

Along the Coast

They're watching you: Where safety, privacy blur

Evolving technologies keep an eye on public as police fight crime

By John Pacenti

When Ocean Ridge police found an 84-year-old with dementia walking down a street on a recent Monday morning, they turned to their network of surveillance cameras.

Once the officer coaxed the senior to give him her name, police were able to get the license plate of her car from a state database.

"We were then able to enter the tag into our LPR (license plate reader) system, which allowed us to determine when the vehicle entered town and how long it had been present," Police Chief Scott McClure said. "This information ultimately led to locating the vehicle parked within the town."

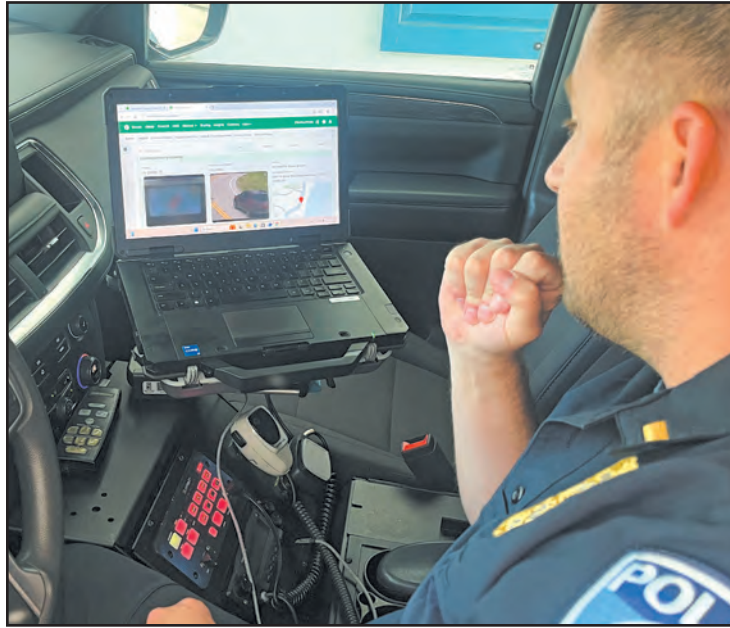
The cameras — LPRs and static video — had recorded when the car had come into town that Monday, March 16, and how long the woman had been walking the streets. Soon, she was sitting in the lobby of the police station at Town Hall, waiting for a relative to pick her up.

The age of surveillance

A few feet away from the chief sits the department's new drone — another type of technology many law enforcement agencies are using. Down the road in Manalapan, the department will receive new body cameras this month that can translate 101 languages on the spot.

Delray Beach has seen property

See **TECH** on page 20



Technology advances have led local police departments to invest in systems that improve results in fighting crime. **LEFT and TOP:** License plate reader cameras mounted on major streets are linked to real-time systems that alert police to information such as arrest warrants and expired vehicle tags. Ocean Ridge Police Officer Aaron Choban keeps track in his squad car. **ABOVE:** Boca Raton uses a robotic dog as part of its bomb squad. **Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star and provided**

Boca Raton

City starts over on downtown campus

New mayor, manager see a way forward after voters' veto

By Mary Hladky

The voters could not have been clearer.

Almost 75% casting ballots in the March 10 Boca Raton election rejected the city's plan to redevelop the downtown campus in partnership with developers Terra and Frisbie Group.

But left unresolved is what to do with the 31.7-acre campus, a contentious subject that gave rise to the Save Boca grassroots movement

and ushered in a new City Council dominated by the group's members.

That's the main issue now before new City Manager Mark Sohaney, hired in August, and new Mayor Andy Thomson, a veteran council member who won election by the narrowest of margins.

The two are generally aligned on how to move forward.

There will be no public-

See **VOTERS** on page 22

Along the Coast

Lifesaving devices, training on the rise

Highland Beach goes to condos to teach; Delray has new defibrillator mandate

By Rich Pollack

Jason Chudnofsky knows that having automated external defibrillators — AEDs — easily accessible when someone is in cardiac arrest can be the

difference between life and death.

He also knows it's important that people know how to operate the device and do CPR that is used in tandem.

"Having a tool to save a life without knowing how to use that tool does no good," said Chudnofsky, a Highland Beach town commissioner and staunch AED advocate. "You can't always rely on someone else."

Throughout coastal southern Palm Beach County, with its large senior population, there is a growing emphasis on making sure defibrillators are accessible and that people are knowledgeable enough to use them and CPR properly.

Delray Beach, for example, now requires AEDs on every other floor of a residential building with five stories or

See **AED** on page 11

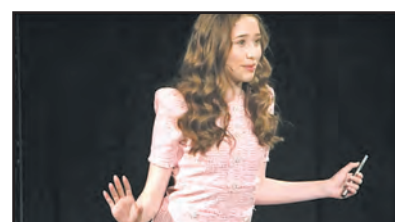


Cameron Abraham, a Highland Beach Fire Rescue firefighter/paramedic, explains to Dottie Turcotte how to position AED pads on a mannequin. **Rachel O'Hara/The Coastal Star**

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The ArtsPaper

Retired surgeon's impressive art collection on view in Boca Raton. **Page AT7**



Sharing her gifts
Boca teenager years ahead of peers in philanthropic endeavors. **Page AT1**

Housecleaning
Boca manager fires police chief, two deputy managers. **Page 14**

Resort homes
The Boca Raton approved for 76 residences. **Page 18**

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Coastal Star



Peyton Presson, 18, here wearing Inter Miami colors, realized his dream of becoming a professional soccer player when he signed recently with LASK of the Austrian league. Photo provided

Former Gulf Stream student takes harrowing path to pro soccer

By Brian Biggane

Steven Presson says his son Peyton told him — when he was 6½ — that he wanted to play professional soccer. Peyton himself tells a different story.

“My mom would claim it was about 3.”

After physical struggles that kept him sidelined for about two years, Presson, 18, realized that dream just a few weeks ago when he signed with LASK of the Austrian league. He followed that up in late March by making his first appearance for the U.S. Soccer program in an under-18 tournament in Portugal that also included England, Portugal and Iceland.

“This was his goal and I was going to do everything I could to help him achieve it,” said Steven Presson, who lives on Hypoluxo Island in Lantana and runs the Presson Team real estate group in Palm Beach.

Peyton, who grew up in Ocean Ridge and plays the No. 9 position in soccer — or center forward — remembers always having a ball at his feet growing up, resulting in the domination of his age group until his dad decided to pull him out of Gulf Stream School during his fifth-grade year and enroll him in a soccer academy in Port St. Lucie.

That began a ritual in which Steven Presson would wake up at 5:30 every morning, drive his son to the academy and return to Palm Beach for work, then repeat the trip in the evening.

“I was taking the initiative, but as soon as I say that, he was the one who would give me absolutely anything, any resource, anything I could possibly need to reach my

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goals,” Peyton said.

Peyton’s scoring prowess at the club level was starting to attract national attention when at age 12 he suffered his first significant injury to his knee, which sidelined him for six months.

But it was three years later, after he had joined the academy program with the Philadelphia Union of Major League Soccer, that his real problems began.

His mother, Kimberly, an Allentown, Pennsylvania, native, had moved with him to Philadelphia. Peyton got off to a flying start, scoring four goals his first game and 12 in his first seven, earning calls to the Union from almost every other team in MLS asking about this scoring machine.

Then came unforeseen physical problems, which Steven Presson attributes to a growth spurt that resulted in Peyton’s shooting up from 6 feet to 6-4 in just a few months.

For the next two years, which encompassed most of 2023 and 2024, Peyton was unable to play due to what were diagnosed as back and hip injuries. At one point Steven Presson said he took Peyton to 40 specialists over one 30-day period.

“I didn’t sleep for two years,” Presson said. “Every doctor has either an answer or another question, and you just keep going down these rabbit holes.”

After crisscrossing the country and visiting every

specialist from LeBron James’ trainer to the Miami Dolphins’ chiropractor, Presson heard about Johnny Veira, a Delray Beach physical therapist, in September 2024.

“It was there everything started to come together,” Presson said.

Peyton said, “His program follows the belief that your whole body is connected through something called myofascia, and training your body in a way that incorporates your whole body and realigning your posture and the way you move.”

By January 2025, Peyton was physically well enough to return, and hungry to prove he was still the same player.

But he had lost weight and needed time to regain his form.

After brief stops with the Union and the Colorado Springs Switchbacks of the United Soccer League — where he broke his arm but continued playing — he came home to join Inter Miami, where superstars like Lionel Messi and Leo Suárez were on their way to what became the team’s first MLS championship.

Playing with the under-19 team, Peyton, who now stands 6-foot-5 and weighs 194 pounds, scored two goals his first game, one in his second, and finished the season scoring at least once in each of his last nine games.

“The highlight of my time was getting to train one day with the first team, with all the superstars,” he said. “So, I’m warming up and I see Messi, (Sergio) Busquets, and I started getting emotional reflecting on everything it took to get back to this moment.” ★

Editor's Note

New Boca, South Palm council majorities face challenges

Two maxims stand out from South County’s March 10 municipal races: Elections have consequences and every vote counts. Those maxims were true in one of the area’s smallest towns and in its biggest city.

Boca Raton voters squashed plans for a major private development of restaurants, shops, a hotel and housing on city-owned land downtown.

They rejected a new police headquarters — or at least the idea of paying \$175 million of taxpayer money for one — and they put three novices in control of the City Council (to the extent that the victorious Save Boca slate chooses to stick together as a voting bloc).

Up the road in tiny South Palm Beach, they won’t be building a replacement Town Hall after all, now that a new council majority opposed to those plans has been elected.

Boca Raton and South Palm Beach also had too-close-to-call races where a few more votes could have made a difference.

Andy Thomson, Boca Raton’s new mayor, eked out a five-vote victory over political newcomer Mike Liebelson. Almost a third of eligible city voters took part in the election — considered a good turnout — but that means almost 70% stayed home.

Meanwhile, a four-vote difference relegated South Palm Beach incumbent Sandra Beckett to a third-place finish in the Town Council race, which won her a two-year unexpired term instead of a full, four-year term, which the first- and second-place finishers received.

Liebelson and Beckett must have lost at least a little sleep thinking about those tiny margins and their would-be supporters who didn’t vote.

More elections coming

Given that, here’s some advice if you’re a state resident of voting age who cast a ballot in March — and even more so if you’re one of those who didn’t. Your vote matters, so be alert: More elections are on the way.

The statewide primary is Aug. 18 and the general election Nov. 3. The upcoming races feature everything from who

will be your next governor and U.S. senator to seats on the Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District.

If you haven’t registered to vote yet, understand that it may soon be more difficult, as new requirements are being considered by Congress.

Challenges ahead

Finally, while an election victory feels good, governing can be trickier.

South Palm Beach’s new council majority campaigned on a Town Hall renovation being a more cost-efficient solution than building a \$7 million new one, though consultants have said that’s just not so. Will the conclusion be any different after the next study is done?

And Boca Raton voters decided the \$175 million the city wanted for its new police headquarters was just too much. Will the new council find a way to meet the city’s police needs for less? And what will happen if state efforts to cut property taxes — the lifeblood of municipal governments — become a reality?

In retrospect, Delray Beach was fortunate in 2023 when voters approved its \$100 million public safety bond. But three years later, a new police station still hasn’t been built and its price — originally pegged at some \$80 million — is now estimated to be \$97 million, squeezing out some fire rescue-related projects that had been desired as part of the bond.

And the police station isn’t even designed yet, which typically means the cost will rise even higher. Just look at Delray Beach’s ongoing construction of a new water treatment plant (no voter approval required). It was estimated at \$120 million just a few years ago, but with updated requirements is now expected to cost \$287 million.

So, I’ll end by saying congratulations to March’s winners. You’ve got your work cut out for you.



— Larry Barszewski, Editor



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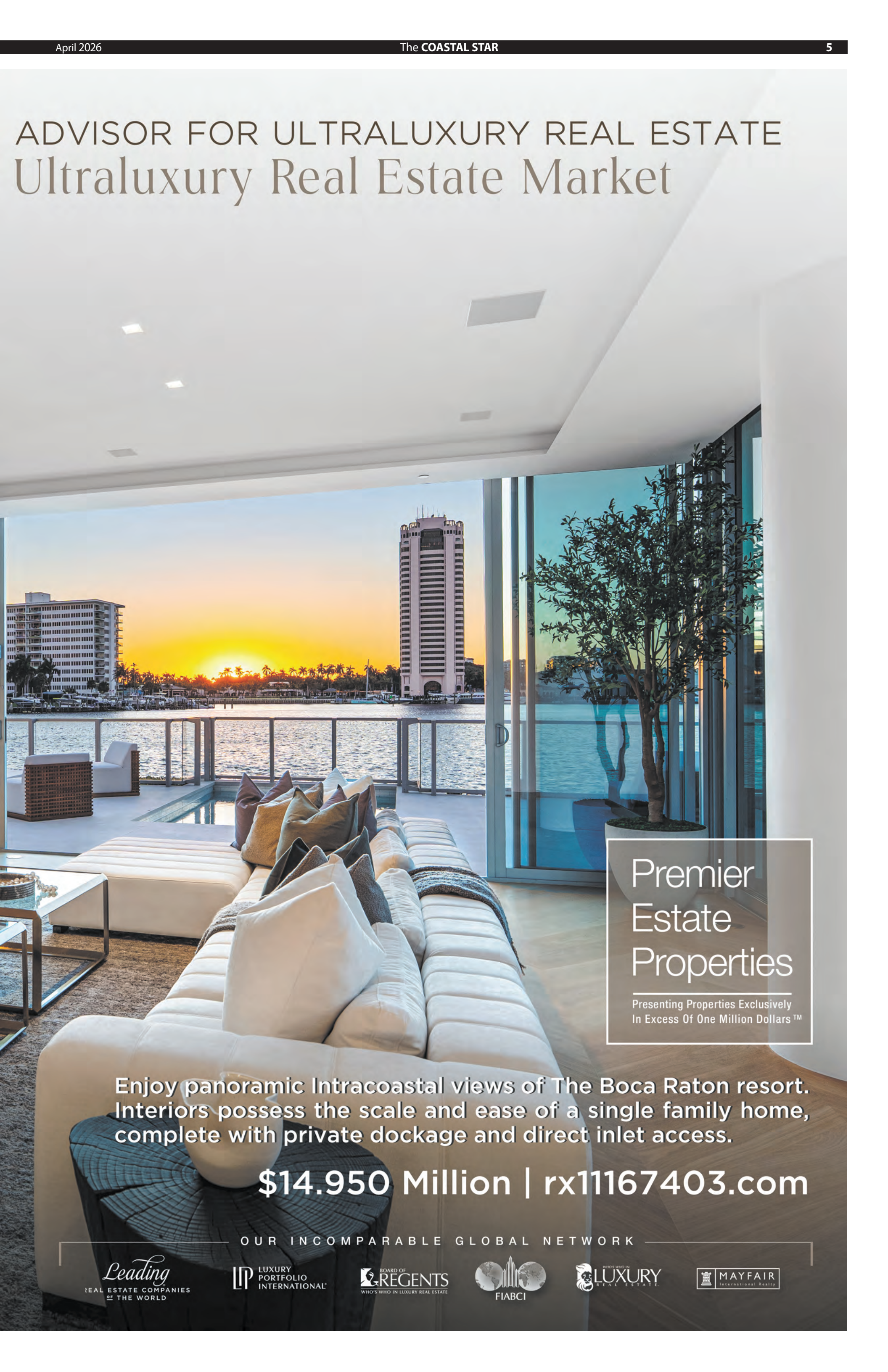


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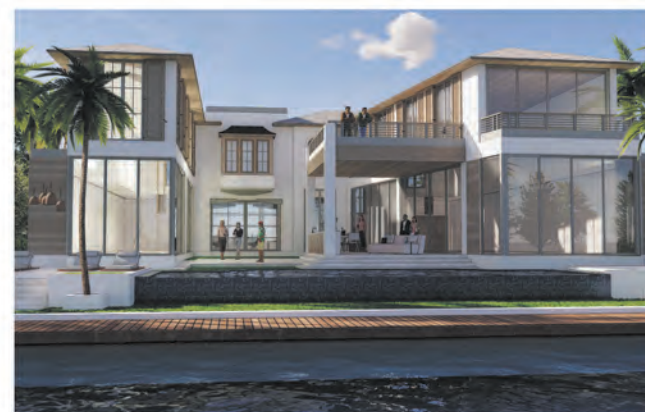
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Delray Beach

Golf course banyan lives to see another day

By John Pacenti

The giant banyan tree on the Delray Beach municipal golf course that has become a cause célèbre in recent months has weathered hurricanes and plenty of golf balls. But can it stand tall against bureaucracy?

Well, that answer remains to be seen after the Lake Worth Drainage District allowed the city to postpone its presentation on saving the tree for another month.

The city is seeking expert advice from arborists and engineers to obtain a variance from the district to allow the 50-foot tree — possibly the largest in the county — to survive.

The problem, as the district sees it, is that the tree impedes the E-4 canal and, if it falls in a major storm, would cause surrounding properties to flood. The tree stretches nearly across the canal.

The district has ordered Delray Beach to remove the 70-plus-year-old tree at its cost per an agreement the city signed in 1994.

State Rep. Rob Long, a former city commissioner, says after speaking to the district that there is simply no way that the decision it



made in February gets reversed.

Long, though, has a radical idea: move the tree.

“While the tree may be ineligible for Champion Tree designation due to its non-native status, its size, age, and significance to the Delray Beach community and to the historic golf course itself warrant serious consideration of preservation,” Long wrote to the district.

Long says that the tree would have to be cut back before being relocated, but that the primary trunk and branches would remain.

Long, when asked, did not know how much such a relocation would cost.

The Lake Worth Drainage District Board will take up the issue on April 15 at a meeting where the city could learn the tree’s fate, said city spokeswoman Gina Carter. ★

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Letters to the Editor

Report the news without a partisan slant

Ever since *The Coastal Star* was first published, I have found it an excellent local newspaper that I have always looked forward to reading. The publication has consistently covered southern coastal Palm Beach County news extremely well, with many interesting articles. Besides that, reading *The Coastal Star* has always provided a refreshing break from the national media which, on both sides of the political spectrum, reports news with a very biased slant.

Sadly, beginning with your article on Canadian visitors and then continuing with your stories on Florida property taxes and ICE, *The Coastal Star* is joining the mainstream media in not just covering the news,

but in reporting in a decidedly biased way.

The aforementioned stories are certainly pertinent to your readers, but your writing was clearly slanted towards the liberal view.

Our local community paper should not be a political paper, but if you are going to list political opinions you should give both sides equal coverage. I have spoken to many conservative friends and neighbors that feel the same way about your recent reporting. My wife, Linda, and I prefer the old *Coastal Star* that reported the news in our community without a partisan slant.

— Joe Carballosa
Delray Beach

Briny author has written more than just one trilogy

As a resident and Briny author, I was pleasantly surprised to see a front-page article about Briny’s library and Briny authors (“Tiny Briny library has an abundance of local authors,” March 2026).

I was equally disappointed to see that the one sentence in the article referencing me states that “... Snyder-Carroll offers her ‘Joe the Plumber’ mystery trilogy,” which incorrectly implies that is the entirety of my work.

Since 2013, I have written and self-published the following novels, most of which I advertised in your paper:

• *The Dangerous Things Trilogy* — Three suspense murder mysteries set primarily

in Briny Breezes.

- *Click/Kill* — an historical, sci-fi, murder mystery.
- *Catch Me Some Sky* — a YA murder mystery.
- *When the Moon Hits your Eye ...* — just released last week, a quirky romance novel set in both Italy and America.

All of my novels are available on Amazon.com, where you can read the beginning chapters.

The Coastal Star is a great newspaper with high standards, and I understand there are space constraints. However, for such a lengthy article I do believe a better balance could have been struck.

— Suzanne Snyder-Carroll
Briny Breezes

Boynton Beach

Wider Boynton Inlet and new bridge considered for future plan

By Larry Barszewski

Widening the Boynton Inlet and replacing its fixed-span bridge on State Road A1A with one that opens should be a goal of Boynton Beach and neighboring coastal communities, city commissioners suggested during a March 26 workshop on the city's comprehensive plan.

Vice Mayor Thomas Turkin said that while a slew of agencies at the federal, state and local level would need to be part of such an undertaking, the projects are important for the city's future.

"Advocating for that to be an unfixed bridge, I think is a huge opportunity, not just for marine tourism, but also looking at property values, what that would do for the city of Boynton Beach" in the downtown and along the waterfront, Turkin said.

Commissioner Aimee Kelley said she, too, sees the inlet issue as important to be included as the city updates its comprehensive plan, which serves as a guide to the city's future goals.

The inlet, though widely used by boaters, was designed to flush out the Intracoastal Waterway and not for navigation. It is not maintained as a federal channel and is considered dangerous.

The city needs to figure out "what we can do to enhance it and make it more usable and more safe," Kelley said. "A lot of our Ocean Rescue is due to that inlet and it being very difficult to traverse."

City staff said there would also be environmental benefits to widening the inlet — officially named the South Lake Worth Inlet — including for water quality purposes.

The discussions were just that, with no specific plan developed yet for moving forward. The comments are expected to be included as staff finalizes the draft update of Boynton Beach's comprehensive plan, which will then be sent to the state. A public hearing will be held by the city before its adoption.

"I think that is extremely important because there has been discussions I believe with other municipalities that are advocating for this," Turkin said of inlet improvements. "So, the squeaky wheel gets the oil. I want to make sure we try to be

as squeaky as possible."

Back in 2009, a special Boynton Inlet Committee looked at the very same issues. The City Commission at the time voted to adopt the committee's recommendations to keep things as they are and bypass other options, which had included widening or deepening the channel, ebb shoal dredging, shifting the south jetty and

replacing the A1A bridge over the inlet.

Engineers had warned that widening or deepening the inlet would lead to greater flooding of property along the Intracoastal from storm surge.

Although the committee at the time didn't advocate any long-term structural changes, its members favored erecting more signs letting boaters know about

dangerous conditions in the Boynton Inlet.

The bridge is currently undergoing a \$579,000 improvement project by the Florida Department of Transportation. The project includes "repairing, painting, and sealing the bridge, sidewalks, railings, and sea wall to strengthen the structure and extend its lifespan," according to

FDOT.

The work is adding non-slip surfaces on the bridge deck and sidewalks to improve safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

The project began in January and is expected to be completed by the summer.

The current bridge opened in 1975 and state reports list it in "fair" condition. ★

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Waves take bite out of renourished beach

Municipal beach, Delray Beach — March 25

Brave walkers and shell collectors brace themselves as large waves crash and erode parts of Delray's beach — even as more sand is being dredged up and placed on the beach. The gray sand is from the ongoing beach renourishment project. High-energy waves and rip current warnings were frequent in March.

Tim Stepien/
The Coastal Star



Delray Beach

Mollica wins commission seat over mayor's favored candidate

By John Pacenti

You've heard of the luck of the Irish? Well, could there also be the curse of the Carney?

Real estate broker Judy Mollica, a familiar face in local civic circles, defeated well-funded political newcomer Andrea Keiser on March 10 in a race she believed hinged on voter turnout and her long-term ties to the community.



Mollica

Her victory came in a three-way Delray Beach City Commission race in which Mollica argued that roots and record should matter more than last-minute campaign gloss.

Mayor Tom Carney endorsed Keiser, saying she was the most qualified candidate on budget and policy matters.

Mollica replaces Rob Long, who left the commission in December after being elected state representative for District 90. Mollica captured 40% of the vote to Keiser's 34%. A third candidate, Delores Rangel, a former executive assistant for the city, had 26% to finish third. Voter turnout was 17%.

Commissioner Angela Burns won a second term without opposition.

"I think it's just the work I've done in the community and that many of the residents saw my commitment," Mollica said after the votes were counted. "I am incredibly grateful for the voters putting their trust in me."

Mollica and Burns took

City Commission

J. Mollica*	2,745
A. Keiser	2,324
D. Rangel	1,744

*Elected to three-year term
Source: Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections

their oaths of office on March 26. Pastor Lenard Johnson of Mount Olive Baptist Church swore in the new commissioner while her daughter and family watched remotely from their home in Denmark.

Mollica — who had been on the city's Planning and Zoning Board — got some key endorsements from the police and fire unions. She opposed the city's ousting of the nonprofit that ran Old School Square and praised the Downtown Development Authority, often criticized by Carney as wasting taxpayer dollars.

On coastal issues, Mollica campaigned that the city should pursue reef-based shoreline protection guided by marine scientists, rather than relying solely on trucked-in sand and offshore dredging. She also backed exploring noise-camera technology to ticket modified exhausts on vehicles on State Road A1A and address a long-running quality-of-life complaint on the island.

In an era where campaigns often measure strength in the number of lawn signs lining major intersections, Mollica intentionally bucked that strategy. She said she refused to "litter the world with lawn signs," opting instead for

targeted yard placements only where homeowners specifically requested them.

"I'm door-to-door every single day, and I've got groups making phone calls, so we're fighting till the end," she told *The Coastal Star* before the vote.

Mollica also openly questioned Keiser's \$102,000 investment of her own money in the race, saying it showed her opponent did not have name recognition or a track record of civil service in the community.

Mollica is president of Friends of Delray, which has the motto "accountable government, sensible growth and civic pride." She said she closed the gap with some late donations but ran her campaign "on a shoestring budget."

The runners-up

On the trail and in interviews, Keiser framed herself as the most technically prepared candidate for a commission that spends much of its time on development and budgeting. The land-use and zoning attorney has touted that she is a board member of the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, which manages a \$300 million budget with 5% administrative costs.

She also promised to address permitting delays for residents.

"Although this election did not end the way we hoped, I remain incredibly optimistic about the future of our city," Keiser said. "This campaign brought together many residents who care deeply about Delray Beach, and I look forward to continuing to stay involved in

our community and working to make our city even stronger."

Rangel was hampered by the flu during a key stretch of candidate forums and struggled with public speaking, failing at times to get her positions across. However, in a one-on-one interview, Rangel showed her expertise on a range of issues.

At one point, a meme surfaced on Delray Beach social media circles asking, "Where's Delores?" showing a Where's Waldo scenario with Rangel in front of the "Invisibility Office."

Rangel thanked her team and congratulated Mollica.

"I am so grateful to all my volunteers and supporters, and especially to my family who I put to work for me during this campaign," she said. "We did not get the result we wanted, but I am proud of my campaign, and running for office was an incredible experience."

Before the election, she told *The Coastal Star* that the direction of the city regarding development and policies was at stake. She said she was the "only candidate who does not have donors hidden in a PAC, and I'm not supported by any developers and special interest groups."

Mollica says she has no hard feelings toward Carney — who sent out a long memo endorsing Keiser.

"I'm not one of those vindictive people," she said. "I just want to work and get the work of the city done."

Mayor's letter criticized

At the March 9 commission meeting the day before the election, Carney got quite a bit

of pushback on the endorsement letter he disseminated.

Commissioners Tom Markert and Juli Casale said the assertion that he was the only one who sought budget cuts last year while other commissioners were silent was false. Casale, especially, told the mayor that when discussing the 2025-2026 budget, she was open to cuts if they were feasible. She disagreed with Carney's proposals.

"This is yet another clear violation of the charter and our rules that we have up here," Markert said. "You are not allowed to criticize once decisions are made, and you've continually done this. This behavior is chronic, it's unnecessary, and it's fostering a negative culture."

Markert noted the criticism of his fellow commissioners follows Carney's comments at the Feb. 24 meeting that he was committed to fostering mutual respect on the dais.

Casale added, "We campaigned on transparency and honesty, and that letter was remarkably dishonest. And I have to say, you know, it is true, you are violating our rules of decorum. I mean, you should be censured at a certain point."

Paul Cannon, chair of the Police Advisory Board, also lit into Carney in public comments.

"As a voter in Delray Beach, I feel it is highly improper for a sitting elected official to tell me how I should vote, sir," he said. "This is entirely inappropriate, and I do hope that it doesn't backfire when you seek reelection." ★

AED

Continued from page 1

more, while other municipalities are encouraging condo boards in their communities to install AEDs on multiple floors.

In addition, fire departments serving the coastal communities all incorporate AED training into CPR classes.

In Highland Beach, a town effort led by Chudnofsky is championing a new program that is bringing AED and CPR training to condos.

Rather than wait for residents to request the training, Highland Beach is coming to them and initiating the classes.

“We’re bringing it to each of the condos because we find that’s more effective,” said Chudnofsky, “It’s in the best interest of all residents for us to go to them.”

Taught by a certified instructor, the training sessions in Highland Beach are the result of a partnership between the Highland Beach Police and Fire Foundation and the town’s fire rescue department and are offered for free, with the nonprofit foundation footing the bill. Chudnofsky, who chairs the town’s police and fire foundation, is also behind Highland Beach’s proclamation of April as CPR and AED Awareness Month.

In addition, he helped the Coronado condominium board donate AEDs to the Highland Beach Police Department after

residents decided they weren’t needed on every other floor because of the community’s proximity to the fire station.

In Delray Beach, an 18-month grace period, during which residents were educated about the new requirement to have AEDs on every other floor, is over and the mandates are now being enforced during fire safety inspections.

The new rule, included in a revised ordinance that also requires bleeding control kits on every other floor of a five-story or more building, has guidelines for commercial and other buildings where you’d expect large gatherings of people.

No other municipality on the south Palm Beach County coast requires AEDs on every other floor.

Delray Beach Fire Marshal Joe Mazzeo says that having AEDs on alternate floors, as opposed to just in a lobby, makes them more rapidly accessible to someone on higher floors and can save valuable minutes and save lives.

“Anything we can do to improve survivability is important and every second counts,” he said.

While AEDs are self-guided, with a recording giving step-by-step instructions, fire department leaders believe the AED training — in coordination with CPR — can have a beneficial impact.

Elyse Carhart, the



Geoff Squires, Max Mirochnik and Fred Daniels (l-r) practice giving chest compressions during a training session at a Highland Beach condo. Rachel O’Hara/The Coastal Star

community education supervisor for Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, which serves Manalapan and South Palm Beach, believes that the training helps build confidence in those who may have to use CPR and an AED.

“The more comfortable people are with doing something, the more likely they are to do it,” she said.

For Highland Beach residents like Dottie Turcotte, who took CPR classes years ago, the training offered in her condo proved to be a refresher that will likely make her feel more comfortable should she need to use it and an AED.

Turcotte said she had to know CPR when she worked with children but “I’m not sure I

remember it.”

Like most of the area’s fire departments, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue offers free “hands only” CPR and AED training and will come to buildings or specific locations. Those classes do not offer certifications, although Boca Raton Fire Rescue offers CPR certification classes at a minimal cost.

“We’re always happy to see when people are using AEDs prior to our arrival,” says Lt. Karl Richards of Boca Raton Fire Rescue. “The early use of CPR and AEDs together gives the patient the highest sustainable rate of walking out of the hospital.”

In the classes she leads for Highland Beach condos, Diane

AED tips

Having an AED accessible for use can make a difference between life and death. Here are tips to ensure your device is ready:

Set up the AED according to manufacturer’s instructions. **Register the device** with the manufacturer so you’ll get updates and other important information.

Make sure the device is visible and accessible.

Put the address of the location on the cabinet and the device.

Designate two people to ensure the AED is properly maintained.

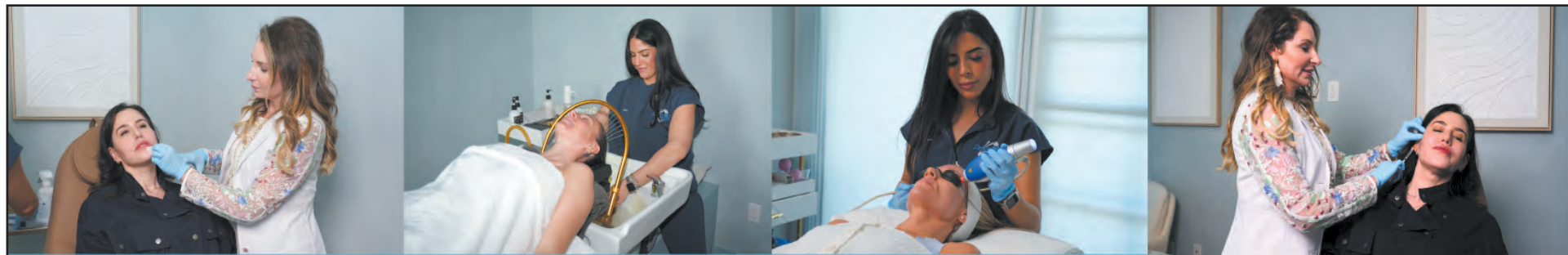
Lea of Lifesavers Inc. has those participating do actual CPR on mannequins and has them work with the AED.

She is good at going beyond just the mechanics and takes time to explain the difference between CPR and defibrillation and why they should be used together.

“Instead of just saying ‘do it,’ I want them to know why they’re doing it,” she said.

CPR, she explains, is about getting oxygen into the body once the heart stops in cardiac arrest. Defibrillation is about getting the heart back into a normal rhythm.

“I wish everyone would learn CPR and AEDs,” she said. ★



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Gulf Stream

Town Commission election returns familiar faces

By Steve Plunkett

As they usually do, Gulf Stream voters March 10 chose to keep the five incumbents running for Town Commission.

Returned to the dais are Scott Morgan, Tom Stanley, Robert Canfield, Michael Greene and Joan Orthwein, all officially receiving at least 294 votes, according to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office.

The commissioners took their oaths of office at the start of their March 13 regular meeting and quickly chose Morgan to continue as mayor and Stanley as vice mayor.

Town Clerk Reneé Basel said 399 people voted in person and 67 by mail, making for a 57% turnout of Gulf Stream's 818 registered voters.

Newcomer Michael Glennon, who campaigned on bringing "a fresh perspective" to the commission, garnered 241



Gulf Stream Commissioners (l-r) Joan Orthwein, Scott Morgan, Tom Stanley and Michael Greene are sworn in March 13 at the first meeting after they were reelected. Robert Canfield was unable to attend the meeting. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



Canfield

winning a seat.

Glennon was picked by more than half the voters casting ballots in the town election, but that wasn't enough to overcome

votes, more than double the 112 that Julio Martinez got in his losing effort in the last contested election in 2017 but 54 shy of

the incumbents who each were chosen by between 63% to 73% of participating voters.

It was the first time Greene and Canfield stood for election after being appointed to the commission. Greene had 305 votes, Canfield 294.

Morgan, Stanley and Orthwein each received the most votes they've ever had. Morgan had 340, or 15 more than in 2014; Stanley clocked in with 333, up 16 from 2014; and

Orthwein had 318, or five more than in 2014.

A PAC supporting the five incumbents took out an ad telling voters that "results require a team" and listing the commission's accomplishments over the years, including zero tax increases for 10 years and 25% lower costs for drinking water once Gulf Stream switches to Boynton Beach's system in 2027. ★

Town Commission (five seats)

S. Morgan (I)*	340
T. Stanley (I)*	333
J. Orthwein (I)*	318
M. Greene (I)*	305
R. Canfield (I)*	294
M. Glennon	241

(I) Incumbent

*Elected to three-year term

Source: Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections

Steep water bills catch residents by surprise, lead commission to trim rates

By Steve Plunkett

Mere months after raising the rates that residents pay for drinking water — with many paying up to 36% more — Gulf Stream town commissioners have scaled back the level of the increases.

After hearing complaints about "almost shockingly high" bills, Mayor Scott Morgan and the commission in February asked staff to review the increases they had approved in October after Delray Beach boosted its base rate.

It did not help that water bills cover two months of use, doubling the perceived increase,

and that residents before the change paid only \$3.60 per 1,000 gallons of water for the first 20,000 gallons, effectively being subsidized by neighbors who use a lot more.

On Oct. 1, the rates for the town's four "tiers," categories based on lot size and water usage, each went up \$1.30 per 1,000 gallons of water after Delray Beach's rate for Gulf Stream rose to \$4.90 per 1,000 gallons.

Commissioners, succumbing to complaints, on March 13 lowered each tier's rate for each 1,000 gallons of water used by 40 cents, to \$4.50 for the first tier, \$4.73 for the second, \$6.24

for the third and \$10.20 for the fourth. That makes the overall rate increase for this year 90 cents per 1,000 gallons.

"I think it sounds good," Commissioner Joan Orthwein said.

With the lowered rates, the town will break even with what Delray Beach charges it, said Mark Bymaster, the town's chief financial officer. The higher rates would have provided a \$100,000 cushion to cover repairs or capital expenses of Gulf Stream's water infrastructure.

The town charges increasingly higher rates for residents who use increasingly greater amounts of water — a

system designed to discourage property owners from watering their lawns too much.

Delray Beach, which has supplied Gulf Stream with drinking water for at least 50 years, told the town in 2024 that it had to leave the city's system. The city is building a new water plant and says it can only afford one large enough to serve its own population, which is expected to grow by 7,000 residents.

Gulf Stream is in the process of switching providers and connecting to Boynton Beach's system. When it does so, estimated to happen in April or May 2027, the cost to the

town will plummet to \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons under a 25-year agreement Gulf Stream and Boynton Beach signed last fall.

"Looking forward to lower rates in '27," Commissioner Michael Greene said.

But to do that, a water main must be installed from Seacrest Boulevard east along Gulfstream Boulevard to a connection just inside the entrance to Place Au Soleil on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway.

Along with lower rates, Gulf Stream expects to get better water pressure from Boynton Beach once it connects. ★

Along the Coast

Trump has new state rep — a Democrat — as Gregory replaces Caruso

A coastal Palm Beach County special election to fill a vacant statehouse seat attracted national attention when the Democratic candidate defeated her Republican rival in a district that includes President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home.

Democrat Emily Gregory, a small-business owner from Jupiter, beat Republican Jon Maples, a financial planner and former Lake Clarke Shores council member who had been endorsed by Trump — with the president voting by mail-



Gregory

Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections website as of March 27.

The District 87 house seat includes most of Manalapan, the eastern part of Lantana, plus South Palm Beach and

in ballot in the March 24 election.

Gregory captured slightly more than 51% of the vote in the unofficial count reported on the

FL House District 87 Special election*

E. Gregory (D) 17,122

J. Maples (R) 16,322

*Unofficial results

Source: Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections

points north to Juno Beach. It had been held by Republican Mike Caruso, whom Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Palm Beach County's clerk of courts and comptroller in August. The

previous clerk, Joseph Abruzzo, left the position after being hired as county administrator.

DeSantis scheduled the election for Caruso's replacement to be held after the 2026 session of the state Legislature was to have ended, but lawmakers are expected back in April because they still need to approve a state budget.

Gregory may not have much of a say as the GOP has a supermajority in the state Legislature.

And she won't have much of

a chance to warm her seat, as it goes up for election again in November for a full two-year term.

The election provided fodder for the nation's political pundits trying to divine clues for how Republicans who control the U.S. House and Senate might perform in November's congressional elections.

The unofficial results of the District 87 race showed Gregory with 17,122 votes to Maples' 16,322, an 800-vote margin.

— Larry Barszewski

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Manalapan

Town may use eminent domain to take bank property for future Town Hall

By John Pacenti

Manalapan’s ambitious Town Hall project hit a snag when the owner of a former bank on a corner of Plaza del Mar failed to respond to the town’s overture to purchase the property.

The Town Commission at its March 10 meeting authorized an outside attorney to prepare to proceed with the acquisition of the property by eminent domain.

The former bank building at 131 S. Ocean Blvd. has been a troublesome property for the town, which imposed a \$163,000 lien on it last year for unpaid code-enforcement fines related to unapproved renovations.

Town Attorney Keith Davis told commissioners the resolution mirrors language used in prior actions and is a procedural step to preserve the town’s ability to acquire the property if the owner does not reach an agreement with the town.

Davis told commissioners that the April 5 deadline for the offer period is approaching. If the deadline passes without a response, town staff will move forward under the authority granted by the resolution.

Town Manager Eric Marmer said Manalapan has already made an offer to the building’s owner, Salute Realty LLC, based on an appraisal.

The resolution adopted states the property

— called Parcel 101 — is necessary “for the expansion or relocation of the Town Hall and parts of its offices and facilities, including but not limited to police and fire department facilities.”

The item drew limited public discussion at the meeting.

The town is working to secure additional land around the bank building owned by the plaza. The site is considered the best option because it would allow the current Town Hall to remain operational during construction.

Salute Realty LLC is based in New York. It purchased the building for \$1.2 million in 2019, according to Palm Beach County property records.

State records do not list a direct phone number for Salute Realty or the registered agent.

The lack of a response from the ownership to the town is curious, given that Salute Realty vigorously fought the code violations.

The council-approved resolution is just the first step in the acquisition process. If negotiations fail, the town would file a Petition for Condemnation in Palm Beach County Circuit Court.

A judge would then decide whether the project serves a valid public purpose and whether the municipality truly needs the specific property. A jury would determine the final amount the town would pay to Salute Realty. ★

Firm hired to secure state loan for sewer work

By John Pacenti

You gotta spend money to make money — or something like that.

The Manalapan Town Commission at its March 10 meeting approved \$71,700 for an engineering firm to obtain a low-interest loan for the town’s \$20 million septic-to-sewer project.

Tom Biggs, vice president for Mock Roos & Associates, told the commission that multiple submissions are required to obtain a low-interest loan from the State Revolving Fund administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

“There’s a long checklist,” Biggs said. “The process is somewhat complicated.”

The loan program — funded by federal and state contributions — functions like an infrastructure bank to provide local governments with the capital needed to plan and build wastewater, stormwater and drinking water projects.

“The subsidized loan currently operates in the 2% (interest) range, and it fluctuates based on income statistics for the town,” Biggs said. He said the loan would cost the town significantly less than a bond issue — which would have to be approved by voters.

There was relatively little discussion among commissioners. Another Florida coastal town — Key Biscayne — recently paid a different engineering firm more than \$20,000 to fill out an application for the revolving fund for its stormwater project.

The issue was controversial for the village because it had a staff member in charge of obtaining outside funding for infrastructure projects. Manalapan has no such staff member or expertise.

Town Manager Eric Marmer said Mock Roos will incorporate simultaneous work, such as a rate study, that will show how many customers will need to be connected to a central sewer line and what they should be charged.

Mock Roos is also putting in two applications for two different state grants, he said. The town has also applied for U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel’s community project funding, which directs federal dollars to Palm Beach County to improve infrastructure, public safety, health services and education, Marmer added.

Marmer has called the septic-to-sewer project the town’s top priority.

Septic systems are used by most single-family homes in Ocean Ridge, Manalapan and Gulf Stream.

The state’s porous limestone and sandy soil allow nitrogen and pathogens from septic systems to leach directly into the groundwater and coastal estuaries. The chance that Manalapan gets the State Revolving Fund loan seems good.

Former DEP Secretary Shawn Hamilton, addressing legislative subcommittees in 2023, said the agency was committed to addressing septic tanks, saying they “represent a direct threat to water bodies, so we’ve prioritized those efforts for replacement.” ★

Guardhouse plans scaled back

The Taj Mahal of guardhouses will, alas, remain on the drawing board.

Manalapan’s Architectural Commission severely cut back on the ambitious plan originally proposed, Town Manager Eric Marmer said.

The new plan scales what could have been a \$340,000 structure back to the size of the current aging guardhouse. Marmer said it will now cost the \$100,000 that the Town Commission allocated for the project.

Gone is the elaborate steel trellis that would stretch over the guardhouse at Point Manalapan on Hypoluxo Island.

After some pushback to its original design, Currie Sowards Aguila Architects presented several new design options — contemporary, coastal, and Caribbean variations — at ARCOM’s March 5 meeting.

“The design, essentially, is like what you already have there, except the added features for better security and deterring crime with wider, bigger

windows,” Marmer said.

Marmer described the new design as not the modern design initially proposed, “but it’s not going to be like the shack from the 1960s anymore.”

Police have emphasized that the new design will provide better sightlines, CCTV and license plate readers, on-site police staffing and an ADA-compliant restroom.

The new design will head back to the Town Commission for final approval.

— John Pacenti



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Boca Raton

City manager pushes out police chief, two deputy city managers

By Mary Hladky

New Boca Raton City Manager Mark Sohaney has revamped the city's leadership in a massive executive-team shake-out.

Gone are Police Chief Michele Miuccio and Deputy City Managers Chrissy Gibson and Jorge Camejo, the city announced on March 12.

The city has since launched a national search for a new police chief.

"We are looking for a leader who understands the importance of service, community accountability, and relationships, and who can help guide the department into

the future," Sohaney said in a March 24 statement.

The position was to be posted through the beginning of April. Assistant Police Chief Elizabeth Roberts has been appointed acting police chief and will be involved in the hiring process.

But the 20-year department veteran is not expected to stay with the city for long. She has received a conditional offer for a new professional opportunity, city officials said.

Miuccio joined the Police Department 37 years ago and rose through the ranks to become deputy chief and then police chief in 2020.

Most recently, Miuccio had pressed for a new police

headquarters to replace the current facility, which is old and in poor condition.

Voters in the March 10 city election voted down financing a new police campus on city-owned land at the intersection of Spanish River and Broken Sound boulevards. The new buildings, which also would have included a firing range and a building to store evidence, would have cost as much as \$190 million.

Gibson is a longtime employee who served as assistant city manager until her promotion in 2024. She oversaw the office of city clerk, emergency management, sustainability, public art,

and communications and marketing.

Camejo is the city's former Community Redevelopment Agency director who left to head up Hollywood's CRA before returning to the city as a deputy city manager last year. His focus was on Boca Raton's CRA.

He will still be involved in planning for the city. A day after the firings were announced, Camejo applied for a seat on the Planning & Zoning Board. The City Council approved his appointment at its March 24 meeting.

In brief remarks, he told the council that he thought his background and experience in development and redevelopment

would be helpful to the board.

Sohaney's announcement did not say why the three were pushed out. But it said that the city has conducted a review of its leadership structure over the past five months "to ensure it aligns with operational needs and long-term priorities."

"These changes are being implemented as part of this strategic realignment to ensure continuity of service, maintain public safety, and position the city to move forward with a strong and effective leadership team," the city statement said.

Sohaney joined the city in September, replacing City Manager George Brown, who retired. ★

Sand from inlet rebuilds South Inlet Park's beach

By Mary Hladky

The 12-foot sand cliffs at South Inlet Park are now a distant memory.

Severe beach erosion in mid-February was the result of cold weather fronts and powerful tides.

The city's dredge boat crew was able to begin correcting the problem almost immediately.

A sand bypassing operation has placed more than 14,000 cubic yards of sand on the beach south of the Boca Inlet since Feb. 17, city officials said in late March.

The elevation of sand surface has been raised by about 6 feet from the jetty to nearly 100 feet south.

The boulders that make up the jetty now are nearly completely covered.

The sand bypassing operation runs three or four days a week, and averages placing about 1,000 cubic yards of sand each day.

Access to the jetty and the

adjacent beach area has been fully restored.

Bypassed sand will gradually work its way south, building up berm width and height on South Inlet Park beach.

The city is coordinating with Gumbo Limbo Nature Center to safeguard turtles through the turtle nesting season.

Grading of bypassed sand to build up the beach berm near the dune and jetty will be considered when it can be done without any negative effect on turtle nesting, city officials said.

Boca Raton routinely nourishes its south beach every seven years, rotating the work with projects on its central and north beaches.

In April 2023, the city completed the sixth renourishment project of the shoreline adjacent to South Inlet Park.

Sand placement started at South Inlet Park and continued south to Deerfield Beach and Hillsboro Beach.

The 1.4-mile project was the



A couple poses for engagement photos at South Inlet Park in Boca Raton late last month. The restoration has raised the beach by about 6 feet, the city says. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

first collaborative project among the three cities.

Boca Raton received a "Best Restored Beach Award" from the American Shore and Beach

Preservation Association for that work.

The three cities saved money on renourishment projects that they had conducted

independently in the past. They used about 370,000 cubic yards of sand dredged from the ebb shoal just south of the Boca Raton Inlet. ★

Man acquitted of trying to kill girlfriend at Boca Bash

By Steve Plunkett

A Boca Raton man has been acquitted of trying to

strangle and hold his girlfriend underwater at the 2022 Boca Bash.

Cole Goldberg, then 23, was

charged with attempted second-degree murder, domestic battery by strangulation and simple battery in the April 24,

2022, incident as hundreds of boats gathered for the Lake Boca Raton party held each year on the last Sunday in April.

Palm Beach County Circuit Judge John Parnofiello found Goldberg not guilty of all three charges on March 12 after a three-day non-jury trial.

At the time of the arrest, witnesses said Goldberg and girlfriend Caroline Schwitzky, then 32, got into a heated argument before she jumped into the water to get away and he followed.

Goldberg, one witness said, "came up from behind her and grabbed her by the neck and pushed her underwater. He held her underwater and (another witness) pulled her away from him," the arrest report said.

But inconsistencies in witnesses' recollections at the trial troubled Parnofiello. One said Schwitzky was underwater 4 seconds, another said 10 to 15

seconds and a third "could not give a specific time," the judge said. Two others could also not provide a time. A sixth witness said she was underwater "5, 6, maybe 10 seconds" and Schwitzky herself said she was submerged "30, 40 or 50 seconds," Parnofiello said.

The witnesses also differed on whether Goldberg tried to hold Schwitzky underwater more than once, the judge said. And Schwitzky testified that "she was thrown around like a rag doll back and forth," but there was no evidence of injuries consistent with such a violent manner, Parnofiello said.

Schwitzky had told the arresting officers that she and Goldberg had been dating for about a year. Schwitzky played a modeling agent in 2016 in the reality show *90-Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?* on cable channel TLC. ★

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Highland Beach

Public Works mechanic is tops in the town

By Rich Pollack

Officially, Tyrone Powell's title is utility maintenance mechanic for the town of Highland Beach.

Those familiar with Powell's work, however, know that the better moniker would be "go-to guy," since the Public Works employee is called on to do everything from emptying trash cans on the beach to fixing a leaky faucet or replacing a water meter.

Now, after 10 years in Highland Beach, Powell has earned yet another title: Employee of the Year.

Recognized for his teamwork and easygoing demeanor, Powell is the inaugural winner of the Employee of the Year award for employees not in the fire or police department.

At a March ceremony, the town also honored Police Officer of the Year George Reid, Firefighter of the Year Ray Charafardin and Paramedic of the Year Kyle Pavelka.

Town leaders say Powell's commitment to the town and strong work ethic helped him earn unanimous support for the award from department heads.

"Tyrone is always willing to help anyone at any time," says Public Works Director Pat Roman, Powell's supervisor. "He's always smiling and never raises his voice. He's just a pleasant guy to be around."

Originally from Jamaica, Powell has been in the United States for 40 years, working first in the New York area, where he did the same type of maintenance work he does for Highland Beach.

He honed a variety of the skills he uses every day while growing up on the island.

"When you're in Jamaica you learn to do everything," he said.

Part of his job includes driving a cart down the beach



L-R: Police Officer of the Year George Reid, Paramedic of the Year Kyle Pavelka, Firefighter of the Year Ray Charafardin, and Tyrone Powell. Powell, a Highland Beach maintenance mechanic, is the town's inaugural Employee of the Year award winner. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday to empty trash cans, and over the last decade he's gotten to say hello to many of the town's residents.

Being outside is where he prefers to be. "I don't like office work," he says.

Powell, 69, says his job in Highland Beach is the best one he's ever had, in part because the town's leadership just lets him do his job.

He is grateful for the Employee of the Year recognition and says it is the first time he's work at a place that offers such an award.

As for the future, Powell says he's not thinking about retiring anytime soon.

"I enjoy what I do here so I don't see any reason to retire,"

Officer of the Year

You would think that motorists would be unhappy when they get traffic tickets, but when the citations come from Officer George Reid, quite a few folks end up thanking him.

In fact, a couple have even written letters to town leaders expressing their gratitude for the way Reid handled the traffic stops.

"People love him," Police Chief Craig Hartmann said.

Reid's determination to help make the town safer by encouraging compliance with traffic laws — and the way he handled a life-threatening situation — were key reasons why he was selected Officer of the Year.

He led the department in several categories including traffic stops, citations, warnings, criminal violations and arrests.

Reid also helped subdue and arrest a machete-wielding man who tussled with officers and was able to pull Reid's weapon partially out of the holster and pull the trigger.

Firefighter of the Year

Harnessing the latest technology is crucial to the success of any fire rescue department and in Highland Beach, firefighter Ray Charafardin is playing an important role in helping get that technology up and running.

"Ray helped implement technology that improves the quality of care and the implementation of that care,"

Fire Rescue Chief Glenn Joseph said.

Charafardin led the initiative to update the department's reporting system, transferring information from the old system to the new one over a six-month period.

He also helped with setting up the new EPOCH mobile laboratory system that makes it possible for paramedics to better diagnose medical conditions while with the patient.

In addition, Charafardin helped with implementation of a mobile app that enables paramedics to navigate the protocols for specific patient conditions.

Last year, Charafardin was named Paramedic of the Year.

Paramedic of the Year

In an emergency, having the right equipment — and knowing where it is — is essential for first responders. Paramedic Kyle Pavelka is making sure that's what's happening at Highland Beach Fire Rescue.

Pavelka volunteered to write two grants for additional equipment that the department needed, with one of those grants resulting in needed funding and the other still pending.

He also took the initiative to make sure the equipment was easily accessible to firefighters and paramedics if and when they need it.

"He completely redid the way we store and access equipment on the truck," Joseph said.

The chief said that Pavelka is there to help others in the department — including firefighters and paramedics — improve through training programs. He also focuses on his own training.

"He's very committed to improving his skills," the chief said. ★

A1A road work taking longer, bursting its budget

By Rich Pollack

The 3.3-mile State Road A1A road improvement project in Highland Beach — which came in with a roar — is going out with a whimper as crews finalize the project that's more than six months behind schedule and almost \$1 million over budget.

Florida Department of Transportation officials say that the resurfacing project with an original price tag of \$8.3 million

will cost about \$950,000 more.

In addition, state officials say that the original completion date of late summer 2025 has now been pushed back to sometime this spring, although much of the work remaining is part of a "punch-out list" with minimal disruption to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Weather, according to an FDOT spokesperson, played a factor in the delays as did design revisions identified

during construction that needed to be implemented.

A significant contributing factor has been the need to raise and shift the roadway profile to tie into existing driveways and adjacent areas while making sure the work was following the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"This effort introduced unforeseen challenges and contributed to the extended construction delays. These adjustments required additional

coordination, redesign, and construction effort, ultimately contributing to schedule impacts and cost overruns," the FDOT said in an email to *The Coastal Star*.

Also contributing were additional improvements such as an enhanced drainage system, pavement strengthening and roadway profile adjustments designed to improve the long-term performance of the highway, the email said.

Those improvements were identified during the project.

While the continued work is not having much impact on motorists, it is creating an issue for Highland Beach town officials who say they are waiting for the FDOT to complete the project before they can begin a massive sewer lining project along A1A.

Once it begins, that project is expected to be completed within a few months. ★



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Delray Beach

Commission denies request for ‘oversized’ house along Intracoastal

By John Pacenti

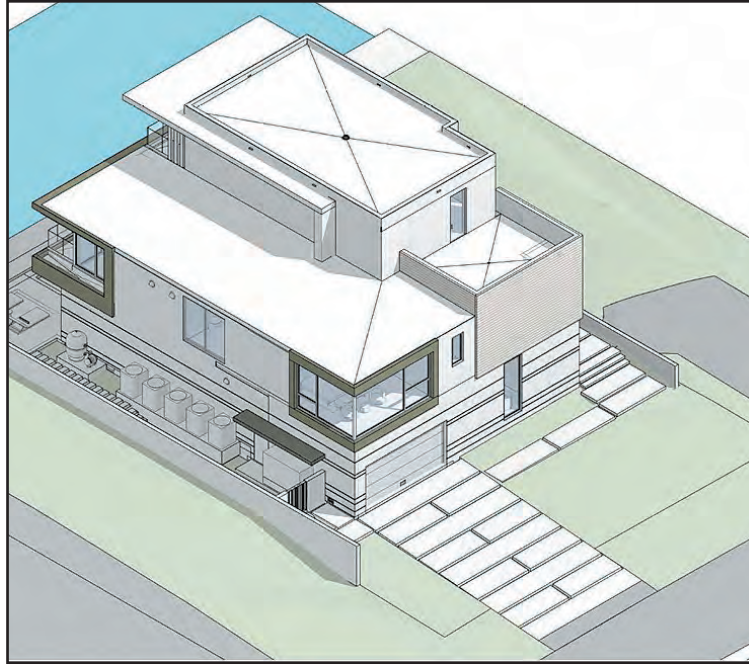
The Delray Beach City Commission stood firm on development on the coast, denying a request to exceed the city’s building code for a proposed three-story, 7,330-square-foot house along the Intracoastal Waterway.

The unanimous vote at the Feb. 24 meeting gave a victory to the Beach Property Owners Association. Its president, Hal Stern, argued that the commission stick to the ordinance it adopted in March 2024 with input from coastal residents.

“Those standards were enacted in direct response to widespread neighborhood concern over oversized, out-of-proportion, three-story buildings,” Stern said.

He said the proposed single-family home at 1006 Brooks Lane “would be incompatible with the established neighborhood context, and therefore fails to meet the waiver requirement of adverse impact.”

Stamm Development Group, the owner, asked for the waiver to exceed the city’s Floor Area Ratio — or FAR — that measures a building’s size in relation to the overall size of the property. The proposed home would be 1,724 square feet over the maximum



Delray Beach commissioners denied a waiver that would have allowed this three-story, 7,330-square-foot house at 1006 Brooks Lane. The house would have exceeded the maximum square footage for the property. **Image provided**

adopted two years ago.

For the commission, this was a messy conundrum because a permit to build an even bigger home on the property was issued before the new FAR was adopted.

“This is a complicated one, no doubt about that, all the way around,” said Commissioner Tom Markert.

Stamm said \$40,000 was spent to obtain a building permit in June 2023, before the new ordinance was adopted.

The city in January 2025

then notified the owner that the permit was issued in error, and new applications would need to adopt the current land development regulations, or LDRs.

Ownership appealed to Tallahassee. Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier issued a letter stating that, under state statute, the city could not revoke an extended building permit, according to a presentation by Stamm to the commission.

In January, the builder

met with city staff to reach a compromise. The waiver request reduces the home’s design area from 9,112 square feet to 7,330 square feet. The city’s regulations allow for a maximum 5,606-square-foot building on the property.

“We don’t feel that it does adversely affect the neighboring areas,” said Sean McAllister, director of development for Stamm.

Besides BPOA opposition, Tom Kustura, who owns the property immediately adjacent, framed the matter as both a compatibility and a legal fairness issue.

“If you approve this waiver, I’ll be the next in line asking for a waiver to enlarge my house,” he said. “Where does it end?”

Joe Chalal, who said he was representing homeowners on both Brooks Lane and White Drive, pushed back on the builder’s claim. “There’s definitely an impact. And it’s not a minor deviation,” he said.

Chalal told commissioners he had gathered signatures from nearby residents opposing the waiver and warned the decision would be cited in future requests across the barrier island.

Mike Stamm, principal in the development firm, told commissioners he feels there is a valid permit.

But Anthea Gianniotis, the city’s development services director, pushed back on the claim that the original permit is valid. She said ownership of the 0.2-acre lot moved from Dr. Boris Zusin, a restorative dentist, to an LLC in August and Florida law stipulates that owner-builder permits cannot be utilized by a company.

“This permit that they’re trying to travel under is no longer valid because the ownership has changed,” she said.

The commission remained steadfast in adhering to the LDR.

“I do think that this will affect the neighborhood,” said Commissioner Angela Burns. “So it’s not consistent with the code.”

Commissioner Juli Casale added, “While I appreciate your situation, and I feel it’s unfortunate that you find yourself in front of us asking for this, I can’t agree to it.”

Mayor Tom Carney said his issue was that the owner-builder permit became invalid when the deed of property changed to the LLC.

“I’m not worried about the precedent here,” Carney said. “There’s too many special facts and circumstances to try to duplicate this.” ★



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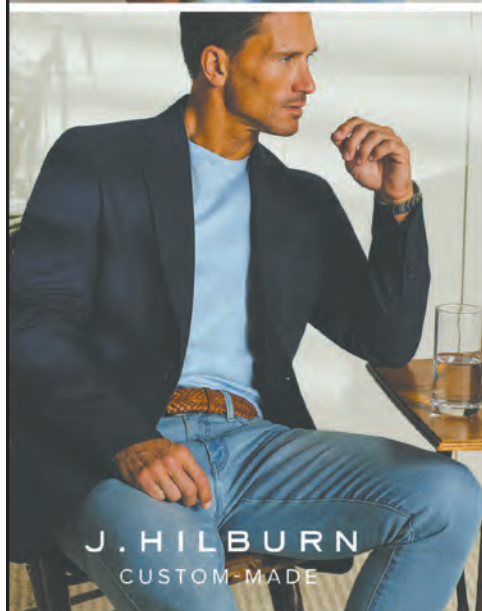
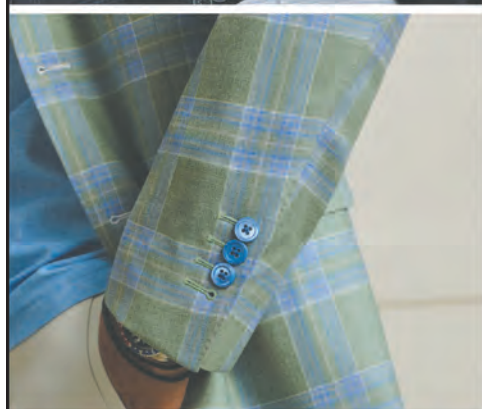


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Boca Raton

12-story hotel complex OK'd for south of Mizner Park

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton's Community Redevelopment Agency has approved a 12-story hotel and retail project directly south of Mizner Park.

The project received the go-ahead on March 23 with a 4-1 vote of agency commissioners, who also are City Council members.

Only then-CRA Chair Marc Wigder, who was defeated in his bid for reelection in the March 10 election, voted against the project.

Acknowledging the election results that swept three Save Boca members into office, Wigder unsuccessfully proposed a vote postponement until after new council members took office on March 31.

James and Marta Batmasian, the largest commercial property owners in the downtown, first proposed Mizner Plaza in 2023, but did not move forward with it at the time.

They revived it last year after making minor revisions and abandoning a request to buy a very small city-owned lot that is

now used for parking.

Like all downtown development efforts, the project is controversial. Condo owners in Tower 155, located immediately south of the project site, were the strongest opponents.

The new Mizner Plaza would have two towers with retail and restaurants on the first two stories and a 219-room hotel above them. A 56-foot-wide and 20-foot-tall staircase would separate the towers and would align with the plaza in Mizner Park. Parking would be on two levels underground.

The staircase is intended to be a key feature that would be a gathering spot. But elevators and a pedestrian ramp also would be available.

A 10-foot alley on the south side of the project site would be expanded to 20 feet to accommodate two-way traffic.

To make way for the project, two one-story buildings — at 132 and 170 NE Second St. — and the downtown post office would be demolished.

Tower 155 residents derided the buildings as too big and too



The proposed Mizner Plaza has two stories of retail and restaurants below a 219-room hotel. The staircase between towers aligns with Mizner Park. **Rendering provided**

close to their building, creating a cramped effect. But Tower 155 also had strong detractors at the time it was proposed, largely because of its size and its tight fit on its lot.

Project attorney Ele Zachariades pushed back against criticism that Mizner Plaza and Tower 155 would be too close together, saying the building setback from Tower 155 had been expanded to 54 feet even though the city said no setback is needed.

The alley between the two buildings drew much criticism, with Tower 155 residents saying that it would be too narrow even after it is expanded to 20 feet to accommodate two-way traffic. They also feared it would be clogged during the day by service vehicles and delivery trucks.

"Just because a developer

wants a big hotel doesn't mean he should get one," said Jeanette Oren, adding that the proximity of the two buildings would create "concrete canyons."

But the project also drew supporters. They liked the fact that the staircase would be lined up with Mizner Park, which would encourage pedestrians to walk to restaurants and shops at both locations.

The addition of restaurants and shops also makes the area more of a true downtown, they said.

"I think it is a beautiful looking building," said Stephen Newman. "I think it will add a lot to the downtown area."

"This project is instrumental to the future of the city. It will change everything," said Scott Kerner.

Marta Batmasian also defended the project. "It is

incredibly beautiful," she said.

Speaking for herself and her husband, she said, "We are doing this for my grandchildren and you have to respect that."

A council majority agreed the building's architectural design is beautiful.

"It is a forward-looking design," said then-Mayor Scott Singer.

Council member Yvette Drucker, who was not up for reelection this year, and then-Deputy Mayor Fran Nachlas liked the project's connection to Mizner Park and said it would add life to the downtown.

Then-Council member and now-Mayor Andy Thomson said property owners can't legally be denied the right to build just because some think a building is too big — as long as the owners adhere to city ordinances. ★

Resort gains approval for deluxe residential tower

By Mary Hladky

The outgoing City Council on March 24 approved a luxury residential building on the grounds of The Boca Raton resort.

The unanimous vote cleared the way for construction of an eight-story, 76-unit building with one level of underground parking.

The council also gave the go-ahead to a three-story fitness center for resort members and guests, and it previously approved a new golf maintenance facility.

The residential building will rise on

5.2 acres inside the resort's golf course, north and west of the main hotel. Units will range in size from two to five bedrooms.

In outlining their plans to the council, project team members emphasized that they were preserving all the healthy old-growth trees on the property and intentionally did not propose a high-rise.

The architectural style, they said, was chosen to complement architect Addison Mizner's designs for the resort.

Infrastructure improvements include construction of a new 6-foot-wide sidewalk along Mizner Village Drive

and creating a pedestrian connection from the entrance on Southeast Mizner Boulevard to the center of the property.

Concerns about the project from nearby residents, including those who live in the few private residential areas on the property, largely centered on the disruptions caused by construction as well as safety issues created by construction vehicles entering the resort.

The project team, including land use attorney Bonnie Miskel, agreed on several measures — including the pedestrian connection — to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The residential building's indoor amenities will include a residents' club, pool and gym. Outdoor amenities are a spa garden, golf terrace on the ground floor and rooftop pool and deck.

The residential building is 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.

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. The resort is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. ★



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Highland Beach

Town, water managers reach deal on Intracoastal dock for police

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach town leaders and South Florida Water Management District staff think they may have come up with a compromise that could keep plans for a dock serving the town's police and fire departments from sinking.

Standing in the way of the efforts to build the dock was a determination by the water management district that it needed more information about the town's effort to mitigate disruption to a small patch of seagrass on the Intracoastal Waterway that the dock would cover.

The district sent back the town's permit application with a request to provide a plan that would require planting of new seagrass elsewhere and building a structure to pre-treat storm water runoff.

To do what the water district wanted, Town Manager Marshall Labadie said, would have required engineering studies and consultant work that could have added as much as \$200,000 to the \$2 million project.

Following a meeting late in March, however, the water managers and the town came to a compromise that will allow the town to resubmit its permit request complete with a plan that is more focused on educating boaters about the need to protect seagrass and advocating for that protection.

The plan would no longer require mitigation planting or building an underground stormwater runoff pre-treatment structure.

"We've come up with a mitigation strategy that is more reasonable for a public-purpose project," Labadie said.

As part of its new permit application, the town is proposing putting floating signage in the Intracoastal Waterway near or adjacent to the dock, asking boaters to avoid seagrass beds and limit activities harmful to the vegetation. Those include high speeds and large wakes. In addition, the town will put an educational display in its public library about the important role seagrass has on marine life in Florida, especially federally protected manatees.

Seagrass beds serve as critical feeding grounds for manatees, which can consume up to 100 pounds a day.

Seagrass is an important part of protecting Florida's natural resources, according to the South Florida Water Management District.

"Seagrasses provide vital habitat and food for many native species," a spokesman for the agency said.

Labadie said the town will submit a new application that will follow the agreed-upon mitigation plan, which still must be approved. That new plan is in addition to steps the town had already taken to minimize damage to the seagrass.

Those steps, aimed at protecting the 32.6 square feet of low-quality seagrass that would be affected, include reconfiguring the dock's alignment and using grated decking on the dock to allow light to come through.

In making his case for a less restrictive and less costly mitigation plan, Labadie pointed out that the dock will be

used by the town police's marine patrol unit and by the town's fire rescue department.

In addition, the dock — specifically designed for public safety use — will be accessible to other law enforcement agencies, including those from Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Town leaders are hoping to

receive a grant for about half of the project's cost from the Florida Inland Navigation District but will need to have the permit from the water management district approved by June 1 to maintain eligibility.

The town is receiving an additional \$250,000 from the state to help cover the project's cost. ★



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TECH

Continued from page 1

crime plummet in areas where LPRs are deployed. In March, LPRs helped police track down those stealing wallets out of vehicles at construction sites in Manalapan and Boca Raton.

And they frequently catch suspects wanted on warrants — because those suspects are often driving stolen vehicles.

LPR technology has evolved from a passive tool for finding stolen cars into a predictive, AI-driven surveillance dragnet. Modern systems can identify cars by unique traits like roof racks, bumper stickers, or dents, even when plates are missing or obscured. These networks analyze billions of data points to flag “suspicious” travel patterns and coordinate real-time alerts across state lines.

“Anytime that we get that kind of data coming into us before a crime has been committed, it gives you an opportunity to prevent the crime,” said Manalapan Police Chief Jeff Rasor.

But civil rights organizations and some academics have raised concerns about the blanket of surveillance, saying it can easily be abused.

“It’s understandable that some folks may be a bit apprehensive about cameras,” said Boca Raton Police spokesman Dylan Huberman. “Tools like cameras are used to help prevent crime, respond quickly to emergencies, and gather evidence when incidents occur. We operate within the scope of the law to protect people’s privacy and rights.”

Huberman put it another way: “At home, you may choose to have a doorbell camera. Some people may view it as unnecessary, but others can’t imagine their lives without that sense of security.”

Flocking to Flock

The Boynton Beach City Commission at its March 23 meeting debated the ins and

outs of upgrading its LPR system and awarding a 10-year, \$7.7 million contract to Flock Safety — the leader in the industry, and the most controversial.

Flock Safety’s public affairs director, Trevor Chandler, sought to address privacy and security concerns directly: “Flock does not sell data,” he said, adding that image ownership would remain with the city and that Boynton Beach policy would enforce a 30-day retention period for footage.

Still, there have been incidents of LPR abuse that cause concern among civil rights groups.

The ACLU reported that in Texas, a police officer tapped into the LPRs from Flock Safety — the same company used by Ocean Ridge, Gulf Stream, Lantana and Highland Beach — to search for a woman who had self-administered an abortion.

In Kansas, police used an LPR database to pursue a man who wrote a critical op-ed about the department.

“We don’t think that law enforcement should be using license plate readers to retain information on where people are going and when, unless their vehicle is on a legitimate ‘hit list’ of wanted vehicles,” wrote Jay Stanley, a senior ACLU policy analyst, for the organization’s website in February.

“Nonetheless, police in many communities around the nation are using this surveillance technology as a mass surveillance system storing information about everybody’s movements.”

Boca case set precedent

The concerns about LPRs are similar to the ones raised about police use of cell-site simulators, known as Stingrays. These devices masquerade as legitimate cell phone towers to “trick” all mobile phones within a specific radius into connecting to them instead of the network.

A violent robbery at Boca Raton’s Josephine’s restaurant in 2012 led to a landmark

ruling against such devices used without a warrant. The Broward County Sheriff’s Office was found to have exceeded the scope of its warrant by using a Stingray to locate the suspect’s cell phone inside his Fort Lauderdale residence.

The case set the stage for the current litigation against LPRs filed in California regarding the millions of times federal agencies allegedly accessed local license plate data — especially with the leader in the industry, Flock.

The increasing commingling of private industry and law enforcement has created a marketplace where vehicle location data can be shared or, in some cases, sold to determine citizens’ travel and purchasing habits, critics say.

“Flock has created an Orwellian mass-surveillance infrastructure that is practically impossible to avoid,” according to the federal complaint in California.

Since the start of 2025, at least 30 cities and counties across the U.S. have canceled or declined to renew their contracts with Flock Safety.

McClure said he learned of concerns about data being sold on newscasts.

“The big concern is, ‘Oh, they’re tracking your habits and whatnot.’ But you know your phone and other devices are tracking you,” McClure said.

“In law enforcement, we use it for investigations into criminal activity. It’s a detective’s dream. We have been able to solve several cases that would not be possible without the use of LPR readers.”

Cameras and legwork

Case in point: Sterling Maloney.

Maloney is suspected of a months-long shooting spree where he sprayed bullets into houses and businesses throughout Palm Beach County as he worked down his grudge list of his perceived enemies.

After bullets were fired at an Ocean Ridge residence, the town’s police turned to their network cameras and those of some residents to help hone in on the perpetrator from the car he drove.

“It’s a trifecta when we are able to use private cameras tied into our LPR system and our live static cameras,” McClure said. “That was an ace in the hole for us. We solved 16 shooting cases for several jurisdictions, including Palm Beach County, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach.”

Ocean Ridge has LPR readers at the entry and exit points in town.

Up the road in Manalapan, Chief Rasor has not only seen what LPRs and high-tech policing can do in the small town but also in Delray Beach, a community he served for 23 years.

When Delray Beach installed LPRs at Interstate 95 and Atlantic Avenue, property crime went down.

“Now Atlantic at I-95 is a huge intersection,” Rasor

said. “We’re not talking 50 vehicles an hour, we’re talking thousands of vehicles an hour. But that was a huge advantage for the Delray Beach Police Department because it gave them opportunity.”

Rasor said suspects hitting construction sites in Manalapan and Boca Raton on Fridays to steal wallets from workers who just got paid was a crime du jour for several years. The chief couldn’t get into a lot of detail, but said recently a suspect vehicle was able to be tracked after wallets were stolen from Manalapan and Boca Raton construction sites.

Rasor said without the LPR cameras, the theft cases in Boca Raton and Manalapan would not have been solved.

Manalapan has six LPRs, but can also ask to tap into static cameras at Plaza del Mar.

Boynton deliberates

The Boynton Beach commission postponed its decision on the Flock contract until its April meeting, as some commissioners felt the issue was a late addition to the agenda and wanted more information.

Flock’s Safe City Initiative would provide Boynton Beach with an additional 31 LPRs, 80 cameras and upgraded drone capabilities, along with other bells and whistles.

“It’s becoming a force multiplier where we’re not just relying on officers and boots on the ground,” said Vice Mayor Thomas Turkin, who was ready to approve the new contract at the March 23 meeting. “If we didn’t have one of the highest violent crime rates, maybe this wouldn’t be such an urgency.”

Boynton resident Harry Woodworth, though, said there are simply no controls over this very powerful technology. He noted cities pulling back from the LPR dragnet and predicted the issue would end up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

“What I have a problem with is the lack of controls. There are no controls anywhere being discussed. The public doesn’t have a clue what this is,” Woodworth said.

Other technologies

Manalapan’s Rasor said the new body cameras his department is getting will help keep the public safe with features, such as a language translator. The chief said with so many languages spoken in South Florida — including rare Central American Indian dialects — the translator is a “game changer.”

“It’s one of the huge advantages for law enforcement that I’ve seen in a long time,” he said.

Rasor said he understands privacy concerns, but that Rubicon has long been traversed.

“I think at the end of the day, most Americans understand the cameras are part of everyday life,” he said. “I don’t think you’re getting away from it. And if you step out, you’re going to be videotaped.”

Drones, equipped

with infrared and other enhancements, are another technology police departments are using.

The Florida Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act, expanded in 2025, prohibits police from using drones to gather evidence or information without a search warrant signed by a judge. It is widely considered one of the most restrictive drone privacy laws in the U.S.

Ocean Ridge’s McClure said the drone provided by the town’s Starbright Civic Collective will save lives — not spy on residents. He said the civic group wants the drone to be used to help save swimmers caught in dangerous surf.

“We could launch, hover out, drop a preserver to that person and speak to them over the loudspeaker,” he said.

In Boca Raton, Huberman said, the department’s drones can help track missing persons as well as criminal suspects. The city also has 286 LPR cameras — including those in police patrol cars — and 625 static cameras.

Huberman pointed to other advancements that have been made, such as using DNA to solve crimes and using speed cameras around school zones.

Since the cameras in the three existing Boca Raton school zones were activated in October, 1,295 citations have been issued, he said.

Then there’s the city’s famous four-legged “Spot” robot, primarily used for the Bomb Disposal Unit. It can navigate stairs, open doors, and enter areas too dangerous for humans.

In Gulf Stream, police will be trained in April to use new “night vision” gear courtesy of the town’s Civic Association.

Police Chief Richard Jones recounted a recent incident in which a suspect vehicle entered the Place Au Soleil neighborhood at night and several people got out.

“He knew the car was there and he knew that they were there to do no good, but because it was dark and there’s so much vegetation, that made it almost impossible” for the officer to see the suspects, who in the end were arrested, Jones said.

The night vision equipment will be installed in all vehicles that patrol after sundown.

“That will allow the officer in the car to actually see — in daytime mode — while they’re driving their police car at night,” Jones said.

Coastal departments, like Boca Raton, have also turned to virtual reality, which seems scripted right out of the movie *Minority Report*.

“Using VR headsets, officers can run through ultra-realistic scenarios to enhance rapid decision-making during interactions with the public,” Huberman said.

“Whether it’s a traffic stop, crisis intervention, anything really, decisions to attempt de-escalation or use of force can be practiced in a more comprehensive way than ever before.” ★

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Lantana

Big design for beach park draws small-town opposition from residents

By Patrick Sherry

The Lantana Town Council is considering a multimillion-dollar, major renovation project for Lantana Beach Park, but residents say they don't want it to turn into another overdeveloped beachfront.

Town staff invited residents to give their feedback on a new Lantana Beach Master Plan at a well-attended community workshop on March 14. The plan includes building more amenities on site and improving landmarks that have been around for decades.

Council members first discussed the renovation project during a 2024 visioning session. Last year, they reprioritized the project because of the aging facilities at the park.

"We can kind of have a Band-Aid approach, if you will, just kind of repair things as they break," Town Manager Brian Raducci said. "Or we can take a comprehensive look at the entire 7.19-acre site and do something a lot more comprehensive."

CPZ Architects, which has worked on a few town projects, was hired to create a conceptual proposal. Its plan would rebuild the boardwalk with new small shops, move the Dune Deck Café a bit farther west, add a



This image highlights a proposed multimillion-dollar renovation for Lantana Beach Park. Council members are mulling over the project, but some residents say they don't want it to wind up like local beachfronts they consider overdeveloped. The numbers denote proposed amenities such as a playground (11), splashpad (12), event lawn (25), and space for a future parking garage (29). The beach is at the bottom. **Image provided**

parking garage, and construct a pier on the south side of the beach. Several attractions, including a splashpad, sand volleyball court, amphitheater, and picnic area, would also be added. Developers aim to build all this while maintaining the area's existing tree canopy and dunes as much as possible.

Before moving forward with any of this, town officials wanted residents' opinions. More than 30 people spoke at the workshop, with most of them opposed to the project's added developments, saying it would go against the small-town character for which the beach is known.

"Who wants to take this lovely space and change its use; who gains from this change?" Jerome Burke said. "It looks to me like many, many people, couples and families have much to lose if this park changes."

The council doesn't know how much the project will cost yet, but it is expected to

be expensive. It has already allocated \$1.2 million for it, and external partnerships and financing will be needed to cover the rest of the cost. To fill any funding shortages, Raducci also presented the idea of selling three town-owned vacant parcels that are worth about \$3.6 million.

Residents appreciated the town staff's willingness to hear their opinions and adjust the project based on their suggestions.

"I do believe that there could be some things added or subtracted based on the feedback from the survey; you'll have data to be able to adjust appropriately," resident Tammy Gianfortune said. "As a first step, I think this will be a good starting point from which that data will guide you to improve the plan as we move forward."

Town officials conducted an online survey to get more input from the public. The survey asked respondents what improvements and additions they would like to see and what should be removed from the current plan. Their input will be considered in future revisions.

The results of the survey will be presented at the April 10 Town Council visioning session at the Finland House. ★



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VOTERS

Continued from page 1

private partnership with a developer. The city will take over the task of replacing the old and crumbling City Hall and Community Center while also developing a plan to improve the campus' recreation facilities.

Residents will have far more say on how that is accomplished now that the city is picking up the reins.

"We will do it," Sohaney said. "We will not let an outside firm drive it for us. We can do this."

"The biggest priority we have is dealing with the aftermath of the vote," Thomson said of the election. "The good news is there is a path forward. We can undertake and accomplish the improvements we want by doing it ourselves, and not partnering with a developer."

That's what Save Boca members have wanted since the group formed early last summer.

They didn't oppose improved buildings and recreation facilities, although they differed on details.

But they didn't want a public-private partnership with developers who would lease city land for 99 years to build residential, office and hotel buildings on the campus. They also scorned the financial terms of that deal.

Creating a new plan

While the City Council will provide direction and guidance, the nuts-and-bolts will be done by Sohaney and city staff. Sohaney has been planning for the possibility that voters could reject the campus redevelopment plan for several months.

A key component, he said, will be creating a parks and recreation master plan for the city, something city officials past and present have said is needed.

Comprehensive outreach to all residents will be critical "to make sure all residents are aware of [the city's plans] and understand how they can provide input," Sohaney said.

"This is an opportunity for that reset," he said. "Let's really get the community involved."

What he envisions is a "Memorial Park that is similar to what it is now, just upgraded and enhanced" with a new City Hall, Community Center and recreation facilities and an architectural style "that looks like Boca Raton."

Sohaney estimates the cost at \$250 million, which would include expensive but needed electrical undergrounding and new underground pipes.

The city can probably pay for about half that cost, but no decision has been made on financing the rest. The possibilities are a bond issue or "other financial solutions."

The city does not have enough cash on hand to pay the full cost of new buildings and other upgrades.

A new police headquarters remains in the mix to be located on city-owned land near the Spanish River Library, financed with a bond issue. Voters on



Voters wait in line at Grace Community Church in Boca Raton. Citywide, more than 19,000 people cast ballots, while a typical election draws about 12,000. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

March 10 did not approve that financing, but there was far less opposition to it than to the campus redevelopment, with only 55% opposed.

If the City Council agrees with his final plan on the downtown campus, Sohaney said construction could begin in about one year.

Thomson also sees the support of residents as critical to moving ahead with revamped plans. "We need plans that are the product of community outreach and have the buy-in of the community," he said. "We won't make that same mistake again" of not doing enough to involve residents.

Future costs

Thomson was more specific than Sohaney on project financing. The city can use reserve funds for some of the cost and can finance the rest, but not with a general obligation bond that would require a tax increase, he said.

He wants to reduce the projected cost of a new City Hall and Community Center to "make them more suitable and a little less extravagant," he said.

He agrees that recreation facilities should be improved but remain on site. Moving some or all of them to city parks would be far more expensive, he said.

Building a new police headquarters is necessary, he said, because the existing one is old, in poor condition and no longer meets the department's needs.

But he wants to see the cost reduced from the previously projected \$190 million. While a majority of voters did not support financing a police campus, Thomson noted that the measure did not fail by a large margin. If it had not been on the same ballot as the government campus, voters might have approved it, he said.

"We will study what it was about that request people didn't like," he said. Reducing the cost might be enough to change the outcome if the matter is placed on a future ballot, he said.

"I think in another opportunity the residents of this community will recognize public safety needs to be a top priority and this is something

that should be approved."

How opposition grew

Although voter rejection of the downtown campus project may seem a stunning denouement, the end was probably obvious the moment Save Boca stormed onto the scene in June, distributing T-shirts and yard signs and petitions.

It rapidly became clear that the group had touched a chord among residents who have complained for years that the city is the victim of overdevelopment and clogged streets. Residents have pleaded with city officials for years not to let Boca Raton become another Fort Lauderdale.

Much of this angst is focused on the downtown, although the reality is that most of the city's growth has taken place west of Interstate 95.

Widespread resident concerns weren't immediately apparent when the city received proposals from developers to redevelop the downtown campus last year.

The first opposition came from avid users of the recreation facilities, who didn't want them displaced by the project.

It seemed at the time that city officials could alleviate their concerns.

Some seemed to become resigned to the fact they would lose at least some facilities on the campus, but saw merit to the pitch that, in turn, they would get brand-new, up-to-date ones, albeit not on the campus.

But Save Boca was a different kind of opposition. Led by Jon Pearlman, it was visible, omnipresent and organized with a strong social media presence that kept residents engaged.

Pearlman — who in March capitalized on his Save Boca efforts by winning a seat on the City Council — was a natural showman. After Save Boca gathered more than 5,000 resident signatures for an ordinance change, his supporters cheered wildly in August when he dramatically handed the tall stack of papers to the city clerk.

Save Boca members volunteered their time. They formed friendships. They saw themselves as part of a cause worth fighting for. And they

showed up at every City Council meeting to make full use of the three minutes each was allowed to speak.

Although a few prominent residents did speak in favor of the redevelopment, no residents ever formed a countervailing force to press for the project to be approved.

That job fell to then-Mayor Scott Singer and council members who supported the project.

But their pitch — that a new City Hall and Community Center were badly needed and that "One Boca," the downtown campus name its developers used as a marketing tool, could deliver a quality project that would breathe new life into the stagnant downtown campus and become a destination akin to Mizner Park, with shops, restaurants and green space — never caught hold.

Broken trust

One reason was that, in the eyes of many residents, the city pulled a bait and switch.

Residents were led to believe that One Boca would pay for a new City Hall, Community Center and other civic improvements to the campus.

For example, a city presentation to residents last summer said, "Not a giveaway, but a return: The City gains billions in financial return, avoids raising taxes and secures modern civic infrastructure at no cost to residents."

But shortly thereafter, residents learned that the improvements would cost the city \$201 million for new city buildings, improved recreation facilities and infrastructure improvements.

Residents were told they would not bear any of those costs and the city was looking at financing options. Even so, they felt deceived.

Another reason was that many project opponents distrusted Singer, the redevelopment's biggest booster.

Singer's unrelenting push

He had successfully lobbied Brightline to build a station in Boca Raton adjacent to the campus, an achievement that many residents applauded.

Mayor

A. Thomson*	7,572
M. Liebelson	7,567
F. Nachlas	3,967

City Council Seat A

M. Grau*	12,387
C. Ritchey	4,612
B. Korn	1,594

City Council Seat B

J. Pearlman*	9,822
M. Wigder (I)	5,941
M. Madsen	2,818

City Council Seat D

S. Sipple*^	10,332
R. Weinroth	5,063
L. Cellon	3,120

\$175 million Police HQ bond

Yes	8,067
No**	9,733

Downtown campus redevelopment

Yes	4,832
No**	14,122

(I) Incumbent

*Elected to three-year term

^Elected to one-year unexpired term

**Ballot question defeated

Source: Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections

Fresh off that win, he envisioned a transit-oriented development on the downtown campus and pressed for regulation changes that would allow that to happen.

Singer saw urgency to do so. He expected that the city would receive unsolicited proposals from developers and wanted its staff to be prepared.

Those proposals did come in October 2024 from One Boca and Related Ross, led by Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross.

Both well-established developers proposed public-private partnerships with the city under which they would lease city land for 99 years.

Singer then set an aggressive timetable to seek additional proposals, vet the plans and approve one.

He kept up that pressure, pushing tight deadlines to finalize a complex deal with One Boca, the council's top choice.

Along the way, residents could speak out, but many felt they were never adequately consulted. It was left to One Boca to hold forums where residents could meet with company officials, ask questions and voice their opinions.

If it was abundantly clear to Singer that campus development would be a boon to the city, it wasn't to many residents. Although broadly painted as anti-development, many who spoke at council meetings insisted that wasn't the case.

It was this project, pushed forward too rapidly and without adequate resident input, that they did not like.

That's when Save Boca was formed and stepped in, giving residents an opportunity to organize and seek a vote that would let them make the final decision.

And that's just what happened on March 10. ★

Boca Raton

Save Boca ushers in a new era in city government

By Mary Hladky

Save Boca's endorsed candidates trounced the opposition in the city's March 10 election, sweeping three City Council races.

Boca Raton voters also soundly defeated the city's efforts to redevelop its 31.7-acre downtown campus and to build a new police headquarters.

Residents turned out in droves for the most consequential city election in memory, with the 19,000 who cast ballots — roughly 30% of city voters — vastly outpacing the more typical election turnout of about 12,000.

The mayoral race was a nail-biter.

Mike Liebelson, who is not a Save Boca member but opposed the campus redevelopment, at first appeared to defeat City Council member Andy Thomson when the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections office posted its first tally of all the city's precincts.

Thomson, a lawyer first elected to the council in 2018, was the only council member who opposed the redevelopment project.

The third mayoral candidate, Deputy Mayor Fran Nachlas — a retired surgical nurse who was appointed to fill a council vacancy in 2022 after her candidacy was unopposed — favored it.

Liebelson's apparent 26-vote lead over Thomson disappeared within minutes on election night, when a final update showed Thomson ahead by six votes.

With Thomson's lead so small — less than one-half of 1% of total votes cast — a machine recount was required.

Voters were left in suspense until Supervisor of Elections Wendy Sartory Link conducted that recount on March 13, with Thomson's lead shrinking to two votes.

That minuscule difference forced yet another recount — a manual one — which gave Thomson his official five-vote victory: 7,572 to 7,567.

"THANK YOU, BOCA RATON," Thomson told voters online after winning election. "...Today, the residents of Boca Raton have spoken, and I am deeply honored and humbled to serve as your next Mayor.

"The message from voters is clear," he wrote. "Our city wants experienced leadership that listens. ... Now the campaign is over. It is time to come together and get to work for the city we all love."

While Thomson's margin of victory was small, he defeated Liebelson in 24 of the city's 38 voting precincts.

Nachlas, who drew 3,967 votes, won only two precincts.

Concession — and lawsuit

Liebelson considered contesting the election, citing what he believed were anomalies



Clockwise from upper left: Council members Michelle Grau, Jon Pearlman and Stacy Sipple and Mayor Andy Thomson were sworn in March 31 to the Boca Raton City Council in front of a capacity crowd. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

in a final batch of vote-by-mail results that disproportionately favored Thomson.

On March 23, the deadline to contest, he announced that he would not do so because he had accomplished his mission "to help take Boca Raton back from the influence of big developers, support Save Boca, and return the City Council to the people who live here," he said in a statement.

"As an outsider candidate in my first race, coming this close sent a message," he wrote. "People are paying attention. They want leadership that puts residents first, and they want real accountability when it comes to growth and development."

He also has filed a lawsuit against Thomson, in which he restates complaints he made before the election that Thomson's campaign consultant made false and misleading statements about him in political flyers sent to residents.

The lawsuit, filed on March 3, alleges that Thomson and other defendants in the case acted to "adversely affect his mayoral campaign."

Thomson succeeds Scott Singer, who was term-limited from another run. A strong supporter of President Donald Trump, Singer now is running for Congress as a Republican and hopes to unseat Democrat Jared Moskowitz to represent Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

Council races

While the mayor's race was extremely tight, the other election results were clear-cut.

Incumbent Marc Wigder, a real estate lawyer who now focuses on his companies Greenhouse Property Co. and GreenSmith Builders and was elected in 2023 to Seat B, was trounced by Save Boca founder Jon Pearlman. Pearlman garnered nearly 53% of the vote

to Wigder's nearly 32%.

Also losing out in that race was Meredith Madsen, founder and CEO of Sunshine & Glitter.

"We did it!" Pearlman posted to the Save Boca website after the election. "Thank you for your support and for believing this was possible. Together we Saved Boca!"

Save Boca member Michelle Grau, a certified public accountant, convincingly beat her two opponents for Seat A, receiving nearly 67% of the vote.

Defeated were Christen Ritchey, a family law attorney and former member of the Planning and Zoning Board, and Bernard Korn, a real estate broker and a perennial candidate who has never won election.

Save Boca member Stacy Sipple, a clinical oncology pharmacist, easily prevailed over her two better-known opponents for Seat D — Robert Weinroth, a former member of the City Council and the County Commission, and Larry Cellon, a former member of the city's Community Appearance Board and its Planning and Zoning Board.

Sipple received nearly 56% of the vote.

The council is now transformed. Three veteran members — Singer, Nachlas and Wigder — are gone.

Other than Thomson, the only remaining council veteran is Yvette Drucker, who was not up for reelection. She now is the only council member who supported the campus redevelopment plan.

Thomson's positioning

Early on, Save Boca members were skeptical that Thomson was a true redevelopment opponent because he had ranked developer Related Ross as his first choice to partner with the city on campus redevelopment even though Related Ross' proposal had

the highest density of the four submitted.

The fact that he said that he was endorsing Related Ross as a capable city partner, but not its proposal, didn't reassure them.

But his consistent opposition, voiced at nearly every City Council meeting, assuaged many doubters.

Thomson reinforced that by supporting a key Save Boca demand — that residents should get to vote on the redevelopment.

Thomson asked officials of developers Terra and Frisbie Group in September if they would agree to condition city approval of the project on a positive vote by residents. They did so, and the rest of the council endorsed that.

Residents got their say on March 10. By an overwhelming margin of nearly 75%, they killed the project.

While the council majority touted the benefits of a public-private partnership with Terra/Frisbie, more recently known as One Boca, Thomson said the project was too dense and had been pushed forward too quickly by other council members to allow for adequate consideration and revision.

He also voiced concerns about how the project was financed and doubts about the accuracy of financial projections showing the city would gain \$4 billion in revenue from One Boca's 99-year lease of 7.8 acres of city land and property value increases.

Pricey race for mayor

The mayoral race was especially notable because of the astounding amount of money the candidates raised for their campaigns, stunning election observers.

Thomson and Nachlas are expected to top a combined \$1 million in contributions once the totals raised by their political action committees are

reported in April.

Asked why they needed to raise so much, both Thomson and Nachlas said only that they needed to get word out about their campaigns.

Liebelson largely self-financed his race, raising \$203,390, mostly from loans and donations he made to his campaign as of year's end. He said in March that his PAC received another \$25,000.

Thomson and the new council members were sworn into office on March 31.

They unanimously selected Grau as deputy mayor, Thomson to also serve as chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency and Drucker as CRA vice chair.

"The opportunity to be this city's next mayor is an incredible blessing, for which I praise and thank God," Thomson said.

In reference to the divisions among residents that manifested in the election, he said, "The greatest task before us is to help unite the city." One step to do that, he said, is to remember that "all of us are first and foremost neighbors."

Pearlman, uncharacteristically wearing a dark suit and a tie instead of his green and bright navy Save Boca T-shirt, also looked forward. "We have been sent a strict mandate by the voters to put them first," he said. "I take that responsibility seriously. I am honored by that responsibility and I am ready to get to work."

"This will be the most important job of my career," Grau said. "It is time to build trust and move forward together."

Also noting the division, Sipple said, "What divides us pales to what unites us."

Speaking of her own role as a council member, she said, "I am not here to climb. I am not here to take the next step in a political journey. I am here to serve. ..."

Police HQ defeated

In addition to defeating the redevelopment project, nearly 55% of voters said they did not want to finance the construction of a new police campus on city-owned land near the Spanish River Library.

City officials said the current police headquarters just east of City Hall is dilapidated and far too small to meet current department needs. The cost of the new campus was as much as \$190 million.

The city had planned to issue up to \$175 million in tax-exempt general obligation bonds for a 30-year term. City property owners would have paid for the new police headquarters through a tax rate increase of 26 cents for each \$1,000 of taxable value, an increase of \$260 a year for a property with a \$1 million taxable value. ★

Ocean Ridge

Town hedges after legislature says artificial lawns are state's turf

By John Pacenti

The Florida Legislature's war on home rule has now left municipalities paralyzed on — of all things — synthetic turf.

The result for residents: install at your own risk.

The problem is a Tallahassee two-step that left the Ocean Ridge Town Commission tied up in knots for two meetings.

The legislature in 2025 took the first step to block local governments from enforcing any ordinance that prohibits single-family property owners from installing synthetic turf, provided it meets statewide standards.

The rub is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has yet to take the second step to incorporate those new standards to fit the new law — rules that could sometimes take years to hash out.

"All towns, all cities are not enforcing their turf laws at this time because everybody's waiting to see the preemption that comes from Tallahassee in its final state," Ocean Ridge Town Manager Michelle Heiser said at the Feb. 2 commission meeting. "So here we are in a predicament."

It's another example of the state Legislature cutting

into the self-determination of cities, towns and villages. And you can blame "Big Turf" — manufacturers of synthetic turf and developers who contributed to the sponsors of the legislation and then hired powerhouse lobbyist firms to make sure the legislation passed.

Proponents argued that uniformity on turf installation was needed throughout the state.

"Tallahassee is really trying to change the culture in some cities and towns away from overregulation and having community standards that are so strict that it's very much like an HOA," Heiser said at the February meeting.

Two former town commissioners didn't like the idea of the state or the town easing up on artificial turf when the issue resurfaced at the March 2 meeting.

"This is bad stuff. It's ugly. It doesn't do all the stuff they say it does," Terry Brown said during public comments. "It's successful lobbying by large manufacturers."

Betty Bingham, another former commissioner, added, "They don't even really know whether it's environmentally sound. As it gets older, it makes fumes. It could cause various

diseases. It doesn't absorb water. I don't see any benefits to artificial turf."

Heiser first broached the artificial turf issue at the Feb. 2 meeting, saying a homeowner on Harbour Drive North wanted to install some artificial turf after cooperating with the town on a drainage field.

Homeowners in beachside communities are familiar with that patch of property that gets battered by the elements, where nothing seems to grow.

"We've got a handful of very patient homeowners," Heiser said. "I'm just looking for a common-sense approach."

Multiple considerations ...

The existing code requires artificial turf to appear grass-like, meet a minimum permeability standard, and have an eight-year manufacturer's warranty. It cannot be installed in the front yard and is limited to 25% of a lot's size.

In anticipation of FDEP adopting new standards, the commission considered getting rid of the location and size requirements. It also considered just not enforcing the current ordinance, knowing it will be changed once FDEP makes its decision.

"Every local government is

going to have to pivot," Town Attorney Christy Goddeau said at the Feb. 2 meeting.

FDEP is deciding the technical and environmental rulebook for synthetic turf statewide — how permeable it must be, how it's installed, how it affects drainage, heat, water quality and trees.

"Doesn't it seem crazy to enforce an ordinance that we know is going?" Vice Mayor Steve Coz asked at the Feb. 2 meeting.

Commissioners then discussed just ignoring its own code. Such a policy seems to be becoming the Ocean Ridge way, as the town has taken a similar approach regarding hedges and the trimming of coconut palms.

Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy wasn't a fan of carving out exceptions for certain properties. "If we allow one homeowner to go ahead, I mean, how long before the builder, who was forced to rip it out of the front yard very recently, comes in here making noise about it?" she said.

That's when commissioners said residents could be informed that they could install artificial turf, but would be at the mercy of the FDEP once new rules were handed down.

Goddeau interjected at the March 2 meeting, "I do

not recommend adopting something and telling people you could do it, but if it doesn't comply with the final DEP rule, then what are we going to do? Take code enforcement and go to people's houses, require them to rip out what they installed?"

... but decision is to wait

Mayor Geoff Pugh said he was never a fan of the town's artificial turf ordinance. Still, he pressed for a mechanism that keeps the town accountable for what gets installed — floating the idea of a no-fee permit so the town can at least track products and advise residents on risks as rules evolve.

In the end, the commission punted. It decided not to change its ordinance and to revisit it in July, when FDEP will possibly have its new requirements.

Commissioner Ainar Aijala Jr. put things in perspective a bit, saying it's not like the whole town will soon be carpeted with artificial turf like Ford Field in Detroit.

"It's not like there's a whole lot of our citizens who are going to be put out by this. So let's just wait," he said. ★

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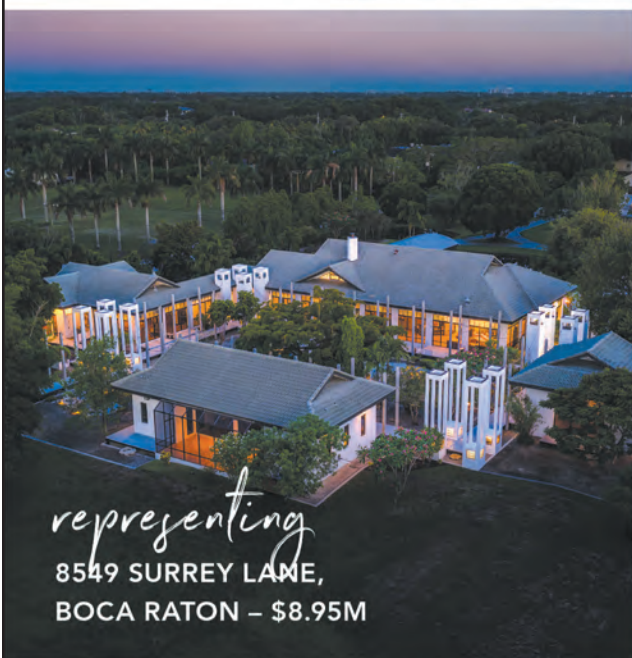
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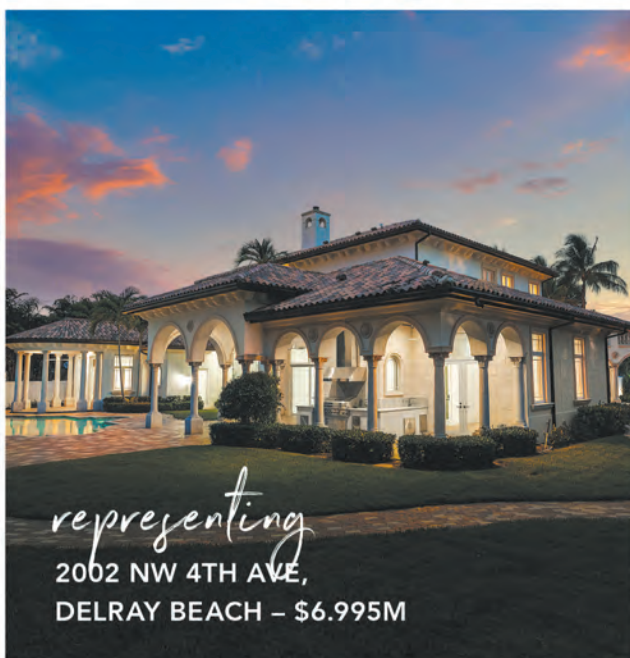
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Briny Breezes

Hand-made 1963 seal gets AI-aided update

By Michael Cook

From a vintage logo made of cut-out lettering and a hand-painted sailfish, Briny Breezes' Town Hall is now getting a brand-spanking-new seal to represent the town. But the juicy scoop is that artificial intelligence helped design it.

Town Manager Bill Thrasher admitted he used AI to draft the logo, then worked with a graphic artist to polish the final version. The new seal is a riff on the older one, still featuring a navy-blue sailfish.

It will replace the current seal, which hangs in front of the council table in the Town Hall. "It's old and faded. But it has institutional feelings to it, so we'll save it," said Thrasher, pointing out that some of the paper lettering is hanging by a

thread.

The Town Council approved the seal at its March 26 meeting. The next step is to order a round plaque with the artwork at a cost of no more than \$850.

There is some deep meaning behind the logo's design, meant to represent the small town vividly, with parts spelled out in the Town Charter.

The circular seal features six stars meant to symbolize the elected officials, and the date 1963 is inscribed to mark the town's official incorporation. The imagery is mostly inspired by the marina and boat life in town. A gold rope border surrounds the seal, featuring a sailfish, ocean and sun in the center.

"More importantly, in the background is the sun, which is not very bright, and wasn't



ABOVE: The original town seal of Briny Breezes used cut-out letters for the type.

RIGHT: The new seal keeps the leaping sailfish and incorporates other artistic elements.

intended to be bright. It's symbolizing the warmth that we have in our community," said Thrasher, explaining that it is supposed to represent the town's "family-oriented" atmosphere.

Newly appointed Mayor Bill Birch said this is a "major upgrade," and it will help others differentiate the town from others. "The story will be told, and everybody will get into it,"

said Birch, stating that he would like to see this logo plastered around town in the future. But for now, it will just be hung up in the Town Hall room. ★



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New mayor appointed

By Michael Cook

Voters in Briny Breezes didn't have an election in March, leaving most of the work of deciding the town's "elected officials" to the Town Council.

Only one candidate met the qualifying deadline in November — incumbent Alderman Jeff Duncan. He won election without opposition and was sworn in March 17.

That left two empty seats, as outgoing Mayor Ted Gross and Alderwoman Holly Reitnauer chose not to run for reelection.

Alderman Bill Birch said he'd like to be mayor and was appointed by the council at its regular March 26 meeting. And Reitnauer, Birch's wife, had a change of heart about continuing on the council. The council appointed her to take her seat again.

She originally opted not to run for health reasons, but said she is now in a better state to serve the town. That still leaves another opening, with Birch's former seat needing to be filled.

Town Attorney Keith Davis said the main requirements to fill the seat are to be a registered voter, a Briny Breezes resident for at least six months of the year, and available to attend Town Council meetings.

Gross left the mayor's position after serving in it for a single term, citing the weak-mayor system as a reason he could not execute his initiatives.

The new mayor, Birch, said he will continue to represent neighbors' voices.

"I just like the idea of being able to go out and meet with people," said Birch, using those conversations to inform his council decisions. However, his former position as alderman has one advantage over his current position as mayor: An alderman gets to vote on the council; the mayor doesn't. ★

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Lantana

Town limits food trucks on most properties

By Patrick Sherry

The Lantana Town Council says the way food trucks operate has changed, so they need stricter rules.

“Food trucks were not the thing that they are now, so we need to get a handle on what’s allowed [and] what’s not allowed,” Mayor Karen Lythgoe said at the council’s March 9 meeting.

The council passed an ordinance with slight changes on its second reading that restricts food trucks in all zoning districts in the town. At three previous workshops, the council discussed implementing more regulations for these types of vendors to protect brick-and-mortar businesses.

The new ordinance prohibits food trucks on commercial or industrial properties, but owners can still have non-food roadside vendors on site for no more than eight hours a day.

Food trucks would only be allowed during town-sponsored events designated by the town manager.

Residential communities and private property owners can hire food truck services for community events for one day every quarter.

“This is a living document,” Lythgoe said. “If we find we have restricted it too much or not enough, we will come back and do it, but we’re trying to bring things up to this day and age.” ★

Lantana News

Council members begin new terms — Lantana Town Council members Chris Castle and Mark Zeitler were sworn in to new terms in March after winning election without opposition. Zeitler took his oath of office at the March 23 council meeting, while Castle was sworn in March 20 and attended the meeting by phone. The new terms run through March 2029.

Castle, a Lantana resident of 15 years, was chosen by the council to serve as vice mayor.

Easter sunrise service — First Baptist Church of Lantana received permission for free parking at Lantana Beach from 5 to 9 a.m. April 5 for its annual community Easter sunrise service and breakfast. The standard fee is typically \$2.50 per hour per car for visitors without a resident’s pass. “I’ve gone for the last 30 years, and it’s very nice,” Mayor Karen Lythgoe said as the Town Council unanimously approved the request. The service starts at 6 a.m.

— Sephora Charles

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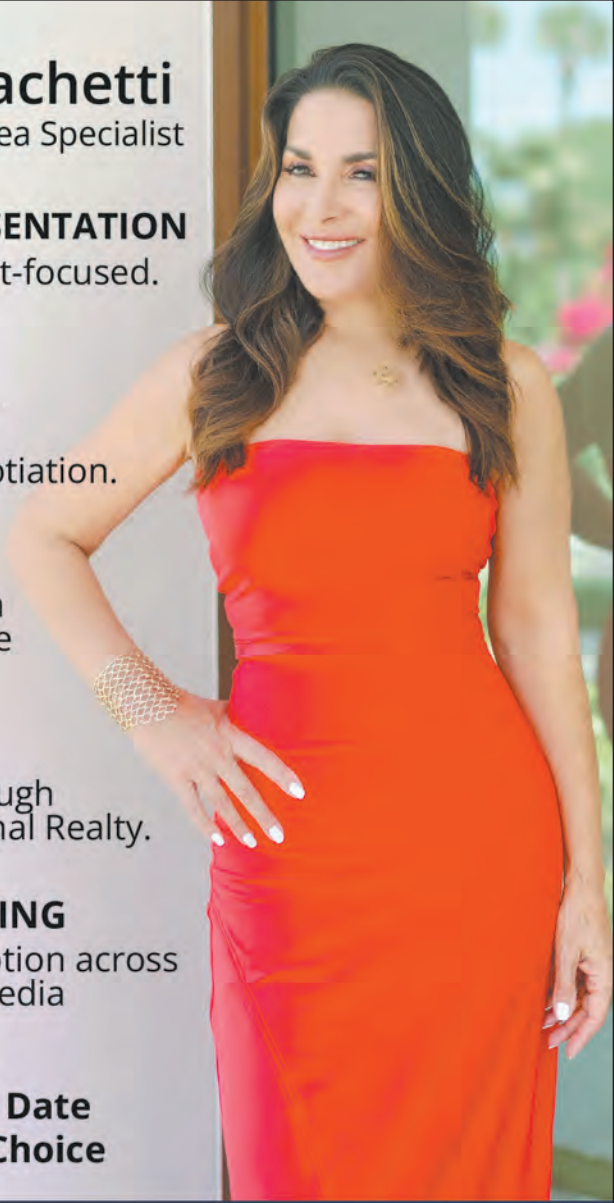
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Gulf Stream

Ex-neighbor faces charges in beach confrontation

By Steve Plunkett

A Gulf Stream resident is charged with aggravated battery on a person 65 years or older, battery of the man's wife and animal cruelty after confronting two former neighbors at the beach and allegedly kicking their dog.

Mika Michaels, 51, was released from the Palm Beach County Jail on \$7,000 bond on March 24 after spending the night behind bars. Circuit Judge John Parnofiello ordered Michaels to have no contact with the alleged victims "and their pets" or with two witnesses.

Michaels, who lives at 4227 N. County Road, also was ordered to stay away from the town's four northernmost beachfront properties: the Ballantrae condos, 4001 North Ocean condos, Bellamar House and Gulfstream Manor timeshare resort.

Victims Brian and Fiona Roberto, who once lived in a Sea Ridge condominium neighboring Michaels'

residence, said they were trying to exit the beach with two dogs on Sunday morning, March 22, and "were blocked from exiting on the stairs" by Michaels, according to a Gulf Stream police report.

Michaels told the Robertos that the stairs behind 4001 North Ocean were "only for residents" and they started arguing over who has the right to use the beach access, the report said.

When Fiona Roberto tried to pass by Michaels, he pushed her back. Brian Roberto, 68, said, "Do not touch my wife," and Michaels kicked one of their dogs, according to the report.

"When this happened Brian and Michaels got into a physical altercation," the report said. "During this scuffle Brian and Fiona said Michaels punched Brian in the face with a closed fist."

Police Sgt. Bernard O'Donnell arrested Michaels on March 23 after observing a red mark on Brian Roberto's left cheek, a cellphone video of the confrontation taken by Fiona Roberto and photos she took of her husband's bruised chest.

O'Donnell also reported

Continued on the next page



Michaels

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Gulf Stream News

Manager given used police SUV to take home — Catching up to his peers, new Gulf Stream Town Manager Trey Nazzaro will have a take-home police vehicle instead of a monthly fuel allowance.

The vehicle already has 100,000 miles on the odometer but “is currently in good operational condition and does not have a cage, light bar or other police-specific equipment installed,” Nazzaro wrote in a memo to the Town Commission.

“It would not take a lot to decommission it,” Police Chief Richard Jones said. “It was previously my take-home car.”

The vehicle would have fetched only about \$3,500 if traded in, Nazzaro said. “Given the relatively low trade-in value and the vehicle’s remaining useful life, retaining the vehicle for administrative use is considered a more cost-effective option.”

Many managers in the area already have take-home vehicles, Nazzaro said. Commissioners unanimously signed off on the deal March 13.

— Steve Plunkett

Continued from page 28

that Michaels had “prior law enforcement encounters” and that Brian Roberto said he knew Michaels “from previous negative encounters.”

One of those encounters led to Fiona Roberto paying a \$100 fine and \$28 costs after Michaels complained that her dog ran into his yard while chasing a cat in June 2022.

“Witness (Michaels) observed this from inside his

home,” O’Donnell, again the investigating officer, reported.

Fiona Roberto admitted the dog got away from her but blamed it on a loose collar clip, O’Donnell wrote on the citation.

Michaels is scheduled to return to court on April 22.

The Robertos sold their Sea Ridge condo in May 2024, county property records show, after they bought a single-family home in Boynton Beach west of Military Trail that April. ★



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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Deborah Silver

Recording artist Deborah Silver of Highland Beach hit a recent high note, walking the red carpet at the 2026 Grammy Awards as a nominee for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album for *Basie Rocks!* — her collaboration with the legendary Count Basie Orchestra. The album was announced as a nominee in November 2025.

Music has always been a part of her life, she said. “My dad was a businessman, and he also had his own band where he played the saxophone. My mother [an opera singer] is a soprano and has a beautiful voice.”

Her parents, Robert and Sondy Berman, started Deborah and her two sisters, Marjie Berman Block and Sheri Berman Spector, in music lessons from when they were little, and her mother taught them operas. “We were the only children probably in this entire state of Mississippi that when we went to an opera, we could follow it in another language and knew the story.”

Silver’s children are also involved in the arts. Her son, Spencer, 28, sings and plays many instruments, while her daughter, Madison, 27, is a painter and graphic artist.

Her husband, Larry, on the other hand, “can’t sing a note,” she said. “But he is the one who usually gives me most of my ideas about the songs that I put in my performances and on my albums.”

In her early music and entertainment career, Silver won the title of Miss St. Louis in the Miss America Pageant when she was a senior in college and, after graduating, she performed at venues in St. Louis and California.

After the birth of her second child, she suffered an illness that left her in a wheelchair for a year, and upon recovery, she devoted herself to raising her children, eventually transitioning back to music.

“When my kids got old enough to start calling me from their bedrooms on their cellphones, I said, ‘Mommy’s going back to work,’” she said.

Since then, she’s recorded the album *Pure Silver* to raise money for the cure for ALS, the disease her sister Marjie has. Then she went on to make *The Gold Standards*, *Glitter and Grits*, *Asleep at the Wheel* and an EP, *Sunny Side*.

About *Basie Rocks!*, she said: “We took rock ‘n’ roll songs and reimagined them with the big band. It was produced by Steve Jordan, the drummer for the Rolling Stones. Even Peter Frampton played on it. Peter heard my version of *Baby, I Love Your Way* and called me up and told me that he wanted to play on it and he played the most beautiful guitar solo I’ve ever heard.”

Also, the album includes *Fly Like an Eagle* with guitarist Bill Frisell and *Joy to the World*, with Silver and Trombone



Highland Beach resident and recording artist Deborah Silver at home with her Morkie, Sugar. Silver attended the 2026 Grammy Awards as a nominee for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album for her collaborative *Basie Rocks!* Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Shorty singing. Other artists taking part included trumpeter Arturo Sandoval and Latin percussionist Pedrito Martinez.

“We all poured our hearts and souls into it. It took us four years to record it,” she said.

“The Grammys was such an incredible experience,” she added. “I was welcomed and treated like part of the family. I am very fortunate to have received a seat at their table.”

What’s next for Deborah Silver? “Let’s just say that I still have quite a few surprises up my sleeve,” she said. “I am forever pushing creative boundaries. I’ve never been comfortable inside the box. I don’t follow lanes. I build them. And tradition inspires me, but it doesn’t confine me.”

—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 Jackson, Mississippi, and was raised with strong Southern values — kindness, hard work, faith and community. Being surrounded by genuine people shaped who I am. My early schooling was in Jackson, and I graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, working hard for my perfect straight-A grades. My upbringing gave me resilience and heart. It taught me to appreciate where I come from, stay grounded no matter how far I travel, and always use my voice — not just to sing, but to uplift others. Those roots still guide everything I do.

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

A. I’ve worn many hats over the years — performer, spokesperson, actor, recording artist, producer, entrepreneur and philanthropist. My journey in entertainment spans decades, from early performance work to returning to music later in life with renewed purpose. Following life-changing complications from a pregnancy that left me unable to walk, my career was put on hold. Professionally, I’m most proud of staying the course — rebuilding my career after taking time off to raise my family and ultimately earning a Grammy nomination with my latest album, *Basie Rocks!* My return to music is living proof that it’s never too late to follow your dreams.

My greatest purpose in music is helping others. Giving back is at the heart of everything I do, supporting various causes from helping cure neurological diseases to having a portion of the proceeds from *Basie Rocks!* go to the Jazz Foundation of America. I strongly believe those recognized in our industry have a responsibility to give back. Awards are special, but being able to help others is most meaningful to me.

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

A. Follow what lights you up — but pair passion with perseverance. Careers aren’t always straight lines,

and success rarely happens overnight. Be willing to work hard and keep learning. Surround yourself with people who believe in you, but most importantly trust your own instincts. Don’t be afraid to take risks and don’t ever let anyone discourage you. Choose something that allows you to make a difference in this world, because fulfillment comes not just from what you achieve, but from how you help others along the way.

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

A. I love the beach and always wanted to live by the ocean. In my previous neighborhood, while walking my two dogs, we were suddenly surrounded by several large, ferocious dogs. I had to pull both of my dogs out of the other dogs’ mouths. I never wanted to go through that again. I came up with the idea I need to be at the beach. If I walk my dogs on the sand and see another dog running toward us, I could jump into the water with my dogs.

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

A. The ocean gives me peace, perspective and creative inspiration. I love it outside every second of the day!

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

A. This may sound funny, but everyone who knows me knows I rarely take time to

truly relax — I try to put every waking moment to good use and purpose. When I do have downtime, I usually let others choose the music, especially my husband, who has a wonderfully eclectic taste, from the Great American Songbook to country. But when I’m alone, many times I don’t listen to music at all. Since music is such a big part of my daily life and work, I sometimes need quiet — it helps me focus on what I am working on so I can give my best to everything I do.

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

A. My daddy taught us many wonderful quotes growing up, but my favorite is one from Winston Churchill that echoes through our entire family as we continue to fight for a cure for my sister’s ALS: “Never, never, never give up.” It’s become our family mantra and keeps us hopeful no matter how hard the journey.

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

A. My greatest mentors and supporters are my family including my parents, my two sisters, my husband and my children who have always stood with me, offering honest opinions, which I truly value and trust.

Professionally, my mentors include the legendary arranger Charlie Calello, and my beloved friend and “stage mom,” Florida’s first lady of musical theater, the incomparable, late Jan McArt. Jan was the one who brought me back to the stage after a long time away from my career, and I will always be grateful for her belief in me.

Q. What’s your favorite cause and why?

A. I work diligently to support many causes, but ALS and neurological disease are especially personal to me. My sister was diagnosed 18 years ago, and walking alongside her through that journey changed me forever. It opened my eyes to how important research, awareness and compassionate care truly are. I’m also passionate about supporting fellow musicians through the Jazz Foundation of America. Giving back is at the heart of everything I do; using my concerts and recordings to help others is the most important part of my music.

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

A. That’s a tough one, but I’d probably say Reese Witherspoon or Sandra Bullock. They both have strength, heart, and that perfect blend of grit and grace. I think they’d understand the resilience and the feeling of chasing dreams later in life — and hopefully they’d let me do the singing parts myself!

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Obituary

Sonya Isabelle Marcellino Costin

DELRAY BEACH — Sonya Isabelle Marcellino Costin of Delray Beach and Lake Burton, Georgia, died March 19. She was 91.



Sonya graduated from Seacrest High School in Delray Beach in 1952 and married her high school sweetheart, Bob Costin. Together, they founded Costin's Flowers & Gifts, a thriving business that served Palm Beach County successfully for over 45 years.

Mrs. Costin's passion was creating glorious floral arrangements as well as picking exquisite china, crystal, silver and accessories to offer her customers. She worked hard to make sure customer service and satisfaction were the top priorities at Costin's.

Though the Costins' primary residence was Delray Beach, their true love was time spent at "Costin's Chalet" on Lake Burton. In addition to their "lake time," they enjoyed traveling the U.S. in their Blue Bird Wanderlodge. Whenever you saw RC-2 roll by, you knew Sonya and Bob were on their way!

Strong and resilient, Mrs. Costin will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her and caring for her: forever loved and never forgotten.

Mrs. Costin was preceded in death by her husband, Robert P. Costin; her parents, Peter R. and Christine M. Marcellino; and her brothers, Patrick F. and Peter R. Marcellino. She is survived by her nieces, Gianna, Cari and Christy Marcellino; nephew, Patrick Marcellino Jr. (Jennifer); and many loyal friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to Achievement Centers for Children & Families, 555 NW Fourth St., Delray Beach, FL 33444. (www.AchievementCentersFL.org, 561-266-0003)

The funeral service and burial will be held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Amsterdam, New York, at a later date. Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements.

An online memorial register book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com. For questions, call 706-782-9599.

— Submitted by the family

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Bulldozer ballet

Edith Street crossover, Ocean Ridge — March 27



Five bulldozers level freshly pumped sand after it was spread onto the beach in Ocean Ridge from the dredge (at right) as part of a \$9.4 million U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project. The gray color comes from organic sediment and is common for beach renourishment projects. It will change over time to the natural color of sand. The project is expected to continue through April, before the peak of sea turtle nesting season arrives. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

Along the Coast

The Coastal Star recognized in two state journalism competitions

By Henry Fitzgerald

Fresh off a 17-award performance in the Florida Press Club’s annual competition, *The Coastal Star* has been named a 15-time finalist in the upcoming Florida Press Association awards.

The groups have different purposes — the FPA serves newspaper organizations and the FPC individual journalists — but both competitions recognize good journalism being done in the state.

The FPC presented its awards at a January ceremony in West Palm Beach, with *The Coastal*

Star reeling in five first-place, five second-place and six third-place awards and an honorable mention. The competition covered the period from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025.

The FPA award winners for the 2025 calendar year will be presented this summer. The finalists were announced March 27. Besides reporting and photography nominations, *The Coastal Star* is a division finalist for the general excellence award — a prize it won last year for its 2024 coverage.

In the recent FPC competition, *The Coastal Star*’s first-place awards went to Jane

Musgrave for business news, Larry Barszewski and Musgrave for breaking news, John Pacenti for public safety reporting, Faran Fagen for sports feature stories, and Sharon Geltner for her arts news entry.

The newspaper also received second- and third-place awards in the prestigious Lucy Morgan Award category for in-depth reporting: for coverage of the Brightline train collision with a Delray Beach fire truck and for stories about safety on State Road A1A.

“I’m very proud of the work you all did,” Barszewski, the paper’s editor, wrote to the staff.

“I’m especially glad a number of you were able to be there and be recognized by your peers for your outstanding work.”

Musgrave’s first-place business award was for a story about Larry Ellison purchasing the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa and one on wealthy buyers who think nothing of razing multimillion-dollar homes to build even bigger and better.

She and Barszewski won first place covering a double murder at 365 Ocean, a boutique hotel on A1A in Boca Raton.

Pacenti’s first-place award included coverage of five drownings due to rip currents

off the coast of Palm Beach County and angry beachgoers in Ocean Ridge fed up with pooches pooping on the beach.

Fagen won first place for a story about children with special needs playing baseball in the Miracle League of Palm Beach County and one about a champion squash player at Saint Andrew’s High School.

Geltner earned first-place honors for her story about the Palm Beach County arts community after Gov. Ron DeSantis vetoed 100% of the state’s arts grants. ★

Larry Barszewski contributed to this report.



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Business Spotlight

A record-breaking 10.7 million tourists visited county last year

Discover the Palm Beaches, the tourism marketing organization for Palm Beach County, recently announced record-breaking 2025 visitor numbers.

According to its data, Palm Beach County welcomed more than 10.7 million visitors in 2025, surpassing the 9.9 million in 2024 and representing an 8% increase.

Those visitors made a big impact on the economy. Preliminary figures show visitors spent \$7.7 billion in 2025, up from \$7.2 billion in 2024, and the 2025 total economic impact is about \$11.7 billion, up from \$10.5 billion in 2024.

The gains came from marketing to new domestic travel markets, targeted efforts to bring in new groups and meetings, and stronger events, Discover the Palm Beaches reported.

Offering some examples, spokeswoman Angela Cruz Ledford said that targeting emerging markets in Texas, especially in Houston and Dallas, paid off. Visitors from those cities “grew more than 20%. That’s huge, a massive jump in the tourism world,” she said.

“Traditionally, Texas residents like going to the Florida Panhandle. So, we ran marketing campaigns,



The Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce presents the 64th Delray Affair from April 10 to 12. Last year’s event (above) attracted tens of thousands of attendees. **Photo provided**

like advertising and social media boosting, and we also [went to the target markets and] did interactive, fun events with travel writers, social media influencers, meeting planners, tour operators and travel agents, inviting them to explore why our destination is worth visiting. We did so many of these that we’ve seen a dramatic increase.”

Based on JetBlue’s addition of nonstop flights from Los Angeles International Airport to Palm Beach International

Airport, Discover the Palm Beaches is also focusing on Los Angeles as an emerging target, Ledford said.

She also noted the Eudemonia Summit, a new wellness tech expo held at the Convention Center in November 2024 and 2025.

“The first year, we sold 2,700 tickets and last year, we sold out,” she said. “That was 5,000 tickets. And these are high spenders because tickets cost \$3,000. When they come for an event like this, they infuse their dollars

into the local market.”

Sister agencies also delivered results. The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County reported its 2025 grantees reached more than 3 million people.

The council also reported that Palm Beach County’s cultural activities generate more than \$335.3 million a year. The Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission reported that production in 2025 generated more than \$260 million in revenue, marking four consecutive years of record-breaking growth, a 3% increase over 2024.

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission reported that about 1.6 million people attended 227 sport-related events last year, generating \$496 million in visitor spending and filling more than 462,000 hotel rooms.

The Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce presents the 64th edition of the **Delray Affair** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 10–11 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 12.

Spanning seven city blocks of Atlantic Avenue in downtown Delray Beach, the free, open-air festival will showcase the work of more than 400 artists and crafters from across the country, plus demonstrations, workshops and interactive experiences.

The Delray Affair, which traces its origins to the 1940s and 1950s as the Delray Beach Gladiola Festival, generates an economic impact of \$3.4 million and usually attracts more than 100,000 visitors each year.

The festival has garnered local, regional and national awards, and most recently, it was named the 2025 People’s Choice “evAward” winner for Best Art Show, determined by public nomination and popular vote. Launched in November, the evAwards recognize standout events nationally.

For more information about the festival, visit delrayaffair.com.

Holiday House Wellington, a philanthropic designer showhouse, is hosting special events and gatherings in support of breast cancer research. It features a roster of interior designers who have each created a unique space across two neighboring residences in Farrell Estates Wellington, a new development within the Palm Beach Polo Golf & Country Club.

Among the two dozen designers participating, two are based in Boca Raton and Delray Beach: **Wendy Lynn Interiors** and **Nikki Levy Interiors**. The showhouse is open by appointment from April 6 through May 3. Tickets are available only online and must be purchased at least one day in advance. To purchase tickets, visit holidayhouse.ticketspice.com/holidayhouse-wellington-2026.

The Boca Eddie Land Trust, tied to actor and comedian Kevin James, paid \$17.15 million for a new six-bedroom, 12,301-total-square-foot home on **Sabal Palm Drive**, in Boca Raton’s **Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club**. The sellers were Peter Ciregna along with Marco Capoccia and Maria Cervi-Capoccia, both from Primo Construction, and John Lombard. The home on the golf course includes a first-floor primary suite, clubroom, office, gourmet kitchen, catering kitchen and gym. **Jackie Feldman** with **ONE Sotheby’s International Realty** represented the sellers, while **Jason Matouk** with **Douglas Elliman** represented the buyer. James is best known for his roles in *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*, *Grown Ups*, *The King of Queens*, and *Home Team*.

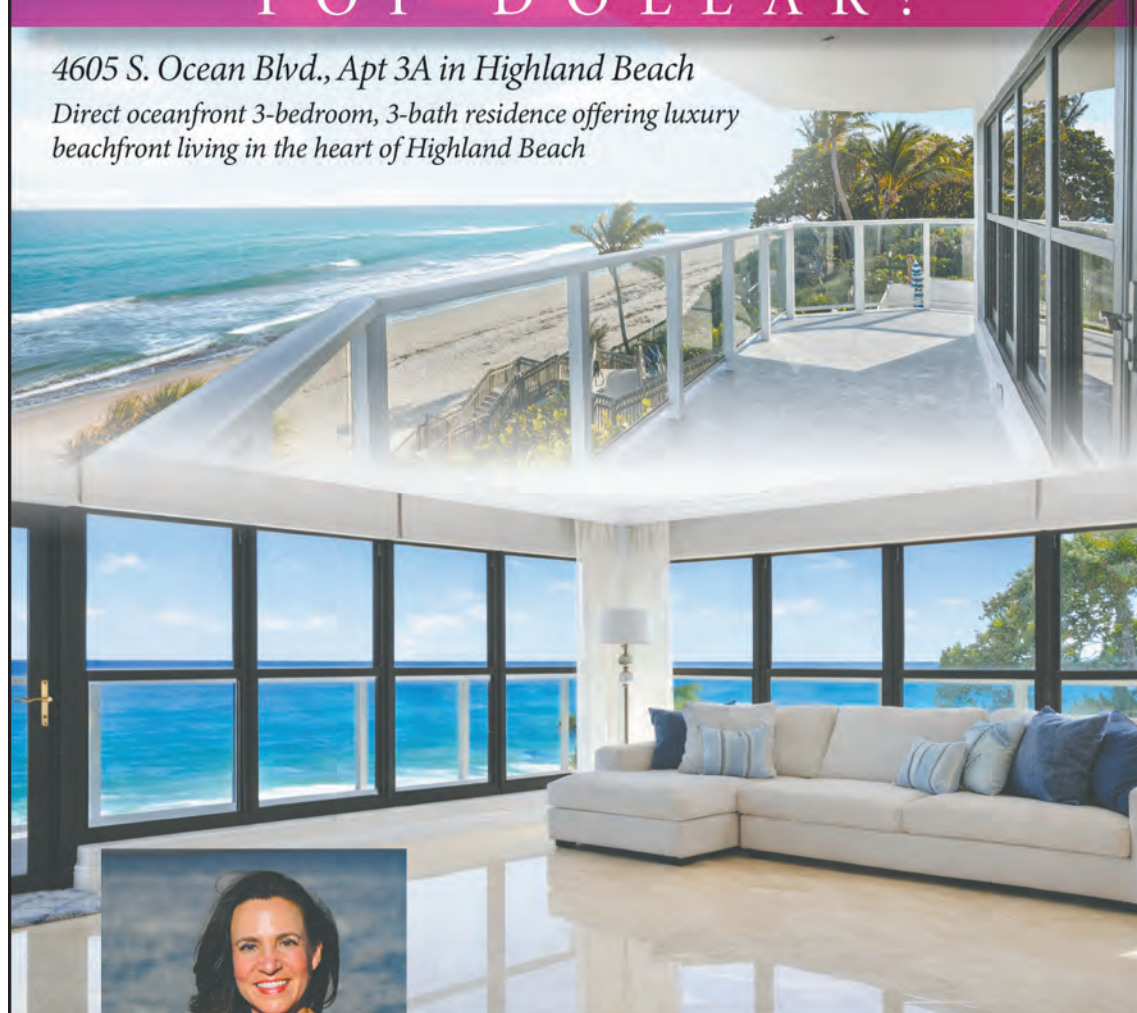
Three other properties also sold recently in Boca Raton’s Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club. The waterfront home at **298 W. Key Palm Road**, with six bedrooms and 15,813 total square feet, sold for \$21 million. The seller, attorney Philipp Kirschbaum, bought the property for \$22.6 million in June 2023. The buyer is listed as Thomas U. Graner, trustee of the Coastal Property Land Trust. **David W. Roberts** of **Royal Palm Properties** represented both sides in the deal.


The 207 W. Coconut Palm Road Land Trust, with Matthew M. Epstein as trustee, sold the 9,280-square-foot waterfront home at **207 W. Coconut Palm Road** for \$18 million. The buyer was


Continued on next page

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the 207 Coconut Palm Trust, with Chicago-based attorney Michael Passananti as trustee. Epstein bought the property in 2021 for \$5.64 million. **Nick Malinosky** of Douglas **Elliman** was the listing agent, while **William Volpe** of **Serhant** represented the buyer.

Also, Frank and Lea Ann LoBello sold their six-bedroom, 7,628-square-foot waterfront home at **252 S. Maya Palm Drive** for \$11.4 million. The buyer is 252 South Maya Palm Drive Trust, with Shawn C. Snyder as trustee. The LoBellos bought their home in 2012 for \$3.825 million. **David W. Roberts** of **Royal Palm Properties** represented the buyer and seller in the deal.

Glass House Boca Raton, developed by 280 E Palmetto Park Road LLC, received \$70 million in construction financing from the New York-based **Maxim Capital Group**. 280 E Palmetto Park Road LLC is a partnership of **Noam Ziv**, who leads **Red-C Group** in Boca Raton, and **Ilan and Ido Zaken**, with **Mira Properties** in Philadelphia.

Vertical construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of this year, with completion slated for late 2027. **Arrow Real**

Estate Advisors' Morris Betesh, Morris Dabbah and **Louis Halperin** helped secure the loan. The nine-story, 28-residence condo was designed by West Palm Beach-based **Garcia Stromberg**, with Delray Beach-based **Kaufman Lynn Construction** as general contractor. Units will range from 2,500 to 3,900 square feet, priced from \$2.7 million to more than \$8 million, with **Douglas Elliman** leading sales.

Christine D. Roberts, founder and CEO of the accounting and bookkeeping firm **Intention Enterprises**, was recently appointed to the



Roberts

Palm Beach County Small Business Development Advisory Board.

Previously, Roberts served on the **Office of Equal Business Opportunity** advisory committee, helping expand opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses across the county.

Roberts holds leadership roles with the **Palm Beach County Small Business Association**, the **Equity Entrepreneur Center** and the

Boynton Beach Chamber of Industry & Commerce. She is also the author of *Wealth Whispers* and founder of a nonprofit scholarship fund.

Delray Beach resident **Faye Weisberg** has joined **Premier Estate Properties** as a broker associate at the Delray Beach office. With nearly three decades of experience in luxury real estate, she has closed high-end sales in both the Hamptons and Palm Beach County.

French Florist has opened its first Florida location at **5601 N. Federal Highway, Suite 9, Boca Raton**. A national brand, this local franchise is owned by **Samantha and Ryan Garvey**.

Samantha was raised in Los Angeles with family roots tied to a greenhouse in east Texas. While Ryan's background is in finance and mortgage lending, he also has a personal connection to floristry. His grandfather worked in a floral shop in Baltimore and later helped manage the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

The **Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority** and the **Delray**

Beach Open tennis tournament launched the "Love at First Sight" storefront competition this year.

Downtown Delray Beach businesses were invited to create tennis-inspired window displays using the tournament's aqua-and-yellow color palette and romantic motifs tied to the event's Valentine's Day timing.

After three weeks and hundreds of community votes, **Nine Line Apparel, 530 E. Atlantic Ave.**, was crowned the People's Choice Champion and received a cash prize presented live on stadium court on Feb. 18 during the 2026 Delray Beach Open. **Beach Gossip, 331 E. Atlantic Avenue**, finished a close second.

With more than 60,000 fans attending the men's professional tournament and broadcast exposure in more than 185 countries, the competition gave local retailers a high-visibility way to align with one of the city's signature events.

German Cabieses, general manager at **Alina Residences Boca Raton**, recently received the 2025 President's Award from **FirstService Residential**, an honor that recognized his leadership across the company's South



Cabieses

Region portfolio. **FirstService Residential** manages more than 500 high-rise communities and 1,500

associations serving communities across Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama. The award was presented Feb. 5 at FirstService Residential's third annual South Region Awards virtual event.

On Feb. 25, **iPIC Theaters** filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, but announced that it will continue operating while pursuing a court-supervised process to restructure and maximize value for all creditors.

The company on Feb. 26 notified employees of planned layoffs effective April 28, 2026. These included 51 employees at its Delray Beach theater, **25 SE Fourth Ave.**, and 98 staff members at its Boca Raton corporate office, **433 Plaza Real, Suite 355.**



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



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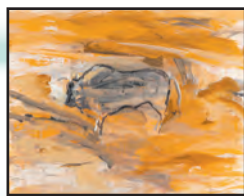
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April 2026

The Coastal  Star

Inside



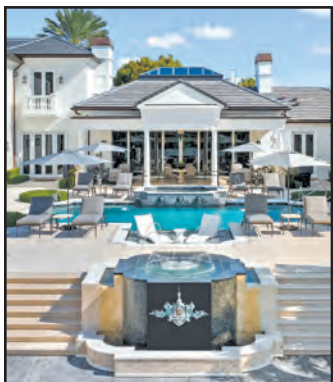
Celebrations
Honoring philanthropic giving. **Page AT5**



On the Water
April's a good time to spear lionfish. **Page AT20**



Paws Up for Pets
Don't let a big dog's size dissuade you. **Page AT21**



House of the Month
Grand Intracoastal estate in Boca Raton. **Page AT31**

Picture of hope

Boca teen uses talents with art and speech to build positive self-images in younger kids

By **Faran Fagen**

*I am unique.
I am loved
I believe in myself.
Don't give up.
I love myself.
Be positive.
I am enough.*

While 15-year-old Ayel Morgenstern cheers them on, students at Pine Grove Elementary School in Delray Beach write positive affirmations and decorate shatterproof mirrors on hand-painted canvases to remind themselves: They are more than enough.

Each student receives a positivity kit, including a Kind bar, affirmation journal, stickers, pens, an inspiring bracelet and custom mirror canvas, giving them tangible tools to reinforce self-compassion long after the session ends.

It's one of the latest service projects that Ayel, a high school freshman at American Heritage School, has launched in an effort to put more hope into the world.

"The Mirrors of Positivity program equips young leaders to build resilience, practice self-compassion and spread kindness, to create a positive ripple effect in schools, homes and communities," Ayel said.

The visit to Pine Grove — which has booked Ayel for a return visit — is an example of how the ripples have reached beyond her home city of Boca Raton.

When she was 6, Ayel heard on the news



American Heritage School ninth-grader Ayel Morgenstern at home in Boca Raton with several of her paintings. Art and heart are core to her service projects. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

See **AYEL** on page **AT18**

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Pay It Forward

Impact 100 set to make decisions on \$100,000 grants

By Lou Ann Frala

Impact 100 Palm Beach County, now in its 15th year, unites a collective of women annually with a common aspiration: change the lives of residents who are served by local nonprofit organizations. Simple, right?

The diverse group, whose membership fluctuates and evolves each year, has given nearly \$8 million via 124 grants to area nonprofits since 2012.

On April 28, the end of the fundraising year for the group, grant finalists across five categories — family; education; art, culture and historic preservation; health and wellness; environment and animal welfare — will make their presentations and learn the members' decisions on awarding top grants of \$100,000.

A record 120 groups bid to make the finals.

"Celebrating 15 years of Impact 100 Palm Beach County at our Grand Awards is both a milestone and a moment of momentum," said Co-Chairwoman Carrie Rubin. "What began as a shared vision among women committed to meaningful philanthropy has grown into a powerful force for change — nearly \$8 million invested in our community to date.

"This anniversary year is a testament to what's possible

If You Go

What: Impact 100 Palm Beach County Grand Awards Celebration

When: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. April 28

Where: Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton

Cost: \$100 for nonmembers

Information: 561-336-4623; RSVP by April 16 via impact100pbc.org

when women come together with purpose, and it inspires us to think even bigger about the impact we can make in the years ahead."

The collective touts a "zero-to-hero" membership model. Each year begins a clean slate as women from across southern Palm Beach County are sought to either recommit or join anew, pledging a minimum of \$1,000 each toward that promise of potentially transformative grants for local projects.

"Projects" is the key word, says Impact 100 Communications Director Lisa Sunshine. Grants are awarded based on the specifics of the finalists' projects, regardless of the name or pedigree of the applicant. "Small name but big project? We try to look for projects that are truly transformational."

The record number of applications shows that there's



Carrie Rubin and Terry Fedele are the chairwomen for the Impact 100 Palm Beach County Grand Awards Celebration. Impact 100 has donated nearly \$8 million via 124 grants to area nonprofits since 2012. Photo provided

"a lot of need out there. At least one grant will be given in each of the five categories."

"As we celebrate 15 years of Impact 100 Palm Beach County at the Grand Awards, what stands out most is the extraordinary ripple effect of collective giving," said Co-Chairwoman Terry Fedele.

"Each grant represents not just funding but belief — in organizations, in innovation, and in the future of our community. This milestone year is a powerful reminder that when women come together with intention, the impact is both immediate and enduring."

The distinguishing aspect of

receiving money from Impact 100 PBC is that it comes with a grant management team, Sunshine says. The money, given in increments over a two-year term, is tracked and monitored. "We manage our own grants. Every woman's money is going to a project that's going to make a real impact." ★

Philanthropy Calendar

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 3/17. Please check with organizers for any changes.

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 "Kin" and "An American Marriage," is the guest speaker. 11:30 am. \$200. 561-767-3370 or literacypbc.org.

Thursday-Friday - 4/9-4/10 - Boca Raton Historical Society's/The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum's Boca Bacchanal Vintner Dinners at private residences throughout the city. Enjoy wine tastings from internationally acclaimed dealers and delectable cuisine prepared by renowned chefs. 6:30 and 7 pm. Tickets for Friday dinners are \$350. (Thursday dinners are sold

out.) 561-395-6766, Ext. 101 or bocahistory.org/boca-bacchanal.

Friday - 4/10 - Place of Hope 12th Annual Angel Moms Brunch at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Women of influence and heart unite for one cause: to break generational cycles of child abuse, homelessness, poverty and human trafficking. 10 am. \$300. Sponsorships are available. 561-775-7195. <https://angelmoms.givesmart.com/>

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, Two 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.

Friday - 4/17 - The Community Cook Off Competition Luncheon presented by Boca West Children's Foundation at Boca West Country Club, 20582 Boca West Dr, Boca Raton. 11 am-2 pm. Tickets start at \$250. 561-488-6980; bocawestfoundation.org/luncheon-2026/

Saturday - 4/18 - Best Foot Forward Foundation's BFF Blue Jean 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. Sponsorship packages start at \$1,500 at BFFBash.org. 561-470-8300

4/18 - Delray Beach Concours VIP Gatsby Party Under the Stars at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave. Benefits

Delray First Responder and Youth Charities. 5 pm. \$75/person; \$140/couple. 561-688-6908; delrayconcours.com

4/18 - Blue Jean BFF Bash at The Boca Raton, 5400 Champion Blvd. Benefits Best Food Forward Foundation. Dinner, auction, more. 6:30-10:30 pm. \$350. 470-8300; bffbash.org

4/18 - Milagro Center 2026 Gala - Roaring Through The 20's at Indian Spring Country Club, 11501 El Clair Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. 7 pm. \$175. RSVP: 561-279-2970; milagrocenter.org/thatsmilagroshow

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 impact100pbc.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. Roll the dice at the annual evening of music, entertainment, auctions, gaming, cocktails and dinner — all 1920s-style — and, of course, Monopoly. 6-10 pm. \$250. 6 pm. \$500. Tickets available in mid-March. 561-417-0913 or bocahelpinghands.org/handsheartsgala.

Thursday - 4/30 - Palm Beach County Medical Society Services Pathways to Purpose luncheon at Benvenuto, 1730 Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. This community recognition event honors individuals who are making a meaningful impact on health and well-being across Palm Beach County. Reception, 11 am; luncheon noon. \$125. <https://pbcms.org/pathway-to-purpose/> or call 561-433-3955.

4/30 - Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County's Evening with Max Weinberg at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 W. Plaza Real, Boca Raton, in support of the federation's annual campaign. Weinberg is best known as the longtime drummer for

Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band. Tickets for the "Jukebox Concert Experience" are \$180. For tickets and sponsorship information, visit jewishboca.org/maxweinberg or contact alexce@jewishboca.org.

MAY

Saturday - 5/2 - American Heritage Schools sixth annual Heroes: Denim & Diamonds at the Broward Campus Main Theater, 12200 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation. A benefit concert starring Clay Cartland for Lighthouse of Broward. Proceeds benefit the only private, nonprofit organization in Broward providing comprehensive services to blind and visually impaired children and adults. 6 pm. Tickets are \$25 and include an open bar and light bites. lhob.org/heroes

Monday - 5/4 - HomeSafe Charity Golf Tournament at the Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 199 Royal Palm Way, Boca Raton. Registration at 7:30 am; 9 am shotgun start; 1 pm, lunch and awards program to benefit HomeSafe, along with golf ambassadors Fern Schmidt, Patty Larkin, Brooke Qualk, Logan Shalmi of The Atlantic Group, Pete Austin and Phil Procacci. \$60 lunch only, \$700 player. <https://www.helphomesafe.org/golf2026/>

Thursday - 5/7 - Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options' Mother's Day Luncheon at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Celebrate moms while honoring Woman of the Year Susan Lyman. 10 am boutique, auction and mimosas followed by luncheon and program. 10 am. \$180, \$280 for entry into VIP raffle. 954-368-1879 or jafco.org.

Saturday - 5/16 - The Cruise Baby Initiative's Cruiser Palooza Music + Arts Festival at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Raise money during an evening of live music, food trucks, a beer garden, art, a cornhole tournament, a silent auction and more to support those sidelined by spinal-cord injuries. 5-10 pm. General admission \$40, VIPs \$100. 561-306-7667 or cruiseinitiative.org/cruiser-palooza

In Their Words: A Student's Perspective



"Hilary was exceptional throughout the entire process—from building my college list to finalizing my applications. She was consistently supportive, thoughtful, and instrumental in keeping me organized with deadlines while addressing my many questions and concerns. Our hard work truly paid off, and I'm incredibly grateful for all her patience and help!"

- Lily, Class of '26 Accepted to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Honors Carolina

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Philanthropy Notes

Panthers captain makes major gift to children's hospital

Florida Panthers captain Sasha Barkov — a Boca Raton resident — has made a seven-figure gift to the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation, expanding pediatric orthopedic and sports medicine services and establishing the Barkov Sports Medicine Program at the Hollywood-based hospital.

The orthopedic program, ranked No. 1 in Florida by *U.S. News & World Report*, serves more than 18,000 Broward County student-athletes and provides a full range of care from emergency treatment to rehabilitation.

The Panthers' star center, who hasn't played this season while rehabbing a surgically repaired right knee, supports Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital through philanthropy and personal engagement. For every goal and assist he makes, he pledges a donation to the hospital foundation. He also donates the use of a suite at the Panthers' home arena in Sunrise for patients and their families.

Walk in My Shoes to stroll through Boca Raton

In recognition of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Lauren's Kids has embarked on its 11th annual Walk in My Shoes, a 1,500-mile trek across Florida — while concurrently



Florida Panthers captain Sasha Barkov with (l-r) Kelley Morris, president of the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation and Memorial Foundation; Beth-Ann Krimsky, board chair of the foundations; and Caitlin Stella, CEO of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. Photo courtesy of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation

launching a survivor oral history storytelling initiative called the Voices Project.

The walk began March 31 in Key West and will travel to Pensacola before ending May 1 at the Capitol in Tallahassee.

It will pass through Boca Raton on April 6. People can participate in the 5-mile walk to Sugar Sand Park at 300 S. Military Trail, with the opportunity to walk another 5 miles back to the starting

point at Bloomingdale's in Town Center at Boca Raton. Participants can receive an Uber code to cover the cost of a ride back to the starting location.

Lauren's Kids founder/CEO and former State Sen. Lauren Book is leading the journey to Tallahassee. The walk brings together people from child advocacy centers and sexual assault treatment programs, as well as educators who teach Lauren's Kids' Safer, Smarter Kids abuse prevention curriculum program, law enforcement, sex crimes prosecutors, community and elected leaders, and families.

The Voices Project, a recording unit traveling with the walk, will capture anonymous accounts from survivors.

They are also invited to submit audio recordings of up to five minutes by emailing voices@laurenskids.org.

Register to walk or to participate in the Voices Project at LaurensKidsWalk.org. Live-stream updates and photos are available on the website.

Kravis gala raises money for arts programming

The Kravis Center for the Performing Arts hosted 500 guests March 5 for "The Conjuror's Ball: An Evening of Illusion and Magic." The evening featured a performance by Tony Award winner Nicole Scherzinger and raised money in support of Kravis Center artistic and education programs.

George Snow's Cowboy Ball supports local students

The George Snow Scholarship Fund hosted its 32nd annual Cowboy Ball on March 6, presented by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, to raise money for scholarships and support services for students with financial need.

The evening included the presentation of the Community Service Award to Steve and Debbie Schmidt and the Corporate Community Service Award to the Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation.

Temple Beth El centennial celebrates in Purim style

On March 1, 100 years to the day since Temple Beth El was founded, more than 110 guests filled the Lake Pavilion in West Palm Beach for the Centennial Gala: Purim Style — a celebration described as one of the most memorable in synagogue history.

"It was a night for the ages," said Caren Winer, co-chair of the event with Jill Weiss. "Seeing our community come together — dancing, laughing, reflecting on our history and committing to our future — was incredibly moving. It was everything we hoped this milestone celebration would be."

The night was highlighted by an announcement about the new Beth El Center for Jewish Life and the launch of the

"100 Shares Campaign." One hundred donors are invited to contribute \$1,000 each, becoming Century Founders in Temple Beth El's next chapter.

Cultural Council awards Innovation Fellowships

The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County has announced the recipients of its 2026 Artist Innovation Fellowships. Launched in 2020, the biennial program provides money that empowers artists to advance their careers.

The artists are Sonya Sanchez Arias, George Bayer, Virginia Blische, Michelle Drummond, Jill Hotchkiss, Quinn Miller, Ashley Osorio, Quimetta Perle, Elizabeth Price and Elizabeth Straight. They will receive \$10,000 each, the largest individual award to date for this fellowship program. New this year, fellows will also be trained as cultural tourism ambassadors for the area, as many travel far and wide for exhibitions or performances, residencies or other opportunities.

Tayari Jones to speak at Love of Literacy event

New York Times bestselling author Tayari Jones will be the featured speaker at the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's 35th annual Love of Literacy Luncheon April 9.

Jones' novel *Kin* was released Feb. 24 and is an Oprah's Book Club pick, as is her novel *An American Marriage*, which was also named one of the 100 Best Books of the 21st century by *The New York Times*.

Tickets are \$200. Call 561-767-3370 or email Communications@LiteracyPBC.org.

Bus tour shows benefits from Impact 100 grants

Impact 100 Palm Beach County members took a bus tour Jan. 31 to visit six nonprofit organizations that have received \$100,000 grants from the women's philanthropic organization.

"Experiencing these programs in person reminds us why we give," said Janean Mileusnic, president of Impact 100. "It's not just about the grant, it's about the ripple effect in our community."

The tour was chaired by Helen Ballerano and Gulf Stream resident Ingrid Kennemer.

The six nonprofits on the tour: Morningday Community Solutions, Tomorrow's Rainbow, Place of Hope, Milagro Center (GEMS: Girls in Engineering, Math & Science), Delray Beach Children's Garden, and Roots & Wings Inc. at Plumosa School for the Arts.



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

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Celebrations

Raising Readers

Crazy Uncle Mike's, Boca Raton — March 4



The Junior League of Boca Raton honored 30 teachers from seven Title 1 elementary schools for their work in fostering a culture of reading in their classrooms. Each received a refreshed classroom library with 100 books. Teachers from Boca Raton Elementary, Citrus Cove, Forest Park, Freedom Shores, Galaxy E3, Orchard View and Poinciana were honored. Speakers included Junior League of Boca Raton President Victoria Matthews and Kristin Calder, CEO of the Literacy Coalition. **ABOVE:** Teachers from Forest Park Elementary in Boynton Beach (l-r) Lynda Campbell, Jacqueline Anderson, Marie Volcimus, Regina Smith and Barbara Callahan. **Photo provided**

Boca Ballet Theatre Best of the Belgians Beer Fest

Dr. André Fladell Civic Center, Delray Beach — Feb. 21



Guests sampled Belgian and Trappist beers and met representatives from their respective breweries: De Dolle, Ommegang, St. Bernardus, Rochefort, Barrel of Monks and more. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Bill McFee, Matt Saady, Maria McFee, Dan Guin and Kat Saady. **Photo provided**

Literacy fundraiser

Good Night John Boy, Delray Beach — Feb. 24



The Roots and Wings Goes To Hollywood: 10th Anniversary event raised \$385,000 for its literacy programs. The evening celebrated a decade of impact for the nonprofit across Palm Beach County schools. 'This milestone is about more than celebrating 10 years. It's about recognizing the thousands of students and educators whose lives have been impacted through this work,' said Ted Hoskinson, founder of Roots and Wings. 'Seeing a sold-out room of supporters rally behind literacy and teacher recognition reinforces just how deeply our community values education.' Founded in 2016, Roots and Wings now collaborates with 20 Title 1 schools and serves 1,600 students through targeted literacy programming and teacher recognition initiatives. **TOP:** (l-r) Sherry Zepatos, Pam Higer-Polani, Hoskinson, Jan Savarick and Kim Champion. **INSET:** Pamela and Robert Weinroth. **Photos provided**



Promise Fund Awards Celebration

Club Colette, Palm Beach — March 13



Promise Fund brought together nearly 150 community leaders, philanthropists and health care advocates committed to expanding access to lifesaving breast and cervical cancer care for women across Palm Beach, Broward and Martin counties. Breast cancer survivor and Komen for the Cure founder Nancy G. Brinker and her son Eric Brinker announced a \$1 million commitment. Their gift helped bring the organization's fundraising total for the season to \$5 million. Dr. Herbert Wertheim then announced that he would match the Brinkers' \$1 million commitment. **TOP:** Nancy and Eric Brinker. **INSET:** Alicia Dahill and Wertheim. **Photos by CAPEHART**



Caron Treatment Centers Gala

The Opal, Delray Beach — March 6



The annual fundraising event brought together donors, alumni and community leaders in support of Caron's mission of support for individuals and families affected by substance use disorder. Caron President and CEO John Driscoll reminded the gathering about the organization's legacy and mission: 'What began as one family opening their home to people struggling with addiction has grown into a global recovery community. Together with our alumni, staff and supporters, we are carrying that legacy forward by helping the next generation of families find hope and healing.' The Partner in Recovery Award was presented to Dave Aronberg, former Palm Beach County state attorney, in recognition of his leadership in protecting individuals and families seeking recovery from addiction. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Ariella Jonas, Dr. Javier Ley and Azuela Ley. **Photo provided**

PBA LeMieux Center Speaker Series

Morton's The Steakhouse, West Palm Beach — Feb. 26



Community leaders, Palm Beach Atlantic University supporters and distinguished guests gathered for a cocktail reception for former U.S. Secretaries of State Mike Pompeo and John Kerry, who greeted attendees ahead of the evening's program at the school's DeSantis Family Chapel. Former U.S. Sen. George LeMieux, moderator of the Speaker Series, welcomed guests alongside university President Dr. Debra A. Schwinn. 'We are grateful to bring together voices from across the political spectrum in a spirit of civil discourse and engagement,' said Schwinn. 'Moments like these reflect PBA's commitment to meaningful conversation and leadership.' **ABOVE:** Paul and Lynn Lawless. **Photo provided by CAPEHART**

Palm Beach Symphony's 24th Annual Gala: A Standing Ovation

The Breakers, Palm Beach — Feb. 16



The nonprofit orchestra's gala broke its record, raising \$1.2 million to support the symphony's education and outreach initiatives, honor student achievements, celebrate orchestral music and recognize donors and sponsors. The Golden Baton Society Award was presented to James R. Borynack and Adolfo Zaralegui. **ABOVE:** Lisa Bruna B-Major Award winners (l-r) Elias Cohen Jimenez, Josefina Ezcurra and Michael Li. **FAR LEFT:** Florence Seiler and Robert Bickford. **LEFT:** Lori Thal and Mark Lippman. **Photos provided by CAPEHART**

Men Giving Back

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — Feb. 25



The sixth annual Backyard Battle brought together nearly 100 members for friendly competition and community impact. The evening featured backyard-style games such as golf challenges, ax-throwing, cornhole, air hockey, and more. 'Men Giving Back was founded on the idea that philanthropy should be both meaningful and fun,' said Billy Marino, a board member and Backyard Battle event organizer. MGB has donated more than \$3.5 million to dozens of charities throughout South Palm Beach County since its inception in 2020. The organization focuses on four core areas: children, mental health, education, and food security. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Marino, Ed Ventrice, Nathan Nachlas and Bill Donnell. **Photo provided**

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AGENDA

9:45 AM	Registration Opens
10:00 AM	Mimosa Reception
10:30 AM	Ballroom Opens
11:00 AM	Grand Awards Event Begins
12:30 PM	Lunch is Served and Voting Ends
1:00 PM	Grand Award Winners Announced

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The Arts Paper

www.palmbeachartspaper.com



Le chien et un oiseau dans le paysage (1952) by Fernand Léger, is on display at the Boca Museum of Art. Photo provided

Art

Modern wonders

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

If science is a discipline pursued with passion and art is a passion pursued with discipline, as Arthur M. Sackler once said, then recent Delray Beach snowbird Harvey Manes (pronounced Maness) — retired orthopedic surgeon, attorney, author of five books, art collector and lifelong art enthusiast — would understand that balance better than most.

A collector for 40 years, Manes is now sharing his personal trove with the public. A new exhibition at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, *Modernisms*:



Manes

Art from the Manes Collection, which runs through Oct. 11, features works drawn exclusively from his collection.

New to the area, he recently joined the museum's board and pledged \$10 million to help rebuild the museum's art school, a project that must first receive city approval. Many of the works

Retired surgeon
shares stellar art
trove with public
at Boca Museum

in his possession — including pieces by Picasso and Jasper Johns — are also promised gifts to the museum, expanding its holdings and creating a legacy for future generations.

"What I love about the exhibition — and Dr. Manes's collection — is that they parallel his dynamic personality and diverse interests," says Ena Heller, CEO of the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

"The works illustrate the many visual languages of the 20th century while also tracing the evolution that broke open the canon, allowing developments in contemporary art. They connect directly

See MANES on AT12

Theater

Dramaworks puts timely themes through 'Crucible'

By Erik Kvarnberg
ArtsPaper Theater Writer

Originally written during the time of McCarthyism, Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* (1953) turns a mirror onto the masses with a story about the Salem Witch Trials.

"Producing this play now is more timely than when it first premiered in the 1950s," said William Hayes, who is directing the show for Palm Beach Dramaworks during its run from April 3 to 19 at the Don and Ann Brown Theatre on Clematis Street in West Palm Beach.

In Miller's play, the community of Salem, Mass., is gripped with fear in 1692 over the idea that witches are living among them. Chaos ensues, neighbors turn on each other, and religious fervor bypasses justice.

Written out of Miller's personal experiences during the persecutionary years of the U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee, the play — which is the most-produced play of Miller's career — captures the influence of paranoia and extremism on human behavior.

"The comparison is going to be obvious," said Hayes. "Folks, we've been doing this for 300-plus years. The difference is the stakes get higher every time."

The Crucible is one of many plays Hayes says felt urgent to produce, stemming from his personal outspoken nature and forcing him to reflect in the same way he wants the audience to.

"Doing a show like this gets me to reflect on myself and ask why I didn't do more to try to stop this kind of stuff from happening," he said.

Driving Miss Daisy, the Alfred Uhry

See DRAMAWORKS on AT8

Music

Stars to align at Arts Garage with Ursa Major jazz concert

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

One of my first experiences as a journalist with bassist Christian McBride wasn't an interview with him, but rather one that partially turned out to be *about* him for *Jazziz* magazine in 2002.

Keyboardist/vocalist George Duke (1946-2013) had recently released his 26th studio album, *Face the Music* (Big Piano Music). When the name of McBride (then in his 20s) came up, the ever-personable Duke verbally beamed. The rising young star's acoustic upright playing anchored most of the album's funky fusion of jazz and R&B elements, and his unexpected electric playing — particularly on the lengthy track "Ten Mile Jog" — alternately echoed the

fretted thump of Stanley Clarke and the fluid fretless work of the late Jaco Pastorius. Most of the world didn't know then that McBride, the new face of acoustic jazz bass, also played its plugged-in cousin.

Twenty-five years after those recording sessions, the 53-year-old McBride remains the versatile face of modern jazz double bass and beyond, having added considerably to his résumé. Virtually no one is surprised by his electric bass prowess now, since it's become a mere footnote on his laundry list of accomplishments since.

A recent one is his youthful, 4-year-old band Ursa Major, which appears at the Arts Garage in Delray Beach on April 25. The quintet features McBride — on both upright and electric basses — with tenor saxophonist Nicole Glover, keyboardist

Mike King, guitarist Ely Perlman and drummer Savannah Harris playing mostly original compositions, written collectively, from the group's forthcoming debut album. Paying it forward the way Duke did for him, McBride says he found the ascending jazz musicians the old-fashioned way.

"They're four of the hottest young musicians in the entire jazz community," he says by phone from his home in Montclair, N.J. "There comes a time to turn the stage over to the next generation. ... I heard about these musicians through word of mouth, seeing and hearing them perform in my travels, and from musicians who I respect recommending them."

With good reason. Glover moved east

See MCBRIDE on AT8



Bassist Christian McBride will perform in Delray Beach on April 25. Photo provided



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DRAMAWORKS

Continued from page 7

play that Dramaworks produced earlier in the season, follows not-unrelated lines, but with an upbeat attitude.

“I never want people to think there’s no hope. It served as a reminder that two people from very different cultures can come together and, through dialogue, become best friends. When people talk, beautiful things happen,” Hayes said.

“The theater can be a powerful pulpit. My job is not to tell people what to think, but to get people to think and to talk.”

With a cast of 20, Dramaworks’ production of *The Crucible* focuses on building the circumstances that allow the events of 1692 Salem to ring truer than ever.

The cast includes Tom Wahl as the Rev. Samuel Parris, Karen Stephens as Tituba, Elisabeth Yancey as Abigail Williams, Tom Patterson as John Proctor, Julie Kleiner as Elizabeth Proctor, Margery Lowe as Ann Putnam and Sarah Good, Nick Jordan as the Rev. John Hale, Andy Prosky as Deputy Gov. Thomas Danforth, and Rob Donohoe as Giles Corey.

Other cast members include Kaia Davis (Betty Parris), Natalie Donahue McMahon (Susanna Walcott), John



Julie Kleiner, Gary Cadwallader, Tom Patterson, Andy Prosky and Elisabeth Yancey in *The Crucible*. Photo by Jason Nuttle

Leonard Thompson (Thomas Putnam), Barbara B. Bradshaw (Rebecca Nurse), Peter W. Galman (Francis Nurse), Gary Cadwallader (Judge John Hathorne), Seth Trucks (Ezekiel Cheever), Hannah Hayley (Mercy Lewis), Cat Boynton (Mary Warren), David Hyland (John Willard) and John Campagnuolo (Hopkins).

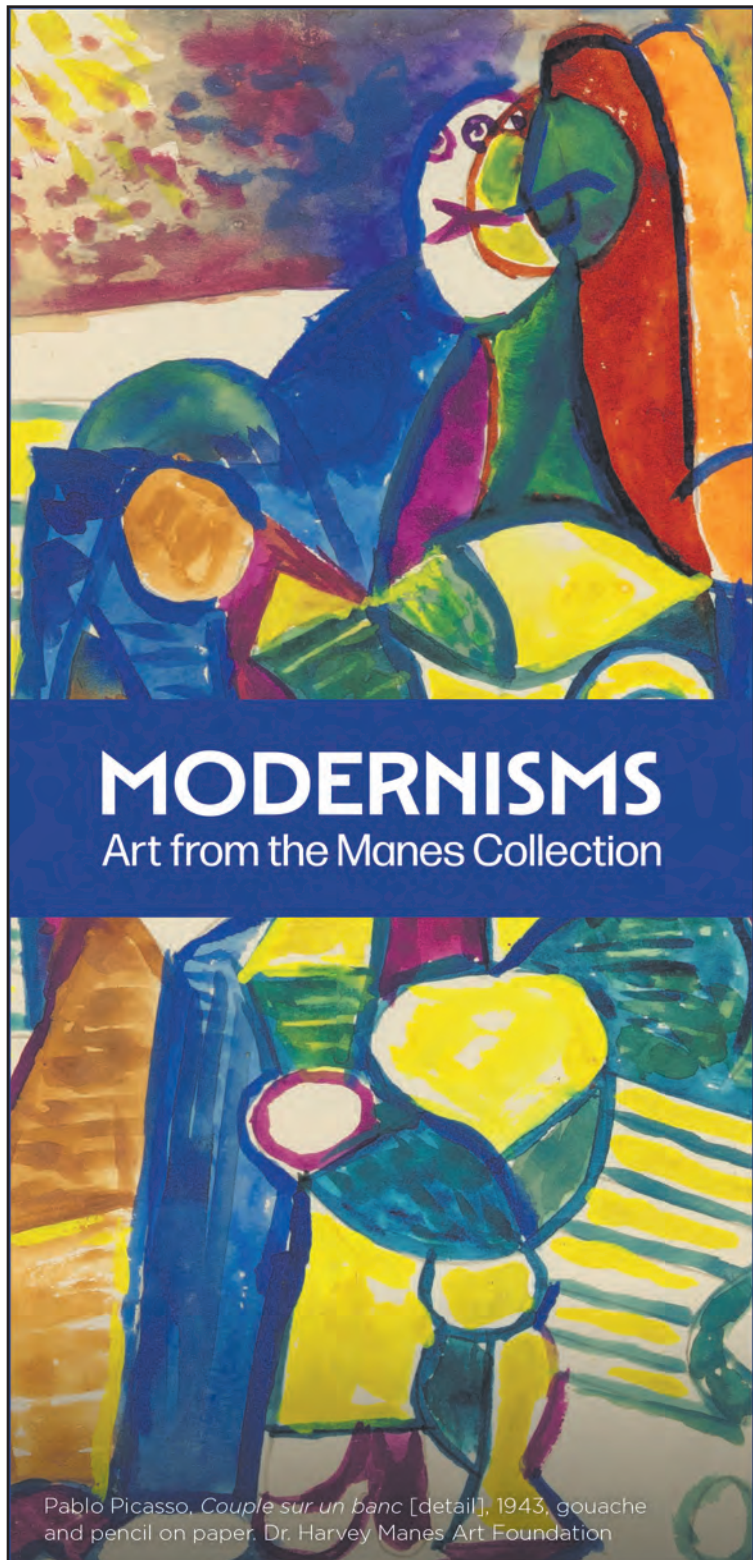
Hayes directs the production, with Jessica Chen as the assistant director. Scenic design is handled by Doug Wilkinson in his design debut (he is the company’s technical director), costumes are by Brian O’Keefe,

If You Go

The Crucible runs through April 19 at Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach.
Tickets: \$75-\$115
Info: 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org

José Santiago is the lighting designer, and Roger Arnold is the sound designer.

“It’s a play about community,” Hayes said. “You can’t have hysteria without the entire community contributing to it.”



MODERNISMS
Art from the Manes Collection

Pablo Picasso, *Couple sur un banc* [detail], 1943, gouache and pencil on paper. Dr. Harvey Manes Art Foundation

MCBRIDE

Continued from page 7

from Oregon to study at William Paterson University in New Jersey and is now based in New York City. She is a faculty member at Princeton University, the Manhattan School of Music, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Her latest album is the critically acclaimed *Strange Lands* (Savant, 2021).

King is a Chicago native who graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory and is equally adept at acoustic piano and electric organ; Perlman is a Tel Aviv native who moved to Boston to study at the Berklee College of Music and has a debut album set for imminent release. Harris relocated from Oakland, Calif., to earn her master’s degree in jazz performance from the Manhattan School of Music and has been featured in *Modern Drummer* magazine as both an artist and contributing writer.

The Philadelphia-born, Juilliard School-educated McBride won his 10th and 11th Grammy Awards in February. The Christian McBride Big Band captured the “Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album” nod for its latest release, *Without Further Ado, Vol. 1* (Mack Avenue); his trio recording of “Windows — Live,” with drummer Brian Blade and keyboardist Chick

Corea (1941-2021), won for “Best Jazz Performance.”

Another of the ever-active bassist’s recent accomplishments was his Christian McBride’s World at Sea cruise, Jan. 20-27. The sold-out cruise kept the bassist running.

“You really couldn’t find Christian during the cruise other than onstage,” says attendee Dr. Barry Schechter, of the Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute in Boynton Beach. “He was so busy preparing for, and playing, four or five shows a day.”

“It’s freaking me out how many people are saying things like that,” says McBride after hearing that quote. “When casual fans are saying that, maybe it’s time to admit you overworked yourself. But it was a blast. We’re looking at doing it again next year.”

As if all that wasn’t enough, McBride’s current slate of endeavors includes hosting two radio programs. *Jazz Night in America* on NPR is entering its 12th season; *The Lowdown: Conversations With Christian* on SiriusXM is in its 17th. His artistic direction guides the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, N.Y., and the TD James Moody Jazz Festival. He’s also AD for the Jazz Aspen Snowmass Summer Sessions in Colorado, the Montclair Jazz

If You Go

Christian McBride and Ursa Major perform at the Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach, at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. April 25
Tickets: \$108-\$118
Info: 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Festival, and Jazz House Kids, the latter two in conjunction with his wife, vocalist and educator Melissa Walker.

With the sophistication of Duke Ellington and ambassadorship of Wynton Marsalis, McBride is emerging as the new veteran face of jazz in the 21st century. Add his tireless work ethic, and sense of groove inherent in his native Philadelphia, and his musical hero comes as no surprise.

McBride’s 1995 debut album *Gettin’ To It* (Verve) featured a title track inspired by “Get It Together,” a hit for pioneering soul and funk vocalist James Brown, who befriended and did several collaborations with the bassist before his death in 2006.

One of Brown’s honorary titles was “The Hardest Working Man in Show Business.” For the past 20 years and counting, McBride has taken that baton from his idol. And literally been on the run with it.

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Reviews

Here are excerpts of reviews from recent coverage in Palm Beach ArtsPaper. For the full reviews, visit palmbeachartspaper.com.

Vienna Philharmonic, Lang Lang (Kravis Center, March 9)

The Vienna Philharmonic, one of the world's top musical institutions, presented a program with two massive early modern works. Joined by celebrity pianist Lang Lang, they started the evening with Béla Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3 in E major. Bartók's last work, the 1945 concerto is a far cry from his colorful, folk-tinged works from previous decades and from the classical-romantic repertory one usually associates with Lang Lang.

Together with the exceptional musicians of the philharmonic, the pianist was able to create moments of coloristic beauty. The audience reacted (more because of the reputation of the artists than because of the choice of repertoire) with a standing ovation that prompted Lang Lang to oblige with a most tender and controlled rendition of Liszt's *Consolation No. 2*.

The second half of the program featured Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1, written in 1889. Under guest conductor Andris Nelsons, the Viennese gave a difficult-to-top, sonically rich reading. Nelsons's penchant for carefully shaping each individual phrase resulted in a somewhat disjointed first movement, although one could defend the "cubist" result as revelatory.

There was no question of his directing skills in the third movement, though. The many countermelodies to the famous minor-key "Frère Jacques" were

performed in a way that created new textures and colors truly exceptional. It was the highlight of the evening.

Nelsons encored with a muscular rendition of the ever-popular *Light Cavalry* overture by Franz von Suppé. Some audience members confused that with the *Radetzky March* and started clapping to the music.

Hopefully, that glitch, in addition to the constant ringing of cell phones during the concert, won't deter the orchestra from returning to our shores.

— Márcio Bezerra

Miami City Ballet (Kravis Center, Feb. 28)

MCB presented a solid program that included two George Balanchine works — the iconic and timeless masterpiece *Serenade* and the lively pas de deux *Tarantella*, as well as the world premiere of *Roses from the South (Three Waltzes for Toby)*, which was commissioned in honor of MCB founder Toby Lerner Ansin's 85th birthday and choreographed by the highly acclaimed Alexei Ratmansky.

Gonzalo Garcia, the new artistic director, was appointed during the summer after Lourdes Lopez, then the artistic director, made the surprise decision to leave. Garcia was on hand to make a pre-curtain appearance and introduce himself and share his vision for the company. Changes in how the company presents itself are already becoming apparent.

Onstage the dancers were as confident and personable as always and it was reassuring to see many familiar faces once again dancing on the Kravis stage. It seemed fitting that the first offering of the night was the serene and beautiful *Serenade* (1934), which featured Hannah Fischer, Dawn Atkins, Jordan-Elizabeth



Adrienne Carter and Hannah Fischer in *Roses from the South (Three Waltzes for Toby)*. Photo by REN Media

Long, Cameron Catazaro and Chase Swatosh.

Though there is no storyline in the 32-minute ballet, the images that appear suggested various relationships such as when Fischer fell to the ground and Swatosh entered, eye shielded by Long as she led him toward Fischer. As he consoled Fischer, Long spread her arms as if she had the wings of an angel. In another exquisite moment, Long struck a gorgeous arabesque that Swatosh, seated on the ground, rotated by her ankle.

I never grow tired of seeing this work with its iconic beginning, beautiful images and its wistful ending, especially when it is danced as beautifully as it was by the MCB dancers.

Garcia, who did not curate this season (as it had already been planned by his predecessor Lopez), made the decision to add Balanchine's bravura pas de deux, *Tarantella*, to this program. Appearing right after *Serenade* and before intermission, the lively duet rounded out the elegantly muted evening by adding a

little extra zip and personality.

Dressed in Italian folk-styled costumes of black, white and red complete with beribboned tambourines, Taylor Naturkas and Satoki Habuchi were in excellent form as they darted in and out with tremendous speed and clarity. Onstage with the dancers was company pianist Francisco Rennó, whose mastery of Louis Moreau Gottschalk's *Grand Tarentelle* (Op. 67) was impressive and as much a part of the delight of the work as the dancers' high energy dancing.

Without a doubt, the main focus of the evening was the tribute ballet, *Roses from the South (Three Waltzes for Toby)*. With a muted palette and minimal look, the Ratmansky work was set to the 1921 Arnold Schönberg arrangements of three very danceable waltzes by Johann Strauss II.

The costumes by German designer Moritz Junge were somewhat traditional with the women's flowing chiffon and a hint of a corset bodice (with one sleeve) as well as the men's tights and tunic tops (also with one sleeve) which were somewhat jester-like.

The first section, "Lagoon Waltz," was for eight women; the second, "Roses from the South," for eight men, and the third, "Emperor Waltz," for eight couples.

The grouping of women had a sense of expectation — of something to come that would be celebrated, whereas the grouping of the men had a more fun and athletic playfulness, with the men tossing and catching each other in camaraderie.

Both sections had a strong sense of individuals coming together and bonding, perhaps referencing the importance company dancers had over the years in creating the success of MCB.

— Tara Mitton Catao



Photo by Silvia Pangaro

Artistic Directors: Dan Guin & Jane Tyree



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Music

1980s guitar heroes set to make a 2020s impression in South Florida

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

Music in the 1980s largely involved sensing with one's eyes as much as ears, all due to a waterfall of on-screen pop stars like Madonna, Michael Jackson, Culture Club, Milli Vanilli, Lionel Richie, Duran Duran, and Cyndi Lauper.

The decade's music videos also featured the sounds of synthesizers, electronic drums, programming, overproduction, and pitch-corrected and auto-tuned vocals along with the requisite makeup, spandex, hair spray and gel, parachute pants and shoulder padding.

Somehow, the best-selling instrumental rock guitarist of all time emerged out of the middle of that visual pop era.

Joe "Satch" Satriani certainly got the '80s memo. He just never paid attention to it.

"It's strange that Steve [Vai] and I came out of that era, when there was no instrumental rock guitar scene," Satriani says by phone in mid-March from Las Vegas. "And now I'm doing a residency here, playing with [singer/guitarist] Sammy Hagar and [bassist/vocalist] Michael Anthony, keyboardist Greg Pillinganes and drummer Kenny Aronoff, doing lots of Van Halen because that was



Steve Vai and Joe Satriani bring their SatchVaiBand to Pompano Beach on April 22. Photo by Larry DiMarzio

Sam and Mike's band, 40 years later."

Joining forces with fellow guitar hero and former student Steve Vai in the SatchVaiBand, Satriani performs at the Pompano Amphitheater on April 22 during the group's "Surfing With the Hydra 2026 Tour." The co-leaders' quintet is rounded out by third guitarist Pete Thorn, bassist Marco Mendoza, and longtime John Mellencamp drummer Aronoff.

The 69-year-old Satriani gave lessons to the 65-year-old Vai in the 1970s before both Long Island, N.Y., natives moved west to seek fame and fortune.

The younger guitarist attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston, then moved

to Los Angeles to join Frank Zappa's band after that iconic bandleader received Vai's exacting transcriptions of his complex music. Satriani likewise relocated west during the late '70s. His other students included Kirk Hammett (Metallica), Larry LaLonde (Primus), and jazz/fusion guitarists Alex Skolnick and Charlie Hunter.

"Joe's the best," Vai said of Satriani as the two prepared to play separate sets at the Pompano Beach Amphitheater in 2024.

"He's a few years older, but he was always very cool and sharing in his guitar lessons. He was strict, and expected you to do what was required, so I always felt like there was

someone pulling me up. I can't imagine what my playing, career, and life would've been like without those precious lessons from him in my youth."

Satriani's youth involved trying to get signed to a major label with San Francisco rock group Squares before turning away from music with vocals. Early demo recordings and releases, including the 1988 EP *Dreaming #11* (Relativity), spawned the instrumental hit "The Crush of Love." A rare non-singing star was born.

"Squares was trying to do what Green Day and Blink-182 eventually did so much better," Satriani says. "So as an experiment when we had a few weeks off in the mid-'80s, I recorded a weird EP of instrumental electric guitar music. No bass, drums or keyboards. It got reviewed in *Guitar Player* magazine, and set me on a path to embrace that weird side of my playing.

"I'd figured that I'd have to make a living in some other way until radio stations picked up tracks from my album *Surfing With the Alien* about a year later. I couldn't believe it when I got the call that the album was on the Billboard charts, but I accepted this wonderful reality that had suddenly started to blossom in front of me."

Both Satriani's and Vai's full-length debuts had appeared in the mid-'80s. Vai's *Flex-Able* (Akashic, 1984) was a Zappa-adjacent mix of instrumental and vocal hysteria; Satriani's *Not of This Earth* (Relativity, 1986) an all-instrumental showcase for his all-purpose technical abilities. Vai also appeared in director Walter Hill's blues-based 1986 film *Crossroads* in a case of perfect casting — as Jack Butler, the guitarist who'd sold his soul to the Devil for stardom, only to earn a spot in Hell's house band.

"Nothing could be better than sharing the stage with Steve," says Satriani. "We've always shared this sense of the bizarre. We worked to become good musicians, studying really hard, but were also two rock and roll kids growing up in the suburbs whose parents gave them the freedom to freak out. We realized we could play all wrong and turn things upside down, breaking the rules as composers. And we liked it and developed it from there."

Vai also toured and recorded through the '80s with David Lee Roth and Whitesnake, designed Ibanez's JEM and Universe seven-stringed guitars, and founded the Favored Nations

Continued on the next page

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Asandra, Conversations With Spirit 5 (detail)



Kyle Luckis, The Jumper, 2023; Acrylic on canvas, 40" x 60" x 1.25"

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Continued from previous page

recording label with former Guitar Center owner Ray Scherr before the turn of the century.

The three-time Grammy Award winner's latest solo recording is *Inviolate* (Favored Nations, 2022), and he's since joined fellow guitarist Adrian Belew, bassist Tony Levin and Tool drummer Danny Carey in the group Beat, which reinterprets '80s King Crimson material.

Satriani likewise toured with a famed singer (Mick Jagger) and hard rock band (Deep Purple), and is part of another supergroup called Chickenfoot with former Van Halen members Hagar and Anthony and Red Hot Chili Peppers drummer Chad Smith. The 15-time Grammy nominee's latest solo release is *The Elephants of Mars* (earMUSIC, 2022).

Yet the album that's largely defined Satriani's career, *Surfing With the Alien* (Relativity, 1987), was a molten slab of rock guitar heroics that climbed the charts based on popular cuts like the title track, "Ice 9," "Crushing Day," "Satch Boogie" and "Circles."

His ongoing, guitaristic and similarly definitive G3 Tour started in 1996, with Vai often appearing before Satriani's closing sets. Third guitarists have included Eric Johnson, Steve Morse, Peter Frampton, Steve Lukather, Robert Fripp, and Yngwie Malmsteen.

"G3 is one of those guitar festival things that never really goes away," Satriani says.

As for the SatchVaiBand, the "Surfing" in the "Surfing With the Hydra Tour" is obvious, while "Hydra" refers to Vai's triple-neck guitar/bass hybrid.

Designed by Vai for Ibanez, the Hydra features a seven-stringed guitar, a 12-stringed

If You Go

The SatchVaiBand, with opening act **Animals As Leaders**, performs at the Pompano Amphitheater, 1806 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach, at 7 p.m. April 22. **Tickets:** \$47.86-\$91.50 **Info:** www.pompanobeacharts.org/amp; 561-223-7231

guitar, and a four-stringed bass; with fretted and fretless options throughout. The all-purpose instrument is featured on both the cover and recorded portions of *Inviolate*.

"We mix things up live, playing songs from our forthcoming album as well as from our latest releases and classic stuff," Satriani says. "We toured Europe for a couple months last summer, and it was so successful and so much fun, so we won't change too much."

Ironically, the two guitarists who reached stardom for their sounds in the visual era, and are set to release a SatchVaiBand album, are using music videos to promote the new project. Both "Dancing" and "The Sea of Emotion" insert ample comic elements, including the duo's self-deprecating humor, amid the expected guitar histrionics.

"We were taking finished tracks to the earMUSIC label, and they would tell us they needed a video for them," says Satriani.

"And we're like, 'Really? Do people actually still do that?' But they've been a lot of fun."

"The 'Dancing' video involved a great day of watching all these different people dance in such incredible and different ways. My only stipulation beforehand was that I wasn't going to dance. And they said, 'No, you and Steve don't have to dance.' Thankfully."

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MANES

Continued from page 7

with our museum's collection and emphasis on revealing the many facets of the art of today."

Manes's path to becoming a major collector is as eclectic as the art he acquires. With a medical degree from Downstate Medical School and a law degree from Hofstra University, he became the youngest board-certified orthopedic surgeon in the country in 1978 at age 28. He taught surgery to residents at Nassau County University Hospital and, for more than 40 years, served as a clinical instructor of orthopedic surgery and as a team physician at both university and high school levels. Early in his career, he performed the first artificial elbow transplant in the U.S.

But long before medicine, art had captured his imagination. Art history was his favorite subject in college — more so than physics, calculus, science, or chemistry. "I've always had an affinity for art," he says. Once established as a physician, he began buying works at Sotheby's and Christie's in New York City, eventually amassing an eclectic blue-chip collection of more than 200 pieces, including works by Haring, Warhol, Lichtenstein and Basquiat.

He remembers his first bid in the mid-1980s — "sight unseen" — from a Sotheby's catalog. He bid on 10 pieces, including works by Chagall, Picasso, and Léger, and acquired five of them. In the 1990s, when the international art market slumped and Japanese collectors were divesting major works, Manes seized the opportunity to buy more. During that period, he also wrote a book about his passion called *Collecting*



Art for Pleasure & Profit. He bought two Warhol acrylics — one of Marilyn Monroe and another of Jackie Kennedy Onassis — now each worth millions. "My timing was good," he says. "I didn't pay anywhere near that price."

Despite his eye for value, Manes insists he must feel a personal connection to the works he owns. He once sold a \$10,000 Basquiat after five years because he disliked the imagery — a skull and a symbol resembling a swastika. "It scared me," he says. Although he tripled his money, he later saw the piece resell for 20 times what he had paid. "It's the one that got away," he jokes.

Another time, he sold a Degas drawing of a ballet dancer — considered

one of the best in private hands — after learning of Degas's antisemitic views. "Every time I looked at it, I couldn't stop thinking about that," he says. He sold it for double the purchase price.

His goal has always been to build a broad collection reflecting major schools of art — Impressionism, Fauvism, Modernism, Abstract Expressionism, and Surrealism. One of his favorite acquisitions is Salvador Dalí's 1953 painting *La Promenade*, which he bought at a Christie's auction.

Another highlight, though not included in the museum show, is a Picasso oil painting he had coveted for years. Although he owned plates, vases, lithographs, and drawings by Picasso,

If You Go

Modernisms: Art from the Manes Collection is on display through Oct. 11 at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real.

Admission: Adults \$16; seniors \$12; groups \$10; students (under 18) free

Info: bocamuseum.org or 561-392-2500

Whitney Two Flags

(1980), a lithograph by Jasper Johns, is part of the Dr. Harvey Manes Art Foundation's collection currently on view in Boca Raton.

Photo provided

he lacked a fine oil painting. Three years ago, an oil portrait Picasso created depicting one of his wives came up for sale at an auction in the Hamptons. "The painting has great colors, a great design, and I got it at a good price," he says.

Manes's philanthropy is guided by the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam*, or healing the world. He has served on several museum boards, including the Nassau County Museum, where the Manes Art & Education Center was named in his honor following a major donation. He has supported the historic Peter Crippen House in Huntington, N.Y. — a landmark of Long Island's African American heritage — the Long Beach Humane Society's Kitty Cove, and donated \$1 million to the Woodstock Museum in Saugerties, N.Y. He also created the Manes Art Center at The Hampton Synagogue in Westhampton, N.Y., donating works from his personal collection.

As a college student, Manes attended the Woodstock Festival in 1968, and its messages of "peace and love" stayed with him. In 2008, he created the Manes Peace Prize Foundation and later authored *The Nobel Peace Prize and How It Has Failed Us*. He plans to award his own peace prizes to individuals he believes are truly deserving. His sponsorship of gun buyback programs in New York caught the attention of Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels, and Manes became a board member of the group.

Now in Delray Beach during the winter months, Manes shows no signs of slowing down. He volunteers in the ER at Delray Medical Center and is eager to deepen his involvement with the Boca Raton Museum of Art, the exhibition of his collection and the future art school that may one day bear his name.



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Thursday, April 9 at 3 p.m.

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Friday, April 10 at 2 and 5:30 p.m.

"Cirque du Soleil: Without a Net"
Friday Film Series
Friday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata"
The Met: Live in HD Encore Screening
Saturday, April 18 at 1 p.m.

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Wednesday, April 29 at 1:30 p.m.



Photo by Erin Baiano

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Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through April 30 were current as of March 22. Check with the presenting agency for any changes.

ART

Armory Art Center: Through May 8: *Bread and Butter; Tools and Table*. 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 April 22: *Exploring Jess: Beat Generation Visionary*. Through Dec. 6. Through May 3: *Eduardo Chacón: Postcards from Nowhere; Side by Side: The Artist Couple Bernstein and Meyerowitz*. \$16; \$12 seniors. 501 Plaza Real (Mizner Park), Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm W, F, Sat, Sun; 11 am-8 pm Th. 561-392-2500, bocamuseum.org

Cornell Art Museum: Through April 26: *Color in Motion*. Through May 3: *The Art of Her*. Through May 17: *Multicultural Youth Exhibition*. 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; delrayoldschoolsquare.com

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Opens April 17: *Kinetic Energy: A Celebration of Sport in Palm Beach County*. Opening reception 5:30 pm April 16. 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: Through April 10: *48th Annual Members' Show and Sale*. Opens April 23: *TRIO*. Through Aug. 1. \$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*. \$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 June 21: *Artists at Work*. Through July 5: *That's Entertainment: Japanese Prints and the Art of Leisure*. Through Aug. 16: *60 Seconds: Polaroids from the Collection*. Through Aug 23: *Galloping Steed: Celebrating the Year of the Horse in Chinese Paintings*. Through Sept. 27: *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

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Thursday, April 9
Wu Qian and Juho Pohjonen: The duo pianists perform works by Bach and Mozart as well as Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*. \$86. 7 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Saturday, April 11-Sunday, April 12
The Symphonia: The Boca Raton-based chamber orchestra concludes its season with "Vienna's Riches," a New Directions concert led by conductor Alastair Willis. Mozart's Haffner Symphony (No. 35 in D, K. 385) is on the program. 7 pm Sat, 3 pm Sun, The Studio at Mizner Park, Boca Raton. \$56-\$95. thesymphonia.org or 561-376-3848

Wednesday, April 15
Society of the Four Arts: The Shanghai Quartet offers works by Tan Dun and Haydn, as well as American works. \$40 non-members. 7:30 pm at the Gubelmann Auditorium, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Saturday, April 18-Sunday, April 19
Lynn Philharmonia: The student orchestra at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton plays its final concerts of the season, joined by cellist David Finckel, who will be the soloist in Strauss's *Don Quixote*. Conductor Guillermo Figueroa also will conduct the precocious Symphony No. 1 of Dmitri Shostakovich, composed when he was all of 19

years old. 7:30 pm Sat, 3 pm Sun at the Wold Performing Arts Center, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. \$100 Sat; \$35 Sun. 561-237-900 or lynn.edu.

Sunday, April 19
Palm Beach Symphony: Macedonian pianist Simon Trpčeski is the soloist in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. Conductor Gerard Schwarz also will lead the band in Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. 3 pm, Kravis Center. \$27.50 and up. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org; palmbeachsymphony.org or 561-281-0145

Thursday, April 23
Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach: The society closes its season with a 10-musician tribute to the animal kingdom, including Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* and Michael Stephen Brown's *The Carnival of the Endangered Wonders*, a celebration of threatened species. 7 pm, Norton Museum of Art, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. \$86. 561-379-6773 or cmspb.org

DANCE

Tuesday, April 7-Wednesday, April 8
PBA Dance Ensemble: Palm Beach Atlantic University's dance company features a mix of classical and contemporary dance styles. \$25-\$50 general, \$10 students. Rinker Playhouse at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Friday, April 10-Saturday, April 11
Ballet Palm Beach: The company will perform a reimagining of Prosper Mérimée's *Carmen* at the Kavis Center. 7 pm Friday, 2 & 7 pm Sat. \$113 and up. 61-832-7469 or kravis.org

Tuesday, April 14
Ballets Jazz Montréal: The Canadian dance company presents *Dance Me*, an homage to Leonard Cohen. \$86-\$150. 7:30 pm at the Kravis Center. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19
Boca Ballet Theatre: Contemporary and classical works in the show *Spring Voyage*. 7:30 pm Sat. 2 pm Sun \$25-\$55. Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton. 561-995-0709 or bocaballet.org

JAZZ AND BLUES

Friday, April 3
John Primer: Blues guitarist Primer is formerly part of the bands Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, and Magic Slim and The Teardrops. 8 pm. \$50-\$60. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com. Saturday, April 4:

Walter Smith III Trio: An accomplished jazz saxophonist and composer, Smith has appeared on more than 100 recordings. 8 pm. \$65-\$70. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Thursday, April 9
Eric McFadden: The accomplished jazz guitarist blends high desert blues and gritty, flamenco-infused rock. 8 pm. \$19-\$138. Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-931-2889 or crazyunclemikes.com

Saturday, April 11
Billy Stritch and Gabrielle Straveli: The former music director for Liza Minelli and the jazz vocalist will perform Great American Songbook and jazz standards. 8 pm. \$55-\$60. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Wednesday, April 15
Mike Zito: The nine-time Blues Music Awards guitarist is back in Boca Raton for a solo show. 7 pm. \$41-\$308. Crazy Uncle Mike's. 561-931-2889 or crazyunclemikes.com

Sunday, April 19
Bria Skonberg: The Canadian trumpeter, singer, composer, arranger, and bandleader returns to the Arts Garage for two shows, 4:30 and 7:30 pm. \$78-\$83. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Wednesday, April 22
Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra: The trumpeter and composer who has done more than any other musician to create a canon of jazz is retiring from his role as head of the J.L.C.O. \$40. 7:30 pm at the Gubelmann Auditorium, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Saturday, April 25
Alex Bugnon: The Swiss jazz pianist, composer, and bandleader will perform two

shows, 6 and 9 pm at The Funky Biscuit. \$55-\$71. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

OPERA

Saturday, April 11
La Sonnambula: This opera broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera's 2025-26 season features Delray Beach's own star soprano, Nadine Sierra, in the lead role of Bellini's 1831 opera. Stage director Rolando Villazón explores the emotional and psychological valleys of the mind as Amina sleepwalks in the night, finding herself accused of infidelity. She ends up in Count Rodolfo (Alexander Vinogradov's) room, inciting jealousy and rejection from her fiancé, Elvino (Xabier Anduaga). In love with Elvino, the innkeeper, Lisa (Sydney Mancasola), is devastated. Conducted by Ricardo Frizza. 1 pm at the Gubelmann Auditorium, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. \$31 non-members. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Saturday, April 18
La Traviata: Giuseppe Verdi's opera, seen here in a Metropolitan Opera broadcast from 2018, stars Diana Damrau as Violetta and Juan Diego Flórez as Alfredo. Conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. 1 pm, Gubelmann Auditorium, \$31 non-members. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

POPULAR MUSIC

Friday, April 10-Sunday, April 12
Tortuga Music Festival: Post Malone, Kenny Chesney, Uncle Kracker, The Fray, Ashley Cooke, Colbie Caillat, and Preston Cooper are on the lineup. \$185-\$1,709. 1100 Seabreeze Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. tortugamusicfestival.com

Saturday, April 11
Santana: The legendary Mexican-American guitarist brings his Oneness Tour to South Florida. 8 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$160-\$604. ticketmaster.com

Tuesday, April 14
Cardi B: Her 2017 breakout hit "Bodak Yellow" brought this rapper into the spotlight. \$345-\$1,341. 7:30 pm. Amerant Bank Arena, 1 Panther Parkway, Sunrise. ticketmaster.com

Saturday, April 18-Sunday, April 19
Kings of Leon: The Tennessee alt-rock band are on tour this year in support of their most recent album, *Can We Please Have Fun*. 8 pm both shows, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$83 and up. ticketmaster.com

THEATER

Opens April 10
Matilda: The 2011 Tim Minchin and Dennis Kelly musical based on Roald Dahl's popular children's novel about a girl with psychokinetic powers. Through April 26 at Lake Worth Playhouse. 7:30 pm F and Sun; 2 and 7:30 pm Sat. \$40 and up; 713 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Through April 12
Camelot: The Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe musical from 1960 about King Arthur, Camelot and the love between his queen, Guenevere, and the French knight Sir Lancelot. \$119 and up. The Wick Theatre & Museum Club, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-995-2333 or thewick.org

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 portrayal of William Shakespeare. \$55 and up. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St 561-272-1281 or delraybeachplayhouse.com

Through April 19
The Crucible: Arthur Miller's now-classic 1953 play is getting a production at Palm Beach Dramaworks. \$75-\$115. 201 Clematis St, West Palm Beach. 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org

Through April 26
Inferna: Playwright Joanna Castle Miller, along with another male actor, dive into her childhood to examine how church activities and school plays forged "scripts" for her life, ones with pervasive messaging that make her realize in adulthood that her mentors might not be who they appear. FAU Theatre Lab, Parliament Hall, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. 561-297-6124 or fau.edu/artsandletters/theatrelab

Opens Tuesday, April 28
The Notebook: The Ingrid Michaelson musical from 2024 is based on Nicholas Sparks's sentimental 1996 novel about a woman with Alzheimer's whose husband reads to her from their notebook about their teenage courtship in a bid to get her to remember him. The national touring company performs eight times through May 3 at the Kravis Center. \$57.50 and up. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Opens Friday, May 1
Ruth: This adaptation of the Sight & Sounds Theatre production recounts the biblical story about an ordinary woman whose faith in God ignited a chain of events that changed the course of history. Performances are May 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9. \$15-\$30. Torch & Trumpet Theatre Company, 701 NE Second St., Deerfield Beach. torchandtrumpet.ludus.com

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FLAGLER MUSEUM

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 | 9:00 AM

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is a Museum Members only program. Members at the Family/Dual level, and above, are invited to attend. Membership includes complimentary admission for two adults and their children to the Easter Egg Hunt.

Children are invited to hunt for more than 8,000 eggs on the Museum's lawn and in the Coconut Grove. Gates open at 9:00 am, when children can enjoy a visit by Peter Rabbit, engage in Easter-themed craft projects, have their face painted, enjoy a petting zoo, and play the bean bag toss game before the egg hunts begin. Become a Museum Member and don't miss this unforgettable family experience.

Bluegrass in the Pavilion

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 | 3:00 PM

The Annual Bluegrass in the Pavilion concert continues to bring the best Bluegrass musicians to South Florida. This season, the Museum welcomes two world-renowned, award-winning bands: *Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver* and *Carson Peters & Iron Mountain*. Visit our website today and buy your Bluegrass in The Pavilion tickets before they sell out!

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Health & Harmony

New ventures offer next-generation health and wellness

Palm Beach County is becoming a magnet for next-generation health and wellness. Two new ventures — each taking a different approach to longevity — have opened their doors, bringing advanced research and applied technologies to local residents.

Twins Viktoriya and Oksana Gruzdyn have founded a longevity and cellular health practice called the rapid immunocellular repair program, a science-backed, supplement-free approach designed to help the body repair itself.

The twins, originally from Ukraine, work to help the body repair itself by reducing immune-driven inflammation and restoring cellular function through therapeutic nutrition.

Rather than managing symptoms, they aim to remove what is damaging to the body and provide cells with the raw materials they need to heal.

Members of the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, the two focus on the intersection of biology and nutrition, using strategies to reverse inflammation, chronic fatigue, autoimmune disorders and hair loss, while increasing energy.

Oksana Gruzdyn studied at Wayne State University in Michigan, and, as an immunology researcher, has published more than 20 peer-reviewed papers.

“We believe that at the lowest level of our bodies, we are all made out of the same cells,” she explains. “Once you fix the cells, the whole body heals.”

The twins say their approach can help reduce inflammation and support people over 40 with chronic conditions.

The sisters work with people with autoimmune diseases, using diet and food to create healthy cells in the body.

“Our mission is to help create an optimum

environment so the body can heal itself,” Oksana says. “We work to improve our clients’ lifestyle with a custom, scientific and all-natural approach, identify what’s causing the illness or inflammation and create the right environment for healing on a cellular level.”

For more information, visit viktoriyaandoksana.com.

Another new entrant to the county is taking a different approach to longevity.

Radence, a concierge science venture, brings the latest scientific and technological advances into its precision medicine practice backed by RA Ventures, a health care incubator focusing on personalized disease prevention and early detection.

The company works with patients’ current physicians, providing access to research and precision data most physicians don’t have.

Using advanced testing protocols, AI-informed risk mapping and disease interception strategies, Radence partners with a clinical advisory board that has affiliations at Mount Sinai Health System, Weill Cornell Medicine and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, among others.

Focusing on the top four disease categories responsible for most premature mortality and morbidity — cancer, cardiovascular disease, metabolic dysfunction and neurodegeneration — the practice will open its first Precision Health Hub in West Palm Beach in May.

The membership-based practice seeks to identify and intervene on disease risk earlier than traditional models. Radence has a team of 50 MD/PhDs who review the latest medical and scientific literature daily, to provide the latest



Twins Viktoriya and Oksana Gruzdyn, originally from Ukraine, run a South Florida-based company that focuses on cellular health and recovery. They are known on social media as the Scuba Twins because they have completed more than 40 dives, including shark dives. **Photo provided**

treatment options.

“This is our secret sauce,” says David Medvedeff, CEO



Medvedeff

of Radence. “A typical practitioner can’t keep up with the volume of research published on a daily basis. Our team brings us the most impactful results, and we integrate them into the treatment plan for our patients and help find the right specialist for them.”

While the membership price

is quite high (\$50,000 annually and another \$50,000 as a one-time initiation fee), Medvedeff feels that eventually prices will come down and the practice will “democratize.”

Some critics of such precision medical practices point to the high cost of membership and/or services, and whether the outcomes justify the cost. There are also privacy concerns with so much data being collected.

These high-ticket practices widen the health care gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots,” reinforcing the belief that health care is more of a luxury than a right.

If cost is not an issue, these concierge services can also provide an emotional benefit — a feeling of being cared for individually, a relief from worry and a sense that the latest in cutting edge medical care is at your disposal.

After all, who wouldn’t want the reassurance of knowing their health is being examined with a fine-tooth comb?

Currently, Radence’s membership includes a dedicated concierge and full care coordination, including transportation to appointments, in-home blood draws, proprietary testing and risk profile development, health monitoring and data integration, as well as genetic testing and counseling.

Medvedeff says what distinguishes the company from competitors is its ability to provide customized services, from scheduling appointments and reviewing results, to collaborating with the client’s doctors and providing access to a network of specialists.

“We want you to be the healthiest version of yourself for as long as you possibly can,” he says.

The company has plans to expand and is recruiting both locally and nationally.

For more information, visit Radence.com.



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Jan Engoren writes about health



and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.

Health Notes

New practice prepares to accept patients

BeninMed, a medical practice founded by Dr. Samantha Benin and Dr. Andrew Benin, will welcome patients at 9250 Glades Road, No. 108, Boca Raton, this summer.

The couple's practice combines traditional internal medicine and cardiology with a proactive approach to prevention, longevity and overall wellness.



Andrew Benin



Samantha Benin

Samantha Benin specializes in cardiology and internal

medicine with a focus on preventive cardiology and cardiovascular risk reduction.

Co-founder Andrew Benin is an internal medicine physician focused on preventive care and the management of chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular risk factors.

—Christine Davis

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 4

Saturday - 4/4 - Morning Beach Yoga at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Every Sat 8-9 am. \$20/person. Tickets: 561-330-3775; eventbrite.com/e/sunrise-beach-yoga-tickets-336433921917

4/4 - 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

4/4 - Zumba Class at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

4/4 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every F (10 am) & Sat 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

4/4 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West, 1221 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

4/4 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

APRIL 5-11

Sunday - 4/5 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W/Sun 6:30 pm. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

4/5 - 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 - 4/6 - 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

4/6 - Fitness by Jilbear - Chair Fitness Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 55+. Every M through 5/18. Noon-1 pm. Per class: \$10/resident; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/6 - Fitness by Jilbear - Stretch & Flex Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every M through 5/18. 1:15-2:15 pm. Per class: \$10/resident; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/6 - 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 - 4/7 - Chair Yoga at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T 10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/7 - Tai Chi Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Age 18+. Every T through 4/28 6-7 pm. Per class: \$8/resident; \$10/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

4/7 - Yoga with Sophia at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 4/21 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration:

561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/7 - AI-Anon Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 4/8 - Tai Chi Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

4/8 - 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

4/8 - Yoga at 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

H&H - Thursday - 4/9 - Pilates Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Age 18+. M/Th through 4/30 5:30-6:30 pm. Per class: \$20/resident; \$25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

4/9 - LGBTQ+ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Th 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

4/9 - Alateen Meeting at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

APRIL 12-18

Sunday - 4/12 - Yoga at the Museum at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

APRIL 19-25

Sunday - 4/19 - Sound Healing at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$20/member; \$40/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Wednesday - 4/22 - Inside Diabetes: A Whole Body Approach at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

APRIL 26-MAY 2

Thursday - 4/30 - Practicing Kindness: Deepening Brain Regulation at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Four-part evening series designed to support emotional well-being, self-awareness, and meaningful connection through practices of kindness. Held again 5/14, 5/28 & 6/11. 6-7:30 pm. \$30/member; \$42/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

4/30 - Full Moon Yoga & Ecstatic Night Under the Stars at Old School Square Park, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free; \$5 suggested donation. 561-561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

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AYEL

Continued from page AT1

that people had vandalized tombstones at Jewish cemeteries. She wanted to help so she asked her mom, Lauren, for rocks because in the Jewish faith you place a rock on a tombstone when you visit. She hand-painted thousands of rocks, which were sent across the country. Each rock was painted with a lady bug for good luck or a heart for love.

After the Parkland school shootings in 2018, Ayel painted rays of sunlight on benches called “Sunny Seats,” in honor of the 17 slain victims of the massacre. Glitter covers the bench legs, and a beaming sun spills over the tops. “We will dance again,” one bench reads.

The 17 original seats were dispersed in the city of Parkland to places like the library and Publix. Now her seats and benches have homes around the country.

Ayel follows the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world.

“My Jewish values are strong and as a young Jewish leader I am determined to not only repair the world but also change the world,” she said.

Currently, she is spearheading two projects for Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital. The first initiative is “Wish Upon a Wand” — a little art and a lot of magic.

“I believe art is healing and every patient deserves a little magic, which is why I hand-painted wands with love and attached them to reusable drawing boards for each recipient,” Ayel said. “Every child deserves to be creative and, of course, have a little magic because art is just as powerful as medicine.”

She also painted a triptych panel piece with the phrase “Catch the Love.” Each panel is painted a different color with hearts as a reminder to patients and families that “love is all around them and to never stop catching that love.”

Already in 2026, her more than 700 Sunny Sacks — bright yellow sacks filled with nonperishable items and basic essentials — have reached thousands in the community through donations to the Boynton Beach Soup Kitchen. She enrolled her younger brother, Avi, like her an honors student at American Heritage, in this project.

Lauren Morgenstern says what makes her most proud are not Ayel’s accomplishments but the “love and compassion she



That's what Dreaming big is all about.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Ayel Morgenstern painted Sunny Seats to honor Parkland school massacre victims. She started a nonprofit called The Heartful Hub. Ayel will join a Royal Ballet intensive program in London this summer. She shared stickers and inspiration during a recent visit to Pine Grove Elementary in Delray Beach and gave her second TED Talk about a year ago. **Photos provided and by Faran Fagen/The Coastal Star**



brings to everything she does. ... Ayel’s dreams are limitless and she continues to create with such sincere and genuine purpose. Ayel’s journey and her deep commitment to service reflects her maturity beyond her years as she has always been an old soul.”

Lauren often drives Ayel — hovered over homework in the passenger seat — to her projects. Oh, and not to forget: She has two TED Talks under her belt, about following your dreams and making them a reality.

“I believe that every spark and every idea holds potential,” Ayel said. “This potential can be thought of as energy. This energy is just waiting to be transformed into impact. I see

my initiatives as potential.” Ayel’s first time on stage was through dance, and she still dances competitively and for her school. In February, she was accepted into the 2026 Royal Ballet Summer Intensive Program in London.

Starring on stage served her well in her TED Talks, which the organizing conference distributes online.

In her first talk, in the fifth grade, she shared that all of her ideas start as tiny dots ... which grow into connections that are powerful and impactful.

“I shared my story, connected with the audience, and proudly used the microphone because my voice is my power,” Ayel said. “Three

years later, I had the honor of being chosen to give my second TED Talk about dreaming big ... beyond the possible. Here is the most exciting truth about dreaming big: The world doesn’t just need dreamers — it needs you. Your ideas, passions, quirks and unique perspectives are essential pieces.”

As for Mirrors of Positivity, it has already reached more than 125 students and aims to double its impact by the end of 2026, expanding into additional schools and community centers across Palm Beach County. The program debuted in May 2025 at Delray Beach’s Achievement Centers, where it resonated well with the students and staff.

It also resonated with the students at Pine Grove Elementary, where an administrator sent this email after Ayel’s recent visit:

“The joy and excitement you brought to our students was evident: our students are still talking about your visit and have already been asking when you might be coming back.”

Ayel was impressed with the students.

“They are engaged, ask inquisitive questions and truly value not only what I am sharing, but also what is being given to them,” she said. “At the end of the day, they just need to remember to look at their reflection in the mirror to realize they are more than enough.” ★



Dr. Sally Hamarnah

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Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 4

Saturday - 4/4 - Wee Move! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 years. Held again 5/2. 10-11:15 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
4/4 - 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
4/4 - Morning Makers - Say it in Color at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Creative family program designed for children ages 5-12. 10-11:30 am. \$5-\$10/ members; \$10-\$20/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.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 - Sandway 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; sandway.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

APRIL 5-11

Monday - 4/6 - Gaming Guild at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/6-8 - Homework Help at 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 - 4/7 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Stories, music, movement. Ages walking to 23 mos. Every T through 4/28 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
4/7 - Teen Book Club: *Emma* by Jane Austen at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 4/21. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/7 - 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 - 4/8 - 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 through 4/29. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
4/8 - 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
4/8 - 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
4/8 - Lab Rats at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Thursday - 4/9 - 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
4/9 - Make & Take: Styles of Art - Pablo Picasso at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Friday - 4/10 - Rhythm Explorers at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 10-11:15 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
4/10 - 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 through 5/1. 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-

393-7852; bocalibrary.org
4/10 - 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 through 5/1. 11:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Saturday - 4/11 - 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

APRIL 12-18

Sunday - 4/12 - Sunday Chess Tournament Play at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 9 am-4:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
4/12 - 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
4/12 - 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
4/12 - Tween Graphic Novel Book Talk: *Swim Team* at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Monday - 4/13 - Special Guest Earth Day Storytime w/a Sustainability Coordinator at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
4/13 - 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
4/13 - Money Moves: Buying a Car at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 9-17. 6-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
4/13 - Baseball Camp at Little League Park, 300 Woolbright Rd, Boynton Beach. Free camp co-hosted by the Recreation & Parks department & the Palm Beach State College baseball team. Campers need to bring their own bats and gloves. Ages 6-12. Registration begins 5:30 pm; 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
Tuesday - 4/14 - Toddler Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-24 mos. Held again 4/28. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
4/14 - Soul Movement Ballet, Modern & Jazz Dance Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 0-18. Every T/Th through 5/31. 5-7 pm. \$200/resident; \$250/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
4/14 - Teen Tuesday at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Every T 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Thursday - 4/16 - 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
4/16 - Bilingual Storytime: Music & Dance at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Ages 5 & under. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
4/16 - 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
4/16 - Picture Book Club: *Bruce Saves the Planet* by Ryan T. Higgins at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
4/16 - 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 - 4/18 - Baby Sensory Play at

Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 3-12 mos. 10-11 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
4/18 - STEM Camp: Robotics & Automation at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/18 - 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
4/18 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 5/2. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

APRIL 19-25

Sunday - 4/19 - Art For Everyone at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-12. 2-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Monday - 4/20 - Baby Story Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes & songs. Ages 6-12 months. Held again 5/4 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
Tuesday - 4/21 - Kindergarten Readiness Story Time at Delray Beach Children's Garden, 137 SW 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 3-5. 9:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/21 - Young @ Art at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create fun arts/crafts, learn principles of art. Ages 6-8. Held again 4/23 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Wednesday - 4/22 - Sensory Circle Time: Planting a Green Earth at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
4/22 - Earth Day Movie Night: *Elemental* at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-12. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Thursday - 4/23 - 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
4/23 - Make & Take: Bad Art Day at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Saturday - 4/25 - 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
4/25 - 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
4/25 - Bones to Books at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-8. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

APRIL 26-MAY 2

Monday - 4/27 - 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
4/27 - 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 - 4/28 - Ultimate Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/28 - Teen Movie Night: *Emma*

(2020, PG) at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/28 - Bedtime Story Time at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-5. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Thursday - 4/30 - Let's Celebrate el Dia! - ¡Vamos a Celebrar el Dia! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Bilingual stories, songs, crafts & more. Ages 5 & under. 11 am-1 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
4/30 - Make & Take: Aluminum Foil Sculptures at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 5/2 - Morning Makers - My Vibrant Village at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Creative family program designed for children ages 5-12. 10-11:30 am. \$5-\$10/members; \$10-\$20/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
5/2 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 5/16. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
5/2 - Tween Tea Time Book Club: *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown 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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On the Water

April a good time to cut lionfish population with your spear

April can be a tough month for divers who love to hunt for lobster and shoot grouper with their spearguns.

Florida's lobster season closed April 1 and remains closed until the two-day sport season, more commonly known as lobster miniseason, at the end of July. And the grouper season has been closed since Jan. 1 and doesn't open until May 1.

That makes this month a good time to have all your dive gear serviced or upgraded so you'll be ready for miniseason, which is July 29-30, and the regular lobster season, which opens Aug. 6.

After everything is good to go, why not test out your dive equipment by jumping in the water and spearing some lionfish?

Native to the Indian and southern Pacific oceans, lionfish were first documented off South Florida in the 1980s, the result of an aquarium owner dumping the fish.

Spread by ocean currents, lionfish now range from North Carolina to South America and are in the Gulf of Mexico and much of the Caribbean. They're also in Florida Bay, the Loxahatchee River and the Indian River Lagoon.

The exotic species takes a toll on native reef fish such as baby yellowtail snapper, hogfish and grouper.

"Lionfish can eat anything that'll fit in their mouths," said Stephanie Green, a lionfish researcher at Oregon State University.

On reefs where lionfish



ABOVE: Frank Schmidt (front right) and members of the Lighthouse Point Saltwater Sportsman Association with the lionfish they caught spearfishing on local coral reefs.



LEFT: Lionfish with their venomous spines sheared off. Photos provided

are plentiful, there has been a 95% decline in some native populations. Local divers can do their part to help native species by spearing as many lionfish as they can. And not just bigger lionfish that are easy to fillet for dinner.

"It's good to kill the little ones before they become big ones," said Dan Kurt of Pompano Beach. He shoots every lionfish he sees, no matter how small. "Think of the damage those [little ones] would have done."

The big ones do have thick, firm, mild-tasting filets that Frank Schmidt of Lighthouse Point has a delicious way of preparing. He sautés them in a skillet with olive oil, salt and pepper. The fish also make a great ceviche.

Care must be taken when keeping lionfish because they have 18 venomous spines, 13 on the top and five on the bottom. The pectoral fins, which are not venomous, give the fish its name because when they're fanned out in the water, they look like a lion's mane.

Getting stung by a spine can cause intense pain. I have watched Schmidt spear lionfish, and he has an effective technique to avoid the venomous spines. Holding

the fish securely by putting his thumb in its mouth like you would for a bass or a snook, Schmidt removes the spear. Then he uses shears to cut off all the spines at the base, sticks the disarmed fish in his catch bag and resumes hunting.

Schmidt told of a diver who had removed a lionfish from his spear, then used his hand to wipe the three-pronged spear tip clean. He didn't realize that a spine was clinging to the tip and it pierced his Kevlar glove, sending him to the hospital, where he was told to go home and put his hand in hot water.

If you're diving and get stung by a lionfish, Schmidt emphasized the importance of keeping your cool and not rushing to the surface.

"You're in so much pain, you could forget your good rules of diving," said Schmidt, who has been spined. "In 12 feet of water you'll be OK, but in 60 feet you could get in trouble."

Given the damage that lionfish can do to fish populations and divers, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has extremely liberal regulations. The season is open year-round, there is no bag or size limit, and a saltwater fishing license is not needed for recreational divers who use a pole spear, a Hawaiian Sling, a handheld net or any spearing device that is specifically designed and marketed exclusively for lionfish.

For more information, including a video on how to fillet a lionfish and a schedule of lionfish tournaments, visit myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/lionfish.

Lantana Fishing Derby

Early registration is open for the 31st annual Lantana Fishing Derby, which is June 6. In addition to kingfish, dolphin and wahoo, a snapper category has been added with a top prize of \$500. The early entry fee is \$250. After May 23 the entry fee is \$350. Visit lantana-chamber.com/lantana-fishing-derby.

Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.



Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 4

Saturday - 4/4 - Family Fun Snorkel at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Bring snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Ages 10-adult; under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

4/4 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

4/4-5 - Nature Connections at Gumbo Limbo, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet in the amphitheater for a presentation featuring our native flora and fauna All ages; under 18 must be accompanied. Every Sat/Sun 11-11:15 am. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

APRIL 5-11

Sunday - 4/5 - Intracoastal Adventures: Stand Up Paddleboarding at Gumbo Limbo, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13-adult; 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

Tuesday - 4/7 - Island Treks at Gumbo Limbo, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Visitors guided on a short trek along the shaded boardwalk through the tropical hardwood hammock forest. 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

4/7 - Marine Life Interactions & First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life Injuries at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of the Ocean Science Lecture Series with Pinnacle Ecological. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 4/8 - EcoWatch Lecture Series w/Liz Dutra at Gumbo Limbo, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13 & up;

under age 18 must be accompanied. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Friday - 4/10 - Golden Hour Guided Tours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Tour ends w/sunset views of the Intracoastal. Ages 7-adult; under 18 must be accompanied. 6-7:30 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Saturday - 4/11 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course at Spanish River Park HQ Building, USCG Auxiliary Classroom, 3939 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 9 am-5 pm. \$35/adult; \$5/teen. 561-391-3600; peauxboca@gmail.com

4/11 - Seining the Lagoon at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Wear clothes that can get wet and closed-toed shoes. Ages 7-adult; child must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

APRIL 12-18

Sunday - 4/12 - Beach Cleanup presented by Beach Keepers at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 9 am. 561-373-5937; beachkeepersinc.org

Saturday - 4/18 - Fishin' & Firehouse Grand Slam Fishing Tournament & Fish Dip Competition at Harvey Oyer Park, 2010 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach.

Presented by Boynton Beach Firefighters Benevolent Association. Proceeds to benefit the Boynton Beach Kiwanis Club & Boynton Beach Firefighters Benevolent Association. Over \$10,000 in cash prizes. Kingfish, Dolphin & Wahoo. Lines in: 7 am; lines out: 3 pm; weigh-in: noon-4 pm. Registration: \$350/boat. 561-252-0768; boyntonbeachfirefighters.com

Saturday - 4/18 - Great American Cleanup Annual beach cleanup, part of a national effort to beautify the nation. Throughout Palm Beach County. All ages. Start times 8-9 am depending on location. Free. Pre-registration required: 561-544-8606; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

4/18 - Park Cleanup at Spanish River Park, 3001 N. Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet at Pavilion 8 (turn right after gatehouse). 8 am. jlaylor@bocaraton-fl.gov

APRIL 19-25

Sunday - 4/19 - 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

Wednesday - 4/22 - EcoWatch Lecture Series w/Robert DePalma at Gumbo Limbo, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13 & up; under age 18 must be accompanied. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Thursday - 4/23 - Community Cleanup at SE 23rd St, Federal Hwy, and Old Dixie Hwy, Boynton Beach. Managed by Litter Hikers of American. 6 am. 703-498-0498;

musicfromtheheart@gmail.com

Saturday - 4/25 - 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. 8 am-3 pm. \$35/paypal; \$30/cash. 561-312-6439; birdlover5@bellsouth.net

4/25 - Greatest American Cleanup at Sandway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. 8-10 am. 561-274-7263; sandway.org

4/25 - Beach Cleanup at South Inlet Park, 1100 S. Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet at small pavilion near the playground. Managed by South Florida Spearfishing Club. 8 am. rossokj@bellsouth.net

4/25 - Beach Cleanup at Town of Lantana Municipal Beach, 100 N. Ocean Blvd, Lantana. 8:30 am. 561-436-2637; eperez@lantana.org

APRIL 26-MAY 2

Thursday - 4/30 - Early Birding w/Al at Gumbo Limbo, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. 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

Saturday - 5/2 - Beach Cleanup at 400 S. Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Meet in front of Lifeguard Stand S3. Managed by Trashy Mermaids Delray Beach. 9 am. jatravis13@gmail.com

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Paws Up for Pets

For owners of big dogs, it's not size that matters most

Hannah Caldwell, Stuart and Crystal Shanefield, plus the wife-husband duo of Drs. Julie Abrahamson and Mitch Kolker do not know one another, but they share a special bond: They all love big dogs and they cannot lie.

All have adopted large dogs and encourage others to do the same.

Sure, puppies are cute. And small breeds can put the "A" in adorable, but large dogs deserve consideration to be adopted.

Before we share the happy adoption tales, let's separate facts from fiction about big dogs.

Fact: Big dogs have tougher times getting adopted than Chihuahuas and other pint-sized dogs in animal shelters. Large dogs often spend three to four times longer at shelters waiting for adoption than small dogs, according to local and national shelter experts.

To motivate people to consider adopting large dogs, Peggy Adams Rescue League in West Palm Beach conducts monthly big-dog adoption promotions.

"Our adoption fee for large dogs is \$150 compared to \$300 to adopt a small dog," says Alex Serrano, director of operations. "We also occasionally waive the adoption fees for large breeds, such as pit bulls."

Fiction: Big dogs don't do well in apartments or small dwellings.

"The truth is that many large dogs tend to be couch loungers and spend a lot of time during the day napping," says Sandra Dezelan, founder of Dezzy's Second Chance Animal Rescue in Lake Worth Beach. She has rescued and successfully found homes for more than 9,000 dogs, with most of them weighing more than 40 pounds.

"Some of these dogs come to us in horrific shape, but we make sure they get the medical care they need and now these dogs are living incredible lives in loving homes," says Dezelan. "They don't tend to possess that high energy found in many small dogs."

Serrano adds that she wishes pet policies at housing developments were based more on the temperament of the dog and not the size.

Fact: Large dogs tend to be quieter and less easily rattled than small dogs.

Serrano's own dogs include a Chihuahua named Tuna Tar Tar and a pit bull named Kiwi.

"When someone knocks on my door, my Chihuahua will go off with high-pitched yips, but my pittie will just deliver a deep bark or two," she says.

Fiction: All dogs are four-legged athletes.

If you love to run, hike or swim, large dogs are better built for these activities.

Fact: Big dogs take bigger bites out of your wallet for food, but usually not for the adoption fee.



TOP: Drs. Mitch Kolker and Julie Abrahamson and their daughter, Elena, snuggle with Ollie, whom they adopted after he was nursed back to health. **ABOVE LEFT:** Dino is happy that Stuart and Crystal Shanefield adopted him. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Red found a home and a pal when Hannah Caldwell adopted him and introduced him to Rusty. **Photos provided**

"Sure, with big dogs comes the need for more food and of course, they produce bigger poop, but they are definitely worth being adopted," Serrano says.

Adoption success stories

Hannah Caldwell, of Boca Raton, recently adopted a senior large dog from Peggy Adams to join her 13-year-old rescued dog named Rusty.

"Red is about 11 years old,

about 50 pounds and we think he may be a chow/Labrador retriever mix," says Hannah. "Red had a rough past, being found as a stray multiple times, but he bonded immediately with Rusty. They've quickly become good friends and I am grateful they both get to spend their senior years being loved and spoiled by me."

Another success: a nearly hairless, full-of-mange Dutch shepherd dog found living in

the streets of Miami. Dezelan's rescue found him and worked with veterinarians to save his life. Then she reached out to Stuart and Crystal Shanefield, of Boca Raton, to tell them about this dog.

"When he was rescued off the streets, he looked like a dinosaur, so we named him Dino," says Stuart. "He was left for dead, but Sandra saved his life. And today, Dino sports a beautiful brindle-colored coat, is

Where to adopt

Looking to adopt an adult dog, especially a large one? Reach out to these local groups:

- **Dezzy's Second Chance:** Located in Lake Worth Beach; visit dezzysecondchance.com
- **Peggy Adams Rescue League:** Based in West Palm Beach; visit peggyadams.org
- **Tri-County Animal Rescue:** Located in Boca Raton; visit tricityanimalrescue.org

very athletic and very lovable to us."

He continues, "Dino now sleeps in our bed with his head on the pillow. We bring him on vacation in Pensacola because he loves dipping his paws in the ocean. Yes, our world now revolves around him and we couldn't be happier."

Dezelan also alerted Dr. Julie Abrahamson, a dentist, and her husband, Mitch Kolker, a surgeon, of Wellington, about an emaciated and matted rescue she nursed back to health.

This dog turned out to be 100% poodle, now named Ollie, who sports a beautiful white coat and is enjoying a full life.

"Ollie is great," says Julie. "We were looking for a hypoallergenic dog because our daughter, Elena, is allergic. Ollie is so affectionate, a real sweet dog."

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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Finding Faith

Easter message from Catholic clergy emphasizes listening



Father Dennis Gonzales welcomes his congregation to St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach. Photo provided

Father Dennis Gonzales, pastor of St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach, says Easter is always the busiest time of year, but he felt new energy at the church in 2026 as Easter Sunday approached on April 5.

"I think people are seeking for truth, are seeking for God in their lives and they're coming back to church. Not only the Catholic Church, but I have friends who belong to other religious denominations, and they feel the same way. People feel the need for and the longing for God."

New research by Barna Group and Gloo says Gonzales may be right. Their studies revealed a shift in church attendance. For the first time in decades, younger adults are surpassing older generations who have traditionally led in church attendance. Both Gen Z's and millennials' average attendance is approaching two times per month. Pew Research said about 67% of Americans say they attend services a few times a year or less.

Father Dennis thinks the political climate, headlines about war in the Middle East and the rise of violent antisemitism both locally and nationally are behind the trend. He hears the fear behind

people's prayers for peace.

As the first American pope, Leo XIV, prepared for his first Easter as the leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics, he asked that they consider a new kind of fasting for Lent: "I would like to invite you to a



Leo XIV

very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our

neighbor."

Leo has been outspoken in his opposition to war, but Lent, he said, is about "listening, fasting and community."

He further asked Catholics to listen more because only by listening can we "hear the voice of the oppressed" and the word of God.

Father Kevin McQuone, an academic who shapes the curriculum for priests at St.



McQuone

Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, said, "It's a hard thing to have the government be in opposition

with something that's so fundamental to what we believe — that peace is the answer and diplomacy works."

Father Kevin points to Paul's letters where he tells us to pray for those who are in authority over us. "We are called to pray and fast for our leaders so that they make wise and just decisions."

First Timothy 2:1-2 says: "First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity."

Certainly, a life of tranquility and dignity is what we all seek. To that end, Father Dennis said, "We need to pray for leaders of the world that the Holy Spirit, the risen Lord, will grant them guidance and wisdom."

How listening helps

That addresses the big picture. Day to day, Father Dennis said, we need to rethink the way we communicate. And silence plays a part in that.

"We call it the ministry of presence," Father Dennis said. His parishioners, he says, don't want their priests to quote scripture or repeat platitudes or offer solutions to their problems. They just

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want to be heard; for someone to be present and hear their expression of grief or anger without trying to quash it or explain it away.

“Sometimes when we are confronted with difficulties, the tendency as a human being, we want to talk right away, we want to advise right away or we find solutions right away to the problem,” Father Dennis said.

“But most of the time, what people need is just listening ears. When I go to ICU or hospice care, family members ask a lot of questions, but I don’t really have answers to those questions. But the most powerful thing that I witnessed was just being there to listen to them, they feel heard and that’s what the world is really looking for. Someone to listen to them. I think they know there’s probably no solution at hand at the moment. But we still need someone to listen to us.”

Listening to our neighbors is good practice, Father Dennis said, because it also helps us be quiet so we can hear the word of God.

But it takes commitment, Father Kevin said. If we want to build a stronger, safer world, we need to start in our own backyards.

“What the world needs is to develop trust between neighbors. If we have trust between neighbors, we don’t

need to have a ready bomb. But that’s hard. It takes time. But love is patient, and you have to be willing to develop that level of rapport and trust.”

A time to reflect

Father Brian Horgan, pastor at St. Lucy Catholic Church



Horgan

in Highland Beach, wrote in his weekly note to his parish: “The holy season of Lent offers each of us a precious opportunity to pause, reflect,

and renew our relationship with the Lord. It is about opening our hearts more fully to God, allowing His grace to transform us, and preparing ourselves to celebrate the great joy of Easter. I encourage you to bring a friend, invite a neighbor, or come as a family. The more we gather together in faith, the stronger our parish community becomes.”

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

Spanish River Church hosts Ride4Orphans for another year

What goes around comes around, just like a bicycle wheel.

In 2025, more than 900 people pedaled in the Ride4Orphans charity bike ride, raising more than \$100,000.

Registration is open for the 2026 ride, and for the sixth year, Spanish River Church in Boca Raton will host the event, which starts at 7:30 a.m. April 25.

The ride was originally founded in 2010 to benefit children in need abroad, including orphanages in Chad and Malawi in Africa, as well as Haiti and India, but it also helps local children.

Some of the money raised last year bought a van for the nonprofit 4KIDS of South Florida. The van will be used by a home that serves teens with complex behavior and emotional needs. Other local charities that benefit from the ride include Place of Hope and CityHouse. The organization and its riders also support the



From left, Craig Kindell of Spanish River Church presented a \$40,000 check to Andrew Holmes, Alonso Williams and Tom Lukasik from 4KIDS to buy a van. Lynn Hogg and Keith Seago from the church joined the presentation of funds from the 2025 Ride4Orphans. This year's ride is April 25. Photo provided

local charity Jack the Bike Man.

Registration is open for three rides: 15, 34 or 62 miles. The fee is \$45 and goes up to \$50 the day of the event. There's also a family ride escorted by Boca Raton police officers followed by lunch, games,

entertainment and a silent auction. Registration is \$25, \$20 for just lunch and activities.

All adults and children must register to ride and are encouraged to attend a bicycle safety briefing prior to the ride.

Info: ride4orphans.com or

561-994-5000.

Open House offers chance to meet church leaders

Learn more about Spanish River Church and what it has to offer over a free dinner at 6:30 p.m. April 9. Meet the staff and leaders and discover ways to be part of the church family. The church is at 2400 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Visit spanishriver.com or call 561-994-5000.

Documentary looks at poetry written by children

Temple Beth El presents a screening of the documentary *Through Children's Eyes*, followed by conversation with



Shukiar

the movie score composer David Shukiar, from 7 to 9 p.m. April 14 at the Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW Fourth

Ave., Boca Raton.

This multimedia presentation took the poetry written by children imprisoned in the Terezin concentration camp during World War II and set it to music. The visuals display the art they made, their expressions of hope, fear and resilience. After the film, Shukiar will speak about the project.

Register at tbeboca.shulcloud.com/event/through-children39s-eyes-documentary-screening-followed-by-conversation-with-movie-score-composer-david-shukiar.html. Or call 561-391-8900.

Participate in Yoga Mass and Sacred Movement

St. Gregory's Episcopal, 100 NE Mizner Blvd. in Boca Raton, continues to offer two programs that combine movement and prayer. At 4 p.m. April 16, Yoga and Sacred Movement mixes gentle stretching movements and breath work with reflection on scripture and prayer. Parishioner and yoga instructor Daphne Lombardo leads the program under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Robyn Neville. It is open to seniors and families.

At 4 p.m. April 25, join YogaMass in St. Mary's Chapel, a combination of graceful yoga, words of faith and contemplative meditation with Neville and the Rev. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren leading.

Bring your yoga mat and water for both events. Call 561-395-8285 or email rneville@st-gregorys.com.

Lawyers' lunch to feature prominent jurist, author

Two legal giants will be honored with awards at the Project Nuremberg Annual Lawyers Luncheon at noon April 23 at Temple Beth El's Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton.

Bryan Stevenson is founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and the author of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and*



Stevenson

Redemption, about his career defending the disadvantaged.

Bruce Reinhart is U.S. magistrate judge for the Southern District of Florida. Judge Reinhart signed the warrant



Reinhart

that allowed agents to remove about a dozen boxes of materials from Mar-a-Lago in 2022 and formerly represented Epstein

victims. Tickets start at \$100 at tbeboca.org/project-nuremberg. For more info, contact Aileen Spilka at ASpilka@tbeboca.org.

Continued on the next page

PLACES OF WORSHIP DIRECTORY

CATHOLIC

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.

EPISCOPAL

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, FL 33432 • Phone: 561-395-8285 • Web: stgregorysepiscopal.org • Email: office@st-gregorys.com The Reverend Andrew Sherman, Rector. We warmly welcome all seeking God's love and grace. Join us Sundays for Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (with coffee hour after), and 6:00 p.m. evening service.

ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3300A S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435. • Phone 561-732-3060. • Web: stjoesweb.org. • Worship Schedule: Saturdays 5:00 p.m. Reflective Healing; Sundays 9:30 a.m. Choral Rite II; 10:45 a.m. Coffee Hour; 11:45 a.m. Contemporary service, live band (livestreamed).

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. • Phone: 561-276-4541 • Web: stpaulsdelray.org. Father Paul Kane. Services of Holy Eucharist: Saturdays 5:00 p.m.; Sundays 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; Sundays 10:00 a.m. Family Prayers and Praise Service; Thursday 12:10 p.m. Healing Service; Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer and 8:00 p.m. Compline.

JEWISH

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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.

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ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2100 Yamato Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33431 • Phone: 561-994-4822 • Web: saintmarkboca.net • Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers (Matins); 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy. All are welcome.

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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.

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Religious institutions of all faiths are invited to be included in this paid feature. For more info, call 561-704-7834.

Easter Services

SUNDAY APRIL 5

First Baptist Church of Lantana Easter Sunrise Service on the beach in front of the Dune Deck Café, 100 N Ocean Blvd. 6 am. Free. Complimentary parking available at the beach lot. 561-588-3341

Easter Sunrise Service with baptisms at South Beach Park, Palmetto Park Rd & A1A, Boca Raton. 6:30 am Free. 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

Cason United Methodist Church Easter Sunrise Service at Delray Beach Pavilion, Atlantic Ave at A1A. 6:30-7:30 am. Free. 561-276-5302; casonumc.org

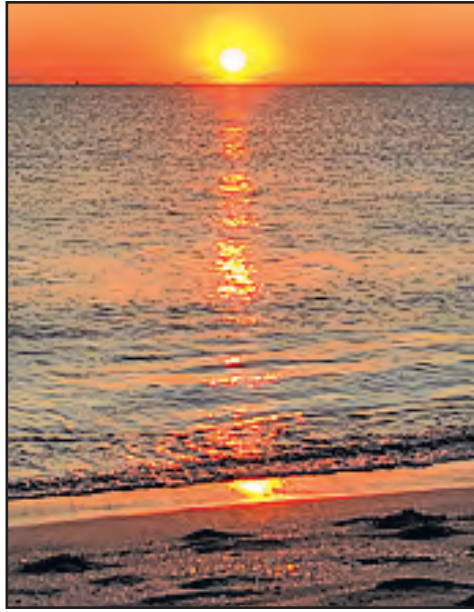
Easter Sunrise Service at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, 3300A S Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. 6:30-8 am. Free. 561-732-3060; stjoesweb.org

Easter Sunday Services at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 940 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. 7, 9, & 11 am, 1 pm & 5:30 pm. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Easter Sunday Services at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. 7:30, 9 & 10:30 am, 12:15 pm (spanish). Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

Easter Sunday Services at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 7:30, 9 & 11:15 am, 6 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

Easter Choral Eucharist with ensemble at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 9 & 11 am. Free. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org



Easter Services at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. 9 am & 11 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

Easter Services at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd Ave. 10 am. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Family Easter Service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 4 pm. Free. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 6-12

Monday - 4/6 - Women's Bible Study via Zoom at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every M 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

4/6 - 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 - 4/7 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 4/8 - Men's Spirituality Hour via Zoom at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W 8 am. Free. For link: 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

4/8 - 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 - 4/9 - 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
4/9 - 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

4/9 - Women's Bible Study at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Youth Room, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Th 1 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

Friday - 4/10 - 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

4/10 - Bible Study w/Dave Kirk at Advent Boca Raton Fellowship Hall, 300 E Yamato Rd. Every F 10-11:30 am. 561-395-3632; adventboca.org

4/10 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaipbc.org

Sunday 4/12 - Orthodox Easter
4/12 - 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

Wear your favorite denim to Blue Jean Shabbat

Temple Beth El on April 24 hosts a Celebrate Israel Blue Jean Shabbat featuring two services, a multimedia presentation from Project Heroes and an Israeli-themed dinner catered by Artisan Foods.

It begins at 6 p.m. at 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite pair of blue jeans and to bring a new pair of jeans in children's sizes 4-16 for the Giving Tree's clothing closet.

The program is free. The optional dinner for members is \$35 adults, \$25 ages 4-12; and for guests, \$40 adults \$30 ages 4-12 until April 10, when prices rise \$5.

Register at tbeoca.org/blue-jeans or call Elinor Josephson at 561-314-2833.

Choral Evensong offers music steeped in tradition

Under the direction of Tim Brumfield, director of music, organist and choirmaster, Choral Evensong is a beautiful service that features the choir of St. Gregory's Episcopal

Church performing stirring music steeped in the Anglican tradition. Evensong takes place at 6 p.m. April 26 at the church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 561-395-8285 or stgregorysepiscopal.org.

Nonprofit group to offer 'Ruth' on stage in May

The faith-based nonprofit Torch & Trumpet Theatre Company, "where faith and artistry come together to create life-changing experiences," presents a special performance of *Ruth* for Easter.

This family-friendly production follows the improbable journey of Ruth and Naomi, two destitute widows whose faith in God — and in each other — ignites a chain of events that changes the course of history. The play offers the hope that no matter who you are or where you've been, God has a plan for you.

Performances take place at the Church at Deerfield Beach, 701 NE Second St. (Eller St.), at 7:30 p.m. May 1, 2 and 8, at 3 p.m. May 3 and 2 p.m. May 9. Tickets: \$30 adults, \$15

children. 954-821-7292; torchandtrumpet.com

CityLead Boca offers chance to lead, influence

Boca Raton Community Church hosts CityLead Boca from noon-1 p.m. May 7 at the church at 470 NW Fourth Ave. This monthly event for the business community is designed to inspire leaders to use their influence to serve others and transform the city. Reservations are recommended. \$20 includes lunch. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for networking. 561-395-2400; citylead.com/boca.

Event brings in guests to discuss antisemitism

The fifth annual Countering Antisemitism Summit 2026 was held March 16 at the Four Seasons Resort in Palm Beach. Religious leaders, community activists and local residents came together to hear U.S. Rep. Randy Fine (R-Melbourne Beach); U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds (R-Naples) and *New York Times* columnist Bret Stephens.

Honored guests at the all-day seminar included Segev Kalfon, who was held hostage by Hamas militants in Gaza for 738 days following the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks against Israel before

being released in October 2025, and Shira Gvili, whose brother Ran Gvili was among the first Israelis taken hostage during the attacks and was killed in captivity.

Pastor Lydia Maldonado reminded a crowd of nearly 500 people that the fight against hate is everyone's fight and there's only one solution. "Education will kill ignorance," she said.

The Palm Beach Synagogue hosted the event, which focused on the rise of antisemitic incidents and efforts to combat them. palmbeachsynagogue.org

— Janis Fontaine

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Dining

Closing of Lantana restaurant another setback for Ocean Avenue

Ravish in Lantana has closed, a move co-owner Alex Dupuis calls “bittersweet.”

Open for three years under her management, the restaurant gained a following for its shareable-plates menu and lively atmosphere. Special events and parties staged at Ravish drew fans.

“We were very lucky here and very grateful to everyone who supported us,” Dupuis said.

But this year the results of some rough times for the restaurant have caught up.

“We ran it as kosher as kosher could be for three years. But Hurricane Helene came through and damaged our walls,” Dupuis said. “They’re corrugated metal. We couldn’t keep the heat out or the cold in. This past summer, and this winter, we lost a lot of revenue. We had to shut down for days.”

Ravish struggled to recover, and asked to renegotiate with the landlord for a longer lease. But the rent would have doubled, Dupuis said.

Talks fell apart. “They wouldn’t do it,” Dupuis said.

Legal matters are involved; she declined to discuss them while they are ongoing.

She pointed to others on Ocean Avenue who have left recently, leaving large spaces open. Rents have jumped on the avenue, she said, forcing nearby small businesses out.



Ravish’s owner says financial struggles forced her to close the restaurant. Photo provided

“The Cheese Shoppe and the sunglass shop, Shades of Time, have both left within the last six months,” she said.

Lantana’s town officials have planned for improvements for Ocean Avenue for several years, but businesses have seen little action, Dupuis said.

“I don’t know what happened, but things have stalled.”

Lantana Mayor Karen Lythgoe laments the closure.

“It was one of my favorite places. Everybody loved Ravish. It was my kind of place.”

The restaurant was a key piece to promote proposed development of properties across the street that have been bare or vacant.

“It’s a big loss,” Lythgoe said.

Some development plans were presented to the Town

Council before the holidays, Lythgoe said, but for reasons unknown on the property owner’s side, fell through.

“We (the town) don’t plan — it’s the landowners.”

Lythgoe said she has no idea what Ravish’s landlord, Phyllis Small, might have in mind for the block-long building, but said there was much work to be done on the property after storm damage.

“I do know nobody wants to pour money into a property without an extended lease.”

Other restaurants on the avenue that have left include the expanded Oceana Kitchen in 2023, and Mario’s Italian in 2020. Both moved to Lake Worth Beach.

Sushi Bon, another longtime restaurant just west of the bridge, left in 2024 after its lease

was up.

Dupuis is focusing on her new restaurant, Pomona, on Lake Avenue in Lake Worth Beach, which opened in July 2025.

“We’re growing Pomona. We’ll take a lot of favorite menu items from Ravish to Pomona and hope some of the fans will follow us,” she said.

“We’re doing a lot of events in Lake Worth. The city is very supportive of these.”

As for doing another restaurant, she said her energy is in Lake Worth Beach.

“We had a partner who wants to do the Ravish concept somewhere else, but nothing is set,” Dupuis said.

Blue Anchor blues

It’s been rough seas of late for the Blue Anchor British Pub in Delray Beach.

Last month, the landlord served its owner, Mark Snyder, with an eviction notice, citing rent due of about \$70,000.

The state’s restaurant inspectors had closed the popular spot in the 800 block of East Atlantic Avenue in December after a rodent infestation was discovered.

The pub was cleaned up and reopened, then shut down again. This happened several times within weeks before the owner was cited with a stop-serve notice and ordered closed.

However, the order was ignored and its doors remained open. The state then cited the restaurant for violating the stop-serve. Meanwhile, the eviction notice also was posted.

Repeated attempts to speak with the landlord and the owner have not been answered. As of late March, however, the pub had reopened for service.

The Blue Anchor opened in 1996, and featured an 1840s bar and fixtures brought over from London and reassembled here. It has been a mainstay for Brit food and drink lovers.

Diners could get fish ‘n’ chips, sausage rolls, bangers and mash, and a “royal brekkie.” The pub served Imperial pints of ales and lagers.

British football lovers around the county got up early to watch matches at the bar. The pub also sponsored World Cup watch parties, with fans crowding the pub and nearby parking lots.

The pub also was noted for its ghost stories connected to a departed pub resident of London.

New barbecue joint

Firing up barbecue lovers, Tropical Smokehouse is open in Delray Beach.

A James Beard-nominated chef, Rick Mace, created the barbecue that’s won numerous awards, including Best Barbecue in Florida by *Southern Living*.

The restaurant, at 524 W. Atlantic Ave., serves up Mace’s own specialties, including spicy wahoo dip, mojo pulled pork, DemKota Ranch beef

brisket, and for the vegetarians, BBQ jackfruit. Jerk chicken, spareribs, and a plethora of sides round out the menu.

The restaurant is a spin-off of the original in West Palm Beach. Meals are available for dine in or takeout.

Lynora’s is expanding again

Another Lynora’s Italian restaurant is coming south to Delray Beach.

The locally owned chain started 50 years ago in Lake Worth Beach, and has expanded to six locations in Palm Beach, Martin and soon, Brevard counties. The nearest one in South County is in Boca Raton on Glades Road.

The Delray Beach location will be at 650 SE Fifth Ave., a former used car shop. The restaurant will be modeled after one in West Palm Beach in a former garage.

Known for its fresh pizzas and pastas, meatball and cocktail specials, the longtime family-owned restaurants offer a casual setting with indoor-outdoor dining spaces and a lively atmosphere.

Expected opening is early next year.

Doc’s reincarnation coming

Doc’s All American will rise once more.

The iconic burger and dog joint that served downtown Delray Beach residents since 1951 at Swinton and Atlantic, is being renovated as part of the Banyan Group’s mixed-use project for that corner.

Called City Center Delray, the three-story complex will include offices, retail shops and at least one other restaurant, tentatively a steakhouse.

Doc’s will remain where it is, adjoining the larger complex.

Demolition for part of the land where Dunkin’ donuts sits is in the permitting process. A summer 2027 reopening is planned.

In other news ...

Cut 432, a steakhouse on East Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, will close at the end of April, according to an employee who asked to remain anonymous.

Cut 432, opened in 2010 by the Modern Restaurant Group, had a lively vibe and focused on prime meats. The group also owns Park Tavern on Atlantic Avenue and El Camino restaurants in Delray Beach, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale.

A rent increase is said to be the catalyst. Cut 432 will be “closing temporarily at the end of April,” the employee said, and “owners are looking for another location — hopefully in Delray.”



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativefla@gmail.com.

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 4

Saturday - 4/4 - Short Stories for Writers w/Dr. Caren Neile at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 4/18 & 5/2. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

4/4 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Sat through 5/30. 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/4 - Ceramics by You Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Sat through 5/2 (no class 4/18). 1-2:30 pm. Per class \$15/resident; \$19/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/4 - Spring Break at the Delray Beach History Society, 3 NE 1st St. Free entry for students & families through 4/18. Featuring three history exhibits plus a tour of the one-acre heritage garden. T-F, 11 am-3 pm; Sat: by reservation. 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

APRIL 5-11

Monday - 4/6 - Opening Reception: Art & Autism Expo 2026 at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Celebrating Autism Acceptance Month. 10 am-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/6 - Marcel Duchamp, Defining Space and Time w/Armando Droulers at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

4/6 - Monday Game Days: Mahjong at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Held again 4/20. 2-4 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

4/6 - 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

4/6 - 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-

Easter/Spring Events

APRIL 4

Springfest of Delray Beach at Robert P. Miller Park, 1005 SW 4th Ave., Delray Beach. 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

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

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

Easter Egg Hunt at Bryant Park, 100 S Golfview Rd., Lake Worth Beach. Featuring live entertainment, family games, photos with the Easter Bunny, egg hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade. 10 am-2 pm. 561-533-7335; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

Easter Egg Hunt at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 4:45 pm. Free. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org

APRIL 5

Easter Egg Hunt at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 10:30 am. Free. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org

Easter Egg Hunt at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, 3300A S Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. 11 am. Free. 561-732-3060; stjoesweb.org

6550; boynton-beach.org

4/6 - Scrabble Game Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 4/20. 6-7:30 pm Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 4/7 - Touching the Deep: Photographing Midnight Zone Animals That Have Never Seen Light w/Gabriel Jensen at FAU 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

4/7 - General Meeting: How Plants Communicate w/Julietta Ross at Boca Raton Garden Club, 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

4/7 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

4/7 - Book Talks - An Hour to Kill: The Impossible Thing by Belinda Bauer at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

4/7 - The Resilient Sea Turtle: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life w/Jessica Morgenthal 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

4/7 - Artistic Journeys Reception

- Boca Raton National League of American Pen Women at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 4-6 pm. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/7 - Beginning Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 4/28 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4-weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

4/7 - Movie Night at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. Held again 4/21. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

4/7 - Heritage Lecture - "Women of Delray: How Courage and Heart Built Delray" presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Creative Arts School at Old School Square, Suite C, 51 N Swinton Ave. 6 pm. \$15/person; free/members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

4/7 - Jazz, Jazz, and More Jazz! at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/7 - Comedy Open Mic at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 1st T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 4/8 - GFWC Woman's Club of Delray Beach Meeting at the Teen Center, 505 SE 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Bring own refreshments/coffee. 10 am. Free. delraywomensclub.com

Municipal Meetings

4/7 - Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. highlandbeach.us

4/7 - Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. delraybeachfl.gov

4/7 & 4/21 - Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. boynton-beach.org

4/10 - Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. gulf-stream.org

4/13 - Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. lantana.org

4/13 - Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. oceanridgeflorida.com

4/14 - Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 9 am. manalapan.org

4/14 - South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. southpalmbeach.com

4/14 & 4/28 - Boca Raton Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. myboca.us

4/23 - Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm.

4/8 - American Musical Theater: Legacy and Influences w/Aaron Orin at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 5/13. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$95.20/member; \$119/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

4/8 - Pastels Made Easy Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every W through 5/27. 1-4 pm. Per class \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/8 - Homer's Endless Tale: The Odyssey in Modern Fiction and Film w/Cara Bresciano 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

4/8 - Definitive Drawing Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every W through 5/27. 4:30-6:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/8 - Town Hall Talk: The Puzzle of The Revolutionary War: An Overview of Strategy and Its Collision with Reality w/Jason Sharples 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

4/8 - Fitness by Jilbear - Haitian Classic Jazz Dance Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every F through 5/29. Ages 18+. 6:30-7:30 pm. Per class: \$15/resident; \$19/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/8 - America 250: Songs of our Nation - Florida Atlantic Symphony Band at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10. 561-297-6124;

fauevents.com

4/8 - Groove with Karen King at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Class for all fitness levels and dance backgrounds. Every W through 5/13. 7-8 pm. \$158/person; \$258/couple. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/8 - INFERNA by Joanna Castle Miller at FAU Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/26. W-Sat: 7:30 pm; Sat/Sun: 3 pm. \$5-\$30. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Thursday - 4/9 - 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

4/9 - 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

4/9 - Seminar: Gender and Sexuality in Florida w/Fred Fejes at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 4/30. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$69.60/member; \$87/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

4/9 - Bodacious Botanicals Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Th through 5/28. 4:30-6:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/9 - House Love Book Lecture at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 5-7 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

4/9 - Intermediate Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every Th through 4/30 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

4/9 - Concert: Mia's Keys on Fire at

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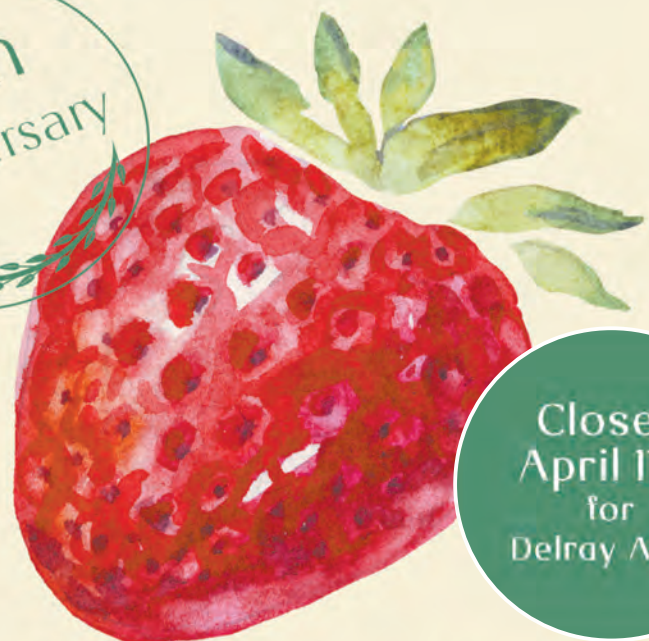
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Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us
4/9 - Fiddler on the Roof vs. Tevye the Dairyman: Accuracy, Adaptation, and Aleichem w/Dr. Kristen Lindbeck at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of the Thursday Night Speaker Series. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
4/9 - Creating Spaces: Musical Conversations with Family at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
4/9 - Surround Sound: Seraphic Fire

at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$45-\$75. 305-285-9060; seraphicfire.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/
Friday - 4/10 - Lecture Series - The Art of Seeing: What Draws Us to a Work of Art? at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Two-session lecture. Adults. Held again 4/17. 10:30 am-noon. \$50/members; \$80/non-members. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
4/10 - Screening of Lee, starring Kate Winslet in the Walter S. Gubelmann Auditorium at the Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Part of the Friday Film Series. 2 and 5:30 pm. \$10

non-members. fourarts.org
4/10 - An Afternoon with Jazz Quartet, "Boca Train" - Lynn University Conservatory Performance at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 3-4:30 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
4/10 - Exhibition Opening Reception: Fragile Beauty: Steeped in Life by Luciana Boaventura at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Runs through 5/17. 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com
4/10 - 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
4/10 - 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
4/10 - Water Wonders: A Sip & Paint Experience w/Deborah LaFogg at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. 6-9 pm. \$40. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
4/10 - Sip & Paint Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. 6-9 pm. \$40. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
4/10 - Fitness by Jilbear - Haitian Classic Jazz Dance Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every F through 5/29. Ages 18+. 6:30-7:30 pm. Per class: \$15/resident; \$19/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
4/10 - Aser! Vol. 1 Candela le canta a Cuba at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
4/10 - Abbamania at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$75.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
4/10-11 - 64th Annual Delray Affair along Atlantic Ave in Delray Beach. 500+ artists/crafters, live music, food vendors, more. Check website for parking options. F/Sat 10 am-6 pm; Sun 10 am-5 pm. Free.

561-274-4663; delrayaffair.com
Saturday - 4/11 - Free E-Waste & Shred Event at 6500 Congress Ave, Boca Raton. Recycle broken/old electronics as well as shred unwanted documents in bulk in a drive-thru system. 9 am-noon. Free for residents of Boca Raton. 561-393-7700; myboca.us/1572/Take-Action
4/11 - Art of Dance at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Fun, DanceFit Class. Held again 4/25. 10-11 am. \$15/member; \$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
4/11 - Florida Author Series: Marsha Diane Arnold - An Earth Day Celebration at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 1-2 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
4/11 - Make & Muse - iPhoneography Workshop at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Adults. 1-3 pm. \$45/member; \$65/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
4/11 - Florida Author Series: Marsha Diane Arnold - America's 250th Anniversary Celebration at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
4/11 - Bluegrass in the Pavilion at the Flagler Museum. One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 3 pm. \$45. flaglermuseum.org; 561-655-2833.
4/11 - Percussion Ensemble for All! at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 8 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
4/11 - Mel & Ella Swing! Featuring Billy Stritch & Gabrielle Stravelli at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
4/11-12 - Vienna's Riches at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Sat: 7 pm; Sun: 3 pm. Tickets start at \$58. 561-994-4909; thesymphonia.org

4/13 - Monday Movies - Documentary: Manolo: The Boy Who Made Shoes for Lizards directed by Michael Roberts at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
Tuesday - 4/14 - Career & Employment Help w/CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T through 4/28 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
4/14 - A History of Treasure Hunting in Florida w/Robert Feeney at FAU 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
4/14 - Seminar: PBD Dramawise: Arthur Miller's The Crucible w/ Gary Cadwallader 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
4/14 - Versed in Verse: Poetry Reading with Poets on the Fringe and Community Open Mic at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
4/14 - My Friends by Hisam Matar part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/14 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd T 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org
4/14 - 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
4/14-15 - The Lives and Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 2 pm. Tickets start at \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Wednesday - 4/15 - Seminar: Everyone Has a Story: Sharing Life Through 5-Minute Memoirs w/Cynthia Carrico at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Ever W through 5/20. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$100.50/member; \$134/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
4/15 - 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
4/15 - Seminar: Plant Based Culinary Adventures w/Sharon Leontine Wallenberg 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
Thursday - 4/16 - Brushstrokes & Bookmarks - What Art Does: An Unfinished Theory 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
4/16 - Exhibition Opening Reception: Outside Office Hours: FAU Faculty Showcase at FAU Schmidt Center Public Space, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 7/17. 4:30-8:30 pm. Free. fau.edu/artsandletters/galleries/exhibitions/
4/16 - Exhibition Opening Reception: Kinetic Energy: A Celebration of Sport in Palm Beach County at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Runs through 6/12. 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com
4/16 - Bram's Violin: A Seventy-Six Year Journey from Auschwitz to Restoration w/David Groen 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
4/16-18 - Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd, West Palm Beach. Gates open at 8 am to auction close. Tickets

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start at \$10. barrett-jackson.com
4/16-19 - Broadway's Jersey Boy:
John Lloyd Young at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Th/Sat/Sun: 2 pm; Th-Sat: 7:30 pm. \$75. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Friday - 4/17 - Mahjong Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 4/14 & 5/1. 10am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/17 - Screening of *Cirque du Soleil: Without a Net* in the Walter S. Gubelmann Auditorium at the Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Part of the Friday Film Series. 2 and 5:30 pm. \$10 non-members. fourarts.org
4/17 - Artist Blow Out featuring John Moran at Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts, 1105 2nd Ave S, Lake Worth. 6:30-9:30 pm. \$25-\$50. Reservations: 561-508-7315; benzaitencenter.org
4/17 - Caribbean Chillers - Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com
4/17-18 - Ann Hampton Callaway - The Barbra Streisand Songbook at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$69-\$74. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
4/17-19 - By Any Other Name at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/26. F/Sat: 7 pm; Sat/Sun: 2 pm. \$20-\$30. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
Saturday - 4/18 - Bookin' It for Literacy 5K at Bryant Park, 30 S Golfview Rd, Lake Worth Beach. Participants run to raise awareness and support the cause of improving literacy in Lake Worth Beach. Sponsored by the Friends of the LWB Library and the LW Run Club. 100% of all proceeds go towards expanding and supporting literacy programs. 7:30 am. 561-533-7300; lakeworthbeachfl.gov
4/18 - Shred Event at Greater Lantana Chamber of Commerce, 418 S. Dixie Hwy, Lantana. Proceeds will benefit the Common Ground Community Development Organization in Lake Worth. 9-11 am. \$5 per box/bag. 561-585-8664; lantanachamber.com
4/18 - 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
4/18 - Themes & Threads: Bites & Insights: Playwright's Edition at FAU Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 11 am. \$30. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
4/18 - Elephant In the Room by Jeff Bower at FAU Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 2 pm. \$10-\$15. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
4/18 - Lisa Corrao - A Story Central Performance: I Am What I Eat at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
4/18 - Taste of Boynton 2026 - 3rd Annual Food & Wine Festival at Centennial Park, 120 E. Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 21+. 5-10 pm. \$75-\$95/food & drink sampling ticket. 561-742-6000; boynton-beach.org/768/Taste-of-Boynton-Beach
4/18 - Twilight In The Garden at Delray Beach Historical Society Heritage Gardens, 3 NE 1st St. Annual fundraiser. 6-9 pm. \$180/person. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org
4/18 - Joe Posa as Joan Rivers at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Tickets start at \$44.50. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com
4/18 - Magic In Mizner: Edward Oschmann 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

APRIL 19-25

Sunday - 4/19 - SoFlo Market Spring Family Fest at Sanborn Square Park, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Featuring kids activities, arts & crafts, vendors and more. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-674-5368; soflo-market.merlin-site.com
4/19 - 5th Annual Delray Beach Concours D'Elegance at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave. 10 am-4

Green Markets

Delray Beach Winter Green Market every Saturday through May 16 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 through May 3 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
The Good Day Market on Sunday, April 5, 19 and May 3 at Boynton Beach Mall (outside near Dillard's), 801 N Congress Ave, Boynton Beach. Features farmers, food vendors, artisans and wellness brands. 9 am-2 pm. Free. eventeny.com/company/?c=399873

pm. Free/spectators. 561-927-8605; delrayconcourse.com
4/19 - The Saga of Peaches and the Black King by Gretchen Suarez Pena at FAU Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Noon. \$10-\$15. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
4/19 - Klezmer Jazz Concert at Beth Ami Congregation, 1401 NW 4th Ave., Boca Raton. 2 pm \$25. 561-347-0031; www.babcoca.com
4/19 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
4/19 - National Poetry Month at The Poetry Potluck at The Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Activities, art-based activations, opportunities for fellowship & relaxation and a feast at the Family Table. 3-8 pm. Free; donations encouraged. 561-278-8883; thepoetrypotluck.com
4/19 - Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County - Season Finale Concert & Silent Auction at Boca Raton Innovation Campus, 4950 T-Rex Ave, Boca Raton. All proceeds to benefit YOPBC. 3:30 pm/ auction preview; 4-6 pm; concert/silent auction; 6-6:30 pm/auction checkout. \$20-\$35. 561-281-8600; yopbc.org/season-finale-concert
4/19 - Big Band By the Sea - Sentimental Journey at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Part of the First Delray Concert Series. 4 pm. \$30. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com
4/19 - The Florida Atlantic Trombone Studio "The Owlbones" & the APEI in Concert at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
Monday - 4/20 - The Anatomy of a Dictator: The Private Life, Illnesses, and Early Years of Adolf Hitler w/Anette Isaacs at FAU 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
4/20 - Guided Discussion: Contemporary Jewish Philosophy w/ Rabbi Michael Gold at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 5/11. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100.50/member; \$134/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
Tuesday - 4/21 - Seminar: How to Keep News Consumption and Social Media from Being "Hazardous to Your Health" w/Kenneth Reid 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
4/21 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/ Biographies: The CIA Book Club: The Secret Mission to Win the Cold War With Forbidden Literature by Charlie English at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
4/21 - How to Spot a Scam at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
4/21 - The Real Thing: Hollywood's Response to the 1930s w/Edward Shapiro at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 5/12. 3-5 pm. \$60/annual membership;

\$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
4/21 - 4th Annual Antique Appraisal Show presented by the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 5-7 pm. \$10/per item; Friends members: \$8/ item. Spectators are welcome to watch for free. 561-544-8596; bocalibraryfriends.org
4/21 - 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
4/21 - 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/
Wednesday - 4/22 - Guided Activity: Beginner Bridge Classes w/Linda J. Green at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 5/27. 12:30-2:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$150/member; \$200/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
4/22 - Art in Focus Tour - TYPOE GRAN "Eden" at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/ paid museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
4/22 - Guided Activity: The Art of Tango: Discover the Soul of Argentine

Dance w/Mariano Bejarano at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 5/13. 4:30-6 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100.50/member; \$134/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
4/22 - Masterworks for Chamber Winds at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
4/22 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Advancing the Vision: An Experiment in Rethinking the Nonprofit Biomedical Research Model w/Pete Schultz, Ph.D. 1-hour virtual lecture. 7 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu
Thursday - 4/23 - 3rd Annual Think Outside the Blocks presented by Fuller Center at Boca Raton Innovation Campus (BRiC), 5000 T-Rex Ave, Boca Raton. Join fellow business and civic leaders for a LEGO-inspired building challenge, judged by Fuller Center Academy students. 9-11:30 am. Tickets start at \$150. 561-391-7274 x123; fullercenterfl.org
4/23 - Twilight Tribute Concert Series: Bee Gees Now! at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5-9 pm. \$50/VIP; free/General admission. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events
4/23 - Concert: Jay Daniels at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us
4/23 - Declaration: The Story of America's Independence w/Dr. Robert Watson from Lynn University 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
4/23 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The Wedding People: A Novel by Alison Espach presented by Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
4/23 - Iconic American Voices: Celebrating America at 250! at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Friday - 4/24 - Arbor Day Tree Planting at Maddock Park, 1200 W Drew St, Lantana. 9 am. 561-540-5754; lantana.org
4/24 - Town Hall Talk: The 14th Colony: The American Revolution's Best Kept Secret w/Roger Smith at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 9:30 am check-in/ refreshments; 10 am lecture. Free/BRHS member; \$10/guest. RSVP: 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org
4/24 - Neuropsychopolitics: How Your Brain Influences What You Believe and Do w/Laurence Miller at FAU 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
4/24 - Arbor Day Tree Planting at Spanish River Athletic Park, 1000 Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton. 3:30 pm. Advance registration required: 561-927-8733; communitygreening.org
4/24 - Town Hall Talk: Women of the American Revolution: Lost Voices of America's First Generation w/Roger Smith 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
4/24 - The Blues Brothers Soul Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
4/24-26 - Elton Rohn - Elton John Tribute at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. F/Sat: 7:30 pm; Sun: 2 pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Saturday - 4/25 - Town Hall Talk: Spies! The Shadier Side of the American Revolution w/Roger Smith at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 9:30 am pm check-in/refreshments; 10 am lecture. Free/BRHS member; \$10/guest. RSVP: 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org
4/25 - Themes & Threads: No One Else's Story: Story Structure & the Stage at FAU Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10 am. \$25. 561-297-6124;

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4/25 - Historic Walking Tour: Sundy Village at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. 10 am-noon. \$30/person; \$20/ members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

4/25 - Tree Giveaway at Boynton Beach City Hall Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. City of Boynton Beach residents only.

First come, first served, limit 2 trees per household (1 fruit tree max). Noon. 561-927-8733; communitygreening.org

4/25 - Themes & Threads: New Plays + Real Life "Why Musicals Matter" at FAU Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30 pm. \$15. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/25 - Plain Sight by Michael McKeever at FAU Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 2 pm. \$10-\$15. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/25 - 3D Computer-Aided Design w/ Tinkercad at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/25 - Christian McBride & Ursa Major at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Two shows: 5:30 pm & 8:30 pm. \$108-\$118. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/25 - Town Hall Talk: It was the 4th of July ... or was it?: How Much Do You Really Know About American History? w/Roger Smith 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

4/25 - Transatlantic Connections at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 6 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/25 - National Society of Arts & Letters Florida Presenting Lifetime Achievement Award: Rob Russell at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Featuring dinner & a show. 6 pm. \$375. nsalfloida.org

4/25 - The Last Queen of San Domino by Chandler Hubbard at FAU Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$20-\$25. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/25 - Liz Callaway at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

APRIL 26-MAY 2

Sunday - 4/26 - Baker Street Beginnings by Gina Montet at FAU Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Noon. \$10-\$15. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/26 - Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band Concert: Happy Birthday, America at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 235 SW 6th Ave, Boynton Beach. 3 pm. \$10. goldcoastband.org

4/26 - Landslide: Tribute to the Music

of Fleetwood Mac at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 4/27 - Old God's Time by Sebastian Barry part of Monday Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

4/27 - Monday Movies - Feature Film: Flow directed by Gints Zilbalodis at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

4/27 - Program: Mangos & More! w/ Larry Grosser at First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach, 235 SW 6th Ave. Meet & Greet: 7:15 pm; program: 7:30-8:30 pm. boyntonhistory.org

Wednesday - 4/29 - Estate Planning Seminar at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/29 - Deborah Goodrich Royce, Best Boy in the King Library at the Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Part of the Florida Voices Author Series. 1:30 pm. Free. Registration required. fourarts.org

4/29 - Annual Meeting of The Friends of the Boynton Beach Library at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 1:30-2:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 4/30 - The Eternal Shine: The Allure of Gold Through the Ages w/Terryl Lawrence 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

4/30 - Exhibition Opening Reception: Spring Graduates Showcase at FAU Ritter Art Gallery, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 5/10. 4-6 pm. Free. fau.edu/artsandletters/galleries/exhibitions/

4/30 - An Evening with Max Weinberg at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza

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

Real, Boca Raton. Presented by Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. Includes cocktails & lite bites. 6 pm. \$180/person. 561-203-3742; jewishboca.org/maxweinberg

4/30-5/3 - The How And The Why at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Runs through 5/10 Th-Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$28. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

4/30-5/3 - The Cher Show at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Runs through 5/31. Th-Sat: 7:30 pm; T/W/Th/Sat/Sun: 2 pm. \$89-\$119. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

Friday - 5/1 - 9th Annual Play4JA Golf Tournament at Palm Beach Par 3, 2345 S Ocean Blvd. Presented by/ benefits Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast. 7:45 am check-in; 9 am shotgun start; Noon lunch. \$1000/foursome. 561-310-8749; palmbeachtreasurecoast.ja.org

5/1 - 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

5/1 - Exhibition Opening: The Surrealist Highwayman by Rodney Demps at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Runs through 9/27. 6-9 pm. \$8/class. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

5/1 - Damon Fowler at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$48-\$53. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 5/2 - Mother's Day 5/2 - Annual Document Shredding Event at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. For Ocean Ridge and Briny breezes residents only - photo ID required. Limit 3 office storage boxes per person. 9 am-noon. Free. 561-732-2635; oceanridge.gov

5/2 - Short Stories for Writers w/Dr. Caren Neile at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 5/16. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/2 - Mother's Day Luncheon at Intracoastal Park Clubhouse, 2240 Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. All ages. \$20/resident; \$25/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6644; mckinonL@bbfl.us

5/2 - Florida Author Series: Mango Memories by Sita Singh at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 1-2 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/2 - Florida Author Series: Sita Singh and Pathway to Publication at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/2 - OMGITSWICKS at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6 & 8:30 pm. Tickets start at \$43.90. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

5/2 - Almighty Queen - The Ultimate Tribute to Queen at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

5/2-3 - Make & Muse - Cut Paper Painting Collage Two-Day Workshop at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Adults. 1-4 pm. \$120/member; \$180/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

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3883 Gulfstream Road, Unit 1N, Gulf Stream



First floor 1 bedroom 1 bath sun splashed apartment being sold furnished with a patio offering magical golf course views in a boutique building that underwent a top - to - bottom renovation in 2022.

Offered at \$695,000

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House of the Month



LEFT: Behind gates, this expansive compound offers more than 12,000 square feet of refined interiors and more than 17,000 total square feet across eight bedrooms, thoughtfully arranged between the main residence and a separate guest home. **RIGHT:** A dramatic double-height clubroom serves as the architectural centerpiece, connecting the main residence to the guest home. With soaring volume, natural light and gallery-like presence, this grand space allows the property to function as one cohesive estate or as two private living environments.



Designed for boating enthusiasts, the waterfront has been dramatically enhanced with a new 200-foot dock and a 24,000-pound boat lift.

Waterfront in Boca Raton's Estates Section



A primary suite in the main residence is highlighted by luxury finishes, state-of-the-art technology and a large, sleek spa-like bath.

The layout to this property is exceptional. The main residence has six well-appointed bedrooms, while the guest home includes two additional bedrooms, a full kitchen, a spacious living room, a private entrance, and a dedicated one-car garage that enhances its flexibility for guests, staff, or multigenerational living.

At the heart of the home, a waterfront executive office captures Intracoastal Waterway views and includes an adjacent lounge that creates a private, elevated environment ideal for work, meetings, relaxation, or quiet retreat. This wing stands out as one of the home's signature spaces, pairing functionality with an intimate, luxury atmosphere.

The main kitchen showcases bespoke cabinetry, upgraded counters and Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances, including four additional refrigeration drawers. Two newly built, temperature-controlled wine rooms — one featuring a lounge seating area — add architectural drama and a display opportunity for collections.

Offered at \$24,995,000. Optional to be sold furnished and turnkey.

Contact The Matt and Nick Team: Matt Moser and Nick Gonzalez, Serhant Florida Realtor. Matt: 954-383-3422; Nick: 561-306-7220. mn@serhant.com.

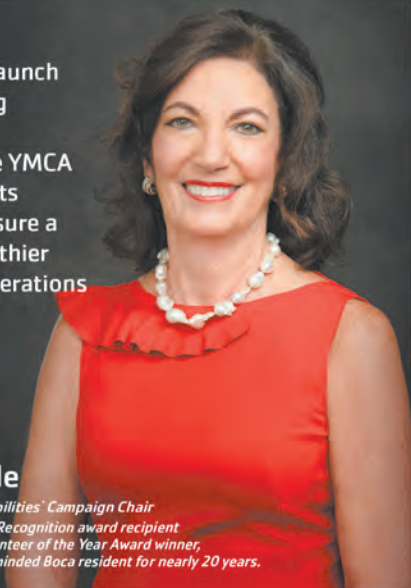
Each month, The Coastal Star features a home for sale in our area. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our homes.



INVESTING IN COMMUNITY THROUGH THE YMCA

Community Leaders Reflect on their Commitment to the YMCA

"Through the launch of the Building Possibilities campaign, the YMCA is expanding its mission to ensure a stronger, healthier future for generations to come."



Terry Fedele

*YMCA 'Building Possibilities' Campaign Chair
A Boca Raton Walk of Recognition award recipient
and 2024 Woman Volunteer of the Year Award winner,
Terry is a community-minded Boca resident for nearly 20 years.*

"We choose to support the Y because of its role as a community hub that extends its reach through partnerships with dozens of local nonprofits."



Kelly and Will Fleming

*Boca Raton leaders,
community supporters,
and residents for 30 years*

"The YMCA is a major stakeholder organization and plays a critical role in the development of our community and maintaining the unique quality of life that we enjoy."



Troy M. McLellan

*President & CEO,
Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Community Resident for 30+ years*

"The Y isn't just a gym – it's a trusted, rooted, and scalable community asset."



Nicole Grimes

*Trustee Board member of the
YMCA of South Palm County
Community Resident for 40+ years*

"The Y truly brings people together – a place that uplifts, connects, and inspires hope that endures across generations."



Myrna Gordon Skurnick

*Champion of the Arts
Community Resident for 40+ years*

"I am most compelled by causes that strengthen children, support families and seniors. The Y serves as a cornerstone of community, offering opportunities for connection, growth, and support."



Rosie Inguanzo-Martin

*CEO/President,
Allegiance Home Health
Lifelong Community Resident*

"My giving focuses on youth and family programs that reflect the values I hold dear – compassion, service, and community. The Y continues to touch lives and strengthen families every day."



Christine E. Lynn

*South Florida Businesswoman
Philanthropist and Community
Resident 45+ years*

"We've donated and volunteered for the Y for over 20 years because of the tremendous impact the Y has on our community. In particular, we love the impact the Y has on drowning prevention in South Palm Beach County."



Kathy & Paul Adkins

*Boca Raton Residents
and Community Leaders
for 30+ years*

Photos by: Warner-Prokos Photography

BUILDING POSSIBILITIES

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE
YMCA OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY

For information on the YMCA of South Palm Beach County's Capital Campaign, visit:



YMCASPBC.ORG/Building-Possibilities