

Boca Raton



A developer is seeking approval for The Oval project adjacent to Wildflower Park. City Council members and residents have mixed reactions about the proposal, with some saying it would detract from the park's beauty. **Rendering provided**

Wildflower gets more visitors — and a potential neighbor

By Michael Cook

Boca Raton's Wildflower Park might get a new next-door neighbor, as a developer is

Other projects: Residential tower at The Boca Raton gets initial approval **Page 33**

The mixed-use project has community members on the fence, with some seeing it as a potential boost to downtown

asking the city for the green light to build a five-story luxury development called The Oval.

and others worried it could disrupt views of the park.

"I don't like it. We got enough here," said city resident Alan Peterman, 67, who passes through the waterfront park as part of his daily walk. Peterman said he wouldn't want to see a multilevel development rise right beside the park, which he said could detract from the park's natural beauty and add traffic to an already congested area.

"To do the high-rise and change the whole thing, personally, it hurts me," he said.

"Keep it part of the park."

The Oval is proposed for the vacant, fenced-in lot on the northeast corner of East Palmetto Park Road and Northeast Fifth Avenue. Calvin Haddad, president of Fifth Avenue Associates that owns the property, is seeking to build an oval-shaped structure with 10 residential units and 2,000 square feet of ground-floor retail, intended to provide walk-up amenities for those strolling through the downtown area.

The proposal is in the city's

review pipeline and must be approved before moving forward, though there is no official timeline yet.

The site is adjacent to the 2.3-acre art-filled park, to which the city been working to attract more visitors. The most recent efforts include the rollout of free weekly recreation programs and four new permanent public art projects inspired by the city's centennial, which cost the city more than \$500,000. In another effort to boost foot traffic,

See **WILDFLOWER** on page 14

Mayoral race takes nasty turn

Liebelson in dispute with Thomson over campaign funding

By Mary Hladky

With the March 10 city election fast approaching, Boca Raton's mayoral race erupted into a brawl between Mike Liebelson and Andy Thomson.

Voters to decide on new police HQ Page 14 Tensions flared on Feb. 25 when an attorney representing first-

time candidate Liebelson accused Thomson's campaign political consultant of making defamatory and misleading statements about Liebelson in political flyers sent to residents.

In his letter, attorney Ricardo Reyes demanded that Rick Asnani, well known throughout Palm Beach County for his work representing candidates, retract the statements and issue a written apology to Liebelson.

Attached to his letter were copies of flyers that, among other things, accuse Liebelson of benefiting from a dark money political action committee's raising funds for Liebelson's campaign whose "secret" donors would not be disclosed until after election day.

They accuse Liebelson of not

See **ELECTION** on page 15

Along the Coast

From real housewife to reality television

Highland Beach woman a socialite on Netflix's 'Members Only: Palm Beach'

By Rich Pollack

Stuck at home in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, raising five kids just six years apart, Rosalyn Yellin escaped from the daily pressures of motherhood

by watching "The Real Housewives" reality television, with a special fondness for *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*.

"It was my guilty pleasure, my release from diapers, bottles and laundry," she said.

The more time she spent soaking up stories about the lives of women living a luxury lifestyle 2,400 miles away, the more she admired the cast.

"I always wanted to be them,"

she said. "I always dreamt I would be them but I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would be on a reality show."

Fast forward several decades to August 2024, and that long-ago dream came true when Yellin was chosen as one of five women to be cast in *Members Only: Palm Beach*.

See **HOUSEWIFE** on page 18



Rosalyn Yellin, on the set of *Members Only: Palm Beach*, says the show taught her 'to stand up for myself.' **Photo provided**

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The ArtsPaper

Exhibit at the Flagler shows 'Golden Hour' magic of American Impressionism. **Page AT7**



Chef's kiss
Popular food trucks offer restaurant-quality meals. **Page AT1**

Sea shells
Beach project leads to treasure for collectors. **Page 8**

New enforcers
Police team up with ICE without public debate. **Page 32**

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Coastal Star



Jackie Lorne's passion led her to create Sea Turtle Adventures Inc., which monitors sea turtle nests in Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes and southern Ocean Ridge. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Editor's Note

With mature trees threatened, the answer isn't more palms

Palms reign in South Florida, a visible reminder to so many northern transplants that we're not in Kansas anymore (or New York, or Massachusetts, or ...).

We may grumble about traffic and never-ending construction — not to mention the stifling heat that comes with our extended summers — but right now our address is paradise: a tropical oasis with balmy temperatures and sun-splashed beaches, and a backdrop of stately palms most anywhere you turn your gaze.

But South Florida needs more trees, and our fixation on palms isn't helping. Tree City USA — and botanists — don't even consider palms to be trees. And palms don't add much to the shade canopy that's needed for heat reduction and for capturing carbon emissions.

That's why it's important to protect decades-old trees of great stature, replace them with a similarly sized arbor canopy when we can't, and add more shade trees wherever possible.

More large trees seem to disappear every day. A massive oak two doors down from my Boca Raton home was there when I left for work a few days ago but gone when I returned that night — it appears its roots had become a threat to my neighbor's sewer line.

On Hypoluxo Island in Lantana, concern is growing that too many of its mature trees are being uprooted to fit the design plans of new construction, with developers treating the fines or fees merely as a cost of doing business.

In Delray Beach, the Lake Worth Drainage District is forcing the city to cut down a massive banyan rooted in a canal bank at the city's golf course. The city has objected, but the district has been unwavering, concerned that the tree could fall into the canal in a hurricane and lead to flooding in nearby communities.

In Boca Raton, three century-old banyans were recently cut down to make way for a 12-story apartment complex, but only after the developer had arborists show proof that while the trees

were big and beautiful, they were also diseased and a danger.

There are tree preservation efforts, some more popular than others.

Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach and Lantana hold Tree City USA status and have for decades. They're developing policies, such as tree giveaways, to promote a larger tree canopy in their communities.

Elsewhere, Ocean Ridge stopped short of joining Tree City USA in 2022, but it has regulations on the books regarding tree removals. And the state has allowed Gulf Stream to preserve the invasive Australian pines that provide a unique canopy over the town's stretch of State Road A1A.

The downtown campus proposal Boca Raton voters will decide March 10 would preserve a half-dozen large banyan trees near City Hall — not that they're under any threat now — if voters approve a denser development on the other side of Northwest Second Avenue.

While I've never considered myself a tree hugger, my wife and I try to do our part. Though we have close to 20 palms on our less-than-quarter-acre lot, we have some older trees and have made room for new ones.

Two 70-plus-year-old oaks cover our front yard — no threat to any pipes yet — along with a relative newbie, a 5-year-old pink showers tree we hope will have its first bloom this spring.

We also have an eclectic mix of 10 other trees, including a royal poinciana that covers a large part of our backyard.

When they developed our 65-year-old neighborhood, they planned around our oaks and dozens of others in the community. We can use more developments sticking to that ideology today.

It would also be great if more homeowners planted trees of their own, ones that add to the region's canopy and not only to its tropical feel.

— Larry Barszewski,
editor



Sea turtle monitor living her dreams in Briny Breezes

By Steve Plunkett

On the eve of nesting season 2026, Jackie Lorne was busy rounding up people for her sea turtle group's annual fundraising walk and reminding folks that it's time again to leave room on the beach for mama turtles and turn off lights at nights.

"We're expecting another steady year," Lorne says of nesting season, which runs from March 1 to Oct. 31. "Last year was a pretty stable, steady year and I think we're predicting the same for this year as well. It'll be interesting to see when we get our first nest."

Her group, Sea Turtle Adventures Inc., counted 652 nests in 2025 along the roughly three miles of beach it monitors in Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes and southern Ocean Ridge. The nonprofit also conducted five nighttime lighting surveys to ensure beaches are dark for nesting turtles and their hatchlings.

The group, now in its 10th year, has two other full-time employees, three part-timers and about a dozen volunteers. They keep active during the off-season rescuing injured turtles and organizing beach cleanups and educational events.

"We stay busy 365 days a year," Lorne says. "We're one of the main nonprofits that rescues turtles throughout the whole county."

Her fascination with marine life started early.

"I always just wanted to be a marine biologist, ever since I was a little kid. Looking back, my favorite gift I ever got for Christmas was a fish tank when I was 10. It was just, I've always had a love for the ocean," she says.

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Turtle Crawl

What: 2.25-mile fundraising walk
When: 8 a.m. March 7
Where: Nomad Surf Shop, 4655 N. Ocean Blvd.
Register: seaturtleadventures.com
Cost: \$35

Lorne, who was born and raised in Boynton Beach, had another childhood dream to live in Briny Breezes. She accomplished that four years ago.

"I have wanted to live in Briny Breezes since I was a kid, and I always knew I was going to make it happen one day," she says. "I love the community, the people, the clubs. And it's just unlike anywhere else. It is so unique. It's my favorite place to be and I can't picture myself ever leaving."

The town is also the perfect spot for Lorne and her significant other to raise their toddler son. "It's just an amazing community for him to grow up in," she says.

Lorne, now 44, recommends that youths start as soon as they can in following a career path.

"The earlier you start in the field, the better. Volunteering your time, essentially getting off the couch and doing something useful," she says.

Lorne began monitoring turtle nests and volunteering at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach when she was 13. That gave her a leg up when it came to going to

college and getting a career. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in biology and spent 15 years as a project manager at Florida Power & Light before turning full-time to nonprofit work.

Her group's annual "Turtle Crawl" fundraiser is at 8 a.m. March 7.

The nonprofit will also host nighttime sea turtle walks and its nest adoption program this year. It offers a Mommy and Me program where moms and their little ones read a story, do a craft and go to the beach to dig up a nest, and a ride-along program "where families hop on our five-seater ATV with us and they spend an hour with us on the beach watching us dig up a sea turtle nest."

Nests are excavated three days after they hatch to free any remaining hatchlings.

Lorne, whose grandparents started Lorne and Sons funeral home in Delray Beach, is also proud of her efforts to improve the lives of people with special needs through a weekly Conservation Club.

"It's something God has put in my heart since I was a little kid," Lorne said. "I wanted to provide nature-based experiences to that population. Their activities were more traditionally indoor-based and more isolated to being around others with their same condition. I wanted to get them out in nature, on the beach and integrating with the public and helping with conservation."

The program proved so popular that it spun off its own nonprofit to organize bingo nights, dances and cooking classes.

"It started with seven members in 2016, and last year we had over 250 members," Lorne says. ★

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An eager crowd awaits the chance to dig in and find natural treasures among rocks, shells and pieces of coral dumped Feb. 23 in Anchor Park. Their removal from the beach is an effort to protect the outflow area of sand pumped during the renourishment process. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Delray Beach

Shell collectors find treasures thanks to widening of beach

By Sephora Charles

In Delray Beach, seashell hunters don't have to comb the shoreline for treasure — they're sifting through a city-made mound across the street instead.

Residents dug through a fresh pile of dredged shells at Anchor Park, chatting quietly as they filled their buckets and bags on Feb. 23. The chilly Monday morning shifted when a sudden squeal cut through the air.

Tiffany DeSilva of Lake Worth Beach laughed in excitement as she held a junonia, a rare find in Florida that can sell for about \$200. Junonia shells are considered rare because they live in deep water and typically appear ashore after a major storm, DeSilva said.

This special treasure wasn't found after a hurricane or tropical storm, but as a by-product of Delray Beach's beach renourishment efforts that began Feb. 6.

The sporadic delivery of shells is temporary, lasting only until the end of the sand project, which has an April 30 deadline. Crews have been separating seashells during sand screening and dropping them off at Anchor Park — across State Road A1A from the beach and to the north of Casuarina Road — for people to collect.

"This is really cool that they're letting us do this," DeSilva said.

DeSilva, who's been shelling since she was a little girl, said she's been visiting the park every other day to find shells and meet "like-minded people."

"I've met a lot of cool people, and I'm happy that I can call them my friends now," she said.



Tiffany DeSilva of Lake Worth Beach found a junonia, considered to be a holy grail for shell collectors because of its deep-water habitat.

For similar reasons, Linda Horst, a Maryland resident who spends winters in Florida, said she is drawn to the park's dredge pile.

"You get to meet so many different people and have a good time," Horst said. "The majority

of people are so nice, and they're so willing to share. It's really a great community of people."

She describes herself as a "shell addict" who has been collecting for more than 30 years, finding joy in discovering her "dream shell" or "a really good shell."

After collecting shells, Horst typically makes crafts for loved ones or displays them for sale while educating people about them.

Her passion for shelling correlates with her love for beaches. An item on her bucket list is to walk on every beach in the United States, she said. She's yet to walk on the beaches in Mississippi and Alabama.

Being near the beach to pick shells has a calming aura and brings Horst relaxation, she said. "I definitely feel a lot closer to God here."

While some shell collectors have decades of dredge pile experience, others arrived as curious newcomers after hearing about it through word

of mouth.

Kaitlyn McLoughlin, a Colorado native, experienced pile dredge shelling for the first time at Anchor Park. Despite recovering from a snowboarding accident while visiting home, McLoughlin made efforts to participate in the fresh shell drop-off. With a seat cushion and a hand rake, she collected a bucket full of shells.

"Not being from here, it's like a whole different type of appreciation for shells and the ocean. I never wanna leave now," she said.

Max Chiorean, 20, from Boynton Beach was introduced to the Anchor Park pile by his friends. Chiorean arrived at the park around 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 23, hoping for a fresh shell drop for his first visit. Crews with a big truck came shortly after, dumped their load, and the community digging began.

Surrounded by people with years of experience, Chiorean said he felt comfortable asking others for their shelling

If You Go

What: Dredged shells from a beach renourishment project are being trucked to a park across the street from the Delray Beach municipal beach for the public to pick over.

Where: Anchor Park, 340 S. Ocean Blvd.

When: Through April 30, or until otherwise advised. The delivery of new shells to the park is sporadic and is not announced ahead of time. The park is open daily, sunrise to sunset.

Suggested equipment: Gloves, sand scoop or sifter, small rake or hand shovel, water shoes or sturdy shoes, mesh bags or small protective containers.
Info: Contact Delray Beach Parks and Recreation at 561-243-7250 ext. 7277.

knowledge and sharing with those who didn't find shells. "There's no real greed in this," he said.

Above all, Chiorean said he finds joy in using his hobby, which makes him "feel like a little kid again," to give back to those younger than him. He takes buckets of shells to the beach and gives them to children.

"It's all about making memories and making people happy. I think the smile is worth it more than anything," Chiorean said. ★



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Manalapan

Plans for new guardhouse presented to commission

Advisory board's input to weigh on final design

By John Pacenti

Call it the Taj Mahal of guardhouses. Architects presented to the Manalapan Town Commission a new glass-enclosed design — to replace the town's aging guardhouse — that could run as much as \$340,000.

However, Town Manager Eric Marmer says the final say will come after residents' input at the town's Architectural Commission meeting on March 5.

"It's hard to say what the final design will be," Marmer said. "We will have a clearer picture of the final design once the Architectural Committee meets and weighs in with their recommendation to the Town Commission."

The guardhouse — built in 1968 — is located on Lands End Road and serves as the entrance to Point Manalapan, but it's not easy for nonresidents to find. Motorists have to follow a circuitous route through Hypoloxo Island.

The J. Turner Moore Memorial Library is located in the neighborhood on the Intracoastal Waterway, and the guardhouse is adjacent to some stylish homes — right next door is a good two-story example of coastal colonial design, nicknamed "Southern Exposure."

Options presented at the commission's Feb. 10 meeting are eye-catching, to say the least.

Jess Sowards of Currie Sowards Aguila Architects presented commissioners with two main schemes: a full steel trellis that covers both ingress and egress lanes, and an asymmetric option that covers only the incoming lane while leaving the outbound lane open to the sky.

Both concepts center on a largely glass guardhouse clad with smooth-face coquina stone and dark bronze metal accents, designed to maximize visibility into the facility for security monitoring.

A covered carport for golf carts and integrated TV monitors above the guards, intended to reinforce the perception that drivers are being observed, are included in the proposal — though the public road is open to anyone.

Commissioners praised the design as modern and contemporary, but also questioned how the design strikes a balance between security and privacy for nearby homeowners.

The new design includes golf cart storage to allow guards — community service officers — to respond to medical emergencies quickly.

Commissioner David Knobel urged inclusion of vine-covered green walls or trellises along one or both sides of the structure to screen spillover light from the 24-hour facility. "With a glass guardhouse that might put light over to the houses on either side of it. So I was looking to kind of screen it a little bit," he said.



The architect presented one design for the guardhouse that could cost more than \$300,000 with a full trellis. The town has budgeted \$100,000, but that was before it determined the aging building (left), built in 1968, would have to be replaced. **Rendering and photo provided**

Marmer added, "Obviously, the full trellis looks nice, but can we live with the half, asymmetrical trellis?"

The design drawings show a 15-foot clearance that Sowers said provides extra margin over the standard height requirements. Mayor John Deese and other commissioners expressed concern that oversized loads — an example was given of a truck full of grown palm trees — would not be able to get through.

"I don't think that accommodating pretty much a one-off situation should be a big concern," Knobel said.

Resident Niki Peterson, who sits on the Architectural Commission, attended the meeting and said she would like the full trellis: "I think it's beautiful, that's for sure."

Marmer said the building alone, as now designed, would cost between \$150,000 and \$170,000. However, that does not include the trellis feature, which would double the cost of the project. "So, we didn't budget for that," he said. The commission earmarked \$100,000 for the project, but Marmer said it's not accurate to say the town has run over budget.

"When we originally budgeted for this project, it was to remodel what currently exists there," he told *The Coastal Star*.

"But after having people check it out, it's

in such poor condition that that doesn't really make sense. So, it became a tear-down and rebuild."

The new design expands the guardhouse from 200 to 260 square feet, growing it longer as opposed to wider.

A two-phase approach was discussed at the commission meeting: build the guardhouse, foundations and piling first, then add the trellis and site finishes in a later phase. Architects emphasized that piling and permitting work could proceed while the trellis is being fabricated.

Installing the pavers might present a conundrum, Marmer said, if the town moves forward with a septic-to-sewer project.

In the end, Deese said the town's Architectural Commission should weigh in and allow residents to comment on the design at its meeting. The final say-so rests with the Town Commission.

Another major change for the guardhouse already occurred.

At January's commission meeting, Police Chief Jeff Rasor said the town in December moved away from the private security company and created community service officer positions. They are employees of the Police Department and will staff the

guardhouse.

Rasor noted the Police Department had already hired three CSOs and was working toward full 24/7 coverage, with regular police officers filling any gaps.

Target construction start for the guardhouse was discussed for the off-season in May, subject to permitting and bidding schedules. ★

Sunday morning ban on alcohol sales lifted

Manalapan residents and visitors can buy alcohol at Publix in town on Sunday mornings after the Town Commission voted to roll back a decades-old restriction that barred sales during early Sunday hours.

The amendment aligns Manalapan more closely with many South Florida communities that have relaxed blue-law-style limits on Sunday alcohol sales in recent years.

Town Manager Eric Marmer said the change came after complaints from residents, such as those who go grocery shopping on Sunday morning.

— John Pacenti



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Ocean Ridge

Town weighs higher communication services tax in response to state property tax proposals

By John Pacenti

Ocean Ridge's town manager has proposed a modest but potentially crucial new revenue stream as Tallahassee debates sweeping changes that could strip local governments of hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next decade.

At the Feb. 2 Ocean Ridge Town Commission meeting, Manager Michelle Heiser proposed the town raise its communication services tax as a way to diversify revenue should state legislation to cut property taxes for homestead properties end up on November's ballot.

Like all Florida initiatives, such a proposal would need 60% of the vote to be approved.

The CST is levied on the sale of communication services — think smart phones, landlines, cable, and internet. If you've ever looked at your monthly cell phone or internet bill and

noticed a list of fees that make the total significantly higher than the advertised price, the CST is usually one of the biggest culprits.

Ocean Ridge currently levies the CST at 2%, generating roughly \$41,800 in the current budget year, Heiser told elected leaders. If the commission were to adopt a commonly used rate of 5.22% — the maximum allowed for many municipalities — the town could see CST receipts rise to about \$109,300, an increase of roughly \$67,500 annually.

"(It) doesn't seem like a lot, but it does make a difference. Every little bit is making a difference," Heiser said. Gulf Stream to the south has its CST rate at 5.22%, but Manalapan to the north uses a rate of 1.6%.

The CST discussion came after the town's elected leaders last November directed staff to explore other sources that could

mitigate potential reductions to property tax revenues resulting from state-level initiatives.

Commissioner Ainar Aijala Jr. described proposed state legislation that could drastically reduce local property tax revenues over time. The version discussed at the meeting would create a new homestead exemption that phases in by \$100,000 per year until it reaches \$1 million. It then eliminates the town's ability to levy certain non-public-safety property taxes on those homes.

Using conservative local assumptions, Aijala's preliminary "back-of-the-envelope" projections show the town would lose roughly \$61,000 in the first year under the draft state plan, \$122,000 the next year and about \$180,000 the third year.

If the exemption reaches its full phase-in, the town could see cumulative annual

losses on the order of several hundred thousand dollars — and potentially more than \$1 million once the cap phase ends and limitations take full effect, he said. "So we either have to find some things to do, like communication services or fee-based, or we're going to start reducing the services that we provide to our residents," he said. "Why should our people pay less for a cell phone than somebody in Gulf Stream does?"

Mayor Geoff Pugh said he wants to take a wait-and-see approach with what comes out of Tallahassee. "I'm not raising the tax just because somebody else is 5.2%, unless we need to," he said.

Heiser recommended that commissioners consider the CST as a budget season option and, if they want to proceed, direct drafting of an ordinance and public hearings. Legally, the town must adopt an

ordinance and notify the Florida Department of Revenue by Oct. 1 to have any rate change take effect Jan. 1 of the following year. "We're in pretty good shape today, but these proposals in Tallahassee change the context," Heiser said. "The CST could help us remain net neutral in year one if the law passes, but we need a clearer picture before making a decision."

If a CST of 5.22% is adopted, the average impact would likely be roughly \$100 per household annually, Aijala said, but the exact increase depends on families' communication usage and bills.

The CST is collected from service providers and remitted to municipalities by the state.

Public hearings and ordinance drafting will provide residents a chance to ask questions and weigh in before any change is enacted. ★

Term limits could be a liability for Ocean Ridge, manager says

By John Pacenti

Town Manager Michelle Heiser asked the Ocean Ridge Commission at its Feb. 2 meeting to consider revising the town charter's term-limit provisions, arguing that limits enacted in 2019 may hinder the town's ability to carry long-term

projects across election cycles.

Heiser told commissioners she was raising the issue as a policy question for their consideration, not at the request of any commissioner. Her memo and on-dais remarks framed term limits as a potential liability for a small municipality facing complex, multiyear

initiatives and shifting state rules that could affect local revenue and regulation.

"Term limits, while a very good talking point politically, can work against us in a small town," Heiser said. She noted that the 2019 charter change now creates the possibility that multiple seats could turn over

at once, leaving the commission with a large share of new members at critical moments for projects requiring institutional memory and continuity.

Heiser pointed to examples of lengthy public works projects elsewhere — including a decades-long county bridge project from her prior experience in Port St. Lucie — to illustrate efforts that benefit from elected officials with longer tenures and deeper familiarity with local priorities. "We're going to move forward with a lot of projects, and this town would benefit from having a lot of institutional knowledge on this board and understanding exactly what the constituents want," she said. "In the next couple of years, we'll have an election where people are not gonna be able to run again, and that's going to be a loss."

Vice Mayor Steve Coz currently holds the most consecutive years serving on the commission and will be ineligible to run once his current term ends in 2028. The Town Charter limits commissioners to three consecutive three-year terms, after which they must sit out a year before running again.

Mayor Geoff Pugh, the next longest-serving in terms of consecutive years, could run for office again in 2027 before he is term-limited.

Heiser also noted that Ocean Ridge does not have a residency requirement for candidates like other municipalities. Such rules ensure that newcomers have time to learn the town's culture before seeking office.

The manager said the idea is intended to be a conversation starter, not an immediate action item. Any charter change, she reminded the board, would require voter approval. She also noted that the earliest practical timeline to place such a measure before voters would likely be March of next year.

Commissioners already experienced what could happen if an exodus of elected leaders takes place.

In 2023, four commissioners resigned: Martin Wiescholek, in protest over the hiring of then Town Manager Lynne Ladner; and Kristine de Haseth, citing family obligations; then their two replacements, with Philip Besler citing personal reasons and Ken Kaleel citing opposition to new financial disclosure requirements.

At the March 2 commission meeting, several residents offered public comments on the issue. Pugh asked that the item be on April's agenda, where the commission can decide how to move forward — or to keep term limits as they are written in the charter. ★



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Ocean Ridge

Commission takes whack at coconut chaos

By John Pacenti

How many coconuts must fly before they hurt a passerby? How big can a tree be before it needs a permit to be planted? How many times must the police knock on a door and say, “Trim or else”?

For the Ocean Ridge Town Commission, the answer at its Feb. 2 meeting was — as the great Bob Dylan sang — “blowin’ in the wind,” delivered in a freewheelin’ discussion where commissioners went a little nuts — coconuts, that is.

What started as a narrowly focused tweak to town regulations requiring coconut trimming turned into an all-hands-on-deck conversation about whether the town should be policing aesthetics or genuine safety hazards.

Town Attorney Christy Goddeau said the current code is that every coconut tree has to be trimmed by July 1 each year in preparation for potential hurricanes.

Commissioners wanted a simpler, less punitive approach — trim trees that are a public safety risk or interfere with power lines; otherwise, hands off. The planning and zoning board wanted something a little more encompassing.

A draft ordinance would also clarify when a permit is needed for planting or removing sizable trees — and delete the trim-your-coconuts-or-else mandate that has become an enforcement headache.

The existing language created a rule that had to be enforced repeatedly and, according to multiple commissioners, put the town in the awkward position of knocking on neighbors’ doors about their landscaping choices.

The proposed change refocuses enforcement on clear

public safety concerns: trees overhanging public rights-of-way, obstructing sidewalks, or hanging into power lines.

The draft also would clarify the permit process when residents plant new trees. The current code already exempts small trees measured by trunk circumference from permitting, but the language is fuzzy.

The revised version will explicitly require permits for larger plantings. Essentially, the town wants to know when someone puts in a substantial tree that could affect easements, septic fields or rights-of-way.

Invasive trees, such as Australian pines, are prohibited.

Always the libertarian, Mayor Geoff Pugh said, “Personally, if I want to plant a tree in my property, as long as it’s not some mega-tree or something — a tree I’m gonna plant for my kids or my grandkids — I should be able to plant a tree on my property,” he said.

The mayor suggested keeping a 20-inch diameter threshold when requiring which trees need a permit. Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy asked, “How did this come about? Are we trying to solve the problem that we’re not aware of?”

Pugh explained, “It comes down to coconut trees. ... Cut your coconuts, because the coconut is going to be some missile flying through the air.”

Vice Mayor Steve Coz added, “Which is not true.”

“We didn’t want the Police Department to have every year knocking on somebody’s door and say, ‘Hey, cut your coconuts,’” said Pugh, returning to the subject.

Coz tagged back in, giving context from a previous commission directive. “We sat here and decided not to enforce the coconut ordinance,” he said.

“So we just stopped enforcing it, except when there was a public safety concern. For instance, if the public were walking through a back alley and coconuts hanging could drop.”

Former Commissioner Kristine de Haset had a different recollection, saying the coconut ordinance came about because of two rental properties on Tropical Drive that did not maintain their huge palms and the coconuts — during a tropical storm — dropped and damaged cars.

“So it wasn’t about, you know, us being crazy about coconuts or anything else like that. It was trying to help some of the residents down on Tropical who had no recourse with their landlord because of what happened,” she said.

Pugh suggested taking the name coconuts off the ordinance.

“Should we just make it a tree ordinance?” he asked. “Because, let’s face it, I mean, a Norfolk pine during high winds will knock off way more limbs than a coconut palm.”

Coz said he didn’t understand how the draft ordinance had mushroomed once in the hands of planning and zoning. “We’re intruding on people’s private property rights. I just don’t understand how we’ve got from our coconut problem to P&Z coming back with all this.”

Goddeau finally got her guidance from the commissioners. She will redraft the ordinance to replace the annual coconut deadline with a general tree-maintenance requirement focused on public safety and utility clearance and clarify when planting and removal permits are required.

The revised ordinance will come back to the commission for more review. ★

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Ocean Ridge News

Public works projects move ahead — A 2,100-foot replacement of an aging water main with a 12-inch pipe to improve water quality and system reliability along State Road A1A from Ocean Avenue south to Thompson Street in Ocean Ridge should break ground in mid-March.

The Phase 4 water main project will replace all customer service lines and install new hydrants to meet current standards.

In regards to repairing the Hudson Avenue sea wall, Ocean Ridge received notice of a recommended federal funding share of \$400,235 contingent on final FEMA approval. Town staff anticipated having a contract by April.

Sea grapes removed

— The Police Department is investigating the recent removal/trimming of sea grape and other vegetation at the

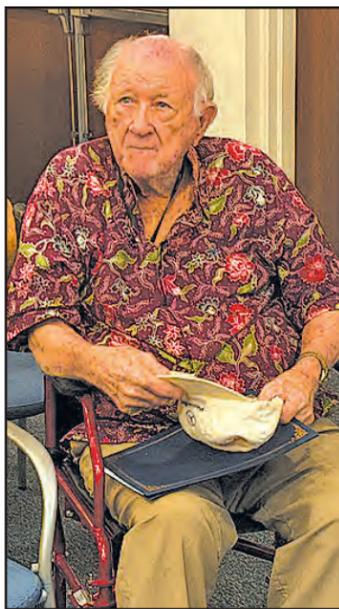
Porter Street beach crossover. Police Chief Scott McClure said a contractor may have performed work without permits over a weekend at the Portofino condominiums.

“That’s a sore subject,” Mayor Geoff Pugh said when a resident mentioned the trimming. “It took us almost 15 years to get them that tall.”

The matter is under further review to determine if the trees were maintained on the town right-of-way or on private property, and is now scheduled for a special magistrate hearing on April 7. Town Manager Michelle Heiser says the state Department of Environmental Protection is also investigating.

Honor your elders —

Ocean Ridge commissioners honored two senior citizens at their March 2 meeting. They approved a measure dedicating Ocean Ridge Linear Park to former Commissioner Betty



Thomas Ambrose

Bingham, who is 96 years old.

They also read a proclamation for Thomas Ambrose, who turned 100 on Feb. 14 and was present at the meeting.

— John Pacenti

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Boca Raton

Ballot includes decision on new police headquarters

By Mary Hladky

With so much crammed into Boca Raton's March 10 election ballot, residents can be forgiven if they have lost sight of the fact they also will be voting on whether they are willing to finance the construction of a new police headquarters.

Even if they know that, the measure has created some confusion.

It is one of two referendum questions on the ballot, with the other one giving residents the final say on whether the city can redevelop a portion of the 31-acre downtown campus in partnership with developers Terra and Frisbie Group.

That has led some to conclude that the two matters are linked.

That perception has been fueled in part by Save Boca, which strongly opposes the proposed public-private partnership (P3) with Terra/Frisbie, now branded as One Boca.

Save Boca says, correctly, that if the P3 is approved, two new residential buildings will be built roughly on the site of the city's current police headquarters located immediately east of City Hall.

But the group is also intimidating that the city wants to move the police headquarters off site to free up land for downtown campus redevelopment.

City officials insist that is not so. They also are responding to residents' complaints that the \$190 million projected cost of a new headquarters is excessive.

To make their case, officials have been holding information sessions and meeting with any organization, homeowner association or civic group that wanted to be briefed. By election day, they will have held about 40 meetings.

A new headquarters is needed, officials say, because the existing one is far too small and in poor condition. As a result, various functions are now located in seven buildings, creating inefficiency and coordination problems.

Further, the department has space needs it would not have envisioned years ago, such as the addition of drone teams.

In response to suspicions the city is in league with One Boca, officials say they have known since 2001 that they needed a new building. Planning began in earnest even before they received

proposals to redevelop the downtown campus.

They determined that the current site no longer meets the city's needs. That's because most of the city's population growth has been west of the downtown, making the city's geographical center generally in the area of the Boca Raton Innovation Campus.

Wanting to avoid the expense of buying land, they selected 17 city-owned acres adjacent to the Spanish River Library at the intersection of Spanish River and Broken Sound boulevards.

That site also provides good access to major roadways. Police Chief Michele Miuccio says the new location would not affect police response times for any part of the city.

Regarding the \$190 million cost, Miuccio said what's proposed is not one building but a police campus.

The campus would include an energy plant so police no longer will have to move out when a bad storm or hurricane approaches, as they do now.

There also will be a firing range and evidence storage building. A parking garage has been put on hold for now to

shave \$20-25 million off the project cost.

At a Feb. 17 community meeting on the project at the Downtown Library, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer Jim Zervis noted that, unlike the redevelopment plan with One Boca, the police project is not a P3.

Rather, the city will issue up to \$175 million in tax-exempt general obligation bonds for a 30-year term. This, Zervis said, is the traditional way governments pay for such projects. The city will pay the remaining \$15 million cost out of the general fund.

City property owners will pay for the \$175 million through a property tax increase of 26 cents for every \$1,000 of taxable value. That would come to \$260 more a year on a property with a taxable value of \$1,000,000.

The project will be competitively bid. So if the final tab is less than \$190 million, the cost to property owners would be reduced.

If voters approve the bond issue on March 10, construction is expected to begin in early 2027 with completion two years later. ★

WILDFLOWER

Continued from page 1

the city launched Food Truck Fridays in February, which will continue on the last Friday of each month.

The park, named after a 1980s restaurant and bar that previously stood there, opened in 2022 after a multimillion-dollar construction project.

It fronts the Intracoastal Waterway at the western end of the Palmetto Park Road bridge.

Park expansion an option?

Boca Raton City Council member Marc Wigder, who also chairs the city's Community Redevelopment Agency, prefers a permanent concession stand at the park and is not in support of The Oval project. Wigder, who is up for reelection March 10, hopes to convince the private landowner to reverse the development plan and sell the lot at 501 E. Palmetto Park Road to the city for a potential park expansion.

The idea would create extra space for amenities, such as a standalone shop for a hot-dog vendor or an ice cream parlor, something he says the park is missing. Another part of his plan would be to improve traffic flow by widening the roads at the heavily trafficked intersection and to provide additional parking for visitors.

Wigder said it seems more logical for the property to be acquired by the city to meet the community's needs, but any purchase would require City Council approval. He made clear the city can't force the private developer to do whatever the city wants, as the company owns the land.

"But if that piece of property was built with a commercial structure, I think the park might lose its visibility or access," Wigder said. He pictured Wildflower Park tucked behind



New activities intended to bring more people to Wildflower Park include: **TOP (l-r):** Marisa Dietrich, her son, Wesley, 1, and her mother, Mara Walter, all of Boca Raton, came to the inaugural Food Truck Friday on Feb. 27. They ordered at Fruit to the Maxx, one of four food trucks at the lunchtime event, which will take place the last Friday of each month. **ABOVE LEFT:** Sheryl Goski, of the Mizner Court condominiums, relaxes on the Mi Casa, Your Casa 2.0 attraction with her grandson, Austin Schwartz, 18 months, also of Boca Raton. **Photos by Larry Barszewski/The Coastal Star** **ABOVE RIGHT:** Visitors enjoy the waterfront scenery while taking a yoga class. **Photo provided**

the proposed development, with only a narrow pathway leading in from Palmetto Park Road.

On the other side of the conversation is former Deputy Mayor Andrea O'Rourke, who would be in favor of a mixed-use development on the lot west of the park. She said a coffee shop or an ice cream parlor in the retail area could create walkability to nearby restaurants and shops. "I think anything that's built downtown or adjacent should consider the

human element," she said.

Art and activities

O'Rourke, a key figure in launching the city's public art program in 2023, said it is heartening to see pops of colorful artwork installed throughout the park as part of efforts to activate the space. Boca Raton invested about \$540,000 in the four art projects inspired by the city's history, installed at the end of last year. New features include

environmentally themed murals under the bridge along a pedestrian path connecting Wildflower to the south with Silver Palm Park, which is popular for its boat ramp and docks. Other additions are centennial mosaics on the restrooms and a sunrise-inspired splash pad mural. The most popular attraction is Mi Casa, Your Casa 2.0, a house-framed swing set repainted in the city's centennial colors, which draws hundreds of

visitors each week to take action on the four swings that face the Intracoastal.

There's also the Bloom in Wildflower series of pop-up wellness activities, which cost the city about \$1,200 to produce since launching last fall. The weekly instructed classes include yoga and Pilates and attract about a dozen attendees per session. The city said the program has been well-received and it plans to continue building on that success. ★

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

disclosing his donors, a charge Liebelson disputes.

It was not clear before *The Coastal Star's* March 3 deadline if Asnani had responded. He did not immediately reply to two messages requesting comment.

Thomson noted that the letter was sent not to him, but to two PACs raising money for his campaign.

Yet he did not dispute the accuracy of the messages in the flyers.

"There is nothing in any of their messages that is false at



Liebelson



Nachlas

all," he said. "It is accurate. ... Everything the political committee said is documented fact, from what I can tell."

Any response to the allegations should come from Asnani, he said.

Along with Liebelson and Thomson, City Council member Fran Nachlas is vying to replace term-limited Scott Singer as mayor.



Thomson

The allegations are notable in part because of the astonishing amount of money Thomson and Nachlas have raised in their race to become mayor.

As of March 2, Thomson had raised \$422,566 and Nachlas \$489,905. But that does not include the amounts raised through some PACs since Dec. 31. That information won't be released until April.

Liebelson has raised \$203,390, including \$190,000 in personal loans and \$5,000 in a

personal donation.

He also has a PAC, Friends of Mike Liebelson. Its end-of-year report said it had raised no funds. Updated information won't be available until April.

But Liebelson said it has raised a total of \$25,000 from his 90-year-old father-in-law and a former business partner.

Liebelson has made an issue of the amount of money Thomson has raised from developers, particularly through PACs.

While not a member of Save Boca, Liebelson agrees with its stance against the proposed redevelopment of the downtown campus by One Boca. He has

vowed not to accept developer money for his campaign.

Nachlas has received developer donations, but Liebelson has not highlighted that because he says she is upfront about supporting development.

He singles out Thomson for saying he opposes the downtown campus redevelopment while also accepting developer contributions.

Thomson does not dispute that developers have donated to his campaign, "but not in the overwhelming scale that Mr. Liebelson suggests. That is just false," he said. ★

Woof, woof in the water

Bark Beach, Spanish River Park — February 2026



Dogs and their human pals enjoy the sand and sea at Boca Raton's Bark Beach. The beach, between lifeguard towers 18 and 20, is now open from 7 to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to sunset (5 p.m. to sunset during daylight saving time) seven days a week, up from two. Annual permits are \$35 a dog for residents, \$210 for nonresidents. **Photo provided**

Boca Raton

CRA's transfer of ground leases portends improvements for Mizner Park

By Mary Hladky

The city's Community Redevelopment Agency has consented to the transfer of long-term commercial ground leases in Mizner Park to four entities led by CP Group, the owner of the Boca Raton Innovation Campus.

Brookfield Properties, the current owner of Mizner Park, now holds those leases and also must approve the transfer. Brookfield owns most of the buildings in Mizner Park. The CRA owns the land underneath them.

Brookfield wants to sell the

iconic retail, dining and cultural destination and has been in negotiations with a prospective buyer, widely believed to be CP Group, for about one year. No deal has closed yet, and CP Group has not confirmed it is the buyer.

The Boca Raton CRA commissioners, who also are City Council members, unanimously consented to the transfer on Feb. 9. But they could withhold it only if they determined that the new lease holders do not have the financial ability to fulfill their obligations.

"I am excited" about the new lease holders, said CRA Chair

Marc Wigder, adding that he hoped they would improve the 35-year-old property. Mizner Park has looked run down for several years.

In addition to CP Group, the new lease holders are subsidiaries of StepStone Group Real Estate, a global private markets investment firm; ACRE, a multifamily owner, operator and developer; and Georgetown, an owner and developer of office, residential, retail and recreational properties.

Deputy City Manager Jorge Camejo, who focuses on the CRA, noted in an interview that CP Group is the direct

descendent of Crocker Partners, led by developer Tom Crocker, which built Mizner Park.

"From that standpoint, I am excited, because I think CP Group may have a better understanding and desire to move Mizner Park in a direction that will improve the conditions, and therefore improve the value," he said.

The other companies joining with CP Group have "the knowledge and experience to make a center like Mizner Park more successful," he said.

Camejo was Boca Raton's CRA executive director until he left to take a similar position in

Hollywood before returning last year and seeing Mizner Park's current condition.

"I think we can do better, and I am looking forward to doing better," he said.

Mizner Park was put up for sale in 2023, with at least three potential buyers wanting to acquire the property. The offers submitted were for as much as \$290 million, *The Real Deal* reported. However, no deal was finalized.

It also went on the market in 2016 but was pulled off after pricing fell short of expectations, the *Palm Beach Post* reported at the time. ★

South Palm Beach

Candidate forum draws only the incumbents

By Brian Biggane

What was initially billed as a “Meet the Candidates” night instead turned into a “Meet the Incumbents” event as the mayor and three South Palm Beach council members up for election met with their constituents on Feb. 10 at the Barclay condominium.

The program, hosted by moderator and Barclay resident John Stillpass, lasted just under 90 minutes. It allowed the incumbents — Mayor Bonnie Fischer, Vice Mayor Monte Berendes and Council members Sandra Beckett and Elvadianne Culbertson — to show their support for the Town Hall project, while correcting what they said were misconceptions about financial issues and responsibility for badly needed repairs to the sidewalk along the west side of State Road A1A.

The four are running in the March 10 municipal election, being challenged by mayoral candidate Rafael Pineiro and council candidates Francesca Attardi and Adrian Burcet, all of whom declined to attend. Pineiro has said the three spread their message by meeting residents at several of the town’s



South Palm Beach Mayor Bonnie Fischer (center) chats with residents who attended a Feb. 10 candidate forum. She joined Vice Mayor Monte Berendes and Council members Sandra Beckett and Elvadianne Culbertson in meeting prospective voters. **Brian Biggane/The Coastal Star**

condos. The League of Women Voters dropped its sponsorship when advised both sides would not be represented.

Resident and retired property manager Richard Haggerty voiced an opinion heard throughout the event regarding the Town Hall situation, saying, “It’s a pretty simple thing: The cost to renovate is too expensive and doesn’t do anything for the long term. They expect (the cost) to be \$1.8 million to do the renovation, and that was in 2018. It would be \$2 million or

\$3 million by now.”

“I put my full faith in their decision,” Kim Redmond added. “They’ve done a lot of research on it and have made some very judicious choices.”

The fact that only a handful of residents typically attend the monthly Town Council meetings brought some in search of more information about the project, which has been in the works for nearly 10 years and is expected to break ground in a matter of months. One of those was relatively new

Along the Coast

Local municipal elections at a glance

March 10 elections, with polls open 7 a.m.-7 p.m., are:
Boca Raton: Mayor, three City Council seats and referendums on downtown campus and police headquarters
Delray Beach: One City Commission seat
Gulf Stream: Five Town Commission seats
South Palm Beach: Mayor and three Town Council seats
Voters with unmailed vote-by-mail ballots can bring them to polling places on Election Day and exchange them for regular ballots. They also can hand deliver unmailed ballots to the Supervisor of Elections main office by 7 p.m. — or its South County branch office by 5 p.m. — March 10.
Information: Contact your town clerk or city clerk, or the Supervisor of Elections office.

resident Kim Rayner.

Before the meeting, Rayner had doubts, saying, “I’m against it until I learn more. I’d love to hear other ways to resolve the issues other than building a new facility.”

Afterward she said, “If they have the funding that’s fine. I have to go to the Town Council meetings to learn more.”

Lantana Mayor Karen Lythgoe and County Commissioner Marci Woodward, whose district includes South Palm Beach, were on hand to support the incumbents.

“We already work together,” Lythgoe said. “It’s important neighbors get along, so there are no adversarial relationships.”

Stillpass solicited questions from the audience, about half of

which involved the deteriorated condition of the sidewalk. Berendes explained that the council has been working with the Florida Department of Transportation, while Beckett said a plan toward repairs is in the works with the help of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

That wasn’t enough for resident Georgette Betts, who said, “They need to use their influence to push harder. That needs to be a priority.”

When it was over the incumbents professed confidence the meeting had served its purpose and the election would go their way.

“I’m not cocky, but I’m confident,” Culbertson said. “I don’t think our competition is strong at all.” ★

South Palm Beach News

Manager gives Town Hall update — Although the future of a new Town Hall may be affected by South Palm Beach’s March 10 election, Town Manager Jamie Titcomb delivered an update on the latest news about the project and a new timeline at the Town Council’s February meeting.

Titcomb said solicitations for bids for the project had been sent out on Feb. 3 and replies were already coming in, resulting in several copies of CPZ Architects’ 150-page plans being sent to contractors. Proposals are due on March 10 and the firms selected to make bids will do so at the next Town Council meeting on March 17. The winning bid will be selected on March 26 and notice to proceed with Phase 1 issued on March 27.

If all that remains on schedule, the price would be determined by June 27 and construction would begin in early August, lasting until February 2028.

Of course, the timeline could change if the three challengers in the election are victorious. That would likely result in the council’s undertaking an engineering study to determine if the current building can be retrofitted or if a new Town Hall is necessary.

County library chief makes presentation — Douglas Crane, director of the Palm Beach County Library System, made a 20-minute presentation updating the council on its recent additions, including a planned Hypoluxo branch coming in 2028.

Crane said the system is the sixth-largest in the state, offers 18 locations and has an \$18 million annual budget. He said South Palm Beach is “one of our busiest locations” for the Bookmobile, which visits every Monday.

— Brian Biggane

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Delray Beach

Two candidates attend beach forum; a third was home with the flu

By John Pacenti

Maybe the most telling moments at the Beach Property Owners Association forum for two Delray Beach City Commission candidates happened before it even started. That was when Mayor Tom Carney met with the camps for Realtor Judy Mollica and land use attorney Andrea Keiser at the Feb. 11 event.

The fact that Carney is looking for a possible ally could switch the dynamic on the dais. Fellow Commissioners Tom Markert and Juli Casale have not supported his positions on the budget, the Downtown Development Authority, and — most recently — suing the Lake Worth Drainage District over a banyan tree on the municipal golf course.

The March 10 vote is to fill the commission seat vacated by Rob Long, who is now a state representative for District 90.

At the Opal Grand Resort & Spa, Mollica and Keiser answered questions on growth, budget, traffic, parking and noise. Both demonstrated their ability to do the job. A third candidate, Delores Rangel, was sidelined by the flu.

Keiser and Mollica are establishment candidates in different ways. Mollica has endorsements from the police and fire unions. Keiser has put in \$102,000 of her own money into the campaign and for two political action committees — but when pressed on them



Keiser



Mollica



Rangel

wouldn't give details.

Although the race is non-partisan, the issue was a topic of discussion among some BPOA forum attendees. Keiser and her family contributed \$3,000 each to the campaigns of U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds for governor and Attorney General James Uthmeier, both Republicans.

Mollica and Rangel are former Republicans, defecting to the Democrats because of the policies of President Donald Trump. Keiser said her donations are a non-issue in a non-partisan race.

A number of coastal residents said they were still undecided as they left the forum.

Keiser — a mother of three young children — came across as polished but modest, while Mollica used humor to ease the tension.

Mollica framed her candidacy around longtime community service and preservation, emphasizing local roots, volunteer leadership and a desire to “preserve the character, charm and livability” of Delray Beach. She highlighted her service on the Planning & Zoning Board and civic organizations, and stressed making the city easier to live in for residents, including seniors.

“Leadership isn't about being the newest voice. It's about being the right voice. I believe in using common sense,” Mollica

said. “Common sense tells me that if the city raises our parking rates for minimal revenues, our visitors will go somewhere else to dine and shop and get out of the habit of coming to Delray Beach, and that's not going to be very good for our businesses.”

Keiser cast herself as a policy- and process-oriented candidate with legal and public-service experience. The daughter of an immigrant, Keiser emphasized technical expertise in land use, budgeting and government operations.

On development, Keiser urged strict adherence to existing height and zoning limits, as well as the protection of beaches and dunes. “Any future development in Delray Beach has to respect the neighborhoods,” she said.

The absent Rangel, who spoke to *The Coastal Star* previously, has not come across as a polished public speaker but knows the issues probably better than any other candidate, having spent 27 years as an administrative assistant in the city manager's office.

When asked about barrier island issues, Rangel said, “Our beach is our jewel — maintaining it will always be

a top priority, but we must continue to explore methods other than renourishment to preserve it. ... There are street flooding issues and residents want better enforcement of the No Wake zone on the Intracoastal. I will work with the Beach Property Owners Association and coastal residents to address these issues.”

If barrier island residents at the candidate forum were concerned about development, Mollica most likely didn't put their minds at ease. “I think that our city needs to have a mix of residential and business, and we need more businesses to sort of help pick up the tax base that's going to even that out,” she said. “Our city should make it easy to do business.”

The forum occurred before the commission was about to tackle a new noise ordinance. Mollica emphasized vehicle noise as a major problem on the barrier island. Keiser also mentioned the growing issue of regulating gas-powered leaf blowers — another issue championed by Carney.

Mollica mentioned the DDA helps businesses thrive. The mayor has cast the DDA at times as committing fraud for failure to obtain receipts for some purchases and has instigated two audits — one city and now one state — of the organization.

When it came to budget and spending, Mollica criticized a tax rollback in 2024 spearheaded by Carney, saying

it “didn't quite work out.” Keiser talked about efficiency and an “opportunity to cut down on waste” — another refrain from Carney.

Keiser also called out Carney's nemesis on the dais, Commissioner Juli Casale, on a vote that denied a request from the Old Palm Grove neighborhood to block access from the public. Carney lives in the neighborhood and recused himself on the issue along with Long.

Keiser, as an attorney who used to live in Old Palm Grove, represented the neighborhood residents. Interestingly, Mollica was present at the October meeting, sitting right behind the podium for public speakers on the issue.

Yet, Keiser dropped Casale's name so demurely and sweetly that it showed she could be a tonic to the bickering — and shouting — that now infects the current commission. “I hope we can agree to disagree respectfully,” she said.

Casale was one of three yes votes on Oct. 21 to deny the request to block access to the road. She asked at the candidate forum to interject to give her side, but the crowd shouted her down.

A contentious yes/no question from an audience member about whether the city police should cooperate with federal immigration authorities was also shouted down. ★

New noise ordinance doesn't address leaf blowers

By John Pacenti

Not all noise is equal in Delray Beach.

For people on the barrier island, the roar of gas-powered leaf blowers is the chief concern. For those who live near downtown, it's the establishments that blast music late into the night or revving motorcycles.

After months of community meetings, public debate and technical study, the Delray Beach City Commission adopted a revamped noise ordinance at its Feb. 24 meeting. The new standard is designed to move enforcement from a subjective “plainly audible” standard to an objective, decibel-based approach — with a measured roll-out and a 120-day implementation and evaluation window.

Enforcement will emphasize education and warnings in the early weeks. The city plans to spend \$7,000 for up to five sound meters, train personnel and begin community outreach. It will evaluate progress and data after 120 days.

The sound will be measured at property boundaries — generally sidewalks — rather than doorways or internal business spaces, in line with

state law restricting entry onto private property without consent.

“I'm going to support this, because I want to get started,” Mayor Tom Carney said. “But I don't think we're done with noise, because I do think we need to readdress the issues of the gas blowers, and we have to readdress the issue of also the other lawn equipment.”

The ordinance establishes decibel limits tailored to land use zones — with higher allowable levels in the city's entertainment district and lower thresholds in residential areas. The change reflects findings from a consultant-led sound study and responds to persistent resident complaints about late-night music, amplified sound from waterfront restaurants, and disruptive vehicular noise.

City Attorney Lynn Gelin explained that the standard being replaced is whether a noise is plainly audible 100 feet away. “This is a subjective standard,” she said. “That's not fair, right? We always want to ensure equity and fairness with our ordinances.”

However, the new noise ordinance does not address some of the chief concerns from residents regarding lawn equipment and traffic.

Republicans in the Florida Legislature are trying to preempt municipalities from banning or regulating the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Florida landscapers and industry groups, including the lobbyists for the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association, are behind Senate Bill 290, intent on making sure residents remain disturbed by leaf blowers.

“We see it as a dangerous trend in Tallahassee to begin with, preempting, robbing cities and municipalities from managing their own cities, and having this mandated out of Tallahassee,” said Hal Stern, president of the Beach Property Owners Association.

But Stern says he knows the issue of noise is different for those who live near Atlantic Avenue and the entertainment district.

“So the noise coming out of a place like the Tin Roof, for instance, is something that we were aware of, but it's not something that we weigh in on, because you can't hear it on the barrier island,” Stern said.

Supporters — including longtime residents and community advocates — framed the ordinance as a necessary balance between livability and vibrancy.

“Some of these entertainment venues do not have to have weapon-sized speakers up there to try to blast us all off to the sidewalk,” resident Jody Kovalick said at the Feb. 24 commission meeting. He said there is a happy medium where the vibrancy of downtown can be maintained without disturbing the peace.

A lot of complaints, though, were about traffic as opposed to venues blasting music.

“The vehicular noise is really what brought me down here, and it's scary to pedestrians to be walking on Atlantic Avenue and having motorcycles and

cars rev up and seeing little kids respond to it is concerning to me,” resident Ellen Beyda said.

Police told residents at a Feb. 5 town hall on the noise ordinance, when it comes to cars or motorcycles, state statutes exist where police can issue citations without needing to measure the decibel levels.

A resident at the town hall recalled an incident where her husband asked politely for a motorcyclist to stop revving his motor. “Well, this guy started coming at him, you know. He's like giving him the finger,” she recalled. “And the guy did it again and again.” ★

Correction and clarification

A story on Page 30 of *The Coastal Star's* February edition (“City turns over text messages between mayor and Mary McCarty”) incorrectly reported Delray Beach Mayor Tom Carney's stance on whether to promote Deputy Vice Mayor Angela Burns to the city's vice mayor vacancy. Although in a reply to a text message from the politically active McCarty in December he wrote, “That was my plan” to nominate Burns, no motion was ever made, and the vice mayor position has not

been filled.

Carney also provided information to *The Coastal Star* regarding his calling a special meeting in September to reverse a commission decision to join other cities in a lawsuit against the state over its demand that decorative street markings be removed, including the city's Pride rainbow intersection. He provided an email showing he requested the special meeting before McCarty texted him in opposition to the commission's prior action.



ABOVE: Rosalyn Yellin exits a Lamborghini on the set of *Members Only: Palm Beach*. **Photo provided RIGHT:** At home in Highland Beach, Yellin models one of her favorite dresses. Her dog is Lou Lou. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

HOUSEWIFE

Continued from page 1

A reality show with many of the same story lines as *Real Housewives*, the eight-episode Netflix program focuses on socialites who wade through squabbles and rivalries while cementing close friendships during last year's Palm Beach social season.

"It was a lot of fun," Yellin said about the show, which first aired in December. "It is just a show about five women, our journey and our lives."

Much of the season's last episode provides a close-up look at Yellin, especially when she challenges another cast member — the one who excluded only her from a party in the first show because she didn't see Yellin as belonging in her same social circle.

As you might expect, a shower of tears and a crisscross of accusations take place. While it is good drama that follows a *Real Housewives* theme, it was also an opportunity for Yellin to define herself to viewers and — she says — to herself.

"I learned something about myself doing the show," she said. "I learned to stand up for myself. I never had to do that in Bucks County."

Despite some of the hurt feelings and subtle and not-so-well-disguised spite, Yellin says she is looking forward to returning to the show if it is renewed for a second season.

If that happens, viewers are likely to see more of the real Rosalyn Yellin.

"I think of myself as a simple person," she said. "Lead with kindness and treat everyone the same. Nobody is better than anyone else."

Members Only: Palm Beach has developed a strong following, with Yellin saying it's not unusual for her to be recognized when she's out and about.

Some, however, question the show's Palm Beach moniker.

Yellin, like most of the other cast, doesn't live in Palm Beach and instead has settled with her husband of more than 30 years in a multimillion-dollar home on the Intracoastal Waterway in Highland Beach.

While social-scene purists will say you're not a Palm Beacher if you don't live on "The Island," Yellin is quick to point out that she is in Palm Beach almost every day during the social season, attending parties or chairing or participating in charity events.

"When you're chairing an event, you're in Palm Beach 95% of the time," she said.

A member of one of the prestigious clubs on the island, Yellin is a strong supporter of several charitable organizations including those helping cancer patients, current and past service members, and young adults who have aged out of foster care.

The granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor and daughter of a mother who died of ovarian cancer, Yellin is a strong supporter of the Cancer Alliance of Help & Hope and is one of the celebrity dancers in the organization's Dance the Night Away Gala set for March 13 at the Breakers.

A dancer in her earlier life who also taught Zumba-like exercise classes in Pennsylvania, Yellin has raised more than \$138,000, far exceeding totals of the 11 other dancers.

She has chaired the America



First Gala, a fundraiser for The Grey Team, a Boca Raton-based organization that aims to prevent military and veteran suicides. Yellin is also a strong supporter of Place of Hope, which focuses on helping those aging out of foster care.

"I love helping charities that are helping here in Palm Beach County," she said.

Yellin, 54, is also extremely proud of her family — her husband, three daughters and twin sons as well as four grandchildren.

"I'm very proud of the job I did as a mother," she said. "All of my children are very high-

achieving."

Those who watch the show might take note that there is little mention of Yellin's husband, Jonathan, a successful business owner, and that's not by accident.

Yellin said her husband values his privacy and made it clear from the outset that he didn't want to be involved with the show. In fact, it was her husband's desire for privacy that almost led her to decline the invitation. A couple of her friends who auditioned for the show recommended Yellin, who made the cut while they didn't.

"I was excited but I was

really nervous about telling my husband," she said. "After going back and forth, he agreed."

The journey from Bucks County to Highland Beach, which took place five years ago, was one that Yellin began many years before while visiting the area annually on vacation.

"We love our lifestyle in Highland Beach," she said.

Yellin also says she's happy to be part of the Palm Beach social scene and involved in so many events like the women she admired on reality shows decades ago.

"I came to Palm Beach and I fulfilled my dreams," she said.★

Boca Raton

Por La Mar neighbors cheer repairs for failing sea wall

Emergency work has begun to repair a failing sea wall at the southeastern end of Southeast Wavcrest Way in Boca Raton's Por La Mar neighborhood south of East Palmetto Park Road.

The work will also include stormwater infrastructure improvements, including a new pumping system to assist with drainage during high tides.

The projects, recently approved by the City Council, will cost a total of \$3.7 million. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has provided a \$350,000 grant. The work will be done by Cone and Graham Inc.

The city expedited the project because the sea wall was at risk of collapsing, with its problems

exacerbated by repeated king tides.

The Riviera Civic Association, which includes Por La Mar, cheered the city's action. President Katie Barr MacDougall credited City Manager Mark Sohaney and Public Works and Engineering Director Zachary Bihr for being very responsive to their

concerns.

"We are very happy with the follow-through on their part," she said.

The association has another reason for celebration. Sidewalks on East Palmetto Park Road are being improved and a pedestrian crosswalk installed.

For years, the association has pressed for extensive

improvements along the section of the road between the Intracoastal Waterway and State Road A1A.

Residents aren't getting everything they wanted, but are pleased with the work that is being done, MacDougall said.

— Mary Hladky

Highland Beach

Milani Park, public safety top town priorities

By Rich Pollack

With an eye to the future, Highland Beach leaders are finalizing a strategic priorities plan that puts an emphasis on continuing to maintain the town's brand as "three miles of paradise."

"The strategic priority process allows us to constantly recalibrate on where we're going, how we are going to get there and how to plan for the resources needed to get there," Town Manager Marshall Labadie said. "It's a dynamic process."

In all, town commissioners and town staff have identified 23 priorities placed into four categories: community safety; community enrichment and sustainability; public infrastructure and resiliency; and organizational excellence.

Integrated into the plan is a budgeting element where town leaders mesh the priorities with thought-out steps to ensure money is available to cover the costs.

Listed as the top priority in the coming year is continuing to work with Palm Beach County on the development of Milani Park, a hot topic since many residents opposed the county's creating a park at the south end of town.

"We're continuing to keep an eye on the project and advocating for the town's position along the way," Labadie said.

The Milani Park issue falls under the community enrichment and sustainability heading, where many of the projects are focused on maintaining the quality of life and livability of Highland Beach.

Another priority in that section — although not one of the top 10 overall issues — is continuing to educate the community on the importance of dune restoration, handing the lead of that project to the town's Natural Resources Preservation Board.

Labadie said many of the priorities are improvements that have long been planned for.

"Our strategic priorities are more focused on capital improvements than they have been in the past," he said. "We've been planning and saving for them over the last several years."

Public safety continues to be a major focus. Six of the top 10 priorities fall under that category, with major facility improvements listed.

Among the priorities are the conversion of the town's former post office to a real-time operations center for the Police Department, which

will also serve as the public entrance for the department. The plans for the center, which is currently in design phase, call for it to focus on crime prevention.

Another public safety priority is the continuation of efforts to build a dock for the police marine unit, a process that is underway with the town hoping to get additional state funding.

The planned rehabilitation of the old fire station, which needs a major upgrade and will be used mainly to house apparatus and equipment, is also on the list.

Two issues that have been identified as concerns by Vice Mayor David Stern are also listed as priorities, although they are not high on the list. The town will be looking at what can be done to ensure pedestrian and bicyclist safety as e-bikes become more prevalent.

Another focus will be on electric vehicle protocol, with the fire department charged with working with condominiums to develop fire safety guidelines for vehicle charging and battery storage. Both those issues are priorities for state leaders as well.

Completion of the town's sewer pipe lining project is also a priority, as are several steps designed to help the town be more efficient and effective. Those including strengthening communication with residents and working on creating a plan to get more state appropriations.

Labadie said that throughout the year he will be providing regular updates to the Town Commission on the status of many of the priorities to ensure adequate allocation of resources.

"We try and keep the process nimble and simple," he said. ★

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Delray Beach

Intracoastal property sinking due to buried city drainage pipe, lawsuit says

By Jane Musgrave

A leaky stormwater drain pipe that went undetected for nearly 30 years has erupted into a court battle between a Delray Beach homeowner and the city.

In a lawsuit filed in Palm Beach County Circuit Court in

February, Mary Anne Wood and her sons claim the city should pay for the damage the pipe has caused to the backyard of their roughly \$4.6 million home — along an Intracoastal Waterway finger canal a few blocks north of Atlantic Dunes Park — for burying it on their

property without permission. While city officials initially indicated they would help the Woods, they later reneged, according to the lawsuit Fort Lauderdale attorney Jamey Campellone filed on behalf of the family. Since the pipe has been on the property for

decades, Delray Beach officials told the family the city has what is known in the legal world as a “prescriptive easement.”

Under Florida law, someone can claim they are legally entitled to use someone else’s land if they have done so for at least 20 years and the property

owner didn’t complain. But, Campellone wrote, the pipe was buried underground. Wood and her late husband bought the home on Poinsettia Road, just north of Atlantic Dunes Park, in 1987. City officials never asked them for permission to run the pipe through their property and there is no record that they asked previous owners, he said.

The pipe was discovered in 2023 by crews hired to repair the property’s sea wall.

Since then, it has become apparent that the leaking pipe, which dumps stormwater into the Intracoastal, is causing the property to sink, Campellone wrote.

The city invaded the Woods’ property rights, interfered with their use and enjoyment of the property and never paid or offered to compensate them for its depreciation in value, he said.

Campellone declined to comment on the lawsuit. It did not detail how much the family is seeking, but only suits where more than \$50,000 is at stake can be filed in circuit court.

As a policy, Delray Beach doesn’t comment on pending litigation. Attorneys at the Fort Lauderdale firm Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman are representing the city. ★



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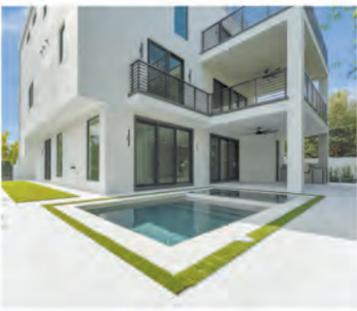
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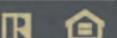
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Lantana News

Police employee of the year — At the Feb. 23 Lantana Town Council meeting, Police Chief Sean Scheller presented his department’s employee of the year award to executive assistant Karen Dipolito.

Dipolito has worked for the Police Department for 27 years. Scheller said she is always willing to accept additional duties and responsibilities. He said she is an invaluable member of the department and keeps him on his toes.

Beach charrette coming — Residents are encouraged to attend the Beach Master Plan Charrette at noon March 14 in the council chambers at 500 Greynolds Circle.

Mayor Karen Lythgoe said council members may attend but will want to remain quiet because this meeting is all about hearing from residents.

Beach parking dispute — Mayor Lythgoe, at the Feb. 23 meeting, said she’s been hearing complaints from residents regarding beach parking. “They are decal holders who are finding many of the decal parking spots occupied by others,” she said.

Those parking in decal spots without a sticker will be ticketed, even if they have paid for parking, according to Nicole Dritz, director of development services.

Lythgoe said others were complaining about how full the parking lot was, even though there weren’t many people at the beach. On social media, people are suggesting town leaders are getting money from Eau Palm Beach, the resort next door, to allow people who work or visit the hotel to park there.

“That is not happening,” she said.

Town Manager Brian Raducci said the lot was for public parking and folks wouldn’t have to go to the beach to use it.

— Mary Thurwachter

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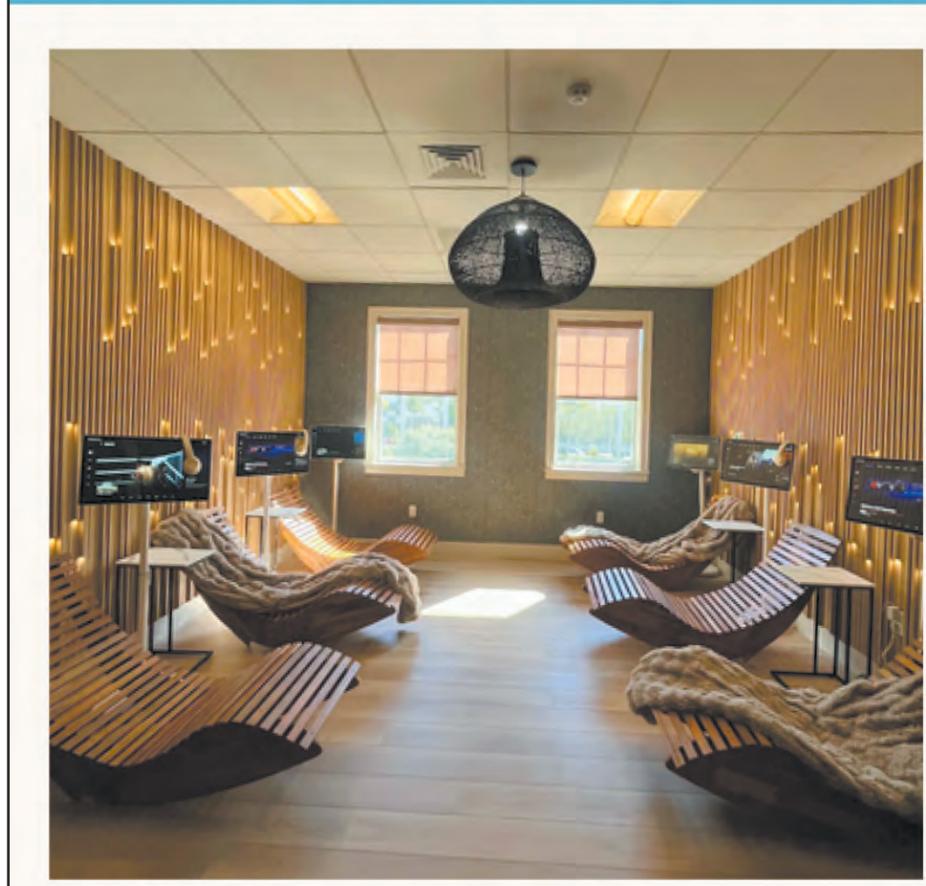
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Boca Raton

Cliff notes

South Inlet Park — Feb. 21



Caroline Baker overlooks the severely eroded beach at South Inlet Park in Boca Raton. Baker, of Pittsburgh, was visiting her parents in Boca Raton and spent mornings journaling at the park. Weather fronts and high tides carved out 12-foot sand cliffs. The erosion, which remained at the beginning of March, exposed the inlet’s dredge pipe, reduced dry beach area and limited public access, especially near the south jetty. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



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Highland Beach

Road is paved, but A1A disruptions are not over yet

By Rich Pollack

Driving through Highland Beach on State Road A1A has gotten easier thanks to the near-conclusion of the Florida Department of Transportation's \$8.3 million resurfacing and improvement project.

It's not quite a perfectly uninterrupted scenic drive yet, however, thanks to a long-awaited sewer-lining project, construction of townhomes and houses at the south end of town and an expected installation of embedded lighting in Highland Beach's eight A1A crosswalks.

The town will soon begin the second phase on A1A of its massive sewer-lining project — with a price tag between \$1.35 million and \$1.5 million. Sewer pipe work on the side-street neighborhoods has been completed, but the lining of pipes under A1A had to wait for the conclusion of the state's road project.

Town Manager Marshall Labadie said that while the sewer-lining project will be far less disruptive than replacing all the aging pipes, there may be some minimal intermittent disruption.

"We expect to see some lane closures for maybe a day or two at a time," he said.

While traditional sewer line repairs include excavating and replacing old pipe, lining the

pipes will be less intrusive and less expensive, he said.

Mostly, contractors will be working "from manhole to manhole" and will be injecting a liner resin that will coat the interior of the pipes, some of which are more than 50 years old.

During an inspection a few years ago, crews discovered areas where the pipes were leaking and where they were subject to water from the outside getting in, meaning the town was paying to treat wastewater it didn't need to treat. There is also a concern about leaking sewage contaminating ground water.

The sewer lining work on A1A is expected to be completed within a few months.

"This project moves quickly," Labadie said.

To avoid disruption to residents in condominiums on A1A, contractors will be rerouting wastewater flow to pipes not simultaneously being lined.

The town will tap into reserves in its sewer fund to cover the cost of the project.

At the south end of town motorists were required to drive over a metal plate while workers installed a sanitary sewer connection from a site on the west side of A1A that will include seven townhouses

to property on the east side of the road that is also being developed.

While the metal plate was removed last month after the installation of the sewer line, motorists were left having to drive over what one resident described as a "nasty bump." Town officials say the bump should be repaired quickly.

While some residents initially believed that the work on that section of the road was related to development of Milani Park, that is not the case. Labadie said, however,

that he expects sanitary sewer connections will be needed and traffic will be disrupted while the work on the park is being done.

County officials have said a start date for construction of the park has not been determined.

Labadie said there could also be minimal disruption to traffic when the town installs embedded lights at crosswalks on A1A.

The town is hoping to get a \$300,000 appropriation from the state to cover the cost of

installing the pedestrian-activated lights at eight crosswalks. Labadie said the town will cover the cost if the funding doesn't come through.

He said that project will probably not begin until summer at the earliest.

Highland Beach currently has pedestrian-activated flashing yellow lights at crosswalks and flags available to those crossing the road. The embedded lights will just be one more feature to alert drivers of pedestrians in the walkways. ★

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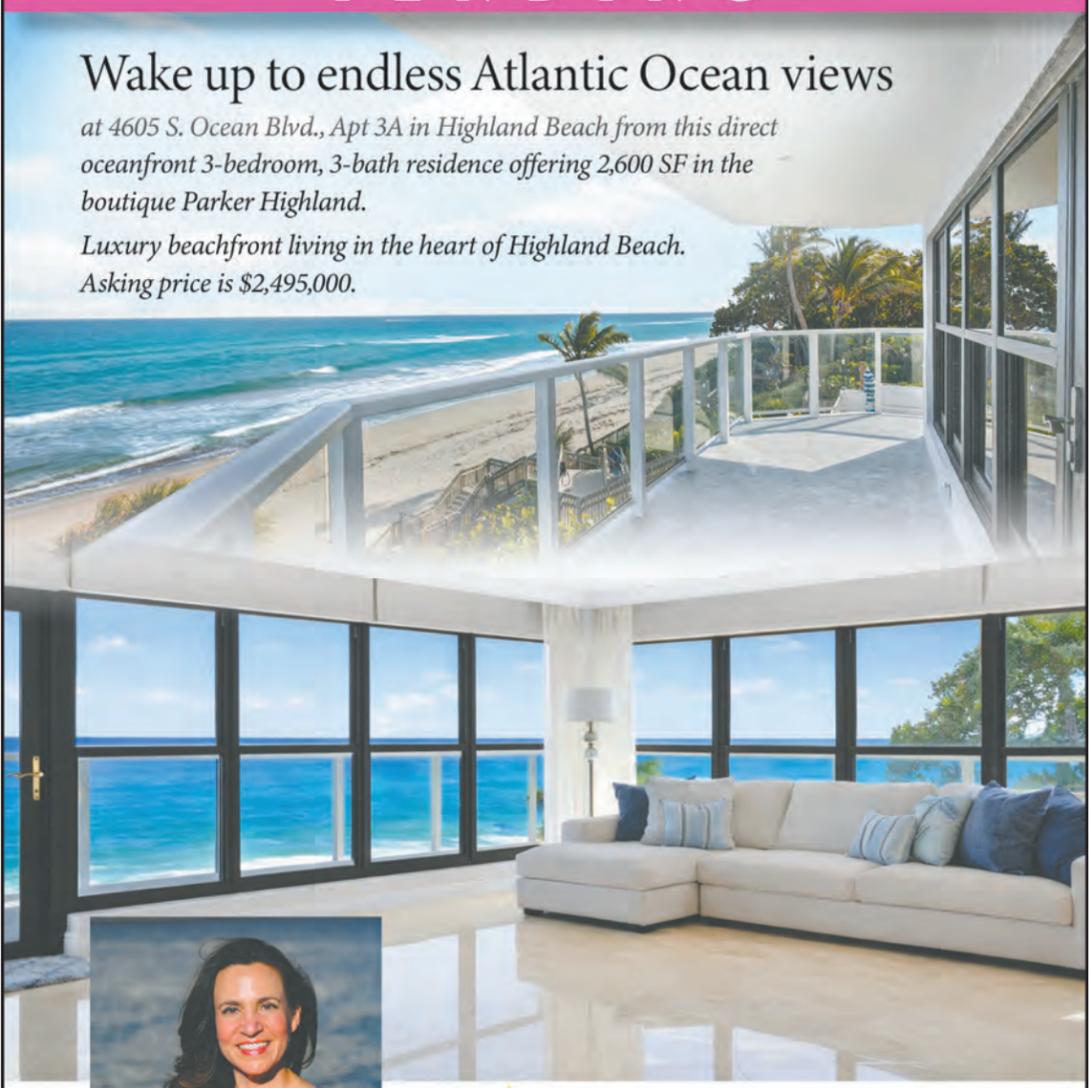
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Delray Beach

Fight to preserve massive banyan at golf course pits city against drainage district

"I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree."

— Joyce Kilmer

"The canal shall remain clear of all construction. There shall be no trees, shrubs, etc. within the right-of-way."

— Lake Worth Drainage District

By John Pacenti

Whenever a major municipal project commences, there is always a chance to find buried treasure — in this case, it was more than 70 years old and rose 50 feet into the sky.

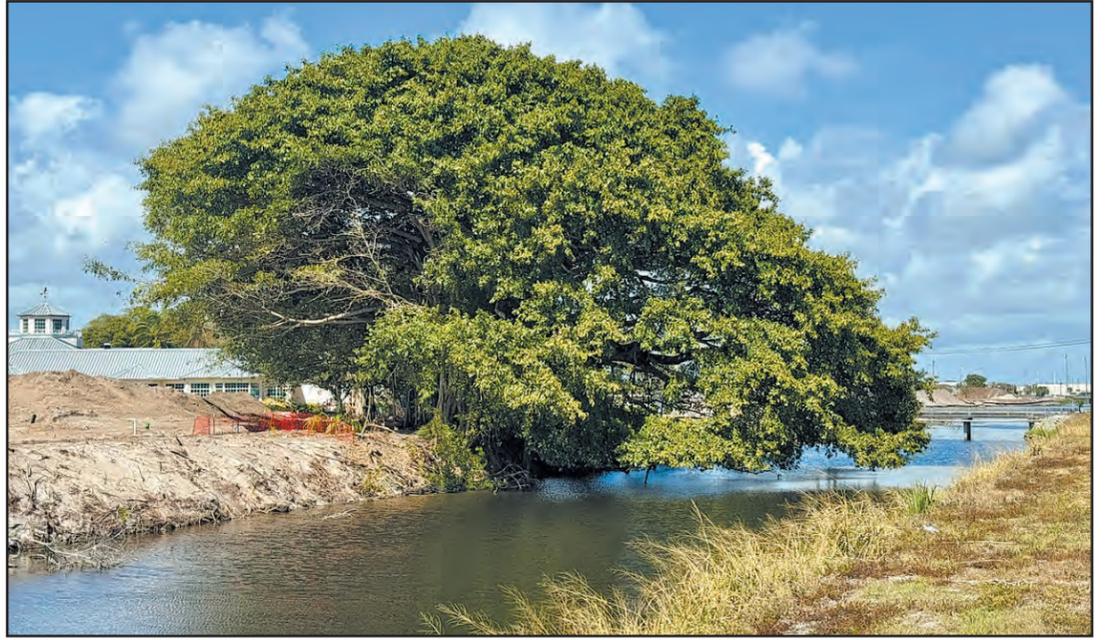
During work on a \$28.5 million renovation project at the Delray Beach municipal golf course, crews discovered that what they thought was a large grove of trees was in fact a single, sprawling banyan tree — possibly the largest in southern Palm Beach County.

However, the tree — which is visible from the clubhouse's ballroom — also significantly encroaches upon a nearby canal, and the Lake Worth Drainage

District has asked for it to be removed. An engineering report found that if the tree fell during a tropical storm, significant flooding could occur.

What looked at first blush to be a feel-good story about saving a historic tree morphed into a clash of jurisdictions between Delray Beach and the drainage district — one defined by land, the other defined by water.

"I don't want to say the heavy-handedness of the Lake Worth Drainage District," Mayor Tom Carney said at a Feb. 18 special meeting of the City Commission called just on the tree. "But we were never really in the game, and they just really dictated terms. I don't believe that that's proper."



But the banyan lives — at least for the time being — as the city lobbies the district to allow it to exist in some form. After deciding in February that the tree was a menace and needed

to be removed, the district said it would allow Delray Beach officials to present a report on how both the canal and the tree can live in harmony.

It will be literally do or die for

the tree at the drainage district hearing on March 11, where the city will make its case.

Commissioners at the Feb. 18 meeting chose to hire an arborist to produce a report to try to persuade the drainage district to reverse its decision. They did so despite knowing Delray Beach entered into a contract with the drainage district in 1994 to remove trees as directed by the district or face the legal — and costly — consequences.

"The 78-year-old banyan tree is a part of the history of our golf course and needs to be protected," Carney told *The Coastal Star*. "It has survived many hurricanes over the years and has the root system necessary to survive the storms to come. Protecting it is a fight worth having."

A surprising discovery

An arborist for the city found the tree — which is a Chinese banyan — in good health, with a robust canopy that could make it a candidate for Florida Forest Service champion tree recognition.

Public Works Director Missie Barletto told the commission at its Jan. 6 meeting that staffers thought at first it was just a grove of trees, but once the underbrush was cleared away, they realized it was all one tree covering about a half-acre.

As a banyan tree grows, its horizontal branches become longer and heavier, and it sprouts "aerial roots" that hang down like threads. Once these threads touch the ground, they take root and thicken into woody "accessory trunks."

Photos show that the tree with the brain-shaped canopy was already present in a 1953 image of the golf course, indicating the tree has stood on the property for generations.

The course designer and contractor support efforts to retain the banyan and are prepared to help mitigate any construction schedule impacts, Barletto said. The arborist who looked at it initially feels like it may be a candidate for a Florida Forest Service Champion Tree Award, she said.



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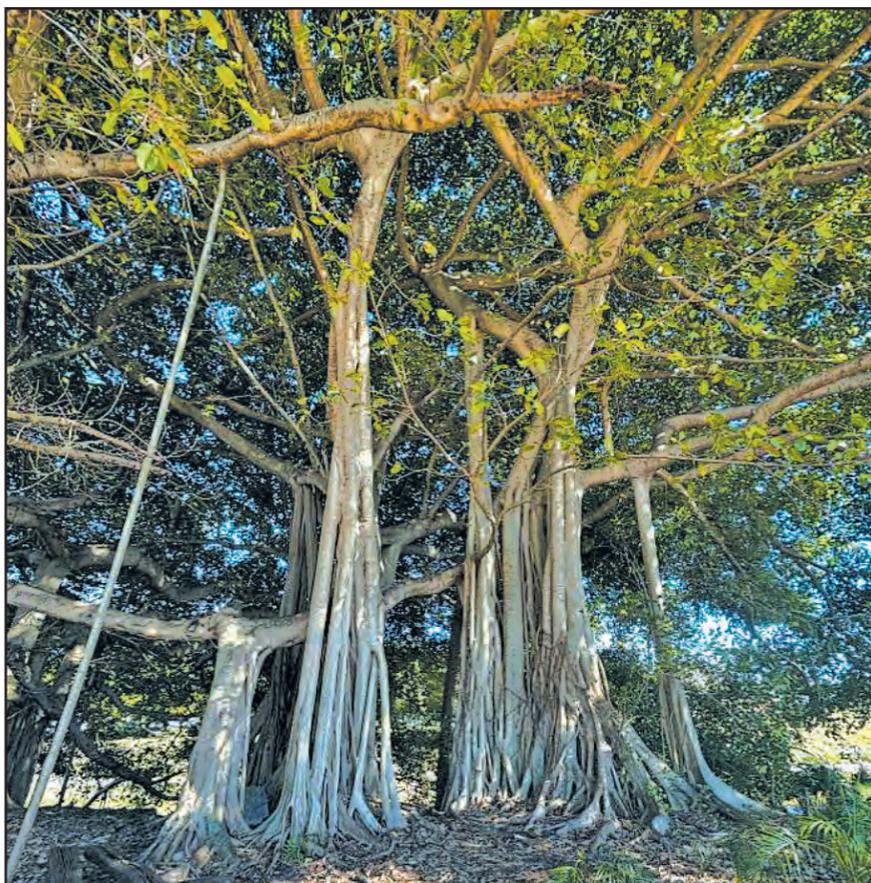
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RIGHT: Delray Beach hopes to preserve this Chinese banyan tree, which was fully uncovered at the municipal golf course during its ongoing renovation. Officials with the Lake Worth Drainage District have asked it to be removed because it encroaches on an adjacent canal. **Photo provided**

LEFT: The huge tree sits near the golf course clubhouse (at left). **John Pacenti/The Coastal Star**



A river runs through it

The E-4 canal runs north-south, separating the golf course from the residential neighborhoods and businesses to the east toward Congress Avenue. Its role is to remove heavy rainfall from neighborhoods.

Lake Worth Drainage District officials have told city staff that the tree would need to be removed unless the city

obtains a variance.

The city told the drainage district it would take responsibility for the tree if it fell into the canal after a major storm and would add a codicil to the city's debris-removal contract to ensure the city can respond quickly to protect safety and navigation, Barletto said.

But a drainage district engineer's report portrayed the banyan somewhat as the Al

Capone of trees.

There was even a dark AI-generated image of what would occur if it fell into the canal during a tropical tempest. Trees damaged during hurricanes past — like Category 5 Andrew — were shown as a grim reminder.

Of note is that the drainage district didn't demand the tree be removed until the recent redo of the golf course. Tommy Strowd, the drainage district

commission's director, did not return a phone call seeking comment.

City's 'tree-mendous' effort

Commissioner Tom Markert has been a champion of the tree, as well. "Save the tree. This is a no-brainer," he said when it first came up at the commission's Jan. 6 meeting. He and Barletto then spoke at the Lake Worth Drainage District's Feb. 11 board meeting to no avail.

Carney called the Feb. 18 special commission meeting to discuss the tree, and, once again, bickering ensued.

Carney suggested seeking an injunction against the drainage district. But City Attorney Lynn Gelin said that, actually, the district's request was indeed proper per the contract and that the city would have a hard time challenging it.

Commissioner Juli Casale said the tree is 90% on property owned by the drainage district.

Markert, citing an emailed newsletter, accused Carney of saying he was a failure because the drainage district ruled against the city. Then a discussion ensued, not on the tree, but on whether the newsletter was sent from the mayor's web address.

City Manager Terrence Moore aimed to turn the temperature down, knowing a fight with the drainage district

does the city no good.

A consensus was finally reached to have an arborist do his own report to try to get the drainage district to reconsider.

Jim Chard, chairman of the Historic Preservation Board, spoke during the public comments at the special meeting. He said removing the tree would actually damage the integrity of the canal bank since the roots go so deep.

Moore said he would work on parallel tracks of continuing the effort to save the tree while preparing for its demise. He tempered expectations.

"If there's any time an opportunity exists to preserve a tree, save whatever we can, we take every effort to do so," Moore said. "This was an arduous consideration, an arduous request, because, as it turns out, Lake Worth Drainage District has never in known history granted such an authorization."

There is a bit of good news for golfers, though, Barletto said in January.

The renovation of the municipal course has already made rapid progress since construction began in December. She said crews are moving at "an incredible pace" and that keeping the tree would be a priority. ★

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Gulf Stream

Last layer of asphalt coming soon

A second, final layer of asphalt to roads in Gulf Stream's Core area is "right around the corner," according to Town Manager Trey Nazzaro. Roadway Construction LLC

had tentatively scheduled the asphalt work for Feb. 23, but Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers decided not to allow the contractor to do that until it had finished items on a punch list "to minimize damage to the new asphalt," Nazzaro said.

The contractor now says it will reach "substantial completion" on March 17 and final completion on May 22.

Nazzaro also said new striping on Sea Road's curve has made driving on the street more manageable, so the town will not widen that section.

"I was coming around the corner after the lines had been painted in a ... full-size sport utility and I had a full-size sport utility on the other end and we were able to navigate that very easily with the lines as a visual cue to understand the width of the road," Nazzaro said.

— Steve Plunkett



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Boynton Beach

City seeks new wave of projects to build up downtown, waterfront

By Michael Cook

Boynton Beach wants to change the perception that it has three “nothing-to-see-there” exits on Interstate 95 by rebuilding its downtown and waterfront as destinations — places people will exit the highway to visit.

Officials are thinking big, with a range of redevelopment projects intended to put the city in the limelight, similar to efforts in nearby cities such as West Palm Beach, Delray Beach and Boca Raton. They are focusing on the downtown and along the Intracoastal Waterway while seeking \$30 million in funding to bring these plans to life in the near future.

“We have a big appetite, and we have a big job to do,” said Christopher Brown, the new executive director of the city’s Community Redevelopment Agency, who laid out the long-range strategy at a Feb. 10 meeting of city commissioners serving as the CRA board.

Brown, who has street cred from leading successful redevelopment efforts in Delray Beach and Pompano Beach, is now helping sketch out a plan that could give Boynton Beach more buzz to its name.

The CRA is considering securing a \$30 million bond to help pay for the purchase of additional properties, which it will also have to clear for construction. Once that’s done, it will open the playing field to developers to implement the city’s vision. While the agency would be bank-financing this grand project, Brown said it will create long-term tax increment funds that will put money back into the city’s pockets.

The plan to rescale Boynton Beach has been in effect since 2016, and officials now plan to update it for the next 10 or more years. The effort is in addition to multiple approved eight-story developments — including Ocean One, The Pierce and Town Square — that will have residential and commercial components but have yet to break ground, as well as other recent land purchases. To avoid delays, Brown said the agency should not buy property for all projects at once, but rather focus on a particular location until the development is up and running.

No plans are set in stone, but officials expect to host workshops to brainstorm proposed projects. Part of the blueprint includes beautifying major streets, adding a downtown parking garage, and building a hotel. At the February meeting, Brown presented multiple potential opportunities for the CRA to purchase properties, including in or near the following prime spots for development:

On the waterfront

Along the Intracoastal, the CRA has taken the first steps to expand Harvey E. Oyer Jr.



Waterfront



Heart of downtown

Park, primarily known for its boat ramps, at 2010 N. Federal Highway. The agency purchased a 1.24-acre neighboring lot for \$6.8 million in February to support the expansion project. The exact plan has not been finalized, but the vision is to add waterfront dining, more docks and parking to create the feel of a waterway city.

“We need to continue to buy as much Intracoastal property that is available that we can,” Brown said, telling commissioners that an investment should be made to capitalize on the waterfront experience — not only to attract visitors but also to create hot spots for residents.

Marina neighborhood

The CRA is also keeping an eye on the Boynton Harbor Marina as part of its effort to bring more people to the waterfront. Officials are looking into a four-story condominium building that sits on the north side of Ocean Avenue, east of Federal Highway. The property is between the site of the delayed Ocean One project, which is planned to offer about 370 residential rental units, and Marina Village, an active condominium complex.

The agency is seeking a condominium developer to purchase the property from the current owners and construct a parking structure with ground-floor restaurants and retail. However, officials are firm in their stance that they want to avoid another multifamily rental development on the site, if possible.

“It’s not a surprise that a lot of people are sick of high-

density residential projects,” Commissioner Thomas Turkin said at the meeting, referring to the 2023 Florida Live Local Act aimed at increasing affordable workforce housing. Turkin warned that the CRA board is “losing control” over what housing projects are built because of the state law. He stated that the redevelopment plan is an effort to counter that.

The heart of downtown

Ocean Avenue, home to City Hall and a bridge to Ocean Ridge and other coastal communities, is viewed as downtown’s Main Street. The CRA wants the avenue to live up to that name, developing it into more of a restaurant-and-entertainment district. The vision is to build up the area similar to Delray Beach’s popular Atlantic Avenue with its gold mine of restaurants, shops and cultural attractions.

One goal along Ocean Avenue could be to restore the CRA-owned 1919 Oscar Magnuson House as part of a plan to create a large food hall operation. The street would showcase modern development alongside pieces of the city’s history, including the 1927 high school, now the Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, and the 1913 elementary school, now the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum.

The Pierce and Town Square, though delayed in construction, are expected to contribute to Ocean Avenue’s vibe. One project under the redevelopment plan is actively underway: The Villages at East Ocean Avenue, set for completion in 2027. The eight-story development, on the



Marina neighborhood



New entryway

Boynton Beach plots new phases of redevelopment. **Waterfront:** City recently purchased land adjacent to Oyer Park. **Marina neighborhood:** City wants to see highlighted condo complex redeveloped. **New entryway:** The city purchased 15 parcels along the south side of Boynton Beach Boulevard recently, including those outlined in blue, and is eyeing others (some outlined in red). **Heart of downtown:** Properties around the Magnuson House (outlined in blue) could be purchased for a future food hall. **Maps provided**

north side of the avenue to the west of the Florida East Coast Railway tracks, will include retail and residential space. A smaller second phase is planned across the street, where the 1907 Andrews House is to be restored into a cafe as part of the project’s retail area.

Making a new entryway

The CRA purchased the former Inn at Boynton Beach hotel property on Boynton Beach Boulevard, near I-95, for \$8.1 million in October. The aging hotel, once considered an eyesore and crime hot spot, was demolished in December. The land has since been cleared, and the game plan is to have

the property be the centerpiece of a redeveloped boulevard extending eastward to Seacrest Boulevard — creating a true gateway into downtown.

At the Feb. 10 CRA meeting, the agency approved two deals totaling \$7.824 million to buy 14 additional properties next to the site where the hotel once stood, providing more land for development. Commissioners are now seeking input to determine what residents want to see happen on the Inn property, as it is one of the first landmarks visible from I-95 — a make-or-break effort to get nonresidents to take the exit and visit the city. ★

10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: JJ McDonough

JJ McDonough — JJ stands for John Joseph, and he's the IV, but he never uses it — is a busy guy.

The Hypoluxo Island resident runs two companies, is vice president of the Hypoluxo Island Property Owners Association, promotes Lantana's growth and beautification, works out and exercises with Elizabeth, his wife of 20 years, and is a serious soccer dad with his two sons, Kane, 14, and Van, 10.

"I just have a bit of an insatiable appetite to make things better, and if I can help, I'll try to," he explains.

Oh, and his family is living in a home they bought as an investment in Boynton Beach, because he's building a new home on the island.

"I've been on Hypoluxo Island almost 15 years now, and we have started to build a brand-new home there," says McDonough, 53. "I have the first floor done and the second floor should be going up soon. I'm hoping by the end of the year we'll be back there."

Considering his background, his hospitality businesses feel like a natural extension. He grew up in his grandparents Ken and Helen Withall's east Boca Raton home. Ken, a tennis pro, taught in the Caribbean and Southern California before taking over Fred Perry's job at what was then the Boca Raton Hotel and Club.

"After my grandfather retired, he played tennis and golf there as he aged, and so my first job at about 8 years old was brushing and lining tennis courts at the Boca Resort," McDonough says.

In his 20s, McDonough taught tennis and started a business placing specialty recreation staff, tennis pros and massage therapists locally. Currently, his two businesses are Leeward Staffing and Sanctuare. Leeward Staffing places domestic staffing to high-net-worth clientele. Sanctuare is a brokerage firm that represents ultra-luxury real estate for short-term rentals.

"Essentially, my demographic is the top echelon of wealth," he says. "I have worked with some of the most interesting and wealthiest and iconic celebrities in the world."

"It all started with tennis, I think. I grew up as essentially an employee around this type of wealth."

"The dream for me always was to work for myself, to be



JJ McDonough, here at his Leeward Staffing office in Boynton Beach, runs luxury hospitality businesses. He and his family, temporarily in Boynton Beach, are awaiting completion of a new home on Hypoluxo Island, where he has lived for almost 15 years. **Tim Stepien/Coastal Star**

very engaged with communities, and to enjoy it along the way, to stay active physically and be challenged mentally. I've always loved to travel, and both of these businesses have afforded me travel to all types of very interesting spots."

Regarding his family life, he says, "Both my wife and I are very active. Every morning, prior to being parents, we would probably do two cardiovascular activities per day and then go to the gym or do yoga. Now, that is limited to once a day. But anyway, we're an active family. We like to bike. We like to surf. We are playing padel, which is a fun racket sport, and we spend a lot of time on the soccer field. Both of my boys play at a very high level, so we play soccer six days a week."

Kane is a student at Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach and Van attends Unity School in Delray Beach. Soccer doesn't end when soccer season is over.

"My sons actually do quite a bit of training for soccer. They do soccer camps at a very high level," McDonough says. "Last

year, Van played in one of the biggest tournaments in Madrid, and the year before, we were all through England for several weeks doing soccer camps there."

— 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 a multigenerational home with my grandparents Ken and Helen Withall, my mother, Robin Cox, and my aunt Lisa McCusker, directly across the street from the beach that borders Boca Raton and Deerfield Beach.

At the time, the area was far less developed than it is today. Spending so much time with my grandparents in old east Boca, back when it was still an authentic beach town, deeply shaped my sense of place and values.

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

A. After college, I started a

couple hospitality businesses that didn't succeed while trying to play professional tennis; I was also teaching tennis to a variety of ultra-wealthy and celebrity families. Those early experiences laid the groundwork for what followed. I have since owned and operated two luxury businesses for over 25 years and continue to make a positive impact in our industry, serving some of the world's wealthiest families.

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

A. I wish someone would have told me when I was young. ... Pay attention to your energy and passion. Optimize learning, not prestige. Don't confuse fear with intuition. There is no failure, only lessons. Your career journey will not be linear, and that's OK.

Q. How did you choose to live on Hypoluxo Island?

A. I have traveled a lot international and domestically, and if I'm going to stay in the

U.S., I don't know of a better place in the winters than Palm Beach County. My wife and I are both from Palm Beach County, and with the exception of having ample land further west, there isn't much better than Hypoluxo Island. The old Florida growth, the winding roads, non-gated, the community of neighbors on the island is amazing. Its non-pretentious rooted families provide an amazing sense of home.

Q. What is your favorite part about living on Hypoluxo Island?

A. The community and the people in it, and the trees.

Q. What book are you reading now?

A. *Get A Grip: An Entrepreneurial Fable* by Gino Wickman.

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

A. My grandfather was a jazz pianist and vocalist who loved the American Songbook, and my father was a blues harmonica and saxophone player; both genres greatly influenced my music tastes. I do listen to many different genres, but I tend to listen and lean more into a lot of jazz fusion — Yussef Dayes, Tanhai Collective, Jazzbois.

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

A. Always attempt to expand your knowledge and eliminate your limitations.

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

A. I've had many mentors over the years, and while my current mentors are in business and parenting, my moral compass has always come from my grandfather. A World War II veteran, he was married 71 years and excelled as a businessman, athlete, community leader, musician and most importantly parent and grandparent.

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

A. My wife seems to think Matthew McConaughey. He has such a great mix of effortless charisma, modernist philosophy, authentic humor ... and is a great husband and father.

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Delray Beach

City's neighbors — just as planned — helped avert a water crisis

By Rich Pollack

When Delray Beach needed water, lots of it and in a hurry, it turned to those it knew it could count on — its neighbors.

Those neighbors came through, providing the city with more than 30 million gallons of drinking water in all — and preventing city utility customers from experiencing any difference in the flow of water coming from their faucets.

The need for that emergency

water arose when contractors working on a facet of Delray Beach's new water treatment plant inadvertently drilled into a 36-inch pipe that brings fresh water in for treatment. That triggered a reaction that invoked agreements with neighboring communities, the scope of which is rarely needed.

The break also set off a response from city workers that saved water customers from having to deal with low pressure and a boil water notice.

Key to preventing the situation from being worse than it turned out to be was a series of water main interconnects with neighboring communities that are always available but not often used.

Those interconnects come in handy when more water than needed is produced during maintenance and during smaller line breaks. It is not common for utilities to need backup for system-wide disruptions from multiple neighbors like Delray Beach did on Jan. 3, when it called on Boca Raton, Boynton Beach and Palm Beach County for help.

"It doesn't happen often but it happens," said Delray Beach Utilities Director Hassan Hadjimiry, who added that the last time water from other communities was needed for a system-wide problem was five years ago.

Interconnects, he said, are standard operating procedure for utilities as an insurance against major production problems.

"This is part of normal operations that you have in your back pocket," he said. "When something happens with water supply, we have to use it. The last thing we want is for the city not to have water."

At no point was the city

without water, nor did it face even a threat of that. Residents were asked to reduce unnecessary usage for irrigation, car washing and driveway cleaning during the emergency.

Because the main line that was damaged was just one of three that brings water into the city's aging water treatment plant, the chance that the utility would fail to provide water to customers without the interconnects was not an issue.

Without that water coming in, however, Delray Beach might not have had enough water pressure to fully reach all its customers, especially those at the far reaches of the system.

The interconnects — large pipes that transport already treated water — are located at city boundaries, thus ensuring all customers have adequate water pressure.

While repairs were being done — which took about a week for the most part, although additional work was still needed going into February — about 20 million gallons of water came from Palm Beach County, 10.5 million gallons came from Boca Raton and about 1.5 million gallons came from Boynton Beach.

An additional small amount of water from a county interconnect at Linton

Boulevard near Jog Road was still being used as of the middle of February.

Different municipalities charge different rates, with Boca Raton charging \$3.17 per thousand gallons, Boynton Beach \$2.19 per thousand gallons and Palm Beach County \$1.61 per thousand gallons.

The cost of the water from the municipalities as well as the cost of repairs are being passed along to the contractor whose crews caused the break, Youngquist Brothers, Hadjimiry said.

Implementing the interconnects, which required representatives from other municipalities to be on site to open valves simultaneously, was complicated slightly because the break occurred on a Saturday morning.

Hadjimiry said that he was notified at 7:30 a.m., and was on site within a half hour and there for a large part of the weekend.

All of the interconnects were in place by the end of the day, he said, before there was any impactful drop in water pressure in the system.

The break came as Delray Beach is in the process of building the new plant, which is expected to cost about \$287 million and open in mid-2028.★

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Gulf Stream

Storm shutters deemed 'unsightly' out of season

By Steve Plunkett

A ban on leaving any type of hurricane shutters up year-round in Gulf Stream is coming.

The town already prohibited leaving plywood shutters up outside of hurricane season or when there is no unseasonal named storm threatening.

But Bryan Isackson noted at the Town Commission's Feb. 13 meeting that at least six of his neighbors have metal shutters still covering their windows.

"There happens to be one in particular that does all of them. Some just do on the second floor, some do on the sides of the house, but all visible from the front of the street," Isackson said.

Mayor Scott Morgan said he confirmed Isackson's observations himself.

"It's not only a safety hazard, but it's unsightly and not in keeping with the aesthetics that this town tries to maintain," Morgan said.

The mayor suggested that new Town Manager Trey Nazzaro bring back a proposed ordinance at the commission's March meeting.

"I totally agree with this," Commissioner Joan Orthwein said.

"You don't need me to say how ugly these things are year-round. They're just inappropriate. It's not that kind of neighborhood," Isackson said. "We have people investing a lot of money in building new homes, substantial investments, and then next door you have one that looks like it could be a crack house."

New LPR cameras

In response to another resident's complaint, Gulf Stream will install two license plate cameras near the intersection of Pelican Lane and Andrews Avenue at the south end of town.

Flock Safety will install the cameras for \$900, half its usual price because the town already uses its automated license plate readers elsewhere, Police Chief Richard Jones said. The annual continuing cost is \$3,500.

Thomas Murphy, the acting president of the Driftwood Landing community association, had complained about reckless drivers invading the neighborhood, Jones said.

"Although Driftwood Landing is a quiet and safe community, I believe that one crime is too many when affordable and efficient systems can be implemented to prevent them," Jones said in a memo to Nazzaro. ★

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Along the Coast

ICE brings local police into roles as enforcers

Agreements adhere to law but came with no public debate

By John Pacenti

Delray Beach — like municipalities throughout Florida last year — found itself in a vise.

Capitulate to Gov. Ron DeSantis and turn local police officers into de facto federal immigration agents or be labeled an illegal “sanctuary” city and face the consequences.

“Everyone’s in the same position, right?” said State Rep. Rob Long, a Democrat who was still on the Delray Beach City Commission when the issue surfaced last summer. “Cities don’t want retribution either. God knows, we’ve had enough from the state.”

The city already tangled with the governor when it refused to paint over its LGBTQ rainbow intersection — the state stepped in unannounced and did the job itself — and the city even briefly considered joining a lawsuit.

As detailed in *The Coastal Star* in January, municipalities have seen the state Legislature erode home rule, and it is now looking to get voters to starve the cities, towns and villages of their financial lifeline by eliminating ad valorem taxes for homesteaded properties.

In the end, the city signed the cooperation agreement on Oct. 27 with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to train officers in enforcing immigration laws.

But City Manager Terrence Moore did not put the 287(g) Memorandum of Agreement on the commission’s agenda for a public discussion. He and Police Chief Darrell Hunter met with elected officials one-on-one.

“If anybody had read it or

discussed it, it might have come out that all of a sudden, we no longer have a Police Department. We’re going to have a sub-ICE agency,” said former Commissioner Shirley Johnson.

The agreement was signed before ICE made Minneapolis the center of its enforcement action — before immigration agents shot and killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti and before they detained a 5-year-old boy.

Long said the city was just trying to “fly under the radar” so neither the governor nor ICE would make South Florida its next Minneapolis.

“It’s a conundrum as a commissioner,” Commissioner Tom Markert recalled. “I mean, you just, you try to weigh everything as best you can, and you try to do what’s absolutely best for the citizens.”

Residents along the coast who spoke to *The Coastal Star* declined to go on the record. Residents in the city known to support ICE also did not respond to efforts to reach them.

For many residents, immigrants are their neighbors. Some are here legally, some have green cards or are working toward them — and some crossed the border without proper papers for work or safety. They are found here as yard workers, in the trades, as nannies, as housekeepers.

Boca, Highland Beach, too

Delray Beach is not alone. Boca Raton, Gulf Stream, Ocean Ridge and Highland Beach also did not bring the 287(g) agreements up in a public forum. Gulf Stream, with a force of 13, has four officers trained to assist ICE, Police Chief Richard Jones said.

In Boca Raton, resident Christina Escalante asked the City Council at an Oct.



Florida Atlantic University students and others protested in February the university police department’s partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement via a 287(g) agreement. It mandates that police officers work with ICE to apprehend immigrants who are not in the country legally. **Tim Stepien/Coastal Star**

27 workshop why the 287(g) agreement was not posted on any city or Police Department website. She wanted to know if local officers — like ICE agents — would obscure their identities and make language-based stops and target domestic workers’ identification.

About 100 Florida Atlantic University students in Boca Raton staged a protest on Feb. 25 about FAU’s signing a 287(g) agreement for campus police to be trained to be ICE agents.

Protest leaders also pointed out that FAU President Adam Hasner is a former executive for the private prison GEO Group, which is profiting mightily from the detention of immigrants. GEO pulled in \$254.3 million — a net increase of 700% — as President Donald Trump’s government has amassed a network of detention centers, buying former big-box stores.

Student protests in 2012 stopped the FAU football stadium from being named after GEO Group.

Some of the concerns regarding the 287(g) agreements stem from the way DeSantis has used the Florida Highway Patrol, which has been documented as detaining U.S. citizens after pulling them over because they looked Hispanic.

“The Florida Highway Patrol has basically been turned into a show me your papers patrol,” Thomas Kennedy, a consultant with the Florida Immigration Coalition, posted Feb. 18 on X.

Impact in Delray

Back in Delray Beach, the issue bubbled up at the Beach Property Owners Association commission candidate forum between Andrea Keiser and Judy Mollica. “Would you be supportive of ICE here to support getting rid of the criminal, illegal or not?” asked a resident attending, demanding a yes or no answer.

Many in the audience shouted the questioner down, saying the issue wasn’t relevant. All the candidates for the open seat — including Delores Rangel, who wasn’t at the BPOA forum — have said the agreement should have been a public matter. Mollica, though, added, “Because, much like the (Pride

crosswalk thing, they didn’t give us a choice.”

Delray Beach is also home to 15,000 Haitians — 20% of the city’s population. A federal judge on Feb. 2 blocked Trump’s efforts to strip Haitians with temporary protected status of that status even as Haiti remains in what the United Nations has called a “deepening security, humanitarian, and governance crisis.”

A federal immigration enforcement action against Haitians could put ICE agents on the streets of Delray Beach, Johnson said. “The things that happen in Minneapolis could happen in any USA town,” Johnson said. “You can’t send people back to that country. It is in turmoil — turmoil. They’re killing people as they step off the plane.”

When asked, Commissioner Juli Casale referenced the 2024 campaign when she, Mayor Tom Carney and Markert campaigned on ending back-room deals.

“We were elected on a firm commitment to transparency and public accountability,” she said. “While Mr. Moore acted within his administrative authority to resolve this matter, in retrospect, an issue of this significance should have been presented for public discussion.”

Casale said she requested a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement from Moore for a meeting on Sept. 24. Moore did not give her a copy but insisted that the city would not incur liability and cost for the local police officers who were trained to become ICE agents.

Casale then made a public records request for the MOA. “Upon reading the MOA, I disagreed with Mr. Moore’s assessment as to liability and cost,” she said.

The commissioner also contacted City Attorney Lynn Gelin to request that the document be amended to clearly state that there would be no costs or liability — which she called her bigger concern — to the residents of Delray Beach.

‘It’s a state law’

Neither Moore nor Chief Hunter would comment on the ICE agreement. *The Coastal*

Star, through a public records request, received 101 pages of emails and documentation.

Then Police Chief Russ Mager, in a March 3, 2025, email to then Assistant Chief Hunter, discussed the new MOA. “We need to designate 10% of the agency for ICE training,” he states. There are around 160 sworn police officers in the department, meaning that 16 would be trained on immigration enforcement.

In a 10-point summary of DeSantis’ proposal, Mager says by Jan. 1, 2026, any law enforcement agency with 25 or more sworn law enforcement officers must enter into a written agreement with ICE and participate in “every program model offered.”

Carney told *The Coastal Star* he had no appetite to revisit the 287(g) agreement when asked about it.

“It’s a state law. You obviously didn’t watch the governor the other day,” the mayor said. “The governor essentially said that if people are going to fight him on it, he’s going to remove them” from office.

State Attorney General James Uthmeier has said that not signing the agreement violates state law by creating an illegal “sanctuary policy” and impeding enforcement.

South Miami took the DeSantis administration to court, citing liability and cost concerns. A judge dismissed the lawsuit in March 2025, saying the litigation was premature since the city had yet to incur any real damages.

South Miami leaders remain in office and have not faced punishment from the state.

Delray Beach resident Ken MacNamee, a retired CPA, started asking questions in December after he said he was “blindsided” when he learned of the MOA.

MacNamee wrote to commissioners on Dec. 8, saying municipalities had every right to object to or modify the agreement according to the MOA itself: “It is convoluted, lacking, and very poorly constructed. It protects ICE but not the City. I find it tantamount to conscripting the Delray Beach Police Dept. to do ICE’s job.” ★

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Boca Raton

Resort's plan for residential tower gets initial approval

By Mary Hladky

The Boca Raton has received initial city approval to build a luxury residential building on the resort property.

The most recent planned change to the resort comes as it is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, commemorating the 1926 opening of the Cloister Inn. A variety of events and programs are being offered to resort members and guests.

The new residential units are an extension of a \$375 million

upgrade of the entire resort property that began in 2019 under the ownership of MSD Partners and Northview Hotel Group.

The renovation was intended to create a "new golden era" for the resort, said President and CEO Daniel Hostettler in 2022 when the first phase of the project was completed.

The resort, he said then, was focused on reclaiming the five-star status that it lost in 1985 no later than its centennial year.

In February, Forbes Travel

Guide announced the resort had received four five-star ratings for 2026 — one of only seven properties worldwide to attain that status.

"To achieve this distinction during our centennial year is especially meaningful," Hostettler said in the announcement.

And now, the resort is adding residential.

The city's Planning and Zoning Board on Feb. 5 passed measures, including a rezoning of a 1.8-acre parcel from

recreational to multifamily residential, and site plan approval to build an eight-story, 76-unit building with one floor of underground parking.

A City Council vote is expected in April.

The building is planned to rise in the middle of the resort's golf course, slightly north and west of the main hotel. Units will range in size from two to five bedrooms.

The resort also plans a three-story fitness center for resort members and guests, and the

existing golf maintenance facility will be relocated.

The resort's residential plans have changed over the past two years.

In 2024, it proposed two eight-story towers with a total of 80 units and a five-story parking garage. That was changed last year to one eight-story building with 60 units and underground parking. ★

12-story condo proposed for downtown

Yet another luxury condominium is coming to downtown Boca Raton.

Key International and Wexford Real Estate Investors announced the 12-story project at 41 SE Fourth St. in late January, saying it is branded as Mr. C Residences Boca Raton.

This would be the third Mr. C Residences in South Florida, joining those in West Palm Beach and Coconut Grove. The brand was founded by brothers Ignazio and Maggio Cipriani.

The tower will have 133 two- and three-bedroom units, ranging from 1,522 square feet to 2,869 square feet and priced from \$1.7 million. It was designed by Arquitectonica with interiors by 1508 London.

Pending city approval, construction is expected to begin early next year. Sales will

be handled by Douglas Elliman Development Marketing, and a sales office will be located near the building site.

A ground-floor Bellini restaurant will be open to the public. Other amenities, including a rooftop bar, infinity pool, cabanas and outdoor cinema, will be for residents.

The fourth floor will focus on lifestyle and wellness, including a spa, fitness center, steam room and sauna, cold and hot plunge pools, yoga studio and lounge.

Outdoor recreation areas will include courts for padel and pickleball, a golf simulator and a meditation lawn.

The project is a complete reworking of Wexford's plans in 2022 to build a 12-story luxury apartment building with 190 units on the site. — Mary Hladky and Christine Davis



This proposed Mr. C Residences for downtown Boca would be the third Mr. C Residences in South Florida, joining those in West Palm Beach and Coconut Grove. Rendering provided

137-room hotel for Royal Palm Place gets council approval

The Boca Raton City Council on Feb. 23 unanimously approved plans by Investments Limited to build a 12-story hotel in Royal Palm Place.

The revised project marks the third change by Investments Limited, the largest commercial property owner in the downtown, to its plans since it first proposed a hotel in 2019.

The latest version is similar to its 2022 iteration. The main change is that underground parking has been eliminated and a seven-story parking garage added.

Project attorney Ele Zachariades told council members, sitting as Community Redevelopment Agency commissioners, that the parking garage was added due to a sharply increased cost of building underground parking.

The current proposal calls for 137 hotel rooms, a reduction of seven rooms from 2022. As before, retail and restaurant space including outdoor dining

will be included in the project.

Some existing Royal Palm Place surface parking that is scattered in several locations, and which no longer complies with current parking regulations, will be eliminated or improved.

The existing Garden of Humanity will remain.

The hotel will be connected to the parking garage with a second-floor pedestrian bridge.

The garage will be built first followed by the hotel, which would be completed in about 18 months.

James and Marta Batmasian, who lead Investments Limited, also have proposed a hotel and retail project on Northeast Second Street immediately north of the Tower 155 condo in the downtown.

That project, unveiled last summer, has drawn heated opposition from Tower 155 owners.

— Mary Hladky



The Boca Raton City Council approved plans for a hotel in Royal Palm Place after the plans were revised from underground parking to building a seven-story parking garage, in addition to reducing the number of rooms from 144 to 137. Rendering provided



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Business Spotlight

Forbes recognizes The Boca Raton in star-studded fashion

The Boca Raton received 24 stars in Forbes Travel Guide's 2026 Star Awards. The Beach Club and Spa Palmera at the resort retained five-star ratings, with the Yacht Club and Flybridge restaurant also elevated to five-star status. Additionally, the Tower hotel was recognized with a four-star award.

Arriving as The Boca Raton commemorates its hundred-year anniversary, these distinctions place it among seven resorts worldwide to earn quadruple five-star status — and the only one outside Asia. The Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach also received awards. Its hotel and spa received five stars, with Florie's restaurant receiving a four-star rating.

Forbes Travel Guide rates luxury hotels, restaurants, spas and cruise ships. This year marks Forbes Travel Guide's 68th annual Star Awards list and spans more than 95 countries worldwide.

A trust in the name of David F. MacNeil, the founder and CEO of WeatherTech, paid \$68.32 million for an ocean-to-Intracoastal Waterway estate at **1940 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan.**

The sellers were Francis and Dolores Mennella. In 2018, the Mennellas bought the lot from a company controlled by Billy Joel, and built a new home. Francis Mennella is the president of Valley Tool & Plastics in Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania.

The six-bedroom residence, with 10,521 square feet, was built in 2022 by Frankel Estates Homes and designed by Affiniti Architects. It sits on 1.94 acres. It features a 1,200-square-foot cabana near the beach, and access under State Road A1A connecting the two sides of the property.

Philip Lyle Smith and **Carla Ferreira-Smith** of **Luxury Resort Portfolio** represented the seller in the deal, while **Margit Brandt** of **Premier Estate Properties** worked with the buyer.

In 2024, a company led by MacNeil paid \$38 million for the oceanfront estate at 1120 S. Ocean Blvd. Then in 2025, his company paid \$55.5 million for the neighboring home at 1140 S. Ocean Blvd. He has since demolished both homes and started building a larger estate.

Robert G. Fessler, chairman of aviation firm Magellan Group, sold his 9,614-square-foot homesteaded **Manalapan** residence at **880 S. Ocean Blvd.** for \$31.5 million. The buyer is MCBXVII LLC, a company led by John Barry and Daria Barry, chairman/CEO and head of administration, respectively, of New York-based Prospect Capital Corp.

The six-bedroom coquina-clad contemporary residence, built in 1988 and expanded in



The Yacht Club at The Boca Raton is one of four resort venues that earned five-star ratings with Forbes Travel Guide. Photo provided

2004, sits on a 1.6-acre lot with 150 feet of frontage on both the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. Fessler bought the property for \$5.2 million in 2000. **Pascal Liguori Estate Group** at **Premier Estate Properties** brokered the transaction.

Biotech executive Robert J. Edwards Jr. and his wife, Kristine M. Edwards, sold their estate at **336 E. Key Palm Road in Boca Raton's Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club** for \$17.25 million. The new owner is Candace Voorhees Clark.

The home last traded for \$8.75 million in 2014. The 9,192-square-foot, six-bedroom residence is on a 0.55-acre lot along a canal leading to the Intracoastal. **David W. Roberts** of **Royal Palm Properties** represented the sellers in the deal, while **Louise Buehler** of **Douglas Elliman** worked with the buyer. Robert "Bob" Edwards is the CEO of e5 Pharma in Boca Raton and, with Kristine, owns e5 Racing Thoroughbreds.

Rex Grossman, a former quarterback for the Chicago Bears and Florida Gators, and his wife, Alison, sold their 4,087-square-foot home on the Intracoastal at **715 SE Eighth St., Delray Beach**, for \$7.55 million. The buyer is a trust in the name of Michael Manning. **Chris Scopettone** of **Douglas Elliman** and **Derek Barra** of **Coldwell Banker** represented both sides in the deal. The Grossmans bought the home for \$2.7 million in 2013.

Grossman was a first-team All-America quarterback for the Florida Gators in 2001 and won SEC Player of the Year. He was second in Heisman Trophy balloting in 2001. He's

a member of the University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame.

Grossman was a first-round draft pick by the Bears in 2003. In the 2006 season, he led the Bears to Super Bowl XLI, where they lost to Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts. After Chicago he had stints with the Houston Texans and Washington Redskins before retiring in 2015.

Grossman and his wife also founded Florida Medical Staffing, a Delray Beach-based nurse staffing company.

Craig Zinn, president and CEO of Craig Zinn Automotive Group, was named the **2025 Business Leader of the Year** by **Florida Atlantic University's College of Business** at its 31st annual breakfast ceremony in January at Boca West Country Club. Zinn bought his first dealership in 1980 after working in every department. His group operates dealerships in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.



Zinn

His philanthropic gifts include \$2 million to Cleveland Clinic for the Cleveland Clinic Craig M. Zinn Concierge Medicine Suite in Weston and a \$2 million gift to establish the Craig M. Zinn Distinguished Chair in Men's Health. He also supports Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Florida and the American Cancer Society.

Boynton Beach City Manager **Dan Dugger** received an honorary lifetime membership to the **Boynton Beach Chamber of Industry & Commerce Government & Community**



Dugger

that support local businesses, encourage investment and strengthen the city's economy.

American Heritage Schools recently hosted a dedication ceremony for the naming of the tennis courts at its Delray Beach campus after tennis coach **Brian Schleifer**. Schleifer has worked with athletes at the schools since 1996, where he has also served as athletic director, bus driver, lunch server, PE teacher, summer camp counselor and coach, and director of the tennis program. He also coached girls' softball, boys' flag football, and boys' and girls' basketball.

Under his direction, the tennis program has won 43 boys' and girls' combined district titles, 22 state championships and the boys' national title in 2023.

Lang Realty announced its **2025 Top Producer Award** recipients. The highest-producing individual agents are **Tripta Chawla** and **Shereen Randazza**. **Elisa Danielian**, **Ingrid Hewitt** and **Isabelle Pollock**; **Jim Pappas**, **Paul Bidva** and **Suzanne Block**; and **Amy Snook** and **Noreen Payne** are the Diamond Star Award Team winners. **Bruce Gaines**, **Ryan Greenblatt**, **Sheldon Jaffee**, **Ana Londono**, **Blake Morris**, **Jeannine Morris** and **Allyson Sullivan** are the Diamond Award Individual winners.

Brian Bahn and **Lisa**

Hindin; **Morgan Sheres** and **Samantha Bender**; and **Steve Rosen**, **Robin Rosen** and **Erica Lipman** are the Diamond Award Team winners.

Toby Douthwright was named the **Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts'** new chief financial officer, following the retirement of **Kyle Roberts**.



Douthwright

Douthwright previously served as vice president for finance and chief financial officer at **The Miami Foundation**. His background also includes leadership roles at **The Lord's Place** in Palm Beach County and at the **Clinton Foundation**.

Boca Raton City Council member **Yvette Drucker** was appointed to the **National League of Cities 2026 Transportation and Infrastructure Services Federal Advocacy Committee** for a one-year term. She will help guide the league's federal advocacy priorities on local transportation programs including roads, safety, transit, rail and bridges.

The **Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority's Savor the Avenue** will take place from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 23, spanning five blocks downtown.

Now in its 17th year, Savor the Avenue offers a four-course meal prepared and served by area restaurants.

Participating establishments include **Avalon Beach House**, **Beach Club**, **Brulé/Rose's Daughter**, **Campi**, **City Oyster**, **Elisabetta's**, **Gabriella's**, **Geronimo**, **Le Colonial**, **Lemongrass**, **Lulu's**, **Rocco's Tacos**, **Table 165**, **The Office**, and **Vic & Angelo's**. To make reservations, visit downtowndelraybeach.com/savorthetheavenue. Prices vary and are set by the restaurant. Seating is limited, and each restaurant manages its own reservations and payment.

Each participating restaurant will make a \$500 donation to the **Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County**, this year's designated charity. More than \$85,000 has been donated to local charities since Savor the Avenue began.

The **League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County's** annual Gala Luncheon will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 11.

Speaker will be **Dianna Wynn**, the president of the **League of Women Voters of the United States**. Tickets are \$150 per person and can be purchased online at LWVPBC.org or by calling 561-276-4898.

Continued on next page

The **Greater Lantana Chamber of Commerce's** 31st annual **KDW** (kingfish, dolphin, wahoo) **Lantana Fishing Derby**, to be held on June 6, has begun registration. To register visit lantanachamber.com/lantana-fishing-derby/.

Early registration costs \$250 through May 23; standard registration is \$350 after that date.

Space of Mind, a coaching company, and its nonprofit Community Classroom Project have introduced a new residential program, **Launch Pad**, in Delray Beach. The program, for adults age 18-26, aims to help them obtain training in essential skills through workforce training, life coaching, life skills development, community building and parent coaching. For more information, visit findspaceofmind.com or call 877-407-1122.

Construction of **The Sanborn**, a 44,000-square-foot, eight-story private members club, is officially underway at **100 NE First Ave., Boca Raton**, with completion expected in April 2028. The project is led by general partner Steven Newman and developer Scott Kerner, with investor backing.

Designed by HDA Architects Boca Raton, it will offer members-only amenities that

include a restaurant, supper club, rooftop pool deck with a bar and grill, speakeasy, library, private dining rooms, wellness spa, fitness club, eight guest rooms and a card room.

The **Delray Beach Housing Authority** hosted a meet-and-greet with Delray Beach Chief of Police **Darrell Hunter** and his executive team to

strengthen collaboration and communication. They discussed the Housing Authority's operations and how the police can support its mission and improve resident safety.

The nonprofit **Institute for Regional Conservation** held an ecological restoration event at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton on Jan. 24. More than 50 volunteers

participated. Another was held Feb. 7 at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach.

More events are planned. The Institute, with the city of Boca Raton's Office of Sustainability and volunteers, will install native plants on the beach dunes along Red Reef Park and South Beach Park through September. To volunteer, contact Liz Dutra at ldutra@regionalconservation.org, or visit the Institute's website regionalconservation.org and click on the events tab for info about upcoming events.



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

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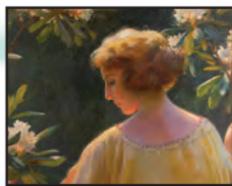
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March 2026

The Coastal  Star

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Honoring philanthropic giving. Pages AT5



Health & Harmony
Mother helps daughter deal with cerebral palsy. Page AT18



Finding Faith
Cason United kids learning about love. Page AT23



House of the Month
Oceanfront home with a stunning view. Page AT35

Dining



Some of South County's food truck fare (clockwise from top left): the signature dish from Mattiello's House of Lasagna; the French onion soup burger at Cheffrey Eats; Venezuelan shredded chicken patacon at Ukelele; and manti dumplings at Roka Turkish Cuisine.

From lasagna to arepas, food trucks have it all

By Jan Norris



William Mattiello takes an order at his lasagna truck in Delray Beach. Photos by Tim Stepien/ The Coastal Star

Food trucks have come a long way from the pizza and taco trucks of only a few years ago. They're more like mobile restaurants with artisan foods and creative takes on cultural recipes.

They're no longer run by mainly college kids doing part-time gigs, or by weekend grillmeisters.

Professional chefs who have owned brick-and-mortar eateries have traded in plates and tablecloths for takeout boxes and picnic tables.

William Mattiello had a restaurant in New York City for 25 years. "Business was great some nights; some nights, not so much," he said.

Now, his lasagna sells out nightly from the **Mattiello's House of Lasagna** truck parked at 1601 N. Federal Highway in Delray Beach. He's looking for a new space as he may be forced to move because the building at that site may soon undergo renovations.

His food is authentic and made from scratch, with all the recipes from his hometown of Modena, Italy.

"People come to appreciate the craftsmanship," he said. "This is exactly what you would eat in Modena, where it

See **FOOD TRUCKS** on page AT16



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Pay It Forward

Sneaker Ball asks donors to walk the walk for caregiving youth

By Lou Ann Frala

The American Association of Caregiving Youth laces up for the Hearts & “Soles” Sneaker Ball on March 13 in a time of dire straits for children and teens served by the Caregiving Youth Project.

The CYP supports more than 700 middle and high school students in Palm Beach County who provide daily care for chronically ill, disabled and/or frail elderly family members, while trying to stay in school and build a future of their own. The CYP team provides academic support, respite, mentoring and emotional care.

In its 20th year of service, AACY has supported more than 3,000 students. Its high school graduation rate over the past 11 years, through its partnership

with the school district, is 98%, outpacing both the county and state rates.

This year’s Hearts & “Soles” Sneaker Ball is of vital importance to the organization’s future. The “Soles” in the title implores people to “walk a day in the life” of the young people who are thrust into positions of adult responsibility before they’re even out of their teens, says AACY founder and President Connie Siskowski.

“Most of our families are financially insecure,” Siskowski says. “The services we provide are so crucial.”

Without immediate support, services for students could be reduced or lost entirely.

Attendees are invited to wear cocktail attire and their snazziest sneakers.

There will be showcases of



LEFT: John and Arline McNally are honorary co-chairs for the American Association of Caregiving Youth benefit. The association supports more than 700 Palm Beach County students giving care to elders. **RIGHT:** Co-chairs Kim Champion and Bruce Spizler. Photos provided



blinged-out sneakers by artist Sue Heller and jewelry by her husband, renowned sculptor and silversmith Yaacov Heller. A live auction will include an

opportunity to have a pair of sneakers customized by Sue Heller.

Details on the 2026 Sponsorship Package are at aacy.org

If You Go

What: Hearts & ‘Soles’ Sneaker Ball benefit for the American Association of Caregiving Youth
When: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7-10 p.m. dinner, dancing, auction, March 13
Where: Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club, Boca Raton
Cost: \$325
More information: 561-391-7401; aacy.org

org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Hearts-Soles-Sneaker-Ball-Sponsorship-Levels-01-23-26-3.pdf. Sponsorships confirmed by March 7 will be included in event materials. Contact julie@aacyn.org with questions or to discuss sponsoring the event. ★

Philanthropy Calendar

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 2/18. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH

Sunday - 3/8 - JARC Florida 40th Annual Gala Dinner at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca W Dr. JARC Florida is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that provides programs and services to educate and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism. Proceeds will directly support JARC Florida’s programs. Cocktail reception: 6 pm; dinner & program: 7 pm. \$295/person; \$250/for first-time attendees. 561-558-2550; jarcfl.org/gala

Tuesday - 3/10 - Achievement Centers for Children & Families’ Delray Beach Home Tour in the Lake Ida neighborhood. Explore extraordinary residences, enjoy a catered luncheon and take advantage of trolley service or golf cart transportation along the route. 1 pm-4 pm. \$125. 561-276-0520 or achievementcentersfl.org/events/delray-beach-home-tour/.

Tuesday - 3/10 - The Boca Raton Achievement Center (BRAC) will

transform The Studio at Mizner Park into a night of music, connection and purpose with Get BRAC!, a Beatles-themed fundraising event benefiting students ages 5–22 who have autism and related challenges. The reception will feature cocktails, food, a live auction and music by Jason Colanino and the 4 Peace Band. 201 W Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6 pm. \$65 per person. 561-559-9768 or visit bocaratonachievement.org.

Friday - 3/13 - American Association of Caregiving Youth’s Hearts & “Soles” Sneaker Ball at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W Maya Palm Dr, Boca Raton. 6-11 pm. \$325. 561-391-7401 or aacy.org/events/hearts-soles-sneaker-ball-save-the-date/

Friday - 3/13 - The Sixth Annual Dance the Night Away competition to benefit the Cancer Alliance of Help & Hope at The Breakers Palm Beach, 1 S County Rd, Palm Beach. Twelve local non-professional ballroom dancers have committed to raising money in advance of and during the event to support CAHH’s mission of providing financial assistance, emotional

support and access to care for people navigating a cancer diagnosis. Derek Hough, a four-time Emmy Award winner, six-time *Dancing with the Stars* champion, and fan favorite, returns as master of ceremonies. 6 pm. Black-tie optional. \$1,200. 561-215-7360 or email Scollemer@cahh.org.

Saturday - 3/14 - Il Circolo, The Italian Cultural Society’s 2026 50th Anniversary Gala at Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, 10 N Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Explore the culture of Italy with a five-course dinner, live and silent auctions, entertainment by an Italian opera star and dancing. 6-11 pm. \$595 for members, \$695 for nonmembers. 954-249-3361 or ilcircoloflorida.org/Gala.

Sunday - 3/15 - Benzaiten Center for Art annual gala at the BallenIsles Country Club, 100 BallenIsles Cir, Palm Beach Gardens. This year’s gala will support programs for veterans. The center, a nonprofit in Lake Worth Beach, is dedicated to the glass arts. 5:30 pm. \$350 at www.benzaitencenter.org

Thursday - 3/26 - Her 2nd Chance High Tea Fundraiser to Support Women in Recovery at The Addison of Boca Raton, 2 E. Camino Real, in support of women who are in recovery from substance abuse through paid employment, job and career advancement training. 11:30 am.

\$125. 561-405-6346; her2ndchance.org.

Thursday - 3/26 - The 40th Annual Rotary of Boca Raton Sunrise Teacher of the Year Awards Celebration at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 W Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 5:30 pm. \$100. Sponsorships available. www.rotarybocasunrise.org

Monday - 3/30 - Boca Raton Regional Hospital’s Inaugural Pickleball Tournament at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr. 1 pm registration, 1:30 pm play. Enjoy a day of competitive match play, with refreshments and entertainment, followed by 5 pm cocktails and an awards dinner. \$150 per individual, \$300 per team, with sponsorships available. Proceeds benefit the Ron & Kathy Assaf Center for Excellence in Nursing. onecau.se/pickleball26

APRIL

Thursday - 4/9 - Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County’s Love of Literacy Luncheon at Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach. Tayari Jones, author of the award-winning novel, “An American Marriage,” is the guest speaker. 11:30 am. \$200. 561-767-3370 or literacypcb.org.

Thursday-Friday - 4/9-4/10 - Boca Raton Historical Society’s / The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum’s Boca Bacchanal Vintner Dinners at

various private residences throughout the city. Enjoy wine tastings from internationally acclaimed dealers and delectable cuisine prepared by renowned chefs. 7 pm. \$350. 561-395-6766, Ext. 101 or bocahistory.org/boca-bacchanal.

Saturday - 4/11 - Grey Team’s “They Are Not Bulletproof” Gala at The Boca Raton, 501 E. Camino Real. Rally the troops for an event that blends the glitz and glamour of The Great Gatsby and the elegance of the postwar era to raise money for U.S. service members. 6 pm. Tickets start at \$750. 561-203-3815 or theyarenotbulletproof.com

Sunday - 4/12 - Boca Raton Historical Society’s / The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum’s Boca Bacchanal Grand Tasting at The Addison, 2 E Camino Real, Boca Raton. Relish signature dishes by local restaurants plus a silent auction during the Grand Tasting. 1-4 pm. \$150 early access. 561-395-6766, ext. 101 or bocahistory.org/boca-bacchanal

Saturday - 4/18 - Best Foot Forward Foundation’s BFF Bash at The Boca Raton, 501 E. Camino Real. Learn how foster-care and at-risk youths are finding success in life through education. 6:30-10:30 pm. \$350. 561-470-8300 or bestfoot.org

Saturday - 4/18 - Delray Beach Historical Society and Heritage Gardens’ Twilight in the Garden at 3 NE First St. 6 pm. \$150 through 3/20; \$180 after 3/20. 561-274-9578 or delraybeachhistory.org.

Saturday - 4/25 - National Society of Arts and Letters’ Florida Chapter’s Star Maker Awards at The Wick Theatre Museum Club, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Honor Lifetime Achievement Award winner Bob Russell, “Mr. Palm Beach,” at an event that benefits the nonprofit’s scholarships, competitions and mentoring programs for local performing and visual artists. 6 pm. \$395. 561-945-0999 or nsalfloida.org

Tuesday - 4/28 - Impact 100 Palm Beach County’s Grand Awards Celebration at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr, Boca Raton. Watch as members vote to determine which local organizations receive \$100,000 grants that will help transform their nonprofit missions. 10 am-2 pm. Free. 561-336-4623 or impact100pcb.org

Saturday - 4/25 - Boca Helping Hands Monopoly and Casino Night gala at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W Maya Palm Drive, Boca Raton. 6 pm. \$500. Tickets available in mid-March. 561-417-0913 or bocahelpinghands.org/handsheartsgala

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Florida State University (4)	Southern Methodist University-	Chapel Hill, Honors College*
Fordham University*	Cox School of Business	University of Notre Dame*
Indiana University (3)	Texas Christian University (3)	University of the South*
Miami University-Oxford	University of Alabama (3)	University of South Carolina
	University of Alabama-Honors	University of Tampa*
	University of Colorado Boulder (4)	University of Tennessee
	University of Georgia (2)	University of Wisconsin
	University of Kentucky	Villanova University (2)

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Philanthropy Notes

Dreyfoos foundation to honor Gulf Stream's Elmore

The Dreyfoos School of the Arts Foundation will welcome supporters, alumni and friends to the Cohen Pavilion at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts at 6 p.m. March 30 for "Defying Gravity," a celebration of creativity, community and the impact of longtime supporter and board member George Elmore.

For decades, Elmore, a Gulf Stream resident, has been a steadfast advocate for the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, a public high school.

"What George has given our students goes far beyond financial support," said Dreyfoos Principal Blake Bennett. "He has helped create an environment where young artists feel seen, supported, and challenged to dream bigger than they ever imagined."

This year's event also marks a milestone for the foundation with the recognition of Andrew Vahab as chairman of the board. Vahab is a 2001 communications graduate and the first alumnus of the school to serve as chairman.

The evening will feature a performance by Broadway star and Dreyfoos alumna Talia Suskauer, Theater Class of 2014. Best known for her acclaimed portrayal of Elphaba in *Wicked*, Suskauer also will



Elmore



Vahab

lead a Broadway master class for Dreyfoos theater students.

The evening is led by honorary chair Marti LaTour, with celebration chairs Dolores Fernandez Alonso, Fabiola Brumley, Laurie George, Michele Jacobs, Ava Parker, Diane Quinn and Kelly Smallridge.

Tickets start at \$500, with special pricing available for alumni and young friends under 50 at \$350. For tickets and additional information, visit dreamsofdreyfoos.com.

Historical society to host noted journalist and author

The Delray Beach Historical Society's Heritage Garden will welcome journalist and bestselling author Michael Grunwald on March 19. Recognized for his reporting on climate change and environmental issues, Grunwald will discuss his 2006 book, *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise*, and his newest work, *We Are Eating*

the Earth, published in July.

This event will bring together the historical society's environmental and garden partners, including the Institute for Regional Conservation, the Surfrider Foundation, the Sandoway Discovery Center, the Surfing Florida Museum, the Swinton Community Growing Project, the Delray Beach Children's Garden and the city of Delray Beach's Sustainability Department.

A welcome reception with light refreshments starts at 6 p.m. at the Old School Square Historic Gymnasium, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, followed by Grunwald's lecture, Q&A and panel discussion. He will be available to sign copies of his books. Tickets are \$28, \$20 for Society members. Visit delraybeachhistory.org or call 561-274-9578.

Nonprofits First celebrates two decades of service

Nonprofits First commemorated its 20th anniversary with a celebration recognizing two decades of service, innovation and leadership in the county's nonprofit community. The event also marked the launch of the 2026 Rising Leaders, Advancing Leaders and Launching Leaders programs, which are designed

to support and empower the next generation of nonprofit professionals.

Nonprofits First's leadership programs CEO Trudy Crowetz reflected on the organization's legacy and its future direction.

"The kickoff of the 2026 Rising Leaders, Advancing Leaders and Launching Leaders programs represents our commitment to supporting the development of dynamic, strategic leaders who will continue to strengthen and elevate our community for years to come." For more information, visit nonprofitsfirst.org.

Snow Scholarship Fund opens Success Center

The George Snow Scholarship Fund opened the Snow Success Center with a ribbon-cutting and donor reception, marking a milestone in the GSSF's 44 years and its investment in student success.

The Snow Success Center brings GSSF's Scholar Services team together under one roof in Boca Raton, creating a space dedicated to supporting Snow Scholars academically, professionally and personally.

The reception honored the individuals, families, foundations and corporate partners whose leadership gifts made the Snow Success Center

possible.

Feeding South Florida has new board chair

Michelle Esposito of Boca Raton has been appointed chair of Feeding South Florida's board of directors.

Esposito is the vice president of IT for JM&A Group, a subsidiary of JM Family Enterprises. Esposito leads the development and execution of

Esposito

JM&A Group's technology strategy to support growth and enable faster, more efficient service delivery.

As chair, Esposito will play a key role in supporting Feeding South Florida's programs, including its culinary and warehouse training initiatives; Food Is Medicine efforts such as the Mobile FARMacy and hospital pantries; home delivery services; workforce development; Client Choice Pantry, and Summer BreakSpot.



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Celebrations

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Dinner

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — Jan. 26



The museum's 2026 South Florida dinner drew more than 600, including nearly 30 Holocaust survivors, for a conversation moderated by museum Director Sara J. Bloomfield between two generations of survivors of deadly antisemitism: Holocaust survivor Nat Shaffir, 89, and Nova Music Festival survivor Noa Beer, 31. **ABOVE** (l-r): the museum's Southeast Regional Director Robert Tanen, council member Barbara Feingold, event chairs Marvin and Eva Schlanger, Joshua Abell, Bloomfield, Beer and Shaffir. **Photo provided by Jacqueline Marie for U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum**

Recognition luncheon

Benvenuto, Boynton Beach — Jan. 27



Healthier Boynton Beach, a Palm Health Foundation initiative, honored family caregivers at its ninth annual Caregivers Recognition Luncheon. Keynote speaker Charlotte Wright acknowledged the challenges and profound rewards of family caregivers' service. The Caregiver Award was presented to Angela T. Williams of Delray Beach. Project Director Ricky Petty reflected on the community support that made the event possible, including contributions from 17 sponsors. **ABOVE** (l-r): Veronica Bowleg, Gloria Chaney and Kenya Madison. **Photo provided by Everett Hamilton**

Lion of Judah Luncheon

B'nai Torah, Boca Raton — Jan. 14



The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County welcomed nearly 500 women to the luncheon, themed 'Strength in Sisterhood: The Timeless Power of Women's Leadership.' It featured a lineup of thought leaders, including Dr. Mijal Bitton, sociologist; Alana Newhouse, editor-in-chief of Tablet magazine; and special guest Julie Platt, immediate past chair of the board of the Jewish Federations of North America. The discussion was moderated by Michelle Rojas-Tal and explored the enduring influence of women's leadership, the responsibility of philanthropy, and the role of Jewish women in shaping the next generation. **TOP** (l-r): Amy Dweck, Bitton, Platt, Newhouse, Shelly Snyder, Rojas-Tal, Alison Simon and Kathy Green. **INSET** (l-r): Igor Alterman, Platt, Bruce Dan and Jill Rose. **Photos provided by Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County**



Palm Beach Symphony Kickoff Reception and Dinner

Findlay Galleries and Club Colette, Palm Beach — Jan. 7



Grand Benefactor Sponsors James R. Borynack and Adolfo Zaralegui of Findlay Galleries hosted a kickoff cocktail reception at the galleries, followed by a dinner at Club Colette, honoring Palm Beach Symphony's 24th Annual Gala chairs Amy and John T. Collins and honorary chairs Susan and Bob Wright, in advance of the gala. **TOP**: Janet Soderberg and Robert Lewis. **ABOVE**: Florence Seiler and Robert Bickford. **Photos provided by CAPEHART**

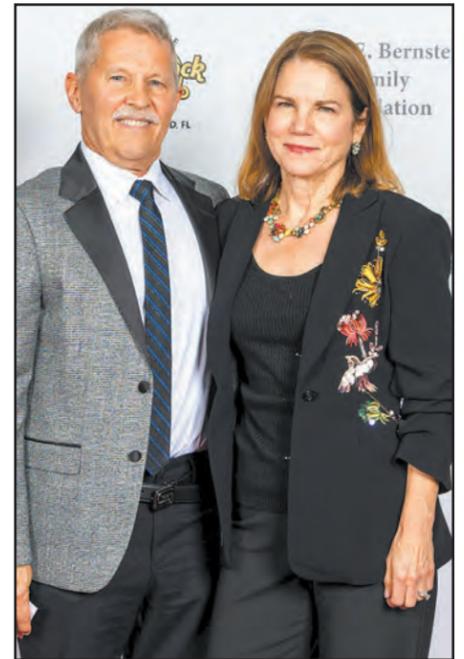
Pups4Patriots Dinner Dance

Club Colette, Palm Beach — Feb. 1



The American Humane Society welcomed supporters, philanthropists and community leaders to the eighth annual dance, dedicated to honoring America's heroes and the service dogs who stand beside them. Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of the AHS, honored the life and legacy of Herb Jablin, a longtime champion of the AHS. His wife, Sharon, a member of the AHS governing board, was present as guests reflected on Herb's enduring impact and devotion to service. The evening's Veterans Inspiration Chair was Lois Pope. Leigh-Anne Kazma served as gala chair. **TOP**: Ari Rifkin and Pope. **ABOVE**: Lorena Ball and Kazma. **Photos provided by CAPEHART**

HomeSafe Classic Rock & Roll Party
Seminole Hard Rock, Hollywood — Jan. 24



As 400 supporters danced the night away, HomeSafe's 23rd annual affair raised more than \$750,000 to protect vulnerable children and families. The celebrity host was Nicko McBrain. The evening included a performance by Mike DelGuidice, renowned vocalist and touring member of Billy Joel's band; recognition of longtime board member Rob Vargas with the HomeSafe Hero Award; and a tribute honoring nine team members with more than 20 years of service. **ABOVE LEFT (l-r):** Laura Barker, Patty Larkin, Matthew Ladika and Samantha Skaletsky. **ABOVE MIDDLE (l-r):** Jo Ann and Philip Procacci and Carrie Rubin. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Ward and Debbie Kellogg. **FAR LEFT:** Clare Malfitano and Jayne Malfitano. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Maria and Todd Roberti. **LEFT:** Fern Schmidt and Jim MacCutcheon. **Photos provided by Downtown Photo and Kirstin Boncher**



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Art

Golden moments

Flagler exhibit showcases the 'quiet beauty' of American Impressionism



On the Cliff (1910), an oil on canvas by Charles Courtney Curran, is part of the Flagler Museum's exhibit. Photo provided

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

Known for his American Impressionist style and Gilded Age sensibility, American artist Charles Courtney Curran and his works are quite at home in the Music Room at the Flagler Museum — a room designed for concerts, reflection and harmony.

Titled *Golden Hour: Charles Courtney Curran and the Romance of American Impressionism*, the exhibit runs through May 24, and traces his career from his birthplace in Ohio to New York, Paris and the mountaintop artists' colony of Cragmoor, N.Y., in the Hudson Valley. Curran (1861–1942)

spent four decades there capturing a leisurely lifestyle outdoors in nature filled with sunlight, flowers, trees and idealized images of women.

"In our present moment, defined by speed, distraction and constant visual noise, Curran's work feels unexpectedly urgent," says curator Campbell Mobley. "These paintings require us to slow down. They reward close looking. They model attentiveness.

"There is something radical about quiet beauty today," she says.

Mobley says the exhibit is significant in a number of ways.

It reintroduces Curran not simply as a painter of charming outdoor scenes and beautiful girls in dresses, but as an

artist deeply committed to atmosphere and to the emotional power of light. She says that at a moment when American art history often privileges rupture and modernism, this exhibition reminds us that another current was equally powerful: the desire to preserve beauty, calm and intimacy in a rapidly changing world.

The show also situates Curran within a broader cultural conversation, that of American Impressionism, as an expression of optimism, refinement and leisure at the turn of the 20th century. His paintings reflect a society negotiating progress while longing for

See GOLDEN on AT12

Design

Kips Bay show house doubles up in ninth year

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Writer

This year's ninth annual Kips Bay Decorator Show House brings a first to Palm Beach County — not just one show house, but two.

The result is a double dose of Palm Beach design and talent — twice the talent, twice the inspiration.

Highlighting the work of 23 interior designers, many from South Florida, the two show houses are open to the public through March 24.

For the first time ever, designers transform two West Palm Beach properties: a 4,673-sq.-ft., five-bedroom, four-bath, waterfront Intracoastal house on North Flagler Drive, and the Palm Cottage, directly across the street in the Northwood Shores neighborhood.

"Bringing together exceptional design and a shared commitment to giving back, this event makes a lasting difference for the young people in our community," says Daniel Quintero, executive director of the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club.

Since its inception five decades ago, the Kips Bay Decorator Show House has raised more than \$34 million for the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club's mission of providing educational and developmental programs for young people in New York City. The Palm Beach edition continues this legacy.

"Events like the Kips Bay Decorator Show House remind us that investing in the arts and investing in our youth go hand in hand," says Jaene Miranda, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County.

Arriving at the Palm Cottage, be prepared for your own "three-hour tour" as you enter "Mrs. Howell's Retreat," a living room designed by Emily Evans Eerdmans of Eerdmans Gallery & Interiors, and inspired by Mrs. Thurston Howell III, known also as Lovey, from the *Gilligan's Island* sitcom of 1964-67.

She designed a room filled with

See SHOW HOUSE on AT8

Book Review

Folkie Rod MacDonald's novel mixes music with our fraught politics

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

Election Night, by Roderick Owen MacDonald; self-published, 221 pages. \$12.99 paperback (\$17.99 includes shipping) at rodmacdonald.com.

Best-known as a prominent 1970s-90s figure in the Greenwich Village folk music scene, with 14 album releases under his name, Delray Beach-based singer/songwriter Rod MacDonald also has many other career tentacles.

Now 77, he has degrees in history from the University of Virginia and law from

Columbia University; currently lectures on music history in the Lifelong Learning programs at Florida Atlantic University's Jupiter and Boca Raton campuses, and has journalistic experience as a former correspondent for *Newsweek*.

In 2014, he extended his writing career beyond ongoing songcraft with his first novel, the music-themed *The Open Mike*.

In 2021, MacDonald's sophomore effort *The American Guerrillas*, likewise issued by Archway Publishing, brought further romance and societal commentary into the mix.

And his new, self-published *Election Night* blends all of those themes, including

the political ideals already familiar to fans of MacDonald's astute songwriting.

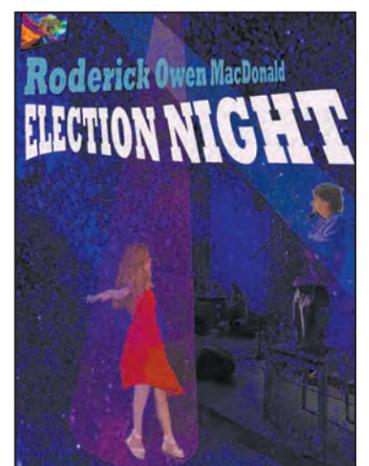
"I never asked anyone else to publish *Election Night*," MacDonald says. "I decided not to wait but to make it available right away due to its timeliness."

(Full disclosure: MacDonald and I have been bandmates in multiple acts for nearly 25 years.)

Election Night's theme is formulaic, yet also timely subject matter in our politically polarized age.

A nurse named Ashley Beck meets a singer/songwriter named Sam Maripol,

See MACDONALD on AT8



SHOW HOUSE

Continued from page 7

antiques, colored orchids, shells and accoutrements for making Lovey's signature martinis.

Known for her exuberant colors, especially chartreuse, the New York-based designer restrained herself for Lovey's Palm Beach cottage, creating a softer palette of blues and whites.

The walls are tented in silks and a linen print from Jim Thompson Fabrics of Thailand (also showcased in the *White Lotus* Thailand episodes) with a wooden-bead, fringed valance from Samuel & Sons.

Overhead, the ceiling is painted in Benjamin Moore Blue Bonnet 2050-70, reminiscent of a perfect Palm Beach sky, and in the center of the room, over an elongated Louis XVI sofa, hangs a large abstract painting titled *Aquarius*, by artist Margaret Kennedy.

Other rooms in the cottage include Fort Lauderdale and NYC-based architect and designer Steven Walsh, who designed a botanical hallway and a marble bath created with slab marble, LTA Interiors' pink Mahjong Lounge ("feminine Palm Beach with an edge").

In a sunlit back bedroom, New Jersey-based designer Colleen Rosar created a room "where plans get canceled."

Amy McArdle of Amy Young Designs of Palm Beach Gardens designed "Breakfast Club-After Hours," along the theme of a jewelry box where gold, silver and rose gold tones all work in harmony. A kitchenette, which McArdle calls the Carrie Bradshaw Kitchen (if Carrie Bradshaw cooked), reimagines the kitchen and breakfast room as an intimate boutique hotel-like ambience, creating a space that is sophisticated, feminine and, of course, *très chic*.

Across Flagler Drive, in the Intracoastal House, with its 50-foot backyard pool overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway, Miami designer Deborah Wecselman creates "A Designer's Retrospective," a great room



LEFT: In the cottage, the kitchenette and breakfast nook by Palm Beach Gardens-based Amy McArdle were inspired by the *Sex and the City* character Carrie Bradshaw. **RIGHT:** In the main house, a great room by Miami designer Deborah Wecselman is 'A Designer's Retrospective' in homage to Ralph Lauren. **Photos provided**



inspired by a look back at her 30-year career and an homage to designer Ralph Lauren, for whom she worked.

"I want to invite you in and create a cozy and warm ambience," she says.

With echoes of Paris, New York and South America, the room reflects a cosmopolitan approach to living. On the wall is a painting by Cuban-born artist Diango Hernández and in the corner, a large-scale cactus lamp by Pia Roeder, whimsical and sculptural, casting its light over a small sitting area set up for chess and a working fireplace.

Down the hall is Palm Beach designer Lisa Erdmann's "The Royal Retreat," a salute to Princess Margaret's residence in Mustique, where she honeymooned in the early 1960s. Erdmann is a veteran of Kips Bay, having designed a room for its first Palm Beach incarnation in 2017.

Highlights of the sitting room include Brunschwig & Fils' Caribbean-inspired wallpaper, which envelops the space in soft watercolor scenes of palm trees, custom trim work, Serip Lighting bird

sconces, a ceramic lamp by Kass O'Brien Ceramics and formal English antiques.

The space evokes coastal elegance, as well as the island's indoor/outdoor lifestyle with flora and fauna furnishings, a custom chandelier from Christa's Seashells and decorative accents, such as custom lattice and millwork.

Next door, Toronto designer Lori Morris created "The Gilded Palm" room in luxurious couture with a "sexy French vibe."

"I wanted to create a timeless feel with modern fabrics and beautiful art," says Morris.

Highlights of the décor include custom-made chairs, sofa and bench by Stuart Coffee Table from the Lori Morris Collection, tailored drapery from The Shade Store, area rugs from Stark Carpet and pop art by Cuban-American artist Nelson De La Nuez.

It wouldn't be a designer showcase house without the landscape design on the same level as the interior design.

Outside the cottage, the Lopez Group

If You Go

The Kips Bay Decorator Show House runs through March 24 at 3410 N. Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach.

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily
Tickets: \$50 in advance, \$60 at door
Info: www.kipsbaydecoratorshowhouse.org

created Florida Garden Rooms, outdoor spaces designed like the rooms of a home (including one with a life-size alligator), and at the Intracoastal House, Robert Bell of Bell Designs created "Neither Fish Nor Fowl," the contradictions of a landscape architect — neither architect, nor gardener.

In the front Vita Garden are a whimsical treehouse, an exercise area with a Kohler C2 outdoor sauna and juice bar (Purgatorio Garden).

In the back, he created a seating area overlooking the water with a custom bird bath and chairs with fish scales, and a cocktail garden with coral lipstick palms and silver bromeliads.

At the far end of the pool is the Tiki Tent by Leigh Misso and River Brook, inspired by a Slim Aarons poolside photograph, giving a modern take on the classic Palm Beach cabana. Showstopper vintage Murano glass chandeliers hang over the large rectangular-shaped bar and 800 yards of Schumacher/Hampton striped drapes cover the walls.

A metal sculpture titled *The Seraphim Bar*, designed by Bell and inspired by the French artist team known as Les Lalannes, is the centerpiece of the space, along with David Harber's bronze sculpture, *FLO*.

With so much to look at, every corner tells a story.

"It's all about the details," says Misso, pointing to the two goldfish swimming lazily around inside a chandelier bucket.

In a show house defined by grand gestures, sometimes even the smallest details make a splash.

MACDONALD

Continued from page 7

who's performing on the eve of a presidential election. The two then spend a platonic night together before discussing politics the day after.

What could possibly go wrong?

MacDonald opens the introductory title chapter with everything seemingly going wrong for Maripol. He's performing at a South Florida nightclub with his band, forced to play cover songs for the crowd, rather than his creative originals. Plus, he's heard about

the election returns, furthering his disgust.

Ashley shows up and slowly brightens his mood by buying him a beer at the club, taking him to the beach, and inviting him back to her house. With an early morning shift, she requests that the budding romance be at least temporarily limited to a kiss goodnight.

Sam can't help but find her living situation, in a carriage house set apart from the beach mansion owned by her father and stepmother, impressive.

When they see each other again, their differing attitudes toward politics are revealed.

Paragraph titles ("Another Night on the Beach," "Getting To Know You") illustrate their star-crossed path, complete with Sam meeting Ashley's conservative father, Adam, and stepmother, Alice — who prove to be a major part of the plot.

Terry O'Neill, Sam's friend and part-time bass player in his band, is a former financial consultant who'd worked on Wall Street. He recognizes the name of Adam Beck and tells Sam that Beck worked his way up to Wall Street from his native Pennsylvania by extorting money. Despite doing jail time for insider trading, he'd become

one of the richest men in Palm Beach County.

Reo MacGregor, MacDonald's autobiographical lead character from *The Open Mic*, eventually reappears to entertain Sam, Ashley and friends at an open-air area nightclub. His lyrical recitations of some of MacDonald's own politically charged compositions gain the unwanted attention of an armed local militia before police arrive to defuse the situation.

Meanwhile, Sam and Ashley are yet to enter into a sexual relationship for reasons that include not only their political differences, but also Ashley's belief in organized religion.

Sam, a patient, church-eschewing spiritualist, has a conversation with Ashley's father in which Beck offers a \$100,000 bribe to end the relationship, using phrases that lead Sam to suspect Beck might have audio and video devices planted in Ashley's cottage.

Sam and Terry execute a plan, involving a false-flag planned attack on a local GOP office, that proves his theory.

Ashley and Sam then use their own surveillance devices to turn the tables on Beck while pretending they know nothing about his planted spyware.

Sam and Terry listen to

a recorded conversation of Beck's about assassinating the president and replacing him with a leader more in line with their faith-based nationalist ideals. A recorded reference to blaming a "patsy" recalls the Kennedy-Oswald assassination theory, and it doesn't take Sam long to figure out he's the Oswald in this scenario.

"MacDonald is a talented and perceptive writer," Kirkus Media stated in a recent review, "especially during the assassination subplot, which combines suspense with shrewd psychological nuance and punchy, evocative prose."

Election Night is a window into MacDonald's political theories, and knowledge of the law, that's cloaked in an unorthodox love story. Indirect references abound to the likes of Elon Musk, Jeffrey Epstein, Charlie Kirk and beyond, most delivered by Terry rather than Sam, the author's autobiographical character. For liberals and progressives, the book could largely ring with truth.

For conservatives and right-wingers, it could bring back book-burning rituals. Especially if they make it through all 221 pages, their own literary equivalent of what might seem like four more years.



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Theater Brief

Palm Beach Dramaworks previews 2026-27 season

WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach Dramaworks' 2026-27 season will feature plays for audiences seeking world premieres, modern classics, and absurdism, including a Harold Pinter work and a celebrated musical.

The season opens Oct. 9 with the world premiere of Alejandro Rodriguez's *Alba*, inspired by the Spanish poet and playwright Federico García Lorca's 1936 play *The House of Bernarda Alba*. Rodriguez's play follows a Cuban matriarch in Miami trying to hold onto her house amid a world of changes and obstacles.

Another world premiere is Jennifer Maisel's *Provenance*, introduced in the 2026 Perlberg Festival of New Plays. *Provenance* takes place in early 1900s German society and follows a mythical portrait through its theft by the Nazis and its subsequent travels around the world. (opens Dec. 9)

Also of note will be a rare musical at Dramaworks, Adam Guettel's *The Light in the Piazza*. A multiple Tony winner, this 2005 musical is set in the 1950s and features an American woman, Margaret Johnson, who is on vacation in Florence with her daughter, Clara, who is developmentally disabled. When Clara falls in love with an Italian man, Margaret must face some difficult questions. (opens Feb. 12)

Also on tap is British playwright Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party*, described as a classic comedy of menace. In an act of kindness, a boarding house owner throws her only tenant a birthday party. When two strangers show up, the occasion turns into a nightmare. (opens April 2)

The season closes with Richard Strand's *Ben Butler*, based on the real-life general who fought for the Union during the Civil War. When a group of slaves turns up to seek his help, he must decide whether turn them away or obey his conscience. (opens May 21)

The company also will present Hershey Felder's *The Piano & Me*, a one-man show in which Felder shares his experiences from 30 years onstage, accompanied by music from Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and others. (opens Oct. 30)

For more information, visit palmbeachdramaworks.org.
— Erik Kvarnberg

Reviews

Here are excerpts from reviews in Palm Beach ArtsPaper. For the full reviews, please visit palmbeachartspaper.com.

Gallim (Jan. 30-31, Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth Beach)

Gallim, founded and led by choreographer Andrea Miller, is a nine-member New York City dance company that has been pushing the boundaries of contemporary dance since 2007 with its exploration of the limitless potential of the human body in movement.

The Jan. 30 performance presented six works choreographed by Miller to a variety of musical scores. With boundless energy and tremendous physicality, the company's collective of outstanding dancers gave their hearts and souls to deliver Miller's vision in a program that was sophisticated and well-balanced.

State, a work from 2018, set the stage for the evening. The 19-minute trio for Vivian Pakkanen, India Hobbs and Victoria Chasse Dominguez was truly mesmerizing as the three women methodically unfolded a series of movements as if it were a practiced ritual that centered their spirits and bodies.

Other standouts included the group piece *Bruce* (2007). Dressed in tuxedo shirts and black pants, three men (Bryan Testa, Donterreo Culp and Marc

Anthony Gutierrez) tried to outdance three women (Hobbs, Pakkanen and Dominguez), dressed in short sequined dresses. Their infectious energy was lively fun and delightfully freeform.

The evening ended with one of the company's most popular works, *Sama*. The full company work, which had an Indian motif both in the driving rhythms of the musical score and the Hare Krishna orange costuming, is, according to Miller, about accessing the physical experience and having a space to express oneself and transcend through movement. The work boiled over to a ritualistic frenzy of individual movement with flailing arms and pounding body parts on the floor, which ended in an abrupt spurt of light and then darkness and silence. — Tara Mitton Catao

Cleveland Orchestra (Feb. 1, Kravis Center)

The Cleveland Orchestra presented a program that displayed its uncompromising technical and musical standards. Under the baton of Music Director Franz Welser-Möst, the esteemed ensemble performed two very different symphonies with equally astounding results.

The first half consisted of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's final work in the genre, his Symphony No. 41 (in C major, K. 551). The so-called "Jupiter" Symphony displays the composer's maturity in handling the symphonic form.

Welser-Möst's discreet style of conducting emphasized the

dramatic aspects that permeate Mozart's symphonies. His attention to detail resulted in crisp articulations by all sections, particularly the woodwinds, giving the work a light, elegant quality.

The second half of the program could not be more contrasting to the gallantry of Mozart. The Symphony No. 11 (in G Minor, Op. 103) by Dmitri Shostakovich depicts the massacre of innocent civilians by czarist forces in 1905.

Whether one hears the symphony as a protest against all forms of tyranny (according to the late cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich) or a masterful piece of musical propaganda, the work's cinematic nature demands superb musicianship from players and director alike.

There was no question about that here. The Clevelanders tackled the work with a sense of continuity that clearly displayed the overall architectural arch of this 67-minute, extensive symphony. Once again, articulations were incredibly precise, and the lower strings were particularly noteworthy.

Unfortunately, the constant ringing of cell phones during the concert spoiled a bit what would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The Cleveland Orchestra is clearly one of the world's top orchestras. It should not be too difficult for the audience to behave in a more appreciative manner by turning off their cell phones once the music starts. — Márcio Bezerra



Asandra, *Conversations With Spirit 5*, Acrylic on Panel, 16x20, 2022

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Art

Four Arts brings Chrysler Art Nouveau collection to Palm Beach

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

At the turn of the 20th century, Art Nouveau blossomed into one of the most influential movements in the art world.

The Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach looks at this phenomenon with its latest exhibit, *The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art*. This exhibition, running through April 4, brings together approximately 120 of the finest Art Nouveau objects from the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Va., from the collection of Walter P. and Jean Chrysler.

Drawing inspiration from the elegance of nature, the brief yet intense artistic movement of Art Nouveau emerged in Europe during the late 19th century and was popular around the globe until 1915.

“The exhibition tells the story of Art Nouveau from its origins in the 1890s to its heyday in the early 20th century to its decline during World War I,” says Rebecca Dunham, head of fine arts and curator at the Society of the Four Arts. “This is a unique exhibition, as Art Nouveau is often neglected in the canon of art history, and underrepresented in museum collections, making ‘The Triumph of Nature’ a rare gem.”

Characterized by a refined elegance — flowing, asymmetrical lines, sinuous curves and elaborate patterns, inspired by nature — Art Nouveau was an international style of art, architecture and decorative arts. It integrated fine and



This 1900 fruitwood and marble buffet, designed by Louis Majorelle, is on display in Palm Beach. Photo provided by the Chrysler Museum of Art

applied arts and promoted craftsmanship and artistry as a reaction to mass production and industrialization. The style was a distinct break from tradition and classicism, and one that opened the doors to even more radical movements to come.

The Art Nouveau movement thrived at a moment in time when industrialization and urbanization were becoming dominant features of contemporary life across Europe and North America. The movement was also influenced by Japanese aesthetics, especially Japanese

woodblock prints. The influence of Japan, recently opened to the West for trade, is evident in the choice of colors, compositions and themes.

The exhibition, taking up four rooms on the first floor, gathers a snapshot of Art Nouveau objects — furniture, paintings, sculpture, mosaics, books, posters, prints, Tiffany lamps, glass by Émile Gallé and ceramics from the Zsolnay factory in Hungary — all of them chosen to complement each other and provide an understanding of the movement and its place in history.

If You Go

The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art runs through April 4 at Esther B. O’Keeffe Building, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach.

Tickets: \$10

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Four Arts members only on Tuesday; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday)

Special lecture: 10:30 a.m. April 1, Lloyd DeWitt, Portland Art Museum, Walter S. Gubelmann Auditorium

Info: fourarts.org

Among the highlights of the exhibit, several objects capture the movement’s spirit in particular.

A standout among many standouts is the *Waterlily and Flying Heron* blown glass vase, circa 1894, designed by the firm of Daum Frères in Japanese style. The flowers and birds that decorate the body of the vase as well as the ornamental borders at the neck, are evocative of similar motifs found in Asia in general, and Japan in particular. The acid-etched technique is used to create a mottled background reminiscent of the texture and surface of Japanese rice paper.

And it wouldn’t be an Art Nouveau show without Louis Comfort Tiffany. A number of Tiffany objects are on display, such as his Favrite glass vessels, a Persian-inspired gooseneck sprinkler vase and his 1900-era 18-light pond lily

Continued on the next page

Art on the Square

Outdoor Fine Art Show



March 28 – 29, 2026

50+ juried artists | Kids Art Zone | Interactive art | Live painting & music | Café refreshments



OLD SCHOOL SQUARE
Where Delray Comes Together

Continued from previous page

lamp with 18 lily blossoms, in shades of red and gold iridescent glass. From the bronze base of the lamp, the intertwining stems of the pond lilies rise up from their pads. The trumpet-shaped blossoms open at the edges, resembling a pond lily in bloom.

In addition to the decorative objects, the exhibit features a number of the major figures of the movement, including Hector Guimard, principal designer of the Paris Métro entrance signs, furniture by Louis Majorelle and Georges de Feure, and prints by Czech artist Alphonse Mucha.

Majorelle's craftsmanship and large furniture pieces appear throughout the exhibition, represented by several major works.

One centerpiece is Majorelle's large buffet cabinet, adorned with metal flowers. In the center is a carved wood panel and inlays and a design of a bird encountering a butterfly beneath flowering and fruit-laden plants. The design is inspired by the Japanese idea of *ukiyo-e* (floating world). Delicate tendrils of flowers drape over the shelves in front of a leaf design background.

Other great examples of his aesthetics are evident in the wooden dessert cabinet, circa 1900, made with fruitwood, marble and metal, ormolu and mother-of-pearl, also heavily influenced by Japanese design. Two birds rest among a grouping of grape leaves, in a nod to Japanese prints. Carved floral designs and the pyramid



Vase in Amphora Line Grès-Bijou, a circa-1890 piece by Riessner, Stellmacher & Kessel. Photo provided

shape of the cabinet also are reminiscent of Japanese design.

Another Majorelle cabinet features wood inlay panels with bold Japanese-inspired compositions drawn from the natural world in woods of different natural colors, with pulls, handles, edges and feet designed in the whimsical shapes of flowers, roots, animals and nude women. These motifs also appeared in the workshop's glass and ceramic designs.

Also noteworthy are the wooden nesting tables by Émile Gallé, circa 1890, created with mixed woods and designed to stack into each other. Each one is carved with a thistle in different stages of development,

rendered in marquetry.

On the wall behind the nesting tables are four of the most well-known Art Nouveau posters designed by Mucha, titled *Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring*. Each poster depicts a beautiful woman in nature surrounded by seasonal foliage.

Designing for a range of clients and settings, including domestic and commercial projects, these artists fashioned their works to complement each other in harmonious visual arrangements, conceiving of Art Nouveau as a holistic and immersive environment.

The rivalry of popular glass makers from Nancy, France, including Gallé, a competitor of Majorelle, led to the creation of beautiful and sophisticated (but sometimes outrageous) designs, and attracted collectors to the area.

Last, a small section highlights the early shift toward Art Deco, a movement that supplanted Art Nouveau by the 1920s, including a vase by Majorelle, a fired porcelain statue of a woman holding a mandolin and a silver geometric water pitcher, circa 1930.

Taken together, the objects in *The Triumph of Nature* reveal an era and a movement that sought out beauty and incorporated it into art, design and architecture. More than a chronology, the exhibition provides a glimpse into an era where these elements, combined with nature, were inseparable — a legacy that still reverberates today.

LAKE WORTH PLAYHOUSE

BILOXI BLUES

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BY NELL SIMON

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TYPOE GRAN

anatomy of a practice

TYPOE GRAN, *Eden* [detail], 2025, colored pencil on paper. Courtesy of Primary and the Artist

BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART

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GOLDEN

Continued from page 7

stillness.

In addition to a selection of his paintings, the exhibit includes rarely seen works, early portraits, and period women's lingerie-style dresses, similar to ones in his paintings. There are black-and-white photographs of the artist along with family and friends from his time in Cragsmoor and copies of old magazines with his work featured on the covers of the 1929 *Literary Digest*, *Arts and Decoration* from 1920 and a cover of *Truth* magazine from 1899.

There is also memorabilia from his paintings — watercolors, oils and a pastel — which were shown at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 (the Chicago World's Fair) and for which he earned a bronze medal.

The "Golden Hour" title of the show, according to the Flagler description, comes from "the most seductive moment in painting: the instant when light softens, edges blur and the world seems almost too beautiful to be true."

Curran highlights this golden hour in many of his paintings, which belong to the same Gilded Age cultural moment that shaped the construction of Whitehall in 1902 — a time when leisure was curated, beauty was a form of capital and



Girl in the Window is an 1892 oil on canvas by Charles Courtney Curran on display at the Flagler Museum. **Photo provided**

the modern world of the early 1900s valued refinement.

Curran, whose reputation has grown over time, was known for his ability to conjure luminosity in his paintings and for his romantic subject matter filled with sun-drenched, optimistic scenes of young women outdoors, often with flowers or trees in bucolic settings. His tonal harmonies and colors that change with the light reveal an artist attuned to atmosphere — a sensitivity evident in the works featured in the exhibition.

A portrait of the artist from 1931, painted by his friend and colleague Alphaeus Cole, depicts Curran after 30 years at Cragsmoor, looking at the viewer, dressed in a suit and tie with wire-rimmed glasses, sitting in front of one of his own

paintings of a group of women on a rocky ledge, silhouetted against a blue summer sky and a view of the valley beyond.

In his 1922 oil on canvas *The Green Jacket and White Pines*, a woman wearing a loosely tied light green jacket over a white blouse stands in front of a background of darker green pine trees, each hand holding a spray of pine needles. The painting, in essence, is a color study of greens and of textures — the detail and texture of the needles providing a contrast to the subtle simplicity of the woman's figure. The scene is punctuated by small bursts of white flowers, adding contrast to the harmonious mood of the painting.

In a deviation from his outdoor naturescapes, Curran

If You Go

Golden Hour: Charles Courtney Curran and the Romance of American Impressionism is on display at the Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach, through May 24

Tickets: \$28; \$14 ages 6-12
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.; noon-5 p.m. Sunday
Info: 561-655-2833 or flaglermuseum.us

explored other genres of art, including Symbolism, which he was exposed to during his studies in Paris between 1888 and 1891.

The Sirens, based on a scene from Homer's *The Odyssey*, is an example of this style, as is his 1898 painting, *The Peris*. In it, Curran explores mythology, fantasy and dreams. The peris, according to Persian folklore, are supernatural creatures that thrive on the fragrance of roses. He depicts five romantic nymph-like figures floating in white gossamer gowns outside in a garden of soft pink roses.

The otherworldly ambience and ethereal nature of the peris are reflected by his use of pale, iridescent colors, creating the effect of an imaginary, enchanted, dream-like world.

Illustrating his signature style of carefree summers and women in flowing summer frocks, *On the Cliff*, his 1910 masterwork

from his years at Cragsmoor, depicts two young women and a young blonde girl (the artist's daughter, Emily), dressed in white, standing on a large rock, gazing into the valley below. A vast blue sky covered with white linen clouds forms the backdrop for the painting. The effect is again, romantic, soft, muted and idealized — offering "a luminous vision of summer at its most poetic."

Mobley says the show invites guests to linger, to experience art, not as spectacle, but as atmosphere.

"If someone walks out and notices the late afternoon sun differently, or feels a little calmer than when they entered, then the exhibition has succeeded," she says. "Curran and the golden hour remind us that sometimes the most profound experiences are quiet ones."

As a whole, the works in the *Golden Hour* showcase an artist devoted to capturing beauty and its ephemeral nature — the sunlight on a dress, the flowers in the garden, the blue sky, the quiet of a summer afternoon, or the dreamlike nature of spirits.

Far from being dated, Curran's vision and artistry still feel fresh, reminding viewers of a simpler time and a world where leisure, nature and light were worthy of study — the very essence of Curran's own golden hour.



THE SOCIETY OF THE FOUR ARTS

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ART EXHIBITION ON DISPLAY

The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art

On display through Saturday, April 4
Mondays, Wednesdays - Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sundays: 1 to 5 p.m. • Tuesdays: closed to public

"Turner & Constable"

Exhibition on Screen
Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m.

Danielle Allen, Ph.D.

"The Declaration of Independence and the Case for Classical Learning"
Monday, March 16 at 3 p.m.

Zachary Lippman

"Tomatoes in Space"
Thursday, March 19 at 3 p.m.

Edmund Clark

"Seeing the Unseen"
Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m.



Elias Photography

Louis Lortie, piano

Sanda & Jeremiah Lambert Concert Series
Sunday, March 15 at 3 p.m.

"Lilly" starring Patricia Clarkson

Friday Film Series
Friday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Go to fourarts.org for tickets and more programs

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FOUR ARTS FOR EVERYONE

Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through March 31 were current as of Feb. 20. Check with the presenting agency for any changes.

ART

Armory Art Center: Opens March 16: *Tools and Table; Bread and Butter*, by artist Ashleigh Walters. Through May 8. Free. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 9 am-5 pm M-F, 9 am-noon Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org

Boca Raton Museum of Art: Opens March 25: *Typoe Gran: Anatomy of a Practice; Modernisms: Art from the Manes Collection*. Through Oct. 11. Through March 29: *Too Late to Rewind: From the Collection of Elaine Mordes*. Through May 3: *Eduardo Chacón: Postcards from Nowhere; Side by Side: The Artist Couple Bernstein and Meyerowitz*. Adults, \$16, seniors, \$12, students, free. \$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: Through March 15: *Color in Motion*. Through May 3: *The Art of Her*. 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 delrayoldschoolsquare.com/cornell.

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Through March 21: *Claudia Henao: El Dorado*. Through April 4: *Being Well, Well Being*. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

Flagler Museum: Through May 24: *Golden Hour: Charles Courtney Curran and the Romance of American Impressionism; May I Help You, Madame?: The Making of the Modern Department Store; 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.flaglERMuseum.us

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Opens March 19: *48th Annual Members' Show & Sale*, a show of works by over 400 artists and students in this end-of-season celebration. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Through May 31: *2026 Year of the Horse*, based on the lunar calendar, featuring an array of materials to celebrate this year. Through April

5: *Light as Air: The Buoyant Sculptures of Mariko Kusumoto; Take Akari: Bamboo Lights; Blue & White*, Chinese porcelain dishes. \$15; \$13 seniors; \$9 children; free for members, ages 5 and under. 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. 10 am-5 pm T-Sun. 561-495-0233, morikami.org

Norton Museum of Art: Through March 29: *Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from the Leiden Collection*. Through June 21: *Artists at Work*. Through July 5: *That's Entertainment: Japanese Prints and the Art of Leisure*. Opens March 28: *Recognition of Art by Women: In Retrospect*. \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196, www.norton.org

Society of the Four Arts: Through April 4: *The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art*. 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 10 am-3 pm M-F. 561-655-7226, fourarts.org

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Sunday, March 8-Monday, March 9

Vienna Philharmonic: The legendary European orchestra returns to Florida under conductor Andris Nelsons, who has programmed the *Linz Symphony* (No. 36 in C, K. 425) and the *Dvořák Sixth Symphony* for the Sunday matinee, and on Monday night, welcomes pianist Lang Lang for the Bartok Third Concerto, closing the evening with the Mahler First Symphony. 2 pm Sunday, 7:30 pm Monday, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Tuesday, March 10

Trio Gaia: The Boston-based piano trio, founded in 2018, offers a program of music by Szymanowski (*Mythes*), Fauré (the late Piano Trio, Op. 120), and a piano trio by the 20th-century French composer Charlotte Sohy for the Tuesday night music series at the Flagler Museum. \$95. 7:30 pm, Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 561-655-2833 or flaglERMuseum.us. Friday, March 13

New World Symphony: Violinist Augustin Hadelich joins Stephane Denève and the Miami Beach-based orchestral academy for the Violin Concerto of Erich Wolfgang Korngold, on a

The Short List: First Look

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, Lake Worth Beach — Jan. 15



The Cultural Council had a full house for *The Short List: First Look*, the council's first exhibit of the year. There were 175 works by 140 Palm Beach County-based artists. More than 40 pieces were sold. Photo provided by Premier Photo

program that also features Max Steiner's main title from *King Kong*. The second half of the program features Richard Strauss's epic *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, memorably used in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Sunday, March 15

Society of the Four Arts: Canadian pianist **Louis Lortie** plans a recital of works in the ballade form, including Gabriel Fauré's Op. 19, Debussy's *Ballade Slave*, the Op. 10 ballades of Brahms, and three virtuosic ballades by Franz Liszt. Free admission. 2 pm, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Wednesday, March 18

OAK Trio: The threesome of pianist Evren Ozel, violinist Nathan Amaral and cellist Leland Ko wrap up the 2025-26 season of Classical Café concerts. 2 pm, Duncan Theatre Stage West, Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-868-3309 or email theatreservices@pbcs.edu.

Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach: The Ehnes String Quartet returns to Palm Beach County with Beethoven's early String Quartet No. 5, Schubert's *Rondo for Violin and Strings*, and the String Quintet No. 2 of Felix Mendelssohn; James Ehnes is joined by CMSPB artistic director Arnaud Sussmann, violinist

Amy Schwartz Moretti, violist Brian Chen and cellist Edward Arron. \$86. 7 pm, Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, 141 S. County Road, Palm Beach. 561-379-6773 or cmspb.org

Monday, March 23

Buffalo Philharmonic: JoAnn Falletta welcomes violinist Simone Porter to the Kravis stage for the *Scottish Fantasy* of Max Bruch. Also on the program is English composer George Butterworth's *The Banks of Green Willow* and the First Symphony of Johannes Brahms. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Tuesday, March 24

Paul Galbraith: The Scottish musician is renowned for his eight-string guitar, which he developed in 1993. His program includes his arrangements for this instrument of works by John Dowland, Lennox Berkeley, J.S. Bach, Haydn, Ravel and Isaac Albéniz. \$95. 7:30 pm, Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 561-655-2833 or flaglERMuseum.us

DANCE

Friday, March 6-Sunday, March 8

Ballet Palm Beach: The company's original production, *Queen Esther*, is back by popular demand. It follows the biblical journey of a queen and king's alluring captivation for each other and a heroine's protection of her people,

told through dance. The production opens Fri at 7 pm, with matinee and night performances on Sat and Sun. \$56. Glazer Hall, 70 Royal Poinciana Way, Palm Beach. glazerhall.org or 561-576-7860

Wednesday, March 11

Alonzo King Lines Ballet: The San Francisco-based company, led by King since 1982, presents *Mother Goose* (Ravel) and works set to music by the pianist, harpist and composer Alixe Coltrane. 7:30 pm. \$40-\$97. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Friday, March 20-Saturday, March 21

Sa Dance Company: This all-female contemporary Indian dance troupe blends Indian and American stories about the female spirit. 8 pm both shows. \$49. Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-868-3309 or email theatreservices@pbcs.edu. Tuesday, March 31

World Ballet Company: The Los Angeles-based touring company presents *Swan Lake* (Tchaikovsky) in an appearance at the Duncan Theatre. \$59-\$89. 7 pm. Palm Beach State College, 4200 S. Congress Ave., Lake Worth. 561-868-3309 or worldballetcompany.com

Continued on the next page

Coastal & Golf Communities

featured by Erik & Susan Ring



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GRUBHUB Uber Eats

Continued from previous page

JAZZ AND BLUES

Thursday, March 5
Taj Farrant: The 16-year-old Australian guitar prodigy gained recognition on social media and has since been featured on the Ellen DeGeneres show and played onstage with legends like Carlos Santana, Rob Thomas, and Orianthi. \$47 and up. 8:30 pm. Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-931-2889 or visit crazyunclemikes.com
 Wednesday, March 11

Beatlemagic: This tribute band is dedicated to an accurate reproduction of The Beatles' performances, with Russ Thomas as John Lennon, Nelson Starr as Paul McCartney, Mike Kiel as George Harrison, Chris Mattioli as Ringo Starr, and Ned Wood as Billy Preston. \$19 and up. 8 pm. Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-931-2889 or crazyunclemikes.com.
 Saturday, March 7

The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band: The three-time-nominated Blues Music Award big band will perform songs from their new record, *Honeysuckle*, which was mixed by eight-time Grammy winner Vance Powell. \$55-\$60. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or visit artsgarage.org
 Thursday, March 12

The Nighthawks & Chris O'Leary Band: A mix of blues, R&B, honky-tonk country, doo-wop, gospel, and rockabilly, Mark Wenner formed The Nighthawks in Washington, D.C. in 1972. The Chris O'Leary Band, led by the former frontman of Levon Helm's band, joins The Nighthawks for an energetic musical experience. 7 pm. \$60-\$65. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

OPERA

Friday, March 20-Sunday, March 22
Rigoletto: In Giuseppe Verdi's timeless 1851 opera, the court jester Rigoletto (Vladislav Sulimsky, David Cecconi) has a bone to pick with his employer, the Duke of Mantua (Jonathan Tetelman, Pavel Valuzhin), especially after the notorious Lothario ("La donna è mobile") sets his sights on Rigoletto's sheltered daughter Gilda (Aigul Khismatullina, Patricia Westley). Omer Ben Seadia directs and David Stern conducts. 7:30 pm F and Sat, 2 pm Sun. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or 561-833-7888; kravis.org or pbopera.org

POPULAR MUSIC

Tuesday, March 3
Billy Ocean: The iconic Trinidadian-British singer/songwriter has released hits like "Carribbean Queen" and "Suddenly." \$76 to \$166. 7:30 pm. Wells Hall at The Parker, 707 NE 8th St, Fort Lauderdale. ticketmaster.com
 Wednesday, March 4

Paul Anka: He asked you to put your head on his shoulder in 1959, and he's still touring at 84 years old, making a stop in South Florida. You may know the Canadian singer-songwriter from hits like "Diana" and "You Are My Destiny," but he also wrote "This Is It" for Michael Jackson and "My Way" for Frank Sinatra. 8 pm. \$53 and up. Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW 5th Ave, Fort Lauderdale. 954-462-0222 or browardcenter.org.
 Wednesday, March 11

Ron Pope: Thrust into stardom with his 2007 breakout hit "A Drop in the Ocean," the Nashville-based recording artist has continued to captivate audiences. \$50 and up. 7 pm. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd, No. 59, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com.
 Sunday, March 29

A\$AP Rocky: As part of his *Don't Be Dumb* world tour, the popular American rapper is bringing his style that combines New York-style rap and Southern hip-hop. He first gained traction in summer 2011 with his songs "Peso" and "Purple Swag." 7:30 p.m. \$42 and up. Kaseya Center, 601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami. ticketmaster.com

THEATER

Through March 15
Biloxi Blues: A follow-up from last season's production *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, this is the second installment of playwright Neil Simon's autobiographical trilogy. The play follows Eugene Jerome in his journey as a young army recruit during World War II. During basic training in Biloxi, Mississippi, he uses his army experiences to further his writing career by keeping detailed memoirs. Through March 15 at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. \$40 and up. 561-586-6410 or lakeworthplayhouse.org.
 Opens March 17

Man of La Mancha: It's a story of obstinacy that has traveled through centuries. Based on Cervantes's *Don Quixote*, the 1965 Mitch Leigh musical follows an aged man who becomes obsessed with chivalric romances and believes himself to be a knight, refusing to let go of his

idealist view of the world, even when faced with death. Songs include "The Impossible Dream." Through April 5 at Maltz Jupiter Theatre. \$78 and up, limited seats available. 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. 561-575-2223 or visit jupitertheatre.org
 Opens March 19

Camelot: Join the Knights of the Round Table in Boca Raton this spring for this classic 1960 Lerner and Loewe musical about the legendary King Arthur, his wife Guenevere, and the love triangle that ensues with Sir Lancelot. \$119 ad up. Through April 12 at The Wick Theatre & Museum Club, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-995-2333 or thewick.org

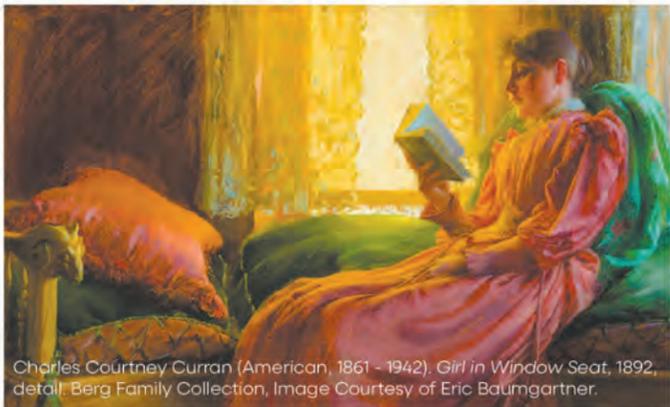
The Effect: In Lucy Prebble's 2012 drama, Connie and Tristan meet while participating in a clinical drug trial and fall in love. But it's unclear whether they truly love each other or it's an exciting side effect of the antidepressants they're taking. Through March 29. \$38. Th-F show times, 7:30 pm, Sun matinee at 2 p.m. Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410 or lakeworthplayhouse.org
 Opens March 20

Something Rotten: In the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom set out to create a hit play, but lose the spotlight to the "The Bard," a rock-star, narcissistic version of William Shakespeare. This musical comedy has received several Best Musical Tony nominations. Through April 12. \$55 and up. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 561-272-1281 or delraybeachplayhouse.com
 Opens March 12

Wrecked: This original play by NYC-based theater company Wreckio Ensemble follows six women as they navigate the ends of marriages, careers, friendships, parenthood and sometimes even their sanity, featuring Yara Martinez of *Jane the Virgin*. Wreckio Ensemble, co-founded by Arts Garage's theater director Michelle Diaz, is the first recipient of Arts Garage's Theatre Residency program. Through March 22. \$43. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org
 Opens April 3

The Crucible: Arthur Miller's classic 1953 play about the Salem witch trials of 1692, written as an exploration of McCarthyism and the House Un-American Activities Committee's witch hunts. Through April 19 at Palm Beach Dramaworks. \$75-\$115. 201 Clematis St, West Palm Beach. 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org

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 ON VIEW THROUGH MAY 24

The Spring Exhibition traces the celebrated American painter's journey from his Ohio roots to New York, Paris, and the mountaintop artists' colony of Cragmoor, 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.

Underwritten by: NORTHERN TRUST & Jeanne H. Olofson

Flagler Museum Music Series

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Audience members experience chamber music as it was intended, in a gracious and intimate setting. Each evening includes a pre-concert reception at 6:30 pm prior to performances at 7:30 pm. Complimentary valet.

- Poulenc Trio | March 3
- Trio Gaia | March 10
- Guitarist Paul Galbraith | March 24

Underwritten by: Roe Green | MBS Family Foundation | Drs. Jason & Vanessa Cuéllar

Flagler Museum Lecture Series

PRESENTED IN WHITEHALL'S GRAND BALLROOM

- David Owen, *The Legacy of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition*
March 8, 3:00 pm lecture
- Bryan Huffman and Thomas Lloyd, *Bunny Mellon's Philanthropy*
March 11, 5:30 pm reception, 6:00 pm lecture. Complimentary valet.
- Meg Caldwell, *E.F. Caldwell and Co.*
March 22, 3:00 pm lecture

Underwritten by: Mr. David Sarama & Mr. Daniel Drennen

FLAGLERMUSEUM.ORG
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FOOD TRUCKS

Continued from page AT1

originally comes from.”

Even the noodles are handmade. “I mix the dough, I stretch the dough. I make the sauce and béchamel. Made fresh every day. It’s better than homemade because it’s all handmade.”

All except for the Caesar salad croutons, he said. “Everything else is made by me. It’s a long, laborious day.”

He starts at 8:30 a.m. and gets everything ready to open by 5 p.m.

“But we have customers who are always there at 4 to pick up dinner.” He closes at 9 p.m., and takes Mondays off.

The best seller is his classic lasagna, with the white béchamel, followed by the Americana lasagna with a tomato-based meat sauce.

Two other varieties — a short rib with brown gravy, mushrooms and shallots, and the vegetarian with spinach and mushrooms and béchamel — are popular. But he makes special ones now and then to add to the mix.

“Tonight is a blackened shrimp and zucchini with lemon zest and béchamel.”

All are served in single portions, \$17 to \$19.

The menu is limited, with garlic bread, salads and a couple of desserts — “when I have time to make them. Tiramisu and profiteroles from scratch: cream puffs filled with custard cream.”

All labor-intensive dishes.

Most customers come for takeout and dine at home. By 8 o’clock on a Friday night, he was sold out, and said it was usually all sold by 7.

Many fans buy the lasagna cold to take home and heat for dinner. Some stay, however, and order it served hot to eat in the small seating area next to the truck.

To entertain the patrons in the seating area, Mattiello shows sitcoms and movies — spaghetti Westerns — on a screen in the parking lot nightly. Few stay for the whole films that start at 7 p.m.

“But they really like *The Love Boat*.” He laughed about the 1977-86 series: “They stay around to watch it all when the weather is nice.”

The truck’s a labor of love, Mattiello said. “It’s not a hot dog cart like before. It’s a mobile kitchen with a big, full menu.”

“People come who wouldn’t usually stop at a food truck. Lasagna brings people together.”

At **Ukelele**, a food truck at 1402 N. Federal Highway in Delray Beach, another professional restaurant chef turned to his native Venezuelan culture to create an experience through food.

The line above the menu reads, “Travel to Venezuela without leaving Delray.”

Owner Josney Peroza wants to be the culinary ambassador to the South American country.

After several years of working as a caterer and as chef



for a Peruvian restaurant in Broward County, he decided to get something of his own.

Four years ago he began with only \$3,000, renting a food trailer, and buying equipment over time.

“All we had was our passion and intention,” Peroza said.

He works with his wife, Lucia, who brings along son Josney Jr., 18 months.

Cachapas, arepas, pabellon and other foods from his family’s culture are all made in-house and fresh daily.

“The only frozen food we have are French fries. A lot of the work is in the prep. We slow cook the meat, shred it, and cook it five hours to cook again,” he said. Peeling and grinding corn, squeezing the citrus for the lemonades and making the empanadas by hand are part of the labor. “We really care about the food.”

It’s a long day of work, starting at 10 a.m. and prepping, then cooking and serving. The Perozas close at 10:30 p.m., then must clean and get it all ready for the next day.

“We get home at midnight.”

Recipes are authentic. “I used to work in tourism in Venezuela,” he said. “I traveled to many cities and small towns around the country and they have all these small restaurants with a grandmother or an older woman cooking her recipes.”

He’s replicating the experience, featuring favorite regional dishes and wanting his guests to have an emotional connection to the experience

while eating at his truck.

“It’s a way to share Venezuelan culture. When you go to a tiny restaurant, it’s friendly. It feels personal and approachable.”

The cachapas — griddled corn cakes — are similar to arepas but not as sweet.

“They come from the plains areas. There is corn all around. Cachapas are made from yellow corn. Arepas, from white corn, are salty,” he said.

For vegans, he loads them with black beans and avocados. He’ll add cheese for lacto-ovo vegetarians, but has beef, chicken and pork options.

One of the most popular variations is the pabellon — a dish traditionally served over white rice, but instead served in an arepa. It’s filled with shredded beef, black beans, sweet plantains and white cheese for \$13.50.

To compete with other trucks, he said, “You need to be in a high-traffic place. If you’re in a less high-traffic area, you’ve got to have something else. Roots, culture and a story behind the food. That’s hard.”

He’s planning special nights, but taking it all step by step.

“Some nights we pack the place, with good sales.”

Catering and other events help, too.

The Perozas also work with delivery companies such as Door Dash and Uber Eats, and do takeout. A canopied area with lights and tables lets diners feel as though they’re at an outdoor cafe. Order at the truck

and a server delivers the food.

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 6-10:30 p.m.

“We don’t want to look at a restaurant,” Peroza said.

“We’re more focused on this. It has to grow with soul. We are involved with this space. It’s part of a plan — keeping this intentional.”

A newer truck is **Roka Turkish Cuisine**, sitting in the Chevron gas station lot at Fourth Street and Northeast Fifth Avenue in Delray Beach. It’s been there for seven months and beginning to gain a following.

Kayhan Akin, a native of Istanbul, Turkey, runs it, selling food from his homeland.

He also is a restaurateur, having run three “real” restaurants in Turkey.

He and a friend serve up a dish of slow-cooked beef called kavurma. “It’s one of our best sellers,” he said.

The meat is braised slowly, then removed from juices, and cooked again with garlic and onion. After six or more hours, spices and pimento are added to cook another hour. The pan is sealed tightly and closed to rest.

It’s served over rice, with an arugula salad with jalapeños and tzatziki sauce. It’s \$19.

Hummus beef is the slow-cooked meat served over housemade hummus along with with crispy Turkish pita.

Akin smiles as he talks about another favorite. “It’s a grandmother recipe,” he said.

The appetizer of dalma is dried eggplants and dried bell peppers stuffed with Turkish spiced rice.

“The second-best seller is kofte over crispy pita with tomato sauce and yogurt.”

It’s minced meat, formed as meatballs, served with Turkish spices and a little kick.

Other favorites include chicken shish kebabs, kokorec, or grilled lamb, and for dessert the Turkish burnt creamy pudding known as kazandibi. There’s also baklava.

All the meats used are halal — processed according to Muslim laws and slaughtered

Ukelele in Delray Beach serves Venezuelan food from a truck, but the seating and staff give it more of a dining experience.

BELOW LEFT: Delray Beach resident Garrett Golden and his friend Eric Hatton, of Boynton Beach, enjoy the shredded chicken patacon at Ukelele.

Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

humanely. The food is handmade “by me,” Akin said.

Vegetarian options are available throughout the menu.

Akin is in a food truck because, he said, “There’s not enough money for restaurants today. I see the food truck as a better opportunity.”

Neapolitan-style pizza is dished out from a truck called **Rossano’s**, adjacent to Ukelele at 1402 N. Federal in Delray Beach. The truck is the mobile arm of Rossano’s Pizza Lab at 1445 N. Congress Ave., Delray Beach, a restaurant owned by Marcelo Rossano. He started the truck during the pandemic to serve his Pizza Lab food.

A wood-fired oven cooks gourmet pizzas that require 48 hours to build. Served baked to order, on a fermented, crispy crust, the pies have ingredients such as mortadella, ricotta and pistachios (the Toto); arugula, fresh mozzarella, prosciutto and burrata (the Rossano); and hot Calabrian salami, Calabrian peppers and fresh mozzarella (the Diabolo). Vegetarian options include the Margherita and an eggplant, zucchini and peppers with cheese pizza.

The Neapolitan culture is here, too. A huge portrait of Napoli’s football son, Diego Maradona, adorns the truck. A brightly lit piazza-like patio with a screen of palms and plants encloses tables for dining in.

As for most of the trucks, prices are sometimes equal to a restaurant’s. The pizzas range from \$21 for a Margherita to \$27 for the Rossano. That’s for a four-slice personal-size pizza.

There’s a \$19 burger at **Cheffrey Eats**, the food truck permanently parked at **Barrel of Monks Brewing** at 1141 S. Rogers Circle, in the Penn-Florida Commerce Center in Boca Raton.

Owner Jeffrey Lemmerman touts it as “the best burger in South Florida.”

He didn’t make up the claim — his My Boy Blue burger won the title two years ago in a *Sun Sentinel* poll.

“It’s made with bacon, blue

cheese and caramelized onion jam that we make,” he said.

Right now, however, the French onion soup burger is considered the best, he said.

“We toast the bun with a garlic aioli and Gruyere, add a 7-ounce patty, melted Gruyere, caramelized onion jam and a side of onion soup to dip it in. It’s killer.”

Another favorite is a pastrami special using burnt-down pastrami atop the burger patty. Also on the bun are relish, homemade pickles, cheese, onions and sauerkraut.

Appetizers and sides include truffle fries, Mongolian Brussels sprouts, and buttermilk fried housemade pickles. “Those are really big sellers. We go through 20 gallons of pickles a week,” he said.

Lemmerman, 36, is a South Florida native and comes from a culinary background. He studied culinary at Johnson & Wales University in North Miami after getting a business degree at the University of Central Florida.

He worked in kitchens throughout college, then interned at the Addison Reserve Country Club in Delray Beach. After working in other restaurants, however, he decided to work for himself.

“So I started the food truck.”

That was in 2016, and like most who launch trucks, Lemmerman went at it “driven by passion,” he said.

Having restaurant experience made a difference, although the truck is a totally different business.

“I went in pretty blind,” he said. “I kinda drove around, doing street events. I stopped those pretty quickly. They’re not good business.”

“Then I started doing breweries consistently. I was the Tuesday truck at Barrel of Monks for 2½ years, then started doing more elevated stuff, like beer pairings and other specials to match their beer.”

The owner asked him to be Monks institutional kitchen, and he agreed.

“I’ve been here seven years, seven days a week.”

He loves the truck business, having found his niche and his place.

Place is key: “The thing I tell people looking at getting a truck is ‘get a spot — one location — don’t travel.’”

With new regulations and some confusing ones in certain cities, staying put may prove difficult.

For 3½ years, Dan Herrera set up his taco truck — **Picnic** — along the northern stretch of Federal Highway in Delray Beach, and for the last several months was at 3908 N. Federal Highway, over the Boynton Beach city border.

In January, the truck was ordered off the property. Herrera was taken by surprise.

“We have the permits, the property owner’s permission — we did everything right,” he said.

Then a city worker came



Kayhan Akin, who opened last year in Delray Beach, saw a truck as a better deal than a restaurant. Here he serves Jeff Fischer.

by and told him he’d have to close — because of city rules. He explained he had all his paperwork in order — health and fire inspections, food licenses and so on. All were up to date.

“The first lady was very nice,” he said. “But the next lady from Boynton Beach was extremely rude, and shouted that I had to leave now.”

He tried to explain the previous city worker had said everything was in order, but this worker would not yield.

“She called her boss. He came out and said the first lady made a mistake, and I had to leave. I still don’t know why.”

Boynton Beach cited the owner of the property — made up of adjacent parcels, one in the city and the other in unincorporated Palm Beach County — for not having the proper permit.

Picnic became a popular taco truck that gained its reputation after the coronavirus pandemic.

Herrera, a Colombian native, started his truck after the pandemic closings wiped him out in 2020 up North.

“I started saving money again, and moved from

Connecticut to Florida to start a

new business” — Picnic.

He made up his own recipes, focusing on a small menu of Mexican favorites. It hasn’t varied much.

“Every time, I try and make it better and better,” he said.

The street food was a success. He found a spot on Federal Highway land, and set up a tent, with picnic tables and festive lights. “People liked to eat there,” he said.

Online reviews rave about the baked pork belly (chicharron) served several ways. “You can get it as a panini, burrito, taco, tostado, quesadilla — or in our custom-made ‘holy guacamole,’” he said.

All the fresh juices are natural. “No sugar added — they’re just pulp and water. Very healthy.”

He offers all dietary options, including gluten-free foods. “All our tacos are gluten-free.”

Now, he’s taking the truck to events around town, posting his schedule on Instagram. He’s serving lunch at the Delray Medical Center on the third Tuesdays of the month, and planned to be parked at the Boynton Beach City Hall for a festival March 6.

He also caters parties,

weddings or corporate events in the Picnic truck.

“We’re looking for another spot permanently,” Herrera said.

Former car salesman Sammy Hadid decided to get a food truck as a retirement gig, and is having fun running it.

The **Taste of Thyme** truck is on Old Dixie Highway north of Walmart in Delray Beach.

He had to move in January from his spot in Boynton Beach on Federal Highway near Picnic. “You’d think the city would want us workers, contributing to the city. Yet they give the trucks and the stores a hard time. They close and move away.

“But it is what it is,” he said.

Hadid uses his wife’s family recipes to fill the menu at his truck with foods like falafel, homemade hummus and his “star recipe” — chicken shawarma.

He’s true to the cuisine of his native city, Jerusalem.

“We import all of our spices,” Hadid said.

He’s gaining customers who leave rave reviews online — the marketing method of this business. QR codes appear on all trucks for instant connections to the food trucks’ menus and sites.

“We have already 18 five-star reviews of the shawarma,” Hadid said.

The chicken shawarma is the best seller, but he’s switching things up with a shawarma taco — “but with our own spices. People are loving it.”

He also serves shawarma-loaded fries.

A melted cheese-beef bowl is another favorite special.

Dessert is a syrup-soaked basbousa, or semolina cake.

More about trucks

Lemmerman at Cheffrey Eats thinks the trucks are a good way to start a career in food. “It’s an affordable entry point to restaurants. Restaurants cost so much money up front.”

But it’s not as easy as the hopefuls think, he said. “It’s also some of the hardest type of work around.”

The responsibility of the entire business falls on the owner of the truck.

“People romanticize about a food truck, but there are so many hours people don’t think of that go into it.”

From obtaining several types of permits for each city they serve, to weather, to driving to pick up propane for stoves — “Companies don’t deliver,” he said — it’s a lot of driving.

Then there are vehicle breakdowns that many mechanics won’t work on. “I changed my own transmission,” Lemmerman said. Add in all the prep and cooking ahead of time, supply and crew problems, and it’s a tough prospect, he said.

“There are only a couple of hours a day where you’re making money.”

But it affords a work-life balance, and money can’t buy that, he said.

“I’ve got a 5-year-old daughter. I don’t want to miss those life moments. I didn’t want to be a big, successful chef and sacrifice that.”

A brick-and-mortar restaurant isn’t off the table, however. It’s all about timing, he said.

“Right now, I’m smelling the roses.”

Schedules can be erratic, since most truck owners also do catering, special events, or “just move to a better location,” as one said.

The owners depend on the internet, especially social media, to keep their fans informed. Find the schedules and full menus for each of the food trucks on Instagram, X or Facebook, or check out their websites.

All trucks have online ordering for pickup. Most pair with a delivery service such as Uber Eats or Door Dash as well. All take cards, cash or electronic payments.



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

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Health & Harmony

Mother cheers progress in fight to help daughter handle cerebral palsy

When Sydney Johnson, 31, went into labor 10 weeks early, nothing about her daughter Cecilia's arrival went as planned. Cecilia spent several weeks in the NICU, and by the time she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at age 1, Johnson found herself with almost no guidance.

"We were given no helpful or useful information," she says. "No resources. We were left to figure it out."

She and her partner, Rhett Aucoin, 30, signed Cecilia up for occupational, physical and speech therapy, but after a year with no progress, Johnson realized the traditional approach wasn't working.

Determined to find something more effective, Johnson, a Boynton Beach stay-at-home mom, began researching alternative therapies. She discovered the Adeli Method — an intensive therapy program originally developed for Russian astronauts to counteract the effects of zero gravity.

The method uses an elastic exoskeleton suit that adds vertical load, improves trunk stability, compensates for weak muscle groups and helps the body relearn proper proprioception — the sense of self movement and body position. For children with extreme muscle weakness or tightness, it can help the brain make new connections to the body.

Cecilia completed a three-week session, five days a week, three hours a day, and the results, Johnson says, were "crazy."

Before the program, Johnson had been in what she describes as the biggest depression of her life, terrified of what her daughter's future might look like. But within weeks, Cecilia was close to sitting unassisted, was able to pull herself into a



Physical therapist Elizabeth Keith (left) attends a fundraiser at Old School Square with Sydney Johnson and Cecilia to help defray the costs of Cecilia's treatment for cerebral palsy. Cecilia turns 3 this month. **BELOW:** Volunteers Ava Capuano and Rebecca Catey staffed a table at the event, which raised almost \$25,000. **Photos by Jan Engoren/The Coastal Star**



crawling position, take steps with a walker, and feed herself finger foods. She also showed improved eye tracking.

"So much progress in such a short period of time," Johnson says. "It shot me out of my depression."

But she also knew that without continued therapy, progress could slip away.

The challenge was cost. Even two days a week of therapy quickly became financially overwhelming.

To defray costs, raise

awareness and help others in a similar situation, Johnson organized a community fundraiser through sponsor Hope Warriors Inc., and her budding nonprofit, Friends of Cecilia, in January at Old School Square, Delray Beach.

Dozens of volunteers in "Friends of Cecilia" T-shirts were out and about lending a hand.

Two of them, Ava Capuano, 28, and Rebecca Catey, 26, who works as a barista at Bond Street Ale and Coffee in Boynton Beach, were staffing the visitors table.

"Sydney is the light in the community," says Catey. "She worked hard to put on this event

and we're happy to volunteer and raise awareness for her so she can get the help she needs for Cecilia."

With more than 40 vendors, four food trucks, a Kids Zone and pediatric therapy providers on-site, Johnson raised almost \$25,000 out of a goal of \$40,000 — enough to support Cecilia's treatment for the next eight months. She also plans to fund a scholarship for another child to attend an intensive program offering specialized treatment options often excluded from insurance coverage.

Johnson expects to have a 501(c)(3) designation for her Friends of Cecilia Inc., in three to six months, paving the way for another fundraiser.

Cecilia, who turns 3 in March, receives therapy four days a week with Elizabeth "Beth" Keith, 54, at Young Body Rehab in Palm Beach Gardens. Her treatment includes aquatic, occupational and speech therapy. She also has hippotherapy at Vinceremos in Loxahatchee, where she rides a small pony to strengthen her core.

"Cecilia reminds us to slow down and hear the truth behind every voice," says Keith. "She's so lighthearted in her observations and comments, I can't help but be uplifted by her."

The two have worked together for almost a year on "targeted intervention," or knowing what to do first that will have the most impact, Keith says.

She looks ahead to preventing future issues such as joint problems or scoliosis, which can result from difficulties in moving.

Despite severe muscle weakness, Cecilia has no cognitive delays, her mother says. She speaks in short sentences — "I take bath tub now, Mommy" — and is, Johnson says, incredibly smart, patient and motivated.

"She wants to be able to walk so badly," Johnson says. "She loves to work and learn and is eager to do more things."

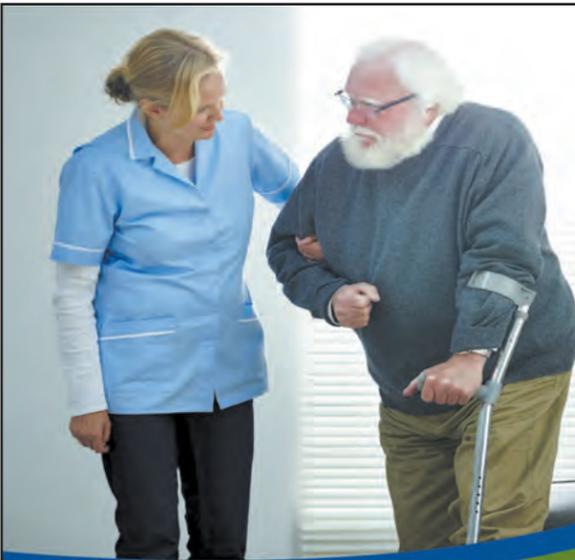
For Johnson, the most meaningful part of this journey is watching her daughter's determination. "It's the best feeling in the whole world to see her making progress," she says.

And now she hopes to help other families feel that same hope. By sharing Cecilia's progress so openly, Johnson hopes other families feel less alone while navigating their own challenges.

Visit hopewarriorsinc.org to learn more about what it does.

Jan Engoren writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.





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Health Notes

Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group welcomes new surgeon

Cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Melissa Levack has joined the Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group. She is on staff at Delray Medical Center and Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center. Levack focuses on aortic and valve disease. She has earned numerous honors for clinical excellence and investigation, and has presented her work nationally and internationally. Levack's office is at 5352 Linton Blvd., Suite 100, Delray Beach.



Levack

HCA Florida JFK Hospital makes top 5% for third year in a row

HCA Florida JFK Hospital was recently named one of America's 250 Best Hospitals by Healthgrades, placing the hospital in the top 5% of U.S. hospitals for clinical performance based on patient outcomes for the third year in a row.

New operating room to help robotic, other surgical procedures

Delray Medical Center has opened a state-of-the-art, \$1.9 million operating room designed to support advanced robotic and minimally invasive procedures. The operating room is

equipped to support specialties that include urology, breast surgery, general surgery, ENT, thoracic surgery and interventional pulmonology.

Biotech company closes deal on surgical, wound-care division

BioStem Technologies Inc., a biotechnology company with plans to move to Boca Raton, closed on a \$15 million cash purchase of the surgical and wound care division of BioTissue Holdings Inc., with the potential for an additional regulatory milestone payment of up to \$10 million for achieving 510(k) clearance for a new product, and

potential commercial royalty milestone payments of up to \$15 million.

The deal includes BioTissue's trademarked Neox and Clarix product lines, which are used to promote wound healing and generated about \$29 million in sales last year, according to company figures. BioStem, currently based in Pompano Beach, purchased 4 acres in the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton for a new headquarters last year, with support from local incentives.

Send health news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 7

Saturday - 3/7 - Morning Beach Yoga at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Every Sat 8-9 am. \$20/person. Tickets: 561-330-3775; eventbrite.com/e/sunrise-beach-yoga-tickets-336433921917

3/7 - 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

3/7 - Zumba Class at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

3/7 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/7 - 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

3/7 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

MARCH 8-14

Sunday - 3/8 - 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

3/8 - 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 - 3/9 - Stretch & Strengthening Mindfulness Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every M/W 10 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/9 - 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 - 3/10 - Yoga with Sophia at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 3/24 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/10 - 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 - 3/11 - Tai Chi Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/11 - Yoga at the Library at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Every W/F, 10 am & 11 am. \$350/members; \$450/non-members. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

3/11 - 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

3/11 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: The Choreography of Life: What a Protein's "Dance" Says About Health & Disease w/ Dorothee Kern, Ph.D. 1-hour virtual lecture. 7 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu

Thursday - 3/12 - LGBTQ+ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101

NW 22nd St. Every Th 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

3/12 - Alateen Meeting at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

MARCH 15-21

Sunday - 3/15 - Sound Healing at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$20/member; \$40/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Tuesday - 3/17 - Chair Yoga at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T 10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

MARCH 22-30

Thursday - 3/26 - 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

Saturday - 3/28 - Gathering in Care: A Death Cafe at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake

Worth Beach. Part of the Being Well, Well Being series. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

Monday - 3/30 - Seminar: Understanding Substance Use & Behavioral Disorders: A Compassionate Look at the How? and Why Me? of Addiction w/ Gail Horton at FAU 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



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On the Water

A is for amber, J is for jack — reel them in quickly around a wreck

Anglers looking for a fight will have their hands full trying to reel in an amberjack.

The big, tough fish are concentrated around deep artificial reefs off South Florida now through May, which makes hooking an AJ, as the species is commonly referred to, relatively easy.

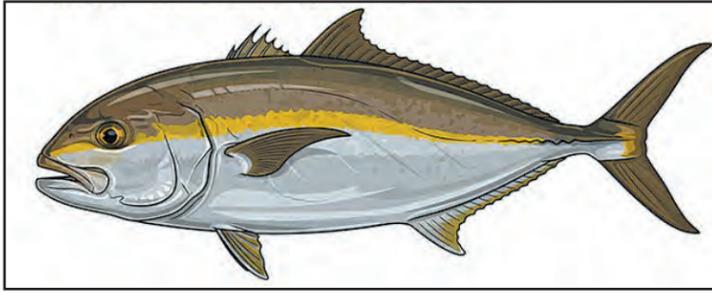
Landing one is the real challenge.

After taking a bait or lure, amberjacks tend to head straight for the wreck. If they make it, that's pretty much the end of the fight, because it's next to impossible to pull them out or the fishing line will break on the wreck.

The key for anglers is to reel furiously as soon as they set the hook in an AJ to get the fish safely away from the wreck. Even then, though, the powerful fish can take line as if the reel's in free spool, so it's critical for anglers to keep pressure on an AJ and keep it coming to the boat.

That's even more essential when jigging with metal or butterfly jigs, which can cost from \$7 to \$25. A good day jigging wrecks for AJs can cost you \$100 in lures.

The best thing about butterfly or flutter jigging, as



Amberjack can weigh in at 50 pounds or more, and are well known for the fight they put up.



Ralph Montalvo with Greg Haskin, who holds an amberjack he caught on a wreck in local waters. Photos provided

opposed to dropping live baits around wrecks, is that you can fish more efficiently.

Capt. Corey McBride likes to lower a jig just above a wreck, then quickly jig it back up.

"Just lift up the rod and reel down as fast as you can," said McBride, who fishes wrecks in 150-300 feet. "You can never go too fast."

If an AJ doesn't bite and the boat is still above the wreck, drop the jig back down and try again. Be advised that the

technique can wear out an angler after a dozen drops, which is usually when a 50-pound or bigger amberjack hits the jig.

The jigs can be fished on conventional and spinning outfits, preferably with 50- to 65-pound braided line. And they don't just catch amberjacks. McBride has caught almaco jacks, cobias, groupers, blackfin tunas and kingfish while jigging wrecks. GPS coordinates and maps

of artificial reefs — typically large boats deliberately sunk offshore to create habitat on sandy bottom where none exists — are available at myfwc.com/conservation/saltwater/artificial-reefs.

Among the best wrecks for amberjacks are many of the more than two dozen artificial reefs sunk off Deerfield Beach and Pompano Beach by the old Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo. There are a handful of scattered reefs off Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach.

On a wreck-fishing trip out of Boca Raton Inlet, Capt. Rick Redeker said that deeper wrecks often are better than shallower wrecks because they receive less fishing pressure. So if you start shallow and fishing is slow, don't hesitate to fish farther offshore.

"If you can't catch an amberjack on one wreck, move to another until you find them," Redeker said. "There's so many wrecks out there."

His favorite bait for amberjacks is a small live bonito, which he catches by trolling a string of small jigs and spoons. Live blue runners and goggle-eyes also are effective, and grunts and pinfish will usually work.

We used 50-pound outfits with 200-pound braided line with a three-way swivel. The swivel was tied to a 10- to 20-foot leader of 80- to 130-pound monofilament with a big circle hook and a short piece of 40- or 50-pound monofilament attached to a lead sinker of 8 to 16 ounces, the weight depending on the strength of the current.

Redeker positioned his boat so the bait dropped to the bottom on the edge of the wreck instead of in the wreck. That way, when an AJ was hooked, Redeker could drive away from the wreck to improve the odds of getting the fish to the boat.

If you want to keep an amberjack, the daily bag limit in the Atlantic Ocean is one per person and the size limit is 28 inches from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail. The season is open all year except for the month of April, when it's closed.



Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 7

Saturday - 3/7 - 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
3/7-8 - Nature Connections at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Get in touch with the wild side of Florida. Meet in the amphitheater for a short presentation featuring our native flora and fauna All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Every Sat/Sun 11-11:15 am. Free. 561-544-8605;

myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

MARCH 8-14

Tuesday - 3/10 - 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
Wednesday - 3/11 - EcoWatch Lecture Series: Answering the Call: Inside Gumbo Limbo's Sea Turtle Rescue Hotline w/ David Anderson at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd,

Boca Raton. Ages 13 & up; child under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47
Saturday - 3/14 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 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

MARCH 15-21

Sunday - 3/15 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. For experienced paddlers ages 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
Wednesday - 3/25 - EcoWatch Lecture Series: Lagoon Drift w/ Laura Jessop at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13 & up; child under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47
Thursday - 3/26 - 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. Ages 10+; child must

be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47
Friday - 3/27 - 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. 6-7:30 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47
Saturday - 3/28 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course at Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. Park, 2010 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 8 am-3 pm. \$35/paypal; \$30/cash. 561-312-6439; birdlover5@bellsouth.net
- 3/28-29 - 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. Ages 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

MARCH 29-APRIL 4

Wednesday - 4/1 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about seashells, the animals that make them. Caravan to Red Reef Park, 1400 N State Rd A1A, to search for ocean treasures. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47
Saturday - 4/4 - Family Fun Snorkel at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Snorkel shallow intracoastal waters, study animals sheltered/protected from ocean's dangers. Bring your own snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Ages 10-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration required: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org



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Finding Faith

Cason's luncheon of love shows how much kids can care

On Valentine's Day, more than two dozen children from the youth programs at Cason United Methodist Church in Delray Beach donned red aprons and white gloves to serve a festive lunch to nearly 50 guests.

The sold-out lunch, which filled Fellowship Hall with lively chatter and laughter, raised more than \$800 for kids in foster care. Guests filled tables decorated with flowers and handmade party favors. A feast featuring a fruit cup, pasta salad, sandwiches, chips and dessert was served by the young waitstaff.

The event was a cooperative effort of Cason Kids Care, for ages 5-11, and the newer God Squad, for kids 12 and older. Both are led by Emily Popolizio and a team of helpers.

Popolizio, who taught elementary school for 41 years in Massachusetts, established Cason Kids Care five years ago when she saw a void in children's programming at the church.

"I said, I'll try something. So I pulled together a group of parents, grandparents and teachers and said, 'What do you want for your kids?' What I found out was, no matter where people were on the spectrum of organized religion, they wanted their kids to be decent human beings, to have a sense of moral justice. So, I started a program that addressed those needs."

Cason Kids Care meets on Saturdays twice a month to learn about people less fortunate. The topic of kids in foster care climaxed with the luncheon.

Cason Kids Care started with nine members and grew to 28 over the next three years. Then, as kids aged out of the first program, Miss Emily started the God Squad, which meets on Sundays, for those older than 12. Cason Kids has 21 regular attendees, and the God Squad has 11 members. Not all of them attend Cason.

Miss Emily has a team of helpers, including sisters Cathy Commagere and Patti Alexander, plus a trio of ladies she can always count on to lend a hand. Betty Crane, Sandi Schmidt and Loreley Hinderling, who also volunteer in the church office, made buckets of pasta salad, carefully following a recipe for uniformity. "We like to help," Betty said.

Alex Higgs, an eighth-grader at Don Estridge Middle School, is a member of God Squad and a former Cason Kid. He said he likes "that I'm doing something good. I feel bad for the kids who don't have homes."

Alex's sister, Kayla Higgs, is known as "the girl who does everything for everybody." She supervised Isaac Durr as the young servers took the people's orders, delivered their drinks and food, and cleared away the dishes when they were done.

Isaac was nervous, but he didn't show it. He deftly delivered cups of sweet tea and lemonade, and Kayla said, "Isaac did a really good job. I was proud of him."

Popolizio agreed. "I was just so filled with pride for the kids. To me, it's refreshing to see kids really step up to the plate. A couple of them said, 'Oh, I'm so nervous,' but I told them, 'Jesus is in your back pocket. Just say quickly, Jesus, give me some courage here, and you'll be able to handle it.' And they certainly did. They really did such a great job."

Also stepping up was God Squad member Ciela Caycho, a budding entrepreneur who made the cake pops the kids served for dessert. She embraced the process of dipping molded cake in chocolate, handcrafting and wrapping more than 50 cake pops for the luncheon.

Popolizio, who will be 80 this year, "has so much passion and energy," Commagere said. "She's so organized, it's hard for anything to go wrong."

Teaching tough concepts

Experts say teaching kids principles of kindness and empathy leads to acts of compassion. But it doesn't happen automatically. It's tough to teach kids about concepts that, as adults, we don't understand ourselves. Educator Dr. Jennie Warmouth wrote in an education blog for National Geographic that empathy is "the ability to perceive, understand, and vicariously share in the thoughts, feelings and experiences of another living being."

Simply put, empathy comes back to that old adage of walking a mile in another man's shoes.

But we don't just want kids to acknowledge their feelings, Warmouth said. We want to motivate them to compassionate action, to help another in distress.

"The great news," Warmouth wrote, "is that empathy can be developed, strengthened, and reinforced throughout our lives."

Popolizio says, "In the deepest, darkest recess of their hearts, there is a feeling of wanting to be good and wanting to understand and wanting to help. And if you can tap into that, it grows. I think there's something inside all of us, but it does need to be nurtured and explored and helped and encouraged to grow. That's the answer, I think."

Each month, Cason Kids Care has a theme like homelessness or hunger, but this was the first time Popolizio tackled foster care. Each unit has two components: an introduction to the topic the first week and an activity or action that puts that theme into perspective for the second meeting. The Valentine's Day lunch was the first time Miss Emily's groups took on such a



ABOVE: Emily Popolizio with the Cason Kids Chorus, which sang at what the church dubbed the Intergenerational Love Luncheon.



LEFT: Kayla Higgs (in blue), working with Isaac Durr, takes lunch orders from a table with Mable McDonough (left) and Jill Pettrille. McDonough, 99, is an icon at Cason UMC. Pettrille is her granddaughter. Photos provided

large project.

To introduce the topic, Popolizio said, "I read books to the kids, and I use video clips and then ask kids what they are feeling or thinking. Sometimes I do puppet shows. They get very caught up in caring for other people. To me, that's the best part of it, the way they become when they're tuned in to the plight of other people."

Popolizio learned long ago that "the best thing to do when you're suffering is get up and serve others and do something. That really pulled me through most of my life," she said. When you're focusing on someone else it's impossible to wallow in your own self-pity.

Empathy for the elderly is a favorite lesson for the group because it comes with a lot of good-natured laughter. "We do experiential learning that shows what it feels like to be old," Popolizio said.

Miss Emily gives each child a purse and sets up a pretend store. She has the kids tape popsicle sticks to their fingers, put gravel in their shoes and wear nonprescription glasses smeared with Vaseline to mimic the quagmires of aging their elderly friends and family face. "They were challenged just

trying to get the money out of the wallet," Popolizio laughed.

For the unit on foster care, Popolizio introduced the kids to 4KIDS.org.

4KIDS Palm Beach (4kids.us/locations/palm-beach) opened in 2006 with a goal of supporting and recruiting foster families in Palm Beach County. Its mission is "to provide loving, Christian homes for these children, keep siblings together, and give hope and healing to kids, teens, and families through prevention and therapy services."

In 2023, there were nearly 1,000 kids living apart from their families in Palm Beach County. Half of them were under 5 years old. Statewide, the number of kids living in "out-of-home placement" exceeded

17,000 kids. The numbers are staggering, but the kids got the message.

"When encouraged, the kids' spirit for helping others is there," Popolizio said. "I think that's the intrinsic goodness that God places in all of us, and hopefully they grow up with a social conscience to right some of the wrongs. You can't fix everything, but in the long run, acts of kindness and empathy for others is going to save all of us."

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at fontaine423@outlook.com.



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Religion Notes

Temple Beth El to host former CEO of American Jewish Committee

David Harris, a Jewish activist who was CEO of the American Jewish Committee from 1990 to 2022, will speak about “Antisemitism: Where Are We Today and Where Are We Going,” at 7 p.m. March 11 at the Schaefer Family Campus of Temple Beth El, 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton.

The late Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres called him the “foreign minister of the Jewish people.” Harris has been honored more than 20 times by foreign governments for his international work, making him the most decorated American Jewish organizational leader in U.S. history.

Harris also will discuss his recently published

book, *Antisemitism: What Everyone Needs to Know*, and will share his insights and answer questions.

The event is free, but registration is required at tbeoca.org/event/antisemitism-where-we-are-today-and-where-we-are-going-with-guest-speaker-david-harris/. You can also call 561-391-8900.

Community seders planned to mark Passover

Pesach or Passover, the eight-day Jewish holiday that celebrates the Jewish emancipation from Egyptian slavery, begins before sundown on April 1 and ends after nightfall on April 9.

The holiday is celebrated with a seder meal featuring traditional foods and strictly devoid of any leaven. It also includes retelling the story of the Exodus.

Some local chabads and

synagogues have community events planned where members and guests can enjoy a special Passover seder:

L’Dor Va-Dor’s Community Pre-Passover Seder Luncheon — 1-4 p.m. March 29; 6100 Boynton Beach Blvd., Boynton Beach. A meaningful and musical Passover Seder with all the traditions and foods specific to the holiday. Music and song will be provided by Cantor Carol Garrett. Reservations are required at 561-968-0688. Info: ldorvadors.org/events/ldor-va-dors-community-pre-passover-seder-luncheon-boynton-beach-save-the-date/

Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County’s First Night Passover Seder — 6 p.m. April 1; 2475 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Conducted by Rabbi Steven Moss and Cantorial Soloist Shir Rozzen, enjoy a traditional Passover

menu with a Seder Plate on each table. Members: \$85 adults, \$35 ages 12 and younger. Nonmembers: \$90 adults, \$36 ages 12 and younger. Reservations are required at 561-276-6161, Ext. 128 or register online at templesinaipbc.net/#Seder.

A First Night Community Passover Seder at Temple Adath Or — 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 1; 440 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. “From Mitzrayim to Moonlight” will feature the Exodus drama and community seder with traditional food. Parking is available at Trinity Lutheran’s back Early Childhood lot. Contact Rebekah at rebekah@taocenter.net or 404-217-4331.

Temple Beth El’s Classic 80s Second Night Passover Seder with Rabbi Dan Levin and Cantor Lori Brock — 5:30 p.m. April 2; 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton.

Mixes the timeless story of Passover with the modern music and neon colors of the ‘80s. Dust off your leg warmers, tease your big hair and celebrate with the temple’s band. Members: \$95 adults, \$55 ages 4-12, \$25 ages 3 and younger. Guests: \$110 adults, \$65 ages 4-12, \$35 ages 3 and younger. The prices increase by \$10 on March 18. Registration closes at noon March 25. Register online at tbeoca.org/event/passover-second-night-seder-with-rabbi-dan-levin-and-cantor-lori-brock/ or call 561-391-8900.

Cason concert to celebrate keyboard partnership

Cason United Methodist Church presents the 20th Anniversary Organ & Piano Concert by Ed Krynicki and Elaine Reinhardt at 3 p.m. March 15 at the church, 342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach.

These talented musicians, who have been playing together for 20 years, plan to perform spiritual and classical renditions of beloved works. A reception in their honor follows the concert. A love offering will be taken to help with the restoration of the pipe organ. Call 561-276-5302.

Miami Dolphins legend joins with CROS Ministries

Miami Dolphins Hall of Famer Dwight Stephenson joined local nonprofit CROS Ministries as its guest at the inaugural Jeans & Jerseys event on Jan. 31 at Coastal Karma Brewing Co. in Lake Park.

Chaired by Joe Black and emceed by CBS 12’s Jack Wu, the evening blended football with raising money to help end food insecurity.

CEO Ruth Mageria told the gathering, “About 192,000 individuals here in Palm Beach County struggle to make ends meet and have food on their table, and CROS wants to make sure people have food to eat. Not just during the holidays, not just during the summer but all year round.”

CROS has a 48-year legacy of service and leadership in the fight against hunger, running programs six days a week and including food pantries at 10 locations, hot meal services, and gleaming initiatives that recover fresh produce from local farms.

Grace event will bring attention to foster care

Grace Community Church will host a free family-friendly event with local bands, personal stories, an artist, and a spoken word poet at 5-7 p.m. March 8 at the church, 600 W. Camino Real, Boca Raton.

The principal sponsor is the Declare No More Foundation, whose traveling events engage churches and other organizations to bring attention to the nearly 400,000 kids in

Continued on the next page

PLACES OF WORSHIP DIRECTORY

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ST. LUCY CATHOLIC CHURCH 3510 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, FL 33487 • Phone: 561-278-1280 • Web: stlucy.net • Daily Masses: Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. • Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH 643 NE 4th Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone 561-734-9330 • Web: stmarkboynton.com • Daily Masses: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. • Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 (Spanish).

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST 566 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33432 • 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.

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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.

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CHABAD OF EAST DELRAY 101 SE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444 • Phone: 954-283-7261 • Web: Jewisheastdelray.com • Rabbi Shmuel Biston. • Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

TEMPLE SINAI OF PBC 2475 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33445 • Phone: 561-276-6161 • Web: templesinaipbc.org • Rabbi Steven Moss & Cantorial Soloist Shir Rozzen • Friday Service: 7:30 p.m.; Saturday Service: 10:30 a.m.

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. See ad this section for Easter Services

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

CHURCH OF THE PALMS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 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.

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOYNTON BEACH 235 SW 6th Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone: 561-732-3774 • Web: fpcboynton.org • Services: Sundays at 10 a.m. in-person; live streamed on You Tube 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.

Religious institutions of all faiths are invited to be included in this paid feature. For more info, call 561-704-7834.

foster care in the United States. The event will feature expert speakers in the field.

“Our goal is to put as many faces to the need as possible, and to provide as many opportunities as possible for people to connect to what is needed and respond to that need with action,” foundation co-founder Tami Kent says. “We want every person who comes to the event, whether they are in college, retired, or any stage of life in between, to see how they can personally make a difference in the life of a child.”

Learn how churches can aid push for affordable housing

“New Ground: Transforming Faith-based Land Into Affordable Housing” is the topic of discussion at a seminar from 9 a.m. to noon March 19 at the André Fladell Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach.

Learn more about YIGBY legislation. YIGBY is an acronym for “Yes In God’s Backyard” and a direct response to the NIMBY (Not in My Backyard)-like movement that opposes the development of affordable housing and necessary infrastructure in certain areas.

Discover how faith-based organizations are leading a charge to develop housing on church properties which will help break the cycle of homelessness. The Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County and Faith in Action plan to attend.

The free event is organized by Palm Beach County Community Services. Register at lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/qmeyz2x. For more information, call 561-355-4700 or email communityservices@pbcgov.org.

Boca church partners with nonprofit to host job fair

Better Together is partnering with the International Bible Church to host a community job fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 19 at the church, 470 NW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton.

Better Together (bettertogetherus.org) is a privately funded, Naples-based nonprofit. Its mission is

to build strong families and communities by helping parents going through hard times keep their kids out of foster care, find work and address the causes of their struggles so that they can reunite as a family.

Better Together started by asking: What if the church got there first — to catch families before they fall? Now the organization works with churches, employers and neighbors to build a volunteer-powered safety net that parents can trust for help. The job fair features free one-on-one coaching sessions and résumé reviews along with prospective employers.

Registration is open for job seekers and employers, which include AWP Safety, Pollo Tropical, Ring Power and the School District of Palm Beach County. Register at BetterTogetherUS.org/IntBible or text “JOBS” to 844-987-3949.

‘Revelation’ class offered at Spanish River Church

David Cassidy, lead pastor at Spanish River Church, will teach a five-week adult learning series on the Book of Revelation, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday evenings, April 8 through May 6.

Explore what the Bible really says about the second coming of Christ, cutting through confusion with clear, Scripture-based teaching. Each week will include an opportunity to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussion.

Classes take place in the Connect Center Auditorium at the church, 2400 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Child care is available for kids up to age 5. Register at spanishriver.com/study. For more information, call 561-994-5000 or email hello@spanishriver.com.

Join Yoga Mass and Sacred Movement at St. Gregory’s

St. Gregory’s Episcopal continues to offer two programs that combine movement and prayer. At 4 p.m. March 19, 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.

At 4 p.m. March 28, join Yoga Mass in St. Mary’s Chapel, a combination of graceful yoga, words of faith and contemplative meditation with the Rev. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren and Neville leading.

For both events, bring a yoga mat and water. The church is at 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Call 561-395-8285 or email rneville@st-gregorys.com.

Retreat to teach skills of Byzantine chant

The Young Aspiring Chanters are hosting a retreat March 6-8 to educate, inspire and unite the next generation of Orthodox chanters in an attempt to preserve the sacred art of Byzantine chant for generations to come.

The retreat at St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church, 2100 Yamato Road in Boca Raton, is hosted by the Chant Stand, a nonprofit that teaches the skills required for chanting the sacred hymns of the Orthodox Church. The retreat’s classes, for ages 18 to 35, are taught by Samuel Herron and John Michael Boyer, who are protopsaltis, a kind of choir director.

The retreat will feature interactive workshops, meals, course materials and certificate of participation. Registration (\$100) is at thechantstand.org.

St. Lucy Catholic Church seeking more ushers

Father Brian Horgan at St. Lucy Catholic Church in Highland Beach sent out a call in the church bulletin for ushers. He wrote, “Ushers serve in a unique way. They are often the first to greet those who enter the church, offering a word of welcome and assistance.

“During Mass, they help with seating, collections, and attending to the needs of parishioners. They also assist in maintaining a sense of order and awareness, helping to ensure that our worship may take place in a prayerful and respectful atmosphere. In many ways, ushers are a visible sign of

hospitality and care for all who come to worship. At present, we are in serious need of additional ushers.”

If you feel called to help, contact Chris Sifuentes, parish operations manager, at 561-278-1280 to register.

The church also has two festive (and delicious) events in March. At 6 p.m. March 14 in Parish Hall, the St. Lucy Sisterhood hosts “La Dolce Vita Dinner and Dance” with food and wine, door prizes and live music. Tickets are \$100.

The Brotherhood of St. Lucy invites everyone to its annual Lenten Fish Fry, which is offered 5-7 p.m. Fridays through March 27 in Parish Hall.

This year promises to be better than ever with no charge for the meal. In the true spirit of Lent and Christian generosity, donations are welcome and will help support the charitable and spiritual works of the parish.

St. Lucy is at 3510 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. Call 561-278-1280 or visit stlucy.net.

Pop-opera trio to play at First Presbyterian Church

The First Delray Concert Series at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach continues with “The Latin Divos... and Friends” at 4 p.m. March 29 at the church, 33 Gleason St. The pop-opera trio Fernando Gonzales, Ernesto Cabrera and Will Corujo will be joined by instrumentalists on piano, saxophone, violin, bass, guitar and percussion, as well as special guest vocalist Gabriela Corujo. Tickets are \$20 each, available at firstdelray.com/concerts/upcoming-concerts.

Lou Ann Frala contributed to this column.

— Janis Fontaine

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- Dr. K.D.



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Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 8-14

Sunday - 3/8 - Zoom Bible Study at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: communications#accboca.net; 561-997-5486; ascensionboca.org

Monday - 3/9 - 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

3/9 - 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 - 3/10 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 3/11 - 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; stgregorysepisopal.org

3/11 - 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

Thursday - 3/12 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee presented by Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Phone meeting (605-475-6006, passcode 3031030). Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

3/12 - 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

3/12 - 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; stgregorysepisopal.org

Friday - 3/13 - 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

3/13 - 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

3/13 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaipbc.org

APRIL

4/1 - Passover - Starts at sundown

4/4 - Good Friday

4/5 - Easter Sunrise Service, Look for our full guide in the April edition.

Welcome to Ascension Lutheran Church
It is time to take the Lenten Journey together!



Please join us for our special Lenten Series, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter

LENTEN SERIES BY PASTOR ROBERT SCHAEFER - Wednesdays at noon in the church sanctuary

- March 4: The Apostles Creed
- March 11: The Lord’s Prayer
- March 18: Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- March 25: Sacrament of Holy Communion

Please join us for our special services on Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

Palm Sunday, March 29: The blessings of the Palms leading us into Holy Week, 10:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 2: Service of Hand Washing, Holy Communion & stripping of the Altar, 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 3: The 9 Shadows and Mary Magdalene Speaks, 7:00pm

Easter Morning, April 5: Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord!, 10:30am

Special Music by Dr. Kirsten Hellman, Guest Musicians, Handbell and Chancel Choirs

Please join us as we move from sadness to the great joy of Easter Morning.

We are pleased to announce our Pastors serving Ascension during these special days:
The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Vice Pastor and the Rev. David E. Dangerfield, Affiliated Pastor

Every Sunday Morning
Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

For further information please call 561-732-2929
2929 S. Seacrest Boulevard., Boynton Beach
Please visit our website www.ascensionlutheranchurch.net
and like us on Facebook: Ascension Lutheran Church, Boynton Beach

Paws Up for Pets

Pets here in paradise face almost year-round allergy season

Itch. Scratch. Lick. Sneeze. Repeat.
The arrival of spring signals the start of allergy season across the country for far too many dogs and cats. But here in Palm Beach County, allergy issues occur year-round thanks to our warm climate.

“In South Florida, allergy season feels like it never really ends,” says Brianna Gaines, DVM, of Healthy Pets Boca North in Boca Raton. “Our warm climate means pollens, grasses and environmental allergens are around almost year-round. It can be tough to predict which seasonal shift will trigger a flare-up.”

Often, she must tap into her inner pet detective to identify the cause and then provide the right treatment to relieve pets contending with allergies.

Pets contending with a yet-to-be-identified allergen show signs that can include:

- Sneezing frequently and displaying watery eyes.
- Intensely scratching their bodies.
- Excessively licking paws and bodies.
- Nibbling on their paws or skin to the point of causing rashes and open sores.
- Developing lumps or bumps on the skin.
- Constantly rubbing their faces or ears.

Environmental allergens and fleas can and do menace pets in South Florida year-round. Topping the list locally are:

Tree pollen: Juniper, bald cypress, oak, pine and mango pollen can trigger skin irritation and other health issues in pets.

Grasses and weeds: High pollen counts can be found in common Florida grasses, led by Bermuda and Bahia as well as weeds, such as dog fennel and ragweed.

Mold and mildew: Our humid climate enables mold spores to thrive in landscaping.



Dr. Brianna Gaines with her cat, Willow. Gaines, a veterinarian in Boca Raton, says diagnosing pet allergies can be tricky and time-consuming, but pets may display symptoms such as intense scratching, excessive licking and writhing on their backs (at right). **Photos provided**



Fleas: They thrive here year-round because there is never a truly hard freeze to disrupt the fleas’ egg production.

“Flea allergies are also incredibly common here and can make everything worse,” says Gaines. “Even one flea bite can send an allergic pet into a full flare-up. Unfortunately, many over-the-counter

preventatives aren’t as reliable as they used to be. Prescription flea prevention is really the best way to stay ahead of the problem.”

Some pets can also be allergic to certain foods or even lawn chemicals, such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. That’s why it is vital to work closely with your veterinarian to provide necessary tests to pinpoint the culprit.

“Skin problems can snowball quickly,” says Gaines. “The earlier we intervene, the easier they are to manage. Remember, the skin is the largest organ in the body. It takes time to heal.”

Be ready to practice patience in the quest to find the cause. That often requires your veterinarian to analyze blood and skin samples and to perform other diagnostic tests.

Practice these at-home tips

Be proactive for your pet’s sake to mitigate allergic reactions. Strive to:

- Get in the habit of using pet wipes or a damp cloth to wipe away any pollen on your dog’s fur and paws after each walk.
- Bathe your dog regularly with hypoallergenic pet shampoos designed to remove allergens from the skin.
- Make sure your dog and cat receive veterinarian-approved flea and tick preventative medication year-round.
- Invest in HEPA air filters and vacuum often to combat indoor allergens.

Learn more

Healthy Pets Boca North provides an array of dermatology services for pets. The clinic also offers an in-depth section on skin issues that can be found at this link: healthypetsbocanorth.com/pet-dermatology-boca-raton-fl/.

You can also learn more dermatological info by visiting this link provided by the veterinary team at Colonial Animal Hospital in Boynton Beach: colonialanimalhospital.com/dermatology/.

In the era of quick answers found on Google or ChatGPT, Gaines recommends that pet parents seek guidance from their veterinarians.

“We all want quick answers,” she says. “But when it comes to skin issues, it’s best to skip the over-the-counter supplements, random diet changes and topical treatments, and go straight to your veterinarian.”

She adds, “Dermatology is especially interesting because it’s rarely a one-and-done fix. There is no exact cure for the allergic dog. Managing their allergies is an ongoing process.”

In finding relief for your pet, “the biggest challenge is that it often takes time — and a bit of trial and error — to figure out what works,” Gaines says.

“We may try different tests, topicals, diets, oral medications or injectables before we land on the right combination. But when we finally crack the code and a pet who has been miserable is suddenly comfortable again, it’s the best feeling.”

Arden Moore is an author, pet podcast show host and master certified pet first aid instructor.

Check out her sites: petfirstaid4u.com and ardenmoore.com.





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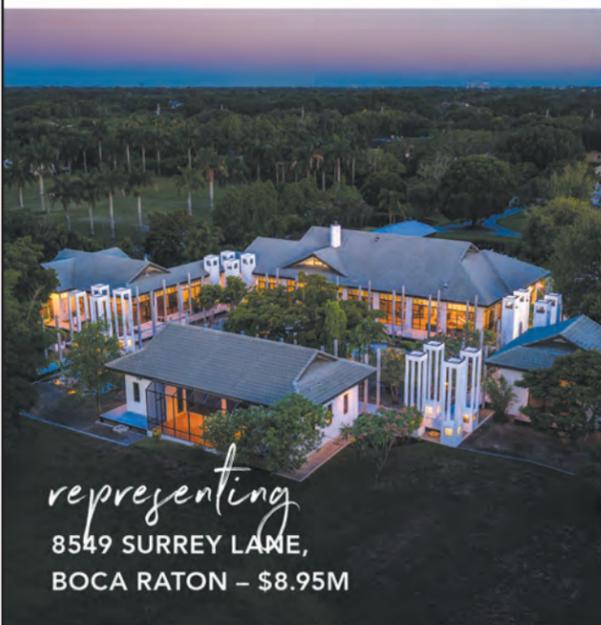
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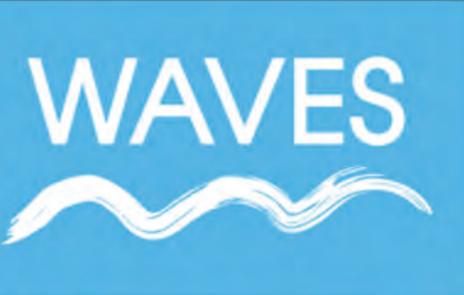
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Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 7

Saturday - 3/7 - Baby Sensory Play at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 3-12 mos. 10-11 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/7 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Sat. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

3/7 - Fun on Wheels at Catherine Strong Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. City of Delray Beach Parks & Recreation invites families for a morning of outdoor fun designed especially for kids ages 2-8. Bring your scooters, power wheels, and bicycles and enjoy riding along the walking trail, making new friends, and staying active in a safe environment. Light snacks provided. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-243-7197; mydelraybeach.com

3/7 - 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

MARCH 8-14

Sunday - 3/8 - 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

3/8 - 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

3/8 - Tween Graphic Novel Book Talk: I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912 at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Monday - 3/9 - 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

3/9-11 - 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 - 3/10 - Young @ Art at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create fun arts/crafts, learn principles of art. Ages 6-8. Held again 3/12 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/10 - Teen Book Club: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 3/24. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/10 - 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 - 3/11 - 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

3/11 - 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

T&T - Thursday - 3/12 - 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

3/12 - Make & Take: St. Patrick's Day Button Clover at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 3/13 - Rhythm Explorers at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 10-11:15 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

3/13 - STEM Specialty Program: Photosynthesis at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-10. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 3/14 - 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

3/14 - 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

MARCH 15-21

Sunday - 3/15 - Art For Everyone at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-12. 2-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Monday - 3/16 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 11 am-12:30 pm 3/28. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/16 - Teen Movie Night: Dune (2021) at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

3/16-18 - Spring Break Nature Days at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Games, crafts, educational activities. Ages 6-8. Separate registration required for each day. 8:30 am-noon. Per day \$30/member & resident; \$38/non-member. Reservations/prepayment required: 561-544-8615; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Tuesday - 3/17 - Toddler Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-24 mos. Held again 3/31. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/17 - Lab Rats at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/17 - Mario Kart Tournament at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 3/19 - 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

3/19 - Bilingual Storytime at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Ages 5 & under. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/19 - 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

3/19 - Picture Book Club: Good Golden Sun by Brendan Wenzel at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 3/21 - STEM Camp: Forces in Flight at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/21 - 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

3/21 - Class: Sketchbook Creation & Museum Drawing at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Create a handmade sketchbook and use it to draw and take notes throughout the exhibition. Ages 6-12. 2-3 pm. \$15/child. 561-654-2220; eventeny.com/events/gillespie-workshop-for-kids-25384

MARCH 22-28

Sunday - 3/22 - Booktastic Book Talk: Sparrow Rising 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 - 3/23 - Baby Story Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes & songs. Ages 6-12 months. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/23 - Gaming Guild at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/23 - Giant UNO! Game Night at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Every T 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Tuesday - 3/24 - Toddler Tales at Boca

Continued on next page





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Delray Reads

Orchard View Elementary, Delray Beach — Feb. 26



Fifth-grade students at Orchard View Elementary read poems to the adult volunteers who were on hand to read to students as part of the annual Delray Reads program. Photo provided

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

3/24 - Wonder! at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. Every T 5:30-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday - 3/25 - 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

3/25 - Sensory Circle Time: It is Spring! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 3/26 - Little Lap Adventures at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-2 yrs. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/26 - 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 - 3/27 - 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

3/27 - 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 - 3/28 - 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

3/28 - 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

3/28 - Great Library Build-Off at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Families race to build the tallest and strongest structure using everyday materials. All ages. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/28 - Bones to Books at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-8. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

War at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Grades 6-8. Two times: 1-2 pm & 6-7 pm. Free/members; \$15/non-members. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

4/2 - Make & Take: Paper Bag Books at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

4/2 - Teen Advisory Board at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades 6-12. 4:30-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 4/4 - Wee Move! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 years. 10-11:15 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/4 - Family Book Brunch: The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 7-12 and parent/caretaker. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/4 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 4/18. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/4 - Tween Tea Time Book Club: Matilda by Roald Dahl at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 9-11. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

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MARCH 29-APRIL 4

Monday - 3/30 - 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

3/30 - 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 - 3/31 - Ultimate Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/31 - Teen Movie Night: The Great Gatsby (2013, PG-13) at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/31 - 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 - 4/1 - Game Day at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Every W through 4/22 4:30-6:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 4/2 - Page-turners - The Night

Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 7

Saturday - 3/7 - 7th Annual Community Spirit Race at FAU Flagler Credit Union Stadium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Featuring 5K Run, 1 Mile Run/Walk and Kid's Fun Run. Registration: 6:30 am; start time: 8 am. Tickets start at \$30. spiritrace.org

3/7 - Garden Conservancy Garden Tours at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. Call for information: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

3/7 - Shred Day at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 9 am-noon. Free. 561-243-7266; mydelraybeach.com

3/7 - Historic Walking Tour: Atlantic A1A & The Beach presented by Delray Beach Historical Society, at the Beach Pavilion on A1A. 10 am-noon. \$30/person; \$20/members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

3/7 - 4th Annual Muscle on The Beach Car Show at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Benefits Sandoway Discovery Center. Host: TV star Mike Brewer. 10 am-3 pm. \$125/car registry; free/spectators. 561-274-7263; muscleonthebeach.com

3/7 - Short Stories for Writers w/ Dr. Caren Neile at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 3/21 & 4/4. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/7 - Workshop: Make Waves: Abstract the Sea in Acrylic Paint at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/7 - \$5 Studio Days at Creative Arts School, 51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 5+. 11 am-12:30 pm. \$5. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

3/7 - Women's Empowerment Luncheon at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. In honor of Women's History Month. 11:30 am-1:30 pm. \$35. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/7 - Boca Chamber's Community Cookout / Chili Cookoff at YMCA of South Palm Beach County, 6631 Palmetto Circle South, Boca Raton. Bounce houses, chili cookoff, dj, games, food trucks, exhibitors and more. 11:30 am-4 pm. Kids fun zone all day wristbands: \$10. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com

3/7 - 3D Print Basics Class at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194;

delraylibrary.org

3/7 - Festival of the Arts Boca: A Third Time for Three at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$35-\$150. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

3/7 - Kol Esperanza at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

3/7-8 - Blockbuster Ballroom at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Presented by Fred Astaire Dance Studios Delray Beach. Sat: 7:30 pm; Sun 2 pm. Tickets start at \$65. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

3/7-8 - Cash Unchained - The Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Sat: 7:30 pm; Sun: 2 pm. Tickets start at \$69. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

MARCH 8-14

Sunday - 3/8 - Culture Talks: Suzanne Snider in Conversation with Gretel Sarmiento 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

3/8 - Town Art Show at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/8 - Beethoven's Emperor at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Presented by The Symphonia. 3 pm. Tickets start at \$58. 561-994-4909; thesymphonia.org

3/8 - Oops, I Lost My Head 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

3/8 - TEDx Lake Worth Beach presented by Dream Key Consulting at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Morning session: 10 am-1 pm, \$35; Afternoon session: 2-5 pm, \$35; Post-Show Mixer: 5-6 pm. \$85/full day access. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

3/8 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Patti LuPone: Matters of the Heart at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Tickets \$60-\$200. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

3/8 - Renegade - A Tribute to Classic Rock at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 3/9 - Midterm Madness: An

Municipal Meetings

3/9 & 3/26 - Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

3/9 & 3/23 - Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

3/10 - Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 9 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

3/13 - Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

3/17 - South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

3/23 - Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

3/24 - Boca Raton Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

3/24 - Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

3/26 - Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm.

Early Look w/ Kevin Wagner 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

3/9 - Spice Stories: Culture, History, and Gastronomy at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/9 - Lecture & Lunch - A Divine Collaboration: Much & Bernhardt 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

3/9 - Vichy France: Hapless Puppets of the Nazis, or Genocidal Collaborators? w/ Ralph Nurnberger at FAU 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

3/9 - Monday Game Days: Canasta at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Held again 3/23. 2-4 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

3/9 - 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

3/9 - Monday Movies - Documentary: The Buena Vista Social Club directed by Wim Venders at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/9 - Scrabble Game Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 3/23. 6-7:30 pm Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/9 - 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

Tuesday - 3/10 - 23rd Annual Delray

Beach Home Tour in the Lake Ida Neighborhood, Delray Beach. Group 2: Tour 1-4 pm; Lunch 1-2:30 pm. \$150/person. Information: 561-276-0520; achievementcentersfl.org

3/10 - 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

3/10 - Great Decisions 2026 at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/10 - Workshop: Translating Imagery into Meaningful Abstraction at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-4 pm. \$125. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/10 - French Resistance During World War II w/ Ralph Nurnberger at FAU 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

3/10 - 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

3/10 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

3/10 - Book Talks - An Hour to Kill: The New York Trilogy: City of Glass, Ghosts, and The Locked Room by Paul Auster and Paul Karasik at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/10 - Reading Behind the Words: Understanding the Short Story w/ Winston Aarons at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of the Lifelong Learning Institute. Adults. Every T through

3/24. 2-3:30 pm. \$30/day. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/10 - Apes and Monkeys Across the Globe w/ Bonnie Koppelman at FAU 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

3/10 - Get Bra! Presented by Boca Raton Achievement Center at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 W Plaza Real, Boca Raton. To benefit students with autism and related disabilities. Featuring cocktails, food, The 4 Peace Band and live auction. 6 pm. \$65. 561-559-9768; event.auctria.com/47a83bc9-dcf1-4f62-b49f-68bf5258cf1a/

3/10 - The Safekeep by Yael van der Wouden part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/10 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd T 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

3/10 - 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

Wednesday - 3/11 - Elements of Garden Design w/ Jenny Rose Carey presented by The Grass River Garden Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. grassrivergc.org

3/11 - GFWC Woman's Club of Delray Beach Meeting at the Teen Center, 505 SE 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Bring your own refreshments/coffee. 10 am. Free. delraywomansclub.com

3/11 - 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

3/11 - Communicating in Crisis: Secrets of an FBI Hostage Negotiator w/ William Scott Owens at FAU 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

3/11 - Art in Focus Tour - Laurie Anderson's "Puppet Motel" at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/ paid museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

3/11 - The Birth of the Atomic Age: Los Alamos and Its Impact on Nuclear Policy Today w/ Galina Vromen at FAU 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

DELRAY BEACH GREENMARKET

October 2025 thru May 2026

SATURDAYS

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Old School Square

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3/11 - Art Happy Hour: Alcohol Ink Abstract Designs at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. \$30. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/11-12 - Workshop: WILD BLOOM: Painting Abstract Flowers at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$130. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

Thursday - 3/12 - 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

3/12 - Line Dancing at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. All ages. Every Th 10:30-11:30 am. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/12 - Workshop: Abstract Flow: Simple Expressive Watercolor Landscapes at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/12 - Boynton Beach Garden Club Fashion Show Luncheon at Indian Springs Country Club, 11501 El Clair Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. 11 am. \$65. boyntonbeachgardenclubs.org

3/12 - Brushstrokes & Bookmarks - Hummingbird Salamander: A Novel 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

3/12 - Mel, Woody, Joan & Jerry: Jewish Comedy's "Fab Four!" w/ Lenny Dave at FAU 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

3/12 - Boston Trio Performance at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 5-7 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

3/12 - Dirty Dancing LIVE in Concert

at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5-10 pm. Tickets start at \$30. Held rain or shine. 561-243-1077; events.delrayoldschoolsquare.com

3/12 - Concert: Boca Symphonia: A Sampling at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

3/12 - Virginia Hall: "America's Greatest Spy" w/ Rosemarie Law at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of the Thursday Night Speaker Series. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/12 - Fantasia of the Isles: A St. Patrick's Day Celebration w/ Angela Massey at FAU 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

3/12-15 - International Beatles On The Beach Classic Rock Festival at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Featuring: Live & Let Die: A Symphonic Tribute to Paul McCartney w/ Live Orchestra 8 pm 3/13; Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience 8 pm 3/4; Tickets start at \$49.85/day. Info: beatlesonthebeach.com

Friday - 3/13 - Mahjong Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every F 10am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/13 - Seminar: Let's Talk About Being a Woman in 2026 w/ Ellyn Mantell at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every F through 4/3. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$69.60/member; \$87/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/13 - OLLI Glee Club: Sing from the Heart: Voices United Concert w/ Annalisa Hillard at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-1:30 pm. Free. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/13 - Workshop: Color Theory with Colored Pencils at Arts Warehouse, 313

NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 12-adults. 2-4 pm. \$30. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/13 - 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

3/13 - 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

3/13 - Red Corvette - Prince Tribute at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$70.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/13-14 - Workshop: Mimic the Masters Acrylic Painting at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

Saturday - 3/14 - Open Figure Studio w/ Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. Held again 2/26 (6-8 pm) & 2/27. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/14 - Sketching in the Galleries at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. For all ages. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid Museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

3/14 - 56th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade west on Atlantic Avenue from Intracoastal Bridge to NW 5th Avenue, Delray Beach. Noon. Free. 561-243-7250 x3; stpatsdelray.com

3/14 - Workshop: Color Theory with Colored Pencils at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 1-4:30 pm. \$150. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/14 - Musterion: A Premier Fashion Show Experience at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. An evening where fashion meets artistry and elegance meets empowerment. 7-9 pm. \$35. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/14 - Hugh Panaro at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

3/14 - Veronica Swift at Arts Garage, 94

NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$68-\$73. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

MARCH 15-21

Sunday - 3/15 - Town Ice Cream Social at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/15 - Exhibit Opening Reception at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 4/3. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org

3/15 - The Jimmy Vivino Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm.

\$63-\$68. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/16 - The Arab Lobby: The Invisible Alliance that Undermines America's Interests in the Middle East w/ Mitchell Bard at FAU 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

3/16 - Monday Game Days: Mahjong at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Held again 3/30. 2-4 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

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3/16 - A Trip Down Memory Lane: 36 Years of the Hubble Space Telescope w/ Ata Sarajedini at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 4/6. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/16 - Visual Voyages; The Unique Aesthetics of International Film w/ Shelly Isaacs at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 4/6. 7-9 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

Tuesday - 3/17 - "From Liberation & Loss to Love, Lemonade & Laughter" w/ Ettie Zilber at FAU 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

3/17 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/Biographies: Warhol's Muses by Laurence Leamer at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/17 - The Voyage to Opportunity: America's Immigration Story w/ Pam Ricciardi Paschke at FAU 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

3/17 - Art School Student Exhibition Opening at Boca Raton Museum Art School, 801 W. Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/17. 5:30-7 pm. Free w/ paid museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

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

3/17 - Movie Night at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

3/17 - Trivia Night: Emerald Isle Quiz Bash at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/17 - Town Hall Talk: Hypocrite's Row w/ Eliot Kleinberg at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 6 pm check-in/refreshments; 6:30 pm lecture. Free/BRHS member; \$10/guest. RSVP: 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org

3/17 - Fireside Chat with Florida Atlantic President Adam Hasner and Politico's Jonathan Martin at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. \$60/annual membership; VIP: \$96-\$120, 6 pm; regular: \$56-\$70, 7-8:30 pm. RSVP by 3/13. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/17 - 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/

3/17 - Spoken Word Open Mic: Poetry, Storytelling & Lyrics at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 3rd T 8-10:30 pm. \$20-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 3/18 - Pop-up Seminar: Meet ChatGPT: Your New Best Friend in the Digital World w/ Tiffany DiPanni at FAU 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

3/18 - 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

3/18 - Workshop: Figure Drawing Intensive - Artistic Anatomy 2-Week Class at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Held again 3/25. 10:30 am-2 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/18 - Seminar: Dealing With Overwhelming Anxiety: Insights From a Psychologist Holocaust Survivor w/ Bert Diamant at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/18 - Workshop: Alcohol Ink Art on Silk Scarves at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$55-\$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/18 - Orchids by the Sea - Mounting & Caring in a Coastal Environment presented by Ocean Ridge Garden Club at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 5 pm. Free. oceanridgegardenclub.org

3/18 - Book Club at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 5 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

3/18 - 31st Annual Lantana Fishing Tournament Meeting at Lantana Chamber, 212 Iris Ave, Lantana. 5:30-7 pm. 561-585-8664; lantanachamber.com

Thursday - 3/19 - Workshop: CLOUD NINE: Painting Big, Beautiful Clouds at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/19 - Lunchbox Matinee: Harvey Granat sings Fred Astaire at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Noon. \$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

3/19 - Privacy and the Supreme Court: In Search of an Elusive Constitutional Right w/ Roy Klein at FAU 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

3/19 - Workshop: Line, Shape and Composition 2-Day Class at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Held again 3/21. 2-4 pm. \$140. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/19 - The Silent Bench: Exploring the Boundaries of Judicial Speech w/ Judge Cymonie S. Rowe at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 4/30 (no class 4/2). 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100.50/member; \$134/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/19 - John O'Sullivan Memorial Lecture 2026 - Inheriting the Revolution: The Modern Legacy of 1776 w/ Lindsay M. Chervinsky at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4 pm. \$25. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/19 - Movies at the Square: Inside Out at Old School Square Amphitheatre, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5-9:30 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com

3/19 - Heritage Lecture - Michael Grunwald presents, "The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida & The Politics of Paradise" presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Old School Square Historic Gym. 6 pm. \$28/person; \$20/society members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

3/19-21 - Gently Loved Treasures, Vintage Jewelry & Plant Sale at Boca Raton Garden Club, 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 9 am-2 pm. bocaratongardenclub.org

Friday - 3/20 - Workshop: Doodle Your Day at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$25. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/20 - Images in Music: Italian Film Composers w/ Ilaria Serra at FAU 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

3/20 - Workshop: Alcohol Ink Floral Designs on Black Cardstock at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$45. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/20 - Guided Activity: Awakening Our Full Potential of Human Awareness w/ Susan Standbrook at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every F through 4/10. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100.50/member; \$134/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/20 - Selwyn Birchwood Returns at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/20-21 - Florida Atlantic Opera Theatre at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/20-21 - The Bronx Wanderers at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. F: 7:30 pm; Sat: 6:30 pm & 8:30 pm. Tickets start at \$44.50. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

3/20-22 - Palm Beach Reggae Music & Arts Festival at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. F: 6:30-9:30 pm; Sat: 4-9 pm; Sun: 6:30-9:30 pm. \$35/day. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

Saturday - 3/21 - Fine Art & Craft Fair in Briny Breezes at 5000 N. Ocean Blvd. Featuring paintings, mixed media, photography, quilts, leather goods, stained glass and more. 8:30 am to 2 pm. Free.

3/21 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Writers Studio presented by Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All other Sat via Zoom. 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/21 - Workshop: Mixed Media Magic: Underwater Art & Expressive Collages at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/21 - Workshop: Intro to Photography at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-2:30 pm. \$150. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/21 - Rock Meets Soul: John Oates & The Good Road Band at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 E Plaza Real. Doors open: 5:30 pm; show: 6:30 pm. Tickets start at \$58.79. myboca.us/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/1849

3/21 - Send In The Queens at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. 8 pm. \$43. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

3/21 - Fortunate Sons: Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

MARCH 22-28

Sunday - 3/22 - Local Author Fest 2026 at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-4 pm. Tickets: \$20-\$40. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/22 - Renaissance Art Conversations - "A Man Within a Woman": Vittoria Colonna and Michelangelo's Friendship at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. Free/members; \$18/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

3/22 - Seraphic Fire's 'Candlelight' concert at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 4 pm. \$60-\$75/reserved; \$45/general admission. 305-285-9060; seraphicfire.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/

3/22 - Steely Dan Tribute w/ Dirty Work at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

3/22 - Jessica Fichot: From Paris to Shanghai at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/22 - Akiva Live in Florida 2026 w/ Special Guest Amir Dadon at FAU Carole

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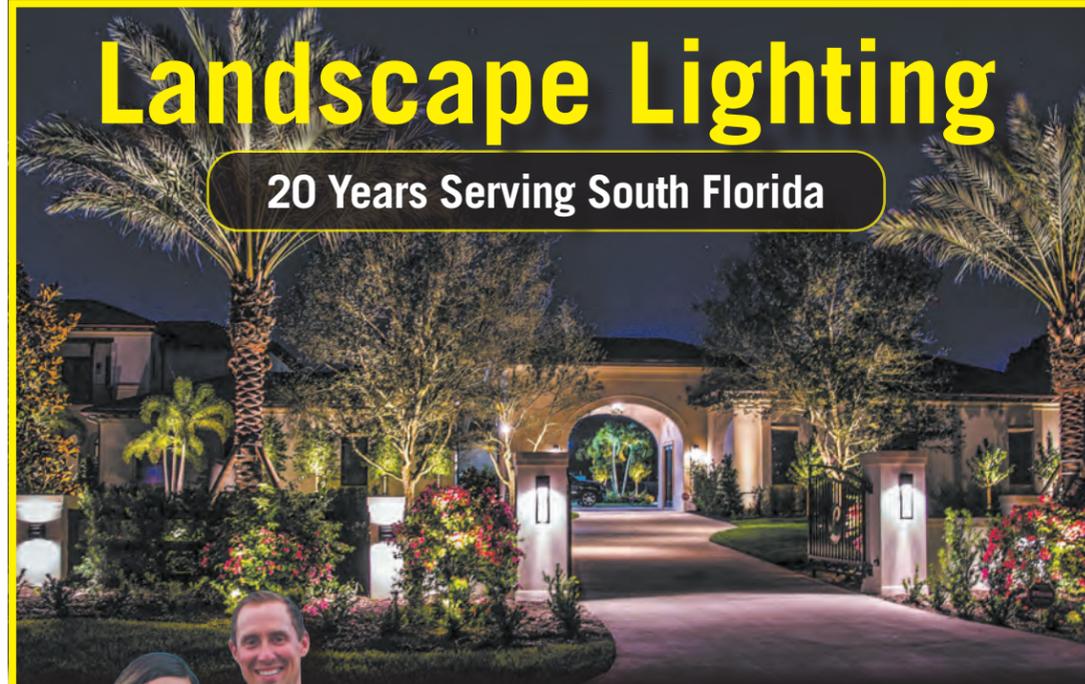
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& Barry Kaye Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 8 pm. \$67.84-\$252.97. 561-297-3185; fauevents.com

Monday - 3/23 - America 250 w/ Robert Watson at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$35/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/23 - Seminar: De-Mystifying Forensics w/ Patrick McLaughlin at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100.50/member; \$134/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/23 - Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/23 - Monday Movies - Feature Film: Marguerite's Theorem / Le theoreme de Marguerite directed by Anna Novion at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/23 - 17th Annual Savor the Avenue on Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach. Benefits Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County. Make reservations w/individual restaurant. See website for restaurant list/details. 5:30-9:30 pm. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com/savorthetheave

3/23 - Program: The Life and Times of Muralist Bernard P. Thomas w/ Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher & Lloyd Thomas at First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach, 235 SW 6th Ave. Meet & Greet: 7:15 pm; program: 7:30-8:30 pm. boyntonhistory.org

3/23-25 - Good Witch / Bad Witch at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. M-W: 2 pm; T/W: 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$75. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 3/24 - The Lives of Three Funny Women: Fanny Brice, Gilda Radner & Joan Rivers w/ Rose Feinberg at FAU 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

3/24 - Pop-Up: Israel at Crossroads w/ Robert Rabil at FAU 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

Wednesday - 3/25 - Art in Focus Tour - Tobi Kahn's "Sky & Water" at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/ paid museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

3/25 - Gotta Sin, Gotta Dance w/ Steven Friedman at FAU 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

3/25 - Workshop: Tropical Seascapes with Alcohol Ink at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 4-6 pm. \$45. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

Thursday - 3/26 - Seminar: Afterlife in Judaism: An Exploration w/ RamiPavolotzky at FAU 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

3/26 - Workshop: WILD BOTANICA: Explorations of Nature with Collage at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/26 - Live Longer and Healthier: Simple But Essential Tips w/ Charles Hennekens at FAU 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

3/26 - Workshop: Blooming Floral Bouquet with Alcohol Ink at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$45. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/26 - Jimmy (Stewart) and Hank (Fonda): Two Great Stars & Even Greater Friends w/ Kurt Stone at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Ever Th through 5/28. 3-5 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$125.25/member; \$167/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-

297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/26 - Exhibition Opening Reception: Annual Juried Student Exhibition at FAU Schmidt Center Public Space, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/12. 4:30-8:30 pm. Free. fau.edu/artsandletters/galleries/exhibitions/

3/26 - Concert: Claudia Edward: Jazz/Blues Singer at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

3/26 - Florida Author Series: Eliot Kleinberg and "Hypocrite's Row" at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 6-7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/26 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder: A Novel by C.L. Miller presented by Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 3/27 - Workshop: Mixed Media Nature's Mandala at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/27 - Artist Blow-Out - Danny White 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

3/27 - A More Perfect Union: America at 250 at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/27 - Gafieira Rio Miami - Beleza Pura at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray

Spring/Easter Egg Events

MARCH 22-28

Saturday - 3/28 - Easter Egg Hunt Candy Collection at First United Methodist Church, 625 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 10 & under. 10 am. Free. 561-395-1244; fumcbocaraton.org

MARCH 29-APRIL 4

Friday/Saturday - 4/3-4 - Springfest of Delray Beach

at Robert P. Miller Park, 1005 SW 4th Ave, Delray Beach. 4/3: Egg hunt for teens (ages 13+), adults (18+) and Legends (50+). Bring a flashlight and basket. Featuring desserts, games, music and more. 6:30 pm; 8 pm egg hunt. 4/4: Egg hunt for children ages 1-12 years. Bring basket. Featuring food, crafts, bounce houses & more. 8:30 am, 9 am hunt. Free. 561-243-7250 x3; mydelraybeach.com

Saturday - 4/4 - Egg-Stravaganza at Hester Community Park, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Games, activities, egg hunts. Family fare. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

Saturday - 4/4 - Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt at Maddock Park, 1200 W Drew St, Lantana. Family games, hayride, arts/crafts, vendors. 8:30-10:30 am. Info: 561-540-5754; lantana.org

Saturday - 4/4 - Family Easter Service & Egg Hunt at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 4 pm. Free. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org

Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 3/28 - Bike to the Beach for Autism & disABILITIES begins at Wyndham Deerfield Beach Resort, 2096 NE 2nd St., Deerfield Beach. Riders raise money to support individuals living with autism and disabilities. The 100-Mile Ride consists of 6 legs (less for shorter distances). Rest stops are stationed along

the ride. 30-mile turnaround in Boynton beach; 62-mile turnaround in Riviera Beach; 100-mile turnaround at The Els for Autism Foundation, 18370 Limestone Creek Rd, Jupiter. First race begins 5 am. \$250 fundraising minimum per rider. \$100-\$175/registration; \$50/virtual rider/supporter. 202-860-3211; rides.biketotheseach.org/florida/

3/28 - Workshop: Radiant Roses in



Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/28 - Workshop: Wild Horizons: Abstract Your Landscape Painting at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/28 - Boca Street Fest at Mizner Park Amphitheater & throughout Mizner Park, 590 E Plaza Real. Noon-4 pm. Free event. 561-393-7810. myboca.us/2445/Boca-Street-Fest

3/28 - Chetter Galloway - A Story Central Performance: A Sharp Slice of Chetter at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/28 - Schola Cantorum/Chamber Singers: "Celebrate! Musical Epochs, Cultures, and Countries" at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. scholacantorumfl.org

3/28 - Celebrate! Musical Epochs, Cultures, and Countries at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$25. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/28 - "That's Life" Concert at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 7:30 pm. \$40. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

3/28 - Turnstiles - The Ultimate Tribute to Billy Joel at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$32.35. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com



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3/28 - Magic In Mizner: Remy Connor at The Studio at Mizner Park, The Club Room, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$33.85. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

3/28 - Carlisle Guy & The NuBlu Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$65.50-\$70.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/28-29 - Art on the Square Fine Art Show at Old School Square Amphitheatre, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com

MARCH 29-APRIL 4

Sunday - 3/29 - Piano Students Gala at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3 pm. \$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/29 - Music in the Museum - A Celebration of Unity and Cultural Connections at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$20/member; \$25-\$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

3/29 - The Latin Divos ... and Friends at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Part of the First Delray Concert Series. 4 pm. \$20. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

3/29 - Sondheim & Friends at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Presented by Master Chorale of South Florida. 4 pm. \$40-\$60. 954-641-2653; masterchoraleofsouthflorida.org

3/29 - Concert: Brit Floyd, The Moon, The Wall and Beyond at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 E Plaza Real. Doors open: 6:30 pm; show: 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$52.95. myboca.us/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/1766

3/29 - Yakov Smirnoff at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6:30 pm. Tickets start at \$43.90. 561-203-

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

3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

3/29 - Broadway and All That Jazz w/ George Bugatti at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$68-\$73. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 3/30 - Pop-Up: Donald Trump's Place in American History w/ Jeffrey Morton & Craig Burnett at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$55/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

3/30 - Robert Delaunay: The Eiffel Tower w/ Armando Droulers at FAU 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

3/30-4/1 - Start Spreading The News: Liza & Frank at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 3/31 - Audrey Hepburn w/ Leslie Goddard at FAU 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

3/31 - Exhibition Opening Reception: Art of Science at FAU Ritter Art Gallery, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/19. 4-6 pm. Free. fau.edu/artsandletters/galleries/exhibitions

3/31 - Public Meeting: Vision Zero Action Plan at Old School Square Historic Gym, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. The city is creating this plan with one clear goal: No one should be seriously hurt or killed on our streets. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-243-7000; mydelraybeach.com

Thursday - 4/2 - Off the Wall: Exploring Ekphrastic Connections w/ Arsimmer McCoy at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/2 - Night Market at Sanborn Square Park, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Food options, beer & wine, local artisans and live music. 6-9 pm. Free. myboca.us/2324/Night-Market

Friday - 4/3 - Good Friday

4/3 - First Friday @ 5 at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. 5 pm. Free. 561-742-6024; boynton-beach.org

4/3 - First Friday Art Walk at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. \$8/class. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

4/3 - One Hit Wonders at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 4/4 - Walter Smith III Trio at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$65.50-\$70.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

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House of the Month



LEFT: The open patio faces the ocean amid a lushly landscaped lot framed by bougainvillea and swaying palms. **RIGHT:** The club room serves as an entertainment hub and is on the second floor overlooking the courtyard.



The great room at the entry level is the heart of the home, featuring soaring two-story ceilings and floor-to-ceiling glass doors that capture breathtaking ocean views.

Oceanfront home and guest house in Ocean Ridge



LEFT: The high-end kitchen has an island, custom cabinetry, granite countertops, a stained-glass insert and a bright, sun-filled breakfast nook overlooking the ocean. **RIGHT:** Tropical green floral wallpaper and matching statement mirror in the powder room are highlights of the main floor.

Experience luxurious beachfront living at 6201 N. Ocean Blvd., a hidden tropical sanctuary in Ocean Ridge. Set on an expansive 50-by-418-foot deep oceanfront lot, it is tucked behind a private entrance on Edith Street. This offers a rare blend of charm, privacy, and island-inspired elegance.

Designed for both relaxed coastal living and effortless entertaining, with 3,225 +/- total living space, this residence — built in 2000 — includes three bedrooms and 2.5 baths in the main house, along with a separate two-bedroom, one-bath guest house that is perfect for hosting family and friends in comfort and privacy. Vaulted ceilings abound, marble and wood floors lie throughout, and designer amenities are numerous, including two attached, single-car garages on the west side of the home.

Offered at \$9,249,000.

Contact The Pascal Liguori Estate Group, 561-789-8300. Premier Estate Properties, 900 E. Atlantic Ave., #4, Delray Beach; PLEG@premierestateproperties.com.

Each month, The Coastal Star features a home for sale in our area. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our homes.

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**Play Pickleball for a
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Boca West Country Club | 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy a day of competitive, fun, and engaging match play designed for players of all levels, complete with refreshing drinks and lively entertainment to keep the energy high from start to finish. The experience concludes with a celebratory **Cocktail & Awards Dinner**, where we'll crown our champions and toast an unforgettable inaugural event.



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