Scriabin and Lili Boulanger; Sussmann, Hersh and Radiushina (May 26) in pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann; the Amernet Quartet (May 30) with special guests in works by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Dvořák; and violinist Maria Ioudenitch, violist Nathan Schram, cellist Gabriel Martins, and Radiushina (June 1 and 2) playing pieces by Mozart, Richard Strauss and Brahms. At various locations in Miami-Dade County. [www.facebook.com/MiamiChamberMusicSociety](http://www.facebook.com/MiamiChamberMusicSociety) Friday, May 17

**South Florida Symphony:** The Fort Lauderdale-based orchestra resumes its Summer with the Symphony chamber music series. This concert features piano quartets (both No. 1) by Fauré and Brahms. With Huifang Chen, Claudio Jaffé and Tao Lin. 7:30 pm, Center for Spiritual Living, 4849 N. Dixie Highway, Oakland Park.

## DANCE

Saturday, May 11-Sunday, May 12

**Miami City Ballet:** The Miami Beach-based company presents choreographer Alexei Ratmansky's staging of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. 2 pm and 7:30 pm Sat, 1 pm Sun. At the Kravis Center, West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or [www.kravis.org](http://www.kravis.org).

Saturday, May 25-Sunday, May 26

**Harid Conservatory:** The Boca Raton-based dance school presents its annual spring performance, featuring the class of 2024. Featuring selections from classical dance and, usually, a new dance created just for them. 3

pm both days, Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton. \$30-\$35. 561-997-2677 or [harid.edu](http://harid.edu).

## JAZZ

Saturday, May 4

**Chuchito Valdés:** The Latin jazz pianist channels two older generations of Cuban jazz pianists. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. \$45 to \$50. 561-450-6357 or [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org).

Wednesday, May 8

**Brian Lynch Quintet:** The trumpeter and UM professor played with Art Blakey and Horace Silver, and has released 20 albums. His concert for the Gold Coast Jazz Society is called "The Songbooks." 7:45 pm, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$65. 954-462-0222 or [browardcenter.org](http://browardcenter.org).

Thursday, May 9

**Stanley Jordan:** The stellar jazz-and-other genres guitarist, playing two solo shows. 6 pm and 9 pm, Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$50-\$55. [funkybiscuit.com](http://funkybiscuit.com) or 561-395-2929.

Friday, May 17-Saturday, May 18

**Ann Hampton Callaway:** The veteran jazz singer and cabaret artist presents two concerts of original songs and songs by the writers who inspired her: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon and others. 8 pm both shows, Arts Garage, 94 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. \$55 to \$60. 561-450-6357 or [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org).

Sunday, May 26

**Tal Cohen Trio:** The Miami-based Israeli pianist presents a show called "Songs from an Israeli Childhood." 7 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. \$30 to \$35. 561-450-6357 or [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org).

Friday, May 31-Saturday, June 1

**Tito Puente Jr.:** The Latin jazz percussionist continues his late father's joyful traditions, and is a favorite of South Florida audiences. 8 pm both shows, Arts Garage, 94 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. \$50 to \$55. 561-450-6357 or [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org).

## POPULAR MUSIC

Friday, May 3

**Brooks and Dunn:** The country duo, here for a stop on their Reboot 2024 Tour. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$51-\$213. [livenation.com](http://livenation.com).

Wednesday, May 8

**Diana Ross:** Still performing at age 80, Ross is one of the legends of the Motown era. 8 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$56-\$131. [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

Thursday, May 9

**Chris Stapleton:** The Kentucky-born country singer-songwriter arrives in West Palm with his All-American Road Show tour. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$201-\$1,061. [livenation.com](http://livenation.com).

Friday, May 10

**Hozier:** The Irish guitarist and songwriter ("Take Me to Church") brings his Unreal Unearth Tour to South Florida's iThink Financial Amphitheatre. The 7:30 pm show is sold out LiveNation.com

Thursday, May 23

**Madison Beer:** The popular New York-born singer-songwriter first gained fame with Justin Bieber covers on YouTube. She makes a stop in South Florida on her Spinnin Tour. 8 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$65-\$105. [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

## THEATER

Opens Thursday, May 2

**Betrayal:** Harold Pinter's landmark 1978 play about a seven-year affair, told in reverse chronology. Through May 12 at the Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. \$25. 561-586-6410 or [lakeworthplayhouse.org](http://lakeworthplayhouse.org).

Opens Friday, May 3

**The Lost Virginitiy Tour:** Cricket Daniel's 2018 play about four women in an Arizona retirement community who take a road trip to visit the places each of them lost — well, you know. Through May 19 at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St., Delray Beach. \$42. 561-272-1281 or [delraybeachplayhouse.com](http://delraybeachplayhouse.com).

Through Sunday, May 5

**Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story:** The Alan Janes 1989 jukebox musical featuring the up-and-coming rocker whose life was cut short in a 1959 plane crash. At the Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. \$109. 561-995-2233 or [thewick.org](http://thewick.org).

Opens Friday, May 24

**Trying:** Joanna McClelland Glass's 2004 play about a young woman who works as a secretary for the elderly Francis Biddle, who was the U.S. attorney general during World War II. Through June 9 at Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 S. Clematis St., West Palm Beach. \$69 and up. 561-514-4042 or [palmbeachdramaworks.org](http://palmbeachdramaworks.org).

**ASL**

from page AT1

How do you bring American Sign Language to a Broadway musical? Translating a conversation is one thing, but how do you help a deaf person hear a melody? A mood? A rhyme?

How do you sign Sondheim? Lancaster began looking up interpreters in Palm Beach County, which led him to Signs of Excellence LLC, which led him to Kate Robertson, which brought her to a rehearsal as opening night neared.

“Tonight, I’m going to watch the rehearsal, get a feel for the style,” she said. “I’ll listen to the score and read the script.”

In addition to her work with Signs of Excellence, Robertson is one of six ASL interpreters at John I. Leonard High School in Greenacres, where she works with 15-20 deaf students each year.

“I interpret Broadway shows all the time,” said Robertson, who’s been signing for 15 years. She’s done *Evita* and *Wicked* and *The Book of Mormon* for high school and regional productions.

“My favorite is *Hamilton*,” she said, “but all the songs are challenging because there’s no dialogue. I’ve done it four times.”

Now she was going to tackle Sondheim.

“The deaf can’t hear music,” Robertson explained, “but I try to communicate the spirit and



Lead actress Devra Seidel, her niece Sarah Clark and Delray Beach Playhouse volunteer Vera Follain-Grisell (l-r) use sign language to discuss the performance afterward. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

context of the music. Melody can’t be interpreted, but if you interpret the words with feeling, you can show the message roughly equivalent to what they’re singing.”

She complements her signing by calling on her body and face.

“Just as we have a tone of voice in English speech, in ASL you have body and facial expression,” she said. “If it’s a sad song, I would show emotion on my face and body. I try to convey the spirit and context.”

Also, she noted, interpreters are expected to wear clothing that contrasts with their skin

tone, to keep the focus on the sign language, not the flashy, multicolored dress. She is white, so she dresses in black.

“I had one person complain that my maroon sweater was distracting,” she remembered.

Follain-Grisell nodded. “I wore black once to sign at a wedding,” she said, “and someone thought it was disrespectful.”

For the 8 p.m. performance on March 29, Robertson arrived along with a colleague, Jessica Reiling. Robertson would interpret the first act and Reiling the second.

Robertson took her place under a soft light stage right, ready to begin.

But first the director had to do some interpreting of his own, to help the audience understand what it would see.

*Merrily We Roll Along* tells the story of a Broadway songwriting team, Frank and Charley, from 1957 to 1976. But it tells the story backward in time. The show begins in 1976 and ends in 1957.

Early on, Lancaster figured out that a large part of the audience wasn’t figuring it out. “People were coming to

me confused,” he said later. “I had a number of old men who wondered why he was kissing the girl in the second part of the show when they were getting divorced in the first.”

Now, before the overture, he stepped in front of the curtain to explain this to the audience.

When he also announced that the night’s performance would include sign language interpreters, the sold-out crowd applauded enthusiastically.

The curtain rose, and Robertson went to work.

She used her hands. She used her eyes, her smile, her shoulders. Here and there she conducted the music a little. Sometimes she swayed a bit, almost dancing to the rhythm.

At intermission, audience members stopped to offer congratulations, thanks and praise.

Devra Seidel’s niece, 13-year-old Sarah Clark from Maryland, attended the performance but declined to be interviewed.

And days later, Lancaster was still thrilled with having hosted the first ASL interpreters in the theater’s 77 years.

“They were amazing,” he said. “Those two ladies handled it like champs. We’d never had a request for this, so I don’t think I would have thought of it if there hadn’t been a need for it.

“We’ll do it again on a show-by-show basis. People can request it, and maybe we could do other specialized shows for people who need lower volumes or more muted scenery.” ★

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## Finding Faith

## Tibetan monks make lasting impression at Delray yoga studio



The Venerable Geshe Tenzin Lekshey shows the proper technique of butter-sculpting to Samara Andreadis of Delray Beach and other students. The Tibetan Buddhist monks of Gaden Shartse Monastic University visited Atha Yoga Shala in Delray Beach for a week in April. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

In April, four monks from Gaden Shartse Monastic University in southern India visited Atha Yoga Shala in Delray Beach, which supports the community with yoga, meditation and healing programs. The Tibetan Buddhist monks participated in a weeklong stay that featured tea ceremonies, personal blessings, lectures, demonstrations and a butter-sculpting workshop for adults and children.

The tour is a way for the monks to be of service to the world community by nurturing peace, harmony, compassion and tolerance, their website says. Bringing ground-breaking programs like this to Atha Yoga Shala is Nicole Acacio's way.

Acacio, the shala's chief operating officer, started her association with Atha Yoga as a student in 2021.

"The owner and I connected," Acacio said. "I came on as a consultant in 2023 to produce larger events, and then just recently came on full time."

It wasn't that Acacio, 54, was looking for work. As a

successful content producer, Acacio had already achieved financial success but not fulfillment. "Production work gives you a paycheck, but I kept asking, 'How am I giving back?'"

Like some other intensely creative and deeply driven people, Acacio turned to yoga, meditation and thoughtful walks along the beach to find answers. And like the Type A person she is, Acacio worked hard and became a certified instructor.

Since 2021, Atha Yoga Shala has expanded from a yoga studio to include a full-service spa and an adjacent 3-bedroom retreat house that sleeps 10 guests. It's located on 4 acres in northern Delray Beach, tucked in just south of Plumosa Elementary School. The studio has heated and non-heated yoga rooms, and the full-service Atha Spa has five saunas.

Outside, pathways meander through native plant gardens, past bubbling water features, across stone steps and wooden bridges. There's a large presentation space and an

outdoor stage for yoga and performances. The yoga studio offers a wide variety of classes each week, from vinyasa to raja to kundalini.

Yoga isn't a religion — although some people argue that it is. For most people, yoga is a way to improve the mind-body connection and to deepen their personal spirituality, whether that is Hindu or Buddhist, Christian or Jewish, agnostic or atheist.

Of the four monks present at Atha, only one spoke a bit of English, which he said he taught himself. He was 10 when he voluntarily left his family to join the monks. Now 42, he was chosen by his teacher for this experience.

He said he found the experience "scary" but "an honor."

Of America, he said, "It's very clean."

The monks are Tibetan, but their monastery, Gaden Shartse Phukhang, is in a jungle in southern India.

In 1969, a small group of monks and 15 young boys escaped the destruction in Tibet and were given land by the Indian government in Mundgod, an agricultural town a few hundred miles south of Mumbai.

Today, the area where the temple is located is often called "Mini Tibet."

Gaden Shartse Monastic

University has more than 1,600 resident students, teachers, scholars and spiritual practitioners. About three-quarters are males between the ages of 10 and 25 who were born in Tibet and arrive as refugees at Gaden Shartse because of its reputation as a leader in Buddhist and Tibetan studies.

But people in India and Tibet can't spare much to support the school. The tour raises money to maintain the university temples, classrooms, library, texts, kitchens and grounds and to build new space for the expanding college. Teachers, if they are paid, earn about \$4 a month. It costs \$2 a day to support a monk in his studies and that includes a small weekly stipend for necessities.

Bringing programs like this to Atha Yoga Shala is important and fulfilling to Acacio.

"I like problem-solving, and I like working for the underdog," she said. "I want to look in the mirror and know I gave the best Nicole to the world today."

"There's really only one goal: Universal love."

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations,

causes and events.

Contact her at [fontaine423@outlook.com](mailto:fontaine423@outlook.com).



## Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## MAY 4

**Saturday - 5/4 - C-Kids Shabbat Program** at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. Every Sat 10:45-11:45 am. 561-394-9770; bocabeachchabad.org

## MAY 5-11

**Sunday - 5/5 - Zoom Bible Study** at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: [communications#accboca.net](https://communications#accboca.net); 561-997-5486; ascensionboca.org

**Monday - 5/6 - 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

**Tuesday - 5/7 - Tuesday Morning**

**Prayer Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Wednesday - 5/8 - 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

**5/8 - 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.

**Thursday - 5/9 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee** presented by Unity of Delray Beach. Led by Charlene Wilkinson. Phone meeting (720-740-9634, code 2152894). Free.

**5/9 - Men's Fellowship** at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33

## A quick history of butter-sculpting

When the Monks of Gaden Shartse visited Atha Yoga Shala in Delray Beach, one of the things they shared was their sculpting skill.

But the butter-sculpting the monks demonstrated is quite different from the original art. For one thing, these transplanted monks live in southern India, not in the mountains of Tibet — and as we know, butter melts, so they used a wax-based mixture.

When the art of butter-sculpting originated, it was practical to use butter. During the winter months, the monks had no flowers or decorations to adorn their offerings to Buddha. What they did have was an abundance of butter.

So they colored the butter with dye and sculpted it into flowers and animals, which they called tormas. These were used to decorate offerings to Buddha beginning about 800 years ago.

The custom grew so popular that today there are butter-sculpting contests, especially at the Great Prayer Festival in Tibet, with vignettes of Buddha measuring 12 feet tall.

The monks at Atha used wax mixed with oat flour (instead of the traditional yak butter and barley, which is pricey) to make the bases of their tormas. This tougher material can hold the weight of the added flowers and adornments, which are made with a combination of ghee, pastry margarine and wax that holds up better in hot weather. (Still, in Florida's humidity, the monks used bowls of ice water to keep the material solid.)

Most tormas are deity tormas, presented to a particular deity at a shrine, or food tormas, which are used to decorate cakes for feasts. Food tormas are partially consumed by the practitioners at the feast and the leftovers remain to feed birds and wildlife.

Various lineages and communities use different coloring agents and designs, which become part of their local traditions and are a source of great pride. — Janis Fontaine

Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338

**5/9 - 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

**Friday - 5/10 - 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

**5/10 - Legion of Mary** at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

**5/10 - 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

Religion Notes

14 seminarians ordained as transitional deacons

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach announced the ordination of 10 seminarians as deacons by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito of the Diocese of Palm Beach with a Mass on April 13 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Boca Raton.

The men are Jude Okeke from the Diocese of Palm Beach; Jakub Bereza from the Archdiocese of Miami; Charles Bemis from the Diocese of St. Augustine; William Burns and John Triolo from the Diocese of Orlando; Jacob Gwynn and William Long from the Diocese of Venice; and William Gibson, Peter Jutras and Grant Sennott from the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Four St. Vincent de Paul seminarians have been or will be ordained as deacons in their own diocese: Johan Restrepo on April 6 and Christopher Holcomb on April 20, and Benedict Maria will be ordained May 3 and Ziemek Janaszek on June 15.

Their ordination as deacons means the seminarians are in the final stage of their preparation for ordination to the priesthood. This is a significant occasion for them, because as newly ordained deacons, they will be assigned to serve in parishes to finish their final year of formation. They will preach and baptize, marry and bury parishioners. Visit [www.svdpc.edu/deaconordination](http://www.svdpc.edu/deaconordination)

CROS volunteers tallied 34,000 hours in 2023

In April, CROS Ministries celebrated its volunteers at a joyous event at the Cox Science Center and Aquarium in West Palm Beach. Part of the celebration included presenting Executive Director Ruth Mageria with a symbolic check for \$1,094,777, to represent the value of the more than 34,000 hours volunteers worked in 2023.

CROS volunteers work at the seven community food pantries serving 15 locations, in the gleaning and produce recovery program, and serving people at the Caring Kitchen, a hot meal program.

Volunteers are always needed. Visit [www.crosministries.org](http://www.crosministries.org)

Alpert JFS celebrates fundraising record

The Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service of Palm Beach County, commonly called the Alpert JFS, hosted its 20th annual No Excuse for Abuse evening and 50th anniversary celebration on Feb. 25 at the Kravis Center. The event drew more than 500 guests. It featured comedian, actor and author Gary Gulman and raised more than \$750,000 — a record for the organization.

For more information about



Most of the seminarians were ordained as a group at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Boca Raton on April 13. Photo provided



CROS Ministries volunteers celebrate their executive director, Ruth Mageria (holding a symbolic check). Photo provided

Alpert JFS and No Excuse for Abuse, visit [www.alpertjfs.org/2024noexcuse](http://www.alpertjfs.org/2024noexcuse).

Cinco De Mayo Fun Day

Join the deacons at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach in celebrating Cinco De Mayo with a Family Fun Day on May 5 following the 10 a.m. service. Family members of all ages and guests are invited for games, food and fellowship. The event is free. Food trucks will be on site for snacks and refreshments. RSVP at 561-276-6338. The church is at 33 Gleason St.

Dementia lecture

Temple Beth El of Boca Raton hosts a lecture by Dr. James Galvin from 7 to 9 p.m. May 9. "Understanding Dementia: New Ideas For Prevention and Treatment" is your chance to learn about the cutting-edge science around



Galvin

more than 300 articles on healthy brain aging, cognitive health, Alzheimer's disease and Lewy body dementia. He is a professor of neurology and psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, founding director of the Comprehensive Center for Brain Health, and director and

principal investigator of the Lewy Body Dementia Research Center of Excellence.

The lecture takes place at Temple Beth El's Schaefer Family Campus at 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. Register at [tbeboca.org/event](http://tbeboca.org/event) or 561-391-8900.

Fundraiser to fight hunger

Raise Your Glass to End Hunger, a fundraiser for CROS Ministries, takes place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. May 16 at Hyatt Place Delray Beach, 104 NE Second Ave.

The evening features appetizers, two drinks, and a live and silent auction with emcee Matt Lincoln of CBS12. Tickets are \$70. Parking is available at the Old School Square garage and is free to those arriving before 4 p.m.

All proceeds support CROS Ministries' hunger programs. Call 561-344-4910 or visit [www.crosministries.org/events](http://www.crosministries.org/events).

A Taste of Judaism

Temple Beth El's rabbis are presenting "A Taste of Judaism," a fun three-session program that is "all about showing people what is delicious about Judaism, our faith, our customs and our community," again this year.

It is designed for beginners from any religious background, and no previous knowledge of Judaism is required to participate. Interfaith couples, in-laws of Jews, unaffiliated Jews, individuals exploring conversion, and anyone

seeking more knowledge about Judaism are invited to this course.

The course will be offered from 7 to 8:30 p.m. May 22, 29 and June 5 at the Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. A virtual option is also offered. The course is free but registration is requested with Aileen Spilka at [ASpilka@tbeboca.org](mailto:ASpilka@tbeboca.org). For more information, visit [tbeboca.org/event/taste-of-judaism-2024/2024-05-22/](http://tbeboca.org/event/taste-of-judaism-2024/2024-05-22/) or call 561-391-8900.

Bible School registrations

First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach plans Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to

noon June 10-14. Register in person at 33 Gleason St. or by calling 561-276-6338.

First United Methodist Church Boca Raton holds Bible School on its east campus from 9 a.m. to noon June 10-14 for all potty-trained children 3 years old through those who just completed fifth grade. On June 16, the children will sing at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. \$50 per child. 625 NE Mizner Blvd. Deadline to register is May 24. 561-395-1244 or [fumcbocaraton.org/vbs/](http://fumcbocaraton.org/vbs/)

Christ Fellowship adds to real estate holdings

When Christ Fellowship Church acquired the Macy's Furniture and Mattress Gallery property west of Boca Raton, 5.3 acres with a 50,000-square-foot retail store on Glades Road, for \$23.5 million in January, it meant the church now owns at least 20 properties in Palm Beach County. Last May it purchased Jupiter Fitness Center for \$8 million.

Christ Fellowship is a nondenominational evangelical church with multiple campuses, including in Boynton Beach, west Boca Raton and online. It is led by senior pastors Todd and Julie Mullins.

— Janis Fontaine

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Health & Harmony

Joy of pickleball comes with cautionary stories about injuries

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the United States, growing 51.8% from 2022 to 2023 and 223.5% since 2020, according to the 2024 Sports & Fitness Industry Association Topline Participation Report. Last year, approximately 13.6 million players enjoyed the game that takes its inspiration from tennis, badminton and table tennis.

However, with growing popularity comes an increase in injuries.

The most common are fractures, sprained ankles and injuries to the knees, Achilles and rotator cuff.

In 2019, the *Journal of Emergency Medicine* estimated there were about 19,000 pickleball injuries per year, with 90% of them in people 50 and older.

USA Pickleball, the governing body, says the sport is less taxing on the body than some others, but still carries risk of injury — especially in older adults.

Snowbird and retired special education teacher Janet Arnowitz, 69, hit herself around the eye while returning a lob, resulting in a large bump on her brow and discoloration.

Retired Delray Beach resident Julian Gershaw, 75, a former tennis player, has been playing pickleball for 10 years and has a wall filled with medals from tournaments in places such as Michigan, Jacksonville, Tampa and Naples. At home he plays indoors at Pick a Ball in Deerfield Beach and outside in Boynton Beach, competing almost every day.

Yet five years ago, while playing indoors at the Delray Beach Community Center, Gershaw tripped over his feet, fell and hit his face. He injured his nose, broke a tooth and injured a finger when he landed on his paddle.



Julian Gershaw, 75, of Delray Beach is a frequent and accomplished player but even he has been injured before. Photo provided

Although he says his injuries were accidental, he attributes other types of injuries to players not being in shape.

“Many people don’t realize they need to be in shape to play,” he says. “While the sport may not seem strenuous, you can’t go from the couch to the court.”

Ava Sloane, 69, a retired human resource manager from Delray Beach, and Bill Edelman, 68, a retired chairman of a medical device company, play together at Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton.

“I love the social aspect of the game,” says Sloane, a former tennis and

racquetball player who has been playing pickleball for a year. “It’s a godsend — it’s addictive and keeps me moving.”

Edelman, a part-time Boynton Beach resident, says he’s trying to be healthier and spend more time outdoors since coming from Massachusetts.

“Florida is the perfect antidote to 45 years of constant working,” he jokes.

Sloane and Edelman have both sustained injuries from the sport.

Running for a shot, Sloane suffered a sprained knee and was out of commission for weeks. She usually does other cardio such as riding a bike.

“I feel lucky that it was nothing worse,” she says.

Edelman tripped on his shoelaces and hit his knee on the concrete court, tearing his meniscus. “Mostly, I was embarrassed,” he says.

His rehab included physical therapy and a goal to rally with his 7-year-old grandson.

“I’m now more mindful of where I put my feet, instead of playing like a crazy person,” he says.

Glenn Chapman, 54, medical director of Surfside Orthopedics in Ocean Ridge, says he often sees patients with pickleball injuries.

“Pickleball has a silly name, but it’s not a silly sport,” he says. “People think it’s easy, are unprepared and don’t take precautions.”

Pickleball players in Florida tend to be older, he says, and may already have arthritis, osteoporosis or balance or coordination issues.

“It’s easy to fall and break a wrist,” he says. “Or, get tennis elbow, or sprain your Achilles tendon.”

The quick movement required in

pickleball is not designed for older adults, he says. “It’s easy to misstep, twist and tear.”

A former tennis player, Chapman runs, swims, surfs and plays soccer, but admits he hasn’t tried pickleball.

To avoid injury, he suggests stretching and warming up, wearing appropriate gear, including court shoes for ankle support, learning proper technique and playing to your level of conditioning.

“Don’t go crazy,” he says.

David Alboukrek, 66, a rheumatologist from Boynton Beach, was wearing running shoes — and not court shoes — when he ruptured his Achilles tendon.

Out of commission for 10 months, Alboukrek wore a boot and cast and needed a scooter. He chose nonsurgical therapy and is now back to playing two or three times each week.

Wanting to share his story so others may avoid his mistakes, Alboukrek reiterates the importance of wearing proper court shoes, warming up and investing in lessons to learn proper technique.

A squash and U.S. amateur table tennis tournament player, Alboukrek recently participated in a pickleball tournament in Naples.

“It’s addictive,” he says. “I lost, but had the best time ever.”



Jan Engoren writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.

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Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MAY 4

**Saturday - 5/4 - 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

**5/4 - Yoga Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**5/4 - Yoga at the Beach** at Red Reef Park West, 1221 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W 6:30 and 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

**5/4 - Judo Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up exercises, instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6:30-8:30 pm mixed ages/ranks; Sat 10 am-noon all groups. Per month \$21.50/resident; \$27/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

**5/4 - AA Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

MAY 5-11

**Sunday - 5/5 - Yoga at the Beach** at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every Sun 4:30 pm. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

**5/5 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous)**

**Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Monday - 5/6 - 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

**5/6 - Adult Zumba Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Every M through 5/20 7-8 pm. \$6/1 class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

**Tuesday - 5/7 - 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

**5/7 - AI-Anon 12-Step Study** at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Wednesday - 5/8 - Tai Chi Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall Chambers, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**5/8 - 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

**5/8 - Alzheimer's Research and Treatment Center presents Alzheimer's vs. Dementia** at Lakeside United Methodist Church, 1901 12th Ave S, Lake Worth Beach. Speakers: Dr. David Watson and Dr. Alex Thomas. 11 am. Free. RSVP: wilhemwellness@gmail.com or text 561-317-2808

**5/8 - 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

**5/8-9 - Yoga Class** at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Every W/Th 10 am & 11 am. Per class: \$10/members & residents; \$15/non-resident. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org/library

**Thursday - 5/9 - Alateen Meeting** at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 843 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

MAY 12-18

**Sunday - 5/12 - 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

**Wednesday - 5/15 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Fixing the Misfolded Proteins That Cause Dementia and Heart Failure w/ Jeffrey Kelly, Ph.D.** 1-hour virtual lecture. 7 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu

MAY 19-25

**Wednesday - 5/22 - Strike A Pose: Full Moon Yoga** at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. 7-8 pm. \$20/person. Ticket: eventbrite.com/e/full-moon-yoga-tickets-328825194007?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

**Saturday - 5/25 - 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

## Health Notes

### New device for treating A-fib at Delray Medical Center

Delray Medical Center has a new tool to treat heart arrhythmia. The Farapulse Pulsed Field Ablation System treats atrial fibrillation, a common arrhythmia.

This system uses special electric fields that are gentle on tissues and don't produce heat to remove unwanted heart tissue. This helps prevent harm to nearby structures.



Vivas

The first procedure using the system was performed April 2 at the hospital by Dr. Yoel Vivas. The system is manufactured by Boston Scientific and received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval in January.

### Hanley, sheriff partner to help prevent suicide

The Hanley Foundation and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office are partnering to train new deputies and staff on suicide prevention, as part of Hanley Foundation's Zero Suicide Initiative. The program provides an in-depth QPR — question, persuade, refer — Gatekeeper Training geared toward first responders and law enforcement, teaching them how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis.

### Two HCA hospitals rated tops in patient safety

HCA Florida Palms West Hospital and HCA Florida JFK Hospital were honored with the Patient Safety Excellence Award 2024 by Healthgrades.

This award places JFK Hospital in the top 5% of

hospitals in the nation and Palms West Hospital in the top 10% for patient safety. JFK Hospital also received this distinction in 2023 and Palms West Hospital was previously named in 2022.

Patients treated in these two hospitals, in Atlantis and Loxahatchee, have substantially lower risks of issues such as in-hospital falls resulting in fractures, collapsed lungs, pressure sores, and catheter-related bloodstream infections.

### Volunteers sought to assemble Narcan kits

On May 7, National Fentanyl Awareness Day, the community is invited to join the Hanley Foundation's team and help prepare 300 Narcan kits that will be distributed throughout the county. The event includes Narcan training sessions and a complimentary light lunch.

Fentanyl is a significant contributor to the opioid epidemic, causing more than 70,000 Americans to overdose in 2023. Narcan, also known by its generic name naloxone, is used to rapidly reverse opioid overdose.

By equipping individuals with these kits, Hanley aims to empower people to offer assistance in overdose situations and potentially save lives.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Hanley Resource Center, 933 45th St., West Palm Beach. Space is limited and registration is required. RSVP at [Hanley.info/nfad](http://Hanley.info/nfad).

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

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Welcome to another exciting week of Coastal Confidential, where we provide an exclusive insider's perspective on the sand in South Florida. The latest numbers are in for the week ending April 19, showing a positive trend with 66 contracts reported signed - a 10% increase from the previous week. While there was a slight dip of 8% year-over-year, there are still plenty of opportunities in the market.

Notably, Highland Beach saw a significant 40% rise in signed contracts compared to last year, driven by condo sales under \$2M. This surge marked the submarket's highest weekly contracts total in quite some time. Additionally, the luxury market is also seeing some action with nine contracts reported for properties asking over \$5M, matching last year's high weekly total.

In a prime example of the market's activity, 1 Osprey Court in Ocean Ridge went under contract within one week of listing at \$6.9M - showcasing the demand for luxury properties in the area. The highest-priced contract of the week went to 3603 N Ocean Boulevard in Gulf Stream, an oceanfront single-family home with a pool, priced at \$17.5M.

Overall, it's clear that the South Florida real estate market is alive and well, with opportunities for both buyers and sellers. Stay tuned for more updates and insights from Coastal Confidential.

Do you have real estate goals? I'd welcome the opportunity for your to interview me.

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Tots & Teens

# Chabad's teen center brings out best in fun, friendship, service

By Faran Fagen

The sheer surface of the pingpong table contains a circle with white letters that proclaim, "The Power of Youth." In the corner of the room, above a card table, is a quote about the importance of generosity. A dart board reads, "Keep your eyes on the goal."

Positive messaging is at the heart of the new Jewish teen center at the Chabad in Lake Worth Beach. Dubbed the CTeen Lounge and initiated by local teens and supported by the community, it aims to provide a safe space where Jewish identity is celebrated and nurtured.

Teens felt such a safe space was especially necessary in these challenging times for Jewish youth.

"I've benefited so much from CTeen and Jewish Learning Institute," said Kaci McKean,



The CTeen Lounge at the Chabad of Lake Worth provides a safe space for young Jews to gather. Photo provided

17, of Boynton Beach. "I've made numerous friends and learned so much about Judaism."

McKean enjoys learning

Torah and gathering with friends she met through Jewish Learning Institute. They have a unique bond and see each other almost every weekend,

hanging out, learning about Judaism and praying together on Shabbat.

"After services, we go into the teen lounge and play ping-

pong, eight-ball, chess, or just sit on the couches and talk," McKean said. "It's very special to me to be able to bond with people about Judaism."

Against the backdrop of rising antisemitic rhetoric online and in school, the CTeen Lounge offers a teen-centric community center for relaxation, bonding and education.

In addition to the curated programs and activities, teens now have a space to meet up with like-minded individuals in their demographic in a safe and enjoyable location.

"Now more than ever, it's vital to create spaces where Jewish identity can be nurtured and celebrated," said Leah Rosenfeld, who directs CTeen Lake Worth with her husband, Rabbi Mendy Rosenfeld. "At a time when many are being attacked for who they are, it's even more important to learn about your heritage, embrace it, and be proud."

The March 27 ribbon-cutting event featured donors, politicians, alumni from other CTeen programs and teen leaders sharing experiences and insights, offering a glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of modern Jewish youth.

Plans for the center began before the Oct. 7 Israeli-Hamas war erupted. But after Oct. 7, the teen haven became even more necessary.

"It magnified the need," said Leah Rosenfeld, who has directed the Chabad of Lake Worth with her husband since 2006. "Us creating this safe space for them is telling them loud and clear how valuable they are to the community."

The CTeen Loungers, ranging from the eighth to 12th grades, have reciprocated. They've attended holiday events on their own, without parents. They've taken part in a plethora of community events such as Cookies for Cops and Better Together, which pairs teens with senior citizens to assist them and hear their life stories.

The teens have even become self-governing — they created a charity box in the lounge

Featured Listings by Jackie Feldman

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for *tzedakah* (Hebrew for philanthropy). Anytime people use foul language, they put money in the box.

“It’s more than a lounge,” Rosenfeld said. “They’re showing up in ways that’s so much more than just a physical space. They understand that they can make the world a better place.”

The center is one of 20 such spaces built across the United States throughout the past year, with 10 more scheduled to open in the coming months.

“Despite all odds, Jewish teens like those of CTeen Lake Worth are stepping up to create positive change in their communities and online,” says Rabbi Mendy Kotlarsky, of Chabad World Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. “We’re seeing these safe spaces serve as

**If You Go**

CTeen Lounge at Chabad of Lake Worth, 5801 Colbright Road, Lake Worth Beach  
**Info:** Call 561-649-8468 for hours and other details

the incubators of that change.”

As for McKean, the CTeen Lounge has heightened her Jewish learning and made her feel more comfortable with herself.

“I get to know myself more when I am learning Torah, and many of the topics we discuss are very relatable to many people my age,” McKean said. “Chabad is where many Jewish teens are able to express themselves and be proud of being Jewish.” ★



Students participating in the fun at CTeen pose for a selfie. Photo provided

**Tots & Teens Calendar**

Note: Events are current as of 4/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

**MAY 4**

**Saturday - 5/4 - Saturday Morning ART (smART)** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Based on artwork at the Museum, links art making w/learning about art. Age 5+. 10-11 am. \$15/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**5/4 - Family Book Brunch: A Rover's Story** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 7-12. 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/4 - Sandoway Discovery Center** at 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

**MAY 5-11**

**Monday - 5/6 - Homework Helper** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Skilled adult volunteers guide K-5 students through homework assignments. Runs through 5/14. M/T/W 3:30-4:15 pm & 4:15-5 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/6 - Fun w/Fernanda: Bilingual Spanish-English Story Time** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 0-4. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/6 - Babies on Broadway** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Introduces singing, expression, movement. Age 3-6. Every M through 5/20 3:30-4:30 pm. \$15/week. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**5/6 - Fandom Trivia** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/6 - Sunset Strings Academy - Vocal Class** at Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every M through 7/22. Age 8-11: 6-6:45 pm; Age 12-14: 7-7:45 pm. \$300/resident; \$375/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6640; boynton-beach.org

**Tuesday - 5/7 - Petite Players** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Introduces singing, expression, movement. Age 2-4. Every T through 5/21 9:45-10:30 am. \$15/week. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**5/7 - Pop-Up Pages** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 0-5. Held again 5/17, 24, & 29 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Play & Learn for Pop-Up Pages** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 3-5. Held again 5/17, 24, & 29 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Family Lego Challenge** at Boca

Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. Every T 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Tiny Mites Indoor Football League** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 3-5. Every T/Th through 6/6 6-7 pm. \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**5/7 - Tween Book Jam: Dead End in Norvelt** by Jack Gantos at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/7-8 - Sensational Story 'n More** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children's books come to life through interactive performance, singing, movement, props. Age 2-5. Every T 10-10:45 am & W 3-3:45 pm. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**Wednesday - 5/8 - Farmer Jay's Junior Sprouts Class 6: Chickens and a Pig on a Farm** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/8 - 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

**5/8 - Sunset Strings Academy - Guitar Class** at Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every W through 7/24. Age 8-11: 6-6:45 pm; Age 12-14: 7-7:45 pm. \$300/resident; \$375/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6640; boynton-beach.org

**Friday - 5/10 - Sunset Strings Academy - Violin Class** at Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every M through 7/26. Age 8-11: 6-6:45 pm; Age 12-14: 7-7:45 pm. \$300/resident; \$375/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6640; boynton-beach.org

**Saturday - 5/11 - Community Splash Day 2** at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. 1-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-243-7194; delraybeachfl.gov

**5/11 - Got Gaming Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 5/25 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/11-12 - 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

**5/11-12 - Auditions: School of Rock The Musical** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Production dates 7/12-28. 1-5 pm. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**MAY 12-18**

**Sunday - 5/12 - Chess Moves: Tournament Play** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6+. 9:30 am-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/12 - Rookie Rooks: Introduction to Chess for Youth** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Monday - 5/13 - 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

**5/13 - Spring Teen Movie Night: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (2005)** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 5/14 - Teen Tech Sandbox** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 5/28 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Wednesday - 5/15 - Farmer Jay's Junior Sprouts Class 7: Where Food Comes From** 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 - 5/18 - Spinning for Safety** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. In recognition of Bike Safety Month, Recreation & Parks Department will be teaming up with the

Boynton Beach Police Department to offer a very special activity for children. Children should be accompanied by a parent/guardian, and furnish their own bikes to participate. Ages 6-12. Registration 8:30 am; 9-11 am. Free. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**5/18 - 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; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

**5/18 - Drop-In Family Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Held again 5/25 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/18 - 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. 10:30-11:30 am. \$15/member family; \$25/non-member family. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**5/18 - 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

**5/18 - 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-12:15 pm. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member.

Reservations: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

**MAY 19-25**

**Monday - 5/20 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 5/21 - Teen Book Talks: Strike the Zither** by Joan He at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Wednesday - 5/22 - 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

**MAY 26-JUNE 1**

**Sunday - 5/26 - The Addams Family** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Two shows: 10:30 am & 1:30 pm. \$20/adults; \$15/students. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Tuesday - 5/28 - Booktastic Book Talk: The Ember Stone** by Katrina Charman at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Free copy of book upon registration. Child attends independently. Age 7-8. 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Wednesday - 5/29 - Suzy Hammer Storytime** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

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On the Water

# It's prime time to explore the reefs for grouper and hogfish

This is an exciting month for South Florida anglers and divers because the seasons for grouper and hogfish opened on May 1.

The grouper season in Atlantic waters had been closed since Jan. 1 and the hogfish season closed on Nov. 1 in local waters.

April was a difficult month for scuba divers like Jim "Chiefy" Mathie, a retired Deerfield Beach fire chief, because the lobster season closed on April 1. So he and his buddies focused on spearfishing for lionfish while also taking note of where hogfish and grouper were hanging out.

That scouting definitely pays off. Mathie said that on opening day a year ago, each of the divers on his boat shot a black grouper.

It's essential for divers and anglers to know that grouper and hogfish have restrictive bag and size limits. Black and gag grouper must measure at least 24 inches and red grouper must be 20 inches. Anglers and divers can keep a total of three grouper per day, but only one can be a black or a gag. The other two, or all three, can be reds.

The limit on hogfish is one per person per day, a minimum of 16 inches long from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail. Previously, the season was open all year, the daily bag limit was five fish and the size limit was 12 inches. Mathie has seen an improvement in the hogfish population since the regulations took effect in 2017.

"We definitely are seeing a lot of big males," Mathie said, explaining that a male hogfish big enough to shoot has a long snout with a dark stripe down the forehead.



Ken Udell of Boca Raton shows off a big black grouper in his right hand and a hogfish in his left hand that he shot while diving with Jim 'Chiefy' Mathie. Steve Waters/The Coastal Star

Mathie is the author of *Catching the Spear-it! The ABCs of Spearfishing*, which is sold by most area dive shops as well as at chiefy.net and other online retailers.

Among the tips in the book is to always keep in mind the three R's — recognition, regulation and range. In other words, be able to identify the fish, know the size limit and be close enough to shoot it with your speargun.

Spearfishers must check off the three R's relatively quickly with black and gag grouper. Unlike hogfish and red grouper, which often try to hide behind a sea fan when a diver approaches, blacks and gags don't usually stick around.

When they head out of Boca Inlet in May, Mathie and his dive buddies concentrate on hunting the west-facing side of the third reef. The top of the reef

is about 50 feet below the surface and the bottom is 60-65 feet. The reef holds a lot of fish, including keeper-sized grouper and hogfish.

Wrecks in 65 feet also are good spots to shoot big grouper and hogfish.

There have been years when Mathie and his friends hunted those spots for the entire month of May. Then they move on to wrecks in 110-120 feet.

Capt. Skip Dana of the Fish City Pride drift boat in Pompano Beach fishes wrecks from 75-240 feet for grouper. The GPS coordinates for Florida's artificial reefs are available at [myfwc.com/media/19397/artificialreefdeploymentlocations.pdf](http://myfwc.com/media/19397/artificialreefdeploymentlocations.pdf).

He noted that wrecks in 75-120 feet are good for gag grouper. Blacks are on the same wrecks as well as deeper ones. Reds can be as shallow as 30-40 feet around rockpiles, ledges and grass patches, and on wrecks.

Grouper will bite live baits such as pinfish and pilchards, but dead sardines also work. Hogfish will bite live shrimp, but so will everything else in the ocean, so they are rarely caught on hook and line.

### Coast Guard celebration

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 54 will celebrate National Safe Boating Week from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 18 at Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park in Boynton Beach. Call 561-331-2429 for more information.



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 4/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

times/locations/fees: 561-585-8664; [lantanafishingderby.com](http://lantanafishingderby.com)

\$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47](http://myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47)

### MAY 4

**Saturday - 5/4 - Sand Sifters Beach Great American Cleanup** at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at south pavilion, lower parking lot. Bring water, hat, sunscreen. Bags, gloves, grabbers provided. 8-10:30 am. Free. [jefflev02@gmail.com](mailto:jefflev02@gmail.com)

**5/4 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. For experienced paddlers age 13-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration required: 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47](http://myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47)

**5/4 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course** at Spanish River Park HQ Building, USCG Auxiliary Classroom, 3939 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, federal & Florida regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 9 am-5 pm. \$35/adult; \$5/teen. 561-391-3600; [peauxboca@gmail.com](mailto:peauxboca@gmail.com)

**5/4 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47](http://myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47)

**5/4-5 - 29th Annual Lantana Fishing Derby & Kid's Fishing Derby** at Old Key Lime House 300 E Ocean Ave, Bicentennial Park 321 E Ocean Ave & Lantana Recreation Center 418 S Dixie Hwy. Derby Sat 7 am-3:30 pm; Kids Derby Sat 8:30 am-11:30 am at Bicentennial Park; Awards BBQ Sun Noon-3 pm. Check website for schedules/

### MAY 5-11

**Sunday - 5/5 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Kayaking** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Includes short talk about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 7-adult; each child under 13 must be accompanied by one adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47](http://myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47)

**Friday - 5/10 - After-Hours Guided Tours** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour through Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility, outdoor aquariums, open-air butterfly garden, nature trail; ends w/sunset views of the Intracoastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole Chiki. Age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 5/24. 6:30-8 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Register: 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47](http://myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47)

**Saturday - 5/11 - Seining the Lagoon** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Explore grasses/flats of the Intracoastal Waterway behind Gumbo Limbo. Wear clothes that can get wet. Closed toed shoes required. Age 7-adult; child must be accompanied by an adult. 9:30-11 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47](http://myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47)

### MAY 12-18

**Saturday - 5/18 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; each child under 13 must be accompanied by one adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & member;

### MAY 19-25

**Sunday - 5/19 - Family Fun Snorkel** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Snorkel shallow intracoastal waters, study animals sheltered/protected from ocean's dangers. Bring your own snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Age 10-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 6/1 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47](http://myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47)

**Saturday - 5/25 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup** at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Pre-registration required: 561-369-5501; [seaangels.org](http://seaangels.org)

### MAY 26-JUNE 1

**Tuesday - 5/28 - Turtle Walk** at Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Held rain or shine; subject to cancellation due to lightning or severe weather. Every T-Th through 6/26. 8:45 pm-midnight. \$15/resident; \$20/non-resident. Advance reservation required: 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/2133](http://myboca.us/2133)

**Thursday - 5/30 - Early Birding w/Al** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about native & migratory birds from an experienced birder; walk the Ashley Trail/boardwalk in search of warblers, gnatcatchers, woodpeckers, other avian species. Binoculars recommended. Meet on nature center front porch. Age 10+; child must be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. 561-544-8605; [myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47](http://myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47)

Paws Up for Pets

Trip across the pond shows animal lovers can be found everywhere

For more than a decade, I've been teaching pet first aid and cat-dog behavior classes as a master certified instructor and founder of Pet First Aid 4U.

Recently, I taught pet-loving people in England and Greece during a two-week trip sponsored by the nonprofit group Let's Be S.M.A.R.T. (Successfully Managing Animal Rights Today), which promotes global animal awareness and education and is led by founder Julie Kelley.

This trip confirmed that pet advocates exist all over the globe — from small villages to large metropolises. While Brits may fondly refer to felines as moggies and Greeks call them gatas, many share a universal mission to champion the needs of cats and dogs.

Here are some highlights, starting with my first stop, a small town northwest of London called Wallsend. There, I met two ambitious cat advocates, Tasmin Hurst and Roxy Scott, who opened up the Bad Cat Cafe about a year ago. (<https://thebadcatcafe.co.uk/>)

Cat cafes are growing in popularity worldwide, and this one smartly takes in a handful of cats at a time to be socialized inside its homey setting.

Says Hurst, "We aim to socialize our rescue cats away from a traditional shelter environment to increase their chances of being adopted into homes."

This duo also recognizes



Arden Moore and a black cat take in the sights at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. Photo provided

Let's Be S.M.A.R.T.

This animal sanctuary in Greece ([www.letsbesmart.org](http://www.letsbesmart.org)) relies on donations and volunteers to rescue cats and dogs off the streets and place them in welcoming homes. If you would like to make a purchase from its store, include the code ARDEN at checkout and get 15% off. Go to: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/letsbesmartcharity/?etsrc=sdt&coupon=ARDEN>

the therapeutic powers of cats for all types of people, including people with autism and learning difficulties — who are given priority at the cafe on Saturday afternoons.

The owners also work hard to educate the next generation of pet advocates by holding cat

events aimed at kids.

I then boarded a flight to Athens to visit the cradle of civilization — as the Greeks proudly proclaim it. It was the first time I visited this country, and it won't be my last.

Most of the time, I was based at a three-story animal sanctuary outside of Athens, sharing the place with 47 cats, five dogs, four puppies and about eight staff and volunteers. My small bedroom included two cuddly, furry roommates, Sumo and Pingu.

All of us pitched in to feed the four-leggers, give them needed medications, scoop the poop (there was plenty) and engage them in playtime.

My first trip outside the sanctuary was to a refugee camp that housed about 900 people, including about 200 children as well as more than

60 cats and a dozen free-roaming dogs. The people there had fled their homes in Afghanistan, Syria and other places. My job that day was to present a pair of talks about cats and dogs to kids ranging in age from 8 to 16.

For my talks, I had two interpreters who spoke Farsi and Arabic — that's a first for me. But the kids all seemed to understand the need to provide fresh water to the cats and dogs at the camp as I taught them how to safely approach and pet the animals.

At the end of my talk, a little girl approached and opened her hand to reveal sunflower seeds.

"These are for you," she said in perfect English as her mom smiled.

I replied, "Let's share them," as we sat down and she asked more questions about cat behavior — a powerful moment I will never forget.

Upon returning that afternoon to the sanctuary, I discovered a cat named Earl Grey had accidentally been scalded with hot water. His nose and a few paws were bright red, indicating third-degree burns. So, I placed a wet, cool towel into the pet carrier with Earl Grey and monitored him for any signs of shock or lack of

consciousness in the back seat of a vehicle, as a sanctuary manager drove to the veterinary hospital.

Earl Grey needed to be hospitalized for a few nights but has recovered from his burns.

My final weekend was spent teaching cat-dog behavior and pet first aid classes in two locations in Athens. Most Greeks I found spoke English and came with playful attitudes. Everyone in class joined me in demos on wrapping a bloody back leg, performing the Heimlich maneuver on a choking pet and much more.

During breaks from teaching, I swished my hand in the Aegean Sea, enjoyed souvlaki at a Greek outdoor cafe and spent an afternoon marveling at the ruins of the Acropolis where, of course, I met a friendly black cat.

Before I knew it, I was on a flight back home, exhausted but exhilarated.

Arden Moore is an author, speaker and master certified pet first aid instructor. Learn more by visiting [www.ardenmoore.com](http://www.ardenmoore.com).



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# Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## MAY 4

**Saturday - 5/4 - Shred Day 2024** at Delray Beach City Hall North Parking lot, 100 NW 1st Ave. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov

**5/4 - Delray Beach GreenMarket** every Saturday through 5/18, at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9am-2pm. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

**5/4 - Pickleball** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Combines badminton & tennis. Adults. Sat 9 am-noon; M/W 6-8 pm. \$5; \$50/30-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**5/4 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Zoom Writers Studio** presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/4 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum** at 71 N Federal Hwy. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

**5/4 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat through 5/25 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/ resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/4 - Current Events Discussion** at Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

**5/4 - Virtual Saturday Morning Writers' Group** presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 5/18 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/4 - Mizner Park Green Market** every Saturday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

**5/4 - Twilight In The Garden** at Delray Beach Historical Society Heritage Gardens, 3 NE 1st St. Annual fundraiser. For time/tickets: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

**5/4 - 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

## MAY 5-11

**Sunday - 5/5 - Cinco De Mayo Block Party Celebration** at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Featuring street games, family-friendly activities, outdoor bars, dancing, face painting and live music. El Camino will be open 11 am-2 pm for food & drinks. Noon-10 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

**5/5 - Delray String Quartet: The Bohemian and the Russian** part of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 3 pm. \$30/person. 561-276-4541; musicstpauls.org

**5/5 - Sunday Matinee Music Series: Low Ground Band** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/5 - The Legal Roots featuring Vyad** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Monday - 5/6 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Summer Card Making Club** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/6 - The Robert Welstein Quest for Knowledge Series** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every M (except holidays) 10:30 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**5/6 - Advanced Squares** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every M 2-4 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/6 - Computer Basics (Windows 10) Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/6 - Welcome to PowerPoint** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/6 - Bubbies Musical Showcase** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 6 pm. \$20. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Tuesday - 5/7 - 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,

## Municipal Meetings

**5/6 - Ocean Ridge Town Hall**, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

**5/7 & 21 - Delray Beach City Hall**, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

**5/7 & 21 - Boynton Beach City Hall**, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

**5/10 - Gulf Stream Town Hall**, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

**5/13 - Lantana Town Hall**, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

**5/14 - South Palm Beach Town Hall**, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

**5/14 & 28 - Highland Beach Town Hall**, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

**5/14 & 29 - Boca Raton Auditorium**, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

**5/23 - Briny Breezes Town Hall**, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

**5/28 - Manalapan Town Hall**, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/7 - Workshop: Gelli Plate Printmaking** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**5/7 - Boca Raton Garden Club: Palm Beach's Horticultural History w/ Ed Lamont** at 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

**5/7 - 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

**5/7 - Socrates Café** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Summer Knitting Club** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Book Talks - Summer Book Previews** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Appy Hour: BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 5/14 & 21 2-2:30 pm. Free. By Appointment Only: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/7 - Poets on the Fringe** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every T through 8/20 4-6 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Beginning Tap for Adults** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age

18+. Every T through 5/28 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**5/7 - Lecture: "Jews of Florida" Centuries of Stories" w/Marcia Zerivitz** presented by Delray Beach Historical Society at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. \$15. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

**5/7 - Book Talks - Historical Fictionados: Summer Book Previews** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Comedy Open Mic Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 1st T 8-10 pm. \$10-\$15. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Wednesday - 5/8 - GFWC Woman's Club of Delray Beach Meeting** at Teen Center, 505 SE 5th Ave. Bring your own refreshments/coffee. 10 am. Free. delraywomensclub.com

**5/8 - What is Canva?** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/8 - Exciting 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

**5/8 - Microsoft Word Basics Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/8 - Writer's Corner** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Manuscript

critiquing by published authors. Adults. Held again 5/22 6-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/8 - Town Hall Talk: Boca Raton Army Air Field and The BRAAF Fire Department w/Thomas R. Wood** 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

**5/8 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting** at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

**5/8-9 - Auditions: School of Rock The Musical** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Production dates 7/12-28. 7 pm. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**Thursday - 5/9 - Quilters** meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Sale of quilted items supports the Library. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/9 - Image Compositing w/Adobe Photoshop Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/9 - 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

**5/9 - 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

**5/9 - Grand Opening Splash & Open House** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet our team, see the new patients, and learn more about sea turtle conservation. Free. 12:30-4 pm. 561-544-8605; myboca.us

**5/9 - Live Music** at The Shops of Boca Center Courtyard, 5150 Town Center Circle. Held again 5/16 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. bocacenter.com

**5/9 - Night Market** at Sanborn Square Park, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Food options, beer & wine, local artisans and live music. 6-9 pm. Free. myboca.us/2324/ Night-Market

**Friday - 5/10 - Artisan Market** at The Shops of Boca Center, 5150 Town Center Circle. Every F through December 27.

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**5/10 - Beginner Squares** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every F 7:15-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/10 - 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; boynton-beach.org

**5/10 - 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

**5/10 - The Miami Big Sound Orchestra w/ Lourdes Valentin** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**5/10-11 - Mangia! Mangia! Murder! - Elegant Murder Mystery Dinner** at Old School Square Fieldhouse, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-10 pm. \$60/person. Registration: 561-330-6042; delraybeachfl.gov/parks

**5/10-11 - Taylor Dayne** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6:30 & 8:30 pm. Tickets start at \$55. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**5/10-12 - Mother's Day Jewelry Sale** at Boca Raton Museum of Art Store, 501 Plaza Real. 11 am-6 pm. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**Saturday - 5/11 - Open Figure Studio w/Model** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 18+. Held again 6-8 pm 5/23. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**5/11 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting.** 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

**5/11 - Workshop: Mystical Abstract Landscape in Mixed Media** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-4:30 pm. \$60. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**5/11 - Cult Wine Tasting** at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$125/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

**5/11 - Otis Cadillac and The Eldorados featuring The Sublime Seville Sisters** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**MAY 12-18**

**Sunday - 5/12 - Mother's Day 5/12 - Stay Golden: A Golden Girls Tribute Show** presented by Drag Events Unlimited at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Doors open 11 am; show noon. \$35-\$55. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**5/12 - The Jackie Mason Musical!** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Two shows: 2 & 7 pm. Tickets start at \$30. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**5/12 - Drag Queen Bingo** presented by Drag Events Unlimited at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 21+ w/ ID only. Doors open 6:30 pm; show 7 pm. \$25. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**5/12 - Livin' In The USA - A Tribute to Linda Ronstadt** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**5/12-14 - Musical Memories - I've Heard That Song Before!** at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Runs through 5/21. M/T 2 pm; M 7:30 pm; Sun 5 pm. \$53. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

**Monday - 5/13 - Hand Crafted Greeting Cards** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Create custom greeting cards w/Cricut Maker & Sizzix Big Shot machine. Adults. 10 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/13 - Internet Basics Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/13 - Excel Formulas Everyone Should Know** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30

**Mother's Day events**

**Friday & Saturday - 5/10-11 - Mother's Day Orchid Giveaway** in downtown Delray Beach. Shop at downtown retailers from 5/6-11, spend \$200 or more, receive an orchid plant at an orchid station 5/10-11 in front of Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave or The Seagate Hotel, 1000 E Atlantic Ave. Receipts must be dated 5/6-11, must be from Downtown Delray Beach shops. Restrictions apply. 11 am-4 pm. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com/mothersday

**Saturday - 5/11 - South Florida's Craft Show Celebrates Mother's Day** at Mizner Park, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Shop local artisans. 1-6 pm. Free. msha.ke/southfloridascraftshow



RSVP: 561-372-0568; theaddisonofbocaraton.com

**5/11-12 - Mother's Day Tea Service** at Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. Prix-fixe menu: tea sandwiches, scones, sweets, Whitehall special blend tea, pink lemonade. Includes museum admission & tax; gratuity added during payment process. Sat: 11:30 am & 1:30 pm; Sun: Noon, 2 pm & 3 pm. \$50/member; \$76/non-member; \$35/child 12 & under. Advance purchase required: 561-655-2833; flaglERMuseum.us

**Sunday - 5/12 - Mother's Day Brunch** at The Addison, 2 E Camino Real Boca Raton. Outside courtyard seating available. 11 am reservations start. \$150/adult; \$85/child; free/age 3 & under.

pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/13 - Monday Movies - Documentary: Waking Sleeping Beauty** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/13 - Lecture: Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories w/ Marcia Zerivitz** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. \$15. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

**5/13-16 - Something Wonderful: Laura Yanez Sings Rodgers & Hammerstein** 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 - 5/14 - Henry Flagler's Dream: The Railroad that Went to Sea w/ Robert Feeny** presented by FAU Lifelong Learning Institute at The Field House at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-noon. \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**5/14 - River Sing Me Home by Eleanor Shearer** part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/14 - Book Talks - Modern Literature: Optic Nerve by Maria Gainza** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/14 - Business Card Creation Using Canva** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/14 - All Arts Open Mic Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2nd T 8-10 pm. \$10-\$15. 561-450-6357;

artsgarage.org

**Wednesday - 5/15 - 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

**5/15 - Microsoft Word Intermediate Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/15 - Crafting in the Library: Decoupage** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/15 - 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 - 5/16 - Coding Basics: Resources for Getting Started** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/16 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Summer Cricut Club** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/16 - Miss Grand Treasure Coast** presented by Nakia Hardy-Patterson at Lake Worth Playhouse Stonzek Studio Theater, 713 Lake Ave. 6 pm. \$35. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**5/16 - Art Happy Hour - DIY Tote Bags** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-7:30 pm. \$22. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**5/16 - Taste of Boynton Beach - Food & Wine Festival** at 120 E Ocean Ave. Featuring appetizing food & drinks, live music and artisan vendors. 6-10 pm. Free. 561-742-6000; boynton-beach.org

**5/16 - Town Hall Talk: The Spies Next Door w/Dr. Peter Barrett** 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

**Friday - 5/17 - 2024 Small Business Expo** at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. 9 am-12:30 pm. Registration: 561-243-7161; forms.office.com/g/pHaLHyRBgZ?origin=IprLink

**5/17-18 - Ann Hampton Callaway - Finding Beauty Tour: Inspired Classics & Originals** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55-\$60. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Saturday - 5/18 - The Amazing Delray Beach Challenge** at Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave. Register as a team from 2-5 people. Divisions for children, adults and families. Check-in 8 am; race start 9 am. \$20/adults; \$12/age 17

& under. Info: 561-243-7277; delraybeachfl.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/2095/336?curm=5&cury=2024

**5/18 - Pop Up and Shop Up Artisan Market** at The Shops of Boca Center, 5150 Town Center Circle. Unique artisan and handcrafted items from local makers, artists, crafters and live music. 2-7 pm. Free. bocacenter.com

**5/18 - 10th Anniversary - Art In Motion** presented by Organic Movements at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 3 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**5/18 - Delray Beach Trivia Night** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Presented by Delray Beach Initiative. Trivia, prizes, dinner, cocktails, silent auction. 6-9 pm. \$45/person; \$80/couple. Registration: 561-266-0798; delraylibrary.org/trivia-night

**5/18-19 - Experience Palm Beach County Open Studios.** Explore 90+

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**5/18-19 - Experience Palm Beach County Open Studios** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Noon-5 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; [artswarehouse.org](http://artswarehouse.org)

**MAY 19-25**

**Sunday - 5/19 - Historic Districts of Delray Beach Bus Tour** at Spady Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Contact museum for time/tickets: 561-279-8883; [spadmuseum.com](http://spadmuseum.com)  
**5/19 - Music in the Museum - Con Brio Quartet** - at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$8/member; \$18/non-member. 561-392-2500; [bocamuseum.org](http://bocamuseum.org)  
**5/19 - Story Central Storytelling Slam** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; [bocalibrary.org](http://bocalibrary.org)  
**5/19 - Annual "A Delray Beach Family Affair" in Honor of Florida's Emancipation** at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 5-8 pm. Free. 561-379-8883; [spadmuseum.com](http://spadmuseum.com)  
**5/19 - Sunday's Latin Moods: Miami Ritmo & Soda** at Crazy Uncle Mikes, 6450 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Doors open 6 pm; show 7 pm. \$30. 561-931-2889; [crazyunclemikes.com](http://crazyunclemikes.com)  
**5/19 - These Dreams - The Ultimate Heart Tribute Show** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org)  
**Monday - 5/20 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Summer Crochet Club** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 11 am-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; [bocalibrary.org](http://bocalibrary.org)  
**5/20 - The Hero of this Book by Elizabeth McCracken** part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; [delraylibrary.org](http://delraylibrary.org)

**5/20 - Email Basics Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; [delraylibrary.org](http://delraylibrary.org)  
**5/20 - Cutting the Cable Cord** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; [boyntonlibrary.org](http://boyntonlibrary.org)  
**5/20 - Poetry Open Mic Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 3rd M 8-10 pm. \$10-\$15. 561-450-6357; [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org)  
**Tuesday - 5/21 - MailChimp 101: Building a Simple Email Campaign** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; [boyntonlibrary.org](http://boyntonlibrary.org)  
**5/21 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/Biographies: Novelist as a Vocation by Haruki Murakami** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; [bocalibrary.org](http://bocalibrary.org)  
**5/21 - Exploring ChatGPT** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; [boyntonlibrary.org](http://boyntonlibrary.org)  
**5/21 - League of Women Voters: A Taste of the League - New Member Online Orientation.** On Zoom. 6:30-8 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-276-4898; [lwvpsc.org](http://lwvpsc.org)  
**5/21 - FAU Astronomical Observatory** public viewing at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 7:30 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; [cescos.fau.edu/observatory](http://cescos.fau.edu/observatory)  
**Wednesday - 5/22 - Pages of Hope - The Garden Within - Mental Health Book Discussion** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; [boyntonlibrary.org](http://boyntonlibrary.org)  
**5/22 - Microsoft Word Advanced Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; [delraylibrary.org](http://delraylibrary.org)  
**5/22 - Trivia Night** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; [bocalibrary.org](http://bocalibrary.org)  
**Thursday - 5/23 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Summer Hand-Sewing & Embroidery Club** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; [bocalibrary.org](http://bocalibrary.org)  
**5/23 - Beginning Sewing Program** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Learn basics of hand sewing & machine sewing. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; [boyntonlibrary.org](http://boyntonlibrary.org)  
**Friday - 5/24 - Sunset Concert: Fast Forward - The Ultimate Kenny Chesney Tribute** at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Gates open 7 pm; show 8-10 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; [delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events](http://delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events)  
**5/24 - Peace of Woodstock - Music of the Legendary Festival** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org)  
**Saturday - 5/25 - Conversational Spanish** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 6/1 11:30 am-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; [bocalibrary.org](http://bocalibrary.org)  
**5/25 - Rock the Plaza** at Ocean Plaza, 640 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Live music, activities, food offerings from restaurants in the plaza. 1-4 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; [boyntonbeachcra.com](http://boyntonbeachcra.com)  
**5/25 - 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](http://boynton-beach.org)  
**5/25 - Street Preacher** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org)  
**5/25 - Alter Eagles: The Definitive Eagles Tribute Group** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; [delraybeachplayhouse.com](http://delraybeachplayhouse.com)

**5/25-26 - 26th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Memorial Day Weekend Craft Festival** at The Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave. Free/admission. 10 am-5 pm. [Downtowndelraybeach.com](http://Downtowndelraybeach.com)

**MAY 26-JUNE 1**

**Monday - 5/27 - Memorial Day 5/27 - Memorial Day Ceremony** at Boca Raton Cemetery, 451 SW 4th Ave. Seating provided; reserved section for Gold Star families. 9-10 am. Free. [myboca.us/1470/MemorialDay](http://myboca.us/1470/MemorialDay)  
**5/27 - 19th Annual Memorial Day Service: A Day to Remember** at Palm Beach Memorial Park, 3691 Seacrest Blvd, Lantana. Forgiven Soldiers Outreach, Inc. presents Emcee Jim Sackett and keynote speaker Traci L. Caicedo, US Army Veteran, Florida National Guard. 11:50 am-1:15 pm. Free. 561-585-6444; [forgottensoldiers.org](http://forgottensoldiers.org)  
**5/27 - Memorial Day Concert:** The American Sirens at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. Chairs/blankets welcome; reserved section for Gold Star families. 6 pm doors open; 7-8:30 pm concert. Free/admission; \$5/chair rental, free/active military & veterans. [myboca.us/1470/MemorialDay](http://myboca.us/1470/MemorialDay)  
**05/27 - Tango Tales: Julieta Iglesias Piano and Dance Show** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30-9 pm. Tickets start at \$50. 561-203-3742; [thestudioatmiznerpark.com](http://thestudioatmiznerpark.com)  
**Tuesday - 5/28 - Protect Yourself Against Scammers, Spammers & Hackers** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; [boyntonlibrary.org](http://boyntonlibrary.org)  
**5/28 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Summer Quilling Club** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; [bocalibrary.org](http://bocalibrary.org)  
**Thursday - 5/30 - Sewing: Intermediate Projects** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Requires previously completed beginner's class. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; [boyntonlibrary.org](http://boyntonlibrary.org)  
**5/30 - 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](http://delraylibrary.org)  
**5/30 - Flamboyant Flea Market** at Old School Square Vintage Gym, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; [delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events](http://delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events)  
**Friday - 5/31 - 9th Annual 6X6 Exhibition & Art Sale** at The HUB @ Space of Mind, 1-2 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Public preview 10 am-3 pm; lottery style sale starts at 6 pm. 561-243-7922; [oldschoolsquare.org](http://oldschoolsquare.org)  
**5/31 - Meditative Collage** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; [bocalibrary.org](http://bocalibrary.org)  
**5/31 - Jumpin Jack Flashback: A Tribute to The Rolling Stones** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; [delraybeachplayhouse.com](http://delraybeachplayhouse.com)  
**Saturday - 6/1 - 9th Annual Walk Against Violence and Hate** at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Route starts and ends at Pompey Park. 9 am. Free. 561-243-7250 x 7253; [delraybeachfl.gov](http://delraybeachfl.gov)  
**6/1 - Summer Green Market** at Old School Square in Delray Beach. More than 65 culinary and artisan vendors, plus live music. 9 am-1pm every Sat through July. 95 NE 1st Ave. 561-276-7511  
**6/1 - Rock the Marina** at Boynton Harbor Marina, 735 Casa Loma Blvd, Boynton Beach. Live music, activities, food offerings from plaza restaurants. Noon-4 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; [boyntonbeachcra.com](http://boyntonbeachcra.com)  
**6/1 - Bad Moon Rising - CCR Tribute** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; [delraybeachplayhouse.com](http://delraybeachplayhouse.com)

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## House of the Month



LEFT: Gated and tropically landscaped, a brick-paved motor court offers a welcoming ambience.



RIGHT: Old-world elegance inspired the staircase and Saturnia marble flooring for this home, complete with elevator vestibule off the foyer.



The living room is spectacularly enhanced with two-story, floor-to-ceiling impact windows. The gas fireplace features a carved stone mantel.

# Boater's delight on waterfront in Delray

In the coveted Rio Delray Shores neighborhood on a quiet cul-de-sac, this home is a boater's dream with 55 feet on a deepwater canal off the Intracoastal. The newly completed dock runs the length of the property and will accommodate up to 16,000 pounds. High-end appointments include handsome walnut millwork, classic moldings, intricate designer ceiling details and gracious archways supported by decorative stone columns.

The informal areas are organized within an open floor plan, centered on the attractive family room, where banks of glass sliding doors open to the pool deck. The adjacent breakfast niche is set within a bay, and the adjoining cook-island kitchen is finished with professional-grade appliances, antiqued wood cabinetry, granite countertops and a pantry.

Upstairs, the primary bedroom opens to a balcony offering incredible, wide water views. The suite features a morning bar, two large custom-fitted closets and a spa-inspired granite-appointed bathroom with dual sinks, separate water closet, glass-enclosed walk-in shower, spa tub, and a gas fireplace. Also on the second floor are five guest bedrooms, with one opening to a private balcony.

Offered at \$4,995,000. Contact the Pascal Liguori Estate Group, 561-789-8300. Premier Estate Properties, 900 E. Atlantic Ave., #4, Delray Beach; [pascal@premierestateproperties.com](mailto:pascal@premierestateproperties.com)



A covered loggia with cypress ceiling features a summer kitchen and barbecue area. The auto-fill pool with overflow spa has a view of the water.

Each month, The Coastal Star features a home for sale in our area. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our homes.

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