

The Coastal Star

January 2026

Serving Highland Beach and Coastal Boca Raton

Volume 19 Issue 1

Highland Beach



Cyclists enjoy unfettered access to the new bike lanes on the stretch of State Road A1A through Highland Beach and part of Delray Beach now that traffic-control barrels are gone. The \$8.3 million resurfacing and drainage project lasted more than a year but is largely complete, according to state transportation officials. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Stretch of A1A no longer obstacle course for cyclists

By Rich Pollack

The bright orange-and-white barrels that lined State Road A1A through Highland Beach and part of Delray Beach for more than a year are gone, and that's good news for many bicyclists and a good sign for anyone using the 3.35-mile stretch of beachside highway.

Since July 2024 the barrels, which were put up on the shoulder of the highway to

protect construction workers and guide motorists during an \$8.3 million resurfacing and drainage project, have been seen as a road hazard for bicyclists like Larry Burgreen.

A snowbird from upstate New York, Burgreen often rode his bike from his home in north Boca Raton to Delray Beach on A1A, but shelved the trip last season and during the past few months due to the construction.

"I wanted to start biking again but the barrels are there," he said shortly before the barrels were removed, adding that he believed the ride would be unsafe.

Burgreen says he is looking forward to resuming his trips on the barrel-free sides of A1A.

"I am sure I will be trying out the new bike lanes soon," he said.

Now that the barrels have been removed, bicyclists who

rode in the lane of traffic alongside cars, SUVs and other vehicles can now use the newly paved and in some places marked bicycle lanes on either side of the road.

The removal of the barrels is also signaling a long-awaited completion of the project, which originally had been proposed to take little more than a year.

The project, according to a

See A1A on page 26

Along the Coast

Home rule faces biggest threat yet

State lawmakers put municipal property taxes on the chopping block

By John Pacenti

Tallahassee's drip, drip, drip erosion of home rule is about to become a tsunami as Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Republican supermajority's war on municipalities is now aimed at draining their lifeblood: property taxes.

If the most extreme proposal — HJR 201 — in the Florida House succeeds in eliminating virtually all property taxes on homestead properties, then towns and cities would have to find new ways to pay for simple services beyond policing — or cut them out of their budgets entirely — municipal leaders say. That's what's on the table during the annual two-month session of the state Legislature that starts Jan. 13.

Forget about money for fireworks, festivals and events — never mind whatever Republicans in the Legislature find "woke," like Pride celebrations. The questions would now be more basic, like how to fund a fire department.

"We would face some pretty serious reductions," said Boca

See HOME RULE on page 22

Highland Beach

Town code thwarts condo's sign plans, though others also don't meet rules

By Rich Pollack

The challenges kept coming for a beachfront condo in Highland Beach as its board members attempted to upgrade the entrance signs near their driveways on State Road A1A.

The first challenge, though not totally unexpected, came when they met with town

leaders and learned that the signs they hoped to put in were too big and didn't meet code.

Then came the news that the town doesn't have a process for granting a variance, and the only way for the condo, Villa Magna, to get the green light to improve the signage would be to have the Town Commission change an ordinance that's

been on the books for years — a cumbersome and slow-moving process.

While all that was happening, the Villa Magna team looked up and down A1A and saw that many of the signs in front of buildings — those with the names of the buildings and

See SIGNS on page 14



The Villa Magna condo wants to improve its visibility along A1A, but current Highland Beach rules will not allow the bigger signs it wants. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

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The ArtsPaper

The Bijoux! jewelry show dazzles at Mizner Park. **Page AT7**



Student life: The sequel
These older adults know it's never too late to learn new things. **Page AT1**

Downtown campus conflict
Boca, developer seek to finalize deal as vote looms. **Page 19**

Mandarin Oriental
Developer files for bankruptcy. **Page 26**

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Mary Csar is moving to a Jacksonville historic district, closer to her kids. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Editor's Note

New curator takes over philanthropy news

One of my favorite sections of the paper is philanthropy. It's not just pictures of happy, smiling people — although many of those photographed are indeed happy, smiling and looking good.

The section is consequential because it keeps tabs on massive charitable giving that pays for vital services and innovation. The largesse also addresses systemic issues in areas such as health, literacy and the arts, while inspiring new solutions and strategies for social good by spotlighting what works.

Amy Woods has been curating the section for *The Coastal Star* since August 2012. She's leaving the paper this month after 13-plus years and we thank her and wish her well.

"I helped spread the word about South County's charity scene and its benefactors and beneficiaries," she says. "The number of good deeds and the amount of good work being done in the area has been an honor and a joy to highlight. I have formed bonds and relationships with the administrators and the volunteers leading the charge for their important causes."

"What has been most rewarding about my role at *The Coastal Star* is the ability to shine a light on the critical needs in the community."

Previously, Amy was editor of Notables at *The Palm Beach Post* for 11 years. In 2023, she wrote her first book, *100 Things to Do in Jupiter Before You Die*. Her second book, *Secret Palm Beach: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*,



Frala



Woods

comes out this month.

As Amy goes on to devote time to her books, we welcome Lou Ann Frala, who has been a well-respected and admired copy editor at *The Palm Beach Post* since 1985, leaving during the pandemic in 2020, then returning in February 2022 as a sports copy editor.

In her career, she also served as an assistant business editor, and she was op-ed editor for 12 years. Her career began on the sports desk of *The Kansas City Star*, and she served as sports editor on small papers in Texas and Missouri before coming to Florida in 1985.

Lou Ann, who was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia.

She says she "is delighted to be joining *The Coastal Star*" and we are delighted to have her on the philanthropy desk.

To reach Lou Ann and our philanthropy section, send news and photos to our newly minted philanthropy email, philanthropy@thecoastalstar.com.

Help us keep the good news coming — and keep smiling!

— Mary Thurwachter,
Managing Editor



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

Retiring director reflects on decades of telling story of Boca Raton's history

By Mary Hladky

Mary Csar has been involved in preserving Boca Raton's history almost from the moment she moved to the city in 1978.

She joined the Boca Raton Historical Society and soon was giving tours at The Boca Raton, the historic resort launched by famed architect Addison Mizner.

She changed her focus for a time, serving as president of the Junior League of Boca Raton, joining the city's Community Redevelopment Agency and later working in community relations at the now-closed National Cartoon Museum.

And then the historical society beckoned again, hiring her to coordinate events for the society's 25th anniversary. When the executive director's position opened, she applied and was hired in 1999.

After almost 27 years in that role, Csar retired in December. Olivia Hollaus, a former society board president, has taken her place.

"It will be a very smooth transition," Csar said.

Over her nearly three-decade tenure, the historical society has strengthened its finances, professionalized with the hiring of curator Susan Gillis, and completely renovated the Old Town Hall, which houses its history museum and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gillis' hiring was key. "That is when we really started documenting our collections and getting things in shape,"

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a \$1 million donation from museum supporters Barbara and Dick Schmidt. The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum is named in their honor.

The finished museum includes a city timeline from the pre-Columbian era to the 21st century that runs along an interior hallway. Individual rooms are dedicated to specific subjects.

Among the highlights are the first settlers, Addison Mizner and the Cloister Inn, the World War II Boca Raton Army Air Field, Florida Atlantic University's groundbreaking, IBM's production of the first personal computer, construction of the Town Center mall and the 2001 anthrax attack on the AMI building.

Csar said the museum, which is open Wednesday through Saturday, attracts many visitors.

"The exhibits are very intense," she said. "There is a lot to see. Our lectures are very well attended."

Csar is now ready for her next chapter.

She and her husband are moving to Jacksonville to be near their son, who lives there, and nearer to their two daughters in North Carolina and New Jersey. "It is time to focus on family," she said.

But she is not forsaking history. The couple's new home is in the Riverside historic district along the St. Johns River.

"The whole area is a preservation district," she said. "That excites me to no end." ★

"We had no idea we would have to do so many renovations on the building. There were things that came up that we had to do," Csar said.

That prompted Csar to ask the City Council for \$1.2 million in financial help. Council members were reluctant but eventually provided the money.

"We have to credit the city for really helping us out," she said.

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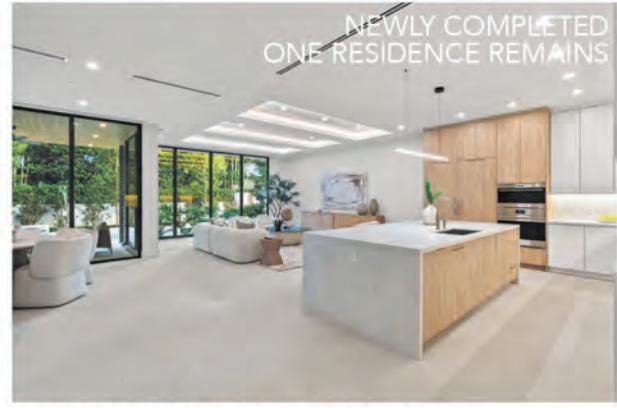
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Letter to the Editor

Main opposition to Milani Park was always to keep visitors out of town

I was tickled by the article regarding Milani Park in the recent *The Coastal Star*.

I was reminded of a Highland Beach public meeting

probably 10 years ago.

I was the only resident speaking for the renovation. There was talk about the arrival of drug traffic, that the

portable johns are notorious for homosexual activity, the increase of traffic itself, nudity and sex on the beach, possible immigrants from Cuba, and uninhabited houses/apartments being vandalized.

Well, my words were forgotten when this Native American and his wife came charging into the room whooping and dancing like a Native American in a John Wayne movie.

Why? It seems there had been

the discovery of the remains of a Native American, buried 500 years ago.

The entire audience immediately became lovers of Native American history. Unlike a movie with John Wayne under the stagecoach, rifle in hand, Native Americans circling, there weren't no John Waynes in the bunch.

Immediately, the crowd had many suggestions which, in my opinion, would result in very few visitors. There was

talk about a Native American museum, researching the area for a possible Native American graveyard, pay parking for the lot, and no access to the beach because of the graveyard research.

The list went on. In my suspicious mind, I believed and still believe the only issue was to severely impede the visitors to this park.

— T. Hoy Booker, Highland Beach

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Boca Raton

City issues building permit for beachfront parcel

Work has begun on an oceanfront four-story home in Boca Raton east of State Road A1A.

Delray Beach-based Azure Development LLC, which owns the .42-acre property at 2600 N. Ocean Blvd., applied for a building permit on April 30 after the Boca Raton City Council in October 2024 granted a variance to build a home on the sand east of the city's Coastal Construction Control Line.

The application values what will be a 6,931-square-foot structure, across A1A from the Blue Water Townhouses, at almost \$3.2 million.

The city's Development Services Department issued the permit on Dec. 4 and collected fees of \$69,122.

To get the permit, Azure had to meet 17 conditions, including that the building's windows transmit no more than 31% of any interior lighting onto the beach, which is nesting habitat for protected sea turtles.

Azure first sought permission to build on the dune in February 2019 but was rejected by the City Council. The property appraiser's office values the vacant land at almost \$3.4 million.

— Steve Plunkett

New park restrooms, lifeguard towers on the way

Boca Raton will soon begin work on projects along the coast estimated to cost \$6.5 million.

The City Council on Nov. 18 approved hiring Burkhardt Construction of West Palm Beach to serve as construction manager on the projects.

The work will include the replacement of three restrooms at Spanish River Park, the replacement of six lifeguard towers and the rehabilitation of three sea walls that protect against flooding.

The sea walls are located on the east side of Southeast Wavecrest Way near Lake Drive, at Jeffery Street along

the Intracoastal Waterway and at east end of Northeast 32nd Street.

After design drawings are completed for each of the projects, Burkhardt will update the costs, which then must be approved by the City Council.

For now, the lifeguard tower replacements are projected to cost \$1.6 million, the new restrooms almost \$2 million and the improved sea walls \$3 million. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has provided a \$950,000 grant to help defray the sea wall cost.

— Mary Hladky

Corrections

The following are corrections for stories in the December 2025 edition of *The Coastal Star*:

• A cover story on the Boca Raton downtown campus contained the incorrect date for a judge's ruling from the bench stopping the planned Jan. 13 Save Boca ballot questions. He announced his ruling on Nov. 25 and issued the written order on Dec. 1.

• A story on Page 12 misidentified the occupation of a South Palm Beach Town Council candidate. Adrian Burcet is a FedEx operations administrator.

• A story on Page 24 incorrectly identified the Lantana Town Council seat being sought by Jacqueline "Jackie" Morel. Morel, who failed to qualify, was seeking the seat now held by Council member Chris Castle. Also, Council member Mark Zeitler currently works as an air conditioning contractor.

• A photo caption on Page AT24 misidentified the couple greeting Pastor Greg Rapier at his last service at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach. The two were Janet and Robert Lewis.

Delray Beach

Mayor's concerns cause 'chaos,' spur state audit of downtown agency

By John Pacenti

When it comes to unhinged moments for this Delray Beach City Commission, admittedly, the bar is fairly high, as meetings routinely have devolved into shouting matches during Mayor Tom Carney's term with the gavel.

Yet, the Dec. 8 commission meeting may live in infamy.

Carney verbally sparred with Commissioners Tom Markert and Juli Casale over his favorite punching bag: the Downtown Development Authority.

For a mayor who insisted months earlier that his colleagues follow decorum, the meeting was a lesson in Robert's Rules of *Disorder*. One longtime political player called it "chaos."

It started simple enough.

The commission was set to approve the DDA's interlocal agreement and disperse \$700,000 — funding for running the Old School Square campus that was delayed because of an audit about that management spearheaded by Carney.

The DDA gets most of its \$2.7 million budget from an additional property tax of \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value for property owners who live within its boundaries, generally along Atlantic Avenue and surrounding properties from Interstate 95 to State Road A1A.

The audit found "control deficiencies and documentation weaknesses," but said the DDA agreed with recommendations to tighten up policies — by March — on purchasing and credit card use, among other things.

The DDA "admitted and, in the documents, they didn't have all the receipts. So how do you not have any fraud?" Carney asked.

Carney proposed holding back some of the money from the DDA until the implementation of promised changes — and bedlam ensued.

No longer allies

It's easy to forget that Carney, Markert and Casale ran as a slate and were elected in March 2024 in races that focused on development, city management and taxation.

The mayor refused to allow other commissioners to speak, interrupting them.

Markert, who says he has the most corporate experience on the dais, told Carney that the city audit was completely normal, finding insignificant deficiencies. "I would say, whoopty-do," he said.

"I, as a commissioner, would like to know what is going on with your attitude toward the Downtown Development Authority," Markert told Carney. "You take a swipe at them every time you can. We just finished an audit. I was hoping today you'd be coming in apologizing to the DDA."

When Markert asked Carney



Markert

"I, as a commissioner, would like to know what is going on with your attitude toward the Downtown Development Authority. You take a swipe at them every time you can. We just finished an audit. I was hoping today you'd be coming in apologizing to the DDA." — Commissioner Tom Markert, addressing Mayor Tom Carney



Carney

about his experiences with audits, the mayor told him, "With my banks."

"Where's your bank? I missed it. Where's it been?" Markert retorted.

Carney's father established Carney Bank of South Florida and other financial institutions — none of which exist today.

Markert has been a strong DDA defender, saying that the organization has played a key role in making downtown a destination for locals and tourists alike, with its plethora of restaurants, unusual shops and thriving businesses.

The DDA also stepped into the void in 2023 when the city couldn't find anyone to run Old School Square — its pavilion, its museum, its banquet space — when the nonprofit that managed it for years was kicked out by a former commission for lack of financial transparency.

It got even uglier at the Dec. 8 meeting when Casale — as

if tagged in like a wrestler — took over for Markert and tried to defend the DDA, saying the mayor was wrong that 60% of the DDA's budget goes to administrative costs. "You can't keep saying inaccurate things," she said.

She said Carney's obsession with the DDA extended to writing a misleading op-ed in the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*.

Casale didn't mention that Carney also insisted on sitting on the DDA's board over the summer after he discovered he was allowed to in the City Charter. Some appointed business owners said they were uncomfortable.

He made a public records request for the DDA's financials when DDA Executive Director Laura Simon said she would provide them in a one-on-one meeting.

Taking it to the state

Now, state Sen. Mack Bernard has gotten the state involved, using the mayor's op-ed on the DDA as justification.

"It is legitimate to question the continued necessity of its existence," Bernard wrote to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee. That committee voted at its own Dec. 8 meeting to authorize Bernard's requested

operational audit of the DDA by the Florida Auditor General.

Bernard called the DDA "a monster" at that meeting.

The Legislature could dissolve the DDA, which it established in 1971.

"Mack Bernard got a call one month ago, at exactly the time we all found out that this audit wasn't going to produce misconduct, fraud, or misuse of taxpayer funds," Casale said at her commission's meeting.

Decorum? What decorum?

Carney repeatedly talked over Casale, saying he would not stand for being accused. It came down to decorum, with Casale saying the mayor had violated the city's code of conduct and refused to support an important partner in the DDA.

She said four different people told her that Carney is intent on eliminating the DDA or reducing its scope.

Carney said the DDA has ignored businesses west of Swinton Avenue. The mayor has explored creating a new taxing district for that area.

At one point, Casale had enough of the mayor's interruptions and shouted, "Please stop!"

"I don't understand why you want to eliminate them," she said. "Just answer the question. It's obvious, why?"

That is indeed the question.

DDA in the crosshairs

Simon says the DDA has always been transparent about its finances at its meetings. It has only been in the last few years, when the DDA board turned over, that the issue has emerged.

"We overcommunicate our financials," she said. "We have had very little — if any — concern from the public regarding our financials."

Some city staff and community leaders say the DDA has a reputation of being aloof and not playing well with others. Still, Simon says property owners in the DDA aren't looking for a tax break by getting rid of the DDA.

"The property owners rely on us to keep their businesses in business," Simon told *The Coastal Star*. Certainly, the blogs and newsletters are abuzz with the issue. So much so, the city auditor was forced — sources say by Carney's complaining — to respond with a letter to the commission.

Internal Auditor Elena Georgiev on Dec. 15 clarified that while she did not find any

fraud, her look at the finances was limited in scope. "The audit was not designed or conducted as an investigation, and no conclusion of wrongdoing was done in my report."

But Georgiev also said that her findings were "significant in a public-sector context because they increased risk and reduced transparency, even in the absence of fraud."

Which begs the question: Why didn't Carney ask for an investigative audit?

Behind the scenes

Speaking on background, city officials and leaders have their suspicions that others could be pulling Carney's strings.

Mary McCarty, the former city commissioner who went to prison for corruption while on the County Commission and got a pardon from President

Donald Trump, is often seen gesturing or even shouting out to Carney during meetings. At a Dec. 1 commission meeting, Casale had to tell her that her behavior was not appropriate.

The Coastal Star has a pending public records request for communications between McCarty and Carney.

McCarty says she is not the impetus behind Carney's obsession with the DDA — though the audit findings do cause her concerns. She explained her gesturing.

"I get very frustrated with the way Tom runs a meeting. He doesn't ever ask for a motion," she said. "It's like they're sitting up there around their kitchen table."

And then there is the theory involving Andre Fladell — that the longtime political player is no fan of the DDA because of events it holds on the beach, which he considers his turf.

Fladell is also an ally of McCarty.

Fladell, when contacted, said he was the one who reached out to Bernard, a former city commissioner, after Carney's op-ed. He said he was disturbed by the audit's finding on gifts.

"I alerted Mack Bernard. I said to him that there is an issue with employees of the DDA spending money on alcohol and gift cards and not keeping track of who is receiving bottles

of wine and gift cards," Fladell said.

He said he had the same conversation with McCarty. He said Markert's shot at Carney Bank on Linton Boulevard was "really bad" because the bank would give loans to small local businesses when the corporate banks would not.

He did describe commission meetings currently as "chaos."

Casale said the alliance among her, Carney and Markert is no longer. "It went from Tom, Tom and Juli to Tom, Mary and Andre," she said.

Carney's big cudgel currently is his contention that 60% of the DDA's budget goes to administrative or outside marketing costs.

"The city auditor found the DDA had a lack of financial controls and the state has now opened a full audit," Carney told *The Coastal Star*. "I don't understand why my colleagues continue to protect the DDA at the expense of transparency and accountability to taxpayers."

Turf war?

Simon appeared in front of the state's Joint Legislative Auditing Committee on Dec. 8 without any support from the city and has told Carney the DDA would gladly give the keys back to Old School Square if the city is unsatisfied with its management of the campus.

At the Tallahassee hearing, Jim Knight — chairman of the DDA's board — said: "We don't want to run Old School Square anymore. We think it's better to be run by a private agency, as opposed to a taxing authority, so forth. So we're looking to hand that off sooner than later."

Simon told *The Coastal Star* that she clarified for the legislative committee that the figure for administrative costs is 30%.

Make no mistake, Simon is Delray Beach royalty, with her family being among its earliest settlers. And the question that Carney is just engaging in an old-fashioned turf war hasn't escaped her.

Carney, after initially refusing to meet, finally sat down with her over the summer.

"He said, 'It's just government, it's just political. I do this to every board I join,'" Simon recalled. "He says, it's not personal — it's personal."

Carney denied ever making that statement.

In the end, the mayor got his way at the Dec. 8 meeting. Only half of the DDA's budget for Old School Square — \$350,000 — was released while the DDA amends its policies and the state starts its audit.

At the end of the meeting, Carney had one more thing to add as City Manager Terrence Moore made a casual mention of city directors celebrating birthdays. It was Mary McCarty's birthday, too, he noted. ★

Ocean Ridge

Town may allow bigger homes in exchange for flood-control easements

By John Pacenti

The Ocean Ridge Town Commission at its Dec. 1 meeting for 61 minutes grappled — in what Mayor Geoff Pugh called “a great discussion” — with whether single-family property owners could exceed the town code for house size in exchange for easements needed for flood control.

It will come up for a second reading at the commission’s Jan. 12 meeting.

The town needs an easement on a property on Harbour Drive North, a street that frequently experiences flooding. The homeowner, according to Town Manager Michelle Heiser, wants to add 500 more square feet.

“The homeowner, like it or not, knows we need that easement and says, ‘This house my wife wants, it includes a bigger closet,’” Heiser said.

The proposed addition to the home also would not be visible from the roadway and the ordinance is an effort to solve the impasse, she added.

The issue at hand is FAR — floor area ratio — the measurement of a building in relation to the size of the lot or parcel on which it sits. Currently, the town allows a 36% FAR for parcels up to 20,000 square feet.

For the Harbour Drive North home in question, which sits on an 11,761-square-foot lot, the proposed ordinance would allow the property owner to go from a 36% FAR to a 42% FAR, increasing the house maximum — now at 4,704 square feet — to 5,227 square feet.

“The proposed ordinance would create a sort of tiered approach to allow for properties to increase their FAR up to a certain percentage based on the town’s request for an easement,” Town Attorney Christy Goddeau said.

Goddeau said any prospective single-family residence would still have to pass muster with the Planning and Zoning Commission, be compatible with the neighborhood, and satisfy other factors.

Future consequences

Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy spoke out against the ordinance as proposed, saying the town has crafted rules to keep property owners from “maxing out” their residences. She noted that the ordinance really is because of an “uncooperative homeowner” on Harbour Drive North.

“To build an ordinance because of one property owner, because we need it now, I think, is a mistake,” Cassidy said.

“This is a blanket ordinance for the entire community that we don’t know what’s going to happen in the future,” she noted.

Commissioner Ainar Aijala Jr. asked Goddeau if such accommodations would be a rare circumstance.

Yes and no, she said. Currently, there are only two properties, besides the one on Harbour Drive North, where the new ordinance would apply.

“But as you know, things change in town, given drainage issues and flooding issues, there may become a need that this is utilized more by the town,” Goddeau said.

Public comments were also pointed.

“I think it’s a really slippery slope, whether you’re doing

it for one homeowner or only because of an easement or only on a certain street,” said former Mayor Kristine de Haseth, executive director of the Florida Coalition for Preservation. “The character of our town is based on the fact that we don’t have these Boca McMansions.”

Former Commissioner Terry Brown had the opposite viewpoint. “In my opinion, you’ve got to do horse trading. And this is an example of where you’re going to do it,” he said.

Cassidy asked whatever happened to the idea of the town abandoning the right of way.

Heiser said that the town engineer did not see that as a good solution because of flooding issues and has already started the permitting process with the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District.

“It looks like we’re trying to solve a problem, but I want to make sure there aren’t unintended consequences that we just can’t foresee,” Aijala said.

Flooding issues

Commissioner David Hutchins and the mayor live on Harbour Drive North.

“When it floods on that street, it’s dramatic, and it

can affect a lot of activities,” Hutchins said. “The reason we were looking at this easement was so we could move the water off the street, at least on a high tide.”

He said the homeowner has “got us over a barrel,” but the goal has always been flood control.

Pugh said it was time to make a deal.

“So if you want me to tell everybody on my street who complains vociferously about the flooding on the street that we didn’t do it because we wouldn’t give that guy 500 more square feet,” Pugh said. “I’m not willing to do that.”

In the end, the commission passed the ordinance on first reading but with amendments, including a preamble that the commission intends for such easement swaps to be limited use and that it would periodically review requests. The commission also asked Goddeau to tighten up the language on whether the easement remains with the town if the property is sold and to explore if the FAR percentages could be lowered.

In the meantime, negotiations continue with the homeowner. ★

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be distributed the weekend of February 7

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Delray Beach

Renovation underway

City golf course — Dec. 19

NMP Golf Construction Corporation workers dig in to a \$28.5 million renovation that has closed Delray Beach's historic municipal golf course, which originally opened in 1926. The renovation will include new practice facilities, improved parking, bridge replacements, new cart paths and a remodeled clubhouse. The course and clubhouse are expected to reopen in November 2026. **Tim Stepien / The Coastal Star**



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South Palm Beach

Lift station cost estimates more than triple

By Brian Biggane

Even as it continued planning toward the construction of a new Town Hall, the South Palm Beach Town Council received sobering news from Town Manager Jamie Titcomb about another significant expenditure: the new wastewater lift station.

Titcomb told the council at its December meeting that the initial estimates for the lift station of about \$1 million have increased considerably, and the new price tag figures to be in the \$3 million to \$4 million range.

Titcomb added that "we made some very important connections" at a legislative conference in Orlando prior to the council meeting and that he's hopeful the town will secure a federal grant to cover most, if not all, of the lift station expense.

Whereas Titcomb said the timeline for the grant would likely be 12 to 18 months — and getting it may prove unsuccessful — Vice Mayor Monte Berendes expressed optimism it would be secured. He said he was part of a specific conversation Titcomb had with an unnamed official in Orlando.

"He was very positive we could get the money if it was under \$5 million," Berendes said. "I would like to recommend that we do go after it."

Added Titcomb: "I think we got the sense from talking to our federal partners that there's kind of a golden opportunity, timeline wise, to go get this in the hopper."

"Florida is a donor state to Washington; we only get 85 cents back on the dollar of what we send there. So, we're certainly entitled to go after those kinds of resources."

While Titcomb said he would expect the new lift station to last up to 50 years, he acknowledged the existing one will likely need repairs while the grant process plays out. One emergency repair

on a pump in 2025 cost \$54,000, and he said he was told by an engineer that a bypass valve needs to either be repaired or replaced soon.

"My biggest concern is that the projected costs are, in my opinion, three times what they've been projected over the last several years to rebuild or relocate this station. That's a direct result of post-pandemic supply-side availability of construction materials and companies' tariffs," he said.

If the grant did not materialize, Titcomb said, the other option would be to pursue a bond through the League of Cities or another entity, such as "a very, very low-interest capital infrastructure dollar loan, or some other combination of assets we already have in place."

The council unanimously approved a motion instructing Titcomb to pursue the grant.

Meanwhile, no representative from CPZ Architects attended the meeting, leaving it up to Titcomb to update the Town Hall timeline for the council. He said the firm expects to complete drawings for the new building by early January, at which time bids for the construction firm to oversee the project will be sought for a period of 30 to 45 days. He suggested the council anticipate a special meeting in late February to select a contractor.

Of course, elections involving four of the five seats on the council could make all that planning moot. Mayoral candidate Rafael Pineiro and council candidates Fran Attardi and Adrian Burnet are all running on the platform that they would prefer a retrofit of the current 50-year-old building over a new structure.

Both Titcomb and the current council insist that won't work as state laws mandate the current structure be demolished if the cost of the project is more than half the value of the Town Hall's current value. ★



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Along the Coast

Long coasts to statehouse victory; commission deadlocks on his replacement

Former Delray Beach Vice Mayor Rob Long easily defeated Republican Maria Zack in the Dec. 9 special election for state House District 90.

Long
District 90 includes Ocean Ridge, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes and parts of Delray Beach and Boynton Beach.

Long, the Democrat, took 63.2% of the vote to Zack's 35.9%. Karen Yeh, with no party affiliation, garnered less than 1%. There was 14.7% turnout.



The seat was vacant because of the death of Rep. Joe Casello, D-Boynton Beach, in July.

Long said he believed he earned the vote of independent voters who are alarmed by the direction of the country under President Donald Trump.

"They're tired of not being able to afford anything. They're tired of seeing what's happening to folks from the immigrant community," Long said.

"There's a lot of outrage right now, and a lot of people struggling right now, and they are ready to see some change and some action."

Long credited his volunteer

team for getting people to the polls for a December special election.

"It was just an amazing community effort, and I'm super grateful," he said.

Delray Beach commissioners at their Dec. 8 meeting couldn't agree on someone to replace Long until the March 10 elections are over.

Yvonne Odom, grandmother to tennis star Coco Gauff, and Price Patton, a member of the city's Planning & Zoning Board and part owner of *The Coastal Star*, each lost out on 2-2 votes.

— John Pacenti

Briny Breezes

Mayor cites weak role, Sunshine Law limits in decision not to run for second term

By Steve Plunkett

The state's Sunshine Law, the town's weak-mayor form of government and a deep personal goal led Ted Gross to be a one-term-and-done mayor of Briny Breezes.

Gross, who did not file qualifying papers in November to run for reelection, used the time allotted for the "Mayor's Report" at the Town Council meeting to elaborate on

his three reasons for not seeking office again. The Sunshine Law, which states in part that two or more government officials cannot discuss government business without first notifying the public of their planned conversation, was "quite restrictive," Gross said.

"I have close friends who sit on the dais and who hold official roles within the corporation (Briny Breezes Inc.). And my interactions with them became limited," he said. "I was unable to discuss anything that might be on an agenda or could come before the council in the future."



Gross

"In Briny that's almost everything," Gross said.

He had spoken several times during his term about his dissatisfaction with being a weak mayor, one who must sign contracts and is the face of the town but who does not have a vote on issues.

"The weak mayor framework makes the role primarily ceremonial. While respect and attention shown to the mayor is meaningful, I often felt I did not deserve it because when residents brought any concerns or ideas, my ability to help was very limited," Gross said. "I found myself unable to make the level of impact that I believe a mayor should be able to make for their constituents."

Last, "and probably most important," Gross said, he wanted to book more of his time "to a mission that is deeply important to me and I have been working on it for a while, and one that I believe that I can make a meaningful impact — that is supporting individuals affected by sex trafficking and abuse, particularly boys and men."

Gross said this group receives "far too little recognition or support" and the issue is especially significant in South

Florida, "and yet resources remain scarce."

"I feel the call for this work and I believe I can make a difference by focusing my energy there," he concluded, adding that he is grateful for the opportunity he had to serve.

Gross' wife, Kathy, resigned as an alderwoman in October 2024 after he had been in office almost a year and she had been on the dais almost six years.

Also declining to run for election was Alderwoman Holly Reitnauer, who is married to Alderman Bill Birch. Reitnauer, who took Kathy Gross' Seat 2 in December 2024, will have been in office only 15 months when her tenure ends in March.

She was absent from the council's Dec. 11 meeting and has not publicly discussed her reason for not running for office.

Alderman Jeff Duncan, who drew no challengers during November's qualifying period, was automatically elected to his Seat 4 position and will serve a second two-year term.

Under the town's charter, the council will choose a "qualified elector" to be Briny's new mayor and a new alderman at its first meeting after what was to be the March 10 election. ★

Manalapan

New sanitation contract saves town \$150,000 a year

Manalapan Town Manager Eric Marmer told commissioners at their Dec. 9 meeting that the town will save nearly \$150,000 a year while locking in predictable garbage collection rates and expanding services to residents.

The Town Commission recently approved the agreement with Waste Pro, which includes an initial five-year term with the option for a five-year extension. A key feature is a 3% cap on

annual price increases, tied to the Consumer Price Index, that Marmer says will keep waste collection costs stable for at least the next decade.

The first year of the contract is \$53,000.

Marmer told commissioners that the anticipated savings from the new deal will be steered toward other community priorities, including a recently launched beach cleanup program with town

staff.

Residents will see little change in their day-to-day garbage and recycling routines. The new vendor will use existing cans and maintain current collection days, though residents needing replacements will be able to request them directly.

Collection under the new contract will begin the first week of January.

— John Pacenti

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When Villa Magna officials went checking, they found signs that were larger than the 10 square feet Highland Beach allows, including ones at the Ambassadors and at Highlands Place — and even one of Villa Magna's own current signs. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

SIGNS

Continued from page 1

addresses — were bigger than allowed under the same code blocking their project.

Yet there they were.

"It appears they were non-compliant and had been that way for a long time with no town action," said Town Manager Marshall Labadie, who sent Highland Beach's code enforcement officer out to measure, confirming what Villa Magna had found.

The bigger condos, many with longer frontage on A1A, tended to have the larger signs, he said. Many of those signs exceed the allowed 10 square feet for the face of the sign.

How that happened, Labadie says, might have been the result of Highland Beach's not having a full-time town planner until



2018 and no one to ensure the bigger signs met code when they were installed.

Those signs that do not meet the code will be considered a lawful non-conforming use, Labadie said, meaning that they will be allowed to remain as is. If those signs are replaced, however, the new signs will need to comply with the code.

What that code will be in the

future is up in the air.

Once Villa Magna's leadership brought forward the problems with the current ordinance on permanent signs, town commissioners agreed to take a hard look at whether changes need to be made.

With Labadie calling Villa Magna "the canary in the coal mine" alerting officials to what may be considered an

obsolete provision in the code, commissioners agreed to ask for a recommendation from the town's planning board on whether to keep the ordinance as is or change it.

If the planning board agrees that the ordinance needs to be changed, it would have to consider issues such as how big the signs can be and whether a variance process is needed for condo boards like Villa Magna's.

In bringing their case to the commission, representatives from the 92-unit condo said one of the main concerns is safety.

Villa Magna is just north of the Delray Sands Resort, and visitors often end up driving into Villa Magna's driveways by mistake and then have to back out onto A1A.

The problem is magnified when the sun goes down, says Joan Stein, a longtime Villa

Magna board member and a co-chair of the decorating committee that is involved in the signage project.

"It's very difficult at night," she said. "You don't see the sign until you're on it."

Villa Magna, which has three signs on A1A, is asking for five signs, the biggest of which would be 24 square feet.

The condo has 370 linear feet of frontage on A1A and three driveways, and its leaders believe the size of the signs is in scale with the size of the property.

With the request requiring a change in the ordinance, the decision on what size new signs can be may take several more weeks.

"It's going to take longer than we thought, but it's worth the effort," Stein said. ★



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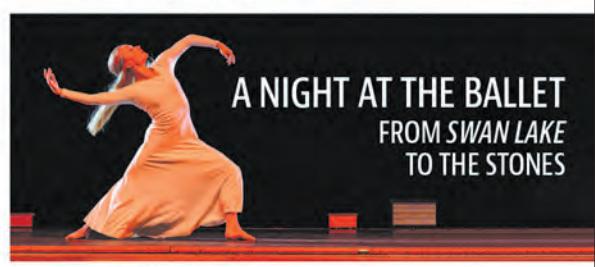


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Boca Raton

Mayor wants national stage, will seek seat in Congress

By Mary Hladky

In a widely anticipated move, Republican Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer has announced his candidacy for Florida's 23rd Congressional District, hoping to unseat Democrat U.S. Rep. Jared Moskowitz.

A strong supporter of President Donald Trump, Singer made clear in his Dec. 18 campaign announcement that, if elected, he intends to follow Trump's lead.

"I'm running for Congress as an America First conservative who believes that we need leaders in D.C. who will work to build on President Trump's success to secure our borders, defend our nation, cut waste, and bring taxes and costs down for all Americans," he said on social media.

A video accompanying his announcement included a clip of a shout-out from Trump thanking Singer.

Singer also touted his record as mayor.

"As Mayor, I fought to keep taxes and crime low, while increasing investment in public safety, infrastructure and helping add jobs to our community," he said.

Singer faces a crowded Republican field. Six other candidates include former state Rep. George Moraitis of Fort Lauderdale, and Joe Kaufman, who was the party's 2024 nominee against Moskowitz.

The 23rd District covers Boca Raton and Highland Beach, runs west to Coral Springs and south into Fort Lauderdale.

It is now almost evenly split between Republican and Democratic voters. But that could change because Gov. Ron DeSantis and state



Moskowitz



Singer

legislative leaders are planning redistricting of its boundaries ahead of the 2026 election.

Singer was first elected to the City Council in 2014 and has served as mayor since 2018. He is term-limited from running again and his last day in office is March 31.

Moskowitz was first elected in 2022 and reelected in 2024, both times by small margins.

Singer, a lawyer who graduated from Harvard and Georgetown Law, has maintained a high profile as mayor.

He successfully lobbied Brightline officials to build a train station in Boca Raton that opened in 2022, and followed that up by spearheading plans to create a transit-oriented development on city-owned land abutting the station.

He was the force behind creating a public-private partnership with developers Terra and Frisbie Group to redevelop the city's downtown campus. That has proved to be contentious, with the residents group Save Boca pushing to kill the project.

Once it became likely that democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani would win the New York City mayoral election last November, Singer launched a high-profile campaign to lure to Boca Raton high net worth individuals and corporations opposed to Mamdani's policies and plans. ★



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The Town Commission appoints all members. Members shall serve a three-year term and no more than six consecutive years. A member absent from three consecutive meetings will be considered a resignation subject to automatic acceptance.

Residents interested in serving on an Advisory Board or Committee can submit a Board Application to the Highland Beach Town Clerk's Office **no later than 4:30 P.M. on Friday, January 30, 2026**. Board Applications are available online at <https://highlandbeach-fl.municodemeeetings.com/bc/webform/boards-information-and-application> or in the Town Clerk's Office at 3614 South Ocean Boulevard, Highland Beach, Florida 33487.

For additional information, please contact Jaclyn DeHart, Deputy Town Clerk at (561) 278-4548, or jdehart@highlandbeach.us Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Boynton Beach

City approval cements Ace as the place for an undersea motif mural

By Patrick Sherry

After 200 hours of painting a vibrant underwater scene on the side of his family's hardware store, Alastair Pleasonton was told the partly finished mural might have to be covered up.

Work on the mural came to a halt in October, when a Boynton Beach code enforcement officer notified the owners of Ace Hardware, at 510 E. Boynton Beach Blvd., that they needed a permit and approval by the city to paint the mural. If they continued to paint, the months of work already put in would have to be painted over if it wasn't approved.

Valerie Pleasonton, Alastair's grandmother and store owner, said she found the process of getting the permit frustrating, but the family contacted city officials to try to get approval from the city's Art Advisory Board.

"I took a chance and said, let's try anyway, because there's only so much time that we can have to paint, and I really wanted it done before the end of [2025]," she said. "Our schedule has slipped enough that that's not going to happen, but a lot of it is done."

In December, the two presented the art board with their design of a colorful marine environment featuring the city's signature sailfish and bright aquatic wildlife across the large east side of the building.

"I wanted to do a piece of artwork that tied community identity together with my family's history," Alastair Pleasonton said at the meeting.



Alastair Pleasonton, whose family owns the Ace Hardware on Boynton Beach Boulevard, is putting his art education to work. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

The board unanimously approved the mural with the condition of removing some background fish at the top of the design to leave more open space. Since then, the artist has been working steadily on finishing the mural. He thinks that it will take 100 hours to finish, by the end of the summer at the latest.

"It's definitely long, and it's tedious, but it's worthwhile," Alastair said. "I get a lot of people who stop, make positive

commentary, and who are happy to see it going up."

Valerie Pleasonton wanted to have a mural painted on the wall to make the store more visible and stop people from tagging it. Before Alastair painted the mural, during the holiday season the owners used to cover the wall using Christmas trees and a tent. After city officials started requiring a permit to sell Christmas trees, the store had the wall

empty throughout the year.

"Once you put a mural up on the wall, it's like they respect that another painter has done some work there ... and they don't tag your wall anymore," Valerie Pleasonton said.

The family opened the hardware store in the early 1970s, and it's one of the oldest family-owned businesses in the city. Alastair Pleasonton, 22, has worked at the store since he was 14, sometimes adding his artistic flair to promote the business. Over the years, he created the store's logo, reworked its marketing, and painted the dumpster to discourage taggers.

Alastair attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts and is now studying studio art at Florida Atlantic University. He said it was rewarding to create such a large art piece for a business he has been a part of for so long.

"I really can't think of anywhere else where an [administrative] assistant would be allowed to sit and paint for eight hours," he said. "It's very rewarding to me; it's a sign of how far I've managed to come with the business and everything."

He hopes the coat of character that brightens the wall will add an artistic highlight to the developing downtown area.

"I think it's going to be awesome," Valerie Pleasonton said. "We have had so much community support and positive comments from people, either just driving by or our customers who are in the store." ★

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Boca Raton

Annual menorah lighting

Sanborn Square, Boca Raton — Dec. 17



Several hundred people gathered in downtown Boca Raton for the annual menorah lighting to mark the fourth night of Hanukkah and honor victims of the deadly attack in Sydney, Australia. Before the celebration began, the community paused for prayers and reflection, remembering the 15 people killed and dozens more wounded in the horrific shooting at Bondi Beach during a celebration on the first night of Hanukkah. For Rabbi Ruvi New of Boca Beach Chabad, who addressed those in attendance, the tragedy is deeply personal. Two of his cousins were wounded, with one, 20 years old, still hospitalized after being shot twice. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



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Boca Raton

City, developer seek to finalize downtown campus deal as public vote looms

Save Boca battles unfavorable court ruling

By Mary Hladky

Terra and Frisbie Group, which plan to develop a 7.8-acre section of the city's downtown campus, have unveiled new details about what they envision.

Boca Raton voters will decide whether the downtown campus project can go forward in the March 10 city election.

But the city and Terra/Frisbie are moving quickly to finalize a master partnership agreement and the 99-year lease of city land to the developers so that the project can move ahead quickly if voters give their approval.

Final City Council votes on both matters are expected on Jan. 20 in what will be pivotal decisions.

Though it now seems an unlikely outcome, a council majority vote against the partnership agreement and lease would kill the project unless the council takes some other action.

It would also nullify the March 10 ballot question that allows voters to cast up or down votes on the downtown campus redevelopment plan.

Yet it probably would be too late for the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections to strip the measure from the ballot. In that event, city and election officials would have to explain to voters in advance that the measure no longer is operative.

The project originally was to encompass the entire 31.7-acre downtown campus. But after residents who have banded together as Save Boca strongly opposed that, Terra/Frisbie agreed to leave the nearly 17.3 acres west of Northwest Second Avenue as recreation and park space along with a new City Hall and Community Center.

The developers confined the land they would lease to 7.8 acres on the east side of the street. Nearly 6.7 other acres on that side are part of the campus and will not be leased. They will remain under city control.

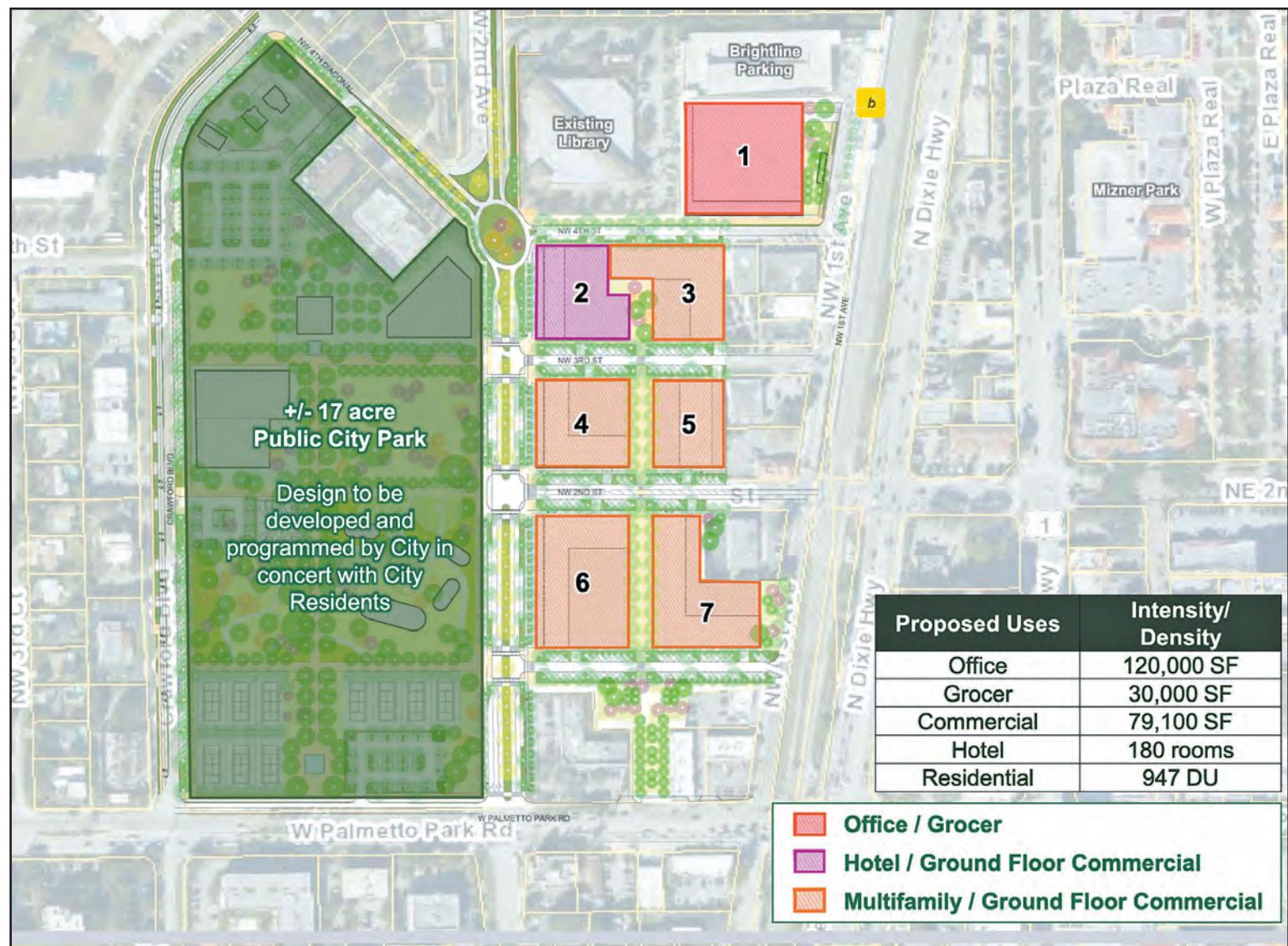
Latest design

Presenting their conceptual plans on Dec. 15, Terra/Frisbie said they plan seven buildings and a parking garage on the site.

They include a 120,000-square-foot office building and a 30,000-square-foot grocery store on a parcel immediately west of the Brightline station and east of the Downtown Library.

Below that, a 180-room hotel would front Northwest Second Avenue.

Four residential buildings



The latest Terra and Frisbie Group plan for Boca Raton's downtown campus has office, hotel, multifamily and commercial buildings (1-7) on 7.8 acres east of Northwest Second Avenue, with park and government space to the west. **Rendering provided**

would be built south of the hotel with a total of 765 rental units.

A condo building with 182 units would be located east of the hotel.

The maximum height for the office building is proposed to be nine stories, while the other buildings can be up to 12 stories.

City officials have not yet provided a location for the parking garage but have said it will have about 1,900 parking spaces.

The city will own the garage but will share it with private users. It will include public parking.

The buildings will include restaurant and retail, generally on the ground floor.

A pedestrian promenade will run through the property from the Downtown Library to West Palmetto Park Road.

Council members did not offer their opinions on the plans, with several saying they needed time to digest what they had seen.

City's proposed ordinance

In another matter related to the development project, Mayor Scott Singer has proposed an ordinance that would set procedures for when the city wants to sell or lease any city-owned land greater than one-half acre.

The ordinance is Singer's answer to Save Boca supporters who insist that city residents be able to vote before the city leases or sells any city-owned land greater than one-half acre.

To enable that, Save Boca

wanted changes to a city ordinance and the city charter so that a vote by the public is required.

The measures were aimed against the City Council's plans to lease downtown campus land to Terra/Frisbie.

Voters were going to have their say on the ordinance and charter changes in a special Jan. 13 election. But Palm Beach County Circuit Judge G. Joseph Curley ruled on Dec. 1 that both be stricken from the ballot because one was unconstitutional and the other required a vote before Jan. 13.

Singer's ordinance would require two public hearings before a sale or lease is approved.

Before each hearing, the city would have to mail a notice to all property owners within 500 feet of the city-owned land and post a notice on the land so that residents know what is happening.

Council members will consider the ordinance this month.

But Save Boca founder Jon Pearlman already has panned the idea, saying it is "a political maneuver by Mr. Singer."

"It is a fake Boca law," he said at the council's Dec. 16 meeting, that still allows the council, and not voters, to decide whether land can be sold or leased.

Save Boca fight continues

Pearlman has not given up on the ordinance and charter changes.

The litigation has not

ended between him and retired Boca Raton attorney Ned Kimmelman — who argued that the wording of the two changes is misleading, confusing and violates Florida law.

Pearlman now is seeking to have Curley's Dec. 1 order vacated. He also wants the proposed ordinance and charter changes to go before city voters at a regularly scheduled election.

Kimmelman had dismissed Save Boca and Pearlman as defendants in his lawsuit in November, which prevented them from defending the two changes in court.

So Pearlman is also seeking to be returned as a party to the case. Curley ordered on Dec. 23 that the two sides schedule a hearing on that matter.

"The case is still ongoing, and we are actively fighting it," Pearlman told the council on Dec. 15. "We are very confident that we will ultimately prevail and that these Save Boca laws will go before the voters, who will then have the opportunity to enact them into law."

The legal sparring has grown increasingly heated over the past month.

In a court pleading, Kimmelman contends that Pearlman and his supporters began collecting voter signatures to place the two changes on the ballot before registering as a political committee, a violation of state law.

As a result, the signatures are invalid and the two

changes cannot be voted on, the pleading states.

For his part, Pearlman has accused Kimmelman of "judge shopping" in order to get a favorable ruling from another judge.

That prompted Kimmelman to send Pearlman a letter, saying Pearlman "defamed" him. Kimmelman told him to "cease and desist publishing these falsehoods immediately or I will sue you for compensatory and punitive damages."

If Pearlman prevails in the litigation, it might have no effect on the Terra/Frisbie project since no new election can be held before the one already scheduled for March 10 when voters are now expected to have a say.

But it would impact future land leases or sales, and city officials say holding elections for them would be cumbersome and costly and delay routine transactions that voters most likely would approve.

Project clears P&Z hurdle

The city completed a procedural step toward moving the project forward on Dec. 18 when the Planning and Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council lease the 7.8 acres to Terra/Frisbie.

But the board's review was limited in scope. Members were not tasked with evaluating the project, but only to say whether the lease is "advisable" from a planning perspective. ★

Gulf Stream

Town manager, who treated residents with a personal touch, to retire

By Steve Plunkett

Gulf Stream Town Manager Greg Dunham is calling it quits after almost nine years at the helm of town government.

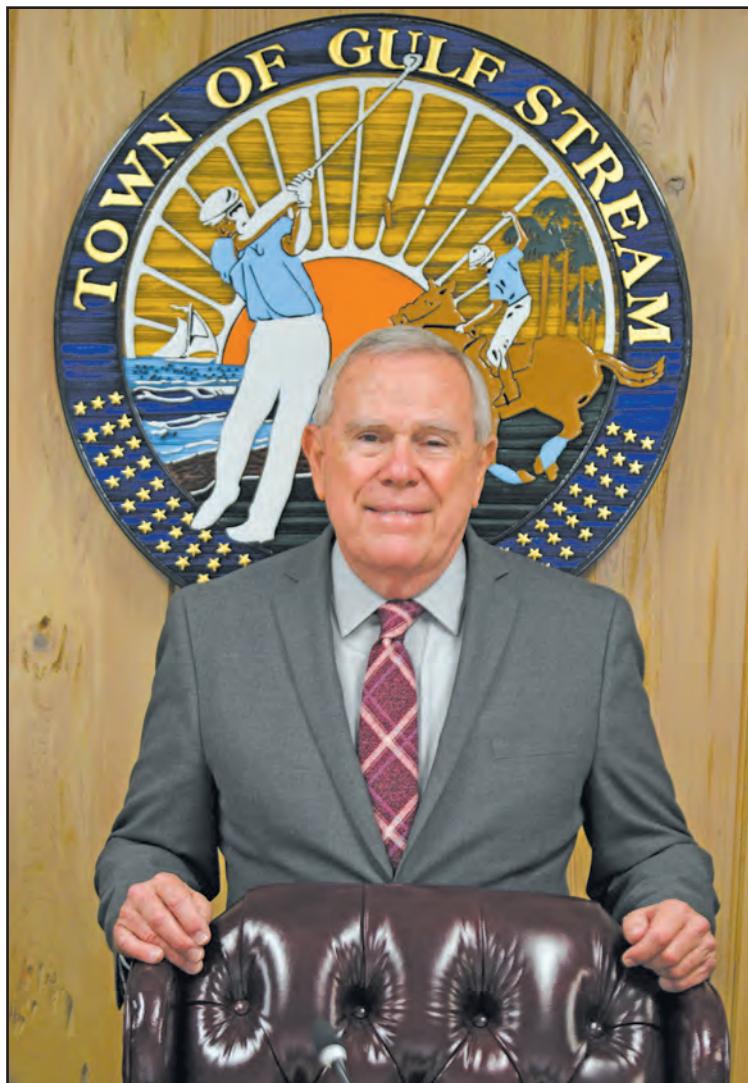
"This is a great town to retire from. It's been a great ride," said Dunham, whose last Town Commission meeting will be Jan. 9, with his last day on the job coming Jan. 30.

Dunham, who became Gulf Stream's town manager on May 1, 2017, told commissioners and town employees of his imminent departure at Mayor Scott Morgan's annual Christmas party for the Town Hall staff on Dec. 19.

When he was hired, he told commissioners he jogged 3 miles a day, six days a week and hoped to keep working until he turned 75, depending on "how my knees do."

He almost made it. Now 73, he had one knee replaced two years ago and the other one last year.

Under his watch, Gulf Stream finished the second phase of its long-drawn-out project to bury electric, telephone and cable TV lines and remove all the utility poles. It also embarked on an ambitious 10-year capital improvement plan to upgrade its stormwater drainage system, replace its water mains and



Greg Dunham is retiring after nearly nine years as town manager, effective Jan. 30. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

repave its streets.

The town is now in the eighth year of the project, with work

in the Core District expected to finish in April before moving on to Place Au Soleil.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed being here because we accomplished a lot," Dunham said.

And while he accepted the job in 2017 with enthusiasm, he admitted he almost didn't come to Gulf Stream. At the time, the town was still battling resident and twice unsuccessful commission candidate Martin O'Boyle in court over his hundreds of public records requests. Gulf Stream and O'Boyle settled the last of 44 lawsuits the following year.

"I said, 'I'm not going to do this.' And then the mayor got on the phone," Dunham said. "He was very convincing."

Morgan called Dunham "a great town manager."

"He not only brings decades of experience, which gives him the judgment to handle almost every issue that can come up," the mayor said. "The most significant thing about Greg I think is his personality. He is a genuinely kind and considerate and smart manager."

"And what always impressed me was not only the way he could manage staff, but whenever a resident had an issue, they would call him. He didn't want to talk to them on the phone about it; he always wanted to go meet them in person at their home."

"And that was a striking and demonstrative element of (his) managerial skill. (He) would resolve things directly with our residents, and I really appreciated it," Morgan said.

Dunham started out as a police officer and assistant city manager in Texas, then moved to Florida State University to finish a master's degree in public administration. With diploma in hand, he got work as an assistant city manager in Palm Beach Gardens, then was town manager in Ocean Ridge from 1998 to 2002 and in Manalapan from 2002 to 2010. After a break from government jobs, he served as town manager of Kenly, North Carolina, for five years before coming to Gulf Stream.

He plans to travel in retirement. His first trip will be to Vietnam with his older brother, who was badly wounded there when Dunham was still in high school.

And he's looking forward to the birth of a grandchild in May.

"I don't think I have any regrets," said Dunham, who just received a plaque from the International City/County Management Association for his 45 years of public service.

"I wouldn't trade any of my career in local government service for anything," he said. ★



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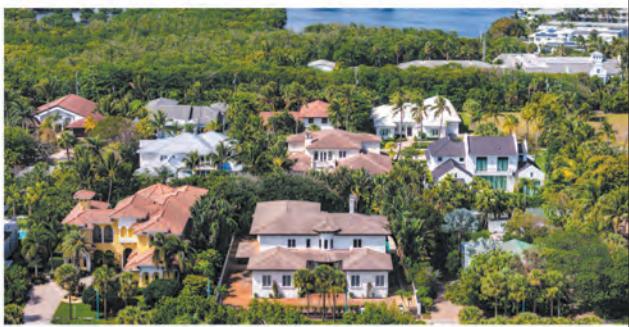
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HOME RULE

Continued from page 1

Raton City Council member — and mayoral candidate — Andy Thomson.

“Imagine if you just wipe out our revenue. That is a catastrophe — a catastrophe,” said Democrat Rob Long, the newly elected District 90 state representative and former Delray Beach vice mayor.

“It’s as though Tallahassee is deconstructing the recipe of what success looks like, and then just deteriorating what quality of life will be in cities,” said Ocean Ridge Town Manager Michelle Heiser.

Make no mistake, the proposal to eliminate property taxes has support. With property values increasing, municipalities are flush with cash and spending like drunken sailors, critics say.

David Wesley Cornish, a new Boynton Beach resident, said at his city’s Sept. 8 budget hearing that placing the burden of raising revenue on property owners is “un-American.”

“Why does it have to be the people in here who own property, who follow the rules, who go to work every day and do what we’re supposed to do to make the community better, and we’re the people getting penalized,” Cornish said.

Legislation being considered

At least eight proposals to eliminate property taxes in some way are under consideration in the Florida House of Representatives. HJR201 would eliminate all non-school ad valorem taxes for homestead properties.

The idea is to put one or more of the initiatives on the 2026 November ballot. Those measures would have to reach a 60% threshold — something that is not easy, as supporters of measures on abortion and marijuana found out last election.

HJR 201 made sure to protect funding for law enforcement, knowing no measure would withstand opposition from the powerful police unions. The bill would force municipalities to keep a certain level of police services but make them find ways of paying for them that don’t include taxing homestead properties.

A war on municipalities

The Coastal Star spoke with numerous public officials. Some insisted on talking on background, as many expressed concerns about potential retribution from Tallahassee.

What they said was this: Many lawmakers who are leading this charge hail from Podunk counties with no idea of the needs or finances of South Florida cities like Delray Beach, Boynton Beach and Boca Raton — or even small coastal towns, the officials said.

They say DeSantis wants to distract from his failure to rein in home insurance costs and/or that he spent \$50 million, by some estimates, in taxpayer dollars to fight abortion and marijuana initiatives in 2024.

The governor created his own Elon Musk-inspired Department of Governmental Efficiency (DOGE) to target mostly Democrat-run counties like Palm Beach, Orange, and Hillsborough.

He unleashed Florida Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia, who has often cited fantastical figures to bash those same Democrat-run counties, according to municipal sources.

Over the past few years, any number of bills have been designed to strip away home rule.

Municipalities, including Delray Beach and Palm Beach, have filed suit against the state over SB180, signed into law last year. It effectively froze local

Property tax relief would impact municipal budgets

If House Joint Resolution (HJR) 201 were to pass and win voter approval, municipal property taxes on homestead properties would end. Based on 2025 figures, here is a look at potential South County revenue losses. The municipalities are ranked by percent of taxes from homestead properties.

Municipality	Property taxes 2025	Percent from homesteads	Potential revenue loss
Gulf Stream	\$7 million	55.26%	\$3.9 million
Ocean Ridge	\$10 million	44.54%	\$4.4 million
Highland Beach	\$14.1 million	40.35%	\$5.7 million
Boca Raton	\$146.5 million	38.58%	\$56.5 million
Manalapan	\$7.3 million	36.04%	\$2.6 million
Delray Beach	\$120.9 million	31.72%	\$38.4 million
Lantana	\$7.8 million	27.6%	\$2.1 million
Boynton Beach	\$81.6 million	26.39%	\$21.5 million
South Palm Beach	\$2.2 million	25.35%	\$550,485
Briny Breezes	\$392,616	17.38%	\$68,237

Source: From data supplied by Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office

On tap in the state Legislature

Many bills are seeking to cut property taxes in the annual legislative session that starts Jan. 13. Any that are approved could result in constitutional amendments on the November ballot needing 60% voter approval.

- **HJR201:** Eliminates non-school ad valorem taxes for homestead properties;
- **HJR 203:** Creates new \$100,000 homestead exemption each year for 10 years;
- **HJR 207:** Establishes a new 25% non-school homestead exemption;
- **HJR 209:** Adds a \$200,000 exemption for homesteads with active property insurance;
- **HJR 211:** Eliminates the \$500,000 “Save Our Homes” portability cap, allowing residents to carry their full assessment reduction to a new property.
- **HJR 213:** Reduces the annual assessment growth cap for non-homestead properties — businesses, rentals and second homes — from 10% to 5%.
- **HB 215:** Requires a two-thirds vote from a municipal governing body to approve any millage rate increase above the state-defined rollback rate.

— John Pacenti

growth management and planning efforts in local municipalities.

Then there is the newly strengthened Live Local Act, which takes the power away from municipalities to keep out big, unwieldy developments.

There have been others, from prohibiting handbills and environmental lawsuits to regulating restaurants.

“Four years ago, they started it in subtle ways, so that it became more normalized to see bits and pieces kind of get carved off,” Heiser said. “And then all of a sudden, now there’s this issue in your face that almost everything is being preempted.”

DeSantis’ brand of white Christian nationalist governance in 2025 included using the state transportation department to erase intersections and crosswalks that honored LGBTQ communities, often paving them over in the middle of the night under the guise of traffic safety.

Many new preemptive laws, said one elected leader, provide provisions to remove those from office who dare to stand up to Tallahassee and invoke home rule.

“Threatening fines and removal from office to suppress local home rule prerogatives is undemocratic and unconstitutional,” Delray Beach Commissioner Juli Casale said.

“Home rule is provided for in the Florida Constitution and by statute. Home rule enhances democracy by enabling local elected officials to address local concerns and solve local problems, as they were elected to do so.”

A weird cultural divide'

Many municipal officials say there is an unprecedented disdain in Tallahassee for municipalities of any size.

“I think for all municipalities in the state of Florida, they need to remember that, per our Constitution, the cities and counties exist at the permission of the state,” Republican Sen. Jason Brodeur

said at the Dec. 8 meeting of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee.

Brodeur’s headquarters is in Lake Mary in Seminole County, with a population of about 17,000. It is about as far from diverse South Florida communities as heaven is wide.

“They think that local governments are crazy and not trustworthy, and they want to eliminate them in some manner. And this is one way of doing it,” Thomson said.

Long said it all adds up to deflection and distraction, not governance.

“It’s just a really misguided belief about how economies actually function in Florida, and there does seem to be a real weird cultural divide between local government and state government that I don’t fully understand, given the Republican mantra is small government’s good,” he said.

An unfair tax?

DeSantis, speaking to the Forum Club on Oct. 15 at West Palm Beach’s Kravis Center, explained his thinking on the proposal.

“It’s almost like you are renting from the government,” the governor said. “So what we said is that it’s not like we are eliminating it from every property, but as your personal homestead property, we want you to be able to own that free and clear.”

Boynton Beach City Manager Dan Dugger, at the city’s Sept. 8 budget meeting, said he would vote to eliminate property taxes because he lives in the city and pays “a substantial amount of property taxes.”

“We’re going to have to look at more of a fee-based system so that we can actually replace that revenue,” he said. “And we also have to look at what Tallahassee is proposing as a solution or alternative funding source.”

Dugger said he has heard about elevating sales tax to where municipalities will have an allocation

based on population, including demographics such as income and age.

“It’s an exciting thing, and at the same time, it’s something that definitely is a precarious situation that we have to navigate through, and there’s going to be some challenges, but we can definitely get there,” Dugger said.

Core services in jeopardy

Palm Beach County Administrator Joe Abruzzo said eliminating homestead property taxes would decimate the county’s budget and force painful cuts to essential services.

“That’s roads and bridges, that’s planning, zoning and building, that’s Parks and Rec. It’s massive,” he said, and warned that Palm Beach County Fire Rescue would lose about \$250 million in potential impacts to fire-rescue funding.

Abruzzo explained how Tallahassee fundamentally doesn’t understand local government, pointing to Ingoglia’s use of the Consumer Price Index to falsely claim the county wasted \$344 million last fiscal year. Ingoglia provided not one example of waste, though.

“The Consumer Price Index doesn’t match what we’re purchasing of any sort here in the county,” Abruzzo said.

He said the county, through property taxes, pays for 30 departments to the tune of \$600 million. Another \$120 million in capital outlay is earmarked for construction projects.

“Local government would not be able to function. It’s not a joke, it’s not a fallacy,” he said. “Our local governments would be beyond devastated.”

Delray Beach City Manager Terrence Moore said recent state laws “while well-intentioned, have nonetheless introduced certain constraints on the traditional home-rule authority exercised by municipalities.”

As a result, Moore said the laws have created adverse impacts on Delray Beach’s ability to effectively self-govern on a local level, “particularly in areas where community character and neighborhood quality of life rely on finely tuned, place-specific approaches.”

He said the added layer of Tallahassee bureaucracy can introduce complexities that make it more challenging for city staff to respond as swiftly and comprehensively as city residents expect.

He said the city hopes to “engage in the broader consensus on the appropriate balance between state oversight and municipal autonomy.”

Shifting the burden

In the meantime, non-homestead properties — such as businesses, rental properties and second homes — would see their taxes skyrocket, hurting economic growth and worsening the housing crisis, officials said.

Boca Raton would lose around \$57 million if ad valorem taxes from homestead properties were eliminated. In most South County municipalities, homestead properties account for more than a quarter of the property taxes they collect — topping 55% in Gulf Stream.

Besides eliminating services, municipalities would look to recoup that revenue. One way would be to increase taxes on non-homestead properties: businesses, second homes and rental properties.

“Businesses would take the brunt. Or, you know, apartments. Those aren’t homesteaded,” Thomson said.

“So you’re talking about potentially increasing the affordability crisis, really for the renter, because it would be passed on. Of course it would be.”

The other option would be to start

Continued on the next page

Continued from previous page
charging for services that are currently free, such as using the library, he said.

Thomson added that there is already property tax relief. The Save Our Homes Act caps increases in a homestead property value at 3% annually, even if the increase in value is double digits. Municipalities miss out on that extra revenue.

While the House proposals generally carve out public safety, Thomson warned that Boca Raton would still face major budget pressures that could indirectly affect police staffing or services if other revenue or cuts aren't found.

Impact will vary

In Ocean Ridge, the worst-case scenario is a bit different. Heiser, the town manager, said HJR201 would provide a modest financial hit because fewer than half of the town's residents have homesteaded their properties.

"These bills are going to impact the cities that have the highest percentage for homesteading," Heiser said, noting that Ocean Ridge's large number of second homes and investment properties provides some insulation.

However, she expressed concern about the broader trend of state preemption of local authority. She asked how in the world a town is going to be able to lobby for special events if HJR201 passes. "If you couldn't

fund the event, you're not going to be able to fund the lobbying that it would take to get the money for the event," she said.

Gulf Stream's lobbying

The main opposition to the potential property tax initiatives is the Florida League of Cities, which has stressed home rule and fiscal realism, calling it a "Tallahassee takeover."

In 2025, the league honored Gulf Stream with its Home Rule Hero Award, noting Town Clerk Reneé Basel. The award notes local officials who went above their duties to reach out to state lawmakers to give a local perspective.

Reneé played a key role in educating legislators on the importance of preserving home rule — the ability of municipalities to address local issues with local solutions and minimal state interference," Gulf Stream Mayor Scott Morgan said.

He said the timing was "particularly significant" considering the tax initiatives.

"These proposals would effectively dismantle the traditional home rule authority of Florida's municipalities," Morgan said. "Cities would be unable to provide even basic services without financial support from the state, shifting critical budgetary and policy decisions to lawmakers in Tallahassee — far removed from the needs and interests of small communities like Gulf Stream."

Manalapan's wait and see

In the meantime, next door in Manalapan — one of the wealthiest communities in the county — Town Manager Eric Marmer is taking a stay calm approach, feeling that there's a lot of sound and fury coming out of Tallahassee, but, as of yet, it signifies nothing.

He said he isn't losing sleep over the proposed property tax changes because he's seen no workable replacement plan and prefers to focus on the work that needs to be done for his municipality.

"I don't have the time to worry about it, to be honest, until it's time to worry about it," Marmer said. He called the proposal "an unfeasible proposition" but expressed confidence that residents understand the role taxes play.

"We don't like property taxes, but this is why we can flush our toilets and we have running drinking water and the police show up at our homes."★

LETTERS: *The Coastal Star* welcomes letters to the editor about issues of interest in the community. These are subject to editing and must include your name, address and phone number. Preferred length is 200-500 words. Send email to news@thecoastalstar.com.

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Ocean Ridge

Blight concerns surface on street with mix of old and new

By John Pacenti

A stroll down Sailfish Lane in Ocean Ridge finds a street in flux.

Older ranch-style residences, built in the 1950s, are mixed with modern, larger homes and even brand new construction that looks spectacular but also out of place.

There are established families who have lived in their homes for decades alongside rental properties. And all of it within a short walk to the beach — a neighborhood with homes having market values just north of \$1 million.

Eric Brief, who lives at 8 Sailfish Lane, appeared at the Nov. 3 Town Commission meeting and said he was ready to sue the town over properties that are not being properly

maintained.

"We don't hear about blight a lot in our town, but it exists and it's not being dealt with, and it's a real problem, and you're going to have a problem on your hands," he said.

His panorama of complaints included an Airbnb that wakes him up routinely, cars being parked on the lawn, a garage held up by a 2-by-4 and a house with a lawn that was two feet high.

"You're probably looking at a bunch of residents getting together to sue the town over this, because it's hurting our lifestyle and our real estate values," he told commissioners. "I've been coming here for 10 years, and I'm not going to put up with it anymore, and it's going to get ugly."

However, Brief also said



At least one homeowner on Sailfish Lane says blighted homes and properties such as this one at 5 Sailfish Lane are lowering property values. This home was cited for overgrown vegetation. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

he files complaints against families over what they say are trivial matters: a beach chair or barbecue equipment left outside the garage after an outing, a random car seat left out after cleaning of the vehicle.

Other homeowners didn't want to go on the record because they feared retribution either from Brief or the town, but they said he has been harassing certain neighbors for years, calling him a bully.

New measures considered

Vice Mayor Steve Coz said the town is working to tighten property-maintenance rules to address visible signs of blight without imposing "draconian" measures that would pit neighbors against one another.

Coz said Ocean Ridge does not have a formal blight ordinance to present and that he has been consulting with the town attorney, the town manager and residents while drafting proposed language. He said the effort is focused on clarifying code language to target what is visible from public streets.

"No one would complain about what the neighbor has in their front lawn if they can't see it," Coz said. He said the town's existing codes were written decades ago and need

tightening so enforcement is clear and defensible.

Coz offered examples of conditions the proposed language aims to address, including front yards that mix stone with construction debris and lawns overrun by weeds.

Coz acknowledged the temporary loss of a code-enforcement officer when a contracted inspector took another job. He said hiring a replacement and putting clearer guidelines in place will make enforcement less ad hoc and reduce the need for police involvement in code matters, which he said can inflame situations.

The vice mayor said he expected to present discussion points to the Town Commission after the holidays. "It's going to take a couple of months," he said, and emphasized that any ordinance would avoid being heavy-handed.

Are existing laws enough?

Town Manager Michelle Heiser, though, said that the town does not need a new blight ordinance — it needs to enforce the ordinances it already has.

Heiser said the town has statutory and local tools to address blight and code

violations. Rather than drafting new rules, she urged better use of existing processes, including working with property owners and, when necessary, using the town's special magistrate for enforcement.

Heiser said town staffers have been actively engaging with one particular homeowner on Sailfish Lane across from Brief with what looks like concrete chunks as ground cover. "They're going to at least come into the minimum compliance by putting some sod down," she said.

She emphasized a willingness to work with residents but defended the town's current approach of education first, enforcement when required.

A neighbor, who had been subject to complaints from Brief, did not want to comment when contacted. The home in question was not one of the 1950s models but a modern single-family residence with landscaping and not a hint of blight in sight.

Other homes — also subject to Brief's complaints — had received notices from code inspectors days after he addressed the commission.

Big houses, small lots

Brief, who said he has lived in Ocean Ridge for 33 years, said he doesn't want to be the bad guy. "If somebody doesn't call on it, the town doesn't do anything," he said.

Former Commissioner Terry Brown lived on Sailfish Lane briefly when his house was undergoing repairs. His insurance company put him up in a home that was being rented.

He agreed that Ocean Ridge residential streets are transforming as the town updates zoning and encourages larger single-family homes in areas once dominated by duplexes and modest old seasonal Florida cottages.

"They're allowing huge houses to be squished into small lots," he said.

Brown said the town is actively reviewing nonconforming lots on streets. "They're trying to clean up the south end, and we'll see what happens," he said. ★

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Lantana

Lifesaving rings dedication

Sportsman's Park, Lantana — Dec. 9



FAR LEFT: Capt. Austin Nuquist and Lt. Ross Gornall of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue demonstrate using a lifesaving ring at Sportsman's Park. Several rings were installed in Lantana as part of the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative. Perry, pictured at left, died trying to save a motorist who drove into a lake. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Lantana Mayor Karen Lythgoe; Council member Mark Zeitler; Sarah Perry, Aden's mother; Council member Jesse Rivero, and Town Manager Brian Raducci attended the ceremony. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Lantana News

Employee of the Year recognized — Marc Fichtner, chief of Lantana's Ocean Rescue, was honored as Employee of the Year during the Dec. 8 Town Council meeting. The award recognizes his dedication and service.

Fichtner "plays a vital role in keeping our beachgoers safe. He consistently demonstrates leadership, professionalism and has an unwavering commitment to protecting the community," Police Chief Sean Scheller said.

Free movie night Jan. 9 — Lantana invites residents to enjoy a free movie night starting at 7 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Sports Park. The featured movie will be *How to Train Your Dragon*, a fantasy adventure film and a live-action remake of the 2010 animated film, which itself is loosely based on the 2003 novel by Cressida Cowell. In the film, a Viking boy named Hiccup defies centuries of tradition by befriending a dragon named Toothless.

Snacks and refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact Nadine Shawah at 561-540-5754 or nshawah@lantana.org.

See what's going on at the beach — Lantana's beach webcam is up and ready to watch on the town's website. See earthcam.com/usa/florida/lantana/?cam=lantanabeach#google_vignette.

The webcam allows visitors to check conditions before they head to the beach.

— Mary Thurwachter

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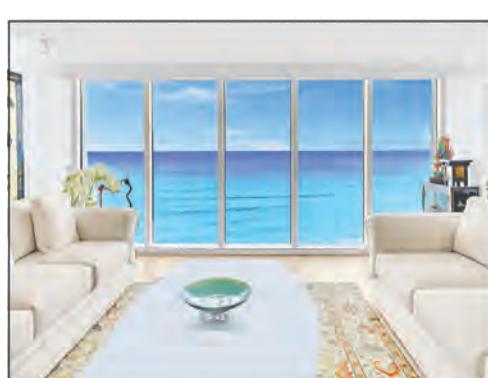
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Boca Raton

Mandarin Oriental saga's latest: Developer seeks bankruptcy protection

By Mary Hladky

In yet another sign of trouble for the Mandarin Oriental project in downtown Boca Raton, affiliates of developer Penn-Florida Companies filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Dec. 23 after they were unable to repay lenders about \$210 million at loan maturity.

The affiliates, Via Mizner Owner II and Via Mizner Pledgor II, are building the 164-room Mandarin Oriental hotel on Federal Highway to the north of Camino Real.

The hotel and adjacent branded

condo residences were to be completed in 2017. But construction has proceeded very slowly with long periods of no activity. Many Boca Raton residents complain that the construction site is an eyesore.

A summary of the bankruptcy case states that the Penn-Florida affiliates and secured lenders "seek to engage in a consensual chapter 11 process for the reorganization of their businesses and to protect the high market valuation of the property for the benefit of all parties of interest."

They estimate the value of the building upon completion at more than

\$450 million.

They have asked to file the case under seal because public disclosure of certain information could chill interest in the property and could be used for negotiating leverage.

One year ago, another affiliate of Boca Raton-based Penn-Florida filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection to head off an auction of its 101 Via Mizner luxury apartment building located immediately south of the condos and hotel.

Penn-Florida faced losing that 366-unit building because it failed to pay off a \$195 million senior loan provided

by an affiliate of Blackstone Mortgage Trust in 2022.

That problem was resolved in July when Cardone Real Estate Acquisitions — led by real estate investor and social media celebrity Grant Cardone — purchased the building for \$235 million and creditors were repaid.

A number of would-be condo owners who had placed large deposits on units, and were tired of waiting for the building to be completed, have filed lawsuits seeking return of their money.

Contractors also have filed suits, claiming they had not been paid for completed work. ★

A1A

Continued from page 1

spokesperson for the Florida Department of Transportation, is scheduled to be completed within a few weeks. But a substantial amount of the work, including most of that which could disrupt traffic flow, is already completed, according to Highland Beach town officials.

In recent weeks, work including pavement markings and installing sod and pavers in driveways has been done, according to the town leaders. A remedial punch-out list of items — and a few more paver installations at driveways — are what primarily remains.

One of the last remaining steps will be a walk-through with Highland Beach and Delray Beach officials, along with FDOT representatives who will point out any "minor details that might have been missed" to the construction contractor.

While the paving of A1A was completed before the start of December, the barrels remained until shortly before Christmas, with bicyclists like Burgreen



A cyclist navigates traffic while in the new bike lane in Highland Beach. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

wondering why they hadn't been removed.

The answer, according to an FDOT spokesperson, was based on safety concerns for both bicyclists and crews who continued to work in the area.

"The barrels in this area were placed to guide motorists and cyclists through the active work zone and to create a consistent, predictable traffic pattern during construction," the spokesperson wrote in an email

to *The Coastal Star*.

With completion of the project imminent, Highland Beach is moving forward with two projects: the embedding of lights in the eight pedestrian crosswalks on A1A and the resumption of a sewer lining project.

The sewer lining, which has already been completed on side

streets, could cause some minor traffic flow issues, town leaders say, but they likely will be short term.

The embedded lights will augment pedestrian-activated flashing lights at entrances to the crosswalks on both sides of A1A, to go with flags pedestrians may carry for added visibility. ★


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Lantana

Hotel project shelved, but Ocean Avenue still primed for major development

By Mary Thurwachter

It looked like big changes were coming for Ocean Avenue, Lantana's main drag and business district.

During a special Town Council workshop on Dec. 8, representatives working with Kenco Communities displayed plans to build a seven-story hotel — with a rooftop pool — and a five-story building with shops, restaurants, a parking garage and its own rooftop pool that would have a water view and be open to the public.

Lantana has a four-story height limit, although it has made some exceptions and council members have said they would be willing to at least consider five stories for the land at 210 E. Ocean Ave.

It encompasses four parcels on the north side of the road owned by sister-and-brother Marsha Stocker and Steven Handelsman. A few single-story shops and restaurants stand across the street and, at the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway, sits the Old Key Lime House, a brightly colored building that is Lantana's largest business. That popular eating spot exudes the town's old seaside fishing village vibe.

The Kenco proposal, which brought much interest and excitement, didn't have that feel, and a few people said so.

Former Council member Ed Shropshire called the planned buildings "a monstrosity" that didn't hold up to the town's seaside village identity.

Nevertheless, the proposal, with early renderings that would be subject to change during any future site plan review process, drew mostly favorable support from both the council and the attending residents.

Alex De Angelis of HdA Architects and Valentina Broglia of Urban Design Studio presented the plans.

Developer bows out

But a week after the workshop, on Dec. 15, Nicole Dritz, the town's development services director, received an email from the developer Kenco saying it was no longer going forward with the plans.

"Unfortunately, we terminated our deal with Mr. Handelsman on Friday and will not be moving forward the project at this time," it said.

Dritz said after receiving the email that she hoped to schedule a call with the developer "just to see if there were any big red flags."

"There was definitely a little bit of hesitancy on their part, which is why we originally offered to hold the workshop," she said, "just to give them a little bit of peace of mind. If I had to speculate wildly, I just think they probably needed to be higher and denser than what we were maybe willing to do."

She said that the town was "super bummed" that this



The developer terminated a plan to build a seven-story hotel and five-story mixed-use building at 210 E. Ocean Ave., after a deal with the property owners fell apart. But the idea received some positive feedback. **Rendering provided**

project would not work out, but is ready to see who else is interested.

"There was a lot of support from the community," Dritz said, "I really liked the use itself as a hotel, just the idea of bringing people into our downtown. It didn't work out this time, but thankfully we found out early and we can kind of start to work with anyone else who's ready."

Council members' reactions

Jesse Rivero, the council's newest member, admitted he was a little disappointed. "It's been so long stagnant, the community was hoping for something new and exciting. Time will tell. For now, I'm optimistic," he said.

"There are other potential buyers," Mayor Karen Lythgoe said. "And we now know the level of community support. The buyer is the one taking a huge risk in buying an expensive property and in these uncertain economic times, who can blame either side."

Lythgoe said her understanding is that Kenco wanted another extension and the property has already been off the market for a few months.

Council member Chris Castle said he wasn't disappointed but that he believes "the project could have made a good impact for the town. I believe more developers will come forward in time and with plans to achieve similar projects."

Council member Kem Mason said seven stories was not acceptable to many residents from whom he had heard.

Vice Mayor Mark Zeitler said he liked the hotel, restaurants and shops, wished the hotel didn't have to go seven stories, but understood the economics of why that was in the plans. "Traffic would have been the worst part," he said, "and it's already a problem."

At the Dec. 8 workshop, council members and residents, while interested in seeing more-developed plans, expressed concerns about a seven-story building on property that, for many years, was home to a handful of Key West-style cottages that had fallen into disrepair. Those were demolished in May 2024 and

selling the land became a more viable option for all concerned parties," Raducci said.

"We will continue to communicate our desire for the site and what we envision for the properties going forward to ensure that any potential redevelopment will benefit our entire community."

A million in fines owed

The Handelsmans still owe significant fines on the property, since the cottages had not been meeting codes for years. The fines, exceeding \$1.1 million, "helped to nudge them in the right direction" as far as selling the property, Dritz said.

Dritz said the town has authorization to foreclose on the property. "But I think more than that our end goal is to have something developed there that's going to kind of spur some economic growth in the downtown. It's very much less about the fines to us and more about getting a development in there."

"We certainly don't want the code fines to hinder any type of development effort, but if the owner decides just to sit on the property, then we have some legal action that we can take."

Islanders' views

Several Hypoluxo Island residents weighed in on the proposal.

Patricia Towle, who

opposed the plan, was concerned about the increase in traffic and said the town should do a study on traffic during peak season before going ahead.

"I live east of the bridge," she said. "Right now, to get to Dixie Highway, especially in season, takes me maybe 15 minutes. If you put a seven-story structure there, with cars turning in and out, it's gonna take me a half an hour."

Michelle Donahue said she was excited about the attention this parcel has attracted and was delighted to learn more about Kenco's boutique hotel/restaurant proposal. "I'm sure if Kenco is truly interested, they'll come back around with another offer, or the Handelsmans may find another developer with similar interests. My overall hope is that the entire parcel will remain intact and developed as a single project rather than being subdivided into four separate projects."

J.J. McDonough said he was happy that the Handelsmans are open and amenable to selling the property. He suggested the town not be so tied to having an "old fishing village vibe" and move on as other communities have. He said Lantana needs to do better self-care.

"We're so frugally minded that we just can't see the big picture," he said. ★

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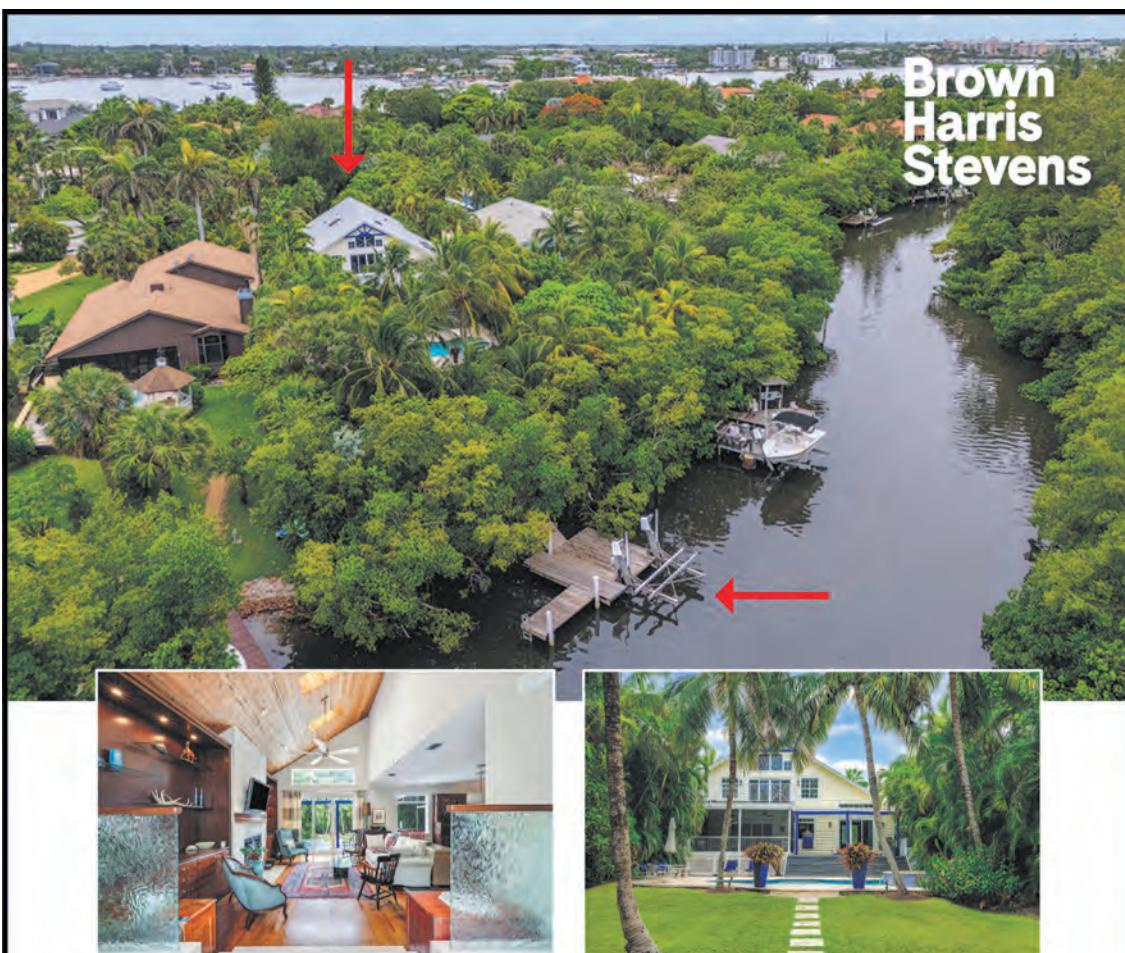
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Boynton Beach

County weighs purchase of city's water department

Utility also serves
Ocean Ridge,
Briny Breezes

By Rich Pollack

Palm Beach County commissioners are waiting for a deep-dive look into Boynton Beach's water utilities before moving forward on a possible purchase of the operation, a step that could potentially affect residents in three South County coastal communities.

The idea of Boynton Beach's selling its utilities department to the county surfaced unexpectedly in October when City Manager Dan Dugger made the offer to county commissioners who appeared opposed to the city's annexation of several communities west of its municipal boundaries.

The city, Dugger said, would be willing to drop its efforts to annex western communities if the county purchased the water utilities operation.

Those communities in the unincorporated area receive water from Boynton Beach Water Utilities, as do water customers in Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes, with Gulf Stream to be added.

Following a preliminary report in December, county commissioners gave staff the green light to take a harder and more thorough look at Boynton Beach's water treatment operation. It will review finances and the future needs of the two water plants the city operates, as well as infrastructure.

That due diligence will take at least a year, staff told the commission, and could take as long as two years should the two governments get to a point where they're ready to negotiate a deal that makes sense for both.

"They're looking at everything," said County Commissioner Marci Woodward, whose district includes the coastal communities that could be impacted by the change.

During the presentation to commissioners, Chief Deputy County Administrator Todd Bonlarron said a preliminary look at the water operation showed an operating budget of about \$72 million and a capital budget of about \$36 million.

The utility, he said, has about \$53 million in debt, which expires in 2035.

Bonlarron pointed out specifically that the utility plans a 15% rate increase for the current fiscal year and an 8% to 11% increase over the

next four years.

As part of the presentation, Bonlarron pointed out that the Boynton Beach utility has a \$467,808 capital improvement plan that includes upgrades to the facilities.

The utility, according to county staff, has about 125,000 customers and about 150 employees.

Of those customers, 11,425 are outside of the city, including 3,158 in Ocean Ridge, according to the city. Briny Breezes has a master meter, which includes all users in the mobile home community.

Gulf Stream — which is currently served by Delray Beach — signed a 25-year agreement with Boynton Beach in late 2024 and will pay \$2 million to have a new pipe laid to connect with its water system. That may not happen until October 2027.

Should Palm Beach County buy Boynton Beach's water utilities department, it would also take on responsibility for maintenance of the distribution system including pipes, city officials said.

In examining the costs of water to residents from Boynton Beach and the county, staff looked at how much a customer using 5,000 gallons pays on a monthly basis.

Customers outside of Boynton Beach pay about \$82 a month while those in the city pay about \$66 for 5,000 gallons, according to county numbers.

Palm Beach County Water Utilities customers pay an average of \$67.52 for single-family homes and \$57.48 for multifamily units for 5,000 gallons, according to the county presentation.

Woodward said county staff believes the county might be able to offer a lower rate than what some Boynton Beach customers are paying now. The commissioner said she believes the decision on whether the deal goes through will likely come down to how much the county is willing to spend on the system and if the purchase makes sense from the county's viewpoint.

Woodward said she believes the city has a quality water utility operation, but she also praised the county's operation. "We have a great water utility department," she said. "It pays for itself."

Bonlarron said staff will come back to the County Commission after the financial review in a few months for guidance on whether to continue with the due diligence. ★

Boynton Beach/Ocean Ridge



Condominium's sea wall artwork reinforces coastal protection

By Patrick Sherry

Boynton Beach's Art in Public Places program, which has placed murals, sculptures and other artwork around the city, recently found an unusual place to leave its cultural mark — on a condominium's sea wall.

Snug Harbor Gardens Condominium was required to contribute to the city's public art program because of the construction cost of its new sea wall on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway north of Woolbright Road. But rather than just make a cash payment into the city's fund to help cover the cost of some future artwork, the sea wall's contractor had his own idea for what — and where — art could be.

Designed as a sprouting mangrove, with patterns mimicking the rise and fall of tides, the contractor's proposal used Snug Harbor's new sea wall as a canvas for an environmental art piece that would also attract marine life and improve coastal shoreline defenses.

"There's not much art you could do on a sea wall, but I like how that proposal [adds] ecological enhancements to the area, and it eventually can improve the ecosystem," said Karina Maldonado, a member of the city's Art Advisory Board that unanimously approved the project. "I think it was a very creative thing for them to do."

Snug Harbor's new sea wall artwork uses 100 hexagonal tiles in a sculptural arrangement, with the work done by APH Marine Construction — the company that built the sea wall.

APH started construction of the sea wall in July, said Arthur Tiedeman, company vice president. APH promotes the construction of hybrid sea walls that combine the walls' hard structure with environmental enhancements to improve coastal protection.

The hexagonal tiles used in the artwork are that extra protection. Although Tiedeman used the Snug Harbor tiles for art, he wants to convince



future clients that adding the ecological tiles to their sea walls are worth the extra expense. In December, he installed another hybrid sea wall with mangrove planters and reef arches at a home on Marlin Drive in Ocean Ridge.

Tiedeman explained that these installations are meant to convey how important natural ecosystems are to protecting shorelines, and the sprouting mangrove represents a new beginning.

"We want our community to hear the message of the importance of the intertidal zone and mangroves in front of hardened shorelines," Tiedeman said. "We want to

represent a new beginning — the adoption of a new way of building infrastructure with the environment in mind."

The tiles mimic reef structures that oysters and other marine life can latch on to as the tide rolls in and out — lapping up against the sea wall attachments. Protruding spikes create deep crevices that protect creatures from predators. As marine life grows on the structure, the sea wall's art design will become more distinct. As a finishing touch, Tiedeman and his team hand-carved the phrase "Protect the Tide" on the top of the sea wall.

The city's Art in Public Places program, which started

to use \$4,000 to commission a visually appealing design that is part of the sea wall.

"I had to come up with a meaningful art design — something that people passing by on a boat or people on the bridge could be drawn to, understand and respect," Tiedeman said.

LEFT: Part of the Snug Harbour installation will resemble a mangrove leaf cluster. Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

in 2005, has helped create notable art pieces throughout Boynton Beach. Those include the 40-foot-tall Cavalcade sculpture downtown at the 500 Ocean complex at Federal Highway and Ocean Avenue, and the stainless steel, moving Reflections sculpture near City Hall. Recently, as part of the program, city officials selected designs from multiple local artists with plans to transform traffic boxes into public art.

With the Snug Harbor sea wall construction costing about \$600,000, developers had the option to pay into the city's Public Art Fund or create an on-site art piece. Residents and the construction team chose

to use \$4,000 to commission a visually appealing design that is part of the sea wall.

"I had to come up with a meaningful art design — something that people passing by on a boat or people on the bridge could be drawn to, understand and respect," Tiedeman said.

Along with the art piece, the sea wall is meant to last 100 years. The oysters and other wildlife that grow on the tiles will transform the structure into a living barrier that is more resilient than standard sea walls, Tiedeman said. Not only that, the marine life will help improve water quality and biodiversity by creating a new habitat.

Snug Harbor resident Michael Slobodkin, who helped vet APH Marine Construction, is happy with how the whole sea wall project turned out.

"I think it's much better looking than the old cement walls that are all around," Slobodkin said. "I think all these old sea walls are going to have to be replaced, and this is very appealing to look at from the water." ★

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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Leo Phillips

Leo Phillips has an abiding admiration for Papa Smurf, the lead cartoon character from *The Smurfs*, who Phillips describes as "wise, collegial and understanding."

Phillips wants to be like Papa Smurf — who is 546 years old and "deals with very different personalities; people in his village have all kinds of personalities and he manages to make life there fun, collegial and optimistic," says the 80-year-old Phillips. "He's a great leader. And I really truly believe this. A great leader should give credit to others when things go well and be prepared to take responsibility when they do not. Papa Smurf is a consummate leader. He even shows compassion to his enemy."

About his numerous nonprofit activities and pursuits, the Delray Beach man takes Papa's philosophy.

"I have many interests, and they are all important. I believe strongly in all of them. To single one out, that would not be a good leader.

"I believe in their missions, in what they do. They are important to the community. When I take on a leadership role, I want to do nothing but my best, and I believe in that strongly. If you are going to do something in life, do it well. If you can't meet that test, don't do it."

In true Papa Smurf fashion, he credits his life's bounty to family and friends.

Phillips and his wife, Pat, celebrated their 42nd anniversary on Aug. 23. "We have each other — no kids," he said. "We married later in life. I like spending time with her. She's absolutely a wonderful person. I was most fortunate to have the luck to meet her. And she was a blind date. We hit it off immediately. We started off slowly, only six nights the first week!"

"I also like to play bridge with my friends."

Phillips mentions other people as well as organizations that he appreciates.

Since leaving the corporate world in 1999, he has been actively involved with nonprofits and with his communities, he said. "In the Washington area, I was involved with nonprofits, and here, I got involved with them a lot more."

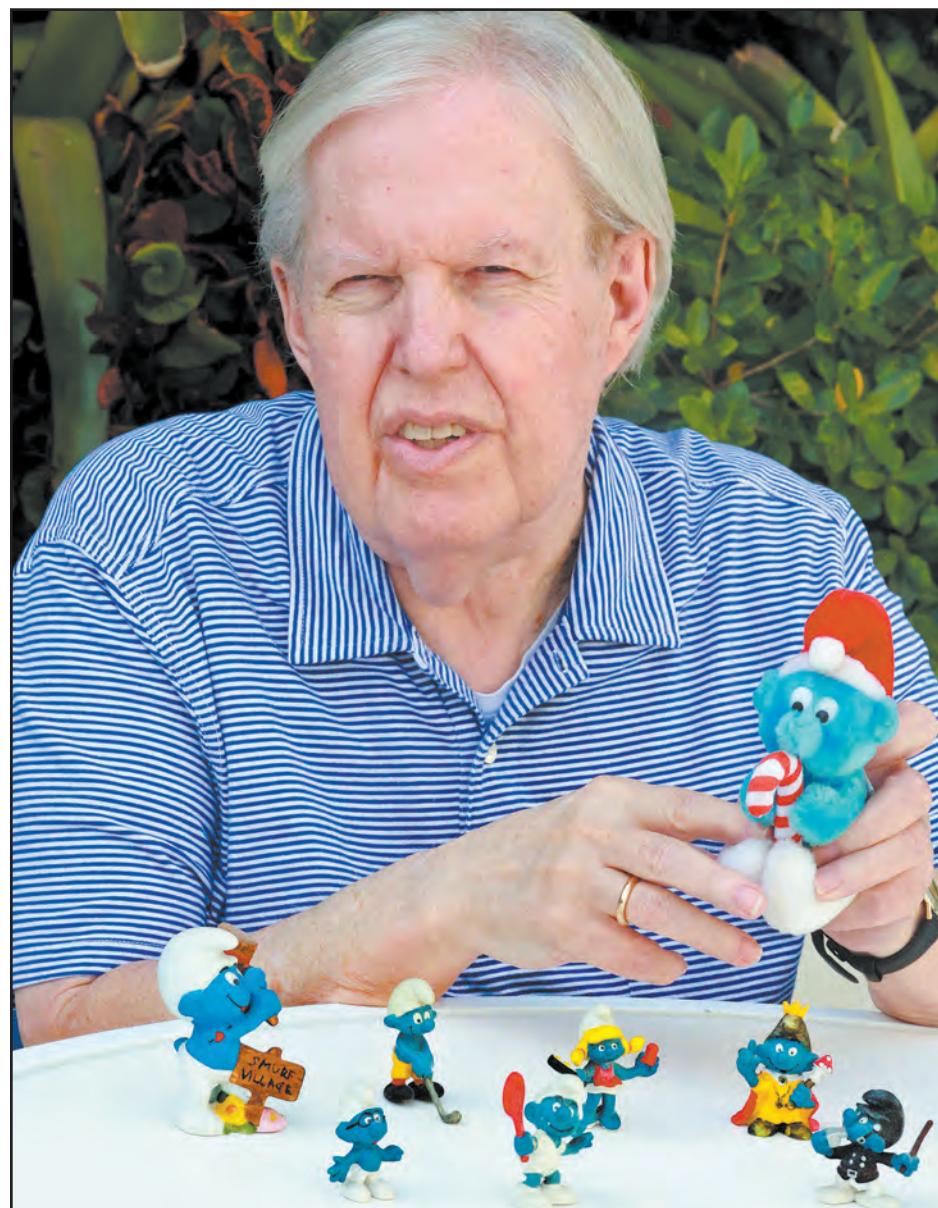
"There were a couple of gentlemen who got me started in major nonprofits here. One was Ernie Simon. Ernie was a lawyer in town. He passed away at age 93 a few years ago. And the other person was Leon Weekes, former mayor of Delray Beach. The two took me under their wing and got me involved. I was very blessed to know both of them. They were wonderful people who gave a lot to this community."

"My friend Harvey Oyer is amazing. I don't know how he has the time and energy to accomplish all that he does."

Paying it forward, Phillips has taken others under his wing. "From my students in my teaching career, one became a deputy foreign minister of Korea. A number of students thank me."

"I mentored people along the way, and I wasn't even realizing it."

"And years later, people I dealt with in nonprofits and churches have said to me similarly. Sometimes, you don't know



Leo Phillips of Delray Beach with Smurf collection. Tim Stepien/Coastal Star

how you might touch someone until years down the road."

His motto: "Success isn't just about career achievements; it's about the lives that you touch along the way. Life is a learning experience, and if you stop learning, you are not getting all that you can out of life."

"I am also very interested in sports. I have competed in a number of sports throughout my life and have enjoyed attending numerous sporting events as well as following them constantly on television. During my college years, I served as the sports information director."

"I was responsible for brochures, programs, statistics, attending press conferences and hosting a weekly radio show. My brochures were judged to be among the finest in the country."

— Christine Davis

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

A. I grew up in Hillsdale, Michigan. The schools at which I was educated are:

- Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, bachelor's in political science
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, master's in political science, juris doctor
- Free University of Brussels, Belgium, comparative and international law
- University of Exeter, England, legal studies
- John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Senior

Managers in Government Program.

My education provided broad exposure to various disciplines. I studied in depth such diverse subjects as music composition and mathematics.

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

A. University professor. I lectured in one of six Korean national universities while affiliated with the U.S. Peace Corps. I lived with a Korean family. I continue to enjoy my friendship with students from that era who have been most successful in their chosen endeavors.

As an attorney, I practiced with a well-known New York City law firm, a profit-making U.S. government corporation providing financing and political risk insurance in the developing world, and as senior officer of a Standard & Poor's 500 corporation in the hotel and health care industries.

I've been a Realtor, affiliated with established local real estate firms.

I am most proud of negotiating large business transactions that did not find their way into litigation.

While I have received numerous recognitions and awards throughout my career, my most important accomplishment is being married to my wonderful wife of 42 years, Pat. She has been with me every step of the way, providing guidance and counsel.

Q. What advice do you have for a young person selecting a career today?

A. Have a passion for what you do. Do not do something because your family or friends urge you to do it. Also, do not do something to chase a possible monetary return. Finally, understand your strengths and weaknesses. You need to match your strengths with your passion.

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

A. My wife's family, Margaret and Walter "Bud" Floyd, first bought a home in Delray Beach in the early 1960s. My wife had worked here on and off for several years. She introduced me to Delray in the early 1980s and I loved it.

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

A. Besides Delray's being a beautiful town, I am blessed to have many good friends and opportunities to assist others through my nonprofit activities.

Q. What book are you reading now?

A. *Poor Charlie's Almanack*. The book reflects the life and wisdom of Charlie Munger, a co-founder of Berkshire Hathaway with his friend Warren Buffett and a great philanthropist. It also reflects his commonsense view of life and values which are important.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?

A. I love classical music. It both inspires and relaxes me. I am especially partial to Beethoven, Bruckner and Brahms. My mother, Martha, was a professional musician of some stature. I performed in high school, college, community and church choirs, orchestras and bands.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?

A. The Bible says, "This is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" I have been a longtime admirer of Norman Vincent Peale, who wrote *The Power of Positive Thinking*. Positive thinking brings better health and more enjoyment in life.

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

A. My father, Leo Phillips Sr., taught me that you have had a successful day if you made someone's day better. Also, the good you do today may not be seen for a period of time. Finally, one person can make a difference in the world. From my father, I have learned that life is like a chess game: One needs to understand moves that may have to be made down the road and prepare for the same.

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

A. Papa Smurf. He is wise, collegial and understanding.

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In Memoriam: Celebrating Robert 'Bob' Ganger for a life well lived

William Sterling Williams spoke at the Dec. 6 Celebration of Life Service for Bob Ganger held at the Delray Beach Historical Society. Here are his comments, which he submitted for publication, reflecting on the man he said "decisively helped shape Gulf Stream, Delray Beach and Palm Beach County for the better."

Family, friends, neighbors and all who loved him, I am honored to speak today about a wonderful human being and iconic American that I had the privilege to have known for decades.

The story of Robert "Bob" Ganger is, at the core, the story of one man's belief that history, community, and character are worth fighting for every single day.

Bob Ganger defined class, decency, and respect for others.

A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Bob's life began far from the South Florida shoreline he would come to protect so fiercely, in a family that prized education, hard work, and public service.

He excelled at Bronxville High School. He attended Yale and Harvard Business School.

Bob was a natural businessman who was always the smartest person in the room that made everyone else think that they were the one.

GENERAL FOODS

He went on to a distinguished corporate career with General Foods where he worked for 34 years. His strategic vision helped guide some of the most important business decisions in the consumer food industry in the late 20th century.

FAMILIAR BRANDS — JELL-O, MAXWELL HOUSE, KOOL-AID

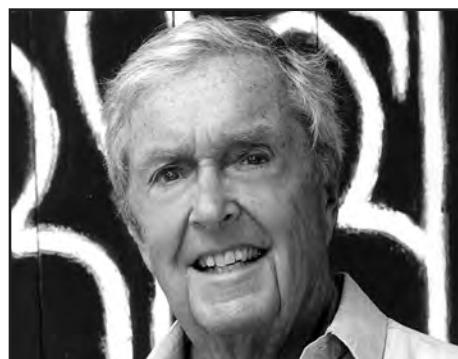
The familiar brands that Bob was responsible for were Kool-Aid, Maxwell House, Jell-O, and many others. He was the strategic thinker who helped market these iconic American products and define the strategy for these global brands, as well as their financial and business development. In the world of corporate boardrooms and complex mergers, he was known as a strategist of uncommon clarity, a man who could see both the details and the horizon. An incredible strategic thinker and "disruptor" in business, Bob never threw off an air of entitlement, hubris or haughtiness, notwithstanding his successes in life. He never talked about himself, always directing the conversation to others.

CHANGING BUSINESS CLIMATE

With the ever-changing business climate of America, Bob was involved in the sale of General Foods to the Philip Morris Corporation. Once Philip Morris acquired General Foods, Bob helped convert Philip Morris to Altria. It had to become more of a food corporation reflecting market changes as well as consumer demands, that were attitudes away from cigarettes and tobacco.

HAMISH MAXWELL

The CEO of General Foods, Hamish Maxwell, recognized the tremendous critical thinking and business skills of Robert. Hamish gave Bob a special project. He was to write the business plan and recommendations concerning Philip Morris. Bob wrote the recommendations out by hand. Upon his recommendations, Philip Morris acquired Kraft Foods, which was at the time the largest corporate merger



in American history aside from the oil industry.

He was an example of American exceptionalism and a believer in the free enterprise system.

BUSINESS WAS NEVER HIS SUMMIT

Yet for all those achievements, Bob never saw his corporate success as the summit of his life. It was preparation. It trained his discipline, his patience, and his ability to navigate institutions — skills he would later deploy tirelessly on behalf of Gulf Stream and adjacent communities along the coast.

A GUARDIAN OF GULF STREAM

When Bob moved to Gulf Stream decades ago, he did not simply retire; he reported for duty. He restored Miradero, the historic oceanfront home once owned by Lila Vanderbilt Webb, saving it from decay and demolition, and in doing so, preserving not just a structure but a chapter of Palm Beach County's cultural memory. That restoration inspired his award-winning book, *Lila Vanderbilt Webb's Miradero: Window on an Era*, which captured the spirit of a place and time that might otherwise have faded into footnote.

A LOVE OF GULF STREAM

Bob's love for Gulf Stream translated into service at every level of local government. He served as president of the Gulf Stream Civic Association, as a member of the town's Architectural Review and Planning Board, and ultimately as a town commissioner and vice mayor.

He championed initiatives such as undergrounding the town's electrical utilities and annexing nearby unincorporated areas, always with the same guiding principle: protect the character, scale and livability of this small town he so deeply cherished.

Bob worked passionately to preserve the unique charm of Gulf Stream. He did so by selfish example, never afraid to express his unvarnished but polite opinions. Bob was able to say "no" to stopping improper development that would erase the charm and identity of this town and its sense of place.

DEFENDER OF HISTORY AND PLACE/ DELRAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bob understood that a community without memory becomes vulnerable to bad decisions, to overdevelopment, and to slow erosion of identity. That conviction drove his long association with the Delray Beach Historical Society where he served as its president. He moved the organization forward to recognize and learn from the past to hopefully preserve a sense of identity for those who live here in the future.

PALM BEACH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bob was also involved in the Historical Society of Palm Beach County as a director and critical strategic thinker as well as president and vice chair, sharing stories, documents, and lessons that connect new residents to old roots. He not only interpreted history; he preserved

it, donating his family's records, writings, and advocating so that future generations would understand how this coastline in Southeast Florida became what it is today.

FLORIDA COALITION FOR PRESERVATION

His preservation work was not confined to archives and manuscripts. When irresponsible developers set their sights on Briny Breezes, Bob helped co-found the Florida Coalition for Preservation. He worked there for over 20 years. He helped halt and stop development that would have placed rows of condominiums in Briny Breezes with approximately 5,000 residents. He marshaled data, built coalitions, attended meetings, and stood firmly between speculative ambition and a community that would have been erased from the map.

Over the decades, Bob observed the dangers of unbridled and out-of-control development, driven only by greed and profit.

COURAGE OF ADVOCACY

Bob's public work was marked by a distinctive blend of civility and tenacity. He was a constant presence at government meetings — prepared, respectful, and persistent — pressing for thoughtful planning and measured growth rather than quick profit and shortsighted change.

COMMUNITIES GONE

Bob Ganger understood that once a community is gone, it will never return. It is erased and lost to history, evaporating into the past.

He did not engage in preservation as nostalgia, but as stewardship. He believed that responsible government could work, that the process when fueled by facts and guided by conscience could still protect the public interest.

In an era when cynicism about institutions runs high, Bob offered a different model; show up, stay informed, and never confuse quiet manners with weak resolve.

DEVOTION TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS

For all of Bob's public titles — executive, author, commissioner, vice mayor, preservationist — his family knew a different vocabulary: husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, friend. He shared his life with his wife, Anneli, with whom he passionately brought Miradero back to life. He was deeply proud of his children and stepchildren, Rob and Amy, Ossian and Patrick, and of his grandchildren, whose accomplishments and adventures he followed with a historian's curiosity and a grandfather's joy.

MENTOR

Those closest to him speak not only of his public victories, but of his generosity of time and counsel. He mentored younger colleagues and civic volunteers, listened carefully, and never hesitated to share hard-earned wisdom when asked. He mentored me for over 30 years, always taking the time to answer my call.

To his family, he was a source of steadiness and warmth; to his friends, a loyal companion who combined dry wit with a deep reservoir of kindness.

GRACE AND ADVERSITY

In 2016, when Bob suffered a stroke, what he called a "brain drain," he faced one of the hardest chapters of his life. The man who devoted himself to safeguarding memory suddenly had to confront the fragility of his own.

Yet even then, he showed the same resilience that had carried him through complex corporate challenges and long civic battles; he worked back to writing and reflection; finding new ways to remain engaged with the community he loved.

To do this was to write a book about himself. Bob Ganger was the last person who would ever want to write a book about himself. Fortunately, he did. In typical Bob Ganger fashion, he did not publish the book. He only had copies made to give to his friends. I was fortunate to receive one.

This chapter in writing a book revealed something essential about Bob: His identity was never bound to title, office, or even perfect recollection. It was rooted in character, humility, perseverance, and a refusal to surrender to self-pity. In illness as in health, he showed his family and neighbors what it means to live with dignity.

A LEGACY WRITTEN ON THE LAND

To measure a life like Bob Ganger's, one does not start with a résumé; one walks the coastline. The restored Miradero standing proudly above the ocean, the carefully planned character of Gulf Stream's neighborhoods, the thoughtfully documented archives of local history in Delray Beach and Palm Beach County — all are chapters of his unfinished book, still being written in policy decisions, preservation victories and the memories of those who follow his example.

Future residents may never know his name, but they will inhabit the town he helped safeguard, stroll along beaches whose protection began with efforts led by his father and preserved in records he donated, and live in communities that retain a human scale because people like Bob insisted that history and place matter. That is the rarest kind of legacy; not a monument that bears one person's name, but a landscape and a civic culture that quietly reflect one person's values.

FAREWELL AND CHARGE OF THE LIVING

As we have said farewell, gratitude outpaces grief.

We give thanks for a man who used his talents not to withdraw from the world, but to serve it; who stepped from corporate success into local civic life with enthusiasm rather than entitlement, who believed that small towns deserve efforts to save.

America could use more Bob Gangers, as so many communities are overrun and eviscerated by improper and uncontrolled development and lack of preservation.

The most fitting tribute to Robert "Bob" Ganger will be not spoken here; it will be lived. It will be found in each neighbor who shows up to a meeting, each resident who takes an interest in local history, each citizen who pushed back, civilly but firmly, when short-term gain threatens long-term character. If those who love him and those who benefit from his work carry that spirit forward, then Bob's voice will continue to be heard in Gulf Stream's decisions, its preserved streetscapes, and its enduring sense of place.

May his memory be a blessing, his example a standard, and his beloved town a living memorial to a life exceptionally well lived.

I am so honored to have known him as he provided such stellar advice to me over the years as well as Gulf Stream, Delray Beach, and Palm Beach County. The death of this wonderful American is a tremendous loss.

Obituaries

Betty Jane Diggans

By Rich Pollack

DELRAY BEACH — Betty Diggans cherished her Delray Beach community.

A longtime resident who was transplanted from Ohio when she was just 18, Mrs. Diggans was a well-known and cherished fixture in the city she loved for almost 80 years.

Betty Jane Diggans, an early entrepreneur, real estate agent, the wife of one of the city's earliest postmasters and, above all else, the matriarch of a deeply rooted family, died Dec. 1. She was 97.

"My mom felt very blessed that she arrived in a town that embraced her," said her daughter, Winnie Diggans Edwards. "She found a sense of community and a sense of family in the three generations of Digganses that became a foundation for the rest of her life."

For more than 75 years, Mrs. Diggans was active at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, serving on the vestry, singing in the choir, hosting events, contributing to bazaars and helping publish church cookbooks and historical church family biographies.

It was there that she met the love of her life, her husband, Roy Diggans.

Early on she worked at the Colony Hotel and later at Lucille and Otley's restaurant in Boynton Beach before teaming up with her close

friend Puddy Ellingsworth to open The Place, a Delray Beach staple restaurant on State Road A1A. They also formed a business that catered some of the community's most memorable gatherings.

In the mid-1970s she acquired a real estate license and began working under the mentorship of Eleanor Gringle at Gringle Doherty & Wheat.

"What I remember about my mom's real estate days is that she always went the extra mile and her clients remained her friends for many years," Diggans Edwards said.

Her commitment to community extended throughout Delray Beach: She volunteered with the Chamber of Commerce, the Delray Affair, the Community Chest, the Atlantic Avenue Merchants Association and the Delray Beach Historical Society.

She also served as president of the association at her condo and was a member of the Beach Property Owners Association.

When not dedicating time to her community work, Mrs. Diggans found refuge and inspiration in a variety of avocations. An avid reader from a young age, she loved reading and listening to compelling novels, biographies and books about history and art.

Mrs. Diggans also found joy in oil painting and loved gardening as well as cooking and baking. She studied photography, mastered crossword puzzles, and delighted in travel.

Through visits with her children, she explored the

Along the Coast

Ethics commission reprimands former Boynton official, a former Delray candidate

Former Boynton Beach Human Resources Director and one-time Delray Beach City Commission candidate Tennille DeCoste has been publicly reprimanded by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics for misuse of public office, Boynton Beach officials reported.

The Commission on Ethics also found that former Boynton Beach Mayor Ty Penserga orchestrated a private meeting to pressure City Manager Dan Dugger to withdraw ongoing ethics complaints against DeCoste — and then supported DeCoste's complaints against city leadership that the ethics commission later dismissed.

"The evidence made clear that former Mayor Penserga used his position not to support transparent governance, but to advance Ms. DeCoste's personal interests during an active ethics investigation," the city's statement said.

Dugger filed the complaint with the ethics commission, which accepted a negotiated settlement agreement with DeCoste on Dec. 4.

Investigators found that DeCoste, who was running for the Delray Beach City Commission at the time, had used a city purchasing card for a non-city event without authorization, according to the Boynton Beach statement. They also found she coordinated

the effort to pressure the city manager, filed unfounded retaliatory complaints against city leaders, and attempted to obstruct the ethics oversight process, the statement said.

The ethics commission advocate had recommended findings of probable cause on five allegations against DeCoste, including acceptance of a gift from a vendor, but the settlement included only the findings of misuse of public office and interference violations.

Dugger fired DeCoste in February 2024 for intermingling her job duties with her campaign for the Delray Beach commission, which she eventually lost. She was employed with Boynton Beach for 14 months at a \$188,000 annual salary.

—Staff report

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Frank Handley Peters



Frank Handley Peters, 79, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, passed away on December 6, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family. Born on August 31, 1946, in Clewiston, FL, Frank lived a life full of adventure, loyalty, and deep devotion to the people he loved.

Frank's faith as a Christian was the foundation of his life. He deeply loved Jesus Christ and trusted wholeheartedly in the power of prayer. Through every challenge, he found strength and peace in his relationship with God, drawing comfort from his unwavering belief.

Even in his illness and final days, his faith remained steadfast, giving him hope, courage, and a sense of calm that inspired all who loved him.

Frank spent the first 11 years of his childhood in Maracaibo, Venezuela, an experience that shaped his early years with a sense of curiosity and appreciation for the world. When his family returned to West Palm Beach, he attended Golfview Junior High and Palm Beach High School, where he proudly played football for both schools. Frank was a Wildcat through and through. Some of his fondest memories came from his high school football days. Frank often would reminisce about the Wildcats undefeated-untied season of 1964. Memories he talked about with a twinkle in his eye. He always looked forward to the lunches shared with his wildcat buddies.

A proud U.S. Air Force veteran, Frank served his country with honor. After his service, he built a successful career and later became the owner of Ringdahl Pest Control, a business he was proud to see carried forward by his son Frank Jr. Frank was extraordinarily proud of

his three son's many accomplishments and talents. From T-Ball to Lake Lytal through high school and college, never missing a game they participated in. His joy only grew with the arrival of his grandchildren. Once again, he could be found cheering at all their games, attending ballet and piano recitals, and traveling whenever he could be present in their lives, cherishing every moment he spent with them.

Frank is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Cathy Brand Peters; his sons Frank H. Peters Jr., Gary Peters, and Shane Campbell; and his cherished grandchildren Jake Peters, Sydney Peters, Aubrey Peters, Ella Peters, Brand Campbell, Colin Campbell, and Drew Campbell. He is also survived by his siblings Mike Peters (Gloria) and Nancy Peters Westerling (Richard); his beloved aunt, Mrs. Ruth Handley; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and great-nephews. Brother-in-law Murray Brand. He was preceded in death by his parents, E. M. Peters and Mary Jean Peters (Handley).

A Celebration of Life will be held on January 3, 2026, at 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach, Florida, located at 717 Prosperity Farms Rd., North Palm Beach, FL. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

Frank will be remembered for his warm heart, his hearty laugh, his loyalty, and the pride he felt for his family. His spirit lives on in the stories he told, the lessons he shared, and the love he poured into everyone fortunate enough to know him.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations to one of Frank's favorite charities. t2t.org (Tower 2 Tunnel), or stjude.org (St Jude Children's Hospital). Donations may also be made to VITAS (Vitas.com), the hospice organization that cared for Frank these final weeks.

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Business Spotlight

Record-breaking sale affirms Point Manalapan as coveted area

A driver crossing the Ocean Avenue bridge from Lantana enters Hypoluxo Island, a 3-mile-long island subdivision with about 315 single-family homes.

Properties on the island, split between Manalapan and Lantana — and including Point Manalapan at its southern end — have more than doubled from their pre-pandemic prices, said Jason Haverkamp of William Raveis Real Estate.

In Point Manalapan, Charles M. Adams sold his home at 110 Churchill Way for a recorded \$17.12 million in December to Martin and Jean Shafiroff.

"It was an off-market for \$18.95 million net," explained Haverkamp, who with Pamela O'Connor represented the buyers of the Manalapan property. Both are agents with William Raveis Real Estate.

"It's a unique property, a new-construction home on a private protected waterway on three-quarters of an acre and it's also the largest home in this neighborhood," Haverkamp said.

It is also a record-breaking sale for its area, topping the \$14.8 million sale in June of 1423 Lands End Road, in the Lantana portion of the island.

Buyer Martin Shafiroff is the vice chairman of global wealth management at Stifel, and Jean Shafiroff is an author and philanthropist.

Adams, an executive of Adams Communications & Engineering Technology, was represented by Mercedes Foster, an agent with Real Broker LLC.

"Homes on Hypoluxo Island offer so much in terms of size and views and are a far better value than homes on Palm Beach. It's definitely an up-and-coming area that is becoming much more prestigious," Haverkamp said.

As of late December, 14 residences were listed for sale on Hypoluxo Island, with six of those in Point Manalapan.

High-priced listings on Point Manalapan include a large home at 1275 Lands End Road in Manalapan on a double lot priced at \$34.9 million, listed by Howard Parker of Howard A. Parker Realty LLC, and 1635 Lands End Road in Manalapan, priced at \$20.5 million, listed by Lucrecia Lindemann, an agent with Dalton Wade Inc. Another property in that price point on the island, the home at 1422 SE Atlantic Drive in Lantana, is priced at \$21 million and listed by Margit Brandt, an agent with Premier Estate Properties.

Other properties for sale include a home at 807 N. Atlantic Drive in Lantana, priced at \$12.45 million and listed by Fern Fodiman, an agent with Sotheby's



The recently built estate at 110 Churchill Way in Point Manalapan sold for more than \$17 million, topping the neighborhood's previous best by more than \$2 million. **Photo provided**

International Realty; a home at 5 Barefoot Lane in Lantana priced at \$11.995 million and listed by Steven Presson of the Corcoran Group; a home at 50 Spoonbill Road in Manalapan, priced at \$8.995 million, also listed by Presson; and a home at 1690 Lands End Road in Manalapan, priced at \$8.9 million and listed by Jack Elkins, an agent with William Raveis Real Estate.

Presson, a resident of Hypoluxo Island for seven years, has sold real estate on the island for 18 years, he said, adding that in 2025, he sold 12 homes on Hypoluxo Island with two pending sales in mid-December.

"I believe that the island has become one of the most coveted for coastal living in South Florida," Presson said. "It's beautiful, safe, scenic and has a sense of community. Many buyers have been priced out of Palm Beach and even West Palm Beach, but still want a coastal lifestyle, and Hypoluxo Island is at the top of their list."

"Before this recent buzz, once a quarter I'd see a celebrity or a name people would recognize. Now it's once a week. I saw a CEO of a Fortune 500 company, a supermodel and her family, and a professional athlete all in the last three weeks, all looking and previewing properties on Hypoluxo Island. They wanted to be in Palm Beach and were priced out, and just 25 minutes down A1A, they can live in a coastal community at a fraction of a cost without giving up the exclusivity and the privacy that they all were seeking."

While Hypoluxo Island is no doubt attractive, coastal **Manalapan** along State Road

A1A has the really big-ticket prices (the highest current listing is \$150 million for an estate at 1370 S. Ocean Blvd.).

As far as recent sales go, Frank and Dolores Mennella sold their ocean-to-Intracoastal estate at **1940 S. Ocean Blvd.** to WeatherTech founder David MacNeil, with a selling price of \$75 million.

The Mennellas purchased their 1.94-acre piece of vacant land in 2018 from Billy Joel for \$7.5 million, and built a 16,500-square-foot residence, with a cabana on the ocean side that can be accessed via an underground tunnel.

In this current deal, **Philip Lyle Smith and Carla Ferreira-Smith of Luxury Resort Portfolio** held the listing and **Margit Brandt of Premier Estate Properties** represented MacNeil.

This is MacNeil's third Manalapan purchase in the last couple of years. In April 2024, MacNeil bought the vacant property at 1120 S. Ocean Blvd. for \$38.5 million. Then last May he bought for \$55 million the property at 1140 S. Ocean Blvd., an under-construction ocean-to-Intracoastal residence owned by a company affiliated with Joe Farrell of the Farrell Cos. Those properties, by the way, are back on the market as vacant land, priced at \$125 million and listed by Brandt.

Billionaire investor and philanthropist Dr. Herbert "Herbie" Wertheim paid \$61.75 million for a 27,745-total-square-foot estate at **1160 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan**. Sited on 1.73 acres, the contemporary-style residence, rebuilt by Siobhan Zerilla of Bluedoor Building, includes a separate guesthouse,

who has a longstanding commitment to wildlife conservation. Our proud history and exemplary record in animal care, welfare and preservation will continue to be a core focus in the future. Operations will continue as normal, and our commitment to engagement, guest experience and wildlife conservation remains unchanged."

For Ellison, one of the richest people in the world, did he get Lion Country Safari for a steal at \$30 million, relatively speaking?

In 2024, he purchased Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa for \$277.4 million, and in 2022, he bought the Ziff Estate, Gemini, at 2000 S. Ocean Blvd. in Manalapan, from Jim Clark for \$173 million.

Here's how that deal went down: Lion Country Safari Inc., managed by Charles Richard Koppel, sold the property for \$12.71 million to Waverly Inc., also managed by Koppel.

Lion Country Safari terminated its land lease with Waverly, which was the tenant. Then, Waverly sold the property for \$30 million to LCS Property LLC, which has the same address in Walnut Creek, California, as the Larry Ellison Foundation.

Doug Mills, the Pulitzer Prize-winning senior

photographer for *The New York Times*, is featured in "Capturing the American Presidency" at the 2026

Alan B. and Charna Larkin Symposium. It's at 4 p.m.

Feb. 26 in FAU's University Theatre, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton.

Mills recently earned his third Pulitzer Prize for his photographic coverage of the assassination attempt on President Donald Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania. His first Pulitzer was in 1993 with the Associated Press for team coverage of the Clinton/Gore campaign, and he won a second Pulitzer for the Associated Press' team investigative coverage of the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Following the symposium, attendees can view "America at 250: We Hold These Truths: We Walk These Grounds," an exhibition featuring work by Mills in the Schmidt Gallery from Jan. 22 through March 29. General admission tickets for the lecture are \$35.

To purchase a ticket, visit fauevents.universitytickets.com. Also, a VIP reception will be at 2:30 p.m. in the Schmidt Gallery hallway. Tickets for the reception, which include admission to the lecture, are \$75.

The Schmidt Gallery is in the Performing Arts Building, building 51.

Continued on next page

Theatre Lab, the professional resident company of Florida Atlantic University's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, earned multiple awards for its 2024-25 productions. Theatre Lab won three Silver Palm Awards, which recognize contributions to South Florida theater.

Gage Callenius received the Outstanding Performance award for his role in *The Last Yiddish Speaker*. **Iain Batchelor** won the Actor and Puppeteer award for his role in *The Impossible Task of Today*. **Nicole Perry** won the Performer and Choreographer award for her role in *The Impossible Task of Today*.

Theatre Lab also had two winners among seven finalists at the 48th annual Carbonell Awards, which honor theatrical excellence at theaters from Miami-Dade to Palm Beach counties.

Deborah Zoe Laufer won an Outstanding New Work award for *The Last Yiddish Speaker*. Batchelor won an Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Male Role award for his role in *The Impossible Task of Today*.

Theatre Lab finalists were **Jeff Bower** for Outstanding New Work in *The Impossible Task of Today*; **Vaishnavi Sharma** for Outstanding

Performance by an Actor in a Lead Female Role award in *The Impossible Task of Today*; **Patti Gardner** for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Female Role in *The Last Yiddish Speaker*; **Thomas Shorrock** for Outstanding Lighting Design in *The Last Yiddish Speaker*; **Matt Corey** for Outstanding Sound Design in *The Last Yiddish Speaker*.

The Delray Beach Housing Authority elected **Ivan Gomez** as chairman and **Ezra Krieg** as vice chairman of its board of directors. This organization aims to offer safe housing to low- and moderate-income families. The Delray Housing Group elected **Andrea Keiser** as chairman and **Noah Hale** as vice chairman of its board of directors.

The Delray Housing Group is an affiliated nonprofit created by the Delray Beach Housing Authority to develop and manage affordable housing.

Christine Davis writes business news and can be reached at cdavis9797@gmail.com.



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It's quite the (jewelry) show at the Bijoux! at Mizner Park. Page AT7

Around Town



The Coastal Star

January 2026

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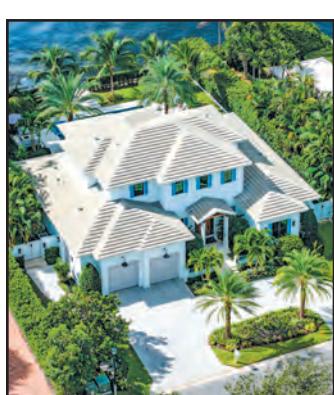
Secrets to catching fish when it's cold out there. Page AT22

**Finding Faith**

Religion plays a role when it comes to giving. Page AT23

**Paws Up for Pets**

Inside 30 years of caring at Boca shelter. Page AT27

**House of the Month**

Waterfront residence in Gulf Stream. Page AT35

Education

Participants enjoy a foreign policy presentation at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on the FAU Boca Raton campus.

Lifelong learning



Lifelong Learning students Ed and Ferne Emmer of Boca Raton interact with the Quantum Jungle exhibit inside the MAD Arts in Dania Beach, one of the off-campus outings on the course schedule. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

FAU classes cater to older adults: 'Never too late'

By Jan Norris

A slogan at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at FAU says it all: "Where learning never retires."

The institute provides classes in a variety of subjects in a lecture or seminar format—but with no textbooks, no homework and no tests. While open to all, the programs are tailored to older adults, many of whom earned college degrees in the previous century.

"The majority of our students are retirees," said Jill Rosen, interim director of OLLI, as it is known.

Between the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses, Florida Atlantic University has about 5,000 OLLI members who pay \$60 a year to get discounted prices for classes and advance notice for

See LEARNING on page AT17

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Philanthropy Notes

29 semifinalists to compete for grants from Impact 100 Palm Beach County

Impact 100 Palm Beach County has named the 2025-26 semifinalists that will vie for \$100,000 grants aimed at bringing innovative initiatives designed to strengthen and uplift South County.

"Each of the nominees represents one of Impact 100's five focus areas: arts, culture and historic preservation; education; environment and animal welfare; family; and health and wellness:

- American Association of Caregiving Youth
- aZul — Fashion, Art & Design
- Back to Basics
- Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts
- Best Foot Forward Foundation
- Boca Raton Museum of Art
- Boca School for Autism
- CityHouse
- Delray Beach Public Library
- Dress for Success
- Flipany
- Florida Atlantic University Foundation (College of Nursing)
- For The Children
- Fresh Rx
- In Jacob's Shoes
- Marine Education Initiative
- Nova Southeastern University
- Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League
- Restoration Bridge International
- Rise and Shine Christian Academy
- Soil & Soul
- St. Ann Place Outreach Center
- St. John Community Promise
- Take Stock in Children Palm Beach
- The Reef Institute
- The Soup Kitchen
- The Synergy Network
- Visual Adjectives Seeds of Creativity
- YMCA of South Palm Beach County

The finalists will be selected April 7, and the Grand Awards Celebration is set for April 28 at Boca West Country Club.

"We are honored to recognize this impressive class of semifinalists," President Janean Mileusnic said. "Their dedication reflects exactly why our members come together — to fuel lasting, transformational change."

For more information, call 561-336-4623 or visit impact100pbc.org.

The Boca Raton starts new foundation

The Boca Raton resort has launched a foundation, adding a nonprofit arm that formalizes the property's commitment to philanthropy.

Inspired by the vision of President and CEO Daniel Hostettler, The Boca Raton Foundation for Charitable Giving channels a culture of service into one of grant-making. It will target education, food security, and women and children.

"I believe that true luxury carries a responsibility to uplift the community around it," Hostettler said. "This foundation reflects that belief. It empowers our associates to champion the organizations that have shaped their own lives, and it allows us to deepen our impact in a meaningful, lasting way."

For more information, call 561-447-3000 or visit thebocaraton.com/foundation.

Food-distribution project gets green light

A unanimous vote by the Boynton Beach City Commission has enabled Feeding South Florida to move forward with construction of

a 32,000-square-foot warehouse on Park Ridge Boulevard in Quantum Corporate Park.

The warehouse will mark the final phase of the nonprofit's campus expansion and will enable more people who face food insecurity to get help. The facility will include dry storage, cold storage, freezer storage, loading docks and administrative office space.

"This expansion strengthens Boynton Beach's role as a regional hub for nonprofit operations and community services," according to a statement issued by the city. "Feeding South Florida continues to be a vital partner in addressing food insecurity across our region, and the city is proud to support their mission through responsible economic development."

For more information, call 954-518-1818 or visit feedingsouthflorida.org.

Arts Garage honors legacy of builders

A permanent Legacy Wall has been installed at Delray Beach's Arts Garage to recognize members of the new Legacy Board.

The inaugural honorees of the board — a distinguished bunch whose leadership, vision and generosity have shaped the organization's success and sustainability — are Ronnie Dunayer, Lynn Ferguson, Chuck Halberg and the late Steve Weber.

"Our Legacy Board members have given so much of themselves — time, talent and treasure — to ensure Arts Garage continues to thrive as a home for creativity and connection," President and CEO Marjorie Waldo said. "Their leadership has built the foundation on which we stand today. This recognition is our way of saying thank you for their extraordinary commitment and for helping us make the arts accessible to everyone."

For more information, call 561-450-6357 or visit artsgarage.org.

Take a ride through Delray Beach history

For its 25th anniversary, the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum is bringing back the popular bus tours of Delray Beach neighborhoods.

The tours, highlighted by narratives about the development of the city, are 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 31, and 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 5 and 19, March 12 and 28, and April 18 and 30. Cost is \$45.

"Aboard an air-conditioned bus, riders will learn about the personalities and events that shaped the city's growth and character," according to a news release. "From historical markers to signature neighborhoods, the 'Ride, Remember & Discover' bus tour explains the significance of each stop with accuracy and authenticity."

For more information, call 561-279-8883 or visit spadymuseum.com/historical-tour.



This is Amy Woods' last Philanthropy Notes column. If you missed it, please read our Editor's Note on Page 2.



Send news, photos and notes to Lou Ann Frala at philanthropy@thecoastalstar.com.



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Pay It Forward

Guest speaker at MLK Brunch has special connection to civil rights leader

By Amy Woods

The keynote speaker of the Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch is an Atlanta native, a



Nix

Morehouse College graduate and an Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity brother.

Bill Nix, the former vice president of marketing and government affairs for the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, shares each of those things in common with the man he will be talking about at the Jan. 19 fundraiser for the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum.

"Our families have known each other for a long, long time," Nix said, noting that his grandparents knew Martin Luther King Sr., his father knew Martin Luther King

If You Go

What: Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch to benefit Spady Cultural Heritage Museum

When: 10 a.m. to noon

Jan. 19

Where: Indian Spring Country Club, Boynton Beach

Cost: \$55

Information: 561-279-8883; spadymuseum.com

Jr., and his mother knew Martin Luther King Jr.'s sister, Christine King.

When King was assassinated in 1968, Nix was a senior at Morehouse, a men's liberal arts school, and served as a member of the honor guard surrounding the casket.

"I've not ever given the story of what happened the night he was shot, but I have given parts of the story of Martin Luther King's ascension into who he became," Nix said.

"I need to tell that story, especially for this generation, right now."

The 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch not only will feature Nix's powerful address but also the theatrical talents of the Core Ensemble, whose actors will portray Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston during a series of reenactments. The signature community event attracts more than 300 guests.

"I sincerely hope my presentation moves the room," Nix said, adding that he also is going to discuss the 60 years of

progress made possible by the Voting Rights Act.

"If we don't like what's going on, it's the one thing we can and should do to change

the country. We need this year, really, and every year, actually, to get out and vote. People died because of this."★

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Philanthropy Calendar

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 12/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY

Saturday - 1/10 - Rotary Club of Boca Raton's OPAL Awards at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Celebrate Outstanding People And Leaders, support scholarship programs and recognize recipients Steven and Abby Bernstein, Michelle Hagerty, Van Williams, Brad and Haley Winstead and Myron Yudkin. 6 pm. \$400. 561-477-7180 or rotaryclubbocaraton.com.

Wednesday - 1/14 - Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County's Lion of Judah Luncheon at a location to be provided upon registration. Join keynote speakers Mijal Bitton, a sociologist and spiritual leader, Alana Newhouse, editor-in-chief of Tablet magazine, and Michelle Rojas-Tal, director of strategy at Sixpoint Media, for "Strength in Sisterhood: The Timeless Power of Women's Leadership." 10:45 am registration, 11:30 am program and lunch. \$136 couvert, plus a minimum gift of \$5,000 to the Annual Campaign. 561-852-5031 or jewishboca.org.

Monday - 1/19 - Spady Cultural Heritage Museum's Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch at Indian Spring Country Club, 11501 El Clair Ranch Road, Boynton Beach. Begin the new year by honoring the life and legacy of the historical figure and ringing in the 25th anniversary of the museum and the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Spady house. 10 am-noon. \$55. 561-279-8883 or spadymuseum.com.

Friday - 1/30 - Delray Beach Public Library's Laugh with the Library at Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Laugh out loud at this year's installment of an evening of comedy, featuring actor / comedian T.J. Miller. 7:30-11 pm. \$500. 561-266-0798 or delraylibrary.org.

Saturday - 1/31 - Boca Raton Regional Hospital's 63rd Annual Ball at The Boca Raton, 501 E. Camino Real. Do not miss out on one of the most-anticipated social events of the year with special entertainment by Sheryl Crow. 6-11 pm. Sponsorships start at \$5,000. 561-955-4142 or donate.brrh.com.

FEBRUARY

Friday - 2/6 - Faulk Center for Counseling's Blast from the Past Rewind Fundraising Breakfast and Juke Box Bingo at Broken Sound Club, 2401 Willow Springs Drive, Boca Raton. Get ready for a delicious morning meal, unforgettable music and a chance to win amazing prizes while supporting mental-health programs and services. 9-11:30 am. \$75. 561-483-5300 or

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Celebrations

7th Annual Securing Our Future Soiree

Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton — Oct. 18



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County hauled in an impressive \$290,000 in one night to support youth programs at the Boca Raton club. The elegant evening had a nautical 'Horizon of Hope' theme and featured live and silent auctions as well as dueling pianos that kept guests entertained. 'As the need for the Boys & Girls Club in Boca Raton continues to grow, so does the incredible support from this community,' President and CEO Jaenee Miranda said. 'The funds raised will not only strengthen current programs but will create a lasting, generational impact for countless children.' **ABOVE:** Donna and Barry Goldberg. **Photo provided**

Donor Luncheon

Center for Philanthropy, West Palm Beach — Nov. 5



The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties welcomed nearly 70 donors to its annual event, which recognized members of the Legacy Society and the Scholarship Society and celebrated the generosity of the foundation's philanthropic partners and the impact of their work. The organization provides charitable expertise to engage investors and, since 1972, has distributed \$250 million in grants and scholarships aimed at closing opportunity gaps. **ABOVE:** George Elmore and Marti LaTour. **Photo provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

Walk of Recognition

The Addison, Boca Raton — Dec. 2



The Boca Raton Historical Society/The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum's elegant affair shined a light on 25 local luminaries whose leadership shaped the city in the early 2000s. An all-new Centennial Plaque was unveiled — a historic addition to Mizner Plaza recognizing Boca Raton's 100th anniversary — on which the honorees' names will be permanently commemorated as a nod to a transformative era. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Marta Batmasian, Florida Atlantic University Dean Michael Horswell and President Adam Hasner. **Photo provided**

Woman Volunteer of the Year Luncheon

The Boca Raton — Nov. 21



Jeannine Morris, nominated by Place of Hope at the Leighan and David Rinker Campus, was named Woman Volunteer of the Year at the Junior League of Boca Raton's annual luncheon. Morris was chosen from among 40 outstanding female volunteers for the prestigious award. More than 900 attended the lavish affair. 'Congratulations to Jeannine Morris for this well-deserved honor, and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this an outstanding event,' said Victoria Matthews, league president. 'We so appreciate our sponsors, committee, co-chairs and honorary chair.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Mark Larkin, Co-Chairwomen Namrata Israni and Racheal Petullo, Morris, Matthews, Maureen Mann, Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer, Paige Kornblue and Glenn Glazer. **Photo provided by Coastal Click Photography**

Back to Natives Bash

Delray Beach Historical Society — Oct. 17



The Institute for Regional Conservation's annual affair attracted nearly 100 attendees who joined to raise money for the nonprofit dedicated to environmental conservation. The evening featured creative bites, specialty drinks, live music, fun trivia and a successful silent auction. During the event, guests were invited to learn more about the IRC's ongoing work, including restoration projects, education programs and efforts to prevent the loss of native plant species. 'We are incredibly grateful to everyone who came out for our do-good fundraiser,' said Liz Dutra, conservation program manager. 'The support of our community fuels the work we do every day.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Dutra, Jonathan Moreno, Stacy Brown, Eric Gomez-Gonzalez, Melinda Ogden, George Gann, Madison Robuck, Kayla Mosteller, Joel Otero and Keith Buttry. **Photo provided by MasterWing Creative Agency**

Holiday Party

Farmer's Table, Boca Raton — Dec. 2



Impact 100 Palm Beach County marked its 15th year of collective philanthropy with an annual affair that brought together members and guests and provided an opportunity to reflect on the tangible results of the organization's grant-making. Since its founding, a total of \$7.7 million has been gifted through 124 grants, including 73 high-impact \$100,000 grants and 51 merit grants. 'This celebration reminds us that when women come together with purpose, meaningful change follows,' President Janean Mileusnic said. **TOP:** Ann Brown and Helen Ballerano. **BOTTOM LEFT:** (l-r) Mimi Meister, Kathryn Gillespie and Donna Glenn. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Holly Schuttler and Noreen Payne. **Photos provided**

'Shining Stars'

The Studio at Mizner Park, Boca Raton — Oct. 16



The debut celebration organized by the Boca Raton Achievement Center showcased the abilities of children and young adults with special needs and lauded the families that support them. A highlight of the evening, attended by 80-plus, was a deeply moving speech by Suzanne Jarriel, a mother of two who shared her journey with her son's autism diagnosis. 'I had found our saving grace,' Jarriel said. 'BRAC is not just a school, it's a community. It gives children and young adults with special needs a safe space and gives parents like me a network of support.' **ABOVE LEFT:** Andrew Friis and Maxie Kaan-Lilly. **ABOVE RIGHT:** (l-r) Marta Batmasian, Linda Petrakis and Jen Caprio. **Photos provided**

Spero Family Book & Author Luncheon

Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center, Boca Raton — Nov. 4

The JCC kicked off its 2025-26 season with presentations by esteemed writers Jacqueline Friedland, Zibby Owens and Alyson Richman. The women spoke to a sold-out crowd of 650 about the importance and value of elevating Jewish voices. The annual event is a signature program of the Sandler Center and is part of its Myrna Lippman Literary Season, which is dedicated to sharing Jewish stories, perspectives and history. 'Each year, this luncheon reminds us of the power of storytelling to connect, uplift and inspire,' the center's Stephanie Owitz said. 'We are grateful to our authors for sharing their insights and to our community for showing up in such meaningful numbers.' **INSET:** (l-r) Dana Clarfield, Nancy Marks-Small, Jill Poser-Kammet and Leah Spero. **Photo provided by Wendy J Studios**

**Launch party**

Le Colonial, Delray Beach — Nov. 6



In support of the Delray Beach Public Library's Retail Therapy Experience, the downtown French-Vietnamese restaurant opened its doors to more than 110 guests wanting to give back to their community. After enjoying food and drinks, attendees boarded private trolleys for an afternoon of shopping along Atlantic Avenue, stopping at several popular stores. The event concluded with a happy hour. All proceeds benefit the library's programs and services. **ABOVE LEFT:** (l-r) Kim Beckett, Jaana Moisio, Rose Schuhmann and Colleen Schuhmann. **ABOVE RIGHT:** (l-r) MaryAnn Cody, Dianne Jayne, Linda Dean and Deidre Neal. **Photos provided**

Shark Tails & Ales Pub Crawl

Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach — Oct. 18

The inaugural fundraiser for the Sandoway Discovery Center was a huge success — and a sellout. It brought together locals, visitors and partner businesses for an unforgettable night that combined the city's lively bar scene with marine conservation as each stop embraced the spirit of the event. Participants donned their shark fin headgear and raised awareness of the importance of protecting coastal ecosystems. The haul was more than \$10,000. **RIGHT:** (l-r) Suzy Geller, Danica Sanborn and Christine Romines. **Photo provided**

**12th Annual Golf Classic**

Eastpointe Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens — Oct. 24

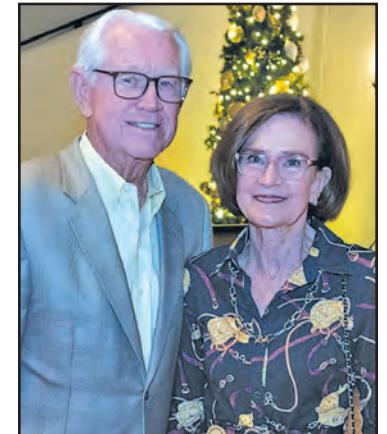
It was a picture-perfect day for Clinics Can Help as enthusiastic players rallied around a day of camaraderie, community and competition, all while raising nearly

\$50,000. The funds will support the organization's mission of empowering children and adults to achieve greater mobility, independence and dignity through access to essential medical equipment and supplies. 'Watching this tournament grow and seeing the impact it has on our programs means the world to us,' CEO Owen O'Neill said. 'As Palm Beach County grows, so does the need, and we're deeply thankful for everyone helping us meet it.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Patrick Daly, Tyler Jacobs, Evan Nuss and Nate Gates. **Photo provided**

**Retirement party**

The Boca Raton — Dec. 11

Friends, colleagues and community leaders paid tribute to Mary Csar, the longtime face of the Boca Raton Historical Society/The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, during an evening that also marked the opening of the Cloister Inn Museum, an exhibit commemorating The Boca Raton's upcoming centennial. Deputy Mayor Fran Nachlas and City Council members Yvette Drucker, Andy Thomson and Marc Wigder presented Csar with a key to the city for her decades of service, preservation efforts and impact on Boca Raton's cultural legacy. **INSET:** Mike Arts and Csar. **Photo provided by LivingFla.com**

**Evening of Enchantment**

DeVos-Blum Family YMCA of Boynton Beach — Dec. 6

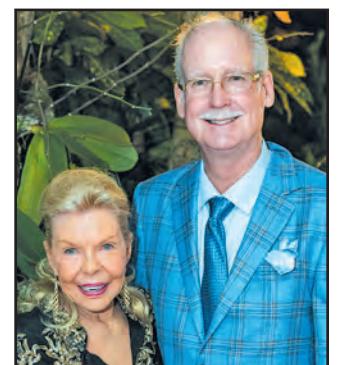


A celebration of a quarter-century of bolstering youths in the area raised more than \$400,000 and saw the 350-plus in attendance invest in the future of the Y. Proceeds will go toward program expansion so more children can be served. A highlight of the night was the announcement of a \$250,000 gift from Abdol and Cathy Moaberry earmarked for a new playground and splash pad. 'We are deeply grateful for the generosity shown at this milestone event,' said Shea Ciarletta, vice president of development. 'As we celebrate 25 years of meaningful impact in Boynton Beach, we remain committed to building a stronger, healthier community.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Terry Fedele, Jerry Fedele and Pat Thomas. **Photo provided by Carlos Aristizabal**

Cocktail reception

Club Colette, Palm Beach — Nov. 3

Palm Beach Symphony members were treated to a preview of the 2025-26 season and a dazzling musical overview led by maestro Gerard Schwarz. 'Once again this year, audiences will be enthralled by the incredible musicians that we are bringing to the stage,' said James Borynack, the symphony's board chairman. 'I am so proud of our members, board, donors, supporters, music director Gerard Schwarz, our musicians and staff for their stewardship in bringing to life our mission to engage, educate and entertain the community through live orchestral music performances.' **INSET:** Lois Pope and Bill Porter. **Photo provided by Capehart**



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Theater Briefs

Dramaworks sets lineup for its 2026 festival of new plays

WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach Dramaworks is offering its eighth annual Perlberg Festival of New Plays this month at the company's Clematis Street home.

From Jan. 9 to 11, playwrights will unite with a number of actors and directors to read through works in progress. Last season's festival led to two upcoming world premieres at Dramaworks, Steven Dietz's *Vineland Place* and Alejandro Rodriguez's *Alba*.

The 2026 festival features five works: *The Way North*, by Tira Palmquist (3 p.m. Jan. 9), directed by Marya Mazor. A lost, pregnant Sudanese refugee is taken in by a former sheriff in rural Minnesota, who soon discovers that the refugee is making a run for the Canadian border.

Fat Man's, by Matt Webster (7 p.m. Jan. 9), directed by J. Barry Lewis. In this play, a minister named Winnie inherits a building inhabited by a tattoo parlor run by Fat Man. They develop a friendship that soon gets tested.

Provenance, by Jennifer Maisel (3 p.m. Jan. 10), directed by Casey Stangl. This is the story of an unusual German portrait from the early 1900s that is stolen by the Nazis, then travels around the world, losing none of its power to affect people.

How Should a Conversation Be?, by Malena Pennycook (7 p.m. Jan. 10), directed by Lily M. Wolff. Two women meet for coffee and fall in love, but struggle over the years to find the right language for a real connection.

Bobby Robotowitz and Allison Portchnik, by Matt Schatz (3 p.m. Jan. 11), directed by Liz Fisher. An aspiring novelist and mother enlists the help of a chatbot for writing help and emotional support, with surprising consequences.

There will also be a Playwrights Forum at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 11, hosted by Jenny Connell Davis, Dramaworks' resident playwright and literary manager. Admission is free with the purchase of a ticket to any of the readings.

Each reading is followed by a post-performance discussion. Information

See THEATER on AT11



The audience at an earlier Perlberg New Plays Festival. Photo provided

Jewelry



Wearable Wonders

Splashy Bijoux! show returns to Mizner Park with international flair

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

Jewelry artists from Israel, Italy, Amsterdam, and Argentina will bring their latest wearable works of art to The Studio at Mizner Park for the 12th annual Bijoux! Contemporary Jewelry Exhibition from Jan. 13 to 17.

The event was founded by Donna Schneier, a renowned art consultant and jewelry collector who co-founded the prestigious LOOT show (now MAD About Jewelry) at New York City's Museum of Arts & Design.

Bijoux! came to Boca Raton through resident Andrea Kline — a metal artist and art jewelry collector — who organized the 2022 edition at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, where the celebrity artist was Iris Apfel.

"Bijoux! is not just about jewelry — it's about culture, craftsmanship, and connection," says Kline, who serves on the board of The Studio. "Bringing it back to Boca feels like a creative homecoming, and I'm thrilled to help reintroduce it to a new generation of collectors and art lovers."

Kline began collecting jewelry as a teen using her babysitting money, and when approached to chair the event, she



TOP: Bouquet brooch by Bruce Metcalf.
ABOVE: Pop Art Double Round Drop Hoop earrings by Jennifer Merchant.

Photos provided

jumped at the opportunity. "It's right up my alley," she says.

Some of her favorite collectibles are vintage Robert Lee Morris pieces and a vintage Elsa Peretti necklace designed before her tenure with Tiffany.

This year's exhibition continues that spirit of discovery, showcasing more than 30 artists from around the world, including featured artists Bruce Metcalf and Jennifer Merchant, a Minneapolis-based jewelry artist known for her bold acrylic pieces and vibrant art prints.

Metcalf, a Philadelphia-based studio jewelry artist, has works in major public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine

See BIJOUX! on AT12

Music

WLRN host Stock inducted into Folk Radio Hall of Fame

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

A list of the things that have changed in the South Florida music scene since the Reagan administration's first presidential term constitutes a scroll, with practically all being for the worse.

Yet something that hasn't changed during that time frame is WLRN deejay Michael Stock's *Folk & Acoustic Music* radio program, which streams and airs 3-5 p.m. Sundays on 91.3 and 91.5 FM from Palm Beach County south to the Florida Keys.

The 68-year-old host started the show at WLRN in late 1981 and



has since turned it into must-hear material for much of South Florida, particularly fans of acoustic music spanning folk, blues, country, bluegrass, gospel, world, protest

music and beyond.

All of which led up to Stock's induction into the Folk Alliance International's Folk Radio Hall of Fame in November.

"I wasn't expecting that," Stock says by phone from his home in Miami Shores. "It was a very nice surprise. They let me know in October, but said not to tell anyone until they announced it in mid-November."

Folk & Acoustic Music features an hour of Stock spinning recorded tracks that he accurately says "you won't hear anywhere else," plus an hour of live performances by both touring acts and area artists from the WLRN studio. It's a purposeful antidote to most radio programming, local and otherwise. You won't hear autotuned vocals, sampling, synthesizers, drum machines, or any other predictable pop fodder.

South Florida has been consistently represented on Stock's show in live appearances by the likes of Joel Zoss, Mel & Vinnie, Grant Livingston, Raiford Starke, Matt Sabatella, Pink Slip, Steve Minotti and more. But perhaps no one has appeared more often than singer, guitarist, harmonica player and songwriter Rod MacDonald.

The Delray Beach resident, who has more than a dozen album releases, was a major figure in the Greenwich Village folk scene in New York City through the 1980s and into the 1990s before he relocated to South Florida.

"Rod has an open invitation to See STOCK on AT10

Art

Shop 'til you drop in Flagler Museum's department-store exhibit

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

Following its focus on themes from Henry Flagler and the Gilded Age, the Flagler Museum's latest exhibit, *May I Help You, Madame? The Making of the Modern Department Store*, explores the rise of the department store as one of the most influential and transformative institutions of modern urban life.

The exhibit runs through May 24.

What better place to hold an homage to the temples of consumerism than on the island of Palm Beach, where shopping by the Ladies Who Lunch might be considered more than just a pastime?

"Department stores were not just a place to shop, but fused art, architecture, fantasy and desire into a single environment," says Campbell Mobley, chief curator at the Flagler Museum. "It taught shoppers how to consume culture as an experience."

She notes that even before museums and cinemas, people embraced the spectacle and theater of the department store. First emerging in 19th-century Paris with Le Bon Marché, the concept quickly caught on, reshaping the landscape of commerce, architecture, gender roles and public space.

In the United States, stores such as Lord & Taylor and Bergdorf Goodman in New York City, and regional chains like Marshall Field's in Chicago and Wanamaker's in Philadelphia, adapted the model to suit a rapidly modernizing society, incorporating luxury, mass



A postcard from the French supermarket Le Bon Marché. Photo provided

consumption and spectacle.

As the exhibit illustrates, department stores would not have been possible without the emerging technologies of the day — elevators and escalators, electric lights, telephones and typewriters, and plate-glass windows. Also revolutionary was the flat-bottomed paper bag we've come to know and love.

The architectural language of commerce blended beauty and technology, creating spaces that were both inspiring and functional.

"Every mirrored counter, every illuminated display reflected not only what we might buy, but who we might become," the museum notes in its exhibition text. "The department store

taught us to wander, to imagine, to long for what we did not yet have. It blurred the lines between art and life, between public and private, and between need and dream."

Besides being shopping meccas, department stores functioned as town squares, providing gathering places and amenities such as restrooms, cafés, public telephones and even post offices where you could send a telegram.

Different social strata met and mingled under one roof, and stores became fixtures of modern city life, as ubiquitous as parks, streets and subways.

And, as Simon Doonan — "the diminutive doyenne of display," as *Women's Wear Daily* once called him —

might say, "You can't sell desire without advertising."

Doonan, a renowned writer, fashion commentator and former Barneys New York window dresser, served as the museum's first guest artist for the exhibit.

His many books include biographies of Keith Haring and Lou Reed, and *DRAG: The Complete Story*. His newest book is titled *The Camp: One Hundred Glorious Flamboyances from Louis XIV to Lil Nas X*.

Doonan drew inspiration from the Flagler's archives and permanent collection to create *Flagler à la Mode*, a window display paying homage to the golden age of department store windows.

"Working with Amanda (Skier) and Campbell and the whole crew at the Flagler took me back to my days at the Met Costume Institute," Doonan says in an email.

With Greta Garbo eyes overseeing the window, Doonan combined Gilded Age elegance with his signature wit and theatrical flair to reimagine the artistry of 19th- and 20th-century window dressing through the lens of his 35-year career in visual display.

In the window are ephemera including a replica of Mary Lily Flagler's Burmese pigeon-blood ruby and diamond Tiffany engagement ring, leg-o'-mutton Victorian bodices, and a moiré purse that once belonged to Iris Apfel.

Also from the archives are a silk Chinese dragon robe, a mah-jongg set that belonged to the Flaglers, a Chinese

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

court headdress made with feathers, crystal beads and precious stones, and a hand-hemmed scarf from the 1867 Paris Exposition.

By the 1890s, advertising had evolved into its own industry. Department stores published glossy magazines, sponsored concerts and filled newspapers with the latest fashion illustrations.

And stores like Marshall Field's, Le Bon Marché and Macy's in New York hired decorators to design theatrical window displays. Even those who could not afford the latest haute couture could browse, dream and imagine themselves in the world reflected back at them.

Doonan follows in the footsteps of artists such as Salvador Dalí, who designed surrealist windows for Bonwit Teller in 1939, and Andy Warhol, who created window displays for Tiffany & Co. in the 1950s. Other well-known artists to design department store window displays include Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg, who both created windows for Bonwit Teller in the 1950s.

Other items on display include a collection of reticules or flapper bags from the era, antique fans, pillboxes, hairpins, jewelry, perfume bottles and satin and leather gloves.

Posters and newspapers advertise bespoke items at



A shop girl at Saks Fifth Avenue in Detroit. Photo provided

moderate prices. A copy of an ad in *The New York Times* announces the opening of Saks Fifth Avenue on Sept. 15, 1924, with 11 floors.

"Stock of such volume, such vastness and variety as New York has never known before," it boasts. "All at prices undeniably low."

Another ad in the *New York Sun* from February 1914 promotes Lord & Taylor's new store opening: "The public is cordially invited to enjoy the beauty of the new premises and the representative assortment of the world's best merchandise which will be on display and sale."

This Lord & Taylor was originally located at Fifth Avenue and 18th Street in New York City.

If You Go

May I Help You, Madame? The Making of the Modern Department Store runs through May 24 at the Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. **Admission:** \$28 adults; \$14 for children (ages 6-12); free for ages 5 and younger **Info:** FlaglerMuseum.us

Even the Flaglers were not exempt from the allure of department stores. They were known to have shopped at Lord & Taylor.

The department store, the museum says, "was everywhere and for everyone: an emporium of elegance and excess, and a symbol of the age that made modern life glitter."

Now, with online shopping giving brick-and-mortar stores a run for their money, the exhibit shows how department stores once shaped daily life — not just as places to buy things, but as a "third place," where people gathered, interacted, browsed and imagined what life could look like.

It's a reminder that long before today's retail environment, the department store helped shape how Americans shopped, socialized and viewed themselves.

Shopping, anyone?

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Folk-music fan Michael Stock's WLRN radio show has been airing since 1981. **Photo provided**

STOCK

Continued from page 7

appear on the show anytime he wants," Stock says. "He's an amazing songwriter."

"I think I first appeared on *Folk & Acoustic Music* when I was in South Florida around 1982," MacDonald says. "I've tried not to abuse his open-door policy since I moved down here, so it's become about twice a year since then. Which means I've probably appeared more than 60 times. And I was one of what were obviously many people who voted for his induction into the Folk Radio Hall of Fame."

Recent budget cuts by federal and state governments have made life purposely difficult for WLRN and all public broadcasting, and the station has had to rely even more on donations from subscribers and fans of its largely news-based format. *Folk & Acoustic Music*'s hours were trimmed from 2-5 p.m. to 3-5 p.m. in early 2025.

"I'm not sure exactly why that happened," Stock says. "I just have to look at it as making the show easier to present, even if it's upsetting to not be able to provide artists with as much exposure. I'm supposed to be unbiased with my opinions on the air, but thankfully they don't censor me at all when it comes to the music I play. They never have. And my guests are allowed to express their opinions, which they often do."

Stock has pre-recorded programming, a rarity, to air while he's in the Big Easy to attend the annual conference of the Folk Alliance International. That event takes place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel Jan. 21-25.

Before starting his radio show 44 years ago, Stock became a concert promoter in the 1970s in order to give folk music more of a live presence in South Florida, even opening a folk music night club called the Deco Gecko at the Shelborne Hotel in Miami Beach, his birthplace. Influenced by Bob Dylan, like many, Stock even tried becoming a folk singer, songwriter, guitarist and banjo player before turning toward other musical pursuits.

So the native Floridian might've had a different career trajectory through proximity if not for a decision made by his parents.

"They decided to come from Brooklyn to Miami Beach for their honeymoon and they never went back," Stock says. "I got turned on to Dylan around 1974, and might've been the only fan of his at Miami Beach High School. I had this dream of going to New York City and emulating what he did. But so did a lot of people."

Still, Stock's recent induction into the Folk Radio Hall of Fame proves that, while he never became Dylan, he's far from a complete unknown.



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THEATER

Continued from page 7

about individual plays is available on the Palm Beach Dramaworks website at palmbeachdramaworks.org.

Tickets for the festival can be purchased on the Palm Beach Dramaworks website or by calling the box office at 561-514-4042. Tickets are \$35 per play, or \$100 for all five plays.

— Staff report

FAU Theatre Lab moves to new venue on Boca campus

BOCA RATON — Theatre Lab, Florida Atlantic University's professional theater production company, has gotten a larger pasture to graze in.

With the support from the school's Department of Theatre and Dance and the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, Theatre Lab will be moving its operations to the Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre on campus. The move will allow the company to retain its focus on new work while being able to treat each show with more detail and support than its old space allowed.

The old space in FAU's Parliament Hall was once a frozen yogurt shop in a student dorm's cafeteria area. Hosting a professional theater company from this space was never an easy undertaking, said Matt Stabile, Theatre Lab's producing artistic director.

"There's a lot of decisions based on what you are able to do, instead of what you would like to do," Stabile said. The new space also adds resources such as Broadway-style lighting, projectors, and the space to fit more performers.

This move is still temporary, though. While Stabile and company have been able to put together more than 30 shows and 100-plus developmental readings since 2015, they are still seeking a dedicated space to fully support the FAU Theatre Lab.

Two world premieres are scheduled for the first half of 2026, parts of a planned trilogy: *Conversa*, by Joanna Castle Miller, a one-woman show about an evangelical Christian who converts back to her ancestral faith of Judaism. Miller will star in the show, which runs from Feb. 7-22.

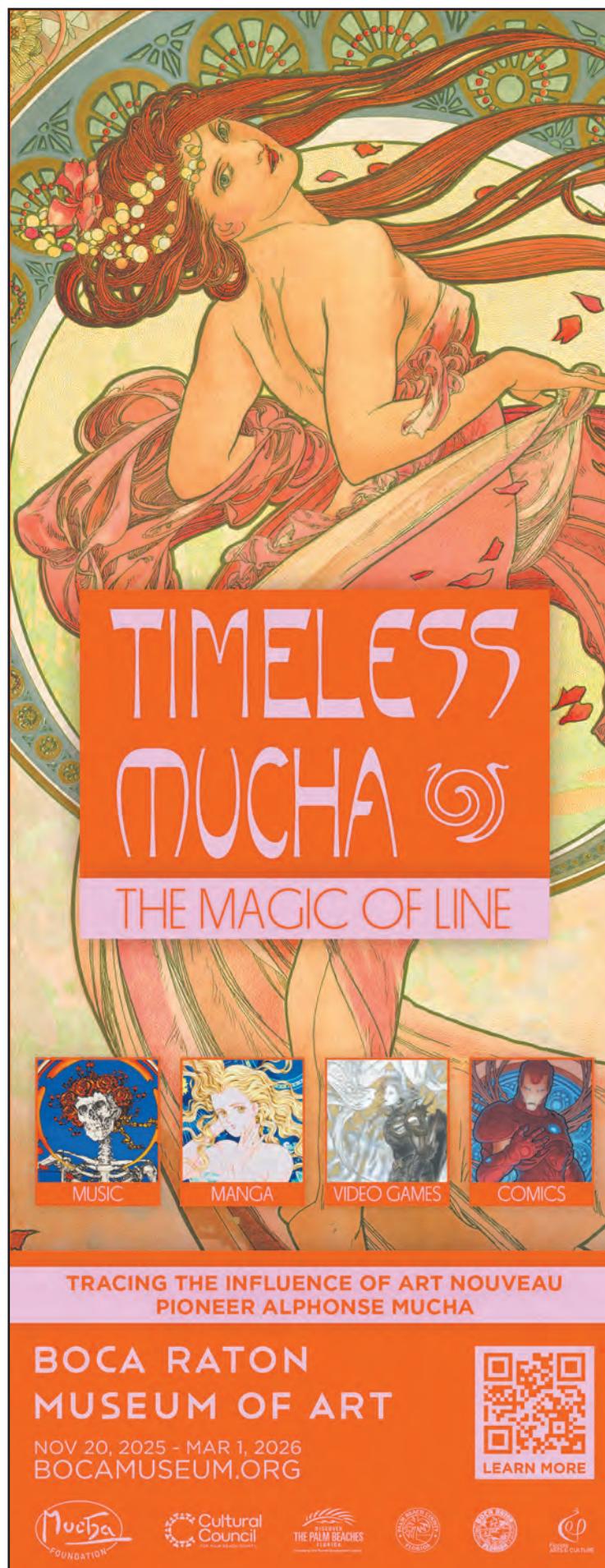
Miller's second world premiere, *Inferna*, a two-hander about a playwright coming to terms with her childhood, is scheduled for April 11-26.

For more information, visit fau.edu/theatrelab.

— Erik Kvarnberg

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FLAGLER MUSEUM

Charles Courtney Curran (American, 1861 - 1942). *Girl in Window Seat*, 1892, detail.
Berg Family Collection, Image Courtesy of Eric Baumgartner.

Golden Hour

CHARLES COURTNEY CURRAN AND THE ROMANCE OF AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM

SPRING EXHIBITION | FEBRUARY 10 - MAY 24, 2026

The Spring Exhibition traces the celebrated American painter's journey from his Ohio roots to New York, Paris, and the mountaintop artists' colony of Cragsmoor, New York, where he spent four decades capturing sunlit gardens, breezy mountaintops, and moments of quiet grace. Blending the elegance of the Gilded Age with the airy brushwork of American Impressionism, Curran's paintings, filled with women in flowing white dresses, playful children, and lush floral landscapes, offer a luminous vision of summer at its most poetic. Drawn from public and private collections, the exhibition includes rarely seen works, early portraits, and period fashions that bring his idyllic worlds to life.

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Isidore String Quartet | February 10
Jolente De Maeyer and Nicholaas Kende | February 17
Poulenc Trio | March 3
Trio Gaia | March 10
Guitarist Paul Galbraith | March 24

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BIJOUX!

Continued from page 7

Arts, Boston.

Working with wood, metal, Plexiglass, and a range of techniques, he contrasts the familiar with the unexpected to create whimsical yet restrained pieces that comment on the human condition.

"I'm all about pushing the envelope," he says. "I make jewelry that doesn't look like jewelry. It's intended to be different than anything you've seen before."

His designs draw attention to the wearer and engage people in conversation.

"I want everyone's heads to turn," he says. "If you wear a piece of my jewelry, you have to

rise to the occasion."

For Bijoux!, Metcalf will be bringing a selection of his brooches and bracelets, ranging from \$600 to \$5,000, many designed to be worn by both women and men.

Elements of his work include flowers, seeds and phallic symbols. "All jewelry is erotic; there's a sexual element to it," Metcalf says.

And while much of it is subconscious, he adds, "I try to bring that subtext to light."

While Metcalf pushes the boundaries of form and symbolism, fellow featured artist Merchant explores a different kind of innovation — one rooted in color, transparency and optical play.

As a child, Merchant

collected plastic jewelry bracelets from the toy aisle, stacking as many as possible on her wrists. Seeing jewelry as more than a fashion accessory, she believes it allows us to express different facets of our personalities — resulting in playful, bold, dimensional pieces.

Merchant transitioned from silver and gold to acrylic. Inspired by art books and fashion magazines, she developed a unique layered acrylic technique, transforming simple pages into wearable art.

She explores transparency, refraction, and magnification



Merchant



Spirals necklace by Bruce Metcalf is part of the Bijoux! jewelry show.
Photo provided

If You Go

Bijoux! Contemporary Jewelry Exhibition & Sale runs Jan. 14-17 at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: \$10; \$20 multi-day pass

Info: 954-910-5826; thestudioatmiznerpark.org

of rubber; Brooklyn-based glass and metal artist Jane D'Arensbourg; and Japanese-born, UK-based designer Kayo Saito, whose delicate sculptural pieces are inspired by nature.

From 6 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 13, an invitation-only *Bubbles, Bangles & Beads* VIP preview and opening night celebration will feature champagne, caviar and live music.

The show runs Jan. 14-17, alongside a variety of curated experiences.

The front lounge area will be transformed into an elegant Afternoon Tea Lounge, open daily during Bijoux! for refreshments.

Admission to high tea and artist talks are \$25 per event.

Artistic Directors: Dan Gulin & Jane Tyree

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2026 Steven Caras Award Recipient

Virginia Johnson

Former Principal Dancer and Artistic Director Dance Theatre of Harlem and Editor in Chief *Pointe Magazine*

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Arlene Herson

Pam Polani

Sunday, Jan. 18th, 2026, at 3:00pm
FAU University Theater

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Dance photo by Sharon Morgenstern

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Reviews

Here are excerpts of reviews from Palm Beach ArtsPaper. For the full reviews, visit palmbeachartspaper.com.

Itzhak Perlman (Kravis Center, Dec. 21)

The beloved violinist returned for his annual appearance in the Kravis Center's Classical Concert Series with a program titled "An Afternoon with Itzhak Perlman, Part II."

In it, the artist shared videos, photos, and stories that celebrated his 80th birthday.

Accompanied by his faithful



Perlman

charming miniatures by Romantic violin virtuoso Fritz Kreisler. It was touching to hear the attention to phrasing and the beautiful tone Perlman got out of his Stradivarius.

His tackling of the Violin Concerto in B minor, Op. 35, by Oskar Rieding (1846-1916) displayed his respect for the modest beginner's concerto, which he made sound like a Romantic masterpiece. Other selections included Franz Schubert's familiar song "Serenade" in an arrangement for violin and piano, and an arrangement of Dvořák's "Songs My Mother Taught Me."

But the moment that really brought tears to the audience was his beautiful performance of the theme from the film *Schindler's List*, by John Williams, a piece he recorded originally for the motion picture soundtrack.

Hopefully, next year he will come back with more music — a sonata or two would be a great opportunity to fully appreciate his enduring artistry and (at age 80!) his still very solid technique. — *Márcio Bezerra*

Is This Thing On? (in theaters; opened Dec. 25)

To an introvert, there are few prospects scarier than appearing on a stage and trying to make people laugh.

Alex Novak, Will Arnett's newly separated father of two in Bradley Cooper's *Is This Thing On?*, whose day job, we are told simply, is "finance," might have shared such trepidation at one time.

But when he shuffles onto the stage of a comedy club's open-mic night for the first time, early in the film, he no longer has any effs to give. He's just consumed half a pot cookie and bade farewell to his wife, Tess (Laura Dern), after an evening with friends in which they pretended their union was still hanging on, if at least by a thread.

To say that Alex approaches the stage unprepared to tell jokes is an understatement; he puts his name on the list simply to avoid paying the venue's \$15

cover.

The atmosphere in the room is as dead silent as the back of a hearse, and nothing happens for an obscene portion of his five minutes. Eventually, through the pregnant pauses, he speaks about his marital woes and his 26 years of history with Tess, discovering an embryo of a joke every now and then, but mostly using the stage as a talk therapy session.

The audience is remarkably, perhaps even implausibly, supportive — which could be chalked up to the director's Pollyannaish belief in show business' redemptive qualities.

The entertainment industry has been Cooper's recurring muse across projects as varied as *A Star is Born* and *Maestro*, and in *Is This Thing On?*, the comedy stage is never *not* a safe space.

Whether onstage or not, Arnett, in perhaps the meatiest role of his career, has a way of disarming us — of lowering our critical faculties so that we're all riding Alex's enlightenment arc. *Is This Thing On?* is earnest and good-hearted, and it checks a lot of boxes for what many viewers want from a Christmas Day release.

Cooper's casting is uniformly superb, from Christine Ebersole and Ciarán Hinds as Alex's meddling mother and juice box-consuming father, both characters fleshed out in multiple dimensions despite scant screen time; to Cooper himself, inconspicuous under various configurations of facial hair as Alex's best friend Balls, a marginal film and stage actor; to Andra Day, Balls' long-suffering spouse, whose resentments toward Alex fester until both are forced to confront them.

Cooper and Arnett, along with Mark Chappell, wrote the script together, and it exudes naturalism, tenderness and a seeming openness to improvisation that Arnett and Dern embrace with an infectious chemistry.

Cooper also effectively captures the halts and starts of comedy's growing pains. Alex doesn't transform into John Mulaney by the end of the film, but he's a better joke-teller by incremental degrees, and more important, he discovers a like-minded, supportive community in his fellow open-mikers. That it offers a potential lifeline back into Tess's heart is the unexpected icing on the cake of this comedy of remarriage.

Is This Thing On? doesn't break fresh ground, and it ultimately succumbs to a formula that's more schematic than is necessary for a narrative whose wooliest aspects are its most memorable.

But it's pretty much a mainstream romantic comedy at its best — the sort of films James L. Brooks and Nora Ephron directed in the '80s and '90s, where even the cut corners feel smoothed over with grace and humor.

Is This Thing On? feels, indeed, 30 years past its time, and it's all the better for it.

— *Palm Beach ArtsPaper* staff



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Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through Jan. 31 were current as of Dec. 26. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

ART

Armory Art Center:

Opens Jan. 11: 2026 Annual Student and Faculty Exhibition. Through March 5. Free. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 9 am-5 pm M-F, 9 am-noon Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org

Arts Warehouse:

Through Jan. 24: *Marmoris; Infinity Squared*. Through Feb. 28: *This Is. The End*. Free. 313 NE 3rd St., Delray Beach, 10 am-8 pm W, Th; 10 am-7 pm F; 10 am-5 pm Sat. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

Boca Raton Museum of Art:

Through March 1: *Timeless Mucha: The Magic of Line*. Through March 29: *Too Late to Rewind: From the Collection of Elayne Mordes*. Through May 3: *Eduardo Chacón: Postcards from Nowhere; Side by Side: The Artist Couple Bernstein and Meyerowitz*. \$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

Cornell Art Museum:

Opens Jan. 14: *From Primitive to Surreal*. Free. 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Noon-5 pm W, Sun, noon-7 pm Th, F; 10 am-5 pm Sat. 561-243-7922 or oldschoolsquare.org

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County:

Jan. 16-24: *The Short List*, small works by Palm Beach County artists. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

Flagler Museum:

Through May 24: *May I Help You, Madame?: The Making of the Modern Department Store*. Opens Jan. 13: *Landscapes in Miniature*. \$28; \$14 ages 6-12. 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm M-Sat, noon-5 pm Sun. 561-655-2833, [www.flagermuseum.us](http://flagermuseum.us)

Lighthouse ArtCenter:

Opens Jan. 15: *The Art of Daniel Ryan*. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousesarts.org

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens:

Through Jan. 25: *Zodiac Animals*. Through April 5: *Light as Air: The Buoyant Sculptures of Mariko Kusumoto; Take Arai: Bamboo Lights*. \$15 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-495-0233, morikami.org

Norton Museum of Art:

Through March 29:

Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from the Leiden Collection. Through Feb. 8: *La Florida: Flowers in Chinese Paintings*. Through March 1: *Anastasia Samoilova: Atlantic Coast*. Through Feb. 22: *Leslie Hewitt: Achromatic Scales*. \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196, www.norton.org

Society of the Four Arts: Through Feb. 1: *Edgar Degas, the Private Impressionist*. L100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 10 am-3 pm M-F. 561-655-7226, fourarts.org

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Sunday, Jan. 4

Delray String Quartet: The foursome offers String Quartet No. 2 of Camille Saint-Saëns, and String Quartet No. 4 of George Chadwick. \$35-\$50. 3 pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-808-5084.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Chicago Piano Quartet: This foursome kicks off the Classical Café season at Stage West. \$38. 2 pm, Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-868-3309

Saturday, Jan. 10

Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach: Four string instrumentalists in the society's Rising Artists Program perform Strauss, Beethoven, and Dvořák. 7 pm, Norton Museum, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. \$75. 561-379-6773 or cmspb.org

Sunday, Jan. 11

Angel Blue: The Grammy-winning operatic soprano brings a program of art songs by Fauré, Strauss and Rachmaninoff. Pianist Bryan Waggon accompanies. \$40. 3 pm, Society of the Four Arts, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Palm Beach Symphony: Cellist Alisa Weilerstein will perform Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1. \$28 and up. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Paul Lewis: The English pianist offers two sonatas by Mozart (K. 330, K. 457), Debussy's *L'Isle Joyeuse*, and the complete 15 *Improvisations* of Francis Poulenc. \$40. 7:30 pm, Society of the Four Arts, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Thursday, Jan. 15

Lynn Philharmonia: Conductor Guillermo Figueiroa leads the student orchestra in Handel's *Royal Fireworks Music*, John Adams's *The Chairman Dances*, and Brahms' Second Symphony. 7:30 pm Sat, 3 pm Sun, Wold Performing Arts Center, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. 561-237-9000 or lynn.edu/events

The COASTAL STAR

Seraphic Fire: The Miami concert choir will perform a program of gospel classics. 7 pm, St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$65, \$85-\$95 reserved seating. 305-285-9060 or seraphicfire.org

Friday, Jan. 16

Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería: The Mexican orchestra and guest trumpeter Pacho Flores offer concertos by Haydn and Paquito d'Rivera. \$40 and up. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Saturday, Jan. 17

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: Conductor Vasily Petrenko welcomes Australian violinist Ray Chen for the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. \$45 and up. 2 pm, Kravis Center. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Melissa White: The violinist and founding member of the Harlem Quartet appears in recital with pianist Peter Dugan of From the Top fame. \$38. 2 pm, Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-868-3309

Tuesday, Jan. 23

Brentano String Quartet: The foursome offers an all-Beethoven program: The *Harp Quartet* (Op. 74), an early quartet (Op. 18, No. 2) and the third of his *Razumovsky* quartets (Op. 59, No. 3). 7:30 p.m. \$40. Society of the Four Arts. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Thursday, Jan. 25

Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach: Flutist Sooyun Kim, violinists Alexander Sitkovetsky and Grace Park, cellist David Requiro and harpsichordist Ken Weiss perform 18th-century chamber music. 7 pm, Bethesda-by-the-Sea, 141 S. County Road, Palm Beach. 75. 561-379-6773 or cmspb.org

Saturday, Jan. 27

The Symphonia Boca Raton: The Boca Raton-based chamber orchestra presents a world premiere: *Ebenus*. Saturday, 7 pm; Sunday, 3 pm. Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$58 and up. 561-414-5226 or thesymphonia.org

Saturday, Jan. 31

Lynn Philharmonia: Conductor Guillermo Figueiroa leads the student orchestra in Handel's *Royal Fireworks Music*, John Adams's *The Chairman Dances*, and Brahms' Second Symphony. 7:30 pm Sat, 3 pm Sun, Wold Performing Arts Center, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. 561-237-9000 or lynn.edu/events

Monday, Jan. 26

DANCE

Friday, Jan. 16-Saturday, Jan. 17

BalletX: The Philadelphia ballet company led by Christine Cox will bring favorite works to the Modern Dance Series. 8 pm both shows. \$49. Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-868-3309 or email theatreservices@pbsc.edu

Sunday, Jan. 18

Boca Ballet Theatre presents *Where Dance Takes Flight*, its 35th anniversary gala performance, with guests from American Ballet, The Royal Ballet, MOMIX and more. 3 pm, \$75. FAU University Theater, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. bocaballet.org

Friday, Jan. 30-Saturday, Jan. 31

American Ballet Theatre: The company presents classical and contemporary *pas de deux*. \$150-\$175. 7:30 pm Friday, 2 pm Saturday. Glazer Hall, 70 Royal Poinciana Way, Palm Beach. glazerhall.org or 561-576-7860

Gallim: The Brooklyn-based dance company presents *Bodies of Matter*. 8 pm both shows. \$49. Duncan Theatre. 561-868-3309 or email theatreservices@pbsc.edu

JAZZ AND BLUES

Thursday, Jan. 8

Kelli Baker: The blues-rock singer/songwriter is performing at Crazy Uncle Mike's to start off the new year. 8 pm. \$19. 6450 N Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-931-2889 or crazyunclemikes.com

Friday, Jan. 9

Paul Thorn Band: His style is a unique mix of Southern rock, country, Americana, and blues. 9 pm. \$60. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 562-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Saturday, Jan. 10

Shayna Steele: The singer-songwriter traverses genres of soul, jazz, blues and even Broadway showtunes. 8 pm. \$60-\$65. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Monday, Jan. 11

Carolyn Wonderland: The Texas-based blues performer toured for many years with John Mayall. \$39 and up. The Funky Biscuit. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Friday, Jan. 12

Ronnie Baker Brooks: Son of legendary blues artist Lonnie Brooks, Ronnie has a successful blues guitarist. 9 pm. \$44 and up. The Funky Biscuit. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Monday, Jan. 16

Diana Krall: The Canadian jazz pianist and vocalist visits the Kravis Center. 7:30 pm, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$63 and up. kraviscenter.org or 561-832-7469

OPERA

Friday, Jan. 23-Sunday, Jan. 25

La Bohème: Palm Beach Opera opens its new season with Giacomo Puccini's 1896 tale of love and death among a company of starving artists in 1830s Paris. Peter Kazaras directs, and Vincenzo Milletari conducts. 7:30 pm F and Sat, 2 pm Sun. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469, 561-833-7888; or kravis.org or pbopera.org

POPULAR MUSIC

Saturday, Jan. 10-Sunday, Jan. 11

Chris Stapleton: The Grammy-winning country music artist will play two shows at Hard Rock Live. 7:30 pm. 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$315 and up. ticketmaster.com

Saturday, Jan. 17

Judy Collins: Still kicking at 86, the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter is known for her unique folk interpretations. Broward Center, 581 W Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale. 7:30 pm. \$59-\$107. ticketmaster.com

THEATER

Opens Jan. 6

Come From Away: A true-story-based musical about 38 planes rerouted to Gander, Newfoundland, during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Through Jan. 25 at Maltz Jupiter Theatre. \$78 and up. 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. 561-575-2223; jupitertheatre.org

Opens Jan. 16

Kiss Me, Kate: Cole Porter's classic 1948 musical is a riff on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. \$40-\$48. Through Feb. 1 at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Opens Jan. 22

My Fair Lady: This Lerner and Loewe musical from 1956 is based on a play by George Bernard Shaw. \$100 and up. Through Feb. 22 at The Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-995-2333 or thewick.org

Opens Jan. 30

Strictly Murder: This classic mystery set in Provence, France, is by Brian Clemons. Through Feb. 22. \$45 and up. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St., Delray Beach. 561-272-1281 or delraybeachplayhouse.com



the YMCA

Investing in our community through the YMCA

Christine E. Lynn
*South Florida Businesswoman
Philanthropist and Community Resident 45+ years*

Photo credit: Warner-Prokos Photography

You're a long-time resident of South Palm Beach County. How have you seen its civic needs change?

As our area has grown, so have its needs. There's an increasing demand for quality health care, education, and programs that support children and families. More than ever, caring for one another remains essential to a strong community.

Strong communities support the less fortunate. What causes do you personally find most compelling and why?

I'm inspired by causes that care for the whole person—physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Health care, education, and youth development create lasting change and help build a more compassionate community.

You've donated to the YMCA. What was the focus of your investment and why did you pick the Y as a vehicle for that gift?

I've supported the YMCA for many years, inspired in part by my friendship with Peter Blum and his lifelong dedication to helping others. My giving focuses on youth and family programs that reflect the values I hold dear—compassion, service, and community. The Y continues to touch lives and strengthen families every day.

How would you describe the YMCA's community role to someone who's just moved into the area?

With my background in nursing, I've devoted my life to the well-being of others. The YMCA shares that same spirit of care and complements my broader support of organizations that promote health, learning, and compassion. Together, they help create a stronger and more hopeful community.

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the YMCA of South
Palm Beach County's
multi-year initiative,
visit:



Dining

What happens when inspector visits — and what diners should know

Rats! Several restaurants in downtown Delray Beach were shut down last month for sanitation and safety violations that involved rodent infestations.

Blue Anchor Pub, MV Take-Out Restaurant and Gou Lakay & American Taste were closed for service after state inspectors failed them for extreme violations.

All reopened within days of closing, after reinspections found only minor infractions.

Now they'll have surprise inspections four times a year, based on the closures, said Barry Goldman, a recently retired inspector.

Otherwise, most restaurants get looked at twice a year, at random intervals, unless there are complaints.

"We can show up anytime during the day," he said.

Goldman inspected restaurants in Broward and Palm Beach counties for the state's Department of Business and Professional Regulation, restaurant and hotels division.

He also taught food safety as a chef-instructor for the former Florida Culinary Institute in West Palm Beach. His résumé includes executive chef positions at several hotels in Miami Beach, including the Fountainbleu, and Hollywood's Diplomat. He also was chef at New York City's Playboy Club.

Although the presence of

live creature activity — rodents or insects — gets a restaurant shut down immediately, it's not always the biggest threat to diners' health, he said.

"The biggest way people get sick is from the people who handle the food. You're not getting sick from the hamburger, but the way the guy makes the hamburger."

Common violations involve cooks who cross-contaminate fresh foods and raw proteins.

"Someone's working the grill, and puts a raw burger patty on the grill, then with the same hand — gloved or not — grabs a bun. Or picks up cheese. Now the bun or the rest of the cheese is contaminated with raw meat. It has to be thrown out," Goldman said.

The storage of raw proteins over fresh products eaten raw, such as raw chicken stored over mushrooms or lettuce, is a serious violation.

If a restaurant has extreme violations, it's shut down. The owners/operators can correct the problems and call for an inspection right away. If inspectors are satisfied, the restaurant can reopen, often the next day.

Temperature is vital

A number of violations can add up to citations, fines or closure, Goldman said.

Temperature problems are one big red flag.

"Somebody orders a piece of fish. It must be cooked to a minimum of 145 degrees. We get out our needle and check it," he said.

To prevent any arguments over readings, the inspector's thermometers are calibrated to the restaurant's, Goldman said.

Reheated cooked foods must be warmed to 165 degrees then held at 135 indefinitely. They should be cooled to 41 degrees to hold overnight, then brought back to temperature.

Italian restaurants are terrible about taking care of leftover soups or pasta sauces to be reheated the next day, Goldman said.

"Where is it? 'In the walk-in,' they say. We go in, it's in a big pot. Stick in the needle. They're not under 41 degrees, so they're not legally edible. It has to be thrown out."

Checking a list

Inspectors have an 82-point checklist in their comprehensive sweep of a restaurant.

From the temperature of the coolers and foods, to the condition of holding containers, to the sink handles, tongs for bar condiments, and ice machines — inspectors have a lot to look at.

They bring flashlights and gloves to inspect inside, over, under and around equipment.

"We're looking outside the restaurant for flies," Goldman said. "They're almost worse than

cockroaches. Flies transmit bacteria. They eat anything and everything and spit it on food."

Cardboard is a breeding ground for roaches in the kitchens, he said. "Cockroaches have their own spas, we say."

Removing grease buildup on hoods and stoves and sanitizing sinks and drains are important. Certain dish sanitizers must be used, and hot water must work at handwashing sinks.

Every restaurant owner is aware of all these things, Goldman said, through the state's required training and certification for safe food handling and serving.

"Every single manager of a restaurant has to go to training. It's a ServSafe manager's certification. The managers must then teach all of their employees, and they get a certification as well."

The employees have 90 days after hiring to get the certificate, or to bring one from a previous restaurant that's dated.

Certificates for managers are good for five years; for servers and food handlers, three years.

A restaurant is required to have a certified manager on duty at all times — and managers must present their certificates when an inspector pops up.

Step by step

Inspections are random, Goldman said.

"We can go in at lunch. The servers say, 'But we're right in the middle of service.' That is usually the best time to see how food is being handled and served. We can observe the cooks surreptitiously while writing on our notebook," Goldman said.

He starts with the appearance of the place, and the staff.

Cooks must have hats or hairnets — even bald cooks, and if beards are long, beard guards.

No jewelry, including watches, is allowed in the kitchen. "They harbor bacteria that can be transferred to the food," Goldman said.

And no fake nails are allowed in the kitchen.

"Servers can have fake fingernails. They aren't touching the food," Goldman said.

Aprons should be reasonably clean. The floor can have pieces of food, especially during service times.

"We're not looking for something that was dropped during prep. We're looking for food that was kicked under a table or stove and not cleaned up," Goldman said.

All equipment is inspected. Slicers are problematic, because the guards frequently get dirty. That merits a citation and can result in fines if enough violations pile up.

Bars get inspected, as well. Dairy products, such as heavy cream, must be stored at under 41 degrees and not left out behind the bar. Lemons, olives and onions have tongs or spoons for serving — no bare hands

should touch them.

And, "the bartender is the only one who can touch a bare straw," Goldman said.

Every bar must have a three-compartment sink, for dumping, washing and rinsing glasses. They are then air-dried.

"Think of towels used to wipe the glasses — they'll wipe the bar and spread all the bacteria. So no. Air-dry only," Goldman said.

In restroom inspections, the smelly ones get immediate attention. The odor has to do with drains backing up by not being sanitized properly.

"We go to some restaurants, they have an Out of Order sign on the door. They say it's to keep outsiders from using their bathrooms. That's illegal. Every restaurant must have working public facilities," Goldman said.

All of this is to protect the diner, he said, not to punish a restaurant.

"We work for you. We represent the consumer."

The public can anonymously report restaurants to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation online if they suspect problems. Inspectors are sent out for every report, Goldman said.

If three or more reports come in from people reporting food-borne illness, it's turned over to the county Health Department and is considered an outbreak. An investigation follows.

But the inspectors do a lot to keep the public safe and prevent this. Goldman said, "You'd be amazed at what we catch."

Food and Wine series at Delray Beach Open

The Delray Beach Open is stepping up its popular Food and Wine series, with more chefs and mixologists coming to the culinary tent at the Tennis Center.

The tournament celebrates its 34th year Feb. 13-22.

New this year is "Serve & Savor: A Taste of Italy," a tasting event on Feb. 21 featuring wines from official partner Caymus Vineyards. Returning are longtime fan favorites, including "Game, Set, Pour," "Burgers, Bourbon & Brew," "Tacos, Tequila & Tennis," and the extravagant "Grand Tasting."

All are ticketed events that sell out quickly.

Events involving more than 40 restaurants and beverage partners, with curated tastings, specialty cocktail offerings, and appearances by ATP players are scheduled.

Tickets and more information are online at Delraybeachopen.com/en/food-and-wine. Events are rain or shine; no refunds or exchanges. Most Food and Wine events are limited to people 21 and older.



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

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LEARNING

Continued from page AT1

popular speakers. Classes, priced individually, cost from \$34 for members to \$80 or more for multiweek courses or VIP lectures; bundling brings other discounts.

Robert Reeves, 78, has been attending classes since 2014, when he and his wife moved down to Boca Raton permanently from Manhattan.

"We started going right away. My wife and I are enthusiastic about it. The breadth of their programs, from current events, political, medical, music, self-help, history, art — there's something for all interests," he said.

Reeves favors courses on history or current events, but recently signed up for a crime scene investigation course.

"My wife is really into the crime shows; we took that together," he said. "I learned some things. I thought what was interesting, the guy worked in the field for the New York PD. He said the shows were somewhat accurate, but compressed into an hour."

Reeves also goes in for lighter, entertainment-themed classes; some are concerts performed by local bands.

"Sometimes we go out with friends. It's like going out for a night," he said.

Reeves also took a course on ChatGPT. He attends multiweek history courses, as well as classes on movies and theater.

"I enjoy the history courses the most," he said. "I think it's a wonderful institution. It's reasonable and convenient.

"For quality and content, you can't beat it."

Variety of courses

Courses run the gamut from detailed discourse on Renaissance natural magic and the scientific revolution, to a two-part lecture on Diana Ross.

Other titles in the upcoming catalog include Cuba, a History and a Present; Dealing with Overwhelming Anxiety: Insights from a Psychologist Holocaust Survivor; the Modern Legacy of 1776; the Art of Tango; and Sounds of Music: Simon and Garfunkel.

Ed and Ferne Emmer of Boca Raton have been students at OLLI for three years. He, too, likes the diverse class offerings, and just finished a two-part seminar on Cher.

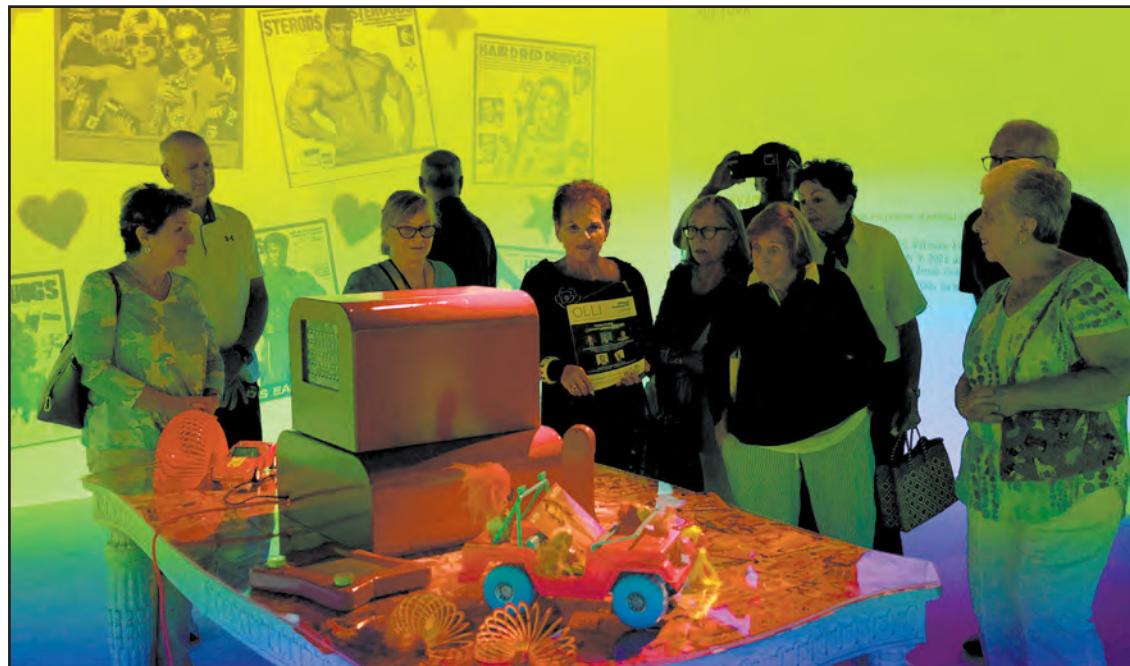
"I'm not sure why I took it," Ed said. "But she led a really interesting life."

"Time just flew by; you sort of wished there was another hour. The professor made it really interesting. He was so engaging."

Excursions are offered

Judy Scara, the associate director of programs, books the professors and other experts. Some are faculty and give the traditional lecture; others are brought in to provide interactive seminars where students are part of the class curriculum.

She gave an example of a



seminar about birth order.

Before his talk, the instructor separated the class into firstborns, then middle children, then babies. "It was really engaging," she said. "Everyone loved it."

The spring catalog with courses and excursions is now available.

"I try to mix it up with diverse things," Scara said. "They said they want to get into excursions, so I book fun things to get the students off campus."

She's had a wine-tasting trip, an Everglades tour, and a trip to MAD Arts in Dania Beach, a digital interactive art gallery. Upcoming plans include a trip to PopStroke, the new Tiger Woods mini-golf venture.

Recently in Jupiter, OLLI students went to an artist's class to make Turkish lamps.

"One of the students asked me to take her picture with her lamp. I did, and she said, 'Now write under it: It's never too late to learn.' She's 93," Scara said.

That's the mission of OLLI, Rosen said. "There are people who look for these programs to find a retirement community. They want to stay engaged. It really drives some to choose this area."

"We have an amazing program," Rosen said. It is one of the largest in the country.

FAU president's interest

The institute has been operating since 1980. It is self-funded, with student course fees helping pay instructors, staff and maintenance.

The new president at FAU, Adam Hasner, is refocusing on the institute.

"He brings an understanding of what this population can bring to FAU," Rosen said. "He wants this to be part of the Hometown University," the theme used to showcase the classes to area residents.

Most classes are held in

the Ely Meyerson Continuing Education Hall, a state-of-the-art auditorium that seats 500.

For special speakers, Scara said, it sells out. Members get first dibs on popular lectures.

The pandemic took a toll on attendance, however.

"This population is particularly vulnerable," she said, "so many stayed home. Their communities stepped up their programs, and some people have not returned. But we're hoping our programs will bring them back to campus."

Her spring catalog is the result of suggestions from patrons, board members and the students, and builds on past programs that proved popular.

Hot topics always include politics and current events such as the Middle East peace talks. Big-name commentators, such as Chuck Todd and Jon Meacham, will speak this spring, and Major Garrett and John Martin will give a presidential run-up lecture.

"Sometimes it's banging the bushes for new and interesting topics," Scara said. "I want to keep the energy up. We have a lot of repeat patrons, and you want to keep it fresh. They want to learn something new."

'Exciting professors'

Margarita Castellon is secretary of the board for OLLI. She's also chair of the marketing committee, a volunteer position.

"I've been involved for seven years," she said. "I take about 15 classes every semester. I leave behind at least 10 classes I'd like to go to."

She has a master's degree from Harvard and compares Jeffrey Morton, an FAU political science professor, with Ivy Leaguers. "We have the most exciting professors. Nationally recognized folks," she said.

Meacham, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and author of books on presidents, is a great

ABOVE: Lifelong Learning students interact with the *The Junk Machine* (2024), a work by conceptual artist ClownVamp, inside the MAD Arts in Dania Beach. **LEFT:** FAU professor Jeffrey Morton gives a presentation on foreign policy at the Boca Raton campus.

Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

draw, Castellon said.

Martin, Politico's senior political columnist, sits for "fireside chats" with FAU's Hasner. Morton, "he's our rock star," Rosen said, as a speaker on world politics. His current-events lectures sell out.

The social aspect of OLLI is also important. "It's a lifeline for some people," Scara said. "We are the third space for a lot of people. It's not their home, not their work, but the place where they can come and be comfortable and safe."

Many students have been caretakers for a spouse, or have lost a spouse. The classes are a way to become engaged again, she said. "We're really like a second home for some."

The OLLI staff also encourages the formation of special-interest groups.

"We had a very popular lecture this year about bird watching, called Bird Nerding. We encouraged the students to form a group to connect outside of class," Scara said.

Other groups include book clubs and a glee chorus.

Arlene Roberts, 85, of Boca Raton, is part of the volunteer marketing committee. Originally from Massachusetts and a snowbird, she has been a permanent resident for 22 years and was taking OLLI courses long before the pandemic shut them down for months.

"They've come a long way," she said. "The speakers really know their stuff."

She goes to lectures by Richard Rene Silvin on local history, or watches international films with Shelly Isaacs' commentary.

Keeping the mind engaged

Roberts likes that some lectures are "edutainment," but says others also attract her.

"The talent is here," she said. "I'm willing to try something different. Something that didn't

necessarily jump out at me. Some turn out to be not so great, but others are wonderful, and engaging."

The Boca Raton classes are convenient, too, she said. A new parking area directly across from the auditorium makes it easy to get in and out of class. "They bused us over before," Roberts said. "It was hard for some people."

Roberts also likes that the staff has brought back excursions, canceled during the pandemic. She's looking forward to a private tour of the Norton Museum in West Palm Beach in February as part of the group. "We're so lucky to have this in Boca," she said. "Who needs New York?"

Ed Emmer says he does miss the Big Apple, but OLLI fills a void in Boca Raton.

"I've lived my whole life in big cities, New York and London. I love it here from November to May. From June to October, I like New York."

Emmer is in his third year of classes. He likes all the history classes but plans to attend a lecture on Peter, Paul and Mary with friends from his building.

From the earliest wars in the Middle East to the French and American revolutions, to modern wars, centuries are covered. Speakers propose new angles and throw out ideas about alternate outcomes to engage student discussion.

"I sat in a class on Abraham Lincoln and immigration. One of the professors from the university interviewed the speaker, then there were questions from the audience," Emmer said. "It was really interesting and relevant."

He said the experience of sitting with like-minded students in the comfort of the main auditorium, along with the use of technology, encourages him to return. Screens display simultaneous captioning during lectures. Catch-up videos are available in case people miss classes. "Technology is clearly advancing," he said.

Ferne Emmer has some interests that differ from her husband's. She has taken several courses on cinema.

The *Thin Man* series was "really interesting," she said. She'll go back for a lecture on Katharine Hepburn soon.

The Emmers found out about OLLI from a friend.

"I was looking for something to keep me engaged," Ed said. "I'm not a golfer. I'm not a boater. I was looking for something to expand my knowledge. You have to keep moving, body and mind."

It's easy to fall into the trap of sitting around a pool and "do whatever, and doze off. It's important to keep your body active with exercise. But it's just as important to keep your mind active."

For more information about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, visit Olli.fau.edu.

Health & Harmony

Clefts teach father, daughter importance of resilience, self-esteem

Father and daughter Ben Frost and Parker Frost were both born with clefts — a defect affecting one in every 700 births, according to Smile Train, a global nonprofit that provides free cleft surgeries and care in more than 75 countries.

A cleft is an opening or split in the upper lip, the roof of the mouth (palate), or both.

While the condition can be corrected through surgery, speech therapy and other care, what defines this father and daughter wasn't their diagnosis — it was their resilience at a young age.

"Being born with a cleft forces you to learn life lessons about the importance of feeling

Smile Train

To learn more about cleft treatments and support for cleft patients, visit smiletrain.org. Or join others at the seventh annual Cleft Con, which takes place virtually in November at a date to be announced and in person July 17-19 in Phoenix.

good about yourself," says Ben, 51, an investment banker with Goldman Sachs who moved from New York to Delray Beach three years ago. "I've learned to be less concerned with how others see me."

Born with a bilateral cleft, Ben Frost spent nearly one

week each year in the hospital until age 13, undergoing surgeries to construct a hard palate, repair his lip and realign his jaw and teeth. He also attended speech therapy to relearn how to speak clearly — a process made easier by a nursery school friend who took the time to understand him.

Frost says his condition never hindered his ability to thrive: "I have a beautiful family and a wonderful job."

His biggest concern was passing on the condition. While his older daughter, Alexa, does not have a cleft, a fetal 3-D ultrasound revealed that his second daughter, Parker, would be born with one, a unilateral cleft.

A senior at Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, Parker, 17, plays golf and beach volleyball and plans to study marketing and sports management in college. She and her dad are die-hard Yankees fans, though Ben is open to rooting for his adopted home team, the Marlins.

While Ben Frost's childhood was shaped by hospital stays and speech therapy, Parker Frost faced an additional challenge: growing up with a cleft in the age of social media.

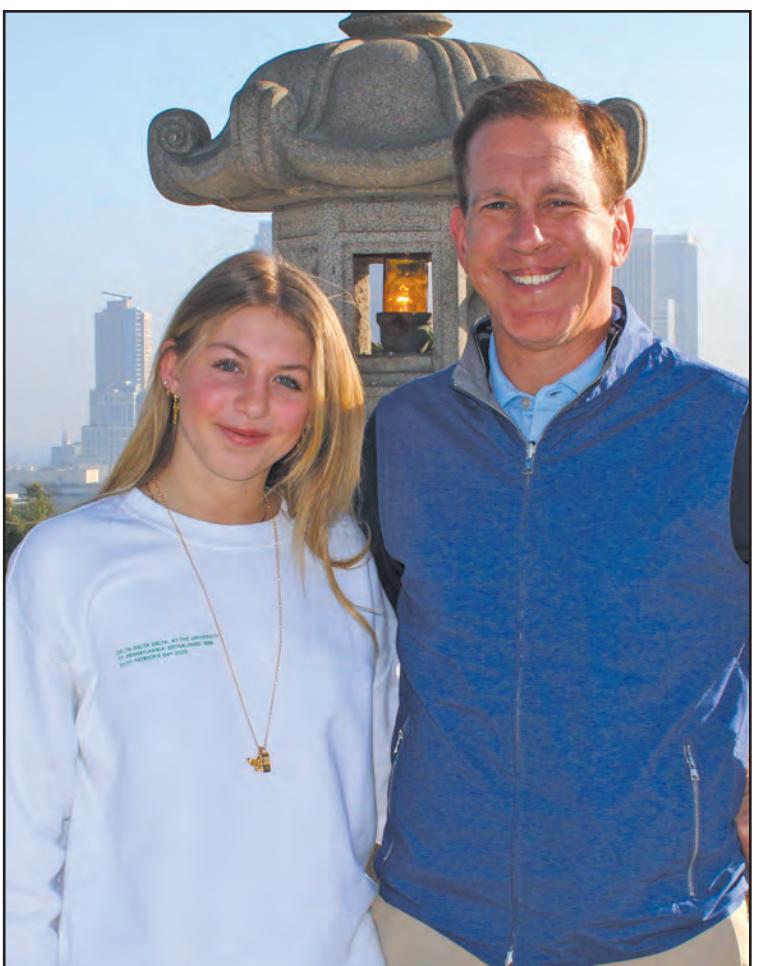
"It was hard to look in the mirror and see that you look different from your friends," she says. "It took a toll on my confidence."

She endured six major and several minor surgeries — each painful, each requiring weeks of recovery.

"It was the hardest time in my life," she says. "It takes a toll on the entire family."

The most recent was last summer, to fix a deviated septum and help her breathe.

Now Ben Frost says he and



Ben Frost and his daughter, Parker, of Delray Beach. Both were born with clefts and now try to help others. **Photo provided**

daughter are both "totally fine," with no serious ongoing issues.

From an early age, Parker Frost wanted to help others with the same condition. Her family became involved with Smile Train. Over the past 25 years, Smile Train has supported more than 2 million surgeries, along with speech therapy, psychological support, and orthodontics.

Last year, Parker Frost became a student ambassador and raised \$1,500 by selling handmade beaded bracelets. "I wanted every bead to mean something," she says. "Each one helped a child smile."

Iva Ballou, 40, Smile Train's community development manager, was born with a bilateral cleft. "I was that little girl who didn't have a community," she says. "And now I have one."

Ballou says the cleft community is now speaking "loud and proud," and she encourages others to listen. "We are funny, intelligent and resilient."

Ben Frost, who spent most of his life not talking about his cleft, says he's proud of his daughter for sharing her story.

"Smile Train is giving her the confidence to talk about it and connect with others," he says. "She's a great role model."

He calls the surgeries life-changing. "With this surgery, every child can live a full and healthy life," he says.

In November, the Fosters spoke at Cleft Con, an online seminar hosted by Smile Train.

"I never knew anyone else with a cleft, especially at my age," Parker says. "Even though I learned a lot from my dad, I wanted to relate to people my age."

She says peer support is essential. "I felt that no one understood what I was going through."

In her role with Smile Train, Parker hopes to help others embrace their differences. "Recognize that it's part of you," she says. "But it doesn't have to define you."

And while the scar never goes away, she says, it's her personality people remember. "Everyone has something they feel insecure about," she says. "Learn to love that part of yourself."

As Parker looks forward to college next fall, she carries with her the resilience she's learned and the power to help others appreciate the beauty of imperfection.

Jan Engoren writes about health

and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.

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Health Notes

Company expands its concierge health-and-wellness services to county

TrustHouse, a New York-based concierge nursing and care management company, has expanded its luxury in-home services to Palm Beach County, offering a team of nurses and concierge care for member clients.

Its office is at 515 N. Flagler Drive, Suite 350, West Palm Beach. TrustHouse nurses come from top hospitals and bring expertise in Parkinson's, ALS, and acute and chronic care directly into the home. Some notable clients include Michael J. Fox and the late New York governor, Hugh Carey.

TrustHouse membership provides private nursing and concierge health-and-wellness services for individuals and families. These include health management, early detection of health issues, 24/7 access to medical support and crisis prevention. Nurses will coordinate care, manage health and facilitate connections with physicians and urgent-care services.

Flexible care and membership options include an Essential Access Membership that offers monthly RN wellness visits, 24/7 telehealth RN support, tailored care plans and insurance coordination. TrustHouse also offers 24/7

care, 8- to 12-hour care, and hourly nursing visits.

The company also offers outside-the-home services such as travel nursing, vacation-home support and patient advocacy in hospitals or care facilities.

For more information, visit trusthouse.care.

Delray center honored for surgical robotics work

Delray Medical Center has achieved the Center of Excellence in Robotics designation from the Surgical Review Corp. "Robotics can help reduce time in surgery, improve precision and reduce time recovering," said Heather Haverick, the hospital's CEO.

JFK Hospital has two new vice presidents

HCA Florida JFK Hospital announced that Michael Schumacher is the hospital's new vice president of quality and patient safety, and that Anthony Terranova was promoted to vice president of operations. Schumacher came from HCA Florida Northwest Hospital.

FAU studies link between cancer, consuming alcohol

New research from Florida

Atlantic University's Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine highlights the cancer risks of alcohol, even at moderate levels.

Reviewing 62 studies with millions of participants, researchers found that both how much and how often people drink significantly affect the risk of cancers including breast, colorectal, liver and oral cancers.

Older adults, African Americans, those with obesity or diabetes, and lower-socioeconomic populations face disproportionately higher risks, even at similar or lower levels of drinking.

The research also found that lifestyle, genetics and other health factors compound alcohol's effects. Heavy, daily or binge drinking is strongly linked to multiple cancers, while following cancer prevention guidelines lowers risk.

Also at FAU in the area of medicine, two Florida Atlantic University researchers, Randy Blakely, Ph.D. and Gregg Fields, Ph.D., were inducted into the 2025 class of the Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida, which honors top scholars whose innovations have significant scientific and societal impact.

Blakely is a neuroscientist whose work has advanced understanding of brain disorders. Fields is a biochemist known for making breakthroughs in protein

research that inform disease treatments.

Send health news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.

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Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 12/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY 3

Saturday - 1/3 - 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

1/3 - Saturdays @ Sanborn: Yoga Class at Sanborn Square, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 8:45 am registration; 9 am class.

Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

1/3 - Zumba Class at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

1/3 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

1/3 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West, 1221 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every 1st & 3rd

Sat 10-11 am. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

1/3 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JANUARY 4-10

Sunday - 1/4 - Coco Market at Old School Square Amphitheater, 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. Held again 2/1 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market

1/4 - 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 W/Sun 6:30 pm. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

1/4 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous) Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Monday - 1/5 - LGBTQ ACOA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101 NW 22nd St. Every M 6:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Tuesday - 1/6 - Chair Yoga at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T 10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/6 - Yoga with Sophia at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 1/20 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/6 - Al-Anon Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 1/7 - Yoga at the Library at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Every W at 10 am. \$400/members; \$550/non-members. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

1/7 - Stretch & Strengthening Mindfulness Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W/F 10:30 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

1/7 - Yoga in the Museum at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Every W/F 11 am-noon. \$8/class. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

Thursday - 1/8 - LGBTQ+ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Th 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

1/8 - Alateen Meeting at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

JANUARY 11-17

Sunday - 1/11 - Yoga at the Museum at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 8:30-10 am. \$15/member; \$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

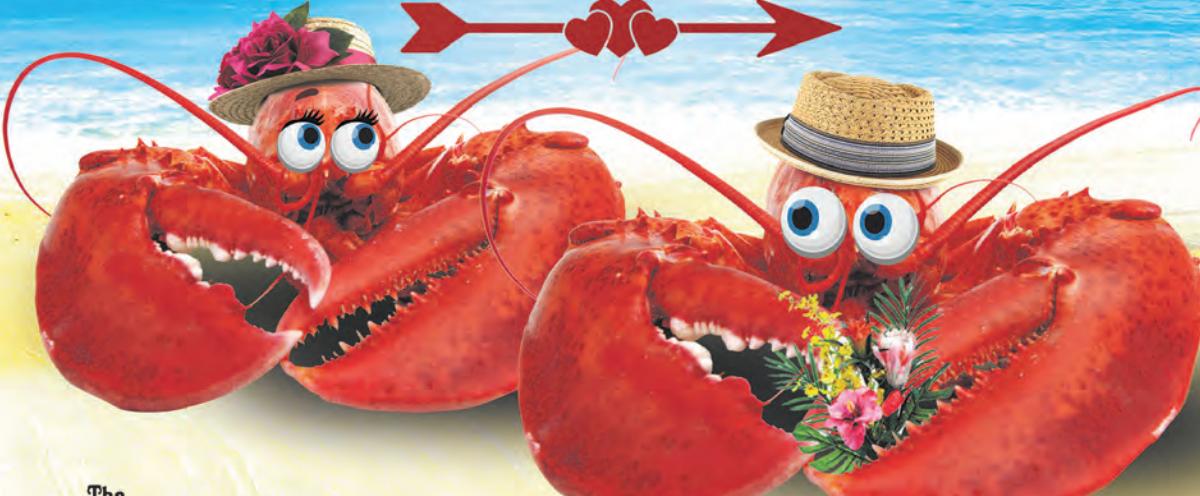
JANUARY 25-31

Thursday - 1/29 - Yoga Under The Stars at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 6-7:30 pm. \$20/member; \$40/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

FEBRUARY 1-7

Wednesday - 2/4 - What You Should Know About Diabetes at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Noon-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

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On the Water

Cool weather can be boom or bust for anglers

Depending on the fish you pursue, cold fronts can be a curse or a blessing. Cooler water temperatures can make bass stop biting and send bonefish and snook in search of warmer water.

Meanwhile, sailfish and sea trout usually bite pretty well immediately after a cold front arrives.

If you have the luxury of timing your fishing trips, you'll want to wait a few days after a front before targeting largemouth bass.

When water temperatures are cool, bass become lethargic. As the water warms, bass become more active and, considering that they haven't eaten for a few days, usually feed heavily.

If you can only fish right after a cold front, the key is to not get discouraged. As long as you keep making casts, you'll eventually put your lure in front of a bass that will bite.

It's kind of like serving dessert to diners who just pigged out at an all-you-can-eat buffet. People will say they are stuffed, but keep putting that hot fudge sundae in front of them and eventually someone will dig in.

A standard cold-weather technique is to flip soft-plastic crawdad lures rigged on heavy jigs or with a hook and heavy worm weight in mats of thick grass, which is where bass hang out when water temperatures drop. Many tournaments have



Mike Surman holds a bass he caught with a crankbait at Lake Okeechobee. Bass will bite a fast-moving crankbait when air and water temperatures are cold. **Photo provided**

been won using that strategy, which might not produce a lot of bites, but the fish you catch are often big.

But I recall a Bassmaster tournament on Lake Toho, south of Orlando, where most of the anglers figured that

with dropping air and water temperatures, the fish would be tucked in the grass until the weather warmed. Their game plan was to flip or fish a plastic bait slowly to entice bass to bite.

Former Bassmaster Classic champ Takahiro Omori shocked

the field, catching most of his fish by quickly reeling a lipless crankbait over grass beds to win the tournament. Instead of patiently flipping a crawfish through hyacinths, hydrilla and lily pads in the hopes of dropping it in front of a bass, Omori went for what the pros call a "reactionary" bite: Make a lot of casts and retrieve a fast-moving lure quickly and eventually you'll bring it past a bass that bites it.

Sailfish head south when temperatures drop

Cool temperatures offshore prompt migratory species such as sailfish to swim to South Florida. When they get here, that doesn't mean you can simply head offshore with live bait and catch all the sailfish you want.

Trends are important. Are the sailfish being caught in a few specific places each day or are they being caught a little farther south each day? If they were off Boynton Beach yesterday, they could be off Boca Raton today, unless you know that they've been off Boynton Beach for three or four days.

Once you get to the general area where the sailfish should be, you want to look for clues as to their exact location. Color changes, where the water goes from green to blue, are a good place to start. Most anglers fish the pretty blue water on an edge,

but the cloudy blue water often holds sailfish.

One of the most effective ways to catch a sailfish is by suspending a live bait from a fishing kite and having it splash on the surface, but many anglers neglect to cover the rest of the water column. In addition to deploying a couple of kite lines, put out one or two flat lines and a deep line.

When you do everything right, especially when sailfish are on the move, multiple hook-ups are common. If a sailfish comes up and eats a kite bait, keep an eye out on the other baits, because chances are another sailfish is around.

Cold weather can have a negative impact on reef fishing. Sediment settles to the bottom when the water is cold. The clear water means that yellowtail, mangrove and mutton snapper can see your fishing line when you drop down a bait and they'll ignore your offering.

The fishing will improve when the water warms and the sediment makes the water cloudy. That reduces the visibility and makes the snapper more likely to bite.



Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 12/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY 3

Saturday - 1/3 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talk about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. 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: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

1/3 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages;

child must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

JANUARY 4-10

Sunday - 1/4 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to 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. Held again 2/1. 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Tuesday - 1/6 - Island Treks at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Visitors will be guided on a

short trek along the shaded boardwalk through the tropical hardwood hammock forest, pausing for some intracoastal views through the mangroves. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

1/6 - Marine Mammal Biology at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of Ocean Science Lecture Series with Pinnacle Ecological. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

JANUARY 11-17

Wednesday - 1/14 - Coral Reef Ecology w/Pinnacle Ecological, Inc. at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/14 - EcoWatch Lecture Series at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 13 & up; child under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 6:30-8 pm 1/28. 6-7:30 pm.

Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Saturday - 1/17 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

JANUARY 18-24

Sunday - 1/18 - 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; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Tuesday - 1/20 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about seashells, the animals that make them. Caravan to

JANUARY 25-31

Thursday - 1/29 - 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

Friday - 1/30 - Intracoastal Adventures: Stand Up Paddleboarding at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 13-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. 561-544-8615; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

1/30 - Golden Hour Guided Tours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour ends w/sunset views of the Intracoastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole chickee. Ages 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 5:30-7 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

FEBRUARY 1-7

Tuesday - 2/3 - Shark Biology & Conservation at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of Ocean Science Lecture Series with Pinnacle Ecological. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

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Finding Faith

Volunteering builds a stronger community, 'one soul at a time'

Vowing to volunteer more is a common New Year's resolution, but volunteering has declined over the last few years, in part due to COVID-19, according to the Do Good Institute at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. The institute studies philanthropy as part of its one-of-a-kind program that "provides education, opportunities and resources to develop the next generation of nonprofit leaders, social innovators and civic-minded students."

At the same time, the need for services and the volunteers who provide them is increasing. Often, the first place people go to ask for help — or to offer help — is the church or synagogue.

Research shows two factors influence altruism: "religiousness" and education. In "The Power of Practices: Religious and Spiritual Activities Are Vital to Giving and Volunteering," David P. King, Ph.D., wrote:

"We know that religion is one of the strongest predictors of giving and volunteering. Religious Americans are more likely to give and volunteer, and to do so more often and in higher amounts both to religious and secular causes."

But the phrase "religious Americans" is vague, and the universal message at the heart of volunteering — to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" — transcends religion. The concept is found in Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Confucianism and even in the teachings of the Greeks centuries BCE.

"It's important to be in service to God," said Pastor David Schmidt of Cason United Methodist Church in Delray Beach. "We're very clearly called in Matthew 25, where he says, 'whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters you did for me.' Everything you need to know about why we should be serving people is summed up in that verse."

Another factor strongly tied to a person's likelihood to volunteer is education. Whether at a place of worship or outside in the nonprofit community, the more education you have, the more likely you are to give your time to a cause.

In 2023, Gallup reported,



From left, Lina Colasacco, Ellen Petronaci and Jackie Ermola from Eat Better Live Better accept a check for the organization's Christmas Toy Drive from Linda Gibson and Marilyn Bates of Cason United Methodist Church's Women in Faith. **Photo provided**

What Bible says about service

The Bible portrays volunteering and service as a core part of faith, showing love for God and others, using God-given gifts, and fulfilling the example of Jesus. Serving is seen as essential, not optional, and is a way to glorify God and experience his blessing, with a focus on humility and generosity.

In the Old Testament:

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

— **Proverbs 11:25**

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." — **Proverbs 19:17**

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

— **Proverbs 22:9**

In the New Testament:

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

— **Matthew 5:16**

"And do not neglect doing good and sharing,

for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

— **Hebrews 13:16**

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." — **Romans 12:13**

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" — **Acts 20:35**

"Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon." — **Isaiah 58:10**

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.'"

— **2 Corinthians 9:7-9**

— Compiled by Janis Fontaine



Schmidt

"I think far too often Christians believe that it's our job to save and transform people, and I don't believe that at all. I believe our job is to soften people's hearts so that Jesus can transform them, show them what love looks like. We just need to live our lives in the way that Jesus taught us and asked us to."

— Pastor David Schmidt, Cason United Methodist Church

"Volunteerism nearly doubles between non-collegegoers (14%) and those with at least some postsecondary education (27%) or an associate degree (27%). It increases to 38% among those with a bachelor's degree and 47% with a graduate degree."

Jackie Ermola of Delray Beach, an advocate for people in need, spends her days trying to make the world a better place. A former business executive, she has served on nonprofit boards and run ministries in the past, but says, "I was spinning too many plates."

Now she's on the board at Eat Better Live Better, a food source that focuses on

providing healthful food, including access to fresh produce and no-sugar and low-sodium groceries, as well as nutrition education to the community.

Eat Better Live Better serves people facing health challenges (including childhood obesity) that can be improved by a better diet.

"My grandmother was a great influence on me because she helped a lot of people. She had a big farm in Delaware, and she was always a doer and that's how I grew up," Ermola said. "My father said the Salvation Army helped him and my mother, so I never go by that red kettle and not put something in there."

Ermola says it's about our actions, and Schmidt agrees.

"Actions will always speak louder than words. I hate to use that cliche, but it's just absolutely true. Andy Stanley calls that the difference between believing and behaving. You can believe in Jesus Christ, but are you behaving in the way Christ behaved?" Schmidt said.

Ermola says she tries to be Christlike, and that her volunteer work sustains her.

"I've had great careers, but I always tell people this is the best job I've ever had, and I don't get paid for it," she said. "I love the homeless. They've given me more than I've given them. But I still ask myself,

Some ways to get involved

There are many ways to serve that don't involve feeding the hungry, although that's an important ministry. You can play in the praise band or bell choir or sing in the choir. You can lead Bible studies or teach Sunday school. There are outreach ministries, community teams and family ministries, and other opportunities.

To find a role, experts say consider your interests and availability, then express your interest to church leaders. They'll find a place for you.

If you want to work with one of the long-established charities that feed the hungry, consider one of these: **Boca Helping Hands** — bocahelpinghands.org or 561-417-0913 **CROS** — crosministries.org or 561-233-9009 **Eat Better Live Better** — eblb.org or 678-428-3370

'How can this happen?' I just feel in this country, we could do better. We need to do better."

Ermola takes great pride in what Eat Better Live Better has accomplished.

"It's God's work, but it's not always easy." Hunger is a never-ending void that she can never fill, so she tries to keep things in perspective. "It's one soul at a time," she said.

For Schmidt, it's almost simple: "Love the Lord, your God, and love your neighbor. Everything else is above your pay grade. Your job is to love people. When I see my maker on that day and say to him, 'God, I tried to love everybody,' I think his response will be, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' Because if we can love people, that softens our heart. And it softens their heart."

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at fontaine423@outlook.com.



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SCAN ME

Religion Notes

Stop 'cancer of antisemitism,' actress tells Boca Raton crowd

Actress-turned-activist Patricia Heaton brought a message of support for Israel to Boca Raton on Dec. 9 when she spoke to 250 people at the American Friends of Magen David Adom event at B'nai Torah Congregation.

Before the program, two ambulances were dedicated to the MDA, Israel's emergency services system. One was given by Selma Lee Weiss and Daniel Weiss in honor of Rabbi David Steinhardt, and the other by Beatriz and Harold Jacobsohn in honor of their children and grandchildren.

Heaton, best known for the popular sitcom *Everybody Loves Raymond*, is the co-founder of the October 7 Coalition, a



Actress Patricia Heaton accepts the Eternal Light Award at B'nai Torah Congregation. **Photo provided**

"network of Christians standing visibly and vocally against the rise of antisemitism," with her friend Elizabeth Dorros

(october7coalition.com).

Heaton said, "We can't sit by. We have to do everything we can in our power, with God's help, to make sure that the cancer of antisemitism does not spread any further."

After she spoke, Heaton accepted the Eternal Light Award for her unwavering support for Israel. Then, Jonathan Conricus, former IDF spokesperson and a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, joined Rabbi Steinhardt to discuss Israel, security and resilience.

The event raised money to support MDA training and equipment for Israel's paramedics and EMTs.

B'nai Torah Congregation, at

6261 SW 18th St., Boca Raton, is the largest conservative synagogue in the southeastern United States with more than 1,300 member families. Info: 561-392-8566 or btcboca.org

led by a new bishop in 2026.

On Dec. 14, Pope Leo XIV appointed Father Manuel de Jesús Rodríguez, currently pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Corona (Queens), New York, as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach. It also includes Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties.

He succeeds Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, Palm Beach's bishop since 2003, who submitted his retirement letter to the Holy Father when he turned 75 on Jan. 4, 2025, as required by canon law. Now, Bishop Barbarito assumes the status of Bishop Emeritus of Palm Beach. He has been appointed its apostolic administrator until the day of Bishop-elect Rodriguez's ordination, which has not yet been set.

Bishop Barbarito introduced Bishop-Elect Rodriguez at a Dec. 19 news conference in the Family Life Center of the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens.

Rodríguez, 50, a native of the Dominican Republic, was ordained to the priesthood July 3, 2004. A canon lawyer with extensive experience in penal canon law and pastoral leadership, he became affiliated with the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, in 2012. Rodriguez, whom Bishop Barbarito said is described as "a priest who walks with the people," speaks four languages.

Father Rodriguez said he was surprised by a Sunday afternoon phone call on Dec. 14 telling him he was being appointed bishop. Feelings of "utter disbelief" were replaced by new ones. "I was terrified," he said at the news conference.

Humbled by the enormity of his new position, Father Rodriguez said, "I do not bring much with me — only myself and my faith in Christ Jesus, whom I follow as my Lord and Savior, and whom I will serve all my life. For this reason, I make my own the words of Saint Peter when he once encountered a poor man, crippled and begging at the gate of the Temple in Jerusalem: 'I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give you.'"

As chief shepherd of the Diocese of Palm Beach, the bishop is responsible for about 260,000 Catholics in 54 parishes and missions with nearly 300 ordained priests and deacons, and 20 Catholic elementary and high schools.

For more information, visit diocesepb.org.

Journey Church mourns pastor killed in crash

Journey Church and the local community are mourning the death of a pastor who was killed in a motorcycle crash on Nov. 25 on Congress Avenue near Atlantis.

Joshua Rene, 39, served as an executive pastor of the

PLACES of WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Religious institutions of all faiths are invited to be included in this paid feature. For more info, call 561-704-7834.

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY OF DELRAY BEACH
• Phone: 617-851-7750 • Web: ChristianScienceDelrayBeach.com

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST 566 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33423 • Phone 561-391-7689 • Web: christianscientistboca.org • Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday Service: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

EPISCOPAL

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ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3300A S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435. • Phone 561-732-3060. • Web: stjoesweb.org. • Worship Schedule: Saturdays 5:00 p.m. Reflective Healing; Sundays 9:30 a.m. Choral Rite II; 10:45 a.m. Coffee Hour; 11:45 a.m. Contemporary service, live band (livestreamed).

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. • Phone: 561-276-4541 • Web: stpaulsdelray.org. Father Paul Kane. Services of Holy Eucharist: Saturdays 5:00 p.m.; Sundays 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; Sundays 10:00 a.m. Family Prayers and Praise Service; Thursday 12:10 p.m. Healing Service; Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer and 8:00 p.m. Compline.

JEWISH

BETH AMI CONGREGATION - A Contemporary Conservative Congregation, 1401 NW 4th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33432
• Phone: (561) 347-0031 • Web: BACBOCA.com • Email: info@Bacboca.com • Rabbi Bertram Kieffer, Cantor Lewis Messulam
• Friday Service 7:00 p.m., Shabbat morning and Festivals, 9:30 a.m.



New bishop named for Palm Beach diocese

Just a week before Christmas, Palm Beach County's Catholic community learned it would be

LUTHERAN

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH 2929 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone: 561-732-2929 • Web: ascensionlutheranchurch.net. Worship Service/Holy Communion Sundays 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Our mission is Ministry: God has called us to share His love through healing hurts, filling needs and caring for those who are less fortunate in our family, in our community and around the world.

METHODIST

CASON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. • Phone: 561-276-5302 • Web: casonumc.org. • Sunday Services: Contemporary Service, 9:15 a.m.; Traditional Service, 11:00 a.m.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - Church of the Palms, 1960 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444
• Phone: 561-276-6347 • Web: churchofthepalms.net
• Services: Sunday 10:00 a.m., Online Worship Sunday 4:00 p.m.

JOURNEY CHURCH • GoJourneyChurch.com • We're here to help you transform your life by Experiencing God, Finding Freedom, Discovering Your Purpose, and Making a Difference. There's a campus near you! Services are Sundays 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. • **West Palm Beach**: 2341 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415 • **Boynton Beach**: 715 S. Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • **Lake Worth Beach**: S. Military Trail, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33463.

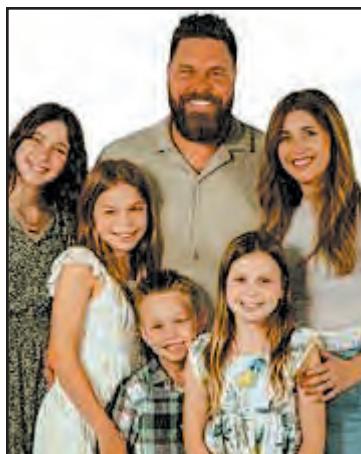
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2100 Yamato Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33431 • Phone: 561-994-4822 • Web: saintmarkboca.net • Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers (Matins); 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy. All are welcome.

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• Web: fpcboynton.org • Services: Sundays at 10 a.m. in-person; live streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Fresh traditional worship; volunteer opportunities. Personal spirituality deepens in community worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH 33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, FL 33483 • Phone: 561-276-6338
• Web: firstdelray.com • Our purpose is Building Disciples, Transforming Lives. • Sunday Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.



Joshua Rene and his family. He was killed in a motorcycle crash. **Photo provided**

non-denominational Christian church with campuses in West Palm Beach, Lake Worth Beach and Boynton Beach.

Pastor Josh, as he was known, was honored at services at all three churches following his passing. Pastor Scott Baugh said the father of four was "always joyful, always had faith. There was never a person he didn't make time for."

First Presbyterian to host distinguished speaker

On Jan. 11 at the 9 and 11 a.m. services, First Presbyterian Church welcomes its first Distinguished Preacher of 2026 to the pulpit.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Tewell, a graduate of Princeton Seminary, has more than 40 years' experience as a pastor, including his tenure at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City during 9/11.

He is the founder of the Macedonian Ministry and has received awards for his social justice ministry, particularly with the homeless in New York. First Presbyterian is at 33 Gleason St., Delray Beach. Info: 561-276-6338 or firstdelray.com.

Discover Spanish River Church at open houses

Spanish River Church is holding two open house events in January. The Presbyterian PCA Church at 2400 Yamato Road, Boca Raton, hosts Discover SRC, to invite the community to learn about this vibrant church community, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8.

Then 10-11 a.m. Jan. 11 during coffee hour, and noon-1 p.m. after the second service, the church hosts a Ministry Showcase to illuminate all the ways available to get involved with the church. Both events take place in the Connect Center. Call 561-994-5000 or visit spanishriver.com.

Tim Tebow and Life Surge coming to West Palm Beach

Tim Tebow, former NFL and University of Florida quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner, headlines a powerful day of Christian worship at the Palm Beach County Convention Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 17.

The day is designed to inspire, teach and spread a biblical message to make a positive impact on family and community.

Besides Tebow, the featured speakers include author and podcast host Ed Mylett; Pastor

Craig Groeschel; Australian evangelist Christine Caine; and the stars of *Duck Dynasty*, Willie and Korie Robertson.

Music is by 11-time Dove Award-winning and Grammy-nominated Bethel Music. As of Dec. 27, tickets were \$22.40 plus fees at lifesurge.com, and include a boxed lunch. The Convention Center is at 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.

Night to Shine prom for people with special needs

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 701 W. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, will host Night to Shine on Feb. 13 for the 10th year. This annual prom for people with special needs is held simultaneously around the world at more than 600 churches and celebrates God's love. The event also highlights the work of its sponsor, the Tim Tebow Foundation. To register, visit nighttoshineboca.com.

Saint Mark Greek Festival to offer food, live music

The annual Saint Mark Greek Festival takes place Jan. 29-Feb. 1 and features food, beer and wine, live music and dancing, family activities and an international marketplace. Hours are 4-9 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon-9 p.m. Sunday, at Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church, 2100 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Call 561-994-4822 or visit saintmarkboca.net/greek-festival.

Participate in Yoga and Sacred Movement activity

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church offers two programs that combine movement and prayer in January. At 4 p.m. Jan. 22, Yoga and Sacred Movement mixes gentle stretching movements and breath work with reflection on scripture and prayer. The program is led by parishioner and yoga instructor Daphne Lombardo under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Robyn Neville and is open to seniors and families. Bring your own yoga mat and water.

At 4 p.m. Jan. 24, join YogaMass in St. Mary's Chapel, a combination of graceful yoga, deep words of faith in the Eucharist, and contemplative meditation with Neville and the Rev. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren leading. Bring your yoga mat and water.

The church is at 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Call 561-395-8285 or email rneville@st-gregorys.com.

New program created to fight homelessness

The Interfaith Committee for Social Services recently announced a program to help local nonprofits serve their homeless clients.

The new Homeless Prevention Program is designed to provide a one-time-only gift to prevent individuals or families in southern Palm Beach County from becoming homeless.

Judy Fenney helped establish the program with Kathleen Megan, both parishioners at

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach. They have helped people with past-due utilities, first- and/or last-month rent, security deposits, move-in expenses, household necessities and appliances. Allocations ranged from \$600 to \$3,200.

Requests for assistance must come from a partner agency, congregation, or civic group.

Personal requests will not be considered. Checks are issued to the requesting organization, or directly to the organization providing the service (like the landlord or utility).

Agencies can complete the Interfaith Homeless Prevention Request form, available at docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfY24JsFvbTZmKV0B3UCW8jaWc1MYV14_gbrtCdIPz7LMC53w/viewform.

Questions can be emailed to judyfenney1@gmail.com or interfaithcss@gmail.com.

Registration underway for annual Grace Race 5K

Register now for Grace Community Church Boca's annual fundraising 5K and 1-mile run/walk at 8 a.m. Feb. 14. The race begins and ends at the church at 500 W. Camino Real, Boca Raton. All the race proceeds benefit programs including 4KIDS of South Florida, Trail Life USA Troop 6:33, and the outreach efforts of Amped Student Ministries. Fees are \$15-\$30. Register at runsignup.com/Race/FL/BocaRaton/GraceRace5KRunWalk.

— Janis Fontaine

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 12/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY 4-10

Sunday - 1/4 - Zoom Bible Study

at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 p.m. Free. Zoom link: communications#accboca.net; 561-997-5486; ascensionboca.org

Monday - 1/5 - Women's Bible Study via Zoom

at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every M 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

1/5- Rosary for Peace at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center

840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:45-6:15 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Tuesday - 1/6- Tuesday Morning Prayer Service

at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 1/7 - 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

1/7 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service

at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

1/7 - Burning Bowl Ceremony

at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 7 pm. Free-will offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Thursday - 1/8 - Men's Fellowship

at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

1/8 - Lunch and Learn with Dr. Charles Asher Small

at Beth Ami Congregation, 1401 NW Fourth Ave, Boca Raton. Topic: Overview of Twelve Day War from a visitor's perspective. 11:30 am. Free. 561-347-0031; bacboca.com

1/8 - 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 - 1/9 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center

840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 9:30-11 am. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

1/9 - 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

1/9 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County

2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaiapbc.org

JANUARY 11-17

Wednesday - 1/14 - White Stone Ceremony

at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 7 pm. Free-will offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Thursday - 1/22 - Lunch and Learn with Yigal & Dr. Deena Oren

at Beth Ami Congregation, 1401 NW Fourth Ave, Boca Raton. Topic: Overview of Twelve Day War from a visitor's perspective. 11:30 am. Free. 561-347-0031; bacboca.com

FEBRUARY 1-7

Wednesday - 2/4 - Seminar: Honoring Our Differences, Celebrating Our Shared Values: An Interfaith Round Table w/Rabbi Rami Pavolotzky, Pastor Bob DiScipio, Pastor Randy Cutter

at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

Please Be Our Guest!



Thursday Lunch and Learn

January 8 | 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Charles Asher Small

"The Muslim Brotherhood — How did we get here? Meet the Founding Director and President of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP)"



Sunday Speakers Series

January 11 | 2:00 p.m.

Riva Ginsburg

"The Joys of Yiddish!"

Join us for coffee and a wonderful speaker!



Sunday Speaker Series

January 18 | 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Irv Berkowitz

"The House of Israel Divided"

Join us for an informative/educational afternoon



Thursday Lunch and Learn

January 22 | 11:30 a.m.

Yigal & Dr. Deena Oren

They were visiting Israel when the Twelve Day War broke out. They will give us an overview of the war from the perspective of someone visiting Israel during this terrifying and historic time.



Services led by Rabbi Bert Kieffer with Gary Lawrence on keyboard.

Shabbat Prayers set to the music of hit movies like *Phantom of the Opera*, *Ghost*, *A Star is Born*

Catch our Spirit!



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Pets

Inaugural Christmas Doggie Parade

Old Ocean Boulevard, Ocean Ridge — Dec. 20

Organizer Wendy D'Angelo said she created the Christmas Doggie Parade — which was full of holiday spirit — after moving back into her home in Ocean Ridge, saying that she wanted to give back to her neighbors and celebrate how much she loves the community. She hopes to make the parade even bigger next year and turn it into an annual neighborhood tradition.

TOP: Parade participants gather on Old Ocean Boulevard.

RIGHT: D'Angelo (center) tries to keep up with her dogs Riley and Lulu, both 5, as they look to make new friends with Ivy and Otis, both 2.

FAR RIGHT: Dogs dressed up in their holiday finest appear to be in a deep discussion.

Photos by Rachel S. O'Hara/The Coastal Star



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237 NE 11th St. Delray Beach, FL

\$2,895,000.00

Newly built 2-story Luxury home near Downtown Delray Beach. Featuring 4 beds + den, 4.5 baths, Subzero & Wolf appliances, elevator, a fully equipped outdoor kitchen, & infinity edge pool w/ an integrated jacuzzi.



2019 N Swinton Ave. Delray Beach, FL

\$4,999,000.00

Pre-Construction home near Downtown Delray & the beach. 5 Beds + den, 7 Baths, elevator, chef's kitchen, infinity edge pool w/ integrated jacuzzi, fully equipped outdoor kitchen & no HOA. Customize now!



17866 Lake Azure Way Boca Raton, FL

\$2,699,000.00

Elegant 5BR, 4BA + 2 half baths & office in The Oaks at Boca Raton. Features open layout, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, screened patio, pool & garden views, and a luxe primary suite with spa bath. Listed By: Erica Kiyota Ayrosa | 561.317.3637



8611 Gullane Ct. Palm Beach Gardens, FL

\$1,400,000.00

Fully remodeled 4BR, 3.5BA lakefront home in Bay Hill Estates. All utilities included. Features chef's kitchen, fireplace, pool/spa, summer kitchen, EV charger, lake views, and private fishing dock. Listed By: Lily Jensen | 617.981.7320



Paws Up for Pets

Tri-County Animal Rescue flourishes after humble beginnings

Let's go back in time to 1996. Scientists cloned the first mammal — a sheep named Dolly. People of all ages were performing the iconic hand/hip dance moves to the *Macarena*. And the hottest holiday must-get gift was the Tickle Me Elmo doll.

In Palm Beach County in 1996, a pair of animal-championing "besties" named Suzi Goldsmith and Jeanette Christos decided to create a no-kill shelter that had humble beginnings inside a four-bedroom house in Boynton Beach. They called the shelter Tri-County Humane Society.

Fast forward to today, and that ambitious dream has become Tri-County Animal Rescue on a sprawling campus in Boca Raton that now features a full-service veterinary clinic with plans for more buildings and services.

"Jeanette was a catering manager, and I was a philanthropist and we shared a passion to help animals," recalls Suzi. Then in 2001, "when the city of Boca Raton was going to close its animal shelter and put out for bids, we said, 'We can do this.'

"We took over that shelter, paying \$1 a year for a 75-year lease. Jeanette got sick with cancer and died 13 years ago, but our mission has never changed. We will and always will be a 100% no-kill nonprofit shelter."

Tri-County has rescued and saved more than 100,000 animals.

"I think the best part of Tri-County is that there are no expiration dates on our animals who are here," says Amanda Zimmer, assistant director, who has been there for about 20 years. "From the beginning, we chose to be a no-kill shelter. These animals are with us until we can find them a family, a perfect family."

During the past three decades, Tri-County has championed animals in need in South Florida and beyond. Staff and volunteers have answered the call when animals were displaced due to hurricanes and tornadoes and other natural disasters elsewhere, like Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

"My first hurricane rescue experience was when Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in 2005," says Suzi. "My friend Lois Pope gave money for gas and food for us. The devastation was much



Suzi Goldsmith, co-founder with Jeanette Christos of Tri-County Animal Rescue, sits with Katie, the golden retriever, and Stanford. At right is Sandy. Tri-County has rescued and offered for adoption more than 100,000 animals in 30 years. **Photos provided**

If You Go

Wags & Cheers for 30 Years, a rescue animal reunion, is 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Jan. 31 at 21287 Boca Rio Road, Boca Raton. Visit tricountyanimalrescue.org.

worse in person than what people saw on TV. We brought back about 40 dogs and got them adopted."

Tri-County has arranged for cargo planes to bring displaced cats and dogs of all sizes back to its campus. Most recently, Tri-County rescued about 20 dogs, including a large pregnant dog, after Hurricane Erin hit Puerto Rico in August.

"There are certain rescues that will always be in my life forever," says Suzi.

One of these memorable dogs is a golden retriever named Barron, who was very sick due to having distemper. He recovered, got adopted and will be present at the special event called Wags & Cheers for 30 Years, set for Jan. 31 at the shelter.

"We are inviting people to bring their adopted pets and enjoy a big reunion," says Suzi.

Look for details on how to participate on the shelter's website at tricountyanimalrescue.org.

"The years have flown by, but it seems like just yesterday,

Through the years

1996: Tri-County Humane Society begins cage-free inside a four-bedroom home in Boynton Beach.

2000: First major milestone reached with 5,000 homeless animals adopted.

2001: Suzi Goldsmith and Jeanette Christos agree to take over the Boca Raton animal shelter and rename it Tri-County Animal Rescue, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

2005: The devastating Hurricane Katrina slammed New Orleans. Tri-County staffers arrived to assist and brought back dozens of dogs to help them get homes in Palm Beach County. It marked the first time Goldsmith and her team traveled outside South Florida to participate in a national rescue effort.

2013: A pair of F5 tornadoes struck in Oklahoma. Three vans stocked with medical supplies, food and water from Tri-County arrived to help. They returned with about 80 rescues.

2017: Hurricanes Irma and Maria smacked Puerto Rico. Tri-County arranged to have some displaced animals flown to Boca Raton. This marked the first year Tri-County worked with animal organizations in Puerto Rico.

2019: Tri-County opens the Lois Pope Pet Clinic, which provides low-cost, full veterinary care. It's named in honor of the longtime supporter and philanthropist Lois Pope.

2020: When the pandemic closed businesses and forced people to work from their homes, Tri-County never closed its doors or stopped its rescue and veterinary support. The shelter was deemed to be essential.

2026: Tri-County will celebrate its three decades with various events throughout the year. More buildings will be added to provide more services in the spring 2026.

For a more detailed look at Tri-County's 30 years of helping animals in need, visit tricountyanimalrescue.org/history.

not 30 years," says Suzi. "It has been a lot of hard work, but it has all been worth it. I wish I could do this for another 30 years, but I will do it for as long as I can because the animals are all worth it."



Arden Moore writes about pets and can be reached at fourleggedlife@gmail.com.

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Tots & Teens

Gulf Stream mines a Diamond for its next assistant head of school

By Faran Fagen

At the core of her mission as an educator, Melanie Diamond teaches empathy, curiosity, resilience and balance.

"When students hit that sweet spot of feeling connected, supported and challenged, they not only learn, they flourish," Diamond said.

Diamond, of Boca Raton, brings her student-centered philosophy to Gulf Stream School as the next assistant head of school for the 2026-27 school year.

She succeeds Cathy Abrams, who will retire from the position



Abrams
at the end of the 2025-26 academic year. Abrams will continue to serve on a part-time basis in the classroom following her retirement

after 25 years in the leadership role.

Diamond's immediate goals are to "listen carefully, learn the GSS culture, and build relationships with students, teachers and families."

Diamond's 25-plus years in education — across middle school, high school, and leadership roles — helped prepare

her for this position. She's led professional development, overseen curriculum alignment, managed teams, hired and supported faculty, and facilitated schoolwide initiatives in change management and instructional improvement.

"I aim to support faculty through meaningful professional learning, strengthen curriculum alignment, and ensure that every student experiences a joyful, rigorous education," Diamond said. "Ultimately, I want to help unify the community around our shared vision and continue the strong traditions Gulf Stream is known for."

Gulf Stream School, at 3600 Gulf Stream Road, is an independent private school founded in 1938 for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

The qualities that Diamond hopes to bring to the Gulf Stream Stingrays include being relationship-focused, highly organized, calm under pressure, transparent in decision-making, and deeply committed to both academic excellence and character development.

"I'm a collaborative leader who loves to build strong teams and empower teachers to do their best work every day," Diamond said.

Diamond comes from North Broward Preparatory School,

where she has served in a variety of roles over the past 13 years, most recently as International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement coordinator. Her varied experience in upper school education will be central to strengthening Gulf Stream School's middle school program, ensuring graduates are prepared for the transition to high school.

Prior to her tenure at North Broward, Diamond taught high school and middle school English and history. She holds a graduate certificate in school leadership and management from Harvard University, a master of arts from Northeastern University, and a bachelor of arts from the University of Texas.

"Melanie's extensive experience, academic insight, and genuine commitment to student growth make her an exciting addition to our leadership team," said Dr. Gray Smith, Gulf Stream's head of school. "Her proven ability to lead faculty with vision and care aligns wonderfully with our mission."

From the moment she stepped onto Gulf Stream's campus, Diamond was drawn to the school's deep sense of community and its commitment to nurturing both the academic and social-emotional growth of every child.



Melanie Diamond (above) will succeed Cathy Abrams, who is retiring after this school year. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

"Throughout my career, I've thrived in school environments that value collaboration with families, clear communication, and celebrating student and faculty success," she said.

Outside of school life, Diamond loves to read (not surprising for a former English teacher), practice hot yoga, discover new coffee shops and bookstores, travel the world, and spend time at the beach or on a boat with her family. She just recently began to volunteer with a cooking crew that provides home-cooked meals for homeless people.

She loves to ski, a passion she learned from her dad. She still goes on a father/daughter ski trip every year.

"I'm happiest when I'm learning something new or connecting with others, two things that naturally spill back into my work as an educator," Diamond said.

She enjoys working with children because of their energy, honesty and curiosity.

"I love watching students discover their strengths, grow through challenges, and develop confidence academically and personally," Diamond said.

"Whether I'm working with a struggling writer or coaching a teacher on instructional strategies, the heart of the work is helping students realize what they're capable of, and that never loses its magic."

Above all, she wants students to develop a strong sense of self, the ability to think critically, and the confidence to navigate an ever-changing world.

"I feel honored to join the Gulf Stream community and excited to contribute to a school that values both academic excellence and heart," Diamond said. "My goal is to support students and educators in ways that elevate learning, strengthen community, and build on the incredible foundation already in place. I'm grateful for the warm welcome and eager to begin this next chapter as a Stingray." ★

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Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 12/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY 3

Saturday - 1/3 - Drop-In Family

Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Sat. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/3 - Sandoway Discovery Center

Daily Feedings at 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Invertebrate touch tank 12:30-2:30 pm; Shark & stingray feedings 1 pm; aquarium feedings 2 pm; animal encounters 3 pm. T-Sat. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

JANUARY 4-10

Monday - 1/5-7 - Homework Help -

Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave.

For grades K-5. Runs through 4/29. M-W

3:30-4:15 & 4:15-5 pm. Free. Registration:

561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 1/6 - Pop-Up Pages

at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment: stories, music, movement. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 0-5. Held again 1/14. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/6 - Toddler Time

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-24 mos.

Held again 1/20 & 2/3. 11-11:45 am. Free.

561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/6 - Teen Book Club: Wuthering Heights

by Emily Bronte at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 1/20. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/6 - Teen Tuesday

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Every T 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday - 1/7 - Rhythm Explorers

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 yrs. 11 am-12:15 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/7 - Game Day

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Every W 4:30-6:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 1/8 - Drop-In Family

Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/8 - Bilingual Storytime

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Ages 5 & under. Held again 1/22 & 2/5. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/8 - Page-turners - One Thousand and One Arabian Nights

at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Ages 6-8. Two times: 1-2 pm & 6-7 pm. Free/

members; \$15/non-members. Registration:

561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

1/8 - Make & Take: New Year's Slime

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 1/10 - Baby Sensory Play

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 3-12 mos. Held again 2/7 10-11 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/10 - Sketching in the Galleries

at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Family fare. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

1/10 - Class: Paper Sculpture Inspired

by Dorothy Gillespie at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Create a handmade paper sculpture inspired by Gillespie's work. Ages 6-12. \$15/child. 2-3 pm. 561-654-2220; eventeny. com/events/gillespie-workshop-for-kids-25384

JANUARY 11-17

Sunday - 1/11 - Sunday Chess

Tournament Play at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 9 am-4:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/11 - Wild Wonders

at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Ages 3-6 w/ an adult. 9:30-10:15 am. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations:

561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar. aspx?CID=47

1/11 - Rookie Rooks: Introduction to Chess for Youth

at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 8-12. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Monday - 1/12 - Special Guest

Storytime w/Ocean Rescue Lifeguard at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/12 - Baby Story Time

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes & songs. Ages 6-12 months. Held again 1/26 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/12 - Fun w/Fernanda: Bilingual

Spanish-English Story Time at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-4. 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/12 - Knots 'n Needles - Teen Crochet

Circle at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 1/13 - Picture Book Club:

There Was a Cold Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

1/13 - Lab Rats

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/13 - STEM Camp: Arctic Adventures

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 1/14 - Cooking Across

Cultures: A Library Adventure at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Each session explores a new country through cooking & cultural discovery. Ages 7-10. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/14 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 1/31. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/14 - Bones to Books

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Children read to friends from Bonafide Therapy Dogs. All ages. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/15 - Ms. Lovely's Music & Movement

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-5 yrs. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/15 - Make & Take: Perler Beads

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/15 - Toddler Tales

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 2-3 yrs. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/16 - Sensory Circle Time:

Penguin Play at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Featuring fun activities designed to engage all senses. Ages 2-5. Held again 1/30. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/17 - Around the World w/ Impact Achievement Center

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 6-12. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

1/17 - Gaming Guild

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 2/2 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/17 - Wee Move!

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 years. 10-11:15 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/17 - STEM Camp: Arctic Adventures

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/17 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 1/31. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/17 - Bones to Books

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Children read to friends from Bonafide Therapy Dogs. All ages. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

JANUARY 18-24

Sunday - 1/18 - Art For Everyone

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-12. 2-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 1/20 - Young @ Art

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create fun arts/crafts, learn principles of art. Ages 6-8. Held again 1/22 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 1/21 - Gaming Guild

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 2/2 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 1/24 - Wee Move!

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 years. 10-11:15 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/24 - Family Fun Day 2026

at Boynton Beach Amphitheatre in Centennial Park, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Dress up as your favorite character or hero. All ages. 10am-2 pm. Free. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org/events

1/24 - Creation Station

at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

1/24 - Bones to Books

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-8. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

JANUARY 25-31

Sunday - 1/25 - Booktastic Book Talk:

Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Free copy of book upon registration. Child attends independently. Ages 8-10. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Monday - 1/26 - LOTG Kindergarten

Readiness Story Time at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Ages 3-5. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/26 - Story Explorers Book Club

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/26 -

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Continued from previous page

Wind In The Willows at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. For advanced level theatre, ages 7-16. Auditions 1/26; semester runs through 5/21. Every M 4:30-7:30 pm. \$99/deposit; \$985/full tuition. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

1/26 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board)

Meeting at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 1/27 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Stories, music, movement. Ages walking to 23 mos. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/27 - Ultimate Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/27 - Musical Theater: Kids! at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. For intermediate level, ages 7-12. Runs through 5/12. Every T 4:30-6 pm. \$495/full tuition. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

1/27 - Teen Movie Night: The Mummy (1999, PG-13) at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/27 - Journey to Olympus at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/27 - Bedtime Story Time at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-5. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 1/28 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every W 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/28 - Broadway Beginners at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th

St. Runs through 5/13. Every W 4:30-6 pm. \$485/full tuition. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Thursday - 1/29 - 1,000 Books

Before Kindergarten at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-5. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/29 - S.T.E.A.M. Social at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 1/30 - Sensory Circle Time: Snowflake Magic at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 yrs. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/30 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Ages 0 months to non-walking. Every F 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

1/30 - Peek-A-Boo Sensory Adventures at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment: stories, music, movement. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 0-non-walkers. Every F 11:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Saturday - 1/31 - Once Upon a Story at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-5. 11-11:30 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

FEBRUARY 1-7

Monday - 2/2 - InterActions Class at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 11-17. Students will expand their creative toolkit while continuing to hone fundamental performance skills. Every M through 5/4 (no class 3/16 & 3/23). 6-7 pm. \$275. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Tuesday - 2/3 - Teen Book Club: Circe by Madeline Miller at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again

2/17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/3 - Eco Adventures at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday - 2/4 - Audition Prep Class at Lake Worth Playhouse Stonzek Theater, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 7-14. This class demystifies the audition process, taking students from slate to callback. Every W through 5/6. 4:30-5:30 pm. \$275. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

2/4 - Clothing Corner: Design Your Own T-Shirt at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 13-17. 5:30-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

2/4 - Improv Class at Lake Worth Playhouse Stonzek Theater, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 7-14. Class will focus on theatre games and exercises using imagination and creativity. Every W through 5/6. 6-7 pm. \$275. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Thursday - 2/5 - Page-turners - The Hedge Knight graphic novel at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Ages 6-8. Two times: 1-2 pm & 6-7 pm. Free/ members; \$15/non-members. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/5 - Valentine Bingo at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 yrs. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/5 - Musical Theatre Kids at Lake Worth Playhouse Stonzek Theater, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 7-14. Class will focus on theatre games and exercises using imagination and creativity. Every Th through 5/7. 5-6:30 pm. \$325. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Saturday - 2/7 - Embossing Card Making for Tweens & Teens at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-17. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 12/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY 3

Saturday - 1/3 - Short Stories for Writers w/Dr. Caren Neile at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 1/17 & 2/3. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/3 - Ultimate Floyd Tribute - An Evening with Pink Floyd at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

1/3-4 - Both Sides Now: The Music and Lives of Joni Mitchell & Leonard Cohen at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. W: 2 pm \$75, 6 pm \$129; Th/F/Sun: 2 pm; Sat: 8 pm. \$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

JANUARY 4-10

Sunday - 1/4 - Concert: Delray String Quartet: Masterworks 2 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 3 pm. \$35-\$50. 561-808-5084; stpaulsdelray.org

1/4 - Sunday Music Matinee Series: Matthew Sabatella & the Rambling String Band at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 3-4 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/4 - Soultastic - A Tribute to The Pointer Sisters at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$58-\$63. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 1/5 - Brown Bag Lecture Series: The Evolution of Boynton's Historic Spaces - 1927 Boynton High School Today at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/5 - Advanced Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every M 2-4 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

1/5 - Pickleball at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Combines badminton & tennis. Adults. M/F 6-8 pm. \$5-\$7; \$50-\$65/24-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

1/5-9 - Tovah: Out Of Her Mind! at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. M-F: 2 pm; M/Th: 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$85. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 1/6 - Career & Employment Help w/CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Representative fluent in English, Creole,

French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/6 - General Meeting: Water Conservation: The Past to the Present w/ Steve Davis at Boca Raton Garden Club, 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

1/6 - Resume Coaching with Merrill at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Free coaching by appointment only (45 minute sessions). Runs T through 3/17. 1-5 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/6 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

1/6 - Book Talks - An Hour to Kill: Death and Fromage by Ian Moore at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/6 - Intro to Canasta at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 4 pm. Membership required. Registration: 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

1/6 - Great Decisions 2026 w/Jeffrey Morton at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 3/3. 4-5:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$150/member; \$200/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/6 - Beginning Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every T through 3/24 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4-weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

1/6 - Comedy Open Mic at Arts Garage , 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 1st T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

1/6-22 - Delray Beach Annual Senior Games at various locations. Basketball skills, golf, pickleball, swimming, track & field. Information: 561-243-7250 x5240; smithra@mydelraybeach.com

Wednesday - 1/7 - Objection! Current, Contentious, and Confusing Legal Battles w/Irving Labovitz at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 1/28. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/7 - Workshop: Big & Bold Abstract Painting at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$120. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/7 - Wheel Throwing for All Levels at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray

Municipal Meetings

1/6 & 1/20 - Boca Raton Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

1/6, 1/20 & 2/3 - Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

1/6, 1/20 & 2/3 - Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

1/6 & 2/3 - Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

1/9 - Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Road 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

1/12 - Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

1/12 & 1/26 - Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Circle 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

1/20 - Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 9 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

1/20 - South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

1/22 - Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm.

Beach. Ages 16+. Every W through 1/28 11:30 am-1:30 pm. \$360/4 sessions. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/7 - America's Political Scandals: A Brief History w/Roy Klein at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/7 - This is Not a Museum: A History of the Fondation Maeght at The Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Presented by Nicolas Gitton. 3 pm. \$20. customerservice@fourarts.org; 561-655-7226

1/7 - Broadway, Hollywood and Tin Pan Alley: The Fountainhead of the Great American Songbook w/Jim Jimiro at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 1/28. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/7 - Movie Night at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. Held again 1/8 & 1/20. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

Thursday - 1/8 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

1/8 - Demystifying Artificial Intelligence: From Zero to Hero w/Rodrigo Pena at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/8 - Art School Faculty Exhibition Opening at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Runs through 2/13. 5:30-7 pm. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

1/8 - Art Happy Hour - Alcohol Ink Abstract Designs at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-7:30 pm. \$30. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/8 - Wills, Trusts, and Estates at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/8 - 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

1/8 - A Complete Bob Dylan w/ Pink Slip Duo at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

Friday - 1/9 - Cities of the World: Munich w/Taylor Hagoon at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/9 - Handbuilding for All Levels at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 16+. Held again 1/16 11:30 am-1:30 pm. \$200/2 sessions. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/9 - OLLI Glee Club: Sing from the Heart: Voices United at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every F through 3/13. 12:30-2:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$200.25/member; \$267.00/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/9 - The Man Who Shot J.P. Morgan: A Life of Arsenic, Anarchy & Intrigue w/Mary Noe at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/9 - Beginner Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every F 6-7 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

1/9 - Castoffs Square Dance at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. All ages. Every F 6-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

1/9 - Drive-In Movie Night: How To Train Your Dragon at Lantana Sports Park, 903 N 8th St. Snacks/refreshments available for purchase. Limited parking. 7 pm. Free. 561-540-5754; lantana.org

1/9 - Lemon City Trio at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

1/9 - Dick Lowenthal & His All-Star Big Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 1/10 - Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. Held again 6-8 pm 1/15. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-

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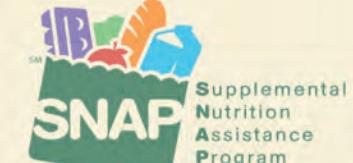
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9614; artswarehouse.org
1/10 - Workshop: Indigo Ferns in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/10 - Workshop: Make Waves: Abstract the Sea in Acrylic Paint at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-2:30 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/10 - 2nd Annual Seafood Festival at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 E Plaza Real. Featuring food, live music, themed competitions, nautical themed vendors and more. Ages 21+. Noon-8 pm. \$10/advance; \$15/at the door; free/children 10 & under. myboca.us/2698/Seafood-Festival

1/10 - Make & Muse - Sumi Ink & the Poetry of Line: East & West in Dialogue at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-3 pm. \$45/member; \$65/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

1/10 - Tom Cotter at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Two shows: 5 pm & 8 pm. Tickets start at \$55. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

1/10 - Joe Matarese at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 8 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

1/10 - Shayna Steele at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

1/10-11 - 37th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Festival of the Arts at 104 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 561-746-6615; artfestival.com

JANUARY 11-17

Sunday - 1/11 - Town Art Show at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

1/11 - The Joys of Yiddish with Riva Ginsburg at Beth Ami Congregation, 1401 NW Fourth Ave, Boca Raton. Sunday Speakers Series. 2 pm. Free. 561-347-0031; bacboca.com

1/11 - The Poetry & Literature of Nicaragua: from Ruben Dario to Ernesto Cardenal - Readings & Talk by Jorge Eduardo Arguello at The Museum of Central American Art, 290 SE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2 pm. Registration: 561-808-8587; mocaa.org

1/11 - Culture Talks: Ben Childs in Conversation with Bill Meredith at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Hosted by The ArtsPaper & The Coastal Star. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

1/11 - Music & Synesthesia at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of the Palm Beach Opera Listening Club series. Adults. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/11 - WHY: An Actor Preparing by Davion Tynarious Brown at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$38. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 1/12 - Unexpected Alliances: Nazi-Islamist Interactions during World War II w/Annette Isaacs at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/12 - Spice Stories: Culture, History and Gastronomy at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/12 - Lecture & Lunch - Posters for a New Age: Art Deco & Modernity at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Adults. 11 am-1 pm. \$125/members; \$150/non-members. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

1/12 - Brown Bag Lecture Series: Inside Scandinavia w/Maria Drumm at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Noon-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/12 - The Complex Legacy of Oskar Schindler w/Ralph Nurnberger at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

Green Markets

Delray Beach Winter Green Market every Saturday at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave. More than 60 culinary and artisan vendors, plus live music. 9 am-2 pm. 561-276-8640; delraycra.org/green-market

Lake Worth Beach Waterside Farmers Market every Saturday, under the overpass at A1A and Lake Avenue. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 561-547-3100; lakeworthfarmersmarket.com

Boca Raton Green Market every Sunday at Royal Palm Place, 508 Via de Palmas. Fresh produce, goods by local artisans, fresh meats and seafood, locally-grown flowers, and handcrafted wares. 8 am-12:30 pm. Free. bocagreenmarket.com

Boca Farmers Market every Sunday at Boca Raton Innovation Campus (BRiC), 4950 Communication Ave.. Featuring 9:30 am yoga, fresh, local food and handmade goods. 9 am-1 pm. Free. bocafarmersmarket.com

1/12 - The Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780 at The Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Presented by Rick Atkinson, Ph.D.

3 pm. \$20. customerservice@fourarts.org; 561-655-7226

1/12 - John Brown and the Coming of the Civil War w/Stephen Engle

at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/12 - Monday Movies - Documentary: Made in England: The Films of Powell and Pressburger directed by David Hinton at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/12 - Expanding Horizons Through International Cinema w/Shelly Isaacs at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-9 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

Tuesday - 1/13 - Books & Bagels - Spring Book Preview at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Adults. 9:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/13 - Is a Regime Change Feasible in Iran? If so, What to Expect w/ Robert Rabil at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/13 - Cuba: A History & a Present w/Stephen Berk at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/13 - No Track? No Problem: How I Turned Slim Racing into a Pro Career at The Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Presented by Max Esteron. 5:30 pm. \$20. customerservice@fourarts.org; 561-655-7226

1/13 - From Page To Stage: Adult Acting Class at Lake Worth Playhouse, Stonzek Theater, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every T through 3/9 5:30-7 pm. \$300/9 weeks. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

1/13 - Heritage Lecture - "Artists in Paradise" presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. \$20/person; \$15/society members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

1/13 - Severance by Ling Ma part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/13 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd T 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

1/13 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 2nd T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

1/13-25 - Lunchbox Matinee: Good Jews at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 1/25. Daily: Noon. \$69. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Wednesday - 1/14 - Workshop: Intro to Photography at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Noon-4 pm.

\$150. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/14 - The Warsaw Ghetto's Secret Savior: Irena Sendler and the Fight for Innocent Lives w/Ralph Nurnberger

at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/14 - Artist in Focus Tour - Eduardo Chacon's Humanist Photography at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/ paid Museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

1/14 - Seminar: Lessons on Living from a Legacy Lawyer w/Jennifer Gomez

at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/14 - Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Part of the 2026 Book Club Series. 4 pm. Membership required. Registration by 1/9: 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

1/14 - 250 Years of American History in Song with Matthew Sabatella & the Rambling String Band at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/14 - Bijoux! Contemporary Jewelry Exhibition & Sale at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 9 am-6 pm. \$10/daily; \$20/multi-day; \$25/afternoon tea & talk (plus admission). 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

Thursday - 1/15 - Seminar: The Constitution and the American Founding w/Burton Atkins at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/15 - Workshop: Wild Bloom: Painting Abstract Flowers at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Held again 1/22. 10:30 am-2:30 pm. \$185. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/15 - Brushstrokes & Bookmarks - Sarah: The Life of Sarah Bernhardt

at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4:30 pm. \$15/member; \$20-\$25/non-member. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

1/15 - Movies at the Square: Ratatouille at Old School Square Amphitheatre, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5-9:30 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com

1/15 - Exhibition First Look: The Short List at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Runs through 1/24. 5:30-8:30 pm. \$50. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

1/15 - Concert: Sean Gaskell - Kora

Harp at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

1/15 - Exhibition Opening Reception: The Short List at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Runs through 1/24. 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

1/15 - Town Hall Talks: 100 Years of Boca's Resort w/Susan Gillis 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

1/15 - Off the Wall: Photography & Storytelling w/Laura Crawford

Williams at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

1/15 - Night in Venice at Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts, 1105 2nd Ave S, Lake Worth Beach. Featuring glassblowing demonstration by Tim McFadden. Casual Cocktail Attire; Masks encouraged, costumes welcome. 6:30-9 pm. \$125. 561-508-7315; benzaitencenter.org

1/15 - Seraphic Fire's Gospel Concert

at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Tickets: \$45-\$75. 305-285-9060; seraphicfire.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/

Friday - 1/16 - Guided Discussion: Book Club: Grit Lit w/Taylor Hagood

at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every F through 2/20. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$150/member; \$200/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/16 - Famous Moments, Famous Movies w/Dan Hudak at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/16 - Workshop: Intermediate Photography at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 5-8 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/16 - Maria starring Angelina Jolie at The Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Friday Film Series. 5:30 pm. Free. Reservations: customerservice@fourarts.org; 561-655-7226

1/16 - Exhibition Opening Reception: The Painting Always Tells A Story, You Just Have to Ask by Judy Horowitz

at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Runs through 2/22. 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

1/16 - Bonfires & Night Market at Lake Worth Beach Complex, 10 S Ocean Blvd. Bring beach chairs/blankets. Held again 2/6. 6-9 pm. Free; metered parking. 561-533-7395; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

1/16 - Artist Blow-Out - Tim McFadden & Sibelle Yukvek at Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts, 1105 2nd Ave S, Lake Worth Beach. 6:30-9:30 pm. \$25-\$50. Reservations: 561-508-7315; benzaitencenter.org

1/16 - Our House & Taming the Tiger - A Celebration of CSNY & Joni Mitchell

at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$65.50-\$70.50. 561-450-

Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/20 - American Sign Language Class
at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 1/27 & 2/3 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

1/20 - FAU Astronomical Observatory
public viewing at FAU Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 8 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; physics.fau.edu/observatory/events/

1/20 - Spoken Word Open Mic: Poetry, Storytelling & Lyrics at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 3rd T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 1/21 - Book Buzz Adult Book Club at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/21 - Workshop: Portrait Drawing from Life at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Every W through 2/11 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$240. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/21 - League of Women Voters Hot Topics Discussion: Beyond the Headlines, Property Taxes Explained w/Anne Gannon & Dorothy Jacks

presented by League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County at Indian Spring Country Club, 11501 El Clair Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Doors open 11 am; luncheon 11:30 am. Complimentary valet parking. \$40/members; \$45/non-members. Registration: 561-276-4898; lwpbc.org

1/21 - Workshop: Printmaking Inspired by the Masters at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Every W through 2/4 2-5 pm. \$190. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/21 - Workshop: Happy Hydrangeas in Alcohol Ink at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 6-8 pm. \$45. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/21 - Garden Lecture - "Turning Invasive Reptile Species into a Triumph for Natives" presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Creative Arts School at Old School Square, Suite C, 51 N Swinton Ave. 6 pm. \$12/person; free/society members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

1/21 - Sounds of Music! Simon & Garfunkel w/Ned Dorman at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/21 - Rat Pack Together Again at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 7:30 pm. \$40. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Thursday - 1/22 - Renaissance Natural Magic and the Scientific Revolution w/Marina Banchetti at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/22 - Workshop: Alcohol Ink Designs on Wood Clocks at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$55. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/22 - History Happy Hour presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Delray Hideaway, 1045 E Atlantic Ave, Ste B. Food & beverages are available for purchase. Free. 5:30-7:30 pm. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

1/22 - Friends Virtual Book Club: A Calamity of Souls: A Novel by David Baldacci presented by Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

1/22-25 - My Fair Lady at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Runs through 2/22. Th-Sat: 7:30 pm; T/W/Th/Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$89-\$119. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

Friday - 1/23 - Has American Higher Education Been Compromised by Foreign Funding? w/Mitchell Bard at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/

Library Classes

Local libraries offer hundreds of adult classes each month. To discover what you can learn at your library, please visit:
Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

For children and teen classes, please see our **Tots & Teens** calendar.

"Libraries are the free universities of the people." — Andrew Carnegie

member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/23 - Workshop: The Art of the Figure: Drawing the Human Body at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Every F through 2/13 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$260. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/23 - Handbuilding for All Levels at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 16+. Held again 1/30 11:30 am-1:30 pm. \$200/2 sessions. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/23 - Inside the Minds of the Best and the Worst w/Michael DeDonno at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/23 - Mutiny Beyond the Bounty: Lessons of Historical Mutinies, 1789-1970 w/Doug McGetchin at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/23 - Exhibition Opening: The Art of Her at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Runs through 5/3. 6-8 pm. Free. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

1/23 - Opening Season Party at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 6 pm. Membership required. Registration: 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

1/23 - Georgina Dieter Dennis Honor Voice Recital at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

1/23-24 - The Eagles Revival at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 1/24 - Historic Walking Tour: Atlantic Avenue at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. 10 am-noon. \$30/person; \$20/members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

1/24 - Workshop: Intro to Watercolor: Essential Techniques & Your First Paintings at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 16+. Held again 1/30 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/24 - Workshop: Drawing from the Masters at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/24 - Boca Beer Wine & Spirits Festival hosted by Evan Berman Productions at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 E Plaza Real. Beer, wine, spirit samples w/live entertainment, food, interactive games. Ages 21+. 6-9:30 pm. \$18.39/designated driver; \$43.81-\$57.57/adults. myboca.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1768

1/24 - Irena Kofman & Friends at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10-\$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

1/24-25 - Boca Raton Fine Art Show at Sanborn Square Park, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 941-755-3088; hotworks.org

1/24-25 - The Symphonnia presents Dvorak's New World Premiere at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Sat: 7 pm; Sun: 3 pm. Tickets start at \$58. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

JANUARY 25-31

Sunday - 1/25 - Indie Author Day 2026 at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

1/25 - Tom Glyn in American Tune: Simon, Croce & Taylor at Arts Garage, 94

NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

1/25-26 - Dvorak's New World

Premiere at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Sat: 7 pm; Sun: 3 pm. \$58-\$95. 561-994-4909; thesymphonnia.org

Monday - 1/26 - Seminar: Health, Medical Care, and the Spirit of '76 w/Raphael Bloch at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 2/16. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$69.60/member; \$87/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/26 - Brown Bag Lecture Series: Discover 3D Printing - From Simple Designs to Useful Creations at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Noon-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

1/26 - Good Black History: The Rise of Black Business in America w/Anthony Brodgon at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/26 - The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

1/26 - Barns, Bread, and Leather Britches: Frontier Life in the 19th Century w/Donna Adair at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/26 - Introduction to Improvisational Comedy at Lake Worth Playhouse, Stonzek Theater, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every M through 3/30 5:30-7 pm. \$32.5. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

1/26 - Monday Movies - Feature Film: A Delicate Balance directed by Tony Richardson at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

Tuesday - 1/27 - United States, Israel and the Future of the Middle East w/ Robert Rabil at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/27 - Mar-a-Lago: From Cereal Heiress to Winter White House w/ Richard Rene Silvin at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/27 - Basic First Aid at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 5 pm. Membership required. Registration: 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

Wednesday - 1/28 - Workshop: Small Works in Acrylic Paint at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30-2:30 pm. \$125. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/28 - Lunchbox Matinee: Harvey Granat sings Lerner & Loewe at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Noon. \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

1/28 - American Founding Principles through the Lens of Pop Culture w/ Kristin Shockley at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/28 - Artist in Focus Tour - Adad Hannah's "The Raft of the Medusa (100 Mile House)" at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/paid Museum admission. 561-392-2500;

bocamuseum.org

1/28 - An Evening with Chuck Todd

at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$56/member; \$70/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

Thursday - 1/29 - Shattered Stars: The Power of Courage w/ Irene Frielich

at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

1/29 - Workshop: Cloud Nine: Painting Beautiful Clouds at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/29 - Workshop: Colored Pencil Drawing & Painting at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$55. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

1/29 - Concert: Bob Folse - Flamenco Guitar at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

1/29 - Spanish Women and Culture in Early Modern St. Augustine w/ Dr. Yolanda Gamboa at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

2/2-3 - Auditions for You Can't Take It With You at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Rehearsals M-F, 6:30-10 pm, 4/8 performances 5/8-24 (weekends). 6-10 pm. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 2/3 - Islam, Islamism and Antisemitism in Europe w/Robert Rabil at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4-5:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/3 - Great Decisions 2026 at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every T 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/3 - The "Reel" Vietnam: The Vietnam War On Film w/L. Jon Grogan at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 2/24. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/3 - General Meeting: Love is in the Air w/Nancy Binger at Boca Raton Garden Club, 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

arts garage.org
2/3-4 - A Complete Bob Dylan at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 2 pm. 2 pm. Tickets start at \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Wednesday - 2/4 - Undisputed Masters of Painting w/Terry Lawrence at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 3/25. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$125.25/member; \$167/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
2/4 - Music Americana: Music And the Secret Of Life w/Rod MacDonald at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 2/25. 3-5 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-

member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
2/4 - Musical Theatre Audition Technique at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every W through 4/220 5:30-7 pm. \$325. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
2/4 - That Milagro Show - Season Two at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. An evening of music, theater, dance and poetry performed by talented K-12 students and professional staff. 7-9 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-279-2970; milagrocenter.org/thatmilagroshow
2/4-8 - The City in the City in the City by Matthew Capodicasa at FAU Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 2/22. W-Sat: 7:30 pm; Sat/Sun: 3 pm. Tickets start at \$5. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

The COASTAL STAR

2/4 - Concert: Masterworks 3 - Delray String Quartet In The Round at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 7:30-9:30 pm. \$55-\$65. 561-808-5084; stpaulsdelray.org
Thursday - 2/5 - The Unknown History of United State Intelligence w/Jeffrey Steinberg at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 3/26. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$125.25/member; \$167/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
2/5 - Free Shred Event at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am-noon. Free for town residents. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com
2/5 - Levittown: Building the American Dream w/Nicole Ansloover at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
2/5 - A Remarkable People: Cultural Aspects of Jewish Life in Central and Eastern Europe from the Middle Ages Until the 19th Century w/Edith Rogovin Frankel at Florida Atlantic

University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 2/26. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
2/5/26 - 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
2/5 - In Conversation: Elijah Wald w/Rod MacDonald at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
2/5-15 - The Sound Inside at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Runs through 2/15 Th-Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$28. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
Friday - 2/6 - The Wiz: A FLAVAR Film Event at Lake Theatre at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 6-8:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com
2/6 - RF Factor at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742;

thestudioatmiznerpark.com
2/6 - The Art of Laughter with Headliner David Malmberg featuring Seetha at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$43. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Saturday - 2/7 - Briny Bazaar at 5000 N Ocean Blvd, Briny Breezes. Flea market featuring housewares, jewelry, clothing, linens, electronics, art, furniture, books & more. Proceeds go to local charities and the community. 8 am-1 pm. Free.
2/7 - Annual Florida Highwaymen Art Show & Sale at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. 11 am-3 pm. Free. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
2/7 - Connie Regan-Blake - A Story Central Performance: A Legend in Overalls at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
2/7 - Have Wig, Will Gig at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 7:30 pm. \$35. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
2/7 - The Bruce Tribute at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Save-The-Date
Briny Bazaar
Saturday February 7 • 8am-1pm
5000 N. Ocean Blvd, Briny Breezes

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House of the Month



LEFT: 530 Old School Road embodies the best of Gulf Stream's architectural integrity with deep-water access. **RIGHT:** At the heart of the home, the kitchen has bespoke cabinetry from floor to ceiling, a custom island, quartz countertops, and a fully equipped pantry with commercial grade refrigeration. The large custom breakfast nook is an inviting gathering space overlooking the water.



A handcrafted staircase is the focus once you enter the main foyer. Made by local artisans, it is as beautiful as it is functional.

Waterfront residence in Gulf Stream



Outdoors, a spacious loggia with deluxe summer kitchen overlooks the saltwater pool and spa.

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.

Perfectly positioned in the heart of Gulf Stream, this two-story estate was designed by architect Richard Jones and recently completed by Marc Julien Homes. It encompasses 5,103± total square feet with six bedrooms and six-and-one-half baths. Defined by timeless coastal living and light-filled interiors, the home features a gracious great room with gas fireplace and wet bar, and floor-to-ceiling glass doors that open to panoramic water views, creating a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor living. The main level includes a tranquil primary suite with spa-inspired bath and custom closets, a private office/bedroom with full bath, and a flexible guest suite. On the outside, a fire pit and a private dock (100-foot water frontage) with boat lift are perfectly oriented to capture serene canal views. Additional highlights include a whole-house generator, complete impact glass and two-car and golf cart garage. Offered at \$15,495,000.

Contact Candace Friis, 561-573-9966, candace.friis@corcoran.com, or Phil Friis, 561-706-1922, phil.friis@corcoran.com. Visit CandaceFriis.com.



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