

## Along the Coast



Beachgoers at South Inlet Park in Boca Raton deal with mounds of sargassum in late May that have washed ashore throughout south Palm Beach County, with a record amount forecast by summer. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

# Beachgoers in the weeds

**‘Major’ sargassum buildup could also put crimp in turtle season’s fast start**

**By Jane Musgrave**

Mother Nature isn’t kind to baby sea turtles.

In a year that is poised to produce a record number of the tiny marine creatures, nature

has also sent a bumper crop of seaweed that threatens their survival.

“If the seaweed is piled up a foot or two above the nest, it could make it hard for them to get out,” said Kaleigh Gucker, outreach coordinator for Sea Turtle Adventures, which monitors turtle nests along a three-mile stretch of beach in Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes and southern Ocean Ridge.

The seaweed — technically called sargassum — has confounded beach-lovers for weeks. And it’s going to get worse, according to marine scientists at the University of South Florida, who are monitoring the ever-moving mass that in late May stretched some 4,000 miles, from the Gulf coast of Louisiana to the northern coast of Brazil in the Atlantic Ocean.

“The year of 2026 is set to be another major sargassum year and likely to be a record year by summer 2026,” they wrote in a bulletin on April 30.

Turtle-watchers, who are celebrating what may be a record number of turtle nests along most beaches in southern Palm Beach County and beyond, say they are hoping the

See **SARGASSUM** on page 14

## Boca Raton

# Save Boca founder at odds with rest of City Council

**Pearlman accused of inflaming public with false messages**

**By Mary Hladky**

Less than three months since Save Boca founder Jon Pearlman won election, fellow Boca Raton City Council members’ frustration with what they call

misinformation from him but that he insists is fact has spilled into the open.

The council, now also including two other Save Boca members,

pushed back against his statements that they say are inaccurate at a May 26 workshop meeting.

The council was to give city staff direction on building and financing a new police headquarters after voters on March 10 voted against financing the construction of a \$190 million headquarters complex.

Reasoning that voters would

See **PEARLMAN** on page 29



**Pearlman**

## Boca Raton

# City begins to address ‘out-of-control’ homeless issues dismissed for years

A man sleeps in Sanborn Square on a recent Saturday afternoon; some say this keeps other park visitors away. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



**Service providers see change afoot in reaction to complaints about increasingly visible situation**

**By Rich Pollack**

It’s 8 a.m. on a Saturday and homeless people are gathering outside the First United Methodist Church of Boca Raton.

Soon those who came by bicycle and those who came after a long walk will filter inside to a room where hot food is in abundance, where clean

clothes are available for the asking and where people can wash up in a shower if they want one.

There is a quiet camaraderie in the room, where if you listen carefully, you can hear one person offering advice on how to fix a broken bicycle derailleur or others talking about how they helped get a homeless troublemaker out of the area.

There is no one yelling, no one harassing anyone else and no one judging anyone, at least not openly.

It is a far cry from what Glenn Gromann sees when he looks at a collection of people without

See **HOMELESS** on page 21

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**Super-sized sale**  
Estate in Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club sells for Boca Raton record \$75 million.  
**Page 30**

**Property values up**  
Boca Raton sees 6.2% rise, Highland Beach a 4.1% jump.  
**Page 16**

**Town rule unnoticed**  
Beach homes built in Highland Beach despite prohibition.  
**Page 17**



**A rare treat for Dad**  
Steak prices have risen, but isn't Father's Day a time to splurge?  
**Page AT14**

Coastal Stars



Thoghi Louis (in polo shirt) had surgery on each eye thanks to Aker Kasten Eye Center in Boca Raton. From left are Ann Kasten, Alan Aker and their son Jonathan Aker. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

**The Coastal Star**

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Reporter's Note

Newspapers with local focus help build community

It has been 50 years this month since I began my newspaper career here in Palm Beach County, a wet-behind-the-ears Jimmy Olsen hired as a reporter for the weekly Delray Beach and Boynton Beach *News Journal*.

Back then, Delray Beach was known among us locals as Dullray. Downtown Atlantic Avenue thrived during the day, but was empty at night — with dark stores and sidewalks you could roll a bowling ball down. It wasn't that long ago that you could walk downtown and almost inevitably run into someone you knew for decades. Over the years that's changed, and one element of that was the demise of the *News Journal*.

Let me explain: Community newspapers help build communities, and when we lose those newspapers our sense of community gradually erodes.

For years before it ceased publication in 1986, the *News Journal* was the definition of a community newspaper. You could thumb through the pages and find out who the new Eagle Scout from Troop 301 was. You could find out who won the weekly ladies golf tournament at the city golf course.

Reporters went to Kiwanis meetings and reluctantly sang old-timey songs with Delray Beach business leaders. We sat through chamber breakfasts and even an occasional Rotary or Lions Club meeting.

I covered Atlantic High School sports and the Delray Rocks like a blanket and penned pieces about Little League, too.

The *News Journal* was a great place to work. We made lifelong friends while doing everything from covering commission meetings to delivering papers before daylight on Thursday mornings.

The *News Journal* was a conduit connecting us all — and in doing so, strengthening our sense of community.

It wasn't the only community newspaper in those days. Boca Raton had the *Boca News*, a daily that focused on very local news, and there was also the *Monday-Thursday Papers*, a

weekly serving mostly Boca Raton. Farther north, there was the *Lake Worth Herald*.

Sadly, most newspapers today no longer build communities. More and more people get their news from their phone or computer, reading only what an algorithm sends them.

Daily newspapers are so thinly staffed that there's no one left to do the type of local news that we used to call "refrigerator journalism" — a reference to a story that you would cut out and tape to your refrigerator.

Yes, you can still get some of that news, but you won't stumble upon it just thumbing through pages. You have to go searching online.

The result, in many instances, is that our sense of community is like a shadow that fades in the sunset. We are no longer as tight and, too often, no longer caring about each other like we used to.

There is, however, reason to be hopeful.

A new generation of community newspapers like *The Coastal Star* is surviving and even thriving, in some areas, in large part because they are helping to create communities. They are "our little newspaper" that we look to when we want to know what's happening in our corner of the world.

Rebuilding that sense of community here on the barrier islands could start simply by reading the "Meet Your Neighbor" and "Coastal Star" features that highlight people living along the coast.

Also, sending in story ideas would help *The Coastal Star* better tap into the communities it serves. And the paper always welcomes local events to feature on its "Celebrations" pages.

You might even consider supporting its advertisers, who are part of that larger fabric, too. When you support *The Coastal Star* and others with a similar mission, you do more than

just read a newspaper. You help strengthen our communities.

— Rich Pollack, reporter



Surgeons' visionary mission restores eyesight to man born legally blind

By Rich Pollack

Born legally blind some 40 years ago and forced to see only close images through Coke-bottle thick glasses, Thoghi Louis always hoped that a God-inspired miracle would help him see an all-but-hidden world.

He likely never thought that the genesis of that miracle would come during a chance meeting with a shopper at the Boynton Beach Publix where he worked.

It wasn't just any shopper, however. The customer who stopped Louis and quickly examined his glasses was Ann Kasten, an eye surgeon and co-founder — along with her husband, Alan Aker — of the Aker Kasten Eye Center in Boca Raton.

"It was clear that he was very impaired with his vision," said Kasten. "I asked do you have an eye problem and he said, 'Oh yes, I've been praying for years but no one could help me.'"

Now, a year after that first meeting among shopping carts, Louis' life has dramatically changed for the better.

His vision, he said, was like looking through the wrong end of a telescope. But because of surgery, Lewis now has near normal eyesight — to the point where he no longer needs glasses at all.

That wouldn't have happened without the generosity, kindness and compassion of Kasten and her husband and their son Jonathan Aker — as well as Dr. Anup Kubal and the team at their eye center.

"To me, they are the best doctors because they allowed God to work through them to make something impossible, possible," said Louis, who didn't have to pay for the life-altering surgery. "It was a miracle."

For the three doctors in the Aker Kasten family — all residents of either Gulf Stream or Ocean Ridge — helping others is a big part of why they do what they do. Over the years, the Aker Kasten Eye Center, and the doctors individually, have helped thousands of financially struggling patients receive eye care at no cost.

That includes frequent mission trips outside the United States and even a program where they provide free cataract surgery to members of Amish communities in Florida and elsewhere.

Among all those surgeries, however, the two done for Louis stand out.

"You're taking someone who is legally blind and the next day they're almost legal to drive," says Jonathan Aker, who performed the surgery on Louis' left eye, while Kubal operated on the right eye.

There was yet another element that separated



Before the surgeries, Louis wore thick glasses because his vision was so impaired. Photo provided

Louis' treatment from others — uncertainty. "It was even more special because we didn't know what to expect," Kasten said.

That uncertainty was one reason why Louis' vision hadn't been corrected earlier, he said, and why it almost didn't happen this time.

Several doctors whom he had visited before, Louis said, had told him that surgery to remove the very old cataracts — and to repair retina damage — could end up with his losing what little vision he had.

With that in mind, Louis was initially reluctant to follow up after the chance meeting with Kasten in Publix.

"When they first called to schedule an appointment, I didn't go," Louis said.

It was a second interaction at Publix — this time with Alan Aker — and a prayer for guidance that changed his mind.

"Saying yes meant taking a chance to see if a miracle could happen," he said. "It happened."

The results were clear soon after the first surgery, which included special-order replacement lenses.

"He could see immediately," said Kubal, who met with Louis a short time later and heard the patient tell him that the results were far beyond what he had expected.

The success of the surgery was greeted with tears of joy from some members of the Aker Kasten Eye Center team.

Louis says that with improved eyesight he can now do more at his job, including going outside to help customers bring groceries to their cars and to help stock shelves.

"When we see someone like this that we know we can help, we get excited," Alan Aker said. "That's what drives us."

For Kasten, who could have easily walked past Louis in the Publix lobby just feet from the front door, helping someone close to home takes on a bit more meaning.

"To be able to help someone locally in your community is really special," she said. ★

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Letters to the Editor

So-called ‘safety’ measures trample on rights of fishers

I am writing regarding the recent passage of Ordinance 405 by the town of Manalapan on May 12 and the growing trend of municipalities attempting to regulate shark fishing and other fishing activity, despite Florida’s longstanding state preemption over saltwater fisheries management.

This ordinance raises serious concerns not only for anglers, but for anyone concerned about constitutional limits on local government authority and the expansion of municipal power into areas already regulated by the state of Florida and the Florida Fish and Wildlife

Conservation Commission.

FWC already maintains statewide regulations governing shore-based shark fishing, shark permits and education, handling and release requirements, gear restrictions, and beach chumming prohibitions.

Yet municipalities are increasingly attempting to bypass state authority by framing fishing restrictions under vague terms such as “hazardous fishing practices, public safety and shark-attracting activity.”

The issue is no longer simply about fishing. It is about whether local governments can

indirectly regulate lawful, state-managed activities through broad and subjective language that may create constitutional, enforceability and preemption concerns.

This concern is not hypothetical. A similar proposal in Marco Island reportedly failed after substantial public opposition and concerns raised regarding legality and enforceability.

Meanwhile, Miami Beach’s recently adopted shark-fishing ordinance generated widespread controversy and legal scrutiny before ultimately being repealed amid growing

concerns regarding municipal authority, state preemption, and the legality of local governments regulating fishing activity already governed by FWC.

The public deserves transparency regarding how these ordinances are being drafted, whether municipalities are coordinating regionally, what guidance FWC has provided, and whether local governments are advancing legally questionable ordinances despite acknowledged concerns.

Many anglers support responsible fishing practices, conservation, swimmer safety and proper enforcement of

existing laws. However, creating a patchwork of local fishing restrictions across Florida risks confusion, selective enforcement and unnecessary conflict between municipalities and state authority.

I believe this issue deserves continued public scrutiny and further reporting, particularly regarding communications among municipalities, FWC’s position on local authority, and the statewide implications of these ordinances.

— Christopher Dilecce  
Melbourne

Nonprofit says *The Coastal Star* isn’t reporting its ouster correctly

In several articles, you have mistakenly reported that the termination of Old School Square Center for the Arts (OSSCFTA) was due to financial difficulties. This information is incorrect and does not reflect the actual circumstances.

You previously covered this issue in 2021 and 2022, so you are aware of the factual details. Despite this, the mistake continues to appear in your reporting.

We would like to remind you of the notification issued by the City of Delray Beach regarding OSSCFTA. The narrative suggesting financial difficulties as the reason for termination is inaccurate.

No matter how hard certain parties try to change the history, you should not participate in spreading misinformation. If OSSCFTA had been terminated with cause, we would have been given

sufficient time to address and remedy the situation, which was not the plan of those involved.

We respectfully ask that you publish a correction; listing all of the articles that you misreported the wrong information and inform the public with accurate and factual events.

— The Board of Directors  
Old School Square Center for the Arts

*Editor’s note: The Delray Beach City Commission, desiring to end the Old School Square Center for the Arts contract, followed its attorney’s advice to do so “without cause.” However, the commissioners who took that action made clear their concerns about financial unaccountability as motivating their decision.*

Gulfstream lifeguards make reader feel safe

I would like to comment on the May article “Saving lives: What more to do?”

I go to Gulfstream Park every Sunday for a beach walk and ocean swim, and I find the Palm Beach County lifeguards to be extremely on point and attentive.

Any information that is not already written on the conditions board, the lifeguards are happy to answer. They are very knowledgeable and glad to share that information with locals and tourists alike.

I’ve lived in Palm Beach County for many years and Gulfstream Park is my favorite beach. One of the main reasons is how safe I feel on their watch.

Please interview some of the PBC lifeguards at Gulfstream, and let’s hear what they have to say.

— Char Conklin  
Boynton Beach

Residents’ dream of their Briny coffee house dashed

My dream began in 2019. I envisioned a small coffee place in and of Briny Breezes.

Not just another business, but a welcoming, modest, coastal-style coffee shop that fit the spirit of Briny Breezes — a place for coffee, pastries and conversation, a warm gathering space for residents and visitors.

Because I believed so strongly in that idea, I submitted a proposal in 2019 and another in 2025 — even while the beauty salon was still in operation — hoping that space might one day be available.

When the beauty salon lease was not extended, I submitted a third proposal and continued to work

seriously on the concept.

This was never just an idea or a wish. My husband and I worked hard to create a business concept for Briny Breezes Coffee Co. Our presentation showed a simple, community-style coffee place with pastries, light offerings and a relaxed coastal atmosphere. We worked on the business structure, planning, concept and presentation because we wanted to show that our vision was well-grounded.

There was only one chance to present, and, due to unfortunate timing, I had to do it alone. I was nervous, but presenting something I believed in and had worked toward for years.

Another applicant, a younger businessman who already owns Deke’s Coffee, made a strong presentation and the board chose him — the more established operator — for what it described as business and sustainability reasons.

I understand that experience is often seen as the safer choice, and I respect that a board must make the decision it believes is best.

But what was painful to me was this: We were not outsiders who suddenly appeared when the space opened. We were shareholders with a vision that had lived in our hearts since 2019.

What hurt most was the feeling that being a startup counted *against* us more than the depth of our commitment counted *for* us. Every established operator once needed a first chance. I had hoped that our years of belief in this location, our community connection, and our seriousness of purpose would matter.

I share this not to attack anyone or create conflict. I respect that the board made its decision. I simply believe there is a human side here that deserves to be seen.

In small communities, decisions like these are not *only* business decisions. They also touch questions of belonging, fairness, local identity — and whether a resident’s long-held vision ever truly had a chance.

— Griselda and Dennis Gebhard  
Briny Breezes



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## Briny Breezes

# Something new is brewing in town

Coffee roaster turns to Briny in opening his second shop

By Patrick Sherry

When Nico Manuel, owner of Deke's in Delray, drove along scenic State Road A1A, he saw an opportunity to create a new community hub in Briny Breezes. After starting his coffee-bean roasting business in his parents' garage a few blocks away in Ocean Ridge, he is now working to create a one-stop shop for high-quality offerings in the barrier island community.

Deke's in Briny Breezes is expected to have its grand opening on the Fourth of July weekend. The new coffee-and-more business will replace the Briny Hair Salon, 4800 N. Ocean Blvd., which closed its doors in April after 34 years in business. The new shop will serve customers specialty coffee, baked goods, and locally sourced grocery items.

"I love that area; it's one of my favorite stretches of A1A," Manuel said. "I just thought Deke's would be a perfect fit for that community."

Before deciding to open Deke's in Briny Breezes, Manuel had spent years of holidays and school breaks vacationing near the community. His parents owned a home in Ocean Ridge, which they later moved to full-time. He remembers visiting the now-closed Seaside Deli & Market, spending time at the so-called Dog Beach, and enjoying the "old Florida" atmosphere along A1A. These experiences

inspired him to open a new space to re-create that type of community gathering place he felt had been lost.

"I've been here for a while, and I knew what the deli was like," Manuel said. "When I saw the vacancy here, for rent, I thought we could really expand the Deke's brand here and fulfill the hole that I knew the community had lost."

Manuel has operated Deke's in Delray off East Atlantic Avenue in downtown Delray Beach since 2020. After moving to his parents' Ocean Ridge home, he started roasting coffee beans in their garage, which led him to open the brick-and-mortar location. The coffee shop and espresso bar focus on roasted coffee and a high-quality cafe menu. The existing Delray Beach shop will be the flagship location, with the management team using some of its infrastructure to support the new shop. Deke's plans to roast the coffee in Delray Beach and deliver it to Briny Breezes while using part of the new building for a bakery and grocery outlet.

The team's proposal beat out five other prospective tenants for the lease of the location after the town's management company decided not to renew the hair salon's lease. Town officials from Briny Breezes selected Manuel's proposal based on its success at its flagship shop and familiarity with the area.

"They will be very local, community-focused; Nico from Deke's... is very well known in the community," said Michael Gallacher, general manager



**ABOVE:** Deke's in Delray owner Nico Manuel stands in what he plans to make another coffee shop come early July. The gutted building used to house the Briny Hair Salon.

**LEFT:** Nico and his family — wife Danica and 8-month-old 'Baby V' — and staff at the downtown Delray Beach location of Deke's. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

of Briny Breezes Inc. "They are a family-oriented and community-oriented business. I look forward to seeing lots of community support for Deke's in Briny Breezes."

The team plans to start by serving beverages and some pastry items, then expand more into food production. One of the main goals is to eventually begin selling products from local vendors to support nearby businesses.

"Introducing local food that is going to make you feel good and support the local economy, I think, is pertinent now more than ever," Manuel said. "The ethos ultimately is with quality

and secondarily with local support."

Since signing the lease in May, the shop's team has been in Briny Breezes regularly and working with partners to get everything ready for July. The team is hoping to make the new shop a community center where residents can gather and socialize.

He's also paying homage to the past, keeping the "Briny" — from "Briny Hair Salon" — that was emblazoned on one of the store's windows, and incorporating a pair of old hair dryer chairs from the salon in the new decor.

"Overall, the community

is excited to have a business there that more residents will patronize and enjoy. ... This will be a nice opportunity for Briny residents and guests," Gallacher said.

Manuel and his team started a GoFundMe to raise funds for the new location. Their goal is to raise \$85,000, and patrons had donated \$11,000 as of May 20. The money from the fundraiser will be used for general construction, equipment, and other business fees. ★

To learn more about Deke's or its fundraising campaign, visit [dekesindelray.com](http://dekesindelray.com).

## Police chase

A1A and Juniper Drive, Briny Breezes — May 5

A 27-year-old woman stole this black Hyundai sedan at a gas station in Delray Beach and led police on a chase that ended on State Road A1A in Briny Breezes, according to Gulf Stream Police Chief Richard Jones. As Delray Beach police officers followed the driver northbound on A1A, Jones and other Gulf Stream officers moved to intercept her. The driver appeared to try to run over Jones after he had deployed stop sticks on A1A at the Gulf Stream Golf Course. The chase ended in Briny Breezes when two Gulf Stream officers, including Sgt. Michael Balak (center), used a Precision Immobilization Technique — called a PIT maneuver — to bump the car and force it off the road and to a stop. The driver was taken to the hospital. Delray Beach police were handling the report on the incident.

Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star



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## Delray Beach

# Mayor wants croquet courts at Veterans Park

By Jeffrey Cassady

New croquet courts might be coming to Delray Beach, but city commissioners want to know more about the costs and impact of bringing the game to city recreational facilities before they decide if — and where — to build.

The commission directed city staff at its regular meeting on May 19 to develop a plan that includes costs, building timelines, site plans and potential funding sources for new croquet facilities — with Mayor Tom Carney urging they be built at Veterans Park.

The discussion, which occasionally sparked heated exchanges among

commissioners, comes after the commission asked city staff last year to begin researching the feasibility of bringing croquet to the city.

“We have an idea here, but we have no plans,” Deputy Vice Mayor Tom Markert said at the meeting. “You can’t possibly expect any of us up here to make a decision on this today. I mean, I gotta see a business plan.”

Croquet is a growing sport in South Florida, said David McCoy, chair emeritus of the West Palm Beach-based Croquet Foundation of America. At the meeting, McCoy gave a presentation about croquet’s appeal and its history in the area.

At least nine resorts and

private clubs between Pompano Beach and West Palm Beach — including The Boca Raton resort — play host to croquet clubs, according to material in McCoy’s presentation. Even in Gulf Stream, where polo mallets once ruled the town’s social season, croquet mallets are now swung on courts at The Little Club and at St. Andrews Club.

McCoy said he estimates that about a thousand croquet players are associated with those various clubs.

Veterans Park and the city-owned Delray Beach Golf Club emerged last year as leading candidates to play host to Delray Beach’s proposed croquet facilities.

“It’s consistent with your

mission of providing recreation and a meeting place for the community,” McCoy said of croquet courts at Veterans Park. “I think you can expect a very high utilization.”

McCoy estimated that installing croquet courts would cost \$200,000 each. He added that using artificial turf for the lawns could help keep ongoing maintenance costs down.

“I think putting in artificial turf is the way to go there,” McCoy said. “You have room for two beautiful courts.”

Carney said croquet could benefit both Veterans Park, a waterfront park at 802 NE First St., as well as the surrounding area by attracting more people.

“All the demographics suggest that this will be a great success,” Carney said. “It’s something that will bring people downtown.”

“And when they’re downtown, (they’ll) stay downtown and go utilize the facilities around it,” Carney added. “And because it’s a low-impact sport, you can be 9 or 90” years old.

Veterans Park currently boasts shuffleboard and lawn bowling courts, either of which may be affected by the introduction of croquet.

Commissioner Juli Casale said parking poses a challenge at Veterans Park and that the city should consider putting croquet lawns at the golf club instead.

She also expressed concerns about how installation and maintenance of the croquet facilities would be funded and whether it made sense to have city staff continue to work on potential plans for croquet

before funding sources could be identified.

“We don’t have the money,” Casale said. “I don’t understand where we’re going to find it. ... Until we have the money, I don’t think we should have another meeting on this.”

Carney proposed using excess park-improvement bond funds as a way to pay for the croquet lawns without affecting the general budget.

However, City Attorney Lynn Gelin said installing croquet lawns at Veterans Park might not be an appropriate use of those funds.

Carney, also an attorney, disagreed, saying a plain-text reading of the bond’s language provides flexibility to fund additional projects. Gelin said she’d investigate the issue further.

Carney also raised concerns about how placing the croquet lawns at the Delray Beach Golf Club could affect bond issuance associated with that property.

The golf club is undergoing \$28.5 million in renovations. It is expected to reopen in November, according to the golf club’s website.

Further, by installing the croquet lawns at the golf club west of Interstate 95, the downtown area would miss additional business that croquet players could bring there, Carney said.

“If you put it at the golf course, you are not doing anything to help downtown,” Carney said. If croquet players “have to get into their cars to go to lunch, they’re not driving downtown.” ★

## Delray Beach News

**Mayor, not liking discussion, ends meeting** — Rather than allow Delray Beach city commissioners time at their June 1 meeting to decide whether to request the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics investigate him, Mayor Tom Carney adjourned the meeting.

Commissioners Juli Casale and Tom Markert wanted the City Commission to request the investigation after a May 27 *Sun-Sentinel* editorial questioned the mayor’s decision to contact city Planning and Zoning Board members regarding a development before them that he previously represented and his brother now has a stake in.

Casale had given Vice Mayor Angela Burns, who said she had not heard about the editorial, a copy of it and was asking to see if she would agree to the request when Carney unilaterally ended the meeting without a motion to adjourn even being made.

—Larry Barszewski

**Free off-street parking Wednesdays** — The City Commission on May 19 unanimously approved free parking at city-owned garages and surface lots downtown every Wednesday this summer.

The promotion started June 3 and runs through Aug. 26. Parking at eligible lots will be free all day and night. On-street parking and private lots are not included. For maps and information about downtown parking, visit [downtowndelraybeach.com/parking](http://downtowndelraybeach.com/parking).

**City worker raises coming** — The City Commission voted unanimously at its regular meeting on May 19 to approve cost-of-living wage adjustments for city employees and retirees.

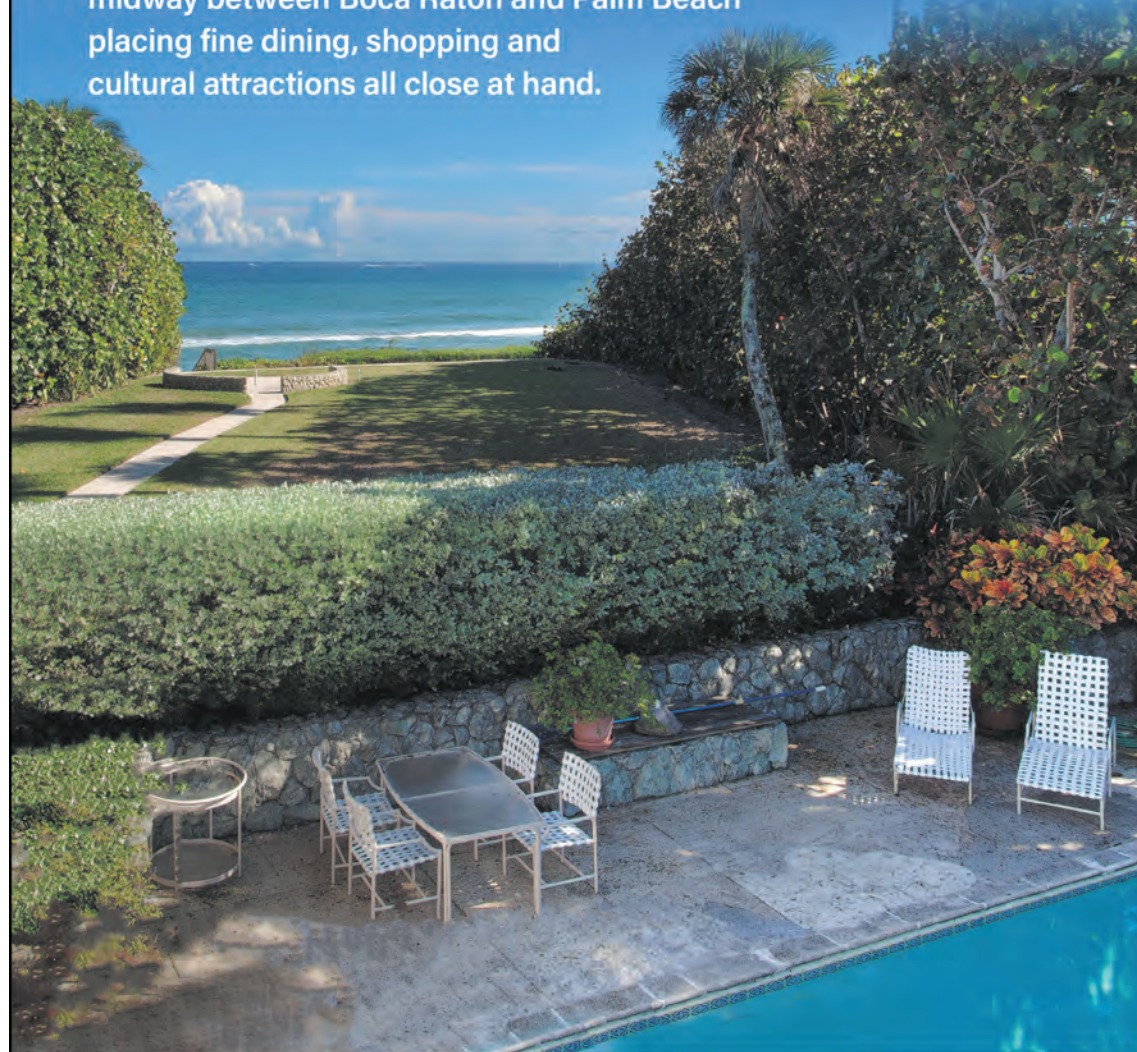
The 3.5% adjustment for current employees will go into effect Oct. 1. It will affect about 400 non-probationary general employees, who are employees not represented by a union. The city estimates the adjustment will cost about \$1.2 million.


The commission also unanimously approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment for general retirees.

— Jeffrey Cassady

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## Gulf Stream

# Golf courses at both ends of town getting work this year

By Steve Plunkett

Just as road and drainage construction winds down in Gulf Stream's Core area, members-only The Little Club has torn up its golf course in a major restoration of its tee boxes, fairways and greens.

At the opposite, south end of town, the Gulf Stream Golf Club is launching a redo of its clubhouse.

The Little Club golf course was constructed in 1968, according to documents filed with Gulf Stream and with the South Florida Water Management District.

Changes are being made to its drainage, which consists of interconnected lakes that convey runoff to the northwest corner of the golf course, where two pumps discharge water to the Intracoastal Waterway.

The club plans to excavate 0.93 acres of new lake and fill 0.77 acres of existing lake for a



Bulldozers and backhoes work the grounds of The Little Club as part of the remake of the property. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

net increase of 0.16 acres of lake. Minor changes will be made to the existing grading of the golf course to facilitate better drainage collection and runoff, the documents said.

The town's Architectural Review and Planning Board approved a landscaping plan in late March to let The Little Club clear the land and remove 36 trees from within 100 feet

of its property boundaries. They will be replaced with 74 new trees: specifically 21 green buttonwoods, 11 silver buttonwoods, four date palms, 13 royal palms and 25 sabal

palms. Additionally, 35 trees will be transplanted, while 159 will stay where they are.

"Tree health, invasive species, proposed site grading, golf course layout adjustments, and maintenance concerns are the primary reasons why trees are being removed or transplanted," landscape architect Aaron Elswick wrote in the club's ARPB application.

As for the Gulf Stream Golf Club, work is planned for the southeast corner of its 102-year-old, Addison Mizner-designed clubhouse after Town Commission approval of a small modification on May 8.

The commission first approved the golf club's plan in June 2023.

"We're increasing the setback from the ocean. ... We're actually reducing the square footage of the addition, but we're bringing that addition a little bit further north," club attorney Jamie Gavigan said. ★

## Ocean Ridge

# Beach eyesore fetches \$3.6 million; new owner will fix it up, not raze it

By Jane Musgrave

When Daniel Hassan looked at the long abandoned Ocean Ridge home of one of the ex-wives of notorious automaker John DeLorean, he didn't focus on the peeling paint, the rotting wood or the plywood covering the windows.

"It's a gem," the 43-year-old Boca Raton real estate investor declared days after plunking down \$3.6 million on May 28 for the oceanfront home that town residents have long derided as an embarrassing eyesore.

Then, acknowledging the home's reputation in the community, he laughed.

"I've been called crazy a few times," he said.

Rather than tear down the home that sits at an odd angle on an overgrown lot on Old Ocean Boulevard just south of Tropical Drive, Hassan said he plans to renovate it to recapture its half-century-old charm.

"Why tear down a perfectly good house?" he asked rhetorically. "Wow, this is a home from the 1950s."

An artist's rendering illustrates his vision for the home, which was long ago converted into a duplex. It shows a white house under a shake-tiled roof with blue shutters and window boxes brimming with flowers.

While the property may one day be developed into something far more grandiose, that is years into the future, Hassan said.

"Our intent is to rehabilitate it and keep it in the family portfolio as a beach bungalow," he said. "We want to restore it to what it was back in the 1950s."

Ocean Ridge resident



**LEFT:** Daniel Hassan has started the daunting task of rehabbing the former DeLorean duplex on Old Ocean Boulevard in Ocean Ridge. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star** **RIGHT:** He plans to restore it as a 1950s-style bungalow. **Rendering provided**

Terry Brown, who for years has pushed the town to raze the home and turn it and an adjacent parcel that Hassan purchased into a natural area, questioned the viability of planned renovation.

"Water comes up from the dune into the structure," he said. "It's been filled with water and sand on at least two occasions."

Still, he said, if Hassan can figure out a way to keep the ocean at bay and comply with myriad other state and local regulations, it would be an improvement.

"Fixing it up is better than looking at it the way it is now," Brown said.

Hassan said he has met repeatedly with town officials. "The tone from city hall has been extremely professional," he said.

Real estate agent Dorian Hayes, who represented owner Howard Goldsmith in the sale, said she is convinced Hassan's plans will become reality.

"He's prepared to go through town approvals and do whatever

needs to be done," said Hayes, who works for Douglas Elliman.

Since Goldsmith put the house on the market last year for \$5 million, Hayes said she has fielded numerous phone calls from would-be buyers. Given that the property is on the ocean, the interest wasn't unexpected.

But, given the oddities of the property, those who followed through had to be creative. One man suggested that he would raze the house and build a cabana for his family to use when they came to the beach on weekends, she said.

Little has been done to the house since Elizabeth DeLorean purchased it in 1980, roughly 11 years after her 14-year marriage to the famous automaker ended. But the deeds became more complex.

In 1984, now retired Boynton Beach contractor Robert Larkie, who was renting half of the duplex, convinced DeLorean to divide the house so he would own half and she would own the other half.

Then, in 1987, DeLorean and Larkie bought the adjacent lot. That meant that three different pieces of land were involved in the recent sale.

Eventually, Larkie said he tired of paying high taxes for land that he couldn't do much with. He couldn't touch the vacant lot because it is environmentally sensitive land. Further, town officials insisted he couldn't build a bigger house than the existing one.

Disgusted, in 2000 he sold his half to John Dragonas, who had befriended DeLorean. Roughly four years before her death in 2004 at age 81, DeLorean did the same.

But, Dragonas encountered the same resistance from Town Hall that had confounded Larkie. With no air conditioning in the house, he slept in his van in the driveway. His health suffered.

In 2023, Goldsmith purchased the three parcels for \$2.6 million after Dragonas defaulted on a loan. The Boca Raton real estate investor didn't

want to develop the property, Hayes said. He just wanted to sell it.

After Hassan bought the property, he spent the weekend cleaning out long abandoned artifacts from past owners. Most of what he recovered was owned by Dragonas and returned, Hassan said.

While the house is unconventional, Hassan said it is ideal for him.

A self-described car guy, who converted a former Baer's Furniture store in Tamarac into a car museum called the Patina Collective, he said he was intrigued that the house had been owned by DeLorean.

He is also intrigued by old Florida and wants to protect what remains of it.

"I'm an anti-development real estate guy," Hassan said. "Since COVID, everyone who moves here wants to tear things down and build something bigger."

He said he isn't convinced bigger is necessarily better.

"Not everything has to be a megamansion," Hassan said. ★



## Boca Raton

## More lawsuits seek return of Mandarin Oriental deposits

By Mary Hladky

Would-be buyers of Mandarin Oriental condos in downtown Boca Raton once again are filing lawsuits seeking return of their deposits because construction of their units was not completed by the deadlines set in their purchase agreements.

The first wave of litigation took place mostly in the summer of 2024 when four couples and an individual filed suits. After a filing slow-down, seven additional buyers have sought court relief from late 2025 and continuing through this spring.

The recent litigants put down deposits that generally ranged between \$1 million and \$2 million. They also are seeking their attorneys' fees and interest.

Most signed purchase agreements in 2022. Those documents state that their units "shall be" completed and delivered to the buyer within three years of the estimated completion date.

But those 2025 deadlines passed and their units still weren't ready. Failure to meet the deadlines would place Penn-Florida in default of the agreements.

When they sought return of their deposits, they either did not hear back from developer Penn-Florida Companies or were told they were not entitled to get their money back, their suits state.

Many of the recent litigants are represented by attorney James Ferrara, a former Palm Beach County Circuit Court judge who also represented a number of the initial litigants.

Ferrara, who spoke with *The Coastal Star* in 2024 about that year's cases, did not respond to the newspaper's recent inquiries.

Attorney Adrian Alvarez of De Biase|Alvarez in Boca Raton, who represented a Highland Beach couple in 2024 who eventually entered into a confidential settlement agreement with Penn-Florida, now represents Jack Fiorella III,



Construction work is still not completed at the Mandarin Oriental. The condo residences, with plastering, are to the left and the hotel is to the right. Larry Barszewski/The Coastal Star

who put down a \$1.65 million deposit for a unit in 2022.

When it was not ready for occupancy three years later, Alvarez and his client tried to resolve the matter but were unsuccessful, leading to the filing of a lawsuit in April.

"They have not been in communication at all," Alvarez said of Penn-Florida and the company's attorney Robert Sweetapple.

"I think it is extremely disappointing that a developer who is dragging their feet in construction isn't willing to have more direct conversations with the purchasers," Alvarez said. "The developer has received all the benefit of all the interest that could have been accrued on the money, yet these purchasers have gotten zero return on their money."

Asked why purchasers have resumed filing lawsuits, he suggested that the reason is the Dec. 23 bankruptcy filing by Penn-Florida affiliates on the 164-room Mandarin Oriental hotel that is being built next to the condo building on Federal Highway, just north of Camino Real.

The affiliates filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection after they were unable to repay lenders about \$210 million at loan maturity.

That bankruptcy filing "has gotten everyone worried the condominium development is next," Alvarez said.

One couple who has abandoned plans to move into a Mandarin Oriental condo is Nilesh and Liliana Undavia of Boston. They relocated to a condo in Boca Raton in 2022 but decided they wanted a larger one.

Based on what they were told, they had expected to be able to move quickly into the Mandarin Oriental.

They have pursued a different litigation strategy than other prospective owners, filing a seven-count lawsuit in 2024 whose allegations include fraudulent inducement and constructive fraud.

"We feel we were fraudulently induced into the purchase and sale contract," Nilesh Undavia said. "Had we known all the facts, we would have never bought."

Prospective condo owners

aren't alone in going to court. Contractors that have done work on the hotel and condo building also have filed suits seeking to be paid for their work.

In response to questions from *The Coastal Star*, Penn-Florida said, "...we remain committed to delivering one of the finest urban resorts in America.

"The overwhelming majority of our future Residents are excited to be a part of this exceptional development. However, we understand that, over time, circumstances may change for a small percentage of Residents. In such cases, we will continue to not only honor our agreements, but endeavor to be as flexible as possible in accommodating their needs, just as we have done thus far."

Sweetapple did not respond to two requests for comment. A Mandarin Oriental media contact also did not respond.

But in court filings, Sweetapple contends that a unit completion date is an estimate, not a guarantee, that is subject to revision due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including supply chain disruption, inflation and

contractor price increases.

That interpretation, prospective owners contend, is invalid and contradicted by clear contract language.

Sweetapple also cited hurricanes Ian, which hit Florida's southwest coast, and Nicole, which struck Vero Beach, in 2022 and impacted the supply chain and labor market.

The Mandarin Oriental project, announced with fanfare in 2015, has been exceedingly slow to rise from the ground. The completion date has been pushed back repeatedly and many city residents consider the construction site an eyesore.

After little construction took place for long stretches, the work on the 12-story condo building has moved more quickly in recent months. The hotel building, however, remains a shell.

In its most recent status report to the city, the developer expected the condo tower to be substantially complete by the fourth quarter of this year and the hotel tower by the third quarter of 2027.

But two bankruptcy filings have revealed financial strains.

The first Chapter 11 filing came in early 2025 to head off an auction of Penn-Florida's 101 Via Mizner luxury apartment building located immediately south of the condos and hotel.

Penn-Florida faced losing that 366-unit building because it failed to pay off a \$195 million senior loan provided by an affiliate of Blackstone Mortgage Trust in 2022.

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

Meanwhile, Mandarin Oriental retains its interest in Palm Beach County. The company announced development of Mandarin Oriental Residences West Palm Beach, a 31-story building, in February. ★



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Boca Raton

On a day for remembrance, city sets the record straight

By Mary Hladky

Memorial Day is a somber occasion, honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their nation.

And so it was on May 25 in Boca Raton, as about 300 residents came to the Boca Raton Cemetery to pay their respects and reflect on the freedoms that those lost to war preserved.

“To the families of the fallen, we offer our deepest respect and gratitude,” said City Manager Mark Sohaney, who served 37 years in the U.S. Navy. “To veterans, thank you for continuing the legacy of service and sacrifice.”

“Let us never forget their sacrifice,” said Mayor Andy Thomson, whose father served in the Vietnam War. “We pray for them and the veterans who served alongside them.”

Yet, in light of a nearly year-long campaign by Save Boca to preserve the city’s downtown campus from development, including the portion named Memorial Park in honor of World War II veterans, it is not surprising that some of the fraught politics intruded.

That was most apparent at a second ceremony held outside City Hall to unveil a new plaque for Memorial Park.

It replaces one debuted in a March 24 ceremony hastily arranged by then-Mayor Scott



Following the city of Boca Raton’s annual Memorial Day ceremony on May 25, city officials and community members gathered at City Hall for the Memorial Park plaque rededication. The new plaque (right) restores the names of the council members from when the park was dedicated in 1947. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Singer one week before he left office.

Veterans criticized it for containing inaccuracies, taking place at an event not open to the public, not making clear the original plaque specifically honored World War II veterans and for including the names of City Council members in place in March, and not those who actually created Memorial Park in 1947.

In addition to making corrections, the new plaque recognizes residents who worked to preserve Memorial

Park, culminating in a March 10 vote in which residents overwhelmingly voted down the campus redevelopment plans.

Many of those attending the event were Save Boca members, including founder and now City Council member Jon Pearlman, and many wore Save Boca T-shirts.

For them, the plaque re-do was an acknowledgement of their efforts to preserve not only the name Memorial Park but also the open space and recreation facilities that it

contains.

“The rededication of this park nearly 80 years later is a testament to how important it is to protect this special and historically significant part of Boca,” Pearlman said after the ceremony.

Once the unveiling concluded, attendees celebrated and gathered for group photos.

Thomson acknowledged that the history of Memorial Park has been largely forgotten, and he thanked residents for correcting that.

“I am so thankful to be able



MEMORIAL PARK

Dedicated by the Town Council of the Town of Boca Raton on April 28, 1947, in memory of World War II and in honor of the United States Armed Forces, including the thousands of veterans and service members who trained and served at the Boca Raton Army Air Field.

This recognition also reflects appreciation for the residents of Boca Raton whose sustained civic advocacy and community engagement throughout 2025 and 2026 contributed to a renewed community-wide focus on the preservation and future of Memorial Park, and its significance.

May Memorial Park stand as a lasting testament to those who gave their lives for our nation, to the thousands who served at Boca Raton’s Army Air Field, and to all veterans, service members, and their families whose sacrifice and service endure.

April 28, 1947

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- VICE CHAIRMAN THOMAS F. FLEMING JR.
- COUNCILMAN S. A. POOL
- COUNCILMAN J. D. RICKETTS
- COUNCILMAN EARL P. TROXELL
- TOWN CLERK FRED C. AIKEN

Plaque placed on May 25, 2026

Memorial Day ceremony  
Boca Raton Cemetery — May 25



TOP LEFT: The Memorial Day procession is led by the city of Boca Raton Police and Fire Rescue Services Honor Guard, alongside the Boca Raton High School NJROTC Color Guard and cadets. TOP RIGHT: Members of the Boca Raton High School NJROTC perform the flag-folding ceremony. ABOVE: (l-r) Marine Lance Cpl. Kevin Menting, his son Kevin Menting II and Jerry Edelman of the Coast Guard Auxiliary pay their respects during the national anthem. LEFT: Front-row attendees listen to speaker Mark Sohaney, a retired U.S. Navy veteran and Boca Raton’s city manager. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

# SARGASSUM

Continued from page 1

predictions are wrong.

“It comes and goes,” said David Anderson, who, as sea turtle conservation coordinator at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton, knows such dire forecasts can fizzle. “We may see some relief in a few weeks when the winds change direction and keep it offshore.”

But, like Gucker, he acknowledged that if sargassum keeps washing ashore, it will do more than simply ruin a day at the beach for people trying to beat the heat.

“Little baby hatchlings struggle to get through it,” he said. “The longer they are out there the greater chance they will get exhausted or get picked off by predators.”

Even without having to navigate through deep, tight-knit mounds of sargassum, the odds are against the hatchlings. Only about 1 in 1,000 make it to adulthood, according to the World Wildlife Federation.

Oddly, sargassum is both their curse and their salvation. A clump of sargassum provides them shelter and food as it carries them on their treacherous journey to the open ocean. Recent research spearheaded by scientists at the University of Central Florida suggest the hatchlings are headed to the Sargasso Sea.

The only sea in the world not bordered by land, the 2 million-square-mile area east of Bermuda is a haven for many sea animals, including turtles, who feed off its sargassum until they are old enough to return to land to lay eggs. It is considered a sea because it is ecologically unique from the rest of the Atlantic Ocean and is contained by four massive ocean currents — the Gulf Stream and the North Atlantic, Canary, and North Equatorial currents.

## Turtle nesting up

With more nests along Boca Raton’s five-mile stretch of



**TOP:** A lone beachgoer is dwarfed by the piles of sargassum in late May as he walks along the south jetty wall at the Boca Raton Inlet. **ABOVE:** A sea turtle nest is marked off at South Inlet Park in Boca. If the sargassum gets too deep, hatchlings will find it difficult to reach the ocean. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

beach than in 2012, when the city’s existing records were set, Anderson said he is hoping the inundation of sargassum abates soon. The peak hatching season typically runs from late July to September.

While crews in Delray Beach, Boca Raton and other municipalities, or private landowners along the coast, rake

the seaweed daily, it still piles up, he said.

As of May 21, Anderson’s crews had logged 239 nests, mostly loggerheads. That is up substantially from last year when numbers were down statewide.

Most telling, Anderson said, is that crews had found 41 leatherback nests. In 2012, when

records were set, only 33 were found in the entire season which runs from March 1 to Oct. 31.

Gucker said the counts are similar in Sea Turtle Adventures’ stretch of beach. As of May 21, a whopping 213 nests had been located, she said. As in Boca, the majority are loggerheads.

But, the number of leatherback nests — 43 — has already shattered records, she said. The previous record was set when 19 were found during an entire season, she said.

Highland Beach is also on pace to have a record-breaking year at least for loggerhead and leatherback turtles, said Joanne Ryan, manager of the all-volunteer Highland Beach Sea Turtle Team.

By May 26, the team had logged 232 loggerhead and 18 leatherback nests. At the same time last year, the volunteers had recorded 148 loggerhead and just seven leatherback nests.

Still, she said, the number of green turtle nests is far off the record of 22 that were discovered in 2023. By May 27, only one had been recorded compared to two found last year by the same time.

But, Ryan said, green turtles typically nest later and often

skip a year, which makes predictions difficult.

“This year should be interesting to see what we get,” she said.

## Delray’s numbers down

The exception to the big-year scenario for loggerheads and leatherbacks is Delray Beach. As of the last week in May, city turtle watchers had logged 54 loggerhead and 10 leatherback nests. That is down slightly from the 60 loggerheads and 16 leatherback nests that were recorded last year by the same time.

While the deluge of sargassum is a factor, a bigger reason for the reduced numbers is Delray Beach’s recently completed \$19.2 million beach renourishment project, said Cynthia Buisson, the city’s assistant public works director.

Crews have documented an abnormally high 149 “false crawls,” which means sea turtles approached the beach to nest but turned away. That isn’t unusual after a renourishment project, Buisson said. “Nesting success tends to drop the first year following construction,” she said.

In addition to encountering heavy mats of sargassum, would-be nesting turtles were also faced with a wall of sand that had formed as the new sand settled along the shore. The wall, known as an escarpment, was leveled off in mid-May.

Buisson said she is hopeful that nesting will pick up. “It is still early and things can change,” she said.

But statewide, Delray Beach is an anomaly, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

“The 2026 sea turtle nesting season is officially off and with a strong start!” it wrote in a May 13 Facebook post. “Loggerheads and leatherbacks are both currently outpacing their recent record-breaking years.”

Both Anderson and Gucker said they can only hope that the abundance of nests produces an abundance of hatchlings that make it to the water.

“Obviously, I’m hoping a busy turtle season isn’t paired with a heavy seaweed season,” Gucker said. ★

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Along the Coast

# Taxable values rise as budget preparations begin

By Mary Hladky

All but one southeastern Palm Beach County community saw their property values increase this year — though most performed below the countywide growth percentage.

South Palm Beach's values declined for a second consecutive year.

The county's taxable property values increased by nearly 7% over the past year, according to data released on May 27 by Property Appraiser Dorothy Jacks.

The preliminary estimates, which will be revised at the end of June, show that while the countywide taxable value jump of 6.9% was below the 7.7% increase recorded last year, it still is a healthy rate of growth.

In southeastern Palm Beach County, Briny Breezes led the way with an 11% taxable value increase, followed by Gulf Stream with a 7.7% jump, the only two in the area to outpace the county.

In order of growth, the other municipalities experienced the following increases: Delray Beach 6.9%, Lantana 6.7%, Ocean Ridge 6.3%, Boca

## Communities see increased taxable values

The 2026 preliminary tax roll for Palm Beach County shows rising taxable values — based on higher values for existing properties plus new construction — for all cities and towns except South Palm Beach, which saw its taxable value drop for the second consecutive year.

	2025 Final	2026 Est.	% change
Boca Raton	\$40.1 billion	\$42.5 billion	6.2
Boynton Beach	\$10.5 billion	\$11.0 billion	4.9
Briny Breezes	\$104.7 million	\$116.2 million	11.0
Delray Beach	\$19.6 billion	\$20.9 billion	6.9
Gulf Stream	\$1.9 billion	\$2.0 billion	7.7
Highland Beach	\$4.1 billion	\$4.3 billion	4.1
Lantana	\$2.1 billion	\$2.2 billion	6.7
Manalapan	\$2.4 billion	\$2.5 billion	4.8
Ocean Ridge	\$1.8 billion	\$2.0 billion	6.3
South Palm Beach	\$638.2 million	\$630.3 million	-1.24
Palm Beach County	\$342.2 billion	\$365.7 billion	6.9

SOURCE: Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office

Raton 6.2%, Boynton Beach 4.9%, Manalapan 4.8%, and Highland Beach 4.1%.

South Palm Beach, the only one of the county's 39 municipalities to see its values decrease, posted a 1.24% drop — double last year's 0.62% decline. The year before that, the town posted a 10% increase.

Jacks said the county's overall increase was assisted by almost 4,000 new residential units — including single-

family homes, condominiums and townhomes — added to the tax roll.

"Somewhat similarly to 2025, we are seeing value increases focused in the new construction space, particularly in new residential construction," Jacks said.

Last year, a total of 2,700 single-family homes and 22 new apartment complexes were added to the tax roll for a gain of 3,773 units.

Taxable values dropped

countywide after the 2008 economic crash, but recovery started in 2013. Since then, taxable values have gained every year.

Of the county's municipalities, Boca Raton continues to have the highest taxable value, at \$42.5 billion, followed by Palm Beach's \$37.5 billion.

Taxable value increases are welcome news for municipal leaders as they work to finalize their budgets for the new fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Local governments use taxable values to calculate how much property tax money they can expect. They then set annual budgets and tax rates.

An increase in taxable value means they will collect more money from property owners even if they keep their tax rate the same as the previous year.

Unless governments lower their tax rate, homeowners will face higher property tax bills at a time when inflation and rising interest rates are straining family budgets.

To prevent a tax increase entirely, elected officials would have to use the "rolled-back" rate, which state law requires them to calculate. That rate would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as the previous year, not counting any taxes that come from new construction.

Municipalities rarely go to the rolled-back rate because of their rising costs. For example, Boca Raton usually lowers its tax rate by a minuscule amount, which allows city leaders to say they have cut the

rate while the city still benefits from increased tax revenue.

Homeowners with homesteaded properties, however, don't feel the full impact of rising values because state law caps the taxable value increase to 3%. Non-homesteaded properties are capped at 10%.

Taxable value numbers are based on market conditions as of Jan. 1, so they do not reflect any changes in 2026. They will be submitted to the Florida Department of Revenue once finalized at the end of June. Local governments set their property tax rates in September.

But there's a wild card this year that could reduce the amount of revenue governments can collect from homeowners in the future.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has said he would like to see property taxes eliminated for almost all homesteaded properties.

State lawmakers on June 2 passed his initiative calling for a November ballot measure to amend the state constitution to allow the legislature to reduce property taxes on a large portion of homesteaded properties through property tax exemptions.

The potential for a massive revenue loss is deeply concerning to local officials who are expected by residents to provide a host of services ranging from running water and maintaining parks to providing public safety. ★

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## Highland Beach

# Town's coastal construction rules found to be tighter than state's

Newly discovered provision — never enforced — blocks development east of A1A

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach town leaders are hoping to find a fix to ensure that a long-undiscovered clause tucked inside its sea wall restrictions doesn't torpedo oceanfront property owners' ability to build on their land.

Town Manager Marshall Labadie said that the town's Building Department recently discovered a provision in the sea wall ordinance that prohibits development east of what is known as the state's Coastal Construction Control Line.

That boundary line, designed in large part to protect the sand dune, was established in Palm Beach County in 1978 and revised in 1997.

Because the ban on construction east of the line wasn't known, Highland Beach has been giving homeowners the green light to build within the restricted area.

"We as a town have been allowing it for 50 years," Labadie said.

One reason for that, he said, is that the Florida Department of Environment Protection has been issuing permits for home construction east of the control line.

"We've deferred to state," Labadie said. "The state has allowed it pending review



The Coastal Construction Control Line (in orange) is located between A1A and homes whose property lines are shown (in yellow) — and extend (to red line) into the ocean. A Highland Beach regulation bans such construction, but officials didn't know the rule existed. **Map provided by Highland Beach**

of site conditions."

In addition to dealing with the prohibition of development east of the Coastal Construction Control Line, the town is planning to address a zoning issue that requires a 120-foot setback from a beachfront property's vegetation line or eastern property line unless there is a sea wall.

With a sea wall, that setback requirement is just 50 feet from the

eastern property line or the vegetation line. But the state has been reluctant to allow new sea walls.

The result, town officials say, is that an oceanfront home built in compliance with the 120-foot setback would likely end up within the State Road A1A right of way, if not onto the roadway itself.

A third issue involves the elevation of construction on oceanfront property. The state requires homes that do not have

a sea wall to sit at least a foot above the base flood elevation, which is usually 12 to 14 feet above the average ocean level.

To meet that requirement and also have underground-level parking, some property owners would be required to have an incline that could be too steep to be functional.

The state does allow for a lower elevation of parking facilities if there is a sea wall or if there are what's known as breakaway walls stretching along the entire perimeter of the structure below the base flood elevation.

Again, however, the state is reluctant to permit sea walls, meaning breakaway walls are the most likely solution.

Those breakaway walls, Labadie said, would collapse and could cause a problem with storm surge during a hurricane, causing ocean water to flood A1A and possibly buildings on the west side of the highway.

"We would prefer a sea wall or building above the base flood elevation," he said.

Labadie said the town is hoping to find solutions that will provide protection to the dune and help maintain its stability while at the same time not interfering with an owner's or developer's property rights.

The Town Commission is asking the town's planning board to address the first two issues quickly and take a hard look at the breakaway walls issue. ★

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# Manalapan

## Living sea wall and shoreline projects get commission's attention

By Larry Barszewski

Manalapan officials are intrigued by new environmentally friendly technologies being used in sea wall creation and shoreline protection, but they know it will be up to town residents to decide whether to have them installed on their properties.

Representatives from Miami-based Kind Designs made a presentation to commissioners at their May 12 meeting about the living sea wall and offshore wave attenuation devices their company produces that can foster an environmentally improved Intracoastal Waterway and impede the erosion of shorelines.

But in a town where all the beaches are private, the town doesn't own any sea walls, either.

Instead, the town is looking to publicize the benefits of the products that are out there and potentially create incentives for property owners to consider those more environmentally friendly products.

"The town is kind of an intermediary in this situation," Town Manager Eric Marmer said during a May 27 interview. "We did some exploration. This is just one company. ... They make things that help mitigate some of the risk that the town faces."

Those risks come from seasonal king tides impacting properties along the Intracoastal and from passing storms that pound the coastline and erode beaches.

Unlike the ubiquitous smooth sea walls that have been built historically, Kind Designs and other manufacturers promote walls with caves and crevices —

or specialty tiles with the same features that can be attached to existing sea walls. They promote growth of oysters and other sea life, or can include mangrove plantings.

The idea behind living sea walls is to repopulate the Intracoastal with organisms that will filter the water and begin to turn it from murky brown into a clearer shade of blue — while also protecting properties from rising seas and growing king tides.

Living shorelines, on the other hand, seek to protect the coastline. Kind Designs uses 3D printing to create structures that can be placed offshore and promote reef-like coastal environments while also protecting nearby beaches.

"With 3D printing, we're able to create any shapes, sizes,"

Kendall Jaquez of Kind Designs told commissioners. "It's pretty easy to install as well."

At the May 12 meeting, Mayor John Deese, who called in from a cruise off the coast of Africa, suggested the town hold a public meeting for residents on the subject, maybe at the town library.

Marmer said an information session will probably be held in the fall, going over the opportunities that are out there. Manalapan isn't the only coastal South County municipality taking a deeper dive into the living sea wall and living shoreline opportunities.

Presentations have been made on the subject recently to commissions in Ocean Ridge and Boynton Beach, and other communities have explored the subject as well. ★

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# Boca Raton

## Suspect claims self-defense in 2024 double-murder at A1A hotel

By Jane Musgrave

A 32-year-old Boynton Beach man is claiming he was acting in self-defense when he fatally shot two people outside a Boca Raton hotel in 2024 and is asking a judge to throw out double first-degree murder charges he is facing.

De’Vante Lashawn Moss, who was arrested in Georgia a day after Chandler Dill and Christopher Liszak were found dead outside the 365 Ocean extended stay hotel, claims his actions were justified under the state’s Stand Your Ground law.

Fearing for his life, Moss said he shot Dill and Liszak rather than be shot himself, according to papers filed in Palm Beach County Circuit Court. The 2005 law allows people to use deadly force, rather than retreat, if they have a reasonable belief that their



De’Vante Lashawn Moss is charged with two counts of first-degree murder, attempted murder and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Jane Musgrave/The Coastal Star

lives are endangered.

At a hearing on May 18, Circuit Judge Scott Suskauer said he had lingering concerns about granting Moss’ request.

The law says that people who are committing a crime aren’t allowed to seek immunity from prosecution, the judge said.

While Moss’ attorneys

say that he came to the hotel to pay \$100 to have sex with the 32-year-old Dill, who advertised her services as an escort, Suskauer said there is no evidence that the two had sex. In court papers, Moss’ defense attorneys said that they did.

Still, Suskauer said, while Moss can’t be accused of violating the state’s prostitution laws, other factors could spur him to reject the request.

Assistant State Attorney Chrichet Mixon said the dispute was triggered when Moss grabbed Dill’s purse from her hotel room and ran to his car. That’s robbery, she told Suskauer.

However, Assistant Public Defender Stephanie Gagerie said Moss grabbed Dill’s purse because she had stuffed a bag of illicit drugs she stole from Moss in her pocketbook and he

wanted them back.

Further complicating matters is that Moss in 2022 pleaded guilty in federal court to a charge of distribution of fentanyl and was placed on probation for two years. As a convicted felon, he was prohibited from having a gun. That, too, could be sufficient to reject Moss’ request.

However Gagerie said courts have ruled that even those engaged in criminal acts are entitled to immunity. The key, she said, is whether they could safely escape. Moss couldn’t, she said.

Suskauer said he would make his decision after Mixon and Gagerie in mid-June file legal papers, laying out their opposing views.

The chaos that surrounded the Sept. 20, 2024, shooting was captured on video cameras at the hotel, which is on State Road A1A north of Palmetto Park Road.

Edited snippets reviewed by Suskauer showed Moss running through the parking lot with a black purse and Dill running after him.

Another man, Tuan Duy Hoang Ho, sees the struggle and comes to help Dill. Shortly after, Liszak walks out of a room he rented next to Dill’s and joins the melee.

In court papers, Gagerie said that Moss was only trying to retrieve his drugs and leave. But, she said, Ho indicated he had a gun and threatened to kill Moss. So, Moss grabbed a gun from the passenger side of his car and got into the driver’s seat.

Moss couldn’t close the driver’s side door because Liszak was holding it open while Dill continued to attack him, Gagerie said. Moss tried to drive away, but the automatic brakes on the silver 2017 Jaguar engaged.

Realizing the car wasn’t going to move, Ho opened the passenger-side door, holding a gun, Gagerie said.

Convinced he was going to get shot, Moss jumped out of the car and began shooting. Dill, who was shot in the neck, arm and back, and Liszak, who was shot in the chest, died in the parking lot.

In a report, Boca Raton police Detective Dale Graham said the video shows that Ho managed to get away from the car. Moss followed him, shooting him once, and while an injured Ho sat on the ground with his arms raised, Moss shot him again. Ho survived.

In addition to two counts of first-degree murder, Moss is charged with attempted murder and being a felon in possession of a firearm. If convicted, he faces a possible life sentence. A trial is months away. ★



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## HOMELESS

Continued from page 1

homes in Sanborn Square, Wildflower Park or Silver Palm Park — oftentimes including individuals with mental health or substance abuse issues.

“People are afraid to go to the parks because they’re constantly being accosted by the homeless,” he says. “There’s a huge fear factor and people don’t want to be near them because they don’t know what to expect.”

Homeless people like 42-year-old Billy, who has been unhoused in Boca Raton for 20 years, are essentially flying under the radar. But now, Gromann says, something needs to be done.

“The homeless issue is out of control,” he says. “Part of the problem is because the city hasn’t previously implemented a plan to address it.”

That appears to be changing as the new city manager, Mark Sohaney, has stepped in to take on an issue that some advocates for those without real homes say has been essentially swept under the rug for years.

“We haven’t been all in, even saying we have a homeless issue in Boca,” says Gena Vallee, the director of outreach at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church who runs the church’s Meals with Meaning Program. “Now the mayor and the city manager are identifying that we have a real concern that needs to be addressed.”

Recognizing that there is a problem is one thing. Finding solutions, as Sohaney is realizing, is quite another.

“The goal is to protect the citizens from being harassed, accosted and threatened in public spaces,” says Gromann, a former chair of the city’s Downtown Boca Raton Advisory Committee and a former Planning and Zoning Board member who has lived in the city for 35 years.

Those familiar with the homeless issues say city-driven solutions could involve creating a task force of members with diverse interests, increasing contact with the homeless through designated civilian advocates, and identifying those who might have ties to other areas they’d like to get back to. The city could also enforce rules designed to keep city parks and streets a pleasant experience for all, while determining if additional financial resources are needed.

### Homeless in Boca Raton

Boca Raton’s core homeless population is estimated by those who provide services to be fewer than 100 people. Among them are tight-knit groups with members who look after one another, who communicate with one another, frequently letting each other know what park they might be in at a certain time.

Although there are some who will come to Boca Raton for a short while, the population appears to remain steady.

Andrew Hagen, the CEO of Boca Helping Hands, which provides hot meals to homeless



As the primary venue for the weekly Changing Lives initiative, First United Methodist Church in Boca Raton provides essential resources such as hot showers, clean clothing, toiletries, meals and haircuts, mostly to the homeless. **ABOVE:** People browse the selection of clothes. **BELOW:** Changing Lives volunteer ‘Coach Nile’ gives a haircut to Dee Wills. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

and others six days a week, says that the organization serves between 85 and 120 meals a day to a constant group of people, some of whom have been coming for years.

“The concern in the community is not in numbers but in perception,” he says. “It’s not that there are more people, it’s that we’re seeing them in public parks.”

During a recent City Council meeting, one resident expressed concerns about the number of homeless people she sees near downtown.

“There are homeless people everywhere, everywhere,” Paige Hunter said. “It’s completely unacceptable.”

Those who are homeless understand the perception but don’t agree with it.

“People think that the homeless are going to hurt them, but they’re not,” says Billy, who has been here so long he even had “BOCA” tattooed on his arm. He says he likes being on the streets, though he also says he’s hoping to get into a shelter.

Another common misperception is that those without a home in the city are penniless. That may be the case for quite a few, but others receive veterans benefits or Social Security benefits or even a pension, thanks in part to efforts of nonprofit organizations that help them access those benefits.

While mental health and substance abuse issues do exist among some who live without four walls, others say they fell on hard times after the death of a parent or loved one and have no family left to help them.

Members of the homeless community will also tell you that they don’t want homeless bad actors in Boca Raton any more than other residents do and will call the police on them or find other ways to drive them out.

When homeless folks from Broward or Miami-Dade counties or even West Palm Beach make their way to Boca Raton, those who provide



services will help connect them back to agencies in the areas where they’ve been living.

“When someone is in need, how can you turn them away,” says Jerry Pagan, the executive director of Changing Lives, a nonprofit founded by local real estate leader and the largest commercial property owner downtown, James Batmasian. Changing Lives provides a wide range of services and runs the Saturday program at the First United Methodist Church.

Pagan says he will find out who has been serving the person and will make sure they are in contact, so the service can be provided in the person’s own community. “We try to be a bridge,” he says.

### Policing alone won’t work

In the short term, the city has taken steps to limit adverse activity in Boca Raton parks, including adopting a trespassing ordinance and bringing the park rangers under the Police Department.

Some who are homeless say they are rousted out of the parks by police after 11 p.m. and forced to find other places to sleep — places generally where they won’t be easily seen.

The city will implement a process to enforce the trespassing ordinance, which is now proclaimed on signs at six parks, within a few weeks, according to Sohaney.

For his part, Gromann thinks putting fences around some parks would also help.

During brief comments at the May 26 City Council meeting,

Sohaney acknowledged that an enforcement effort alone is not the solution.

“This is a very complex problem,” he said. “We can’t police our way out of it; we can’t arrest our way out of this. This is going to take an entire community effort and a community initiative to understand how to manage the homeless population in Boca Raton. ...

“It’s a lot more than the city can do,” he said. “It requires everybody in the city to come together.”

### Delray Beach model

In his quest for a long-term solution, Sohaney has visited Delray Beach, which has been somewhat successful in managing homeless-related issues. Its Police Department program, which includes a community outreach team, is seen as a model for others, while a coordinated community effort — the Delray Beach Initiative to End Homelessness — has led to increased services.

Police Chief Darrell Hunter says the key to Delray Beach’s success has been a strong buy-in throughout the community and the coordinated effort that comes as a result.

“While there is no single ‘secret sauce,’ I do believe our success comes from strong collaboration between the Police Department, city leadership, social service providers and community partners,” he says. “Equally important is having intentional buy-in and support from the police chief

and city leadership to ensure these efforts remain a priority and are approached with both accountability and compassion.”

The Police Department’s community outreach team, which includes Service Population Advocate Manager Ariana Ciancio, reaches out to members of the homeless community on a daily basis to help provide services if needed.

“They know there are people in the department who care about them,” Hunter says.

Ciancio, a civilian, manages a team that includes another population advocate and a paid intern. Also part of the outreach team are three police officers who report to a sergeant assigned to the team.

While working with homeless people is a large part of the team’s responsibility, it also focuses on mental health issues, substance abuse issues and homelessness prevention.

Hunter says that his goal is to continue to grow the unit to address increasing needs.

“This city has made a commitment,” he says. “It takes money, it takes time and it takes resources.”

### Boca model emerging

The Boca Raton Police Department, like Delray Beach’s, has officers assigned to work with homeless — two officers currently — and members of the homeless community know they can reach those officers to help connect them to services.

The department does not yet have a civilian assigned to help the homeless but that may be something Sohaney will address.

Recently, Hagen from Boca Helping Hands, Pagan from Changing Lives and Vallee from Meals with Meaning have been getting together with members of the Police Department in what may be the genesis of a larger coordinated effort similar to the Delray Beach task force’s structure.

“We’re looking at a low-key approach with a cooperative spirit,” Hagen says. “Each of us knows what we can offer.”

Pagan sees the effort moving in the right direction.

“We’re coming together to be better equipped to help these individuals and be on the same page,” he says.

Vallee, who is hoping a task force will be formed, believes a focus on three areas — housing, financial education and long-term mental health care — will go a long way in helping those in the homeless community.

“If the city can pull us together, then I think the solution to less homelessness in Boca Raton is near,” she says.

Mayor Andy Thomson also provides some hope to those who are optimistic that Boca Raton’s issues with homelessness are coming out of the shadows.

“The situation as it addresses homelessness is a tricky one,” he says. “But we’re working with our nearby partners and regional partners to make sure we address it.” ★

## South Palm Beach

# Council approves start of Town Hall repairs

By Brian Biggane

Acknowledging that its Town Hall has been deteriorating in recent years amid anticipation of a new building to replace it, the South Palm Beach Town Council authorized Town Manager Jamie Titcomb to begin the repair and renovation process as soon as possible.

After the May 12 council meeting, however, Council member Sandy Beckett reiterated her concern that the decision not to move forward on a new structure ignores the future wants and needs of residents.

Titcomb and Town Attorney Gemma Torcivia informed the council at the start of discussion on the topic that, while only just over \$487,000 can be spent on renovations without also requiring the decades-old Town Hall to

undergo the costly work of coming into compliance with all existing code and construction regulations, the proposed repairs would not count against that figure.

Titcomb presented a list of 10 items that would fall under that category, with the most pressing and expensive being a new metal roof that he estimates will cost \$125,000. Also on the list are turning four bathrooms into three ADA-compliant bathrooms (\$60,000 to \$75,000) and replacing a metal fire stairway and railings (\$19,000 to \$25,000).

Other needed improvements include painting both the exterior and interior; replacing carpet and tile; addressing the unused front garage “knee wall”; removing a “lean-to” on the north side of the maintenance office; replacing two fire exit doors; putting in

new landscaping; and repaving the parking lot. No estimates were given for any of those projects.

Council members joined Titcomb for a walk-through of the building a week before the meeting and determined repairs need to be made — and soon.

“The bathroom looked apocalyptic, like the urinal was disgusting,” Vice Mayor Fran Attardi said. “It looked like it hadn’t been cleaned in like 1,000 years. It was crazy.”

Having said that, Attardi expressed confidence the repairs and improvements can make a significant difference.

“I see the building will be beautiful. Like you said, the bones are there in this building.”

That reference was to a comment Mayor Rafael Pineiro made about the last engineering

study done in 2018 that said the building had “good bones,” meaning it was structurally sound. Of course, as Beckett pointed out, that was eight years ago and whatever repairs were needed since were mostly ignored as previous councils worked toward a new building.

“Just because it’s old doesn’t mean it’s falling apart, but as people have said, it doesn’t meet our needs,” Beckett said. She, along with Council member Ray McMillan, were members of the previous council that had been on the verge of soliciting contractor bids before three of its members were voted out of office in March, giving Pineiro and his allies the power to change direction.

“Whether they are legitimate needs or not, our town wanted more exercise space, space where we could have different events going on at the same time,” Beckett added. “Not where you have to cancel one to have another.”

“What really discourages me is that it’s almost like the previous council wasn’t working, whether anybody was paying attention. If you weren’t coming to meetings, if

you didn’t look at the website, if you weren’t reading *The Coastal Star* and you didn’t know what was going on.”

Pineiro, who based much of his campaign for mayor on refurbishing and restoring the current building as opposed to building a new one, was the council member who made the motion and it passed 5-0.

Titcomb said he planned on getting to work on the fixes immediately but reminded the council that his financial limit to approve a contract is just \$25,000, meaning he will have to wait until monthly council meetings to get most of the work approved. He also pointed out the estimate for all the improvements mentioned in the 2018 study was in the \$2 million to \$4 million range.

Titcomb also said he expects Mock Roos, the company contracted to build the new lift station, to present an updated status report on the project at the June 9 council meeting. He said efforts are underway to secure help from both national and local government agencies to help defray the estimated \$4 million to \$5 million cost. ★

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## South Palm Beach News

**Sunshine Law update** — South Palm Beach Town Attorney Gemma Torcivia delivered a lengthy but necessary annual update on the Sunshine Law, which requires almost all meetings of public bodies to be open, with notice given to the public. Key requirements of the law include open meetings, reasonable notice and no binding actions taken unless done in public.

**Budget on the agenda** — The arrival of summer means budget hearings can’t be far behind. The council agreed to hold a budget workshop on Aug. 10, followed by the first budget hearing on Sept. 8 and the final budget hearing on Sept. 14.

**Beckett volunteers for post** — The town needed a representative on the Palm Beach County Issues Forum and got a volunteer for the job when Council member Sandy Beckett offered her services. Beckett said her interest was piqued when the forum was asked to address transportation issues in the county.

**Edmunds contract passes** — Darrin Love, regional sales director for Edmunds GovTech, made a presentation offering the town his company’s services for a cloud-based accounting software, after which the council approved the long-discussed move for \$41,800 per year. Town Manager Jamie Titcomb said the town had been in discussions with Edmunds for years and the move was a step up from its previous accounting model.

**Council appointments** — Bernadette Schultz was appointed to the Community Affairs Advisory Board and Eric Schultz to the Architectural Review Board. The council also voted to dissolve the Code Enforcement Board and continue the use of a special magistrate, which has been Town Attorney Gemma Torcivia, to rule on code issues.

— Brian Biggane



Dr. Sally Hamarnah

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SCAN ME

## Manalapan News

**Shark fishing from shore restricted** — Manalapan town commissioners passed a new ordinance — designed to reduce shark fishing from shore — that prohibits fishing activities that “may endanger the health and safety of swimmers or other beachgoers.”

While the state preempts local governments from regulating saltwater fishing, Manalapan officials went after the activities that attract sharks, such as chumming or blood baiting, because of the safety risk the sharks would pose to people in the water. They expect the ordinance to stand up legally because it ties the restrictions to health, safety and welfare concerns — not to fishing itself.

Delray Beach, Boca Raton and Palm Beach also have targeted restrictions seeking to limit shark-attracting activities while attempting to stay within the boundaries of what the state will allow. The Manalapan commission approved the ordinance at its May 12 meeting.

**Dancing the night away** — People looking to beef up their moves on the ballroom dance floor will be able to get their lessons in Manalapan if they want. The Town Commission on May 12 approved allowing a Fred Astaire Dance Studio at the Plaza del Mar shopping center.

While some commissioners questioned if noise from the dance studio could affect nearby businesses and offices, town officials said those concerns were for the center’s management to consider when leasing the space, not the town.

The dance studio will take the place of a former dry cleaner at the plaza. A special exception was needed because a dance studio is not among the permitted businesses at the center.

**Road-widening moving forward** — The town is preparing to widen a portion of Lands End Road to improve safety there.

The stretch, near Audubon Road, is narrower than the rest of the street and can create bottlenecks, Town Manager Eric Marmer said. While Marmer said he was unaware of any reported accidents, officials have heard of close calls, including some involving bicyclists.

The project, which will cost about \$30,000, is expected to take place before the end of June and should take three to five days at most to complete, Marmer said. Residents will be notified ahead of the work, he said.

Meanwhile, officials are still finalizing the details of the new guardhouse on Lands End Road and hope to begin construction before the end of the summer. Final commission approval will be needed once the construction plans are finalized.

**Manalapan’s own ZIP code?** — Marmer said he will give it the old college try, but he’s making no promises regarding the commission’s desire for Manalapan to get its own personal ZIP code.

The town’s 33462 ZIP code typically carries the designation of Lantana or Lake Worth and is shared with Hypoluxo and Atlantis, too. Commissioners said the Lake Worth or Lantana designation might pop up at the FedEx office or when getting a driver’s license, causing confusion, but they also admitted it seems everyone in town is getting the mail and deliveries coming to them.

**Septic-to-sewer grants and loans sought** — The town has applied for low-rate funding through the State Revolving Loan Fund to reduce the cost of its planned conversion from septic tanks to sewers. It is also applying for state grants to cover some of the cost, which is expected to run between \$14 million and \$16 million, Marmer said. Though it could be a half-year or more before the town learns if it will receive any grants or low-rate loans, he told commissioners the project could realistically start in about a year.

— Larry Barszewski



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## 10 Questions

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Elizabeth Koldyke Boolbol

After raising her family, Elizabeth Koldyke Boolbol turned her attention toward helping others, specifically female survivors of human trafficking.

She had seen the “devastating and awful” effects of child trafficking during her international mission trips, which she said made her aware of a growing industry in places like Cambodia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

Originally, she assumed that child trafficking only happened abroad, but through her studies and reading the work of Nicholas Kristof, she learned that women and girls were disappearing and being trafficked domestically through online mechanisms. Also through Kristof, she learned about Thistle Farms, a Nashville, Tennessee, organization founded by Becca Stevens that addresses the needs of these women.

Inspired after spending some time at Thistle Farms, Boolbol decided to create a nonprofit that replicated the Thistle Farms model. It included a residential home where survivors could live for two years and receive resources that they needed, as well as job training.

Following her Thistle Farms visits 11 years ago, Boolbol, who lives in Delray Beach and has homes in Manhattan and in Greenwich, Connecticut, began laying the groundwork to create a similar organization, focusing first on fundraising and educating others in her community about domestic human trafficking.

In 2016, Boolbol founded her nonprofit, Partnership to End Human Trafficking. She and her team opened a drop-in center offering food and hygiene products in Bridgeport in 2019 and in 2021, they launched their Bridgeport residential house followed by the Greater Hartford house in 2024. Currently, nine women survivors are living in these two homes.

In addition to receiving a place to live and services for two years, the women develop work skills by creating products for sale through Partnership to End Human Trafficking’s shop. In May, the organization purchased a highly regarded gourmet specialty food shop and caterer, The Pantry in Fairfield Connecticut, for additional revenue for the nonprofit and to serve as job training.

“Becca realized early on that if Thistle Farms only offered residential protection and programming and recovery, after 24 months the women had no economic independence, no skill set and no ability to find a job,” Boolbol said. “These women typically have not gone to college or (finished) high school, and they often have criminal records, so it’s very



Delray Beach seasonal resident Elizabeth Koldyke Boolbol, pictured with Stella, is the founder of Partnership to End Human Trafficking, which seeks to help women recover from the trauma of human trafficking. She established the organization in 2016 in the Northeast and is working to expand its programs to South Florida. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

hard for them to find employment. So, they’ll go right back to sex trafficking. Becca realized that in order to give them a chance, they had to be economically independent.”

This year, Partnership to End Human Trafficking (peht.org) marks its 10th anniversary. Since 2020, more than 110 survivors, women ages 22 through 60, have gone through the program. Additionally, other women have received assistance in the way of emergency hotel housing and legal aid through the nonprofit’s community outreach program.

Boolbol, 61, eventually plans to expand her program to South Florida. “Human trafficking is happening in every single state in the union. Florida is the third-worst state for sex trafficking in the country, so Florida has a real problem,” she said.

“We’d love to bring our model here. But it’s one of those things that takes time. You have to meet the stakeholders, understand the need and understand if your model would fit.” Already she has offered educational events, with more to come next season.

“In South Florida, we plan to host an event for parents to learn about the dangers of online exploitation and recruitment. Parents really need to be vigilant about what their kids are doing online, because there’s so many avenues for traffickers to find their children online, and parents don’t even know that’s happening,”

Boolbol said.

While trafficking victims tend to be vulnerable to manipulation, there is no real profile for the traffickers, she said. “There is something called the ‘pimp bible’ that’s passed around in prisons to educate people on how to identify vulnerable women. It’s kind of a how-to road map, because weapons trafficking and drug trafficking are not as profitable; they have to buy weapons and drugs (to sell). They don’t really have to buy the women, they can just manipulate them.”

Boolbol is married to Robert. Their children are Lukens and Jackson, both 26, Jesse Katherine, 24, and Rebecca, 22.

— 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 the North Shore suburbs of Chicago. Growing up in the Midwest in a small town definitely made me appreciate values related to family and the importance of lifelong friendships. I attended Dartmouth College and because of its remote location in the mountains of New Hampshire and its intimate size, friendships forged there have stood the test of time. I have a deep appreciation for nature and animals, which was deepened living and studying in such a beautiful setting.

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

proud of?

**A.** I have worked in business development and marketing and for a few years worked in film/television production. I received a local Emmy award for a TV pilot project that I am very proud of. As a liberal arts graduate, I knew I wanted to pursue creativity in my professional life, and growing businesses through innovative marketing and branding allowed me to foster that creativity. I had always loved storytelling so my move to Hollywood felt organic.

The pilot show explored the themes of teenage development, centered around teen pregnancy and the complex issues around it. I worked at Hill & Knowlton Public Relations; The Levy Organization; Eagle River Interactive.

Ten years ago, I founded The Partnership to End Human Trafficking and we have supported hundreds of survivors of sex trafficking and helped them rebuild their lives through our 24-month residential program, community outreach and our social enterprise. It is my life’s work and I love it.

When I had my children and chose to be a stay-at-home parent, I became active in philanthropy and with my church. Through my work with World Vision I learned that sex trafficking of children as well as adult women is a pervasive and growing issue in the U.S., which rocked my world and I decided I needed to do something.

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

**A.** Focus on what you love, not what will earn you greatest financial reward. I love the quote, “Do what you love, and you won’t work a day in your life.” That is an overstatement, but I do believe it rings true.

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

**A.** I absolutely adore Delray Beach. We can walk to everything and the beach is magnificent. I try and walk to the beach most days and have to pinch myself that I can live here. The laid-back culture is incredible and when my kids come down, they have so much fun at all the fantastic night spots!

My grandfather Carlton Blunt came to Boynton Beach in the mid-1950s and I have been coming to the area my whole life. During COVID-19, I decided to establish roots in Delray Beach, so I am here six months a year and in Connecticut and New York City the rest of the year.

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

**A.** The people! I think the culture is just perfect. People are genuine and care about the town. There is commitment to quality of life and maintaining what makes Delray so unique.

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

**A.** *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak.

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

**A.** I often listen to worship music when I am in need of inspiration and relaxation.

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

**A.** “... To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

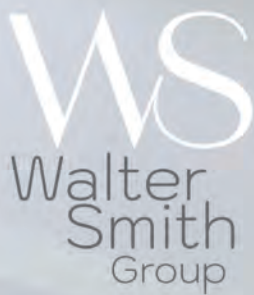
**Q.** Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?

**A.** For sure my parents, Mike and Patricia Koldyke. Their commitment to elevating those less fortunate has been an enormous influence on me and my work. My parents founded two organizations that have profoundly impacted the quality of education in Chicago where they lived.

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

**A.** Emily Blunt. She’s funny and I love her relationship with her husband — they seem to really enjoy themselves — and she has a range in her performances that I admire.

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## Boynton Beach

# New food concession approved at beach park: It's 'Dope'

By Larry Barszewski

A snack bar with a fresh take on vegan dishes — along with more traditional meat fare — is coming to Boynton Beach's Oceanfront Park.

Dope Vegan, a 5-year-old West Palm Beach food truck startup on Military Trail that specializes in plant-based menu items, has been awarded a lease for the concession stand at the beach park, which has been without a food service provider for three years.

Company officials said they hope to be open for business in late June or July. The Boynton Beach City Commission approved a four-year lease with the possibility of a four-year renewal.

While commissioners

approved the contract at their May 5 meeting, the concession's name made them uneasy.

"Dope" can mean "excellent," like the vendor intended, or it could be confused with drugs, a potential image problem at the city-owned park, 6415 N. Ocean Blvd., near Ocean Ridge. Nor did Vice Mayor Thomas Turkin think it was a great idea to have "vegan" in the name, either. He said it might alienate would-be customers who have a negative view about meatless meals — especially since meat items will be on the menu — before they even have a chance to explore the options.

"I think it's important that first impressions are done in a way that doesn't deter anybody," said Turkin, who acknowledged his own surprise when trying

some of Dope Vegan's fare at the Taste of Boynton Beach on April 18. "I'll be the first critic of vegan food, but when we tried it, it was absolutely amazing."

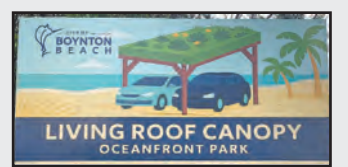
The company, which is building a following and often goes by just DV, agreed to use an alternate name, DV at the Beach, which pleased commissioners.

Commissioner Mack McCray still needed to be sold on the menu.

"Explain to me, more or less, about this Dope Burger. I'm just saying, you know, it's supposed to be friendly for families," McCray said. "Tell me what it is because, I'm just saying, because it's kind of a turnoff for me."

Rhona Nain, the company's CEO and one of its founders, tried to explain the appeal of the plant-based dish — even for those who might like meat in their burgers. She said most of her customers are not vegans or vegetarians.

"Our Dope Burger is basically, it's a vibe," Nain told commissioners. "It's our most popular, signature burger. It has vegan bacon; it has lettuce, tomatoes, caramelized onions — just about everything you can think of when you think of a traditional burger that you just want to indulge in. That's what we do at Dope Vegan. It's all about the flavor." ★



### Park's canopy changing

In addition to having a new concession provider, Boynton Beach's Oceanfront Park is getting a new 'living roof canopy' in its parking lot. The solar panels that previously provided shade to some of the beach parking spaces are being replaced with living 'green roofs' that reduce heat and improve stormwater management. The new material is expected to increase the canopy's lifespan, the city says.

## Lantana

# Sea wall grant could help fund Sportsman's Park improvements

By Patrick Sherry

The town of Lantana is hoping to get grant assistance for sea wall improvements at Sportsman's Park.

The Town Council passed a resolution May 11 authorizing staff to apply for grant money under the Florida Inland Navigation District Waterways Assistance Program. If approved, the grant would cover half of the estimated \$300,000

cost of designing the new sea wall and improvements at the site.

"Should the application be approved, I intend to apply for the construction phase of the sea wall project next year, following the completion of the design," said Vanessa Holloway, the town's contract and grants administrator.

The project is part of ongoing efforts to address flooding and sea level rise along Ocean

Avenue. Town officials used the same grant program to fund part of the sea wall improvements at Bicentennial Park. They are considering raising the existing sea wall or building a new one in front of it with a raised cap.

"It won't alleviate the flooding entirely, but this would be the first step to mitigating it and helping with the flooding in that area," Holloway said. ★

## Along the Coast

# Two apparent drownings occur during Memorial Day weekend

By Larry Barszewski

The Memorial Day weekend ended with two apparent ocean drownings, in Manalapan and in South Palm Beach, according to law enforcement officers.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office and Palm Beach County

Fire Rescue responded to a possible drowning of a juvenile in South Palm Beach near the Lantana public beach around 7:30 p.m. May 24.

"Upon arrival, they located a juvenile unresponsive after being pulled from the water by a good Samaritan," according

to the sheriff's office. "The investigation established the juvenile was not a strong swimmer and was at the beach with his family. After being in the water for a short time, he began to struggle and was not able to stay afloat when a good Samaritan pulled him from the water and brought him to shore."

The juvenile was taken to St. Mary's Hospital and was pronounced dead at 8:44 p.m., officials said. The case remains open pending an autopsy.

On Memorial Day, May 25, Manalapan police and other agencies responded around 1 p.m. to a possible drowning near the Boynton Inlet in the 4000 block of South Ocean Boulevard. An officer at the beach had called in the report of a male not breathing.

Two juveniles told police they saw a man floating motionless in the ocean, so they jumped in from the pier and brought him to shore. Police performed CPR at the scene and Boynton Beach Fire Rescue transported him to Bethesda Hospital East, where he was pronounced dead.

The man, who had gone to Ocean Inlet Park, was identified as Shawn Whitley Duncan. The case remains open pending an autopsy. ★

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## Obituaries

### Willard George Kramer Jr.

DELRAY BEACH — Willard George Kramer Jr., cherished by family and friends for a lifetime of kindness and generosity, died April 30. He was 96.



Mr. Kramer was a former member of Delray Dunes. He was also a member of the Delray Beach Club and The Little Club. He will be remembered for his dedication to his family, friends, Trinity Lutheran Church and especially to Bethesda Hospital.

He was born on Oct. 2, 1929, to Willard George Kramer Sr. and Olive Kramer. He was a standout baseball and football player in high school and joined the U.S. Army in 1947.

After his military service, he went to Grove City College, where he earned his CPA and met and married Nora Mae Martin.

He later joined the Price Waterhouse firm and rose to be the head partner in Detroit. He was a member of the Detroit Athletic Club, Country Club of Detroit and Lochmoor Country Club. He was on many boards including of Bon Secours Hospital and the Detroit Chamber of Commerce.

After Nora Kramer's death, he met and married Phyllis Spinner. Their love affair included family cruises, summers in Stowe, Vermont, many dinners and dances at their beloved Delray Beach Club, and nights cooking out on their patio overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway.

Mr. Kramer also was preceded in death by his son Michael Kramer.

He is survived by his wife Phyllis, his daughter Patricia Harris, daughter-in-law Susan Lorenger, grandchildren Ryan Kramer, Stephanie Sikora, Patricia Grant, Brian Harris and Rachel Harris, and 13 great-grandchildren. He leaves behind a legacy of love and integrity, as well as the joy he brought to those around him.

Funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mr. Kramer's name to the charity of the reader's choice.

— Submitted by the family

### John Thomas Dolvin

DELRAY BEACH — Tom Dolvin, a well-known and respected dentist in downtown Delray Beach for more than four decades, died in Waxhaw, North Carolina, on May 15, family by his side. He was 80.



Born July 23, 1945, Mr. Dolvin grew up in White City, a community bordering Fort Pierce. He was but 12 years old when his father died, so his strong Southern mother became both parents to her only child.

After skipping his senior year at Dan McCarty High School, Mr. Dolvin entered Emory University and, following graduation, continued at Emory's Dental School, where

he received his dental degree. The next few years were spent in Germany, serving in the U.S. Army. Along with his young family, he then moved to Delray Beach, where he began a dental practice that lasted until 2016.

Mr. Dolvin's interests were diverse, ranging from his windsurfing business F2 ("Fun and Function") to opening Smoke Signals, a popular Boynton Beach restaurant.

His memberships at The Ocean Club and the Delray Beach Club provided countless hours of tennis and golf fun. He also wrote everything from greeting cards to lyrics, primarily for country songs — many of which placed in the top five of competitions, including the John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

Of utmost importance to him, though, were his daughters, Caroline and Ashley, whose comfort and care were instrumental in making his last months peaceful.

Tom is also survived by his former wife, Carol; his son-in-law, Tim O'Mara; and grandchildren Quinn, Wells and Gracyn.

As he once poetically and generously wrote:

"The hearse won't pull a U-Haul, that makes it pretty clear.

"You cannot take it with you, better use it while you're here."

In keeping with that spirit, Mr. Dolvin arranged for happy memories to be shared at two of his favorite watering holes: Harry and the Natives in Hobe Sound, 6-9 p.m. Aug. 7; and Carsons pub in Stuart, 4-6 p.m. Aug. 8.

Flowers and tree-plantings can be set up from the legacy website heritagecares.com, where memories can also be shared. Click on obituaries and scroll to Mr. Dolvin's page link.

— Submitted by friends and family

### David Allen Hutchins

By Sephora Charles

OCEAN RIDGE — Town Commissioner Dave Hutchins, a longtime commercial airline pilot who devoted the past decade of his retirement to serving his adopted town, died on May 18. He was 78.



Mr. Hutchins was first appointed as an alternate to the Ocean Ridge Planning and Zoning Commission in 2015 and elevated to full voting membership in 2017. He remained on that board until 2024, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Town Commission. He subsequently won election to that unexpired term in March 2024 and was elected without opposition to a full term this year.

"Commissioner Dave Hutchins served Ocean Ridge with dedication, professionalism and a sincere commitment to the community," Mayor Geoff Pugh said in a statement.

David Allen Hutchins was born March 31, 1948, the son of Edward and Marjorie Hutchins. He grew up in Falls Church, Virginia, and lived there until, when he was a teen, his family moved to Northglenn, Colorado. He had two brothers, John Milton and Mark Edward.

Airplanes and flying were in Mr. Hutchins' blood. His father was an aircraft mechanic, flight engineer, flight operations instructor and licensed pilot over his career, while his mother also worked for an airline.

Mr. Hutchins received an associate degree in flight technology from Purdue University and a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Colorado.

He served in the Colorado Air National Guard from 1970 to 1976. He made flying his career, working for 40 years as a commercial pilot captain — from 1973 to 2013 — for U.S. Airways/American Airlines.

Mr. Hutchins and his wife, Donna, who survives him, moved to Ocean Ridge in August 1990.

"We can't visualize living anywhere else," Mr.

Hutchins said in his 2023 Town Commission application. He was an avid angler who enjoyed being out on his boat on the ocean with friends.

When seeking appointment to the Town Commission, Mr. Hutchins expressed his passion for making changes that would improve the quality of residents' lives — and the town.

"His willingness to serve and continued commitment to the community reflected deep care for the town and its residents," Town Manager Michelle Heiser said. "His kindness to each individual working within Town Hall or the Ocean Ridge Police Department, coupled with his genuine care and respect for those who served the community, left a lasting impression on the organization and all who had the privilege of working alongside him."

Outside of work, Mr. Hutchins was known in the community for walking his dog, Bandit, every morning and socializing with others.

"He was a good man, sweetheart of a guy," Terry Brown, an Ocean Ridge resident and former town commissioner, said during the June 1 Town Commission meeting.

Resident Rick Carey shared the same sentiment about Mr. Hutchins. "He's a man of great integrity and respect," he said. "I'm feeling a great deal of personal loss."

During the commission meeting, Pugh said he met Mr. Hutchins 32 years ago while moving into his Ocean Ridge home. Mr. Hutchins immediately shook his hand and said, "Welcome, neighbor."

"That gives you all you need to know about Dave Hutchins," Pugh said.

Mr. Hutchins had been in declining health in recent years but continued with his civic responsibilities. The cause of death has not been disclosed.

The town plans to have a memorial for Mr. Hutchins at Town Hall in a month or two. No other arrangements were available as of June 2.

"We will all miss him as a true, and loyal, friend," Pugh said.

Larry Barszewski contributed to this obituary.

## Boca Raton

### New ordinance gives residents their say over public lands

By Mary Hladky

Save Boca has prevailed in its long battle to ensure that residents will be the ones to decide if Boca Raton can sell or lease any of the land it owns larger than one-half acre.

The city's now-dead plan to lease its downtown campus land to developers was the impetus for the grassroots group's formation and its efforts to defeat the redevelopment project.

Even after Boca Raton voters overwhelmingly rejected the project in the March 10 city election, Save Boca pressed ahead in its effort to get an ordinance and a City Charter change that would require voter approval of proposed city land leases or sales.

Save Boca got its wish on May 12 when the City Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

The council also approved a resolution by a 4-1 vote, with Council member Yvette Drucker

dissenting, that provides for an amendment to the City Charter that also prohibits a land sale or lease without voter approval. Residents will vote to approve or disapprove the charter change no later than the March 9, 2027, municipal election.

There are limited exceptions to the vote requirement, such as for the extension of existing leases to nonprofit organizations and for utility easements. Those are intended to avoid the need to hold costly special elections for noncontroversial and routine matters unlikely to be controversial.

"I just want to thank all the citizens," said Council member Jon Pearlman, Save Boca's founder, who was voted into office on March 10. "Without you, we would not be in the position we are today ... to protect our public parks and our way of life, that was the mandate why we were sent here."

But he warned against complacency, saying the council's action was "by no

means a victory. We have to stay vigilant and continue to keep City Hall accountable to taxpayers. ..."

Deputy Mayor Michelle Grau and Council member Stacy Sipple, also Save Boca members, thanked Pearlman for his efforts.

"We may not agree on everything," Grau said. "But on this issue residents came together to protect our public lands and our public parks."

"I don't think people really know how much work was behind the scenes that (Pearlman) actually did," Sipple said. "I don't think he actually slept for a year. I am thankful he came forward and brought the community together."

Mayor Andy Thomson, who as a council member opposed the proposed downtown campus redevelopment, also praised the outcome.

"I think this is an example of democracy in action," he said. "It represents cooperation and common sense." ★

Boca Raton

# Looking for some magic in Mizner Park? You must be a mind-reader

By Faran Fagen

James Changefield, cloaked in a brazen black and blue sports jacket, hands a passport to a member of the audience.

The enchanted item tantalizes the hands of other audience members as it is passed around until a random spectator says “stop.” The person with the passport is “chosen” to join Changefield on stage. Together, the audience and the plucked person choose a secret “birthday destination.”

Now, it’s up to Changefield to apply his mind-reading abilities to solve the mystery of the celebration site.

“Hopefully, I’ll decipher the correct thoughts of the audience and the spectator on stage,” Changefield said with a wink. “The hope with all these magic shows at Mizner is to create a



**LEFT:** Jack Maxwell performs on Norwegian Cruise Line’s *Pride of America*. He will bring his act to Boca Raton on Aug. 14. **RIGHT:** James Changefield, a magician/mentalists, frequently plucks someone from the audience during his act. He will perform July 24. **Photos provided**

magical journey for everyone involved.”

Changefield, an acclaimed mentalist, is one of four Magic in Mizner magicians taking the stage at the Club Room at The Studio at Boca Raton’s Mizner Park this summer. Changefield’s mentalism/magic show is July 24.

The other magicians are

Yarden Shalev, who performed May 30; Logan Light, who appears on June 26; and Jack Maxwell, who takes the stage on Aug. 14. All shows are at 7 p.m.

“I can’t wait to see what they all bring to the Club Room,” said David Eck, general manager of The Studio. “This isn’t spectacle magic; it’s mind-bending, intimate magic. Mentalism is very popular right now, and some of the acts have blown people’s minds.”

Eck became general manager in December 2025 and is responsible for all of the bookings and rentals in the space. He and his staff opened the newly renovated Club Room this past fall and considered programming that would be a great fit for that venue. The theater holds 335 and

the Club Room has a capacity of about half that number.

“A handful of magician/mentalists had reached out about wanting to be booked into the venue, and I thought this might be what we’re looking for in efforts to counterprogram our season,” Eck said.

So what exactly can spectators expect at these magic shows? All the magicians have their own style. Different personalities, different sensibilities, different tricks and acts. They all bring their own vibe to the room. No pyrotechnics, just good old-fashioned magic and mentalism.

The next two shows have sold out already. The Club seats only 144 for each show, so Eck anticipates the series will continue to sell out. Tickets start at \$36.

Maxwell, the final magician in the series, said he is preparing a show “designed to bring people together and create moments they’ll hopefully be talking about long after the evening is over.”

His finale blends comedy, modern magic, audience participation, and mentalism.

“But more than any one element, I’ve always loved creating experiences where people aren’t just watching,” said Maxwell, who grew up in South Florida. “They become part of what’s happening.”

He has performed professionally for more than 25 years and has worked everywhere from cruise ships to corporate events to private celebrations.

As for Changefield, he’s planning a fun, yet philosophical show that talks about the intersection of humanity and AI.

“I’ll be creating wonder in the digital age,” said Changefield, who has performed all over the world for decades. “There will be magic for the eyes and the mind.” ★

For more information and to buy tickets, visit [TheStudioAtMiznerPark.org](http://TheStudioAtMiznerPark.org).

### Roommate/Housemate wanted

In Boca Raton

Looking for a mature woman to share space, who does not smoke or drink and who is willing to keep her room and bath clean in my condo. Lease would be month to month. \$1000/month includes water, electricity and use of kitchen, laundry and common areas with first, last and a security deposit. I like to cook on the weekends in my neat, peaceful home right across from the Atlantic with ocean access. She is welcome to check the place first. Contact [vgalluzzo718@gmail.com](mailto:vgalluzzo718@gmail.com)



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## PEARLMAN

Continued from page 1

be more likely to approve the project if it cost less and was more modest, staff has reduced the headquarters size to 94,000 square feet, or about one-third larger than the current outdated and undersized headquarters, and pared the price tag to \$120 million.

But Pearlman was adamant that the final turnkey cost will remain at \$190 million. Save Boca said the same on its Facebook page and in emails.

“Despite voters turning down the police station bond on March 10th, city staff indicated last week their intention to proceed with the \$190 million Taj Mahal police station and without any RFP (request for proposals),” it said.

Mayor Andy Thomson and Council member Yvette Drucker, as well as Save Boca members Deputy Mayor Michelle Grau and Council member Stacy Sipple, disputed that and agreed the revised cost is \$120 million.

After the Save Boca communications, council members said they were flooded with emails from angry constituents.

“We don’t need to be firing up members of the public with information that is not true,” Thomson said.

Grau, a certified public accountant, said the Save Boca information was very misleading.

“I am very concerned,” she said. “I am very frustrated.”

Council members, she said, are not blindly following city staff recommendations. They are re-evaluating the size and cost of the headquarters and “trying to determine what residents are willing to support.”

Drucker was even more pointed. “Basically, one of our council members is calling us liars,” she said. “I find that very troubling.”

“It is unacceptable,” Sipple said. “I responded on Save Boca that the information is not accurate.”

Pearlman did not back down, asserting that even if the cost is temporarily reduced, it will return to \$190 million once construction begins.

What followed was a digression into who posted the information.

Pearlman did not directly answer a question from Thomson on whether he wrote or approved the Save Boca post and emails, saying the Save Boca political committee is responsible.

But when Thomson stated that Pearlman is chairman of Save Boca Inc., Pearlman confirmed that.

Beyond the matter of cost, Pearlman said the city need not finance the building with a bond issue because the city has up to \$200 million available to pay for it.

Hearing that, Drucker said,

“We have gone completely off the rails.”

City officials previously have said that they have nowhere near that amount readily available to spend and that most city accounts have strict spending restrictions.

The council voted 4-1 in favor of holding a vote on bond issue financing, with Pearlman dissenting.

But they delayed a recommendation on where the building should be located, saying residents should be allowed to weigh in.

Pearlman, however, has clearly signaled that he is not backing away from his efforts to convince residents that the new police headquarters is a boondoggle.

### More emailed criticism

A Save Boca email sent out two days after the council meeting again criticized the purported \$190 million cost and credited Pearlman for being the only council member to oppose the project and the bond issue.

The email featured a rendering of the other council members on a Monopoly board, with Thomson throwing Monopoly money into the air.

“The city continues to treat your hard-earned taxpayer dollars like monopoly money” to build the police headquarters, the email states.

“You can’t put \$190 million on the table and then cut it down to \$120 million and then

say this is reasonable,” it said. “You’re still gouging the tax payers for something they didn’t ask for.”

The email also criticized Grau and Sipple for their statements during the May 26 meeting.

### Police chief’s report

The possible locations for the police headquarters include the downtown campus, where the current headquarters sits, and city-owned land adjacent to the Spanish River Library at the intersection of Spanish River and Broken Sound boulevards.

City officials have long said that a new police headquarters is badly needed to replace the 45-year-old building that is in poor condition and way too small to meet present needs.

Acting Police Chief Seth Dubinsky told the council that briefings must be held outside because there is not enough space inside. One-time closets have been repurposed to house two or three employees. The department no longer has enough room to house all its property and evidence.

Police officials previously have said that various functions now are located in seven buildings, creating inefficiency and coordination problems.

Residents’ second chance to vote on whether to approve a bond issue most likely will take place at the March 9, 2027, city election.

Residents would pay for it

with a property tax increase. Officials have not yet said how much it will cost them. But the ballot measure that residents voted down on March 10 would have increased the tax rate by 0.26 mills, or \$123.74 a year on a property with an assessed value of \$475,000.

Residents will have a chance to voice opinions later this summer and fall. The Community Advisory Council will advise the City Council on what residents want and their reaction to funding the building. If the bond issue goes forward and is approved, construction would be completed in 2031.

Meanwhile, the council is still determining how to improve the downtown campus now that the public-private partnership with developers Terra and Frisbie Group was torpedoed by voters on March 10.

The council on May 11 sidelined Thomson’s proposal to create a task force that would gather the ideas and preferences of residents on a new vision for the area.

Instead, the city will hire a consultant that will conduct wide-ranging efforts to find out what residents would prefer. The council will rank those that applied at a special meeting on June 30 and will award the contract on July 28.

The consultant would finalize its recommendations in January. ★

## Boca Raton

### ‘Strong demand’ for Mizner Park’s autonomous shuttle

By Rich Pollack

Boca Raton’s autonomous shuttle is on the move, now making its half-mile loop through Mizner Park on a daily basis, with plans to expand hours come the fall.

The self-driving MiCa shuttle, which seats eight and makes five stops while on a 12-minute trek through Mizner Park, could also be expanding its service to Royal Palm Place, if approval from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration comes soon.

The autonomous shuttle, which began service in Mizner Park in December, initially offered hours from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday but has since expanded to 5 to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

Plans are in the works, according to city teams in public works and engineering who are overseeing the project, to have the hours expand again. They said current expectations are for a 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. schedule, with extended or modified hours during weekends and special events — and may be adjusted based on demand.

Since it began, ridership on the free shuttle has been consistent, reaching close to 2,700 passengers over 296 operating hours, or about nine riders per hour.

Not unexpectedly, ridership on the shuttle is highest between 7 and 9 p.m. with passengers visiting Mizner Park restaurants. The stop in front of Eddie V’s Prime Seafood remains the most active.

Project leaders, in an email response to *The Coastal Star*, said they have received 100% positive passenger survey feedback.

“The MiCa shuttle has exceeded the City’s expectations,” they wrote. “Ridership data shows strong demand for this public transit service within Mizner Park, as well as a willingness among residents and visitors to embrace new transportation technologies.”

The autonomous shuttle, which is powered by software from Boca Raton-based Guident, is an example of how cutting-edge technology can supplement other urban transit options, city staff says.

Because they are still relatively new, autonomous shuttles are still regulated by state and federal agencies, with the



The MiCa shuttle runs 5-9 p.m. daily. Photo provided

transportation safety administration requiring the MiCa shuttle to operate with an attendant on board — taking up one of its eight seats.

The city and Guident are continuing to evaluate the shuttle to determine if it can be safely operated without an attendant and when the appropriate government approval could be obtained, according to city staff.

Since it began operations, the shuttle has traveled through Mizner Park autonomously 93% of the time.

The attendant manually intervenes in anticipation of a problem that in many cases would have been prevented by the autonomous driving software. But the teams involved in the project have been taking a very conservative approach just to be on the safe side.

Once the city receives federal government approval, the autonomous vehicle will cross Palmetto Park Road, bringing passengers to the shops and restaurants in Royal Palm Place.

City leaders have said that they heard from several residents requesting that addition.

In addition to the MiCa in Mizner Park, Boca Raton operates Boca Connect, a manned electric vehicle shuttle that provides service to and from downtown for the area east of Interstate 95 and generally south of Glades Road — including on the barrier island from about the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center to Camino Real. It also provides service to customers going from one downtown spot to another. ★

## Boca Raton News

### Boca Raton seeks lobbying in the sunshine

— The Boca Raton City Council unanimously approved on May 26 an ordinance requiring that lobbyists disclose themselves as such when interacting with city staff, elected officials or members of city boards or advisory groups.

The ordinance, requested by Deputy Mayor Michelle Grau, requires lobbyists to submit written certification identifying themselves and who they represent and to make their status known to those they appear before. That includes lobbyists who have development applications with the city.

Grau described the ordinance as a “straightforward good governance measure.”

“If someone is trying to influence a development application, the public should know who they are and who they represent,” she said.

The county requires lobbyist registration, and its ordinance is enforced by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics. The city ordinance builds on that to provide additional clarity on who is a lobbyist and whom they represent.

### Spanish River Park gets recognition again

— For the second consecutive year, Spanish River Park has received the prestigious Blue Flag designation.

The park, located at 3001 N. State Road A1A, is one of just three beaches in the United States to achieve the designation.

The Blue Flag is an international environmental award given to beaches that meet stringent environmental, safety, educational and accessibility standards.

The blue flag that flies above such beaches lets beachgoers know the beach is clean, safe and sustainably managed.

— Mary Hladky

Business Spotlight

# Royal Palm yacht club home sells for \$75 million — a Boca record

A newly completed SRD Signature estate at 2500 E. Maya Palm Drive, Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, sold on May 20 for \$75 million, according to Realtor.com.

Built by SRD Building Corp. with interiors by P&H Interiors, it was listed April 30 for \$80 million. David W. Roberts, broker/owner of Royal Palm Properties, represented both the buyer, 2500 East Maya Palm Trust, with Scott Mustin as trustee, and the seller in this transaction. Mustin noted that the sale marked Boca Raton's richest single-family residential real estate transaction to date.

The seller was the 2500 East Maya Palm Land Trust with Steven Dingle as trustee. Steven Dingle, with Scott Dingle, owns SRD Building Corp. The property was purchased in April 2024 for \$36 million, with the Dingles filing to commence demolishing the existing home and build the new residence as of August 2024.

This property is sited on almost 1 acre with 292 feet on the water and a 110-foot private dock offering direct ocean access. The eight-bedroom, 24,000-total-square-foot residence features a gym, fitness centers, two primary suites, a spa and wellness retreat, hi-tech golf simulator and game room and six-car garage.



This 24,000-square-foot estate at 2500 E. Maya Palm Drive in Boca Raton's Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club fetched the highest residential sales price in the city's history. Photo provided

"Properties of this caliber are exceptionally rare, particularly within Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club," Roberts said. "The combination of nearly an acre on the Intracoastal, expansive point-lot frontage, and brand-new construction created a truly remarkable offering. This sale speaks not only to the strength of the Boca Raton market, but to the growing demand for generational-quality waterfront estates."

WeatherTech founder

David MacNeil's double vacant lot at 1120 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan, sold for \$105 million in April. The new owner is HSH Sunshine Trust. The lot measures 3.63 acres and fronts about 342 feet on both the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway.

MacNeil assembled the land in 2024 and 2025 by buying two adjacent properties in sales totaling \$94 million. The resulting lot was listed for sale in December 2025 at \$125 million.

Representing the seller was Premier Estate Properties agent Margit Brandt. Lawrence

Moens of Lawrence A. Moens Associates Inc. represented the buyer.

Two adjoining properties in Manalapan, at 4000 and 4020 S. Ocean Blvd., owned by Jeff Greene, were recently listed for sale for \$99 million.

Together, they comprise 3.14 acres with 236 feet on the ocean and 252 feet on the Intracoastal.

Greene bought the 0.87-acre 4000 S. Ocean Blvd. property in 2018 for \$4.1 million, and he bought the 2.27-acre property at 4020 S. Ocean Blvd. in 2015 for \$6.6 million. Both properties have 1950s-era homes on them, which Greene has listed over the years as rentals.

The two properties are being marketed for their land value by Premier Estate Properties agent Margit Brandt. In 2022, Greene had listed the properties for sale for \$49.9 million with Christian Angle.

An estate linked to Randal J. Kirk at 820 S. Ocean in Manalapan sold for \$62.5 million in May. The buyer is Westview Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited company. Highlights of this 27,959± total-square-foot, nine-bedroom estate include a guest house, a wellness complex, library, theater, wine cellar and a recording studio. The property covers 2.26 acres between the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. Premier Estate Properties agent Margit Brandt represented the seller.

Serhant agent Gary B. Pohrer represented the buyer. Kirk bought the property for \$25.5 million in 2011 and listed it for sale in September 2025 for \$134 million, reducing it to \$75 million in February. Kirk is the executive chairman of Third Security LLC, a venture capital and private equity firm with offices in Virginia and Delray Beach.

El-Ad National Properties, an Elad Group company, announced that Alina Residences Boca

Raton recorded more than \$60 million in sales, including three penthouse transactions, during the 2026 winter-spring season. This recent momentum has led to the sellout of Alina 210. With both Alina 200 and Alina 210 now sold out (at 200 and 210 SE Mizner Blvd.), a limited number of residences remain available at Alina 220 (220 SE Mizner Blvd.). Alina 220 received its temporary certificate of occupancy in January 2025. Together, the three buildings total 303 residences.

Casa Avenida, a collection of eight four-story townhomes at 102 SE Fifth Ave., Delray Beach, celebrated its official groundbreaking in May. Attendees included Delray Beach Mayor Tom Carney and Stephanie Immelman, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Developed by 4TRO Development and Kastelo Development and designed by RWB-Linares Architecture, the townhomes range in size from 2,804 to 3,336 square feet, with prices starting around \$3 million. Each unit features a private elevator, two-car garage, second-floor terrace with a pool/spa and a fourth-floor terrace with an outdoor kitchen and bonus room.

The townhomes are expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2027. They are offered for sale by TJ Verdiglione and Nicole Melveney of the GVC Real Estate Team at Douglas Elliman. For more information visit [www.casaavendidelray.com](http://www.casaavendidelray.com).

The Cirrus Cos., a private equity real estate development firm led by founder and principal Robert B. Cohen II, acquired land at 248 SE First Ave., Delray Beach, for \$2.2 million for a residential development of three townhomes.

Cirrus plans that this project will be the first in a series for downtown Delray Beach. The three 3-story, 3,200-square-foot townhomes will each have a pool, rooftop deck, backyard and two-car garage. The site has already been cleared, with permitting expected to take approximately 90 days and construction completed in about 10 months.

The townhomes will be priced at approximately \$3.5 million, with sales and marketing handled by The Corcoran Group's Delray Beach team, led by Jennifer Kilpatrick. Land acquisition was handled on the seller's side by Corcoran's Robert Guntmacher.

The digital marketing firm 2TON Creative and The Buzz Agency, a public relations

Continued on next page

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The 2TON/Buzz leadership (l-r): Sam Nielsen, Elizabeth Kelley Grace, Julie Mullen and Jason Emmett. Photo provided

firm, recently announced a merger, bringing these two longtime organizations together with complementary strengths under one umbrella to create a comprehensive, integrated digital marketing and communications agency.

2TON x The Buzz Agency, with 30-plus employees, is led by Jason Emmett, majority partner; Sam Nielsen, partner and chief operating officer; and Elizabeth Kelley Grace and Julie Mullen, partners and co-founders of The Buzz Agency.

The Buzz Agency was launched by Grace and Mullen in 2009 and 2TON was formed in 2018, when branding firm Levatas acquired WOO Creative. Emmett acquired 2TON Creative in 2024.

“For The Buzz Agency, the merger was a natural progression,” Mullen said. “We’re both agencies in the communications industry, but we never did the same thing, which is why we always partnered together in the past. The merger made perfect sense to us.”

“2TON didn’t do PR, so the merger was a whole additional vertical for us that I find incredibly synergistic,” Emmett said. “With The Buzz Agency, we got a fully baked PR firm that has its clients and its brand identity and everything else. What we don’t want to do is to roll that into the company, wipe out the brand, and move along. That’s why we’re trying to be very clear that The Buzz Agency still exists; it handles all the PR for the company. It’s almost like we have a Buzz division, and we have a 2TON division.”

Since the merger, the company has grown, acquiring Washington, D.C., public relations and marketing firm RMR in May. The company operates from The Buzz Agency’s Delray Beach office, 104 W. Atlantic Ave.

**The Miami Association of Realtors and Broward, Palm Beaches and St. Lucie Realtors** (RWorld), along with their respective Multiple Listing Services, **MiamiMLS** and **BeachesMLS**, merged into a single association and MLS in May. This unified association now encompasses approximately 93,000 members. The merger gives members a complete South

Florida MLS dataset, free IDX feeds, the choice between the Flexmls and Matrix platforms, along with more educational seminars, products and services and signed global partnerships.

**Developer 280 E Palmetto Park Road LLC’s Glass House Boca Raton** condominiums, 280 E. Palmetto Park Road, announced a new partnership with the **Boca Raton Museum of Art**. As part of their agreement, Glass House Boca Raton residents will each receive a complimentary Director Circle membership, an extension of the museum’s Visionary Circle tier. Among the benefits of the Director Circle membership is a private, behind-the-scenes tour led by the museum’s director or chief curator. For more information, call 561-232-2644 or visit glasshouseboca.com.

**Newmark** managing director **Mitch Heifetz**, representing **Brickstar Capital**, arranged a new 13,900-square-foot retail lease at **The Courtyard on Spanish River**, a 60,000-square-foot mixed-use property at **500 NE Spanish River Blvd. in Boca Raton**. The lease brings Composure Club, a fitness and wellness concept with a gym, to the property, with opening anticipated in late 2026. Composure Club was represented by **Jared Robins of Inhouse Commercial**.

**True Floridian Realty**, a brokerage at 100 NE Fifth Ave., Delray Beach, celebrated its 15th anniversary in May. Founded by Noelle McIntyre, a third-generation Floridian, the firm has closed over \$1 billion in sales over her career, surpassing 1,445 transactions.

“I’m incredibly proud of our \$1 billion in sales, but I’m even prouder of the lives we’ve touched along the way,” McIntyre said. To date, the firm has donated more than \$125,000 to Homes for Heroes, provided more than 200,000 meals, and contributed more than \$35,000 to local community impact initiatives.

The firm’s 40-plus agents operate through divisions: True Floridian Luxury for high-end coastal estates, a commercial group, and The FurBaby Group, led by broker associate Adrienne Kurman. The FurBaby Group offers a specialized “true experience”

for pet-owner clients, from navigating HOA pet policies to identifying neighborhoods with proximity to veterinary care and dog parks. Additionally, the group has donated more than \$65,000 to local animal rescue organizations.

**Boca Helping Hands** recently welcomed four new staff members. **Kori Ernst** has been named development and marketing associate, with a background in marketing, communications and community-based work. **Anais Fauteux**, a recent graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a background in public relations, joined as communications and marketing specialist. Also joining the team are **Michelle Lee**, staff accountant, and **Erika Hawn**, volunteer program manager. Lee is an FAU alumna with a degree in accounting. Hawn has been a Boca Helping Hands volunteer since age 12.

**Gigi Chazu**, Boynton Beach economic development division director, addressed city projects, small-business incentives, grant information and community partnerships as guest of the **Boynton Beach Chamber of Industry & Commerce’s Civic Leadership Forum** at City Hall’s community room. She also discussed two new initiatives, Teen Entrepreneur Boot Camp and Citizen’s Academy.

**The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County** is hosting a Hot Topic Luncheon, “Florida Budget and Tax Proposals: Paving a Path Toward Austerity,” with **Estaban L. Santis, Ph.D.**, director of research for the Florida Policy Institute.

The luncheon will be held at the Fountains Country Club, 4476 Fountains Drive, Lake

Worth Beach, at 11 a.m. on June 17. The price to attend is \$45 for league members and \$50 for nonmembers. The deadline to register is June 10. To register, visit [lwvpc.org](http://lwvpc.org).



Christine Davis writes business news and can be reached at [cdavis9797@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis9797@gmail.com).

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Despite her best efforts, State Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman has been unable to find someone to ‘adopt’ this fountain outside The Boca Raton resort, which is caring for it now. Boca Raton city officials recently said ‘No thanks.’ **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

**Boca Raton**

**No parents yet for Camino Real’s ‘orphan’ fountain**

By Mary Hladky

State Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman thought she had very exciting news to share with the Boca Raton City Council.

Palm Beach County was willing to donate to the city a tiny parcel of land inside a roundabout on Camino Real that is outside the main entrance to The Boca Raton resort.

That meant the city would have control over a lovely but modest fountain built about 100 years ago inside the roundabout by Clarence Geist, the resort’s second owner.

Delivering her report to the council at its April 14 meeting, Gossett-Seidman assumed city officials would be thrilled.

Under city ownership, she reasoned, the fountain would get more tender, loving care. And it would lose the moniker she had given it — “the sad little orphan fountain.”

Until sleuthing initiated by Gossett-Seidman revealed information dating to the early 1900s that showed the fountain land belonged to the county, county officials were unaware. The revelation, though, didn’t much interest them.

It turns out that the city is none too interested, either.

In a May email to Gossett-Seidman, City Manager Mark Sohaney said city officials appreciate her work and

recognize the historic and aesthetic value of the fountain.

However, “the city currently does not have an identified municipal use or operational framework that would support assuming ownership and the long-term maintenance responsibilities that would come with it,” he wrote.

“The poor little fountain,” said Gossett-Seidman, whose district includes Boca Raton. “100 years old and it has no home.”

“It’s an example of what I try to avoid in government, going around and around,” she added. “It’s not my style.”

For the time being, the status quo will prevail. The resort will continue to maintain the fountain and assume its water and electricity bills.

But a grander vision for the fountain and landscaping improvements that had been in the works are on hold.

“We are working with state and local officials to solidify a thoughtful plan for what the next chapter will be,” Sara Geen Hill, the resort’s director of marketing, said in an email.

Gossett-Seidman isn’t walking away, either. “I’ll be working on it,” she said in mid-May.

But first, she had to get back to her day job. She had just been called to Tallahassee for a special legislative session. ★

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# Around Town

Celebrations - Page AT4  
 Dining - Page AT14  
 Tots & Teens - Page AT16  
 Religion Notes - Page AT20  
 Calendar - Page AT22

June 2026

The Coastal  Star

**Inside**



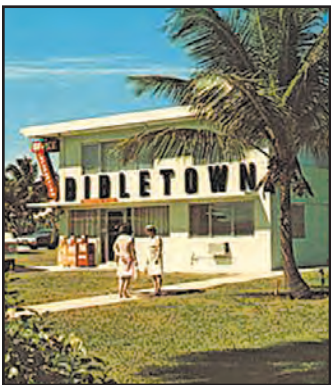
**Philanthropy**  
 Impact 100 awards eight \$100,000 grants. Page AT2



**Health & Harmony**  
 Sound baths let you soak in a different tune. Page AT12



**On the Water**  
 Get ready for lobster mini-season. Page AT15



**Finding Faith**  
 Boca Community Church has proud history. Page AT18



**ABOVE:** Dozens of longtime surfers gathered last month for the opening of the Surfing Florida Museum at its new home in West Palm Beach. **BELOW:** A hand-crafted board by Nomad Surf Shop legend Ron Heavyside is part of the collection. The museum is open noon to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

## New board room for surfers

Meeting of memories at museum opening recalls how beached freighter started big wave in county more than 60 years ago

By Ron Hayes

If you arrived at the grand opening celebration early, hoping to beat the crowd, you were disappointed.

The crowd had already beaten you.

The latest incarnation of the Surfing Florida Museum opened its doors at 4 p.m. on May 2, and by 4:30 the place was packed.

Filling the 9,200 square feet at 7623 S. Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach, old surfers, young surfers, and friends

of surfing squeezed past each other for a better look at all those awesome photographs, the surfboards, the skateboards, the history of a sport that has inspired more great popular music than baseball, basketball and pickleball combined.

And the museum doors opened that day all because of a letter carrier called Mr. Gruber, and a shipwreck.

**'The ship' was a magnet**

On Sept. 8, 1965, a Category 3

hurricane dubbed Betsy made landfall in the Florida Keys, and outer bands battered Palm Beach County with 80-mph winds and 20-foot waves.

The Amaryllis, a Greek banana freighter, was heading for cover in the Palm Beach Inlet when Betsy's massive swells shoved it ashore onto Singer Island, about a mile north of the inlet.

Betsy passed, but the Amaryllis stayed. This was bad news for the crew of the 450-foot, 7,200-ton freighter, but very

See SURFING on page AT6



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Philanthropy Notes

Impact 100 awards eight \$100,000 grants at annual celebration

During its milestone 15th year, Impact 100 Palm Beach County has awarded major funding totaling \$865,000 to a group of nonprofit organizations that serve southern Palm Beach County. The grants were presented April 28 at its annual Grand Awards Celebration at Boca West Country Club.

“This is what 15 years of collective giving looks like,” said Janean Mileusnic, president of Impact 100 Palm Beach County. “It’s women coming together, believing in something bigger, and making real, measurable impact across our community.”

The annual event spotlights organizations that are tackling some of the region’s most pressing needs across five focus areas.

Recipients of \$100,000 grants by focus area are:

**Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation**

- Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts (Fragments Reimagined: Transforming Life’s Broken Pieces into Beauty and Purpose)

**Education**

- Back to Basics Inc. (Back to Basics Uniform Expansion Project)
- Best Foot Forward Foundation Inc. (Foundations Spark Lab)

**Environment & Animal Welfare**

- Healthy Aquatics Marine Institute of Florida Inc. doing business as The Reef Institute (Rebuilding Reefs Delray to Boca)

**Family**

- CityHouse-Delray Beach Inc. (The Children’s Home and Hope)
- The Jacob S. Zweig Foundation doing business as In Jacob’s Shoes (Sneakers Outfitted for Scholars and Athletes)

**Health & Wellness**

- St. Ann Place Outreach



Impact 100 Palm Beach County’s founders, (l-r) Lisa Mulhall, Cindy Krebsbach and Tandy Robinson, attend the Grand Awards Celebration in April. Impact 100 has awarded more than \$8.5 million to local nonprofits in 15 years of service. Photo provided by Warner Prokos Photography

Center (The Homeless Outreach Program in Boynton Beach)

- The Soup Kitchen Inc. (TSK Meals on Wheels South)

Since its founding, Impact 100 Palm Beach County has invested more than \$8.5 million into the community, funding high-impact initiatives that continue to expand access, opportunity and support for local residents.

**Apply now for funding from Quantum Foundation**

Quantum Foundation is calling on local grassroots nonprofits to apply for funding through its Quantum in the Community program, now in its 16th year of supporting organizations that meet the

most essential needs across Palm Beach County.

Applications for the 2026 cycle opened June 1 and close Aug. 2, with \$1.25 million available to eligible nonprofits.

Through QIC, Quantum provides funding to organizations addressing basic needs such as food, shelter, transportation, clothing and financial assistance — factors that play a vital role in overall health and well-being.

In 2025, Quantum Foundation awarded \$1.25 million to 140 grassroots organizations across the county. To date, QIC has invested millions in local nonprofits working on the front lines of community health.

Eligible applicants must be registered 501(c)(3) organizations that have been operating in the county for at least six months and have annual operating budgets of \$500,000 or less.

The foundation also will accept nominations for the Marie Thorpe Above & Beyond Award, which is a \$2,500 award, with an additional \$2,500 granted to the winner’s nominating organization.

Grant recipients will be announced in the third week of October and will be recognized at the annual Quantum in the Community Awards Breakfast on Nov. 17, at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

**Toasts, Tastes & Trolleys event returns Sept. 18**

The Boca Raton Historical Society and The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum announce the return of Toasts, Tastes & Trolleys on Sept. 18, an interactive evening celebrating Boca Raton’s history through curated experiences, culinary stops and guided trolley tours.

This end-of-summer tradition provides vintage-style trolleys for a progressive night out, traveling to local destinations for light bites, cocktails and storytelling that highlights the history of Boca Raton.

Proceeds support the Boca Raton Historical Society’s mission to preserve and share the city’s history through exhibitions, educational programming and community initiatives.

**Dancers announced for Boca’s Ballroom Battle**

The dancers have been announced for the 2026 Boca’s Ballroom Battle, to take place at 6 p.m. Nov. 7 in The Boca Raton’s Grand Ballroom. Now in its 19th year, Boca’s Ballroom Battle remains the George Snow Scholarship Fund’s largest annual event, bringing together community leaders for an evening of dance, philanthropy and friendly competition.

Eight local business and community leaders are paired with professional dancers from Fred Astaire Dance Studios of Boca Raton. After months of training and fundraising, the dancers will compete on stage for the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy.

The dancer lineup is: Ross Bloom, CEO of the biostation; Michael Boggiano, co-founder and managing partner of WealthCare Financial; Namrata Israni Bajaj, social media manager and content creator for Ngagemint; Mario Muñoz, managing member, Muñoz Photography; David Rosenberg, founder and CEO, Rosenberg Diamonds; Heather Rouffe, owner and director of sales, Atlas Event Rental; Selines Silverio, founder and CEO, Silverio Exito Consulting; and Nikki Stelzer, a stay-at-home mom and member of the Junior League of Boca Raton.

**Florida Atlantic University receives \$1.5 million gift**

Florida Atlantic University has received a \$1.5 million estate gift from Leif Carlsson, Ph.D., and Seija Carlsson to provide scholarships and program support for students studying ocean and mechanical engineering and biology.

Through this gift, the Carlssons will support students who share their passion for the fields they pursued.

“This university has been very good for both of us,” Leif Carlsson said. “FAU is very vibrant with a great diversity



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of students, and it has been inspiring to work with them. It's a very good feeling to make this gift."

The gift establishes the Leif Carlsson Engineering Scholarship Endowment, to provide scholarships for students majoring in ocean and mechanical engineering, and the Seija Carlsson Biology Scholarship Endowment, to provide scholarships to biology majors. A portion of the gift will provide resources for student clubs and competitive teams within the Department of Ocean and Mechanical Engineering, including Owls Racing, the Marine Robotics Club, the Human Powered Submarine team and the Aerospace Experimental Association.

**Historical Society to host Summer Sips & Sounds**

The Boca Raton Historical Society and The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, in collaboration with Festival of the Arts Boca, are bringing back the Summer Sips & Sounds series with music, history and community through curated live performances.

Each program draws inspiration from a distinct era of American music, offering a unique blend of storytelling, ambiance and connection.

**Sips & Sounds lineup:**

• July 2: *Celebrate America: 250 Years in Song*

Marking the nation's 250th anniversary, this patriotic program will showcase iconic songs that reflect the American spirit — honoring history, unity and the evolving soundtrack of a nation.

• Aug. 20: *Timeless Standards: The Songs of the 1930s*

Experience the elegance of the 1930s through beloved standards that continue to resonate today, featuring enduring melodies that defined an era of classic songwriting.

• Sept. 17: *Seventies by the Sea*

Close out the series with a coastal-inspired tribute to the 1970s, blending feel-good favorites with laid-back summer energy.

The museum is at 71 N. Federal Highway. Additional details, including ticket information, event times, and featured performers, will be announced soon.

**Annual Mayors Ball set for Oct. 24 at The Boca Raton**

"Celebrating Boca's Future" is the theme of this year's Mayors Ball, to be held Oct. 24 at The Boca Raton. It is hosted by the Rotary Club Downtown Boca Raton, and all proceeds will benefit up to 20 local nonprofits.

Emcees will be Rotarians Alex Price and Amy Kemp. They will recognize the winners of four awards named in honor of three former mayors and the legendary Addison Mizner:

• The George Long Award (Large Business Category) pays homage to the city's first

mayor and will be presented to CP Group. In 40 years in business, CP Group has acquired, repositioned and operated more than 170 office and mixed-use properties. CP Group's most notable holding is the Boca Raton Innovation Campus, historic home of IBM and the first PC, now housing dozens of companies. Founder and managing partner Angelo Bianco will receive the award.

• The J.C. Mitchell Award (Small Business Category) honors the city's longest-serving mayor during its most turbulent time (the Great Depression and World War II). The award recognizes the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University. What began in 1985 is now recognized as South Florida's innovation laboratory, bringing new discoveries to market. The Research Park encompasses 70 acres with 400,000 square feet of innovation that produces a \$610 million impact on the local economy. Research Park President Andrew Duffell will accept the award.

• The Susan Whelchel Award (Best Nonprofit) is named after a beloved mayor who served six years and added much to the city in terms of education, art and economic development. The recipient is the Child Rescue Coalition, an international nonprofit headquartered in Boca Raton.

CRC develops innovative technology, provided at no cost to law enforcement worldwide, to help prevent child abuse and exploitation and combat online sexual predators. To date, CRC's technology has contributed to the arrests of more than 17,000 internet child predators globally, and the safeguarding of thousands of children. CEO Greg Schiller will accept the award.

• The Addison Mizner Award (Individual) reflects the enriching and enthusiastic spirit of Boca Raton's most iconic resident from a century

ago, whose name adorns many public places. The award is being presented to Daniel Hostettler, president and CEO, The Boca Raton. Since 2021, Hostettler has championed a monumental transformation of the city's most treasured and valuable property into a world-class destination. Celebrating its centennial after being opened by Mizner in 1926, The Boca Raton is the only resort in the Americas to earn quadruple five-star status from the Forbes Travel Guide.

Single-ticket sales start Sept. 1. Corporate sponsorships are now available. Contact Bob Tucker at 561-289-0436 or 522btucker@gmail.com for a sponsorship packet.

Proceeds from last year's event were distributed through Rotary's Service Above Self grant program. Local nonprofits awarded SAS grants were Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse; American Association of Caregiving Youth; American Disabilities Foundation; Bigger Than Sports; Boca Ballet Theatre; Boca Raton Achievement Center; City House; Faulk Center for Counseling; Friendship House; The Hab Center; In Jacob's Shoes; JARC Florida; Kindness Matters; Marine Education Initiative; Morning

Day Community Solutions; No White Flags; Propel Inc.; Spirit of Giving Network; Sweet Dream Makers; Tomorrow's Rainbow; Twin Palms Center, and Villages of Hope.

**Family help program starts in Palm Beach, Broward**

Community Based Connections Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development, family strengthening and community empowerment services to underserved populations, has launched H.E.A.R.T. — Helping Every Area of Relationships Thrive — a family strengthening program in Palm Beach and Broward counties.

This new five-year initiative, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, will help adults and couples strengthen relationships, improve parenting, and build family stability through workshops, personalized support, and services including child care, transportation and counseling.

Families in Broward and Palm Beach counties are eligible, including single parents, co-parenting partners,

married or unmarried couples, expectant parents, and adults seeking to strengthen relationships, communication or family dynamics. There are no income restrictions, and participants may self-refer or be referred by partner agencies.

Participants receive:

- Relationship and parenting workshops (curriculum-based, at least 12 hours).
- Individualized case management and goal planning.
- Wraparound support such as child care, transportation and mental health counseling.
- An annual couples retreat and family building events.
- Job and career advancement support, in partnership with local organizations.
- Support with co-parenting, communication and conflict resolution.

For more information, call 954-643-6298, send an email to [getconnected@communitybasedconnections.com](mailto:getconnected@communitybasedconnections.com), or visit [communitybasedconnections.com](http://communitybasedconnections.com).



Send news, photos and notes to Lou Ann Frala at [philanthropy@thecoastalstar.com](mailto:philanthropy@thecoastalstar.com).

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## Celebrations

### Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies annual luncheon

BallenIsles Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens — May 8



Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County celebrated the 13th annual Moments Luncheon, honoring four decades of advancing maternal and infant health while attaining a record-breaking level of support. Panelists highlighted ongoing challenges, including declining access to early prenatal care and the complexity of navigating health care systems — barriers that disproportionately affect uninsured and underserved families. The discussion reinforced the role of HMHB's programs, including prenatal care coordination, doula services, education and support groups, in closing gaps in care and improving outcomes. **ABOVE:** The HMHB leadership includes: (l-r) Daniel Lehrhoff, Dr. Helena De Carvalho, Neil Eisenband, Kathryn Rossmell, Lauren Whetstone, Amber Bautz, Nicole Hunt Jackson, Dr. Marsha Fishbane, Katrina Long-Robinson and Michelle Gonzalez. **INSET:** Luncheon Chairs (l-r) Elizabeth McDonough, Allison Taylor and Rossmell. **Photos provided by Coastal Click Photography**



### Levis JCC's Shine Like A Star Luncheon

Boca West Country Club — April 24



More than 300 guests gathered for the Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center's Helene & Roy Schwedelson Special Needs Department's 11th annual Shine Like A Star Luncheon. The luncheon included a silent auction and a presentation by autism advocate Kaelynn Partlow, star of Netflix's 'Love on the Spectrum.' Proceeds support the more than 25 programs that provide resources and inclusive opportunities for individuals with special needs and their families throughout the community. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Alexis Frisch, Marty Haberer, Ali Landman, Steve Clarfield, Soniya Patel-Festa, Mark Gotlieb, Alan Nash and Cindy Bergman. **Photo provided by Jeffrey Tholl**

### HomeSafe Rally on the Golf Course

Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton — May 4



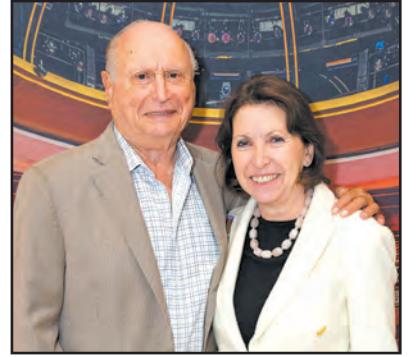
HomeSafe's annual golf tournament raised more than \$75,000, with all proceeds going toward protecting and empowering children and families who have endured trauma, and to help prevent child abuse and domestic violence. The organization is a leading provider of prevention and intervention services, serving more than 15,000 infants, children, young adults and families each year. HomeSafe is one of just five specialized therapeutic group care agencies in the state — and the only one in South-east Florida. Winning the women's flight was the team of Patty Larkin, Genevieve Murphy, Lori Smith and Lisa Ruth. The men's winning foursome was Logan Shalmi, Andrew Lerner, Marc Elkman and Danny Valencia. The winning team in the mixed foursome flight was Andrew Waldman, Ana Waldman, Kristen Bissett and Aric Waldman. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Golf ambassadors Phil Procacci, Jim MacCutcheon, Shalmi, Larkin, Pete Austin and Brooke Qualk. **INSET:** Terri and Ben Kennedy. **Photos provided by Tracey Benson Photography**



### Kravis Center evening of appreciation

Gimelstob Ballroom, West Palm Beach — April 13

The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts welcomed members of its Dress Circle, Marquee Circle and Helen K. Persson Society for an evening of appreciation featuring Broadway performers, rising student artists and top supporters to highlight the impact of arts education in the community. 'Having so many of our devoted donors gathered here is a tremendous honor, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to personally express our appreciation to our members of the Dress Circle, Marquee Circle and Persson Society,' said Kravis Center CEO Diane Quinn. The evening previewed the 2026-27 season and highlighted how donor support directly fuels world-class programming and education initiatives that reach thousands of local students each year. **ABOVE:** Irwin Kudman and Melanie Cabot. **Photo provided by Capehart**



### Delray Historical Society Twilight in Garden

Heritage Gardens, Delray Beach — April 18



The fifth annual fundraiser for the Delray Beach Historical Society featured cocktails, live art by Carol Calicchio, and a silent auction. Guests traversed the gardens and enjoyed food and music inside the three historic cottages, where exhibits offered glimpses into the early settlement now known as the Village by the Sea. **TOP:** (l-r) Hop and Ingrid Kennemer and Susan and Chris Edwards. **INSET:** (l-r) Anne Whitehead, Carl Schramm and Charlotte Stetson. **Photos provided by Matt Sturgess, 4th Avenue Photography**



### Boca Helping Hands receives grant

The Boca Raton — April 28



Boca Helping Hands has been selected as a recipient of an inaugural grant from the Boca Raton Foundation for Charitable Giving, the philanthropic arm of The Boca Raton. The iconic private club and resort has played a defining role in the community for a century, and continues to expand on that position with this award. The grant money comes from a portion of paid room night revenue. Boca Helping Hands was among 15 South Florida nonprofits recognized in the foundation's first grant cycle, which distributed more than \$150,000 to organizations working in food security, education and the well-being of women and children across Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Steve King, Kori Ernst and Daniel Hostettler, president and CEO of The Boca Raton. **Photo provided**

## Celebrations

### Palm Beach Symphony Swings for Strings

Wellington National Golf Club — March 21



Palm Beach Symphony's seventh annual invitational raised nearly \$100,000 to support music education and outreach programs. 'It was an honor to chair this year's event,' said Thomas D'Agostino Jr. 'Every golf swing provides a symphony of hope to create opportunities for children in our community.' **TOP:** (l-r) Neil Kaufman, Michael Rudnick, Bill Boylan and Gary Levine. **BOTTOM:** (l-r) Joan Simpson, Patricia Pape, Sarmite Bulte and Janet Gusman. **Photos provided by IndieHouse Films**

### FAU President's Gala

The Boca Raton — March 28



Celebrating Florida Atlantic University's 65th year, more than 1,000 friends of the university joined President Adam Hasner and first lady Jillian Hasner for Soirée 65 in support of student-success initiatives. The gala raised more than \$2.5 million for government and nonprofit internships that are currently unpaid and otherwise wouldn't exist, as well as housing scholarships. Soirée 65 was presented by Cathy and Abdol Moabery, and the gala co-chairs were Stacey Packer and Carrie Rubin. **TOP:** (l-r) Packer, Jillian Hasner and Rubin. **MIDDLE:** (l-r) Sharon Kusuke, Dick Schmidt and Christine E. Lynn. **INSET:** Holli Rockwell Trubinsky and Joe Trubinsky. **Photos provided by FAU**



### Rotary Club of Delray Beach Run for the Roses

Old School Square, Delray Beach — May 2



The Rotary Club of Delray Beach hosted its second annual Kentucky Derby-style celebration that included a live viewing of the race, signature cocktails and a curated menu of Derby-inspired cuisine. The event raised more than \$15,000 to fund 10 scholarships and provide essential items for nearly 100 children experiencing homelessness in the Delray Beach community. 'We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support from our community,' said club President Rita Rana. 'This event is not only a fun celebration of tradition and style but a testament to what we can accomplish together when we invest in the future of our children.' **ABOVE:** Suzanne and Jeff Soderberg, David Cooke, Sydney Cooke and Olivia Cooke. **Photo provided**

### Boca Bacchanal a sold-out success

Boca Raton — April 9-10, 12



Boca Raton's most anticipated culinary tradition has proved again why it remains a highlight of the social season. The 23rd annual Boca Bacchanal brought together world-class vintners, chefs and passionate patrons for a weekend of food, fine wine and community spirit — all to support the Boca Raton Historical Society and The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Russell and LeAnn Berman and Nicola and Stephen Verses. **LEFT:** (l-r) Al and Joni Goldberg and Joyce and Thom DeVita. **Photos provided**

### Tri-County Animal Rescue

Trump International Golf Club, suburban West Palm Beach — May 1



'The Soul & Sound of Motown' brought guests from across South Florida together to benefit the organization's lifesaving mission and celebrate 30 years of rescuing abandoned and neglected dogs and cats. The organization is approaching the milestone of more than 100,000 animals rescued since its founding. 'This evening was such a joyful celebration of music, community and compassion,' said Suzi Goldsmith, founder of Tri-County Animal Rescue. 'Seeing everyone come together to support animals in need while enjoying a fun and memorable night made it incredibly special!' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Debbie Lindstrom, Nancy Pontius, Rob Zaleski and Margie Janiszewski. **RIGHT:** Arthur Gutterman and Nijirah Alexander. **Photos provided**



**SURFING**

Continued from page AT1

good news for surfers.

The stuck ship was now a breaking point, turning the waves at an angle rather than horizontally as they came ashore. Angled waves, better surfing.

“A few days later, a friend and I climbed up and got on the ship,” remembers Fred Salmon. “All these Greek sailors were running around and acting crazy, and they made us get off. The captain was a great big fat guy who thought the ship was gonna tip over.”

Salmon is 75 today and the chairman of the museum board. He was 14 then. Arriving on Singer Island two years earlier from upstate New York, he had graduated from skateboards to surfing with some encouragement from Beach Boys albums.

To local surfers, the Amaryllis was simply “the ship,” and word soon spread of the perfect surfing spot it had created.

“People came from all over the country to see that ship,” Salmon recalls. “In those days, you could park anywhere. I counted 250 boards in the water one day.”

Actually, 250 boards and a letter carrier named Marion Edward Gruber, grandson of a former West Palm Beach mayor and, more important, an amateur photographer.

M.E. Gruber was 41 when the Amaryllis wrecked.

“We kids all called him Mr. Gruber,” Salmon says. “He was an amateur photographer, but he used high-class equipment for the time.”

Mr. Gruber had come to photograph the ship. He wound up photographing the surfers, first off Singer Island, and then up and down the coast from Lake Worth to Jacksonville.

When he died at 83 on July 30, 2007, Mr. Gruber left behind an archive of about 5,000 surfing slides he’d photographed between 1965 and 1972.

Fred Salmon gave the eulogy at his funeral.

“He said he’d leave the archive to me in his will, which he didn’t do, but I had a letter where he said, ‘Good luck with your local history project.’”

Salmon contacted Mr. Gruber’s sister in Fort Worth, who agreed to give him the images if he formed a nonprofit organization.

Salmon brought on fellow surfers Tom Warnke, Corky Roche and Bill Keeton, and the Palm Beach County Surfing History Project Inc. was born.

The first of more than 40 surfing photo exhibits debuted at the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties in May 2009.

In 2014, the history project begat the Surfing Florida Museum, first at a gallery at 255 NE Sixth Ave. in Delray Beach.

In 2016, the museum moved to Park Avenue in Lake Park, and in 2018 to a warehouse in Grandview Heights.



Scenes from the Surfing Florida Museum grand opening: **ABOVE:** Scott McCranels and Jimmy Johnson chat in front of a photo where the teenage McCranels is visible second from the left.



**LEFT:** James Stecki stands next to newspaper clippings in the *Miami Herald* and *Palm Beach Post* about his younger self.

**BELOW:** Ed McCoy with a photo from a surfing competition in 1966 that includes him, third from left, as a teen.

**BOTTOM:** A bumper sticker campaign was critical to keeping surfer access in the town of Palm Beach in 1970.

**Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star and Mary Burns**



A surfer named Bruce Carter sued, a future mayor of West Palm Beach named Joel Daves defended the surfers, and on July 1, 1970, state Supreme Court Justice Joseph Boyd Jr. wrote:

“The Town of Palm Beach may regulate and control surfing and skimming in areas subject to its jurisdiction and may prohibit these activities at certain places along the beach. However, the complete prohibition of this sport from all the beach area is arbitrary and unreasonable.”

Surfers still catch waves off Palm Beach.

**Father and son champions**

The museum brought the exhibits. The visitors brought the memories. But trying to explain the joy of surfing to those who don’t is never easy.

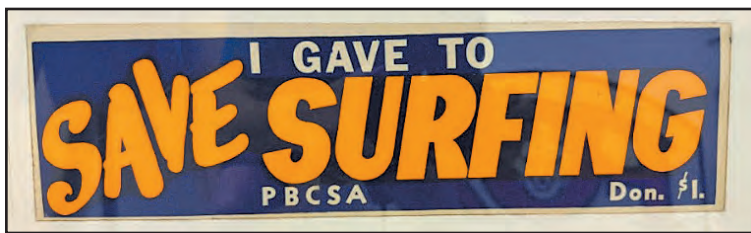
“I always say it’s a bath for your brain,” says Warnke, 77, the museum’s executive director. “With yoga and meditation, they always say you have to be in the here and now, but when you’re surfing you *have to be* in the here and now. If you’re thinking about what you’re going to have for dinner, you’re going to fall off.”

Not far away, the man standing in front of a giant photograph of *Surfer* magazine is also the man on the cover of the magazine.

Dr. Scott McCranels, a local orthodontist, is a member of the East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame.

He and his late father, the orthodontist John McCranels, are the only father-and-son duo in the East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame.

“Only a surfer knows the



The collection went into storage for two years during the pandemic, and then, at 4 p.m. on May 2, this newer, bigger Surfing Florida Museum arrived in the Palm Coast Plaza.

By 6:30, 523 people had come through the door.

**Memorabilia dating to 1919**

Now here we are, all these people ogling 80 panels celebrating surfing in seven Florida districts with 900 photographs donated by 100 photographers, historic panels, films, a library, a performing space, oral histories, countless memorabilia.

Here’s the large panel honoring the town of Lantana.

“Few places have produced as many champion surfers per capita as Lantana.” And that includes Caroline Marks, a

10-time national champion who spent her early years on Hypoluxo Island and, in 2024, won a gold medal in the Olympics.

Here’s a 1919 photograph of surfers by the long-gone Breakers hotel pier, the oldest known photo of surfing in Florida.

Here’s “Simmons Spoon,” a 10-foot-6-inch balsa wood board shipped from Hawaii in 1947 and believed to be the oldest board in Palm Beach County.

Here’s Jimmy Buffett’s board, autographed and donated.

Here’s the original logo for the Nomad Surf Shop from the early 1970s.

And here’s a bumper sticker boasting “I Gave To Save Surfing,” a humble reminder of the time Palm Beach tried to ban the sport.

**If You Go**

**What:** Surfing Florida Museum

**Where:** 7623 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach

**Hours:** Noon-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday

**Admission:** Free, but a \$5 donation is requested

**Info:** 561-236-0155;

surfingfloridamuseum.org

**Also:** An exhibit titled ‘Surfing History’ will open on

June 22 at the Richard & Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, 300 N.

Dixie Highway, and run through Oct. 31. An opening reception at 5:30 p.m.

June 24 is free to the public.

feeling,” he says. “It’s just you on that sloping wave. Gravity and your balance are doing all the work.”

Scotty “Frog” Miller, 68, surfed the Amaryllis as a boy.

“You’re on your own,” he explains. “In team sports, you’re only as good as the team, but in surfing, you can be as good as your skill allows.”

Does he still surf?

“Oh, no,” he says. “My shoulders are toast. That’s what happens when you paddle a million miles in your life, and I was also a pool plasterer. The last thing I rode was a hydrofoil, because I could get pulled by a rope.”

“But I wish I still had every board I ever owned.”

**Vivid memories**

The Amaryllis remained aground on Singer Island until Aug. 22, 1968, when the Army Corps of Engineers towed the remains three-quarters of a mile offshore and sank them in 85 feet of water to create an artificial reef.

The boys and girls who surfed the ship are old men and women now, some with bad shoulders, but all with sweet, vivid memories.

On a wall at the Surfing Florida Museum is a large photograph of a surfing competition held at the ship in 1966. A surfboard placed on two chairs holds 10 trophies, with that day’s 10 winners standing proudly behind.

At the museum’s grand opening, an old surfer named Ed McCoy, 76, pointed at the third teenager from the left. “That’s me.”

And the girl standing beside him.

“And that’s Jerrie. I was 17, and Jerrie was also 17, and this photo was taken the day we met. She offered me a ride home to Lake Worth.”

He smiled at the memory.

“She’s in her red 1965 Mustang convertible with our boards in the back, all sunburned, and she bought me a meal at the Royal Castle on Forest Hill Boulevard.

“It was like meeting an angel.

“She passed a year ago,” he said. “We were married for 58 years and 10 months.” ★

# The ArtsPaper

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## Art



*Glimmer of Consciousness* by sculptor Mike Silverman is one of the works on display at the Cornell Art Museum. Photo provided

## Treasures from trash

### Cornell exhibit showcases urgent art from throwaways

By Jan Engoren  
ArtsPaper Art Writer

What happens to the objects we throw away?

In a new exhibit at Delray Beach's Old School Square, artists examine that question while creating works that reclaim the forgotten, resurrect the discarded and transform waste into something both beautiful and meaningful, inviting viewers to ponder the afterlives of the items we discard.

Opening at the Cornell Art Museum on June 5 and running through Sept. 27, *Persistence of Matter: Transforming Discarded Materials into Art that Inspires and Provokes* highlights works by artists whose transformations reexamine notions of recycling,

reusing and reimagining once-discarded items.

"*Persistence of Matter* is about looking again — at materials, objects and even ourselves," say co-chairs Mavis Benson and Pam Lambie. The exhibition asks people to slow down and reconsider what we throw away — physically, emotionally and culturally.

"Things that are overlooked or discarded still carry history, beauty and possibility," they say. "Through the vision of these artists, what was once forgotten becomes unforgettable."

Through sculpture, installations and mixed-media works created from reclaimed objects, the artists elevate these objects and reveal hidden histories while challenging viewers to reconsider consumption, waste and sustainability.

One of the artists is Delray Beach-based sculptor Mike Silverman, 69, known for his reflective wall sculptures created with reclaimed hard drive platters and motherboards.

His work embodies connections between technology, humanity and art, exploring themes of our inner world and relationships, while reusing discarded elements.

"Upcycled art alone won't solve the global waste crisis; its power lies in raising awareness," says Silverman. "By utilizing discarded materials, I reveal beauty in the overlooked and encourage others to try creative reuse themselves."

The former management consultant and self-taught artist says that e-waste resonates with him the most.

"Metaphorically, it speaks to the pervasive and invasive role that technology plays in our modern lives," he says. "I transform components that are inherently cold and sterile into something organic, beautiful and deeply human."

Silverman developed his own fabrication techniques — everything from scrollsaw fretwork

See PERSISTENCE on AT8

## Arts Education

### PBAU students shocked at loss of theater major

By Jan Engoren  
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

Palm Beach Atlantic University's decision to shutter its long-running theater programs has sent shock waves through a tight-knit community of students, alumni, faculty and families who have long considered the program a creative and spiritual home.

In February, when the school announced it was "sunsetting" its theater arts BA and theater BFA degree programs to focus on strengthening the school's theater arts minor, its theater majors were caught off guard.

The announcement landed abruptly, leaving many scrambling to understand what had prompted such an abrupt and dramatic shift. As students and alumni processed the news, the university pointed to practical considerations.

"After careful review of the degree program, declining enrollment trends, costs and long-term sustainability, PBA determined it could no longer responsibly offer these degree plans while meeting its broader mission commitments," the school states on its website.

Currently, PBAU is one of just 27 Christian universities that offers a theater arts major program.

The program trained students in acting for stage and screen and in musical theater rooted in Christian values.

See PBAU THEATER on AT10

## Music

### Pop's Joe Jackson relies on longtime bassist Maby

By Bill Meredith  
ArtsPaper Music Writer

British singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Joe Jackson has proven to be a musical amoeba since his masterful post-punk 1979 New Wave debut *Look Sharp!* (A&M).

There have since been stylistic detours through reggae, cabaret, blues, pop and classical music as well as swing and traditional jazz, all as the 71-year-old Jackson refused to be pigeonholed in a 50-year-plus career defined by its lack of constancy.

Yet amid all those audio twists and turns, one factor has remained consistent during Jackson's career — singing bassist and fellow Brit Graham Maby. Those two will be joined by guitarist/vocalist Teddy Kumpel, drummer/vocalist Doug Yowell, and percussionist Felipe Fournier on Jackson's July 1 "Hope and Fury Tour" stop at the Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale.

*Hope and Fury* (earMUSIC, 2026) is Jackson's 24th album release, and the 73-year-old Maby has recorded on 21 of them, a fact that even he can't seem to believe.

"I've lost count, so I'll take your word for it," Maby says by phone from his home in Great Neck, N.Y. "I couldn't have even foreseen still being alive 53 years later, let alone still being playing with Joe. He was only 19 when we met, and I was 21. He was studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and broke, because he was a student. So he joined a cover band to make some money on weekends. Eventually people left that band and he asked me to join."

Even in the late 1970s across the Atlantic Ocean, cover bands meant quick cash but little to no forward motion up the ladder in the music industry. The crafty



Jackson

See JACKSON on AT9

**PERSISTENCE**  
Continued from page 7

to the engineering required to reshape computer components — and began playing with the reflectivity of the pieces.

In re-contextualizing these materials, he wants to remind us not to lose sight of the human spirit as the digital era increasingly defines and controls us.

Influenced by sculptors Henry Moore and Constantin Brancusi, Silverman, who began as a stone carver, finds inspiration for his conceptual arts in dreams or meditation.

Five of his sculptures will be displayed, including *Aperture of Peace*, *Self-Reflection* and *Glimmer of Consciousness*, from his *Beyond Humanity* series, which depicts a cyborg transitioning from an inanimate machine into a self-aware being.

While Silverman mines the

inner workings of technology, another pair of artists turn their attention outward to the systems that carry water.

Returning to the Cornell are the artists known as KX2, sisters Ruth Avra and Dana Kleinman, whose practice revolves around the fusion of metalwork and painting.

Their work was part of the *World of Water* exhibition at the Cornell Museum in 2024.

Kleinman, a painter, and Avra, a metal worker, are known for merging industrial materials with painterly surfaces, creating works that sit at the intersection of design, engineering and environmental commentary.

“Water and the environment are at the core of our art,” says Kleinman. “We’re interested in the interconnected issues of water quality, overdevelopment, air pollution and the fragile balance of our environment.”

Using high-polished metals



**If You Go**

**What:** *Persistence of Matter: Transforming Discarded Materials into Art that Inspires and Provokes*  
**Where:** Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach  
**When:** June 5-Sept. 27  
**Info:** delrayoldschoolsquare.com; 561-654-2220

*Afghan Girl* by Doug Powell was created with his unique mosaic process using computer keys. Photo provided

and painted, cut canvas, the sisters explore the networks of utility pipes, making a statement about climate change, pollution and the necessity of guarding our natural resources.

“We want our work to stimulate viewers and remind

them of the tangible impact of climate change and hopefully, take action,” Kleinman says.

Their concerns manifest in works like *Hydra*, which explores the vital network of utility pipes that deliver clean drinking water.

The two practice what they preach, working only with recycled, repurposed materials. *Cyanoflow*, made from repurposed stainless steel, is juxtaposed with discarded house paint on repurposed canvas.

Orlando-based artist Doug Powell, 64, examines the language of technology, utilizing keys from old computers to create large-scale mosaic portraits and cultural iconography.

Working at the intersection of material, language and image, the Navy veteran and former physical therapist creates digital-like images that change according to the viewer’s perspective.

His portraits of photographer Steve McCurry’s *Afghan Girl* and one of Pablo Picasso are part of the exhibit.

“My artwork gives obsolete technology a completely new life and purpose,” Powell says. “I’m passionate about recycling because I see value in materials many overlook, and enjoy turning potential landfill into something meaningful, detailed and lasting.”

After serving in the Gulf War, Powell left the Navy in 1991 and began experimenting with puzzle pieces.

“I wanted to do something no one else was doing,” he says. “It reminded me of my childhood when life was less complicated.”

He sources huge pallets of old keyboards from recycling centers and e-waste facilities, sorting thousands of pieces by hand. He is drawn to the tactile quality of the material, the color of the keys — mostly white, gray and black — and the way individual letters can form both texture and meaning.

His works combine sustainability with craftsmanship, storytelling and hidden layers of meaning using embedded words and phrases that reinforce themes of communication, memory and cultural identity.

“Recycling is not just about waste reduction,” says Powell, who grew up recycling with the Boy Scouts in New Jersey. “It’s about reimagining what forgotten objects can become.”

All in all, the works in *Persistence of Matter* reveal how discarded materials find a second life. Each artist invites viewers to re-envision what we throw away and what we value.

In doing so, the exhibition celebrates creativity, imagination and the possibility of giving materials a second, or even third life.

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# JACKSON

Continued from page 7

Jackson eventually quit, but remembered Maby when he started recording demo tapes of his original compositions in search of a recording deal. Those demos would include Maby, and would be almost identically replicated — other than being re-recorded at Eden Studios in London for better sonic quality — to form *Look Sharp!*

Released in early 1979, that album also featured drummer Dave Houghton, who was brought in by Maby, and guitarist Gary Sanford, who knew Jackson. Tracks like the introspective hit “Is She Really Going Out With Him?” and the strutting “Sunday Papers” showcased the quartet’s chemistry, as did the late 1979 A&M follow-up *I’m the Man* (featuring the hit ballad “It’s Different for Girls” and its raucous title track).

The two albums presented a relatively new rock sound as the 1970s closed. Maby’s playing, whether fingerstyle or with a pick, was front and center and in lock step with Houghton. Sanford’s guitar was important yet relatively minimalist, as the rhythm section primarily stepped to the fore to accentuate Jackson’s vocal and instrumental witticisms.

“Dave and Gary were also on Joe’s initial demos,” Maby says, “and we’d already played a few shows. So I think we

recorded *Look Sharp!* over only a week or so, and crafted the material for *I’m the Man* while touring to support our debut album. The chemistry really clicked, but Dave left for personal reasons after our third album, *Beat Crazy* [A&M, 1980].”

While that album’s darker, more reggae-tinged content represented a stylistic departure, it was Houghton’s literal departure that started Jackson’s first of several stylistic U-turns.

*Joe Jackson’s Jumpin’ Jive* (A&M, 1981) featured only Maby from the original lineup amid a horn section, pianist, drummer, and Jackson singing and playing vibraphone. Its throwback material was 1940s swing and blues tunes written and performed by Lester Young, Cab Calloway, and Louis Jordan.

Oddly, whatever fan base Jackson lost through the decreasing sales of *I’m the Man* and *Beat Crazy* was partially replaced by seniors who loved his reinterpretations of music from the swing and big band jazz eras, largely because of his spot-on arrangements and convincing vocals.

“Joe had to rethink things,” Maby says, “and *Jumpin’ Jive* was intended as a very different in-between project that we did just for fun. But A&M Records liked it and decided that they wanted to put it out.

“We actually did a tour and a few British dates for that album. And it was certainly a lot of fun

## If You Go

Joe Jackson performs at The Parker-Lillian S. Wells Hall, 707 NE 8th St., Fort Lauderdale  
**When:** 7:30 p.m. July 1  
**Tickets:** \$58-\$118  
**Info:** 954-462-0222; www.parkerplayhouse.com

all around.”

Jackson then combined his jazz and rock sensibilities into the sophisticated pop sound of *Night and Day* (A&M, 1982), an album that would prove to be his commercial apex. Guitarless like its predecessor, its omnipresent hit single “Steppin’ Out” was based on Jackson’s piano chords. Nominated for multiple Grammy Awards, the song helped push the release into the Top 5 on album charts in both the United States and United Kingdom.

“I remembered thinking that the *Night and Day* songs were great,” says Maby, “but that they were just so dramatically different from the music on the earlier albums. I wondered if people would get it, and if not, if it was the beginning of the end. I just thought it might be a stretch for Joe’s existing fan base to appreciate that music. But I’m happy that I was wrong, since it became Joe’s best-selling album.”

Maby has been along on most of Mr. Jackson’s wild

ride since, including forays into soundtracks (the 1983 mystery *Mike’s Murder*, starring Debra Winger), Latin pop (*Body and Soul*, 1984), live albums (in 1988, 2000, 2011 and 2012), the classical flourishes of *Night Music* (1994) and *Night and Day II* (2000), and a reuniting of the original rock quartet (*Volume 4*, 2003).

The current core quartet of Jackson, Maby, Kumpel and Yowell has existed since 2015, and its necessary versatility is featured on the Jackson releases *Fool* (2019) and *Hope and Fury*. The band leader has described the latter new release as “bicoastal Latin-jazz-funk-rock,” and praised Kumpel.

“Teddy Kumpel is the guitarist I always wanted to work with but could never find,” Jackson says.

For the singing guitarist, who attended the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music, it’ll be a bit of a homecoming. And he has fans of his eclectic trio Nome Sane, which has a new album called *Of Sound Mind* to be released in August, near and far.

Fans can expect a healthy portion of *Hope and Fury* on July 1, but Maby says Jackson will also reach into his back catalog.

“We’ll probably do five or six songs from the new record,” he says, “but also two from *Look Sharp!* and something from *I’m the Man*. With Joe, there’ll almost always be an opening

sequence of songs and a closing sequence of songs, with things getting switched around occasionally in the middle.”

Even though he’s primarily associated with Jackson, Maby’s other recording and touring credits include Marshall Crenshaw, Natalie Merchant, They Might Be Giants, and a long list of others. Most of the very few Jackson albums without Maby came during the mid-’80s.

“I’ve known Joe for so long that we’re like family,” says Maby. “And I do appreciate his loyalty and trust. But he was burned out at the end of the tour we did in support of the 1984 album *Body and Soul*. On stage, he was saying, ‘This is my favorite band and my last tour.’ So I was a little panic-stricken. Marshall Crenshaw had opened some shows for us, and I’d gotten to know him a bit. He asked if I’d like to tour with him, and I committed to doing that.

“Then Joe calls and says, ‘Hey, I’ve written some new songs and want to start rehearsing.’ And I said, ‘Hold on, I thought you said you were all done, and I’ve committed to touring with Marshall.’

“Can you get out of it?” he asks. ‘I don’t know if I want to get out of it,’ I told him. Which led to a few years of Joe icing me out. It took awhile for us to patch that up, but Joe eventually forgave me for my sins.”

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**PBAU THEATER**  
Continued from page 7

Many grads went on to jobs in Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and with TV production companies in Orlando.

The announcement has unsettled many of the students, causing some of them to rethink their futures.

Ashley Lachmund, 20, who will be entering her junior year as a theater major at PBA in the fall, was devastated to hear this news.

“We all love the program so much,” she said.

Lachmund grew up in PBA’s Children’s Theatre since age 12. Among her roles: Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, the Red Queen in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Ursula the sea witch in *The Little Mermaid*.

For her, the program wasn’t just an academic path — it was her home away from home.

The Children’s Theatre has long served as both a training ground and a feeder into the university’s theater major.

“It’s very sad for the kids,” Lachmund said. “They’re usually excited to go on to the theater major at PBA.”

She noted that the program has had many professional instructors including current professor Trent Stephens, who is the artistic director of Shakespeare by the Sea in Jupiter.

Amy Hamel, an adjunct instructor of theater at PBAU, who was in the fourth national tour of *Cats*, choreographed the recent production of *Pippin*.

(Both professors and Dean Jason Lester didn’t respond to requests to comment for this story.)

One faculty member who spoke on condition of anonymity said they were “greatly disappointed” by the closing of the theater major department.

A 2005 alum, Ruthie Ann Miles, won a Tony Award in 2015 for her role as Lady Thiang in the Broadway revival of *The King and I*, and many other alumni appear regularly in local productions at Palm Beach Dramaworks and other regional theater companies.

“We’re very much a family,” says Lachmund. “The professors care about us so much. We feel so valued and as a Christian I’ve learned the best religious lessons.”

During her time at the university, Lachmund has played the roles of Polly in *As It Is in Heaven* in the 2024-25 season, Elvira in Noel Coward’s *Blithe Spirit* and Catherine in *Pippin*.

Her goals are to be a professional working actor. “Anywhere on the stage is for me,” she said.

Lachmund said she’s also troubled by the administration’s response.

While not responding specifically to students’ concerns, the school website cites declining enrollment trends, rising costs and long-term sustainability as factors in its decision. The statement emphasized that this is about “responsible resource management” and “maintaining



Isabella Bockman-Pedersen, center, is entering her senior year in the theater program at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Her stage performances have included being a featured actor and singer in a production of “Onstage: A Musical Revue,” above. Photo provided by Isabella Bockman-Pedersen

high academic quality,” not a lack of value for the arts.

“It’s so sad to see it end,” Lachmund said. “It’s made such a positive impact on my life and others.”

One of those others is freshman and BFA candidate Sofie Leonard, 19, who fell in love with theater at age 11, after seeing the Rockettes perform in New York City. She came from Colorado specifically to study theater at a Christian college and is disappointed to see such a strong program come to an end.

“I feel for the students who won’t have the opportunity to experience the exceptional students and faculty at PBA,” she said. “They deserve a chance to experience it.”

She played Louise in *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* (“the most fun I’ve ever had”), was assistant stage manager and props master

for *Pippin*, and head of sound for *Blithe Spirit*. She also worked in costumes for the school’s production of *Romeo & Juliet*.

Like her colleagues, she hopes to have a life in the theater — joining a touring company or performing on cruise ships.

Another student impacted is Isabella Bockman-Pedersen, who comes from a long line of PBAU theater graduates, including her sister, brother and sister-in-law. President of the theater honors society, Alpha Psi Omega, Bockman-Pedersen, 21, is beginning her senior year as a theater major.

She has also been involved in the PBA Children’s Theatre since 2014 and was in the first group of kids to perform at the Fern Street Theatre (which is set to be demolished).

Most recently she appeared as a leading player in *Pippin*. She was dismayed by the closing of the program and by the lack of transparency from the administration.

Not only is it “insensitive,”

she said, but she feels the lack of transparency is strategic — part of a master plan implemented when President Debra A. Schwinn took over in 2020.

“The lack of information is frustrating,” Bockman-Pedersen said, speculating that the money saved by sunsetting the theater program will be diverted to other priorities, including the school’s brand-new, six-story \$75 million Marshall and Vera Lea Rinker Business Hall.

She worries the arts are being overlooked in favor of more profitable business programs.

“We felt the doom and gloom coming,” she said, and once the announcement was made in a meeting attended by the dean, department chair, professors and students, everybody was crying. “It was heartbreaking.”

Many students have already left the university and there is no word as to where classes will be held for those currently enrolled in the major, or where rehearsals and performances will take place.

As PBA prepares to sunset its theater degrees, these three theater majors — grounded in their faith, community and love of their craft — stand as a testament to what the program built and what is being lost.

Their stories reflect a program that shaped them not only as performers, but as people: artists who see theater as their calling, and acting as a way to merge faith and artistry, telling stories that illuminate and inspire.

“As Christians, we’re not interested in personal glory but in telling a good story, shining God’s light and connecting with people,” Bockman-Pedersen said.

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## Arts Calendar

*Editor's note: Events listed through June 30 were current as of May 23. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.*

### ART

**Armory Art Center:** Through July 10: *Print and Shoot*, a juried exhibit focusing on minimalistic photography and filmmaking; *Ephemeral Landscapes*, a solo exhibition featuring the winner of Armory's first annual Art Showdown, landscapes artist Amy Butell. 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:** Through Oct. 11: *Modernisms: Art from the Manes Collection; Typoe Gran: Anatomy of a Practice*. Through Oct. 18: *Frédéric Bruly Bouabré: Selections from the 404 Art Collection; Drawing with Scissors: Collage from the Collection*. Through Dec. 6: *Exploring Jess: Beat Generation Visionary*. \$16; \$12 seniors. 501 Plaza Real (Mizner Park), Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm W, F, Sat, Sun; 11 am-8 pm Th. 561-392-2500, bocamuseum.org

**Cornell Art Museum:** Opens June 5: *Persistence of Matter*. Through Sept. 27: *Rodney Demps: The Surrealist of the Highwaymen 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 or delrayoldschoolsquare.com/cornell

**Cultural Council for Palm Beach County:** Through June 12: *Kinetic Energy: A Celebration of Sport in Palm Beach County*. Through June 26: *Asian American and Pacific Islander Artists of Palm Beach County; Asandra: Shekinah, The Inner Dwelling Place*. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

**Lighthouse ArtCenter:** Through August 1: *Trio*. \$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 Aug. 30: *Yōkai: Scenes of the Supernatural in Japanese Woodblock Prints; Courage & Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience*. \$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

**Museum of Central American Art:** Through June 30: *Rituals in Central American Art*, a selection of works that represent the interwoven nature of Spanish colonial influences with ancient beliefs about the environment, community, and the spiritual world. The Annex ArtSpace, 290 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Delray Beach. Noon-5 pm W-Sat, suzanne@MoCArt.org or 561-512-2467

**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*. Through Oct. 4: *Danielle McKinney: Shelter*. Through Nov. 1: *Cursed Images: Pictures Out of Context*. \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for 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

### DANCE

Sunday, June 28  
**Armstrong International Cultural Foundation:** Celebrate the art of Irish dance, music, theater, and cinema in *Celtic Throne II: Psalter of Ireland* by the Herbert R. Armstrong College dance company, featuring original new music by Brian Byrne. 7 pm. \$46 to \$80. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469; kravis.org

### JAZZ AND BLUES

Wednesday, June 3  
**Omari Banks:** Fusing reggae's rhythms with rock, soul, blues, jazz, and global folk, this Anguillian singer-songwriter and guitarist has toured internationally. His single "Unafraid," off of his 2013 debut album *Move On*, topped Caribbean charts. 8 pm. \$33-\$50. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd, No. 59, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Thursday, June 4  
**Karen Briggs and Gerald Veasley:** Enjoy a night of contemporary jazz with "The Lady in Red" — violinist Karen Briggs — and bassist Gerald Veasley. They'll be putting on two shows at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6 and 8:30 pm. \$53 and up. 6450 N Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-931-2889 or eventbrite.com

Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7  
**Tito Puente Jr.:** Year after year, the beloved Latin jazz musician continues his father's mambo and salsa legacy. For his annual birthday celebration, Tito is returning to Arts

Garage for two performances. 8 pm Sat; 7 pm Sun. \$60-\$65. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Saturday, June 13  
**Claudens Louis and The Ciel Experience:** With Haitian-American saxophonist Claudens Louis as the frontman, The Ciel Experience combines R&B, swing, funk, and traditional Haitian *konpa* while preserving the improvisation and harmonies of American jazz. 8 pm. \$48-\$53. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Wednesday, June 17:  
**Derrick Dove & The Peacekeepers:** This blues-rock band from the South Georgia pines recently earned the title of International Blues Challenge Band Champions, with lead guitarist and frontman Dove also winning Best Guitarist. 8 pm. \$33-\$50. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd, No. 59, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Thursday, June 20:  
**Chris Cain:** Stirring up soulful Memphis-style electric blues, Cain jumped into the blues scene in 1987 and has been releasing album after album ever since. 8 pm. \$39-\$55. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd, No. 59, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Thursday, June 25  
 **Lindsey Webster:** Born to hippie parents in the artistic community of Woodstock, N.Y., this contemporary jazz and R&B singer's 2015 debut single, "Fool Me Once," reached the top of Billboard's Smooth Jazz Charts at release, making her the first vocalist since Sade's 2010 song "Soldier of Love" to have a vocally-driven song hit number one in a primarily instrumental category. She'll perform two shows at The Funky Biscuit, 6 pm and 9 pm.

\$50-\$65. 303 SE Mizner Blvd, No. 59, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

### POPULAR MUSIC

Thursday, June 4  
**Young the Giant:** Formed in California in 2004, this alternative/indie rock band garnered significant attention in the 2010s with hits like "Cough Syrup" and "Mind Over Matter."

They recently released their new album *Victory Garden*. 6:30 pm. \$48 and up. FTL War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th St., Fort Lauderdale. ticketmaster.com

Thursday, June 4; Saturday, June 6  
**Rosalía:** Known for bangers like "Malamente," "Con Ultra," and "Despechá," the Spanish singer blends traditional flamenco with modern pop, R&B, and electric sounds. She'll be performing two shows — both at 8:30. \$34 and up. Kaseya Center, 601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami. ticketmaster.com

Friday, June 5  
**Charlie Puth:** The singer-songwriter and producer has many popular hits, including "See You Again," "Attention," and "One Call Away." He'll be stopping in South Florida as part of his Whatever's Clever! World Tour. 8 pm. \$63 and up. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. ticketmaster.com

Friday, June 12, Saturday, June 13  
**5 O'Clock Somewhere Fest:** Iconic country singer-songwriter Alan Jackson is spearheading this new country music festival. Headliners include Ella Langley, Old Dominion, and Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reefer Band, along with Rodney Atkins, Allen Stone, Dylan Scott, and more. This two-day event will take place at The Palm Beaches Waterfront Commons in West Palm Beach. Ticket packages start at \$150 for

students, military, and first responders, \$250 for GA, \$540 for VIP. 5oclocksomewherefest.com. Thursday, June 11

**Evanescence:** The veteran Little Rock quintet will offer its hits including "Bring Me to Life" and "My Immortal." At the iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. 7 pm. \$37 and up. ticketmaster.com.

Monday, June 15  
**A\$AP Rocky:** The multi-faceted rapper, producer, creative director, and fashion designer — known as hip-hop's resident "Fashion Killa" — is bringing his talents to Miami for his Don't Be Dumb World Tour. His style, combining New York-style rap and Southern hip-hop, first gained traction in summer 2011 with his songs "Peso" and "Purple Swag." 7:30 p.m. \$36 and up. Kaseya Center, 601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami. ticketmaster.com

### THEATER

Opens June 12  
**The Hollow:** Kicking off Florida Atlantic University's summer lineup for its 2026 Festival Repertory Theatre is this 1951 Agatha Christie murder mystery in which Dr. Cristow's tangled web of secrets makes it difficult to figure out who killed him — was it his wife, a mistress, or a former lover? Or someone else? Directed by Mariah Reed. \$30. Through June 27 at Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Road,

Boca Raton. fauevents.com or 561-297-6124.  
**Cats:** The Entr'Acte Theatricals presents Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1981 award-winning feline musical, which tells the story of a tribe of cats called the Jellicles. The musical is based on T.S. Eliot's 1938 collection of poems *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. Directed and choreographed by Amber Lebrun. Through June 28. \$20-\$40; \$5 more at the door; \$15 for students. William G. Skaff Center, 500 Spencer Drive, West Palm Beach. Show times vary. <https://linktr.ee/entractetheatricals> or call 561-833-7529 for tickets and more information. Friday, June 26-Sunday, June 28

**The World Goes 'Round:** This revue celebrates the music of Broadway team John Kander (composer) and Fred Ebb (lyricist), featuring hits from *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *New York, New York*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and more. Presented by theAcademy@pbd, a training program for teen actors and stage directors. 7 pm June 26-27, 2 pm June 28. \$35. Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St, West Palm Beach. 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org

Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28

**Playhouse Playwrights' Festival of New Plays:** Five new one-act plays by local playwrights will be performed each day, for a total of 10. \$20 per day. 2-5 pm both days. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

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Health & Harmony

# Float away in sound; this is not your mother's sudsy soak

The Boca Raton Museum of Art is hardly the first thing that comes to mind if you're contemplating a bath.

We went for a bath there recently and found no luxurious tub laden with bubbles, no rubber duckies and no woman imploring "Calgon, take me away." Also: Everybody had clothes on — comfortable clothes.

That's because it wasn't that kind of soak.

This was a different kind of bath — a sound bath.

Apropos to the location, there was art — a large glass chandelier, *Big Brother*, by Chinese dissident artist Song Dong — hanging in the corner of the museum's bright and airy education room.

The primal, hypnotic sound of the didgeridoo floated through the air, led by musician and yoga teacher Tecia Linville (aka Sri Prabhavati Devi) and vibrational sound therapist Joda Cook.

"We're here to help you relax," Linville told the group of 20 people stretched out on yoga mats or seated in chairs around the room. "We will share our hearts with you and help you keep your heart open. Life is better when we smile."

A practitioner of Sivananda yoga, Linville sees her life's mission as helping others reconnect with their own strength and rediscover the peace that lives within them. She has done this work in



**LEFT:** Joda Cook, a vibrational sound therapist, and Tecia Linville, a musician and yoga teacher, utilize a didgeridoo, gongs and other instruments to offer a sound bath meditative experience. **ABOVE:** Laura London, a Delray Beach personal trainer, uses singing bowls in her practice. **Photos provided**

**If You Go**

**What:** Sound Healing at the Boca Raton Museum of Art  
**When:** 3-4 p.m. June 13  
**Cost:** Members \$20; non-members \$40; register at bocamuseum.org/visit/events/sound-healing.  
**Also:** Reach Laura London at lauralondonwellness@gmail.com.

addiction recovery centers and mental health facilities and now at Boca Raton's art museum.

A sound bath (or sound healing) is a meditative experience where participants are immersed in layers of different sounds, often done after a yoga class or on its own.

The practice has become popular in recent years as a way to help folks decompress, relieve stress and enter a meditative space.

Many of the instruments used in sound baths have old cultural roots and healing

traditions and are meant to connect with the spirit world.

Using instruments tuned to 432 Hz — including Tibetan and crystal singing bowls, Native American drums and wooden flutes, gongs, crystal harps and pyramids, and a rare Indian metallophone that produces a pure svaram tone — Linville says the vibrations and frequencies help release tension, slow the nervous system, and guide the body into deeper relaxation and a heightened consciousness.

Cook says the low, resonant hum of the didgeridoo, an indigenous Australian instrument, creates vibrations that can be felt in the chest and can open the heart chakra.

Linville, who has been doing this for more than 25 years, met Cook at Hippocrates Wellness in West Palm Beach, where Cook was working as a sound therapist. The two have been working together for 15 years. Cook first encountered the

didgeridoo at a Renaissance festival in Miami and took to the instrument immediately.

And, while definitive research into sound therapy is still developing, several studies point to its therapeutic potential. Washington University mindfulness researcher Diana Parra Perez notes that sound is perceived not only through the ears but also through body vibrations, which can deepen relaxation.

*Psychology Today's* research indicates that tension is significantly reduced following a sound bath, and negative mood states (such as depression and anger) can be substantially reduced.

Another local sound healer is Laura London, a Delray Beach personal trainer. She uses singing (crystal) bowls in her sound baths and performs at various locations in South Florida. London describes sound baths as "a form of meditation — a way to train

our brains to relax and enter a restorative state."

Practicing in a group, she says, creates "a beautiful sense of connectedness." As the body relaxes, she adds, breathing slows, the heart rate drops and cortisol levels decrease.

Back at the museum, Linville begins the meditation with tinkling bells and sounds of the ocean, which soon segue into the bassoon-like sounds of the didgeridoo, handmade and carved by Cook.

Hearing the instrument evoke sounds of wildlife, one can imagine the jungle with herds of elephants and other wildlife roaming around.

Boca Raton resident Beth Weiss, an avid tennis player, was at the session with her friend Peg Castronovo, a retired nurse originally from Buffalo, New York. While neither one of them had ever practiced yoga, they were intrigued by the description of the sound bath and decided to try it.

"My older sister is obsessed with sound baths," says Weiss. "She encouraged me to come and try it."

Although her mind wandered and various thoughts poked through, she says the sound of the didgeridoo resonated in her heart.


"This is a new experience for me," she says. "I'd love to try it again — maybe the next time on a beach."

For Weiss and Castronovo, the experience was less about understanding the mechanics and the meaning and more about being open to new experiences.

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Jan Engoren writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.



## Health Notes

# Nurses treated to makeovers and more during National Nurses Week

In celebration of National Nurses Week, May 6-12, Boca Raton Regional Hospital hosted a day of appreciation and wellness for its nurses. They were gifted complimentary makeovers, hair styling, nail and eyebrow services, massages, facials and meditation on behalf of the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation and Bloomingdale's.



Heather Havericak and Dr. Jacqueline Tutiven at the Go Red for Women event on cardiovascular health. Photo provided

### Event promotes women's heart health

The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women event was held in April in Palm Beach Gardens with more than 300 people attending. Go Red for Women aims to raise awareness and funds for women's cardiovascular health.

"Cardiovascular disease is still the No. 1 killer of women, and events like this one are essential to raising awareness and providing education so women understand their risks — and how to reduce them," said Heather Havericak, Palm Beach Go Red for Women chair and chief executive officer of Delray Medical Center.

Dr. Jacqueline Tutiven, medical director of Palm Beach Health Network Anesthesiology for Delray Medical Center and West Boca Medical Center, was named Woman of Impact. Valentina Mugica was named Teen of Impact. They were honored for their roles in fundraising, advocacy

and championing heart health.

### Two new systems for heart treatment

Delray Medical Center now uses the new Abbott's Volt Pulsed Field Ablation System to treat A-fib, with electrophysiologist Dr. Yoel Vivas performing the first procedure. Pulsed field ablation is different from thermal ablation, which has been the A-fib standard for decades. Pulsed field ablation disables the cardiac tissue causing A-fib, using high-energy electrical pulses rather than extreme temperatures.

Delray Medical Center is also now using the Evoque Tricuspid Valve Replacement System, offering a treatment option for patients with severe tricuspid regurgitation. A historically underdiagnosed and undertreated condition, tricuspid regurgitation can lead to symptoms including fatigue, swelling and heart failure.

### Company on fast track to treat Alzheimer's

The Boca Raton biotechnology company INmune Bio received a Fast Track designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for XPro, a therapeutic agent to treat Alzheimer's in patients with biomarkers of neuroinflammation.

"We believe XPro has the potential to significantly alter the trajectory of this devastating disease, and we look forward to working more closely with the FDA to bring this therapy to patients as efficiently as possible," INmune Bio CEO David Moss said.

INmune Bio completed a phase 2 clinical trial for XPro that showed the treatment had cognitive, behavioral and biological benefits for patients with inflammation. An integrated Phase 2b/3 trial will follow. Inflammation in the brain is a major cause of the development and progression of Alzheimer's, and there are no FDA-approved drugs to treat it.

By blocking a specific protein in the body that causes inflammation, XPro aims to reduce brain swelling and protect the brain from further damage.

— Christine Davis

## Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

### JUNE 6

#### Saturday - 6/6 - 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

#### 6/6 - 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

#### 6/6 - Zumba Class

at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

#### 6/6 - 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

#### 6/6 - AA Meeting

at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

### JUNE 7-13

#### Sunday - 6/7 - Coco Market

at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Monthly wellness market: 30 local vendors, health/wellness professionals w/various healing modalities; live music; 2 free yoga, meditation or fitness classes per event. 9 am-2 pm. Free. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market

#### 6/7 - 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

#### 6/7 - 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

#### Monday - 6/8 - 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 - 6/9 - Chair Yoga

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T 10:30-11:15 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

#### 6/9 - Al-Anon Meeting

at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

#### Wednesday - 6/10 - Yoga Class

at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W/F 10 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

#### 6/10 - Yoga in the Museum

at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Every W/F 11 am-noon. \$8/class. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

#### Thursday - 6/11 - Take Care of Your Brain: The Little Things Matter w/ Ebow Nketsiah

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

#### 6/11 - LGBTQ+ AA Meeting

at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Th 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

#### 6/11 - Alateen Meeting

at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton

Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

#### Saturday - 6/13 - Sound Healing

at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$20/member; \$40/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

### JUNE 14-20

#### Sunday - 6/14 - 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

#### Tuesday - 6/16 - Yoga with Sophia

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 6/30 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

### JUNE 28-JULY 4

#### Monday - 6/29 - Full Moon Yoga & Ecstatic Night Under the Stars

at Old School Square Park, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6:30-9:30 pm. Free; \$5 suggested donation. 561-561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

#### Wednesday - 7/1 - Inside Diabetes: A Whole Body Approach

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-12:30. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

## Taking the month off



Arden Moore's pets column will return in July. Learn more at [www.ardenmoore.com](http://www.ardenmoore.com).

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- Dr. K.D.



Rose Glamoclija, R.N. Owner and Administrator



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## Dining

## Treating Pop to a steak dinner will take bigger bite out of your wallet

Taking dad out for a steak this year? Prepare for sticker shock if you haven't sprung for a beef dinner in a while. Prices are up — way up — ahead of Father's Day on June 21.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association reports consumer demand for beef is at a 40-year high, and the nation's appetite has greatly outpaced supply. That has pushed prices up 16% from last year.

Chef Mark Militello, a former restaurant owner and now consultant, says the steak dinner that once carried a restaurant's menu is now practically a loss leader because of its food cost.

The days of a \$50 steak dinner in a restaurant are long gone, unless you dine at a national chain that follows a sales model of high volume over top quality.

Diners today can expect an average of around \$55 for a small filet, \$60 for a 12-ounce rib eye, and \$150 for the caveman-like tomahawk rib eye.

But there's a wide variance.

Dinners at traditional steakhouses typically come with luxury ambiance, high-end wine lists, pro servers and a dress code. They cater to customers who want top cuts of USDA prime and imported wagyu meats.

The chains and indie restaurants are more casual, offer sides as part of the price with the USDA choice or lower-end prime steaks, and have limited wine lists.

At **Longhorn Steakhouse** in Delray Beach, part of the national chain, you can get Flo's Filet — a 6-ounce filet mignon — for \$27.79, served with a baked potato and house salad.

Or you can pay \$570 at **Michael Mina's Bourbon Steak** in Delray Beach for three, 4-ounce portions of the exclusive A5 wagyu, including the snow beef.

Even within the top tier of Japanese wagyu, the snow beef is considered super premium by connoisseurs for its intense marbling. This gives the beef unctuous flavor and texture. The cachet comes from rare cattle raised on a specific ranch in Hokkaido, Japan, and Bourbon Steak is one of only 15 restaurants in the country that sell it.

We surveyed steakhouses and a few indie restaurants from Boca Raton to Boynton Beach where steak is on the menu to get a range of prices.

Note that on Father's Day, some restaurants may offer specials that aren't on the regular menus.

**Meat Market**, 2000 NW 19th St., Boca Raton. Meatmarket.net

High-energy modern steakhouse. A 12-ounce filet mignon is \$72; the Linz prime reserve 14-ounce rib eye is \$70; the 32-ounce tomahawk rib eye Australian wagyu is \$175. Also featured is a 16-ounce kosher rib eye for \$145. Steaks are a la carte.



Meat Market's 32-ounce tomahawk rib eye Australian wagyu offers a mouth-watering option for dear old dad on Father's Day. Photo provided

**Abe & Louie's**, 2200 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Abeandlouies.com

The traditional steakhouse with a Boston heritage offers prime meats. An 8-ounce filet mignon is \$74.89, a 16-ounce boneless rib eye is \$85.89, an 18-ounce bone-in New York strip is \$79.29. A fan favorite side is the creamed corn.

**New York Prime**, 2350 NW Executive Center Drive, Boca Raton. NewYorkPrime.com

Steaks at this traditional, lively meat palace are prime, aged 28 days, and come with a charred, Pittsburgh-style crust. A 16-ounce NY strip is \$75; the 22-ounce bone-in rib eye is \$89, an 8-ounce filet is \$61. The wagyu Manhattan, a thicker, 10-ounce version of a strip steak, is \$78. The tomahawk rib eye is \$150. Diners love the bread and onion rings here, too.

**DeLuca's Chophouse**, 499 S. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Delucaschophouse.com

Modern Italian upscale steakhouse. The 12-ounce filet mignon is \$74; the 16-ounce boneless wagyu rib eye is \$95; a 14-ounce NY strip is \$66. The 40-ounce tomahawk for two is \$125. Lively vibe with nightly entertainment.

**Gallagher's Steakhouse**, 2006 NW Executive Center Circle, Boca Raton. Gallaghersnysteakhouse.com

This import is a vibrant New York-style steakhouse. The 8-ounce filet mignon is \$58; the USDA prime bone-in NY sirloin is \$60, sliced. The porterhouse steak is \$69 per person — served for two, three or four people. Steaks come with a blue cheese or bone-marrow crust for \$4 more. A baked potato is \$10, served a la carte.

**Capital Grille**, 6000 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Thecapitalgrille.com

A larger, upscale chain from Providence, Rhode Island, that features dry-aged steaks in a lively, modern setting. A 10-ounce filet mignon is \$63, the dry-aged 14-ounce NY strip is \$63, and the bone-in rib eye, 22 ounces, is \$79.

**Morton's Steakhouse**, 5050 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton. Mortons.com

Traditional chain steakhouse with classic ambiance. The 8-ounce filet mignon is \$62. A 16-ounce NY strip is \$70, while a 36-ounce tomahawk rib eye "for the table" is \$147.

**Chops Lobster Bar**, 101 Plaza Real South, Boca Raton. Chopslobsterbar.com

Large traditional chophouse with seafood and steaks. Black Angus filet mignon is \$58 for an 8-ounce, and \$72 for a 12-ounce. The 40-ounce porterhouse for two is \$162. A 16-ounce bone-in NY strip is \$82, and the tomahawk rib eye is \$132. Spinach salad is made tableside.

**Outback Steakhouse**, 8841 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Locations.outback.com

This Tampa-based casual steakhouse chain is a favorite of families and travelers. Here, a 6-ounce filet mignon is \$29.99; an 8-ounce is \$34.99. The 20-ounce bone-in rib eye is \$36.49; the 12-ounce NY strip is \$26.79, and the 15-ounce Delmonico rib eye is \$39.49. All dinners come with a potato and side dish.

**Ke'e Grill**, 17940 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Keegrillbocaraton.com

An upscale, casual restaurant featuring steaks and seafood. The 9-ounce filet mignon is \$54.95; a 12-ounce rib eye is \$54.95 — and these are served with a potato and vegetable. The spinach Maria is notable.

**Avalon**, 110 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Avalondelray.com

The indoor-outdoor dining room makes for a lively atmosphere at this upscale restaurant on the Avenue. Here they serve prime beef, both dry- and wet-aged.

Filet mignon is \$56, served with garlic mash, spinach and peppercorn sauce. The 14-ounce rib eye is \$59 and served with fingerling potatoes and asparagus and a red wine sauce.

**Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse**, 601 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Hydeparkrestaurants.com

This bright club-like, mod steakhouse can get loud with the upscale date-night group.

Prime, and both imported and domestic wagyu meats, are on the menu. An 8-ounce filet mignon is \$59; the 12-ounce is \$72. The bone-in 22-ounce rib eye is \$85, and the 26-ounce, 36-day dry-aged bone-in rib eye is \$98. A 14-ounce steak au poivre with Courvoisier cream is \$74.

**Michael Mina's Bourbon Steak**, 1000 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Bourbonsteakdelray.com

A Michelin chef is behind this modern steakhouse in the Seagate resort. The imported wagyu steaks are the priciest around, sold by the ounce. A Black Angus 8-ounce filet mignon is \$61; the 12-ounce NY strip is \$64. The Australian wagyu 6-ounce filet is \$67. A 16-ounce Delmonico rib eye is \$78; the 22-ounce bone-in rib eye is \$105. The A5 Japanese wagyu is served in 4-ounce NY strip portions that are \$32 per ounce. The same wagyu, rib eye cut, is \$48 per ounce. Snow beef, a wagyu from Hokkaido, Japan, is \$68 per ounce. A wagyu tasting trio of 4-ounce portions of three cuts is \$570.

**Elisabetta's**, 32 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Elisabettas.com

Steaks at this high-energy Italian restaurant are bone-in, and dry-aged in-house. They're served from a wood-fired grill. The bone-in, 16-ounce NY strip is \$40, and the 24-ounce is \$59. For the bone-in rib eye, the 16-ounce is \$45, and the 24-ounce is \$63.

**Longhorn Steakhouse**, 1562 S. Federal Highway, Delray Beach. Longhornsteakhouse.com

This national chain serves full meals with its steaks. A craft-cocktail menu is in place. The "Outlaw" rib eye, 20 ounces bone-in, is \$35.29; Flo's 6-ounce filet mignon is \$27.79; a porterhouse that can be shared is 22 ounces, at \$37.99. The 12-ounce rib eye is \$28.79. These

## Steak at home 101

For the DIY steak cookers, Cameron Falls of Beauregard's Fine Meats and Butchery in Boca Raton has advice: "Splurge" for Father's Day as a special occasion, since meat prices are still soaring. Consider it a gift to dad. Falls dry-ages all the meats he cuts by hand at Beauregard's, 497 NE 20th St., and knows the butcher's cuts are best.

## Tips on buying:

- Look for quality — USDA Prime is the top 2% of beef in the U.S. Wagyu is considered the top imported meat, though domestic wagyu is gaining fans.

- You pay for shrinkage with wagyu because of its deep fat content.

- Don't dismiss grassfed. "I like to offer grassfed beef cuts," Falls says. "It's more interesting than wagyu." The flavor is less iron-tasting, he says.

- Don't pay for showy tomahawk or cowboy steaks — you're paying for bone. At \$35 to \$55 a pound, that's money you can't eat.

- The most tender is the filet mignon; the flatiron is the second-most tender.

- Fans of steak frites at French bistros should buy the hangar steak.

- Buy extra — leftover steak is great, he said. Buy just under a pound per person.

## How to cook it for perfect results every time:

"We recommend the reverse sear. Use a very good thermometer," Falls says. And follow these steps:

- 1) "Get a thick steak for best results, and one weighing two or more pounds."
- 2) "Season the beef well. You can't over-season a steak."
- 3) Insert the probe, and cook the steak in the oven at 225 degrees. Bring the interior temp to 115 to 118.
- 4) "Take it out of the oven. Let it rest for 45 minutes. Set the oven to 500 degrees and cook for 10 minutes. It will be perfectly tender and pink all the way through."
- 5) Let it rest on the cutting board briefly to allow the juices to settle, then slice it against the grain to present on the platter."
- 6) Serve it with a compound butter, creamed spinach and a potato, and that's a steak dinner fit for any father, Falls says.

Continued on the next page

## On the Water

# Make sure your dive gear is ready for lobster mini-season

Lobster mini-season will be here before you know it, so now is the time to get ready for South Florida's unofficial summer holiday.

The two-day lobster sport season, as it is officially known, is the last Wednesday and Thursday in July, which this year is July 29-30.

The mini-season is popular because it is the first chance to catch lobsters since the recreational and commercial lobster seasons closed on April 1, and the crustaceans are not as wary as they typically are when being constantly harassed by divers.

The other main attraction is that divers outside of the Florida Keys are allowed to catch 12 lobsters a day, which is twice the bag limit during the regular season, which starts Aug. 6.

As inviting as that is, too many scuba divers wait until the last minute to check out their equipment, which may not have been used since last year's mini-season. The sooner you make sure your dive gear is ready for mini-season, the better.

If your equipment has issues — whether it's a rotted gasket in a regulator or an air tank that needs to be visually inspected to make sure it's safe — it can be next to impossible to find a dive shop a few days before mini-season that can do the work in time for you to hunt lobsters.

Those who plan to go out for mini-season on a charter dive



Andy Rubin and Chuck van Buskirk show off their lobster haul during a mini-season. Divers are scouting possible lobster hangouts ahead of the July 29-30 mini-season this year. Photo provided

boat can make their reservations now. The advantages of going with a charter boat include being dropped in the water where lobsters are known to hang out and knowing that the charter operators will check that their gear is ready.

"Usually we're pretty on them before they get on the boat. Most of your charter boats are," said Jeff Torode, of South Florida Diving Headquarters in Pompano Beach, which offers dive trips off Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach. "We

make sure they have all their dive equipment and all their licenses. We're going to make sure that they have what they're supposed to have."

In addition to readying your dive gear, it's a good idea to make sure that you are in shape for mini-season. If you haven't been diving for several months, get back in the water before mini-season. If you haven't dived since last mini-season, or longer, you might want to take a refresher class.

"We'll put you in the pool and take you out for a dive trip and get your skills back up to where they should be," Torode said.

Spending time in the water before mini-season also gives you an idea of where lobsters are located.

Since the regular lobster season closed, some divers have been spearfishing for grouper and hogfish and keeping an eye out not only for lobsters, but places where lobsters might be next month.

If they see several lobsters hanging out in a coral reef or clustered under a ledge, the divers will pull down on their dive flags so their boat driver knows to mark the spot by hitting the man overboard button on the chart plotter.

Sometimes divers will see a hole with no lobsters, but lots of marine life, which could be a place that lobsters will move into when the mini-season begins at 12:01 a.m. on July 29. If you see lionfish by a reef, mark that spot because lionfish love the same habitat as lobsters. And if you see a lobster before the mini-season, be prepared to shoot a lionfish with your speargun or pole spear.

Be advised that some spots that have lots of lobsters now might have only a few when mini-season begins. But sometimes lobsters will hang out in the same place for weeks.

A dive buddy once found a spot loaded with lobsters two months before mini-season. He checked it on a regular basis, and it remained loaded. On the first day of mini-season, he and his crew all got their 12-lobster limits from that one spot.

Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at [steve33324@aol.com](mailto:steve33324@aol.com).



Continued from previous page

are served with a baked potato and salad.

**El Camino**, 15 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. [Elcaminodelray.com](http://Elcaminodelray.com)

Mexican soul food dished up in a cantina atmosphere. The chile-rubbed steak served as fajitas is \$32, and comes with all the fixings — guacamole, pico de gallo, cheese, peppers, onions and tomatoes, plus five tortillas. Diners can choose their steak temp.

**Prime Catch**, 700 E. Woolbright Road, Boynton Beach. [Primecatchboynton.com](http://Primecatchboynton.com)

Steaks and seafood are served at the upscale-casual waterfront eatery. A 12-ounce NY strip is \$65, and served with pommes puree, white onions, roast carrots and a bordelaise sauce. The petit filet mignon, 6 ounces, is \$42 with one side. The throwback steak, a steak Diane, is \$38. It's filet medallions in a cognac cream, with asparagus and fingerling potatoes.

**Driftwood**, 2005 S. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. [Driftwoodboynton.com](http://Driftwoodboynton.com)

At this casual, friendly eatery, steaks are part of a larger American menu. The grilled 12-ounce NY strip is served with creamed local kale in potato skins, beer-battered

onion rings, and smoked tallow bordelaise, for \$58. Upper choice meats, the top two-thirds of choice-grade meats, are used. The 44-ounce Creekstone Farm bone-in rib eye, grilled with broccolini and papas bravas, plus three sauces is \$130. The steak takes one hour to prepare; it's suggested to call ahead with the order.

**Nicholson Muir**, 480 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. [Nicholsonmuir.com](http://Nicholsonmuir.com)

Modern, intimate steakhouse with a Michelin recommendation using single-source ranches.

A 4-ounce prime Angus filet here is \$68, and a center cut, 10-ounce is \$96. The 16-ounce prime rib eye is \$98, while the American wagyu rib eye, 16 ounces, is \$175.

The Tomahawk Prime cut, a whopping 40 ounces, feeds four and is \$285. The steakhouse serves Japanese A5 wagyu, 4 ounces, for \$100.

All steaks are chargrilled to order. Don't miss this side: Duck confit mac 'n' cheese (\$18).



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at [nativefla@gmail.com](mailto:nativefla@gmail.com).

## Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

### JUNE 6

**Saturday - 6/6 - Family Fun Snorkel** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Snorkel shallow intracoastal waters, study animals sheltered/protected from ocean's dangers. Bring your own snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Ages 10-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**6/6 - 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; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**6/6-7 - Nature Connections** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet in the amphitheater for a short presentation featuring our native flora and fauna All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Every Sat/Sun 11:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**6/6-7 - 31st Annual Lantana Fishing Derby & Kid's Fishing Derby** at Old Key Lime House 300 E Ocean Ave, Bicentennial Park 321 E Ocean Ave & Lantana Recreation Center 418 S Dixie Hwy. Derby Sat 7 am-3:30 pm; Kids Derby Sat 8:30 am-11:30 am at Bicentennial Park; Awards BBQ at Lantana Rec Center Sun Noon-3 pm. Check website for schedules/times/locations/fees: 561-585-8664; [lantanafishingderby.com](http://lantanafishingderby.com)

### JUNE 7-13

**Tuesday - 6/9 - Island Treks** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd,

Boca Raton. Visitors guided on a short trek along the shaded boardwalk through the tropical hardwood hammock forest, pausing for intracoastal views through the mangroves. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**6/9 - Summer at Sea Lecture - "Protecting our Ocean, Wave and Beaches"** at the Delray Beach Historical Society Historic Bungalow, 3 NE 1st St. 6 pm. \$12/society members; \$15/non-members. Registration: 561-274-9578; [delraybeachhistory.org](http://delraybeachhistory.org)

**Saturday - 6/13 - 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. Provides knowledge needed for a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 9 am-5 pm. \$35/adult; \$5/teen. 561-391-3600; [peauxboca@gmail.com](mailto:peauxboca@gmail.com)

### JUNE 14-20

**Saturday - 6/20-21 - Education Explorations** at Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Each month a different topic is presented. All ages; minors must be accompanied by an adult. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

### JUNE 21-27

**Sunday - 6/21 - Seining the Lagoon** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Explore grasses/flats of the Intracoastal Waterway behind Gumbo Limbo. Wear clothes that can get wet. Closed toed shoes required. Ages 7-adult; child must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605;

[gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)  
**Friday - 6/26 - After Hours Tours** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour w/sunset views of the ICW. Ages 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30-8 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**Saturday - 6/27 - 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. Provides knowledge needed for a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 8 am-3 pm. \$35/paypal; \$30/cash. 561-312-6439; [birdlover5@bellsouth.net](mailto:birdlover5@bellsouth.net)

**6/27 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Stand Up Paddleboarding** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. 561-544-8615; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

### JUNE 28-JULY 4

**Sunday - 6/28 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; each child under 13 must be accompanied by one adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**Thursday - 7/2 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Stand Up Paddleboarding** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. 561-544-8615; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

## Tots &amp; Teens

## Nature meets literacy: Delray's storytelling trail a haven for young readers

By Faran Fagen

You can enjoy an underwater pizza party as you stroll along Storybook Trail at Barwick Park. You just have to use your imagination.

Crafting creativity is just what the city of Delray Beach and its Kiwanis Club had in mind when the storytelling trail debuted on April 13.

Children's book author Mike Lowery's *Pizza Shark: A Fantastic Feast*, is the first book to adorn the walking path for young children — and their parents and grandparents — to enjoy at no cost.

"It's a wonderful way for families to enjoy walking and reading together, and helps foster the love of reading," said Diane Colonna, president of the Delray Beach Kiwanis Club. "It also builds the relationships between parents, grandparents and children."

As visitors walk along the trail at 735 Barwick Road, they'll encounter 16 stations displaying pages from a children's book, creating a fun and engaging reading adventure in nature.

"It's educational value, physical value and entertainment value," said Joel Davidson, chairman of the Storybook Trail committee. "We intend to instill a love of reading with this project."

Each book will remain for three months, offering a fresh



**ABOVE:** Michael Fatigante and his father, Kyle Fatigante, stroll the new Storybook Trail at Barwick Park.

**LEFT:** Delray Beach Kiwanis Club member Joel Davidson, who envisioned the project with the city, brings hard copies of the book on display to hand to visitors.

**Photos by Tim Stepien/ The Coastal Star**

reading adventure each season.

The trail caters to children in kindergarten through third grade — but the large visuals and pictures can appeal to everyone.

The second book to be displayed on the trail this summer will be Ross Burach's

*Make Way for Butterfly*, a riotous adventure in the Very Impatient Caterpillar series.

The third and fourth books, in the latter half of 2026, are about learning sign language and a penguin who dreams of being an astronaut, respectively. The committee is in the process

of picking out books for 2027.

Storybook Trails have been popping up in all 50 states and 12 countries. Local schools, and even day-care facilities, can use the trails for educational and physical fitness purposes.

Davidson, who moved to Delray Beach from Tamarac in 2021, enjoyed the storybook trail at Tamarac's Waters Edge Park, and hoped to create another trail in Delray Beach.

"People aren't reading as much anymore," Davidson said. "People don't have books at home. It's important to see words and pictures in front of them. It's educational."

In 2022, Davidson approached the city with the idea. A \$4,500 grant was procured from Kiwanis, which the city matched. In November 2024, the project was approved.

In March 2026, the concrete was laid for 18 stations. The first station is a welcome board, the final station is a "thank you for coming" board, and the 16 stations in between are the pages of the chosen book.

The stations are durable enough to be weatherproof, and the pages are made of polystyrene, a material that is lightweight, flexible, and both water- and tear-resistant.

On April 13, Delray Beach Mayor Tom Carney and other city dignitaries and Kiwanis officials wielded a huge pair of scissors to cut the red ribbon to officially open the trail.

City Manager Terrence Moore lives just a few miles from Barwick Park and visits often. He's thrilled to see so many families read along the trail.

"It's an opportunity to expose residents to literature that they would not have available otherwise," Moore said.

Amy Hanson, parks and recreation assistant director, championed the project.

"It's something we're all proud of," Moore said. "We hope young people and people of all ages can enjoy this and contribute to our parks and recreation environment."

Davidson has frequented the Storybook Trail since the ribbon-cutting to see his vision come to life. He often brings hard copies of *Pizza Shark*, hands them out to excited children, and delights in seeing them smile.

He even made stickers that say, "I walked the Story Trail at Barwick Park at Delray Beach" to hand out.

"Our mission at Kiwanis is 'one child and one community at a time,'" Davidson said.

For Colonna, the trail provides a much more direct message: "It's a way to combine a love of nature with a love of reading," she said. ★

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 561-243-7250, Option 3.

## Tots &amp; Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## JUNE 6

**Saturday - 6/6 - Morning Makers - Secret Symbols** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Ages 5-12. 10-11:30 am. \$10/members; \$5-\$20/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**6/6 - STREAM Into Summer Literacy Kickoff Event** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All ages. 10 am-1:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/6 - Free Fun Saturday** at Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy. 10 am-4 pm. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

**6/6 - Sandoway Discovery Center Daily Feedings** at 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Invertebrate touch tank 12:30-2:30 pm; Shark & stingray feedings 1 pm; aquarium feedings 2 pm; animal encounters 3 pm. T-Sat. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

## JUNE 7-13

**Sunday - 6/7 - 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; gumbolimbo.org

**6/7 - World Ocean Day: Big Blue Sea Jamboree** at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Noon-4 pm. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

**Monday - 6/8 - Baby Story Time** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 6-12 months. Held again 6/22. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/8 - Lab Rats** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/8 - Tippi Toes Dance - Ballet, Tap & Jazz** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 4-12. Every M through 7/27. 5:15-6 pm. \$180/resident; \$225/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**6/8 - Cursive Writing Workshop** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-17. 6-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/8-9 - Art-Sea Living Summer Camp** at Art-Sea Living, 412 E Ocean Ave #1, Boynton Beach. Runs through 8/7. Age 6-12 M-T 10 am-2 pm, \$146. Extended care 2-3 pm \$35/day (not available on T). 561-737-2600; artsealiving.com

**6/8-12 Vacation Bible School: Illumination Station** at First United Methodist Church of Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd. Age 3 potty trained to 5th grade. 9 am-noon. \$50/child. 561-395-1244; fumcbocaraton.org/vbs

**6/8-12 - Youth Summer Camp: Moana** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Ages 6-14. M-F, 9 am-2 pm. \$475. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**6/8-12 - Summer Meals Service** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 18 & under. M-F through 7/24 11:30 am-12:30 pm lunch; 2-4 pm snacks. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**6/8-7/2 - Summer Sports Camp** at "505" Teen Center, 505 SE 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 5-13. M-F. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. \$300-\$400/session. 561-243-7158; mydelraybeach.com

**6/8-7/31 - Summer Theatre Camp** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Weekly themes with showcase every Friday for friends & family. Age 6-10. M-F 6/1-7/31, 9 am-4 pm. \$200/first week; \$175 per week/additional weeks. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**6/8-7/31 - Boynton Beach Recreation & Parks Department Summer Camps:** themed camps w/age-appropriate activities meet at various locations: Ezell Hester, Jr. Community Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd 561-742-6000 & Carolyn Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, 561-742-6000. \$25/registration fee. 7:30 am-5:30 pm M-F 6/8-7/31. Ages 5-12: \$625/resident; \$775/non-resident. 561-742-6650; boynton-beach.org/277/Recreation-Parks

**6/8-8/7 - Summer Fun Camp** at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 7-18. Check audition/rehearsal schedule for times. Ages 7-13, 6/1-8/7 M-F 9 am-3 pm \$200/week, \$50/one time registration fee. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Tuesday - 6/9 - Toddler Tales** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages walking to 23 mos. Every T through 7/21 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**6/9 - Sensational Story 'n More** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children's books come to life. Ages 18 mos. & up. Held again 6/23 & 30. 10-10:30 am. Free w/paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**6/9 - X STREAM Art** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-9. Held again 6/23. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/9 - Teen Adventurer's Book Club: Dragon Teeth by Michael Crichton** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 6/23. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/9 - Teen Tuesday** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-17. Every T 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/9 - Eco Adventures: Get Prehistoric** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. Every T through 7/21 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Wednesday - 6/10 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every W through 7/22 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**6/10 - Messy Play** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 18 mos. & up. Every W through 6/24 10:30-11 am. Per visit drop in: \$10/members; \$12/non-members. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**6/10 - Sensory Circle Time: Rainbow Connection** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 11 am-12:15 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/10 - X STREAM Art** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-9. Held again 6/24. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/10 - 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

**6/10 - Hands-On Cultural Creations** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. Every W through 7/22 6-7 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Thursday - 6/11 - 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

**6/11 - Tiny T Rex Tales!** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3 mos-3 yrs. Held again 6/18. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/11 - Kid's Music Circle with Noam Brown** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. Every Th through 6/25. 11-11:30 am. \$10/members; \$12/non-members. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**6/11 - STREAM Thursday Adventures: Florida Public Archeology Network** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave.

Ages 3-17. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/11 - Kindergarten Prep** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Attending all 10 classes is required. Ages 4-5. Every Th through 8/6. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/11 - My First Book Club** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-6. Child attends independently. Every Th through 7/23. 4-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**6/11 - Sandoway Discovery Center at the Library: Junior Shark Biology Class** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-11. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**Friday - 6/12 - Summer Science** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5 yrs. Every F through 6/26 10-10:30 am. \$10/members; \$12/non-members. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**6/12 - Art Explorations** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5 yrs. Every F through 6/26 11-11:30 am. Per visit drop in: \$10/members; \$12/non-members. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**6/12 - Baby Bookworm** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 0 months to non-walking. Every F through 7/24. 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**Saturday - 6/13 - Drop-In Family Storytime** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Sat. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**6/13 - Diggin' Into Science: Discovery Saturdays** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. Held again 6/27. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/13 - ColorSpace: Artistic Excavations** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave.

Ages 13-17. Held again 6/27. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/13 - West African Dance Class w/ Nzingah Oniwosan** at Creative Arts School, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Age 13+. 11:30 am. \$20/suggested donation. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas  
**6/13 - Explore the Art of Painting** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-6. Child attends independently. Every Sat through 7/18. 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/13 - Tween Tea Time Book Club: Dinosaurs Before Dark by Jenny Laird** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 9-11. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**JUNE 14-20**

**Sunday - 6/14 - Big Dino Storytime** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5 w/adult. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**Monday - 6/15 - STREAM Trailblazers Library on the Go** at Delray Beach Children's Garden, 137 SW 2nd Ave. Ages 3-10. 9:30-11 am (weather permitting). Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/15 - Baby & Me Yoga** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 0-12 months. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/15 - STREAM Story Explorers Book Club** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/15 - Summer Tween Club: Bleeding Tissue Paper Art** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 9-11. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/15 - Teen Career Workshop: Law Enforcement Officer** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-17. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/15-18 - Rising Start Summer Basketball Camp** at Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave. Ages

7-15. M-Th. Held again 6/22-25, 6/29-7/2 & 7/6-9. \$50/session. 561-243-7250; mydelraybeach.com  
**6/15-19 - Art-Sea Living Summer Camp** at Art-Sea Living, 412 E Ocean Ave #1, Boynton Beach. Runs through 8/7. Age 6-12 M-F 10 am-2 pm \$365/week. Extended care 2-3 pm \$35/day (not available on T). 561-737-2600; artsealiving.com  
**Tuesday - 6/16 - Tumble Tots** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5. Held again 6/23 11-11:30 am. \$10/members; \$12/non-members. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org  
**6/16 - Toddler Time** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-24 mos. Held again 6/30. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/16 - Piano in Company (Group Lesson)** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every T through 7/7. Ages 4-6: 3:30-4:30 pm; ages 7-9: 4:30-5:30 pm. \$120/resident; \$150/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org  
**6/16 - STREAM Word Warriors Book Club** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 4-5 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/16 - Gaming Guild** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/16 - Keyboard for All** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every T through 7/7. Ages 10-17: 5:30-6:30 pm; ages 18+: 6:30-7:30 pm. \$120/resident; \$150/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org  
**6/16 - STREAM Family Nights** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5+. Held again 6/30. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**Wednesday - 6/17 - Father's Day Celebration** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 11 & under. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Thursday - 6/18 - Tots in Tutus** at

Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5 yrs. Held again 6/25 10-10:30 am. \$10/members; \$12/non-members. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org  
**6/18 - Bilingual Storytime: Caring for Our Land /Cuidando nuestra tierra** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 3-5 yrs. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/18 - STREAM Thursday Adventure: Movie: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-17. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/18 - Make & Take: Dinosaur Eyes** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-11. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/18 - Teen Advisory Board** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades 6-12. 4:30-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/18 - Voice Workshop (Group Lesson)** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every Th through 7/9. 4:30-6 pm & 7-8 pm (30-min. increments). \$120/resident; \$150/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org  
**6/18 - Individual Piano** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every Th through 7/9. 4:30-6 pm & 7-8 pm (30-min. increments). \$140/resident; \$175/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org  
**Saturday - 6/20 - Master Kids - Where Mindful Movement, Creative Thinking, and Positive Emotions Connect** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades 2-4. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/20 - Creation Station: Magic Carpet Journeys** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 11 am-4 pm. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org  
**6/20 - Bones to Books** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. All ages. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**JUNE 21-27**

**Sunday - 6/21 - Dance Stories: A Movement & Creativity Workshop** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Ages 5-8: 10:30 am-noon, \$5-\$18/members; \$10-\$25/non-members; Ages 9-12: 1:30-3 pm. \$20/members; \$35/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org  
**Monday - 6/22 - STREAM Trailblazers Library on the Go** at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Ages 3-5. 9:30-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/22 - Feast of Fiction Book Club Session 1 of 2** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-17. 6-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Tuesday - 6/23 - Story Time: Palm Beach Opera presents "The Great Poochini"** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Wednesday - 6/24 - Sensory Circle Time: Dinosaur Swamp** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 11 am-12:15 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Thursday - 6/25 - STREAM Thursday Adventures: Sea Turtle Adventures, Inc. Beach Cleanup** at Anchor Park, 340 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Ages 3-17. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/25 - Family Nights - Summer Solstice** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 4-7:30 pm. Free/members; \$10/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org  
**6/25 - Make & Take: Dinosaur Slime** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-11. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Saturday - 6/27 - Family Workshop w/ Amaya Estrada** at Creative Arts School, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 5+. 11 am. Free. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas  
**6/27 - Bones to Books** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-8. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/27 - Book Art Teen Club: Book Edge Art** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**JUNE 28-JULY 4**

**Sunday - 6/28 - Cretaceous Crack Open** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-17. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**Monday - 6/29 - Children's Art Workshop: "Pioneer Portraits"** at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. Ages 12-17. Students should bring a bagged lunch. 10 am. \$30/student. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org  
**6/29 - Dino Rawr Techno Story Time** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5 & under. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/29 - Summer STEAM Club: Flower Planters** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 11 & under. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/29 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**Tuesday - 6/30 - Teen Movie Night: Jurassic Park (1993, PG-13)** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:45 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/30 - Karate Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17. Every T/Th. Ages 6-12: 5:30-6:25 pm, \$90-\$113; Ages 13+: 6:30-7:30 pm, \$110-\$138. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org  
**Wednesday - 7/1 - Happy Birthday, America!** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 11 & under. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Thursday - 7/2 - American Shark Conservancy SharkSmarts** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-17. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org



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Finding Faith

# Boca Community Church brought new life to old Biletown

Before it was Boca Raton Community Church, it was called Biletown.

The real name was the Boca Raton Bible Grounds Conference Center, but evangelist Billy Graham nicknamed it Biletown, and the name stuck.

Founded in 1950 by Dr. Ira Lee "Doc" Eshleman, a Detroit pastor who hosted a radio program in Miami, it was built on what had been a World War II radar base. Eshleman converted the former Army Air Corps installation into a seasonal mecca for the faithful who came from all over to sing and pray. The first conference took place in July 1951, but most events happened from January to March. It looked more like a resort than a church campus with visitors staying in motel rooms and swimming in the sparkling blue pool.

Thousands of people came to see nationally known speakers and performers. According to a story in the *Boca Raton Tribune*, "Biletown became one of the largest Christian conference centers in the world, drawing approximately 200,000 annual visitors. At its peak, the campus included 110 motel rooms, multiple dining halls, and a 2,500-seat sanctuary built in 1969."

Eshleman also catalyzed the development of Boca Raton, especially areas surrounding his Bible Center, but his wider reach came from founding Sports World Ministries to help professional athletes share their faith. He became a chaplain for the National Football League and was the first to hold pregame chapel services.



Biletown, which held its first conference 75 years ago, at its peak attracted hundreds of thousands of Christians to Boca Raton each year. Photo provided

In 1976, a fire destroyed the original radar building, the cafeteria and the conference center. But within a few years, the campus had been rebuilt and in 1981 Billy Graham returned to Biletown to formally dedicate the new buildings.

As the end of the 20th century approached, attendance began to fall off. The church's sprawling campus on both sides of Northwest Fourth Avenue south of Glades Road was in disrepair. "Staffing was minimal, and buildings deteriorated. Electrical and sound systems had not been updated since the 1950s," the *Sun Sentinel* wrote in 2006. The church sold most of its land, keeping about 20 acres.

In 2003, the Rev. Jonathan Burnham came on board and the church reorganized with a new worship style, new leadership and a new philosophy. Burnham spent the next three years revamping the renamed Boca Raton Community Church into "a year-round operation that emphasizes nondenominational, contemporary

worship for local residents," according to the *Sun Sentinel*.

Around the same time, Bill Mitchell came on board as an assistant pastor, but he'd been a member of the church for years. Mitchell is one of those rare Floridians who can trace his lineage back three generations on both sides, and the family had roots in the church.

"Boca Raton Community Church is the church where I grew up," he said in an interview with *Good News Florida* in 2018. "When my wife moved here from Jamaica, she started attending this church as well. We were seniors in high school when we met and later were married in this church. I was an elder and Sunday School teacher."

After 25 years in real estate development, Mitchell became a full-time pastor, leading BRCC with the skill he used in the business world. In 2014, he started CityLead Boca to use his expertise in a new way.

Mitchell discovered that most

leadership principles are found in Jesus' teachings. He invited local business leaders to lunch and spoke about ethical leadership, Christian character and civic unity. The ministry grew, drawing as many as 350 people each month. Familiar themes include "Leading with Justice, Mercy, Humility and Authenticity."

It didn't happen overnight, but CityLead, Mitchell and BRCC raised the ethical bar. CityLead chapters opened in Fort Lauderdale and Miami and 20 other cities around the nation, and WorldLead, an international spin-off, became active in 40 countries.

"If I helped people pursue God, build community and engage the world, I would have done what I think God has called me to do," Mitchell said.

Senior pastor Matthew McDaniel, who replaced Mitchell when he left to join the board of directors at the nonprofit Food for the Poor in 2024, agrees that the community is the heart of the church.

"It's hard, maybe even be impossible, to be a Christian on your own," he said. "You need to be a part of a community."

"In the Book of Galatians, Paul talks about the fruit of the spirit, and we've got this list of characteristics that are supposed to be evidence that God lives within you, as a Christian. We ask, which one of these fruits — there are nine of them: it's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control — can be completed successfully in isolation?"

"We were designed to be in relationships," McDaniel said. "From the very beginning, we've been connected

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with other people.”

McDaniel doesn't want to discourage people who like to stream the weekly service, but in-person church works better, he says. It's the energy.

“On a given Sunday, we have somewhere around 600 adults and another 150 kids or so, plus tons of volunteers serving all over the place. I think there's something special when people are together physically that you just can't get otherwise.”

Imagine a Zoom meeting, he said. “If you were sitting across from me, it would be a different experience. There is a different feeling, I think especially when you're talking about a faith community.”

God wants us to be part of our community, McDaniel said. “Examples of God's people being called to live in a community with one another fill the Old and New Testament. Loving your neighbors, being hospitable to strangers, caring for the sick, welcoming the aliens. There's a whole list of things that we can talk about, but definitely community is important from many perspectives.”

There's another reason we need a community, he said. It's where we find our inspiration — the people we want to emulate. McDaniel believes that by imitating Christ and the most Christ-like people in our lives,

we can mold ourselves into better people. “I've had lots of people who have helped me in my journey,” he said. “Too many to name.”

They fall into three categories: those who walk in front of us, beside us and behind us. Our mentors walk in front — like Mitchell, who was senior pastor at the church when McDaniel came. They have a moral foundation and ethics we admire and help guide us forward. For those who walk behind us, we are the guides, and we are called to be better people as role models for them.

But those who walk beside us, our peers, our friends, our helpers, our mates, may do the most to mold us into the people we are meant to be, and the best place to find them may be next to you in the pew.

Boca Raton Community Church is at 470 NW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. Services take place at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. 561-395-2400; bocacommunity.org.

*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

# ‘Owies’ a shortcut to understanding God at Vacation Bible School

For many churches, summer vacation is synonymous with Vacation Bible School. Educators like Christine Yount Jones, executive editor of *Children’s Ministry* magazine, says even a 2-year-old can be taught to understand God’s blessings and benefit from VBS.

Jones tells the story of the “Blessing of the Owie,” a way to get kids to open up and see God in their young lives.

“We start by showing an owie on our body — a scraped knee or cut on our hand. Then we tell what happened. We also talk about how amazing God is that he has created our bodies to heal. Then we ask the little ones if they have an owie. All of them begin scanning their feet, legs and arms for owies,” she said.

“Then we take turns praying for and blessing the owies, asking God to heal the owie.”

Showing kids that God is a vital and personal part of their daily lives can’t start too early, Jones said.

And those lessons stick, according to a 2025 article in *Bible Analysis*: “VBS not only plants seeds of faith but also nurtures lasting connections within the church community,” it said. “Moreover, VBS can stimulate ongoing participation in church life. Many children who attend VBS become involved in other church activities, such as youth groups, Sunday school, or family services.”

Here’s what’s happening at five local churches. Check with your church or a church near you for more programs.

**First United Methodist Church** hosts “Illumination Station,” designed to shine



First United Methodist Church’s VBS will shine a light ‘on who Jesus really is’ June 8-12. **Image provided**

a light “on who Jesus really is,” 9 a.m.-noon June 8-12 at the church, 625 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. The VBS is open to all potty-trained children 3 years old through fifth grade. The cost is \$50 per child but you can save \$10 per child if you volunteer for the week. Call 561-395-1244 or visit [fumcbocaraton.org/category/summer-programs/](http://fumcbocaraton.org/category/summer-programs/).

**Boca Raton Community Church** will host “Shine,” an evening adaptation of VBS, 6-8 p.m. June 15-18 for children entering pre-K through sixth grade in the main sanctuary of the church at 470 NW Fourth Ave. This high-energy, faith-filled summer experience helps kids grow their love for the Lord through Bible studies disguised as fun. This year’s theme is “God sees my heart,” based on 1 Samuel 16:7b: “People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” The cost is \$30 per child. Call 561-395-2400 or register at [bocacommunity.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1069/responses/new](http://bocacommunity.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1069/responses/new).

**St. Paul’s Episcopal VBS** transforms the campus into a theme park of fun and learning from 8:45 a.m. to noon June 8-11. This attracts almost as many volunteers as campers, the church said, because the learning doesn’t stop with kids. Adults also expand their understanding of Bible stories through creative play like skits, songs, crafts and games. A service project is often connected to the themed activities; one summer, after learning of the Apostle Paul’s imprisonment, children wrote notes of encouragement to people serving time in jail. St. Paul’s is at 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Cost is \$45 per child, from pre-K to those entering fourth grade. Call 561-276-4541 or visit [tinyurl.com/5bs3pc8t](http://tinyurl.com/5bs3pc8t) to register.

**Emmanuel Catholic Church** will have a rainforest theme for its VBS, June 5-7. Kids will be immersed in “Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God,” a fun, faith-filled adventure for kids in pre-K through fifth grade. Registration is \$50 per child, and family assistance is available. Volunteers are also needed, and teens are welcome — they can earn service hours while making a difference. The church is at 15700 S. Military Trail, Delray Beach. Call 561-496-2480 or go to [emmanuelcatholic.church](http://emmanuelcatholic.church).

**St. Paul Lutheran Church** will also host a “Rainforest Falls” VBS, 9 a.m.-noon June 8-12 at the church, 701 W. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton. Kids will visit Rainforest Falls, overflowing with waterfalls and colorful creatures,

to discover the nature of God. Kids explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, who is their safe place in life’s storms. Contact Christie Secreto at 561-395-0433 or [csecreto@stpaulboca.com](mailto:csecreto@stpaulboca.com).



The Mormon Church recently purchased Uptown Boca Villas at 20927 95th Ave. S. **Photo provided**

### Mormon Church expands its Palm Beach County footprint

The Mormon Church is expanding its Palm Beach County properties with the acquisition of the Uptown Boca Villas complex, according to a story in *Florida Real Estate Wire* in May.

Located near U.S. 441 and Glades Road, the 456-unit, seven-story building was purchased by the LDS Property Reserve, the real estate arm of the church, for \$240 million. It’s not the group’s first purchase.

In summer 2025, the Property Reserve paid \$152.5 million for the 384-unit Del Ola apartment complex on Federal Highway in Boca Raton. It also bought the 284-unit Elan Polo Gardens on

Continued on the next page

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Continued from previous page

Chukka Lane in Wellington at the end of 2024 for \$102 million. The Mormon Church's residential real estate holdings now total about half a billion dollars in Palm Beach County.

### Rabbi Hector Epelbaum wins prestigious award

In May, Rabbi Hector



Epelbaum

Epelbaum of B'nai Torah Congregation in Boca Raton was the recipient of the 2026 Rabbi Dr. Barry and Anita Kinzbrunner

Award, which is presented by the Neshama Association of Jewish Chaplains. It recognizes individuals who demonstrate extraordinary compassion, dedication to pastoral care and a lifelong commitment to acts of loving kindness. It is one of the association's highest honors.

Rabbi Epelbaum has served in Conservative pulpits for more than 33 years in Argentina, Israel and the United States. Raised in Buenos Aires, he worked in Netanya in Israel before coming to South Florida in 2014 as the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Israel in Sunrise. He came to B'nai Torah in June 2023 as an associate rabbi.

### Myrna Gross named Volunteer of the Year

On April 28, at B'nai Torah's 2026 general meeting, members approved the annual budget and welcomed the incoming board. But the highlight of the evening was recognizing Myrna Gross as the 2026 Volunteer of the Year.



Gross

For more than 40 years, Gross has been a devoted member and volunteer, giving

generously of her time, energy and heart. A Facebook post said the honor recognized "Myrna's tireless dedication and lasting impact on our synagogue community. ... Whenever there is a need, she steps forward — and when asked, she is always ready to answer the call."

### Yoga programs offered at St. Gregory's church

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, continues to offer two programs that combine movement and prayer. At 4 p.m. June 18, Yoga and Sacred Movement mixes gentle stretching movements and breath work with reflection on scripture and prayer. The program is led by parishioner and yoga instructor Daphne Lombardo under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Robyn Neville and is open to seniors and families. Bring your yoga mat and water.

At 4 p.m. June 27, 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. Call 561-395-8285 or email rneville@st-gregorys.com.

### Juneteenth celebration returns to St. Gregory's

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church's "Juneteenth Celebration: Celebrating Freedom" takes place 5-8 p.m. June 20 at the church. The event begins in the sanctuary and is followed by a potluck dinner in Harris Hall. (Please bring a dish to share. Ethnic dishes are encouraged.)

Music is by the Resurrection Steel Pan Orchestra. Donations are welcomed. St. Gregory's is at 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Call 617-461-3122 or visit stgregorysepiscopal.org/juneteenth.

— Janis Fontaine

## Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

### JUNE 7-13

**Sunday - 6/7 - Zoom Bible Study** at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: communications#accboca.net; 561-997-5486; ascensionboca.org

**Monday - 6/8 - 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

**6/8 - 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 - 6/9 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Wednesday - 6/10 - 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

**6/10 - 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 - 6/11 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee** presented by Unity of Delray Beach. 605-475-6006, passcode 3031030. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**6/11 - 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

**6/11 - Women's Bible Study** at St. Gregory's Youth Room, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Th 1 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

**Friday - 6/12 - Legion of Mary** at St. Vincent Ferrer, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 9:30-11 am. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

**6/12 - Bible Study w/Dave Kirk** at Advent Boca Raton, 300 E Yamato Rd. Every F 10-11:30 am. 561-395-3632; adventboca.org

**6/12 - Virtual Shabbat Service** at Temple Sinai, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaipbc.org



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**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. • Phone: 561-276-4541 • Web: stpaulsdelray.org. Father Paul Kane. Services of Holy Eucharist: Saturdays 5:00 p.m.; Sundays 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; Sundays 10:00 a.m. Family Prayers and Praise Service; Thursday 12:10 p.m. Healing Service; Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer and 8:00 p.m. Compline.

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• Friday Service: 7:30 p.m.; Saturday Service: 10:30 a.m.

### LUTHERAN

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH** 2929 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone: 561-732-2929 • Web: ascensionlutheranchurch.net. Worship Service/Holy Communion Sundays 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Our mission is Ministry: God has called us to share His love through healing hurts, filling needs and caring for those who are less fortunate in our family, in our community and around the world.

See ad this section for Easter Services

### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**CHURCH OF THE PALMS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 1960 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444 • Phone: 561-276-6347 • Web: churchofthepalms.net  
• Services: Sunday 10:00 a.m., Online Worship Sunday 4:00 p.m.

**JOURNEY CHURCH** • GoJourneyChurch.com • We're here to help you transform your life by Experiencing God, Finding Freedom, Discovering Your Purpose, and Making a Difference. There's a campus near you! Services are Sundays 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. • **West Palm Beach:** 2341 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415 • **Boynton Beach:** 715 S. Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • **Lake Worth Beach:** S. Military Trail, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33463.

### ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

**SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH** 2100 Yamato Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33431 • Phone: 561-994-4822 • Web: saintmarkboca.net • Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers (Matins); 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy. All are welcome.

### PRESBYTERIAN

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOYNTON BEACH** 235 SW 6th Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone: 561-732-3774  
• Web: fpcboynton.org • Services: Sundays at 10 a.m. in-person; live streamed on You Tube and Facebook. Fresh traditional worship; volunteer opportunities. Personal spirituality deepens in community worship.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH** 33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, FL 33483 • Phone: 561-276-6338  
• Web: firstdelray.com • Our purpose is Building Disciples, Transforming Lives. • Sunday Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Religious institutions of all faiths are invited to be included in this paid feature. For more info, call 561-704-7834.

## Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

### JUNE 6

**Saturday - 6/6 - Delray Beach Summer Green Market** every Saturday at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9 am-1 pm. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

**6/6 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Sat through 6/27. 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**6/6 - Sunny Strokes: Beginners Sunflower Watercolor Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**6/6 - Wild Bloom: Painting Abstract Flowers Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Held again 6/20. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**6/6 - Colored Pencil Drawing & Painting 4-Week Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Held again 6/12, 20 & 27. 1-4 pm. \$220. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**6/6 - Rock the Marina** at Boynton Harbor Marina, 735 Casa Loma Blvd, Boynton Beach. Live music, activities, food offerings from plaza restaurants. 2-6 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com

**6/6 - Real Love - Kenny & Dolly Tribute** at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Sat: 2 pm & 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**6/6 - Burlesque On The Ave** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. 8 pm. \$35-\$65. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

### JUNE 7-13

**Sunday - 6/7 - 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

**Monday - 6/8 - 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

**6/8 - Monday Movies - Documentary: Rewind and Replay** directed by Alain Gomis at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd

Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**6/8 - Pickleball** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Combines badminton & tennis. Adults. M/F 6-8 pm. \$5-\$7; \$50-\$65/24-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**Tuesday - 6/9 - Career & Employment Help w/CareerSource PBC** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/9 - Gareth Johnson in Concert** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. All ages. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/9 - Inside the Great Museums of Europe and America w/Carol Jonson** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Live in-person zoom class. Every T through 6/30 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**6/9 - Socrates Café** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**6/9 - Beginning Tap for Adults** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 6/30 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4-weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**6/9 - Dream-Count by Chimamanda-Ngozi-Adichie** part of Tuesday Evening Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

**6/9 - Artistic Journeys Reception - Art Connect Palm Beach - Stories in Color** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6-7:30 pm. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/9 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting** at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd T 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

**6/9 - All Arts Open Mic Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 2nd T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Wednesday - 6/10 - Creating with White Mixed Media Watercolor Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 11 am-3 pm. \$125. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**6/10 - Guided Discussion: Living and Leaving Your Legacy w/Merle Saferstein** at FAU Friedberg Auditorium,

## Municipal Meetings

**6/8 & 6/22 - Lantana** Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

**6/9 - Boca Raton** Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. myboca.us

**6/9 - Delray Beach** City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. delraybeachfl.gov

**6/9 - South Palm Beach** Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. southpalmbeach.com

**6/12 - Gulf Stream** Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. gulf-stream.org

**6/16 - Boynton Beach** City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. boynton-beach.org

**6/16 - Highland Beach** Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. highlandbeach.us

**6/23 - Manalapan** Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 9 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

**6/25 - Briny Breezes** Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm.

777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/membership; \$50.40/member; \$63/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**6/10 - Flix for Grownups: Top Gun: Maverick** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/10 - In Case You Missed It: The Romanovs, Russia, and the Jews, Part I w/Stephen Berk** at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 7/1 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**6/10 - Intro to Colored Pencil Drawing & Painting Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 18+. 5-8 pm. \$55. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**Thursday - 6/11 - Quilters** meet at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Limit 10. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/11 - Torn & Textured: Abstract Art with Attitude Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**6/11 - Line Dancing** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every Th 11 am-noon. \$7. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**6/11 - Seminar: Being a Woman in 2026 w/Ellyn Mantell** at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 7/2 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$69.60/member; \$87/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**6/11 - Summer Film Series - "Renoir: Revered And Reviled"** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Two times: 2-3:30 pm & 6-7:30 pm. \$10/member; \$5-\$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**6/11 - Bodacious Botanicals Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Th through 8/27. 4:30-6:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-

6221; boynton-beach.org

**6/11 - Practicing Kindness: Deepening Brain Regulation** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Four-part series designed to support emotional well-being, self-awareness, and meaningful connection through practices of kindness. 6-7:30 pm. \$30/member; \$42/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**6/11 - Wood Hood: Reclaiming Land, Healing in Nature (2022)** at Creative Arts School, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Presented by Spady Cultural Heritage Museum's Black Movie Experience. Age 18+. 6 pm. Free. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

**6/11-12 - Color Theory Basics 2-Day Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Must attend both dates. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**Friday - 6/12 - Mahjong Club - Open Play** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 6/26. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/12 - Lecture Series - Breaking the Frame: Reflecting on Modern Art - American Regionalism** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$30/member; \$40-\$50/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**6/12 - 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

**6/12 - Castoffs Square Dance** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. All ages. Every F 7-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**6/12 - Turnstiles: A Tribute to Billy Joel** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Summer in the City series. Bring blankets/chairs. 7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7890; mizneramp.com

**6/12 - Start Me Up - Rolling Stones Tribute** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**6/12 - Tribute to Woodstock** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**6/12-14 - The Hollow by Agatha Christie** at FAU Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 6/27. F/Sat: 7 pm; Sat/Sun: 2 pm. \$20-\$30. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**Saturday - 6/13 - George Snow Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony** at Lynn University's Wold Performing Arts Center, 3601 N Military Tr, Boca Raton. 9 am. scholarship.org/events

**6/13 - Voter Registration & Verification Event** at Boynton Beach Police Department, 2100 High Ridge Rd. Presented by Connect to Greatness, Inc., the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County, Women's Foundation of Florida, YMCA Palm Beach County and the EJS Project. Event designed to help residents move beyond assumptions and leave informed, prepared, and confident ahead of the statewide primary on 8/18 and national general election on 11/3. 10 am-2 pm. Free. 561-276-4898; lwvpsc.org

**6/13 - Open Figure Studio w/Model** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. Held again 6-8 pm 6/25. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**6/13 - Artist Market** at Creative Arts School, 51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. Free. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

**6/13 - Sketching in the Galleries** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**6/13 - Ceramics by You Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Sat through 6/27. 1-3 pm. Per class \$10/resident; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**6/13 - Queen Lives - Queen Tribute** at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 4 & 8 pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**6/13 - Drag Queen Bingo** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 21+. 7 pm. \$30.37. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

### JUNE 14-20

**Sunday - 6/14 - Exhibit Opening Reception** at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 7/4. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org

**6/14 - Roberta Rust: Einstein's 'Beloved Piano-Witch' w/Harriet**

## SUMMER

# DELRAY BEACH GREENMARKET

— May thru July —

## SATURDAYS

9am - 1pm

Old School Square

95 NE 1st Avenue

DOWNTOWN DELRAY BEACH



75+ Farmers, Bakers, Food Artisans  
Live Music / Cooking Demos



**Cohen** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$15/member; \$10-\$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**Tuesday - 6/16 - A Century of Great American Short Stories: Part I w/ Caren Neile** at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 7/7 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$100.50/member; \$134/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**6/16 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/Biographies: Do Admit! The Mitford Sisters and Me by Mimi Pond** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**6/16 - Turning the Lens on French History: The Romance, the Tragedy, and the Laughs w/Shelly Isaacs** at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 7/7 2:30-4:30 pm. \$60/membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**6/16 - Movie Night** at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. Held again 6/30. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

**6/16 - 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/

**6/16 - Spoken Word Open Mic: Poetry, Storytelling & Lyrics** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 3rd T 8-10:30 pm. \$20-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Wednesday - 6/17 - Icons of Detective Fiction: Doyle, Christie and More w/Margery Marcus** 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

**6/17 - 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

**6/17 - Johannes Gutenberg and the Invention of the Modern Printing Press w/Sylvia Laudien-Meo** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Live in-person zoom class. Every T through 6/30 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**6/17 - Art in Focus Tour - Jess, "Untitled (with Joan Crawford Head)"** at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/paid museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**6/17 - Advanced Colored Pencil Drawing & Painting Full-Day Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 3-8 pm. \$95. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**6/17 - Town Hall Talk: South Florida in The 18th Century w/Robert Carr** 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

**6/17-18 - Abstract Explosion: Painting Like a Pro 2-Day Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$190. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**6/17-18 - Intro to Photography 2-Day Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 5-8 pm. \$98. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**Thursday - 6/18 - "Manifest Destiny" Presidents: John Tyler (1841-1845) and James K. Polk (1845-1849) w/Ronald Feinman** 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

**6/18 - Alcohol Ink Floral Designs on Black Cardstock Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$45. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**6/18 - Summer at Sea Outdoor Movie Series - Finding Nemo** at the Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. Bring

## 4th of July Events



**Saturday - 7/4 - Firecracker 5K Run/Walk** at Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7:15 am-8:30 am. Tickets start at \$40. runsignup.com/Race/FL/BocaRaton/Firecracker5KRunwalkCityofBocaRaton

**7/4 - Liberty Cup Racquet Tournament** at Patch Reef Park (2000 Yamato Rd) and The Racquet Center (21626 St. Andrews Blvd). Round-robin bracket style Pickleball and Tennis Tournament. Divisions are determined by skill level. 8 am. \$35/residents; \$43.75-\$50/non-residents. 561-367-7090; myboca.us/1456/Fourth-of-July

**7/4 - 250th Birthday Independence Day Picnic Celebration** at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. All you can eat picnic buffet followed by The Rat Pack. Picnic: 11 am; Show: 2 pm. \$100/picnic or show; \$170-\$180/picnic & show. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

**7/4 - Red White & Blue with a Waterfront View** at Intracoastal Park, 2240 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Live music, food trucks, activities & entertainment, crafts, fireworks display. Bring chairs/blankets. Parking at 3301 Quantum Blvd and Eco Park, free a/c shuttles run from 3:30 pm for the entire event. 4-9:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6010; boynton-beach.org/658/4th-of-July-Celebration

**7/4 - Delray Beach 4th of July Celebration** at E Atlantic Ave & A1A. Flag-raising ceremony/honor guard/national anthem, contests, food trucks/vendors, entertainment, activities/games, more. Park west of the Intracoastal Bridge. Family fare. 5-9:30 pm. Free admission. 561-243-7250 x3; delraybeachfl.gov/our-city/things-to-do/4th-of-july

**7/4 - Boca Raton Fabulous Finale Celebration** at Countess de Hoernle Park/ Spanish River Athletic Complex, 1000 NW Spanish River Blvd. Live music, food/beverage for purchase, more. Free shuttle from Boca Raton Innovation Campus (BRiC). Blankets/chairs/reusable water bottles permitted. No pets, coolers, glass bottles, drones, sparklers/fireworks, or alcohol permitted on site. 6:30-9:30 pm. Free. 561-367-7073; myboca.us/1456/Fourth-of-July

**7/4 - Town of Lantana Celebrates 250 Years of Freedom** at Lyman Kayak Park, 122 N Lake Dr. This year's celebration will feature fireworks only. Bring chairs/blankets. Free parking/shuttle buses 6-10:15 pm from Lantana Town Hall & Finland House. 7:30 pm. Free admission. 561-540-5754; lantana.org

picnic dinner. Free popcorn, water & tea. Doors open 7 pm. \$10/person. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

**Friday - 6/19 - Juneteenth**

**6/19 - Flower Power Revival** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**6/19 - Guy Davis in Concert** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$48-\$53. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Saturday - 6/20 - 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

**6/20 - Creativity by the Coast Workshop Series - Nature Sketching** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13+; parent/guardian must register to participate with minors. 10-11:30 am. \$10/resident; \$13/non-resident. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**6/20 - Juneteenth Celebration** at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10 am-10 pm. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

**6/20 - Jungle Chic: Painting Tropical Plants in Watercolor Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**6/20 - Juneteenth Celebration** at Sara Sims Park, 209 NE 9th Ave, Boynton Beach. Featuring food trucks & vendors, music, entertainment, more. 2-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6220; boynton-beach.org

**6/20 - Juneteenth Celebration** at Hughes Park, 200 NE 14th St, Boca Raton. Hosted by D.I.S.C. of Pearl City. Live entertainment, community engagement and celebration of freedom. Featuring Sweet Potato Pie Contest, basketball tournament and more. 3-8 pm. Free. discofpearlcity.org

**6/20 - Seger Experience - The Premier Bob Seger Tribute Band** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Two shows: 4 pm & 8 pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**6/20 - French Swing Collective** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$53-\$58. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

### JUNE 21-27

**Sunday - 6/21 - FAU Summer Concert Band** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Bring blankets/chairs. Doors open 4 pm; concert 5 pm. Free. 561-393-7890; mizneramp.com

**6/21 - Story Central Storytelling Slam** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**Monday - 6/22 - Neighbors and Other Stories by Diane Oliver** at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

**6/22 - Monday Movies - The Phoenician Scheme directed by Wes Anderson** at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**Wednesday - 6/24 - Seminar: The Law of Wills and Trusts w/Jennifer Gomez** 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

**6/24 - Mixed Media Magic: Underwater Art & Expressive Collages Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**6/24 - White Gold: Obsession, Alchemy, and the Birth of Meissen Porcelain w/Anette Isaacs** 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

**6/24 - High Flying Summer Flix for Grownups: Independence Day** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/24 - The Smart Homebuyer & Homeowner Mortgage Blueprint** at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave.. Adults. 5:30-6:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/24 - Young Professionals Association of Delray Beach Social** at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. \$20/members; \$50/non-members. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

**Thursday - 6/25 - Excursion: Mosaic Magic: The Art of Paper Collage w/Helen Edmunds** at FAU Schmidt Art Gallery, Building 51 (PA) 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1-4 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**6/25 - Networking for a Good Cause - Golden Bell Education Foundation Fundraiser** presented by Boca Regional Chamber and The Inner Circle Executive Club at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 5-7 pm. Free admission. RSVP: bocachamber.com

**6/25 - Movies at the Square: Inside Out** at Old School Square Amphitheatre, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5-8 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com

**6/25 - Rock the Plaza** at One Boynton, 1501 Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Live music, activities, food offerings from restaurants in the plaza. 5-9 pm. Free. 561-

600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com  
**6/25 - Sounds of the Set** at Libby Wesley Plaza, 2 SW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 5:30-8:30 pm. Free. 561-243-7250; delraybeachfl.gov

**Friday - 6/26 - Lecture Series - Breaking the Frame: Reflecting on Modern Art - Abstract Expressionism** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$30/member; \$40-\$50/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**6/26 - Sunset Concert Series: Life in Technicolor - A Coldplay Tribute** at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5 pm. \$50/VIP; free/general admission. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

**6/26 - Magic In Mizner: Logan Light** at The Studio at Mizner Park, The Club Room, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Tickets start at \$33.85. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**6/26 - Live Comedy: Sean Madden & Yaqiao Yang** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$38.40. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**6/26 - The Long Run: A Tribute to the Eagles** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Summer in the City series. Bring blankets/chairs. 7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7890; mizneramp.com

**Saturday - 6/27 - Run with the Chief On The Avenue** begins & ends at Libby Wesley Plaza, 2 SW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Join Police Chief Darrel Hunter, Delray Police leadership and new recruits on this one-mile run/walk through downtown Delray Beach. All ages. 8-9 am. Free. Registration: eventeny.com/events/run-with-the-chief-30859/

**6/27 - Electric Landscapes: Layer, Brush, and Build Impact Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**6/27 - The Forgotten Occupation: Jim Crow Goes to Haiti (2023)** at Creative Arts School, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. 2 pm. Free. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

**6/27 - Glow & Pour: Luxury Candle**

**Making Workshop** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 3-5 pm. \$85. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**6/27-28 - Playwrights Festival of Plays** at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 2 pm. \$520. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**6/27-28 - Turnstiles - A Billy Joel Tribute** at The Wick Theatre, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Sat: 7:30 pm; Sun: 3 pm. \$75. 561-995-2333; thewick.org

### JUNE 28-JULY 4

**Wednesday - 7/1 - In Case You Missed It: 250 Years of American History in Song w/Matthew Sabatella and the Rambling String Band** at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$10.40/member; \$13/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**7/1 - Art in Focus Tour - Fernand Leger, "Le chien et un oise dans le paysage"** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/ paid museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**Thursday - 7/2 - Seminar: The Calm Revolution: From Worry to Wakefulness w/Susan Standbrook** at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 7/23 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$69.60/member; \$87/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

**7/2 - Concert: Duo Formosa - Piano & Violin** at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

**7/2 - Celebrate America: 250 Years in Song** at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Part of the Summer Sips & Sounds series. 6-8 pm. \$45/members; \$55/non-members. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

**Friday - 7/3 - First Friday @ 5** at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. 5 pm. Free. 561-742-6024; boynton-beach.org

**7/3 - First Friday Art Walk** at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

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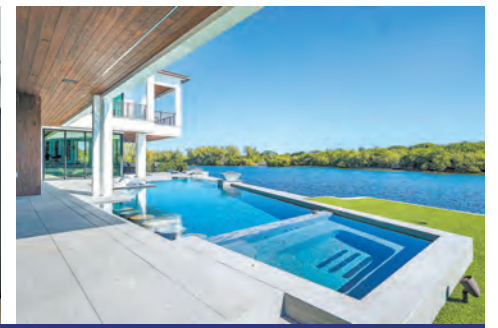
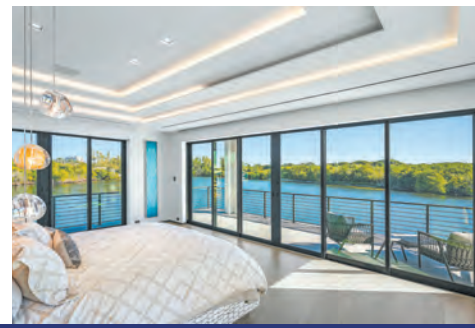
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2934 NE 8th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33431 | **List Price:** \$32,500,000 and Lease \$175,000 Per month  
Rare Point Lot Estate with 368Ft of Direct Intracoastal Water Frontage | Sweeping Water Views Spanning East, South & North Exposures | Newly Constructed Waterfront Compound Built to the Highest Standards of Luxury & Sustainability | Approximately 14,000 Living Sqft | 7 Bedrooms | 7.1 Bathrooms  
2,000 SQFT Waterfront Primary Suite | Fully Built Out Gym & Spa Suite with Infrared Sauna | Private Elevator | Club Room & Custom Bar | Resort Style See Through Infinity Edge Pool  
Outdoor Entertainment Deck with Pop Up TV & Jacuzzi | Chef's Kitchen Featuring Eggersmann Cabinetry & Gaggenau Appliances | Full Smart Home Automation | 5+ Car Garage



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