

Highland Beach

Beach condition flags flying on A1A

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach is now making it easy for residents and visitors to find out beach conditions thanks to flags that are flying in three locations — and a webpage that provides valuable information for those going to the beach.

The town began flying colored condition flags on June 24 at the town's north and south entrances on State Road A1A, and in front of the fire station at 3612 S. Ocean Blvd.

In addition, the town now has a dedicated beach conditions page on its website, highlandbeach.us, and a beach conditions tab on the town's app home page.

The decision to ensure residents have beach condition information came following the apparent April 4 drowning of Dr. Samuel Lang, who was swimming alone when he was caught in a strong rip current off the town's coastline.

The town is also continuing to explore the possibility of adding more beach condition flags at several beach entry

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Highland Beach firefighter/paramedics Ricardo Robinson and Cale Brader raise the yellow and purple beach warning flags in front of Fire Station 120. The town is now raising daily beach condition flags at the fire station and at the town's north and south entry signs to indicate water safety conditions. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Along the Coast

Looming property tax vote hints at big changes

Ballot measure putting more focus on spending issues

By Rich Pollack

Difficult decisions could loom large on the horizon should a proposed state constitutional amendment reducing property taxes for a giant chunk of Florida homeowners be approved by 60% of voters in November.

Yes, local government leaders will have to make tough choices, but the ripple effect of those decisions could mean higher costs for everyone — from business owners and renters to even soccer moms who could face higher league registration fees for their children to participate.

Proponents of the amendment say it will be a blessing for homeowners facing higher insurance costs and other affordability issues. They also see it as reining in local governments, whose budgets

See **TAXES** on page 20

Along the Coast

Waves of war: South Florida's brush with the Revolution

By Larry Barszewski

As America celebrates its 250th birthday, Palm Beach County residents wanting to visit a Revolutionary War battle site need only get in a boat and head a few miles offshore.

A historic naval battle, the last of the Revolution, took place there, though technically after the fighting had already ended.

There are no GPS coordinates for the March 10, 1783, encounter between the victorious USS *Alliance* and the defeated HMS *Sybil*. Such technology was more than a

bicentennial celebration away.

The battle for years has been described as having taken place off the coast of Cape Canaveral. There's even a historical marker about the battle on nearby



Merritt Island, where the battle is celebrated.

But a decade ago, when Cape Canaveral's current staff historian went looking for additional information about the battle for an article she was writing, she found original navigational logs from the

Alliance that showed the skirmish really took place between present-day West Palm Beach and Boca Raton.

"My article was not very well

received by some of our local history organizations," historian Molly Thomas now admits, but she says the logs and other ship entries don't lie.

It appears the Cape Canaveral reference for the battle is a mix-up akin to the Revolutionary War misnomer of the Battle of Bunker Hill, which instead took place on Breed's Hill. It turns out Cape Canaveral was one of the few easily identifiable coastal reference points for voyagers sailing between St. Augustine and the Florida Keys, Thomas said.

"Even for the most enthusiastic local historian to say that this location (more than 140 miles to the southeast) is 'off the coast of Cape Canaveral,' seems a bit of a stretch," she wrote in her 2017 story in



The USS Alliance. Image provided

Brevard County's *Indian River Journal*, which detailed her research.

Given her findings, some have given the fight an alternate name: the Battle of the Gulf Stream.

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The ArtsPaper

Plenty of musical options for summer entertainment. **Page AT5**



Practicing with the pros
Local kids get to see World Cup athletes up close. **Page AT1**

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Delray sues Highland Beach for payment for prior services. **Page 8**

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Billionaire seeks to buy campus where IBM invented the PC. **Page 12**

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Coastal Stars



Ilona and Malcolm Balfour were instrumental in the creation and maintenance of the Lantana Nature Preserve and were honored by the Town Council for their service. Jim Rassol/The Coastal Star

Lantana preserve a natural cause for this Hypoluxo Island couple

By Mary Thurwachter

A presentation during the June 8 Lantana Town Council meeting turned the spotlight on one of the town's most beloved couples, Malcolm and Ilona Balfour. They were recognized for their dedication to the town, especially the Nature Preserve.

Born in South Africa, the Balfours, now in their 80s, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary recently. Their life hasn't always been easy (Ilona says her husband often worked multiple jobs to provide for the family), but has been marked with a love of community. They moved to Miami in 1968, where Malcolm, the son of a South African journalist, began writing for Reuters and UPI. One assignment had him covering a ball at the Breakers in Palm Beach, where he ended up dancing with Rose Kennedy.

That news caught the attention of media mogul Generoso Pope of *The National Enquirer*, which was headquartered in Lantana. Pope hired Balfour, which brought the couple and their two small children to Lantana in 1972. By 1975, they had moved into the house where they still reside on Hypoluxo Island. Nestled between the beach and the newspaper, it was perfect for the young family. Malcolm rode his bicycle to work.

The location also put the Balfours in good position to overlook the Lantana Nature Preserve. It opened at 440 E. Ocean Ave. in 2000 and was practically in their backyard, with a small waterway between.

The preserve hadn't existed when the family first arrived. The Balfour kids waded through the water to play games on the property.

Ilona and other concerned residents were instrumental in the preserve's creation. In the 1970s, Ilona and others founded Save Our Parks to make sure valuable town waterfront land wasn't sold for

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development.

Other members of Save Our Parks included Rod and Elizabeth Tennyson, Andrea Babkie and Veronica Rauch, Ilona said at the presentation.

Save Our Parks' first victory came with the creation of Bicentennial Park in 1976. It looked like the town mayor then was going to sell the land to build shops on the waterfront property.

Save Our Parks rallied for a park and won. That same year, the Balfours, caught up in Bicentennial fervor, became U.S. citizens.

Next targeted for sale and development was the town dump, a 13-acre plot between the beach and Hypoluxo Island. Plans called for a luxury home community to be built on the site, but residents, particularly the Save Our Parks crew, lobbied and were ultimately successful in securing a park.

Developers built a luxury senior living home, the Carlisle, on 7.5 acres.

The 6.5 acres beside it became the Lantana Nature Preserve, designed to look much like what pioneers who arrived in 1865 would have seen.

As part of the negotiations with the developer, the Carlisle agreed to pay for maintenance.

That fee has grown over the years. This year, the town will receive \$65,000 to care for the park. Carlisle residents are regular park visitors.

"We visited every bar in town to get the local fishermen involved and filled the council chambers with people who wanted a park," Ilona said.

Ilona is part of local tree lore. Folks say that when the preserve was being constructed, Ilona chained herself to a ficus tree to protect it from destruction as she held

a sign that read "Leave my tree Ilona," a wordplay on her first name. She didn't actually do that.

"I threatened to tie myself to the tree," she says. But the ficus wasn't a native and had to go. It was replaced with a strangler fig. "The birds seem to like it," she says.

Since it opened in 2000, the Balfours have been active visitors and staunch supporters of the preserve's wildlife and conservation efforts. Malcolm was a member of the Town Council for nine years. Environmental and preservation issues remain part of his public service record.

By the late 1990s, the town began clearing the debris and grading the terrain to mimic a coastal dune. Nonnative plants were removed and replaced with mangrove seedlings and coastal grasses.

The Balfours, as members of the Friends of the Lantana Nature Preserve, were active visitors and supporters. In the early years, Friends of the Lantana Nature Preserve sponsored educational tours for children to teach them about native plants.

"We'd give them prizes when they correctly identified plants," Ilona said. "Before Mother's Day, we gave them each a butterfly plant to take home to their mothers."

If a bathroom visit was necessary, they marched the children next door to the luxurious Carlisle.

"The kids were more excited about the marble restrooms than the plants," Ilona remembered.

Former Mayor Dave Stewart, who drove down from his home in St. Augustine to witness the presentation, said the Balfours were dedicated to preserving the small-town feel of Lantana.

"They have done their best to make sure the town was a pleasant, nice place for people to live, work and play," he said. "They have always tried to do what is best." ★

Editor's Note

The right to vote: Still a thing after 250 years

Patriotic fervor is on full display this month, with Fourth of July fireworks extravaganzas up and down the coast — including in Lantana, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach and Boca Raton — and even a reading of the Declaration of Independence as part of Delray Beach's festivities.

It is quite a feat that America is still standing 250 years after that declaration was first read throughout the 13 colonies.

Let's keep that exuberance going as we head into the fall and the upcoming election season.

Nothing is more foundational to the ideal that is America than the right to vote, giving each citizen a say in the direction our country takes.

It'll be up to people like Wendy Sartory Link, Palm Beach County's election supervisor, to make sure the rules are followed and the elections go off without a hitch. That's no easy task when you realize that in Palm Beach County alone, there are close to 870,000 registered voters.

I attended an Elections Experience Tour in June that Link offered to teach "about the election process, voting equipment, ballot security, and the steps taken to ensure accurate and transparent elections."

Link's tour was impressive, detailing and demonstrating the steps taken during each part of the process to ensure the integrity of our elections.

The system's machines can move ballots at incredible speeds — yet still have time to weigh every ballot being mailed out as an added precaution — with built-in redundancies to verify an accurate count.

While the mailed-in votes zip through many parts of the system, the voter signatures on them are all checked manually by trained staff. When it comes to counting the vote, the results are tabulated by two separate systems, providing an automatic audit of every precinct's results.

When irregularities or issues pop up, the county's canvassing board — made up of Link, a county commissioner and a county judge — steps in to make a final determination.

But there will be plenty of places for confusion to pop up.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that states that allow mailed-in ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted can continue to count them.

Just remember, Florida isn't one of those states. Florida elections supervisors can only count ballots from regular voters that arrive in their offices by Election Day.

There are also battles taking place that could impact the vote here, such as over what exactly is a free and fair election.

It has to be that everyone eligible to vote — and only those eligible to vote — are allowed to vote. However, some people place the emphasis on making it as easy as possible for all eligible voters to be able to cast a ballot, while others stress the need for additional safeguards to find and stop any ineligible voters from doing so.

In the end, it'll be up to the courts to determine what steps are OK and which go too far — and just how easy or difficult it should be for citizens to take part in the election process.

The founders didn't create a perfect system. Each generation has struggled to keep the promise of America going. Two steps forward, one step back; that's the history of our country.

We just need people willing to stand up for the rights and values that got us this far, especially the right to vote, to provide hope as America sets its sights on that next looming milestone — our tricentennial — 50 years from now.

— Larry Barszewski, Editor



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

Highland Beach

New state e-bike rules will do for now on town's walking path

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach has put the brakes on plans to ban electric bikes and other battery-operated vehicles from its 3-mile-long walking path on State Road A1A after learning that any such moves would have to be blessed by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Further knocking the town off balance is a proposed Palm Beach County ordinance that could be implemented throughout the entire county regulating the vehicles.

Highland Beach town leaders, led largely by Vice Mayor David Stern, have expressed concerns about electric bikes and other electric vehicles on the walking path, which is popular among walkers and people on non-motorized bicycles.

In response, Town Attorney Len Rubin drafted an ordinance prohibiting motorized scooters, e-bikes and other motor vehicles from being operated on the path, but he said it would be difficult to enforce without FDOT's consent.

"The town could not enforce the ordinance or erect any signage warning operators of the prohibition without the approval and consent of FDOT," he wrote.

Town Manager Marshall Labadie said the town will reach out to FDOT officials to see if it is possible to implement the ordinance on the walking path.

Rubin said that even a proposed county ordinance being circulated would most likely need FDOT approval if it was to be enforced on FDOT rights-of-way.

Regarding the electric vehicles, the draft of the county ordinance requires "operation with due care and prudence, having regard for pedestrian activity, traffic conditions, visibility and other attendant circumstances that does not endanger the safety of persons or property."

It would also prohibit operation on sidewalks and shared-use paths within designated commercial or high pedestrian areas and would allow the designation of zones where electric vehicles are prohibited.

While that ordinance could be applied countywide, Rubin said that municipalities would have the ability to not adopt it.

Already several area municipalities have been considering ordinances regulating electric vehicles on sidewalks. Boynton Beach

has discussed a proposed ordinance, but not adopted it, and staff in Delray Beach is doing research into possible regulation. Boca Raton relies on state law and prohibits e-motorcycles on sidewalks.

This month a new state law takes effect that requires e-bikes to go no faster than 10 miles per hour on sidewalks or pedestrian areas if a pedestrian is within 50 feet. The law also requires those on e-vehicles to provide an audible warning, including a bell, before passing a pedestrian on a shared-use path or park trail.

The law also requires riders under 16 to wear a properly fitted helmet. ★

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Delray Beach/Highland Beach

City sues town over back payments for fire rescue services

By Rich Pollack

After years of back-and-forth discussions and letters, Delray Beach in June filed a lawsuit against neighboring Highland Beach, claiming the oceanfront town owes the city \$3.8 million for past fire rescue services.

As they have for at least the past four years, Highland Beach town officials dispute the contention.

"The amount claimed is not substantiated by the exhibits they provided," said Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie.

In April 2025, Highland Beach responded to a request from Delray Beach for mediation by saying the town sees the advantage of settling the dispute without going to court, but it wouldn't do that until it received detailed records it has been seeking for several years.

Now it appears mediation may be one of the first steps in the effort to resolve Delray Beach's claims that Highland Beach is in breach of contract.

"Now we have an opportunity to get to

a place where we can resolve this issue," Delray Beach City Manager Terrence Moore said. "This is the next step."

In the lawsuit, the city said it initially sent the town a breach-of-contract notification in 2023 for \$517,654 for moneys owed in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

The suit said that in 2025, the city further reviewed "all transactions and amounts for services rendered and determined the town owed the city \$3.8 million."

Highland Beach's Labadie said that the town has not received a bill from Delray Beach since 2023.

For more than 30 years, Highland Beach and Delray Beach had an agreement in which Delray Beach provided fire and rescue services to the town using a town-owned fire station.

In May 2024, Highland Beach started its own fire department, following notification to the city in October 2021 that it would terminate the contract.

During the final years of the contract, Highland Beach disputed the way Delray

Beach calculated how much it was owed.

In years prior to the split, Delray Beach began using the actual costs of the 21.5 firefighter paramedics assigned to the station in Highland Beach to determine the town's cost for service, about \$5 million per year.

Highland Beach has argued, however, that the agreement between the two municipalities clearly states that such cost should be calculated based on the average "in-rank" cost of fire rescue personnel throughout the city.

Since that time, the two municipalities have exchanged correspondences, including one in which Highland Beach Town Attorney Len Rubin wrote that the town thinks the city actually owes it money because it overcharged the town almost \$238,000 for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

While the city in the lawsuit says it provided the town with additional materials and data in 2023, Highland Beach leaders have said they have not received all the detailed information that substantiated Delray Beach's contentions.

"There is nothing to validate their claims," Labadie said.

In March 2023, State Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman, a former Highland Beach town commissioner, took the issue before the state's Joint Legislative Auditing Committee that she served on. The committee referred the matter to the state auditor general's office, which reported that November that Delray Beach had mismanaged its billing and had not charged Highland Beach for \$2.2 million the city was owed. The anticipated mediation following that report has yet to occur.

The new lawsuit, which was filed in Palm Beach County Circuit Court on June 10, came just a short time after Delray Beach City Commissioner Juli Casale asked for an update on efforts to collect money owed by Highland Beach.

Labadie said that he believes the dispute will eventually be resolved, but he doesn't think that will happen quickly.

"It will eventually work itself out in time," he said. ★

Along the Coast

The Coastal Star reaps awards at Florida Press Association ceremony

Staff report

The Coastal Star received 15 awards from the Florida Press Association for coverage it provided during 2025, including seven first-place prizes.

In one of the most prestigious categories, the paper placed

second in general excellence, coming after it won the top prize in that category last year.

"I hope the recognition shows our readers that we are continuously striving to give them the best community newspaper possible," Editor Larry Barszewski said.

The awards were presented June 5 during the annual Florida Media Conference, held this year at Disney Springs in Lake Buena Vista. The paper competed in the weekly and monthly newspaper category with papers having a circulation exceeding 15,000.

The Coastal Star award winners are:

First place

Rich Pollack; *Roads & Transportation*: "Crosswalk Confusion" about the state of crosswalks on State Road A1A.

Ron Hayes; *Sports Feature Story*: "From Player to Piper," about a Saint Andrew's High School football player who took up playing bagpipes for the team after he was sidelined by an injury.

Janis Fontaine; *Agricultural & Environmental Reporting*: "FAU's mascot faces a familiar foe — the university itself," about how construction projects were affecting burrowing owls on campus.

Tim Stepien; *Spot News Photo*: A photo showing a family on A1A putting their lives in their hands as they raise hands to alert drivers to their presence so they can cross safely. There had been a recent fatality involving a pedestrian in the same Delray Beach crosswalk.

Staff; *Online Breaking News Coverage*: "City drops fight against state over Pride" and "Scrubbing out Pride," about the state's erasure of Delray Beach's Pride rainbow intersection.

John Pacenti; *The Gwen*

Stevenson Memorial Award, for General News Story: "Submerged lands buyer faces choppy legal seas," about a businessman buying up submerged lands in the area.

John Pacenti; *Outdoor & Recreation*: "Rental chairs and erosion combine to make prime beach space scarce," about the tight space at the Delray Beach municipal beach.

Second place

Staff; *General Excellence*
Jan Norris; *Arts, Entertainment & Review Reporting*: "Dining: Is that kosher?" about the growing variety of fares one can find at local kosher restaurants.

Faran Fagen; *Outdoor & Recreation*: "Field of dreams: Miracle League gives kids with disabilities a chance to play ball."

Ron Hayes; *Faith & Family Reporting*: "Philanthropy Season Preview: CROS Ministries has a hunger to help," about how the ministry is serving those in need.

Steve Plunkett, Tim Stepien, Jerry Lower; *Hurricane Coverage, General News Story*: "Hurricane adds to heaps of trouble for sea turtle babies," about how passing hurricanes were affecting turtle nesting and hatchlings.

Third place

Steve Plunkett; *Breaking News Story*: "Gumbo Limbo loses its sea turtle hospital."

Rich Pollack; *Roads & Transportation*: "Family matriarch in A1A crosswalk fatally struck by cars" and "Calls for sharing road, knowing rules amplify with crashes weighing on A1A bicyclists' minds."

Ron Hayes; *Community History*: "Old Betsy," about Boca Raton's first fire engine. ★



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Gulf Stream

Speeding car flips on A1A in late-night crash

The driver of a car speeding northbound on State Road A1A in Gulf Stream late at night on June 29 lost control of the Land Rover SUV, which hit a water pipe, struck several trees and then flipped over onto the roadway.

The man, whose name has not been released, was transported by Trauma Hawk helicopter following the crash, with police shutting down A1A for about two hours following the 11:20 p.m. incident. Hours later, on the morning of June 30, A1A traffic was detoured for about 4 ½ hours as crews for Boynton Beach worked to repair the damaged water pipe.

Gulf Stream Police Chief Richard Jones said one of his officers was stationed in a cruiser along northbound A1A when his car shook from the Land Rover speeding past at an estimated 80 mph.

“As he looked up, the car was about beginning to lose control,” Jones said. The car struck a large water valve and crashed into multiple trees before flipping over, he said. The car’s engine could be seen along the roadway, having been knocked out of the car.

Jones said he could not release details about the driver while the crash is under investigation. The condition of the driver was not known as of press time June 30.

The crash occurred in the 4300 block of A1A, near the Ballantrae condominiums. Debris was scattered for several hundred feet, Jones said.



An auto engine, a wheel and an overturned SUV litter the northbound lane of A1A in Gulf Stream after the June 29 crash. Work to restore the road continued for hours into the next morning. Photo provided by Gulf Stream Police

— Larry Barszewski

Delray Beach

‘Beach Takeover’ defused, but mob scene scared businesses, residents

By Larry Barszewski

More than 500 juveniles and young adults swarmed the Delray Beach pavilion and surrounding area June 6 in a “Beach Takeover” that police said “had been promoted extensively on social media.”

Police said they were aware of the postings and were on hand in force to maintain public safety during the gathering, with officers clearing the area once the beach officially closed at dusk.

Officers “managed several disturbances, fights, and acts of disorderly conduct that occurred as the crowd moved through the downtown corridor,” Police Chief Darrell Hunter wrote in an email to commissioners and the city manager the next day.

“Multiple arrests were made when individuals resisted lawful orders, interfered with officers, or engaged in criminal activity,” Hunter said. “Despite the size of the crowd and the challenges presented, officers effectively controlled the situation, prevented escalation, and restored normal operations without any major injuries or significant property damage.”

As of June 23, the Police Department was denying *The Coastal Star’s* public records request for police reports of the incident that City Commissioner Tom Markert described as a “mob scene at A1A and Atlantic,” with police saying the reports concerned an active criminal investigation.

At the City Commission’s June 9 meeting, Markert said the gathering was one of several “takeovers” that had occurred in Palm Beach County during the previous week. He had seen social posts for a June 5 takeover of the Wellington Mall and another June 6 at the beach on Singer Island. There have been other reported “teen takeovers” happening across the state over the past several months.

While Markert said he doesn’t want to see juveniles being arrested, he also said the Delray Beach incident was a “scary situation” from his perspective.

“We had several merchants that called me that had to close their doors because the conditions were unsafe,” Markert said. “I don’t want our residents to feel unsafe, and I certainly don’t want our merchants closing up their doors early on a Saturday night.” ★

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Boca Raton

'Oyster garden' installed at Rutherford Park

The fishing pier at Rutherford Park is now home to the city's first "vertical oyster garden."

City staff installed 25 strands of recycled oyster shells under the park's pier on the Intracoastal Waterway in May. The strands, which were assembled by volunteers at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, provide a surface for oyster larvae to attach and grow, creating living reefs that support fish, crabs, shrimp and other marine life, the city said.

Oysters are powerful natural filters, with a single adult capable of filtering up to 50 gallons of water per day, the city said. As oyster populations grow, they improve water clarity, reduce excess nutrients and support seagrass growth.

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club partnered with restaurants to collect and recycle the oyster shells. The shells were drilled, strung on stainless steel cables and assembled into vertical gardens at Gumbo Limbo in April. Their weights were recorded to help track oyster growth and habitat development over time.

The project supports the city's goals of improving water quality, restoring marine habitat, enhancing coastal resilience and engaging the community in environmental stewardship, the city said. — Steve Plunkett



In some locations the oyster strands are hung with poly-rope (above); city staffers hung the ones in Boca Raton's Rutherford Park (right) on stainless steel cables that can provide longer lifespans. **Photos provided**



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Delray Beach

City seeks to invest settlement funds in opioid recovery services

By Sephora Charles

Delray Beach commissioners plan to invest nearly \$396,000 in state opioid settlement funds toward housing, job assistance and a new mobile health unit designed to connect residents with support services.

The city is receiving the money from annual distributions from a statewide opioid litigation settlement, established to address the effects of the opioid epidemic. The suits concerned the overdoses, addictions and deaths linked to manufacturing, distribution and over-prescribing of the painkillers.

“These funds should be allocated in a way that reaches the entire community, most importantly those who are currently still alive, but struggling to stay alive and are the victims of these horrible practices,” Lissa Franklin, the executive director of the Delray Beach Drug Task Force, said during public comments at the commission’s June 9 meeting.

Delray Beach currently has \$395,524 available for opioid-related services, Assistant City Manager Jeff Oris said during the commission meeting.

The commission’s approved expenditure plan includes \$125,500 for a mobile integrated health unit run by the fire rescue department, \$135,000 for workforce and job assistance grants, and \$135,024 for affordable housing grants for residents in recovery.

The mobile integrated health unit is designed to follow up with residents who were transported to the hospital due to opioid-related issues, recurring substance use or mental health issues. Through this program, residents who aren’t connected with recovery resources after their hospital visit will be referred to the appropriate professionals and services to help maintain long-term stability.

“This program, at its core, is meant to address on a local level a hole that we know exists in our health care system,” Fire Chief Ronald Martin said.

Settlement funds for the unit will finance up to 50% of the program’s anticipated \$251,000 total, covering part of the salary for a paramedic and a licensed clinical social worker. No source of funding has been identified for the remaining cost.

Commissioner Juli Casale voiced her concern about funding a new two-person unit instead of contributing to an existing program from a

private provider.

“I’m just wondering if it’s more financially efficient for us to find somebody doing it and fund them,” she said.

Casale worried that the unit will need additional funding in the next budget year to hire more staff — as the city prepares for potential budget reductions.

Martin acknowledged the commission’s concerns about the city’s financial uncertainty but emphasized the program’s importance.

“This is the right thing to do for the community,” he said.

The city is taking the community’s feedback to shape its spending priorities, Oris said.

“Treatment is not the issue right now; support for those in treatment and those who have come from treatment is the real issue,” he said.

As a next step, city staff is submitting the spending plan to the Florida Department of Children and Families. The city will then advertise a request for proposals for the approved services.

Staff will review applications before referring qualified proposals to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, consisting of seven members appointed by the City Commission. The committee will then make funding recommendations to commissioners for final approval. ★

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Boca Raton

Stephen Ross company trying to buy historic IBM site

By Mary Hladky

Related Ross, founded by billionaire and Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, is in negotiations to buy the Boca Raton Innovation Campus.

Jordan Bargas, executive vice president of Related Ross, confirmed the company's intent in a mid-June statement.

"Related Ross is excited about

the opportunity to expand into Boca Raton at BRiC, an incredible asset with a rich history," he said.

The 123-acre campus at 5000 T-Rex Ave., immediately west of Interstate 95 off Yamato Road, now is owned by CP Group, Rialto, DRA Advisors and Las Olas Capital Advisors. A spokeswoman declined comment.

The campus, with its rich history as the place where IBM invented the personal computer, includes an iconic 1.7 million-square-foot office building designed by architect Marcel Breuer.

When CP Group acquired BRiC in 2018 for \$179 million, it embarked on an ambitious plan to create a \$1 billion live-work-play development. It since has spent \$100 million upgrading the campus.

In 2023, the City Council approved zoning changes that allowed the company to re-envision the site by adding more than 1,200 residential units, 125,000 square feet of retail — including a grocery

store — a 55,000-square-foot entertainment venue, 85,000 square feet of medical offices and a 140-room boutique hotel.

West Palm Beach-based Related Ross has shown its desire to expand into Boca Raton before. The company and Terra and Frisbie Group submitted unsolicited proposals in 2024 to redevelop the city's 30-acre downtown campus.

With four companies eventually in the running, the City Council rejected Related Ross' proposal on grounds its proposed 2.4 million square feet of development that included three office buildings was too dense.

Terra/Frisbie won out, but

city residents on March 10 resoundingly voted against its redevelopment plan.

CP Group also is looking for opportunity.

It is negotiating to buy downtown Boca Raton's Mizner Park. The current owner, Brookfield Properties, wants to sell that retail, dining and cultural destination.

The city's Community Redevelopment Agency in February consented to transfer long-term commercial ground leases in Mizner Park to four entities led by CP Group.

Brookfield owns most of the buildings in Mizner Park and the CRA owns the land underneath them. ★



PUBLIC NOTICE
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YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Town Commission of the Town of Highland Beach is accepting Applications for the following boards/committees:

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Code Enforcement Board The Board hears cases involving violations of the Town Code and ordinances and imposes administrative fines and other non-criminal penalties where a pending or repeated violation exists.	One (1) vacancy for a (3) three-year term.
Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board The board provides constructive advice and counsel to town departments and boards, and to the town commission with a broad outlook toward environmental and natural resources preservation, protection, and conservation.	One (1) Vacancy for an unexpired term ending April 2027
Financial Advisory Board The board provides constructive advice to counsel to the town commission with regards to budget, capital improvement programs and provide recommendations about practices and procedures related to benefiting the financial condition of the town.	One (1) vacancy for a (3) three-year term.

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

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

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

Boca Raton News

City pursues railroad crossing at Jeffery Street

— Boca Raton has received a \$2 million federal Congressional Community Project Funding award that will go toward the cost of a new Florida East Coast Railway crossing at Jeffery Street, near the city's planned North Park.

As part of the FEC project, the Northwest 28th Street railroad crossing about two miles to the south will be closed.

U.S. Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Parkland, presented the city with a ceremonial check on June 22. The city is coordinating

the project with the Florida Department of Transportation and the FEC. Construction is expected to begin in the fall.

In addition to the new crossing, the work will include intersection, sidewalk, drainage, lighting and signage improvements. Jeffery Street also will provide another link between Northwest Second Avenue and Federal Highway.

Jeffery also bisects the planned North Park at 5800 NW Second Ave.

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District awarded a \$19.7 million bid on

June 22 to Butters Construction and Development to build facilities on the east 70 acres of the park, including extensive walking and bike trails, restrooms, a playground, fitness equipment, a dog park and a parking lot. The city will pay for a pedestrian tunnel under Jeffery Street to connect the separated sides.

— Mary Hladky and Steve Plunkett

Whole blood now available on special EMS vehicle

— Boca Raton residents with medical emergencies and experiencing severe blood loss now will have access to whole blood transfusions before they arrive at the hospital.

The city's Fire Rescue is among only 1-2% of emergency agencies nationwide equipped to provide whole blood, city officials said.

The blood is carried on a specially equipped EMS supervisor vehicle that can be dispatched anywhere within the city limits. It is stored in a temperature-controlled cooler that is constantly monitored.

All city firefighters are certified paramedics and have undergone specialized training on the storage, warming and administration of whole blood.

"Administering blood in pre-hospital environments is a critical intervention that can significantly improve patient outcomes," said Fire Chief John Treanor. "Boca Raton Fire Rescue is now equipped to perform this vital procedure, enhancing our service delivery to those we serve."

— Mary Hladky




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Delray Beach

Residents upset about cemetery's condition

By Sephora Charles

Delray Beach city commissioners plan to discuss problems at the city's cemetery after hearing residents' complaints about deteriorating conditions there and a lack of upkeep — with one commissioner saying she can't even determine where her father is buried.

City Manager Terrence Moore said he will provide a comprehensive summary of the issues there during a July 14 commission workshop meeting.

Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery on Southwest 10th Street has reached capacity, and residents are worried about the maintenance of their loved ones' resting places.

Ann Stacey Wright, a city resident, said during public comments at the commission's June 9 meeting that she recently visited the cemetery and "was very upset at the condition of the headstone of my family members."

Grass had grown to nearly cover the tombstones, and damage was visible on the headstones, she said.

Vice Mayor Angela Burns said during the meeting that other residents discussed the matter with her. After spending some time in the cemetery, she said she is "very, very concerned."

The lack of plot space is leaving families scrambling to find a cemetery to bury their loved ones, including a young woman who went weeks without being able to bury her mother, Burns said.

"Families are not getting any closure," she said.

Last year, the city announced plans to



expand the historic cemetery with two mausoleum buildings, including more than 2,000 spaces.

Residents are also worried about a tree that may be removed, which they said

could affect the surrounding gravesites.

Burns shared feedback about the cemetery's online database. She said that her father was buried there in 1974, and she does not know exactly where his



ABOVE LEFT: The headstone of a World War II veteran is nearly obscured by leaves.

ABOVE RIGHT: Delray Beach resident Ann Stacey Wright tells city commissioners that she is very troubled about the condition of her family's headstone.

LEFT: A worker prepares rebar for the floor of a new mausoleum being built to increase the cemetery's capacity.

Photos by Jerry Lower and Rachel O'Hara/The Coastal Star

grave is located. An error appears on the website when she searches for him.

Moore said that there are "record-keeping issues that date back decades."

Burns suggested holding the workshop to address these problems because the cemetery "is in bad shape." ★

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AMERICA 250

Continued from page 1

The 14th (and 15th) colonies

Many people may not realize it, but Florida — then split between East Florida and West Florida — belonged to Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. The British got the two colonies from Spain in 1763 following the French and Indian War, and 20 years later — when the Revolutionary War ended — they went back to Spain.

Florida, despite its short history with Britain as its 14th and 15th colonies, was loyal to the crown and was enemy territory during the revolution. Many loyalists from the 13 original colonies made their way to Florida when the fighting started.

There wasn't much here. "Unlike the other British colonies in North America, East Florida literally had only one town," St. Augustine, said historian Roger Clark Smith, who teaches at the University of Florida.

He further explained, "St. Augustine was mentioned in letters by George Washington as a military target and a military concern — Congress authorized invasions into East Florida five times, three of which pierced our borders."

Janet DeVries Naughton, a local historian in Palm Beach County, echoed that in research she has done.

"East Florida's capital city St. Augustine served as a base of British operation against the south," Naughton wrote about Florida's short history under British rule. "The settlement had a fortification that included a garrison and a single British infantry regiment. This regiment successfully blockaded most invading rebels; therefore, few notable or epic battles were lost or won in the territory."

It's not surprising that the land that is now Palm Beach County played no role in the



A look at southern East Florida, on 1776 map of British colonies

The war's final naval battle took place in 1783 off the coast of present-day Palm Beach County. The Boca Raton Inlet is charted as 'Rio Seco,' the Jupiter Inlet as 'Grenville Inlet,' Lake Okeechobee as 'Lake Mayaco,' and 'Hillsboro Inlet' to the north is now the Fort Pierce Inlet. The Gulf Stream is called 'The Florida Stream.' Map provided by FloridaMemory.com

war. If Florida was inhospitable to the revolutionaries and revolution taking place to the north, the coast between the current Boca Raton and Palm Beach inlets was just plain inhospitable to all.

Some native Americans

eked out an existence here, and historians say Spanish fishers occasionally camped along the coast, but that was about it.

The Gulf Stream connection

The Gulf Stream, however, brought the war alongside our

coast. Its currents provided a lifeline between Great Britain and its holdings in the West Indies, with the Gulf Stream's closest point to shore off the coast of present-day Palm Beach County.

Historians say those product-

In a different age, historian Molly Thomas mused, the final naval battle of the Revolutionary War could have been known as the Battle of Boca Raton.

laden ships heading back to Britain from the West Indies were targets of marauding privateers — basically American pirates authorized by the government during the revolution to attack British ships and seize their goods.

The coast, though part of loyal Florida, would provide no comfort to British crews forced to abandon ship. Reaching shore would just put them amid unfriendly natives in a miserably hot and mosquito-infested landscape, overgrown with saw palmetto and mangroves.

The final battle

The term Gulf Stream barely existed when the Founding Fathers gathered in Philadelphia in July 1776 to sign the Declaration of Independence.

In fact, one of those Founding Fathers was the first to chart a map of the Gulf Stream only a few years earlier. Benjamin Franklin (of course!) managed the accomplishment when he wasn't busy inventing the lightning rod, bifocal glasses or — yes, he did this, too — an improved urinary catheter.

In 1783, with a peace treaty having been negotiated, the seas were still not safe — and news of the armistice traveled slowly. Two American ships, the *Alliance* and the *Duc De Lauzun*, were transporting 72,000 Spanish silver dollars from Havana to Philadelphia needed to pay Continental Army troops that March.

The *Sybil* and two other British ships came on the scene, with the *Sybil* chasing after the slow-moving and smaller *Duc De Lauzun* and face the *Sybil* broadside. Barry would later be appointed by President George Washington as the first commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, awarded the rank of commodore.

The 28-gun frigate *Sybil* was badly damaged in the fight with the 36-gun frigate *Alliance* and limped away after the battle that lasted less than an hour.

Thomas was able to track the sea battle thanks to logs available online through Villanova University.

"Every day, at noon, the *Alliance* crew would log their coordinates," Thomas said. "That's how you know where they were each day at noon and how fast they were going."

In a different age, she mused, the fight could have been known as the Battle of Boca Raton. ★



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Boca Raton

City taps North Carolina for its new police chief

Following a nationwide search, Jared L. Phelps has been selected to serve as Boca Raton's police chief.

Phelps has served as chief of police for Jacksonville, North Carolina, since April



Phelps

2024. Before that, he served nearly three decades with the Prince William County Police Department in northern

Virginia, where he rose through the ranks to become deputy chief. Both are nationally accredited agencies.

Phelps was among 105 applicants for the position, of which 77 met the job requirements. The Jacksonville department has 136 sworn police officers, while Prince William County is authorized to have 749.

The only other finalist for the position was Nicholas R. Augustine, assistant chief of police for the Montgomery County Department of Police in Maryland.

"Jared Phelps stood out for his depth of experience, sound judgment, and commitment to public trust," City Manager Mark Sohaney said in a June

8 statement. "He understands the importance of supporting a high-performing police department and of continuing to build strong relationships with the community it serves."

Phelps holds a master of public administration degree from George Mason University and a bachelor of science in political science and criminal justice from James Madison University.

His executive leadership education includes the FBI National Academy, the FBI National Executive Institute, the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executives in State and Local Government program, the Senior Management Institute for Policing through the Police Executive Research Forum, and the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia.

He replaces former Police Chief Michele Miuccio, a 37-year department veteran who rose through the ranks to become chief in 2020.

Sohaney terminated her and two deputy city managers, Chrissy Gibson and Jorge Camejo, in March as part of a major executive team shake-out. City officials did not say why the three were pushed out.

— Mary Hladky

City's centennial events packed an economic punch

The series of events commemorating Boca Raton's centennial last year gave the city an economic boost.

A May 29 city report detailing the impact of the events found that the programs generated about \$16.8 million in spending benefiting the local economy, as well as media coverage valued at about \$8.7 million.

About 50,000 people attended the events, most of them city residents.

Even if they did not attend, 76,500 residents were aware of the celebrations as were nearly 2 million Florida residents outside the city.

Most popular were the Holiday Street Parade in December, attended by 25,000, the Boca Street Fest in January 2026 attended by 15,000, and workshops or public art unveilings throughout the year.

Most of the spending, \$14.2 million, was by people attending the events. That included money spent in restaurants, on food and beverages at event sites, on parking or fuel and for event admissions and tickets.

"These findings collectively illustrate the wide-ranging economic, cultural and visibility benefits realized by the community," the report states.

— Mary Hladky

'The 14th Colony' on display at museum

What: Discover Florida's role in the American Revolution through 'America 250: The 14th Colony,' a special exhibition exploring the territory's unique place in the nation's founding story. While 13 colonies declared independence, Florida remained loyal to the British Crown. The exhibition examines this often-overlooked chapter of history through imagery, Revolutionary War artifacts from local collectors, period costumes on loan from The Wick Theatre and Costume Museum, interpretive displays and more.

Where: Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N. Federal Highway

When: Wednesdays to Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Aug. 27, with a Town Hall talk July 22 and a historical re-enactment for kids Aug. 1.

Cost: Adults, \$12; seniors and youth, \$8

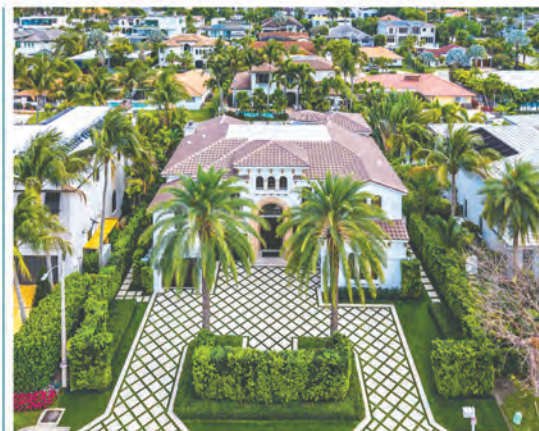
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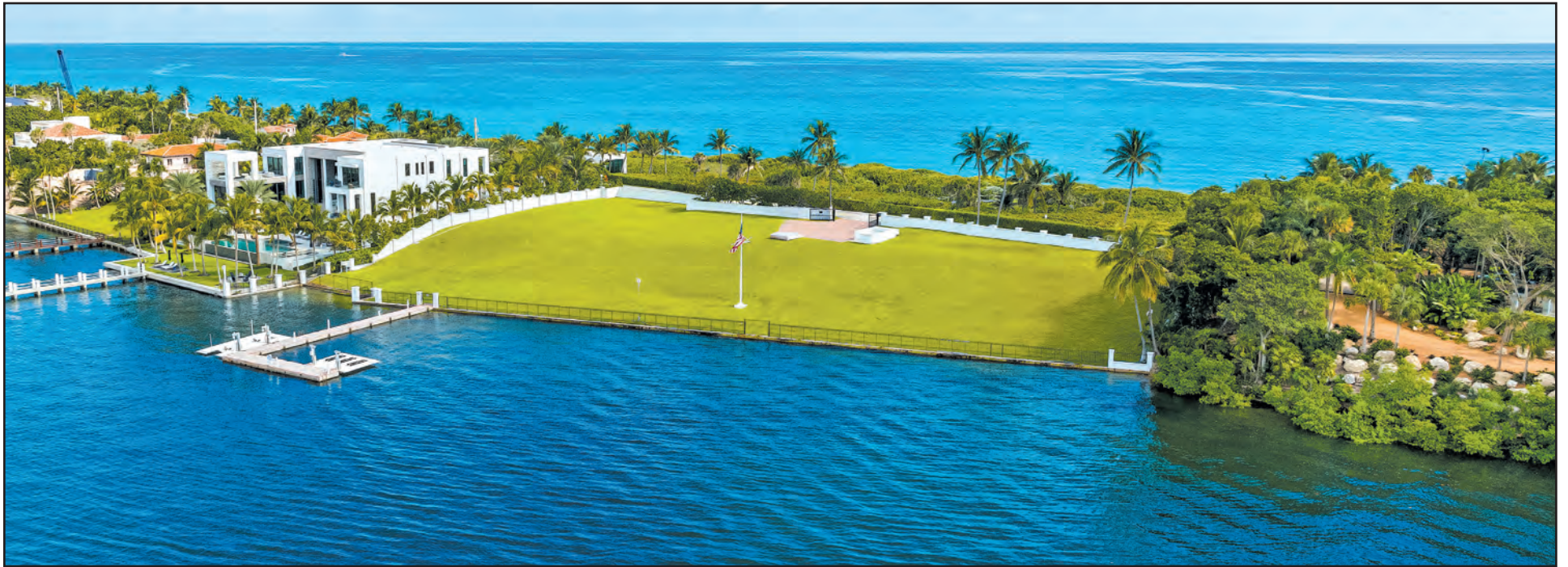
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Manalapan



Former Mayor Stewart Satter once envisioned this land for development as a spec home, but he sold it to David MacNeil and Larry Ellison. Photo provided

Multibillionaires are new neighbors, splitting vacant parcel between them

Agents see no end to run on town's real estate with latest deals

By Jane Musgrave

Fueled largely by two well-known multibillionaires who have invested heavily in Manalapan in recent years, real estate sales in the tiny coastal town have broken local, state and even national records in recent months.

The latest eye-popping purchase came in June when WeatherTech founder David MacNeil plunked down \$32 million and Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison agreed to pay \$35 million to split a 4-acre ocean-to-Intracoastal lot that was to become home to one of the most expensive houses in the United States.

Former Manalapan Mayor Stewart Satter was the mastermind behind the idea of building a \$285 million spec house on the land at

1960 S. Ocean Blvd. that he purchased in 2024 for \$27.5 million.

Instead, the real estate entrepreneur abandoned plans to build a

50,000-square-foot custom-designed house and instead sold the lot for \$67 million to the two business moguls, allowing them to become neighbors.

The new neighbors are both major supporters of President Donald Trump, who makes his home about eight miles north at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach. Trump nominated MacNeil to the Federal Trade Commission. Ellison has long been part of Trump's inner circle.

Satter declined comment on the sale because Ellison hadn't closed on his half of the



Ellison



MacNeil

property. But in the past, Satter has credited the real estate boom in Manalapan to the 81-year-old business tycoon who was known as the "bad boy" of tech as he built his fortune.

Satter called it the Ellison effect. He is one of the five richest men in the world, worth an estimated \$201 billion to \$238 billion, and people take notice of him, Satter said.

Ellison burst on the scene in 2022 when he paid \$173 million for the 16-acre former Ziff estate immediately south of the 2 acres he is buying from Satter. It was the most expensive residential real estate transaction in Florida history, shattering the previous state record of \$122.7 million.

Two years later, Ellison doubled down, buying the 310-room Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa for \$277.4 million.

Other luxury real estate experts agreed that Ellison's record-breaking land buys put Manalapan in the spotlight.

But, they said, Manalapan is unique.

'No signs of slowing down'

"I think many buyers who can't necessarily find what they want in Palm Beach have come down to Manalapan and realized they can get more," said Nick Younker, of William Raveis Real Estate in Palm Beach.

Wealthy buyers fall in love with the large lots that stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Intracoastal Waterway — property that doesn't exist in Palm Beach, he said.

Margit Brandt, who represented MacNeil in the purchase of Satter's land, agreed.

"Manalapan continues to



Earth-moving equipment and workers are busy at 1960 S. Ocean Blvd. in Manalapan on June 29. The work is taking place on David MacNeil's side of the property that he and fellow multibillionaire Larry Ellison agreed to split. Combined, the two men have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in Manalapan real estate recently. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

be the premier destination for ocean-to-lake transactions, attracting more and more discerning buyers year over year," said Brandt, of Premier Estate Properties in Palm Beach.

To underscore her point, on the same day MacNeil closed on the deal with Satter, Brandt represented Pan-Pacific Mechanical CEO Ron McMackin when he and his wife, Town Commissioner Cindy McMackin, sold their estate at 1660 S. Ocean Boulevard for \$72 million.

The combination of MacNeil and McMackin gave Brandt a \$104 million day, cementing her standing as the top-ranked agent in Manalapan for 2026.

But, Younker said, such days are no longer unusual. "There will have been multiple \$100 million-plus sales by the end of this year," he said. "It shows no signs of slowing down."

MacNeil's parcels

MacNeil, a car accessories

magnate with an estimated net worth of \$4.2 billion, has done his part to keep land prices in Manalapan sky-high.

The 2 acres he bought from Satter will allow him to more than double the size of the adjacent 17,558-square-foot fully furnished house that he bought earlier this year on land once owned by pop singer Billy Joel.

According to plans that he submitted to the Manalapan Architectural Commission, the 2½-story addition will add 20,578 square feet of living space to the home. Other plans include the addition of a second pool and spa with an overflow waterfall feature.

When MacNeil paid \$68.3 million for the house at 1940 S. Ocean Boulevard, it was the most expensive residential sale in the country during the month of February.

Two months later, he set another sales record when he sold a 3.5-acre oceanfront lot for \$105 million. The sale of the

property at 1120 S. Ocean Blvd. is the most paid for vacant land in Palm Beach County history.

When MacNeil bought what were two separate parcels last year, he razed two houses with plans to build a dream house for himself and his family. Instead, he sold the property to HSH-Sunshine Revocable Trust, pocketing \$11.5 million. Hidden by the trust documents, the buyer's identity is unknown.

MacNeil is continuing to expand his footprint.

He is under contract to purchase a house on nearly 2 acres directly north of his recently purchased and growing estate for \$36 million, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. The home is owned by car-dealership owner Ralph Gesualdo and his wife, Mary Gesualdo, who purchased the property for \$10.3 million in 2020.

The purchase would bring MacNeil's total oceanfront compound to nearly 8 acres. ★

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Boca Raton

Proposed property tax rate to remain almost the same

By Mary Hladky

Even if Florida voters in November approve massive property tax cuts placed on the ballot by the state Legislature, those cuts won't take effect until the 2027-28 fiscal year.

So Boca Raton city officials, while mindful of what they could face and considering options to deal with revenue loss, are largely staying the course as they make budget and tax rate decisions for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Yet they have taken the first steps toward reducing spending. Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer Jim Zervis said that in analyzing expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year, staff identified cuts that could be made now and pared \$1.27 million from the proposed budget.

The proposed tax rate is \$3.66 per \$1,000 of taxable property value, virtually the same amount it has been since the 2015-16 fiscal year.

But it actually is a minuscule tax cut of \$0.001 per \$1,000, or 0.027%, which is in keeping with the city's practice of making a minor cut so officials can claim a tax rate decrease.

Residents owning a home with a taxable value of \$450,000 would pay \$1,648.76 in city property taxes.

A preliminary estimate shows that the assessed value of Boca Raton properties increased by \$2.6 billion this year, a 6.6% increase from the previous year. The new general fund budget, which covers day-to-day functions such as police, fire rescue, and parks and recreation, is increasing to \$276.2 million, a 7.7% jump.

That includes money for 22 new full-time positions — 12 firefighters, four fire lieutenants, four EMS captains, a budget analyst and a vehicle technician — at a salary and benefits cost of \$3.9 million.

That will provide additional personnel to staff Fire Station 8, on Southwest 18th Street just west of Dixie Highway, which

falls short of having enough to operate both its two fire and rescue vehicles 24 hours a day.

An increase in EMS captains would allow the city to provide the same service levels on the eastern and western sides of the city.

The proposed residential fire assessment fee is increasing from \$155 to \$224 to cover the cost of the new fire rescue positions.

The lion's share of the general fund budget — 63% — pays for police and fire rescue services.

Property taxes pay for 52% of the general fund budget. The rest of the revenue largely comes from charges for services, licenses, and permits and franchise fees.

The separate capital improvements budget includes \$7.5 million to begin improving Memorial Park in the downtown campus, including the existing buildings and recreation facilities, now that city voters torpedoed plans to redevelop the area in concert with a developer.

Told at the June 18 city workshop meeting that the money would pay for planning, design and engineering work, Council member Jon Pearlman challenged the expenditure, calling it "outlandish."

City spending must be reined in, he said, now that the city faces steep revenue decreases.


City officials hastened to tell him that the amount also includes beginning work to refurbish some of the facilities.

But Pearlman was not mollified. The city, he said, is concentrating on how to spend money, and not on how to cut costs. Officials need to differentiate between "nice to have" and "have to have."

"Is anyone willing to come forward and make tough decisions on behalf of taxpayers?" he asked.

Public hearings on the budget and tax rate will be held in September, and the City Council will finalize both by the end of that month. ★

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TAXES

Continued from page 1

they say have been bloated thanks to increasing property values on which the taxes are based.

At the same time, the proposed amendment is being portrayed by opponents as a potential nightmare for local governments that depend on property tax dollars to provide a variety of services. They say it could also create unwanted costs for businesses and landlords that could be passed on to consumers and renters.

“You’re opening doors for local governments to create other fees and taxes to offset the loss in revenue,” said Jeff Kottkamp, president and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, an organization that is often on the side of keeping taxes reasonable. “It could ultimately lead to no savings at all.”

The potential savings

Should the amendment pass, homesteaded property owners would see this year’s \$51,411 homestead exemption — up from \$50,722 in 2025 — increase to \$150,000 in 2027 and to \$250,000 the following year.

That would be welcome news for homesteaded property owners in the state. Take, for example, a homeowner in Ocean Ridge whose property has a taxable value of about \$1 million (see chart). That homeowner pays property taxes not just to the town of Ocean Ridge, but also to Palm Beach County and others including the county’s Children’s Services Council and the Palm Beach County Health Care District — a total of a dozen different property tax assessments.

Should the amendment pass, that homeowner would likely see a tax saving of almost \$1,800 over the two-year period, bringing the total tax bill down from about \$18,500 to about \$17,900 the first year of the increased exemption and to about \$17,300 after the second year. The savings would continue into the future, with increases in the exemption tied to the Consumer Price Index.

For the town of Ocean Ridge, that homeowner’s reductions will translate into a tax revenue loss of \$361 from the town the first year and about \$725 the second year.

The challenge for the town, and for most Florida municipalities, will be to figure out how to continue providing services with less revenue if the exemptions are increased.

That, says Charles Chapman, a legislative advocate for the Florida League of Cities, is likely to cause a shift in footing the bill, with those without a homestead exemption being on the front lines.

“If you reduce the number of people paying, those that remain pay a higher percentage of the taxes,” he said.

Limited options

Delray Beach City Manager Terrence Moore agrees with the

How property tax referendum could impact a coastal home

This chart shows the potential impact — if November’s property tax referendum passes — on a homesteaded Ocean Ridge property with a taxable value of close to \$1 million this year. The numbers assume each taxing district keeps its 2025 tax rate in 2026-2028. The assessed values are based on a maximum 3% increase each year.

	2026	2027	2028
Market value	\$2,049,212	N/A	N/A
Assessed value	\$1,057,826	\$1,089,561	\$1,122,248
Homestead	\$51,411	\$150,000	\$250,000
Taxable value	\$1,006,415	\$939,561	\$872,248
District/Tax rate (from 2025)			
County (4.5000)	\$4,528.87	\$4,228.02	\$3,925.12
County debt (0.0330)	\$33.21	\$31.01	\$28.78
Library (0.5491)	\$552.62	\$515.91	\$478.95
Town of Ocean Ridge (5.400)	\$5,434.64	\$5,073.63	\$4,710.14
Children’s Services Council (0.4908)	\$493.95	\$461.14	\$428.10
FL Inland Navigation District (0.0270)	\$27.17	\$25.37	\$23.55
PBC Health Care District (0.6561)	\$660.31	\$616.45	\$572.28
School local (3.2480)	\$3,354.62*	\$3,457.69*	\$3,563.86*
School state (3.0730)	\$3,173.87*	\$3,271.40*	\$3,371.84*
SFWMD Everglades Const. (0.0327)	\$32.91	\$30.72	\$28.52
SFWMD (0.0948)	\$95.41	\$89.07	\$82.69
SFWMD Okeechobee Basin (0.1026)	\$103.26	\$96.40	\$89.49
Total property taxes	\$18,490.84	\$17,896.81	\$17,303.32
Ocean Ridge tax savings from 2026		\$361.01	\$724.50
Total tax savings from 2026		\$594.03	\$1,187.52

*The homestead exemption for school property taxes is only \$25,000 and does not change under the proposed referendum.

SOURCE: Palm Beach County property tax bill and extrapolated increases

idea that there are really just three options available to the local governments.

Elected officials could raise the property tax rate, called the millage; they could increase fees, or they could reduce services. They could do any combination of those or all three. The goal, Moore said, is to strike a balance between revenue generation and reduced expenses.

Factor in the “pebble in the pond” effect, opponents of the amendment say, and negative impacts of the local government actions could be widespread.

Chapman uses the example of his child’s soccer league to illustrate the point. The league pays the city to lease the playing field. If the city raises the cost of the agreement, the league may possibly raise the registration fees to a point where Chapman may have to decide whether to enroll his child in just two of the league’s three sessions.

With the potential for large revenue cuts a reality, cities are already looking for ways to trim expenses, but where to cut could be a challenge politically, as could the idea of raising the tax rate to generate revenue.

Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie points out that governments may be forced to be less responsive to the wishes of their constituents if the money isn’t there. “It’s difficult for elected officials to not spend money on services residents are demanding,” he said. “It’s challenging.”

Public safety is one area where residents often demand the best service possible. An earlier version of the proposed amendment made it difficult for governments to reduce public safety funding, but that language is no longer in the amendment.

Making cuts to public safety, however, is a choice elected officials typically avoid.

How tax rate could increase

Local governments and

taxing districts can raise their tax rates or millages up to \$10 for every \$1,000 of taxable value in order to generate additional revenue, but a new law requires a unanimous vote of the governing body to approve the tax rate increase if it is more than 10% higher than the rolled back tax rate, which is the rate that would raise the same amount of taxes as the previous year, except for taxes from new construction.

A raise in the tax rate would impact most of a municipality’s property owners and could lead businesses to increase prices and landlords to increase rents. The same holds true for special taxing districts, such as the South Florida Water Management District.

But even non-homesteaded properties will see relief from escalating property taxes. The proposed constitutional amendment would cap the maximum annual assessment increase at 5%, down from the current 10% maximum.

Politically, elected officials say, raising taxes is never a good idea.

Those familiar with the amendment say its genesis in part comes as a result of a belief that local governments spent more than they needed to because they were getting more property tax revenue as home values rose.

The amendment stops short of eliminating all property taxes for homesteaded properties — something Gov. Ron DeSantis has supported — but the referendum “requires, through general law, a schedule for full elimination” of those taxes.

Belt-tightening avoided?

TaxWatch’s Kottkamp, a former lieutenant governor and Republican legislator, says that too often governments looked at how much they had to spend and found ways to spend it, rather than figure out how much they needed and come up with the necessary funds.

“Part of this is their own fault,” he said. “They have hidden behind the increased value and not exercised fiscal constraint.”

Numbers provided by TaxWatch show that property tax revenue for three of the area’s largest cities grew by more than 100% from 2014 to 2024.

Boynton Beach saw a 130% increase in property tax revenue. Boca Raton, according to TaxWatch, saw a 120% increase in tax revenue, while Delray Beach saw a 106% increase. The study does not include smaller towns in the coastal Palm Beach County area.

State Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman, R-Highland Beach, a former town commissioner, says that some of the funds the local governments received could have been put into reserves, used to pay debt or used to reduce taxes.

Gossett-Seidman, who voted to put the proposed amendment before voters, said that she has seen examples of wasteful and even illegal spending in communities outside of South Florida while sitting on the statehouse’s Joint Legislative Auditing Committee.

“There are counties and cities that need to do better,” she said.

Costs have increased

Highland Beach’s Labadie says that one of the reasons governments are spending more is that their costs have gone up as well. Insurance costs have increased and so have employee costs, especially in public safety.

A quick look on Google showed that starting salaries for police officers in Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach increased dramatically between 2015 and 2025. The Google search showed that Boca Raton’s starting salaries increased from around \$48,000-\$50,000 to \$91,000, while Delray Beach’s starting salaries increased from \$40,000-\$50,000 to \$72,000, and Boynton Beach’s went from \$48,241 to \$73,632.

Chapman from the League of Cities points out that a fire truck that cost \$500,000 to \$600,000 in 2019 now costs \$1.5 million.

Is issue ripe for voters?

For its part, the League of Cities believes that a flaw in the proposed amendment is that it applies the same exemption to cities across the board, without taking into consideration the different conditions each faces.

“Tax revenue is the bread and butter for how municipalities operate,” Chapman said. “It requires an understanding that one size doesn’t fit all.”

Kottkamp from TaxWatch says that his organization is concerned that more time wasn’t spent on devising a property tax reform plan and believes lawmakers could have waited until 2027 when a constitutionally mandated Taxation and Budget Reform Commission will be meeting.

“We love to see some property tax relief, but we’d like to see more time,” he said.

Gossett-Seidman, who counters that legislators have been working on this behind the scenes for more than two years, says she thinks that one of the benefits of the amendment is that it has generated conversations about municipal finances.

“It nothing else, it has got people talking,” she said. “I’m hoping taxpayers start looking at budgets.”

What’s happening locally

Boca Raton — Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer Jim Zervis said the tax revenue loss will be “manageable” for the city. Nonetheless, the city will have to make budget cuts next year if voters approve the amendment.

No significant changes are planned in how the city approaches this year’s budget, though officials have already made \$1.27 million in cuts proposed by staff.

Council member Jon Pearlman doesn’t think the city is going far enough this year given the potential for a steep revenue decline on the horizon.

Boynton Beach — City Manager Dan Dugger said the city will have to look at other ways to fund discretionary programs using fees or assessments, or possibly creating special taxing districts like Boca Raton’s Beach and Park District.

He said if the amendment passes, programs that might be difficult to protect include subsidized senior services, neighborhood and social-service assistance, and free community events.

Briny Breezes — Town Manager Bill Thrasher is looking for ways to reduce expenditures, possibly refinancing town loans in hopes of getting lower interest rates, and is seeking other revenue options “if there are any.”

Continued on the next page

Delray Beach — City officials are debating what budget strategy makes the most sense this year given November’s referendum and its potential implications. They could keep the property tax rate steady, borrow minimally from reserves and make more than \$19 million in cuts — or possibly raise the tax rate, dip heavily into reserves, and reduce the amount of cuts needed to about \$5 million.

“I think there’s an argument to be made that we’re about to get handcuffed,” the city’s chief financial officer, Henry Dachowitz, said of the referendum at a June 9 commission workshop.

“You’re playing a game and you’ve got to look at the rules and do the best you can for the community,” he said. “I think hard times are coming. Taxpayers, when offered the chance to pay less taxes, will generally take it.”

While officials said the city doesn’t need to make any immediate decisions related to the referendum, they also said they can’t wait until the referendum passes to start planning what to do.

Commissioners discussed creating “municipal services taxing districts” for services like parks and recreation, which would be among the most likely to see deep cuts. The taxing districts, which would require County Commission approval as well, would offset losses in city revenue from the referendum with new taxing districts on property tax bills.

Dachowitz said the city should also begin a major “cost-accounting” to develop what the fees for different services could look like if the commission goes in that direction.

Gulf Stream — Town officials say they aren’t overly concerned about the initial years of a forced property tax cut if it is approved by voters.

The town is facing minimal hits

Cities and towns could face reduced tax revenue

The chart, using information from the Property Appraiser’s Office, shows how much tax revenue each city and town lost in 2025 due to the \$50,722 homestead exemption and, using the same tax rate and values, how much the lost revenue would be if the exemption is raised to \$150,000 in 2027 and to \$250,000 in 2028. Some cities and towns have refined and produced their own estimates since the appraiser’s figures came out.

Municipality	2025*	2027**	2028***
Boca Raton	\$4.8 million	\$12.6 million	\$19.7 million
Boynton Beach	\$7.4 million	\$16.8 million	\$22.7 million
Briny Breezes	\$29,682	\$67,347	\$82,916
Delray Beach	\$5.4 million	\$12.8 million	\$18.2 million
Gulf Stream	\$71,420	\$206,022	\$340,704
Highland Beach	\$324,360	\$910,085	\$1.5 million
Lantana	\$446,460	\$1 million	\$1.3 million
Manalapan	\$24,085	\$70,845	\$117,724
Ocean Ridge	\$204,753	\$525,740	\$829,515
South Palm Beach	\$124,694	\$315,474	\$441,992
Palm Beach County	\$91 million	\$221.4 million	\$324.2 million

*Total tax revenue loss from \$50,722 homestead exemptions and assessment caps.

**Total tax revenue loss with increased \$150,000 homestead exemptions and changed assessment caps.

***Total tax revenue loss with increased \$250,000 homestead exemptions and changed assessment caps.

SOURCE: Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office

in 2027 and 2028 — the latter year amounting to about 3.9% of the town’s budget — because the average value of Gulf Stream’s 373 homestead properties is about \$2.8 million.

“So even with a \$250,000 exemption, the other \$2.5 million is being taxed and would not be exempt. So that’s kind of our saving grace is having a very large per-property taxable value,” Town Manager Trey Nazzaro said.

Officials are less certain past 2028, in part because it’s not clear what a “schedule for full elimination” of homesteaded property taxes mentioned in the referendum would look like.

Highland Beach — Town leaders are reviewing their five-year financial plan

to see what the future holds for some capital projects. Town Manager Marshall Labadie says the town will be able to weather a new \$150,000 homestead exemption with the help of reserves without having to make major cuts but that the second year’s exemption increase to \$250,000 may be more of a challenge.

Lantana — Town Manager Brian Raducci said vacant positions in town are temporarily frozen and may be eliminated through attrition because of the uncertainty around the referendum.

Major capital initiatives, such as the Lantana Beach Master Plan project, will face re-evaluation as the town shifts to a strict “maintain and replace” infrastructure model if the referendum

passes, he said.

Another proactive fiscal measure being proposed is to reduce the maximum merit-based employee salary increase in the new budget from the 5% allowed in the past to a 4% maximum.

“The projected revenue drop will impact core departments like police, public services, development and the library,” Raducci said, if the referendum passes. “Services, and non-essential services, including park/beach maintenance and all major community events, will face severe reductions or elimination.”

Manalapan — Town commissioners have been briefed on the amendment and the town will adjust if necessary. Manager Eric Marmer says the town will continue to evaluate its budget and look at additional revenue opportunities and possible savings if needed.

Ocean Ridge — The town is still determining the impact to its finances should the referendum pass, but Vice Mayor Steve Coz thinks it should still be in good shape given the strength of its property values. The town also benefits from having strong reserves, he said.

The town is changing its fee structure to meet new state requirements, including for building permits, so that the fees more accurately reflect the cost of the services being provided.

South Palm Beach — Town Manager Jamie Titcomb says the town is in good shape in the short term, having built up reserves that should allow it to continue funding planned capital improvements.

In the long term, local legislative issues will have to be decided on a case-by-case basis and on available funding. ★

A team of reporters contributed to this report.

Q&A on Florida’s property tax referendum

Q: Would I still owe property taxes if the taxable value of my homestead is less than \$250,000 — the amount of the exemption in the second year?

A: Yes. All property owners with homesteads worth more than \$25,000 will continue to pay at least a school tax.

Q: Would my total tax bill go down if my homestead’s assessed value is over \$500,000?

A: More than likely. However, a number of variables could reduce the savings and possibly eliminate them, such as an increase in some of the tax rates you pay.

Q: Can local governments raise their tax rates?

A: Yes, but for larger increases, a unanimous vote of a municipality’s governing body — or a public referendum — is required.

Q: Can my city or town charge more for services that offset my tax savings?

A: Yes, governments are allowed to charge fees for a variety of services — including for parking, libraries and recreation programs — and they can also increase fines.

Q: Why do proponents feel this amendment is necessary?

A: Many think there has been wasteful spending by local governments as property values increased. They want to limit property tax revenue to core municipal services such as public safety and infrastructure.

Q: Will the assessed value of my property increase?

A: Most likely. However, the assessed value would still be limited to a maximum 3% increase annually for homesteaded properties. For other properties, the value could only increase a maximum of 5%, which is half the 10% annual increase currently allowed.

Q: Would nonprofits be impacted?

A: Yes. Local government funding to nonprofits would likely be cut or reduced. Special taxing districts such as Palm Beach County’s Children’s Services Council, which provides grants to nonprofits, would likely see a significant reduction in funding.

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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Ronda Gale

Delray Beach resident Ronda Gale has changed her career focus from her 30-plus years as a tattoo artist to pursuing fine art, a clothing line, writing, mentoring budding tattoo artists, and hatching plans for a reality TV show about tattooing.

Through Sept. 27, her shell sculptures are being exhibited at *Persistence of Matter* at the Cornell Art Museum, “showcasing artists who transform the forgotten into the unforgettable.”

Gale’s turn did not come lightly; she’s had three wake-up calls, with the latest a year ago. In a severe boating accident, she broke her neck and shattered her arm.

“I’m not able to tattoo,” Gale, 57, said. “I’ve always been a fine artist, too, and the accident granted me the time to fully go into that route. So, I would say that’s my direction.”

In the 2017-2018 time frame, she ended her marriage and lost her parents, one of her brothers and a best friend. These events also caused her to rethink her work values.

“I’ve realized how precious time is with loved ones and family,” she said. “I was tattooing until 2 in the morning every day, and when I was invited to be on movie sets and go on shows, I’d be like, ‘No, I’m working.’ ‘No, I have an appointment.’ And my work really ate my life away.”

In 2021, a fire at a pizzeria next door spread to her tattoo shop, destroying all her artwork, her collection of others’ artwork and books. That spurred her to create a new business, Hell Her, presenting her murals, paintings, sculptures and clothing line. Hell Her is used in the context of “hell” meaning bad times, and “her” equating to one’s elevated self.

As Gale develops her new ventures, she recalls how her tattoo career followed a rich trajectory, starting with temporary tattoo transfers on the streets of New York City. “I was doing tattoos at street fairs, and I would set up at different bars and events and hire friends to paint on tattoos, and then I started to think about doing real ones,” she said.

“Back then, it was a very secret underground world,” she said. “It was mostly a male-dominated profession, and they’re tough, a lot of bikers and people like that. People didn’t want to teach you, and so it was very hard to get your foot into the door to learn it.”

However, she persevered and did find some initial places that would accept her.

After attending a summer program in Italy, Gale “stayed and tattooed,” she said. “I traveled to different shops and different places. It was such a different world. I loved it there. Everybody was so giving and sharing and nice.”

There she was exposed to different styles. “I had been taught what we would call ‘single-needle,’ very fine-line tattooing; there, it was ‘seven-needle.’ The first shop I went to in Europe, their motto was ‘bold will hold.’ So, I learned a whole different aspect to tattooing that I didn’t know. It was an interesting transition for me.”

Her favorite tattoos: “I love doing things that go with your body, things that flow with a part of your body, not just a small stuck-on tattoo.”

Her least favorite: eyeliner, eyebrows, beauty marks: “I’ve really stayed away from the cosmetic world,” she said.

She counts singer Rod Stewart, magician David Blaine and actress Sarah Michelle Gellar among her clients.

Stewart wanted a thistle, the flower of Scotland, and a rampant lion, the symbol



Delray Beach resident Ronda Gale, pictured with one her paintings, has used tragedy to steer her from tattoo art to fine art. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

of Scotland. For Blaine, she tattooed his logo, a cherub and little initials. For Gellar, “I did a little piece, I don’t even remember. I think she got a Japanese kanji for patience,” Gale said.

— Christine Davis

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

A. I was born in Long Beach, New York. I grew up in Island Park, on the water. I always say I grew up *in the water*. Boat life, beach life and being surrounded by ocean was a great way to grow up, and it’s still a necessity in my life. I studied illustration at Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC and lived in the gritty rock ‘n’ roll streets of the Lower East Side, which shaped a lot of who I became creatively.

While in school, I worked for Temptu, doing temporary tattoos and design work, including Robert De Niro’s tattoos for the film *Cape Fear*, which ultimately led me into tattooing professionally. Later, I studied painting in Florence, Italy, at Polimoda and spent years traveling and working throughout Europe as a tattoo artist during the early days of tattoo culture. Living in other countries and being surrounded by art, history, and different cultures really opens your mind creatively and personally. Growing up between the ocean and the intensity of New York gave me both grit and beauty, fast-moving and calm. I think that energy still exists in

anymore.

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

A. I knew I wanted to live somewhere along the Florida coast where I could surf, and even though there’s not much of that here, nothing hit me like Delray Beach. I had artwork in an exhibit during Art Basel Miami Beach and spent a few days in Delray afterward. I instantly fell in love with “the Village by the Sea.” It reminded me of my hometown, Long Beach, New York, “the city by the sea,” but times a thousand. A few weeks later, on Jan. 1, 2025, I was living here.

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

A. I was drawn to Delray’s energy on the Avenue, the sense of community, and of course, the beach right across the street. Delray has a mix of nature, culture and excitement, and still somehow keeps a small-town vibe. In a lot of ways, it feels like a blend of my hometown beach life and the creative energy of New York City. You don’t find that just anywhere. There are always fun community, business, music, and art-inspired things to do, and great restaurants, too.

Q. What book are you reading now?

A. I usually read several books at the same time ... and of course the Delray papers and magazines, too. I tend to bounce between psychology, spirituality, creativity, mind-set and business books. In the mornings, I’ll often listen to a Joe Dispenza meditation or creative visualization audio. Being a reiki master, I often refer back to reiki manuals by Nitya Vink. Right now, I’m also reading and following the work of local mind-set entrepreneurs Ryan Zofay and Tracy Litt.

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

A. When I’m creating, I usually listen to relaxing instrumental music with an upbeat, chill vibe. Dancing and movement always gets creative energy flowing. Classic rock and my secret love of old disco always does the trick.

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

A. “Don’t believe everything you think.” A lot of the negative things we think about ourselves were placed there by other people’s opinions and judgments, so recognize that critical voice in your head and don’t let it control you.

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

A. I think we can learn something from everyone. The day we think we know it all is the day we stop growing. My parents, Jack Hoelzer and Judy Good, influenced me in very different ways. My mom was like an angel, always encouraging and supportive, while my dad, an artist himself, was a tough Marine and perfectionist who pushed me to do things “right.” My brother, Ken, has also been a huge source of strength in my life and has always been there for me.

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

A. I’d like to see Emma Stone or Leslie Mann play me ... or back in the day, Bette Midler. They all have humor, quirkiness, and a strong edge with a little bit of chaos mixed in.

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

A. I’ve worked as a professional tattoo artist for over 30 years, as well as a painter, illustrator, muralist. Over the years, I’ve tattooed high-profile clients across music, film and entertainment, created public beautification projects and murals, exhibited artwork, and more recently began developing sculptural work using reclaimed shell fragments gathered from Delray Beach dredging and shoreline restoration projects.

I’m most proud of the recognition I’ve received throughout the years, from the Society of Illustrators while in college to more recent honors like winning the Woman of the Arts award in Long Beach, New York. Most of all, I love speaking to groups about transformation, mind-set, and overcoming adversity through creativity.

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

A. Do what you love, something you lose time doing, and it won’t feel like work. Find a way to create value from what naturally interests you. It’s important not to let other people’s opinions discourage your vision. Never tell yourself, “I can’t,” and don’t let anyone else dim your dreams, no matter how extreme they may seem. I did it for years, but I don’t allow myself to

Lantana

Proposed budget includes continuation of capital projects

By Mary Thurwachter

Lantana Town Manager Brian Raducci told the Town Council during its June 8 budget workshop that although the town “is pretty far along” in its budget process, things could change if the Florida constitutional amendment on homestead exemptions passes in November.

“No one knows if it will or won’t pass,” Raducci said.

The town is also dealing with the expiration of the county’s Infrastructure Surtax, which helped it pay for capital projects.

Raducci said the town will continue to spend money still in that account for planned projects. Those include paving, parks, library building improvements, and police classrooms, as well as the creation of an archive center

in the town’s Bicentennial Building.

“Our 10 priorities haven’t changed much over the past four or five years,” Raducci said. “They include maintaining infrastructure — especially the utility plant, the sea wall at Bicentennial Park which should begin after the July 4 celebration, and we’ve got a major drainage project going on down on the island,” meaning Hypoluxo Island.

Other priorities include continued beautification projects, responsible development, attracting and retaining valuable employees, continuing to attract business along Ocean Avenue, promoting community engagement, continuing to support the library, resuming the dune restoration project, installing an ADA accessible ramp at the

beach and financing public safety with state-of-the-art technology.

Council members, during an April 10 visioning session, agreed by consensus to consider proceeding with the first phase of a \$9.5 million Beach Master Plan. This includes boardwalk replacement, building a new two-story restaurant and event building, adding a new restroom on the north end of the beach and demolishing the existing restaurant and pavilion.

Finance Director Stephen Kaplan talked about the forecasted property tax revenue using the current \$3.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value tax rate, saying the town’s property tax revenue would be approximately \$7.85 million.

That would amount to a \$477,000 increase in property taxes this year, while general

fund revenues would also include a \$47,000 increase in franchise taxes and fees and \$79,000 more in metered parking (where a \$1-an-hour fee increase is recommended).

Still, Kaplan forecast a \$746,000 decrease in revenue compared to the current budget. This decline, he said, is primarily attributed to a one-time, non-recurring grant of \$1.7 million received this year.

Kaplan said the budget accounts for a potential 15% increase in health and dental insurance premiums, alongside funding for tuition reimbursement and various departmental changes.

Despite these rising costs, Kaplan said, “the inherent flexibility built into the budget allows the general fund to remain nearly balanced.”

The budget proposes to

reduce the maximum employee merit-based salary increase from 5% to 4%.

Curbside garbage pickup is due for a 4% increase for property owners.

Kaplan also detailed the fund balances, saying \$27 million is in reserves, with \$15.7 million in the unassigned fund balance.

Town Council members agreed to move forward with taking the necessary steps to place a referendum question before voters regarding the sale of specific town-owned properties, future property sale authority and town leasing authority.

The second budget workshop, where the proposed millage rate will be set, is scheduled for July 13. Public hearings will be on Sept. 8 and 17. ★

Town takes over dock permits on northern Hypoluxo Island

By Patrick Sherry

Lantana officials approved an agreement with the Town of Palm Beach for Lantana to oversee boat dock permitting for 15 waterfront properties whose docks are within the nearby town’s jurisdiction.

The Lantana Town Council unanimously approved the agreement at its June 22 meeting. Recent mapping of the town showed that the 15 properties at the northern end of Hypoluxo Island, along North Atlantic Drive, are in the town of Palm Beach’s jurisdictional waters. This prompted Lantana staff to request authority to process permits for boat docks,

piers, pilings, boat lifts, floating docks, and related accessory structures. The agreement would allow Lantana officials to administer, process, review, and approve permits for any boat dock or related projects for those specific properties.

Town staff will use its own permitting standards and code of ordinances when reviewing applications. The town will also indemnify Palm Beach from any claims or liabilities arising from its adherence to the agreement.

Either town can terminate the agreement with 180 days’ written notice; otherwise, it will remain in effect until terminated. ★

Lantana News

Town clerk resigns — Town Clerk Kathleen Dominguez announced her resignation at the June 8 Town Council meeting. Dominguez, a certified municipal clerk with a degree in public communications from Florida Atlantic University, has been Lantana’s clerk since January 2020.

Since July 2023, Dominguez has been working remotely from Nashville, Tennessee, where her husband is employed. Holding down the fort locally has been Maria Rios, the executive assistant to the town manager and deputy town clerk.

“It is a bittersweet transition,” Dominguez said. “But it was simply the right time for a new chapter. Lantana is a wonderful community, and I am certainly going to miss the town and the fantastic people I’ve had the pleasure of working with.”

Town Manager Brian Raducci said a determination on Dominguez’s replacement has not been made. “We are in the process of reviewing our needs and options,” he said.

— Mary Thurwachter

Delray Beach News

Pompey Park project advances — Pompey Park is getting a new community center to replace its current facility. The Delray Beach City Commission voted 4-1 during its June 9 meeting to approve a guaranteed maximum price of \$59.2 million for the project, which will be built by Core Construction.

City staff also addressed community concerns about the condition of the park’s concession stand, determining that the building is not salvageable. Following construction of the new community center and demolition of the existing building, Core Construction will demolish the concession stand.

— Sephora Charles

Briny Breezes

Tax rate jump proposed to cover capital project loans

Briny Breezes residents could see a big tax increase. Town Manager Bill Thrasher is proposing increasing the property tax rate from \$3.75 to \$6.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

If that rate is adopted this year, the owner of a mobile home with a taxable value of \$150,000 would pay \$1,012.50 in town property taxes, a \$450 increase.

Thrasher said in an email to *The Coastal Star* that the increase is needed to help make payments on a loan the town is seeking from the state of Florida for capital improvement projects, which include drainage improvements and enhancing the town’s entire sea wall. Given the town’s current taxable value, the \$3 increase will raise about \$300,000 to cover debt service payments.

“The amount of the loan has not been estimated but will be as large of a loan as a

\$300,000-per-year payment will allow,” he said.

Thrasher made the same tax rate proposal last year, but he pulled back and recommended keeping the rate at \$3.75 per \$1,000 when he realized the town couldn’t get a loan in time.

The town’s tax rate had been at the state-maximum \$10 per \$1,000 up until 2023, when it was reduced dramatically with some police costs shifted to the town’s corporation, Briny Breezes Inc., which then charged property owners an assessment. That was done to give room to raise the tax rate in the future for money the town would need to make debt payments on the anticipated loans.

A tentative budget hearing is set for 5 p.m. Sept. 10 at Town Hall, 4802 N. Ocean Blvd. A final hearing is set for Sept. 24.

— Henry Fitzgerald

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Along the Coast

Updated taxable values

The 2026 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	\$42.7 billion	6.6
Boynton Beach	\$10.5 billion	\$11.1 billion	5.3
Briny Breezes	\$104.7 million	\$116.4 million	11.2
Delray Beach	\$19.6 billion	\$21.1 billion	7.5
Gulf Stream	\$1.9 billion	\$2.1 billion	7.8
Highland Beach	\$4.1 billion	\$4.3 billion	4.5
Lantana	\$2.1 billion	\$2.2 billion	6.9
Manalapan	\$2.4 billion	\$2.6 billion	6.9
Ocean Ridge	\$1.8 billion	\$2.0 billion	6.5
South Palm Beach	\$638.2 million	\$635.3 million	-0.5
Palm Beach County	\$342.2 billion	\$367.4 billion	7.4

SOURCE: Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office

Tax roll grows from previous estimate

Palm Beach County tax roll data, updated since estimates were released on May 27, show that countywide taxable property values increased 7.35% from 2025 to 2026, up from the 6.9% increase forecast in May.

The taxable property values are based on market conditions as of Jan. 1, 2026.

The revised numbers, released on June 25 by the county Property Appraiser's Office, continue to show that all southeastern Palm Beach County municipalities posted property value gains except for South Palm Beach, which saw a decline of nearly 0.5%. This is the second year in a row the town saw a drop.

The southeast county leader is Briny Breezes, with an 11.2% increase. It is followed by Gulf

Stream, up 7.8%; Delray Beach, 7.5%; Lantana and Manalapan, both 6.9%; and Boca Raton, 6.6%.

The total market value of county properties is now \$551.9 billion. New construction added to the tax roll was \$5.5 billion.

Once the Florida Department of Revenue approves the tax roll, the county property appraiser will prepare notices that are scheduled to be mailed on Aug. 20.

The notices provide property owners with information about their property's assessed value and taxable value, proposed tax rates and local government public hearing dates.

Local governments use the taxable value information to set their budgets and tax rates.

— Mary Hladky

FLAGS

Continued from page 1

points.

Because all beaches in Highland Beach are private, there are no lifeguards and town fire rescue personnel have limited access to the beach.

Visitors to the town's website can click on the "Community" tab at the top of the home page and then click on "Today's Beach Conditions."

Once on the page, visitors can access information including beach conditions, weather advisories and water quality information, as well as weather, tide, sunrise and sunset information and water and air temperature.

The same information is available on the app. ★

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Peligro Bajo, Condiciones Calmas, Tenga Cuidado



Stinging Marine Life
Man o' War, Jellyfish, Stingrays
Animal Marino que causa picaduras Fragata Portuguesa, Medusas, Rayas

Highland Beach is now flying beach condition flags to alert swimmers about the condition of the water in the wake of an apparent drowning earlier this year. **Graphic provided**

Boca Raton

Couple awarded \$2.1 million in Mandarin Oriental condo dispute

By Mary Hladky

A Boca Raton couple who placed a \$1.65 million deposit on a Mandarin Oriental condo unit that was unfinished by the expected completion date is slated to receive \$2.1 million, plus interest.

Nilesh and Lilianna Undavia settled their legal case in June against Via Mizner Owner III, an entity of condo developer Penn-Florida Companies, after an arbitrator determined that they were entitled to compensation and interest, according to court records.

The arbitrator found in favor of Via Mizner on claims that were unrelated to the termination of the Undavias' agreement to buy the \$5.5 million condo Unit 706.

The couple is to be paid by Jan. 7, or within 30 days of Via Mizner's refinancing or obtaining additional financing for the condo construction.

If that doesn't happen, they will be entitled to a consent judgment for breach of contract for the amount due to them, as well as attorneys' fees and costs.

This marks the first time that terms have been revealed in court records for resolving disputes between would-be condo buyers and Penn-Florida, whose construction of the condo building is years behind schedule and remains incomplete.

"We are pleased to have reached a settlement with the developer and move on with our lives," said Nilesh Undavia.

Their attorney, Alec Smith, declined comment.

Eight other buyers also have settled their lawsuits against Penn-Florida, but the settlement terms are confidential. An



Construction work remains incomplete at the Mandarin Oriental. The condos, with plastering, are to the left and the hotel is to the right. **Larry Barszewski/The Coastal Star**

additional eight cases against Penn-Florida remained open as of June.

Over the past two years, people who placed deposits on condos that weren't completed by the deadlines set in their purchase agreements have gone to court seeking help in getting their deposit money back. Deposits generally ranged from \$1 million to \$2 million.

Many signed purchase agreements in 2022 and expected to be able to move in no later than 2025. But their units were not completed by then.

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

When Penn-Florida announced the project in 2015, many Boca Raton residents were thrilled that a Mandarin

Oriental hotel and condo would be built along Federal Highway just north of Camino Real.

But sentiment has changed as construction slowed to a crawl and all but stopped completely for stretches of time. Many call the project an eyesore.

In recent months, construction of the condo building has moved ahead a bit more quickly but the hotel remains a shell.

Meanwhile, the project has been the subject of two bankruptcy filings.

One case remains active. The other was resolved a year ago when Cardone Real Estate Acquisitions — led by real estate investor and social media celebrity Grant Cardone — purchased the adjacent Via Mizner apartment building for \$235 million and creditors were repaid. ★

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Gulf Stream

Man eludes police — briefly — by fleeing in ride-share SUV

By Steve Plunkett

A man hiding from police behind Town Hall hailed a ride-share company and fled Gulf Stream, only to be caught after a foot chase near the Boynton Beach water tower.

Ja'Quez McMillian, 23, drove into town June 11 around 3:45 a.m. in a 2017 Chevrolet with a temporary tag, and Officer Josh Basante immediately spotted the vehicle and "recognized it didn't belong here," Police Chief Richard Jones said.

McMillian, who was accompanied by Serrina Albert, 19, drove off but was later spotted by license plate readers entering the Core district of town, Jones said. He had backed the Chevy into a driveway on Old School Road. As soon as Officer Tiara Hawkins approached, McMillian, who had recently been released

from state prison, took off on foot. Albert was apprehended there, but McMillian "ended up hunkering down in some vegetation" behind Town Hall and a home on North County Road, Jones said.

"We don't know what his intentions were, but they weren't positive," the chief said.

The sheriff's helicopter was called in and officers on the ground scoured the area but could not find the 6-foot-5, 185-pound suspect.

"But an hour or so later, one of our Town Hall employees was paying attention to the cameras and noticed the individual enter a vehicle and flee the area in that vehicle — or attempt to," Jones said as part of his report to town commissioners the next day.

McMillian had ordered the escape vehicle, a black SUV, from the Lyft ride-share service with his cellphone, the chief

said.

"By the time we were able to catch up to the vehicle, we were in the city of Boynton Beach," Jones continued. "I was actually the first one that spotted the suspect. He spotted me and we ended up in a foot pursuit down Seacrest near the water tower. This went on for a short distance before he went into a wooded area and was ultimately apprehended by a canine."

At the Old School Road residence, Jones discovered the home's power and phone lines had been cut, something he said burglars do to disable alarms and surveillance systems.

Police from Delray Beach, Ocean Ridge and Boynton Beach assisted in the search and capture.

McMillian was charged with violating probation, loitering and prowling, trespass, burglary, striking a police dog and resisting arrest without violence. He remained in the Palm Beach County Jail in late June. Albert, who told police she had met McMillian at a party, was charged with trespassing and released on her own recognizance.

"We definitely did not want him here in our community having the opportunity to commit crimes, and because of the officers' diligence and their quick response, he didn't have an opportunity to commit crimes," Jones said.

Mayor Scott Morgan agreed. "It could have been a bad situation and their diligence

prevented any sort of untoward event. So our gratitude to them," Morgan said.

McMillian's criminal record includes two cases of robbery with a firearm or deadly weapon. The chief said Gulf Stream residents were notified to shelter in place via PBC Alerts a little after 6 a.m. that day and the alert was lifted about an hour later. But an all-clear message did not go out until the afternoon.

"I just want to remind everybody that in a small town like ours, your police chief is actively involved. And therefore, I don't have the opportunity sometimes to get those notifications with that courtesy information out as quickly as folks would like," Jones said. ★

Ocean Ridge

Audit finds documentation gaps in credit card program; town says fixes are in place

By Sephora Charles

A Palm Beach County Inspector General's Office audit revealed that more than \$11,000 of the town of Ocean Ridge's credit card usage could not be fully verified because documentation was missing or incomplete.

The audit, released June 2, reviewed the town's credit card transactions from October 2023 to June 2025. The review was done as part of the Inspector General's Office's fiscal year 2025 audit plan after a survey identified that Ocean Ridge did not have written policies for its credit card program. It was the town's first Inspector General audit since 2018.

The audit looked at 65 credit card transactions totaling \$25,651.

Auditors examined whether credit card activities were properly documented, met applicable requirements and served a valid public purpose. While the report found most transactions met those standards, it revealed areas that needed improvement.

Among the findings, auditors found \$4,343 in purchases that lacked detailed receipts and \$6,720 that did not include sufficient explanations showing how the expenses served a public purpose. The report also found that the town paid \$276.56 in sales taxes on purchases despite being exempt from state sales tax.

Some transactions appeared to be duplicated, but auditors could not verify that because supporting records were not available.

The report also found that Lynne Ladner, the town's former manager, approved her own purchasing card transactions. Auditors described the practice as "a lack of segregation of duties."

Prior to the audit, it was allowed for the town manager to make self-approved purchases, "as long as it was within and under the identified purchase authority," Town Manager Michelle Heiser said.

The absence of written procedures made it unclear what purchases were permissible, what documentation was required and who was responsible for reviewing expenses.

Auditors also found that Ocean Ridge lacked formal written policies for managing its information technology systems. While the audit noted that basic IT controls were in place, the report recommended adopting written procedures to strengthen tracking and oversight of technology systems.

The Inspector General's Office made four other recommendations to improve oversight, documentation requirements and avoid unnecessary sales tax payments.

The town adopted the suggestions, Heiser said. Ocean Ridge has adopted new policies requiring receipts for all purchases, written explanations outlining the public purpose of expenditures and independent review of credit card activities, according to the report. The town also created an IT policy meant to improve tracking and management of its systems. ★

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Business Spotlight

New shop in Boca reflects 'huge role' of flowers in couple's life

French Florist, 5601 N. Federal Highway, Suite 9, Boca Raton, celebrated its grand opening in May. Owned and operated by Boca Raton residents Samantha and Ryan Garvey, the 1,000-square-foot boutique offers handcrafted arrangements, gifts and white-glove delivery service with the Garveys planning to personally hand-deliver many orders themselves.

"Flowers played a huge role in our relationship," said Ryan Garvey, 38. "When we were long-distance, sending flowers was how I showed up for Samantha. Before she moved to Florida (joining him in 2022), I realized how hard it was to find arrangements that felt thoughtful and special. French Florist was everything we felt was missing in our community."

Samantha Garvey, 34, has family roots related to a greenhouse in Dallas, where she worked in the IT industry. Ryan, who currently works both at French Florist and at Main Street Home Loans in Delray Beach, brings a personal tie to floristry as well.

His grandfather worked in a floral shop in Baltimore and later helped manage the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

Now, the couple is excited to channel their combined experiences into their new venture.



Ryan and Samantha Garvey recently held the grand opening for their flower shop, French Florist, in Boca Raton. The couple plans to personally hand-deliver many orders. Photo provided

French Florist provides same-day flower delivery in Boca Raton and the surrounding areas. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through

Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more info, visit frenchflorist.com/local/fl/boca-raton or call 561-493-3134.

Dr. Robert Fishel, through a trust in his name, sold his newly constructed home at **102 Basin Drive, Delray Beach**, for \$20.25 million in an off-market deal. The new owners are Randy and Dawn Lebowitz.

Fishel acquired the property for \$1.91 million in 1998, demolished it in 2023 and hired **Azure Development** to build a new home. Designed by **Randall Stofft**, the five-bedroom residence, sited on 0.52 of an acre bordering the Intracoastal Waterway, spans 11,861 square feet. It features a club room, theater room, a service kitchen, an office, an elevator, a saltwater pool and a 90-foot dock.

Fishel is founder and president of **Florida Electrophysiology Associates**. The Lebowitzes own automotive and aviation companies.

A company managed by billionaire Stefan Soloviev sold a 7,512-square-foot residence along the Intracoastal Waterway at **963 Eve St., Delray Beach**, for \$15 million, along with a neighboring 3,543-square-foot home at **964 Eve St.** for \$5.5 million.

Soloviev is chairman of **Soloviev Group**. The buyers were John and Ana Davie. John Davie is the CEO and owner of Boston-based **Buyers Edge Platform** and **CollectivIQ.ai**.

Coldwell Banker Realty agent **Jonathan Postma** represented the seller in both deals, while **Holly Meyer Lucas** and **Roxanne Chirico** of **Compass Florida** worked with the buyers.

The larger home last traded for \$4.99 million in 2020. Soloviev picked up the smaller home for \$3.75 million in 2023.

Jeff Norman, a general contractor and head of **JH Norman Construction Co.**, sold the 0.41-acre lot at **2408 E. Maya Palm Drive** in Boca Raton's **Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club** for \$15.5 million.

The new owner is 2408 East Maya Palm Road Land Trust, with **Steven R. Dingle** as trustee. Dingle is the head of Boca Raton-based **SRD Building**.

Norman paid \$23.5 million in 2023 for a 0.83-acre lot and split it in two. He sold the first lot for \$13.5 million in 2024 and now he's sold the second lot for \$15.5 million, amounting to \$29 million altogether.

The **Seaside Deli** property on State Road A1A south of Briny Breezes sold May 22 for \$1.45 million. The 0.09-acre site with a 2,131-square-foot building at **4635 N. Ocean Blvd., Boynton Beach**, was owned by Leonora and Rafael Belliard's Ocean Blvd 14 LLC.

The buyers are KMG Holdings (with a 10.19% undivided interest) and Goyhberg Investments (with an 89.81% undivided interest). Both are Florida limited liability companies, with an address at

1311 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach, and managed by Mikhail Vesselov.

The Coastal Star has followed the saga of this property and Seaside Deli, a business that was once owned by Randy McCormick.

Seaside Deli had been a 20-year local favorite, but a dispute between the Belliards and McCormick resulted in the latter's January 2023 eviction. The deli reopened under new management the following month. That operation continued until the deli's closing this April.

RealTrends Verified, a real estate performance platform, has published its lists of top agents from 2025, with agents and teams from south Palm Beach County recognized.

Nationally for volume, **David Roberts**, of **Royal Palm Properties**, Boca Raton, ranked No. 22. Among Florida agents, he ranked No. 7 with \$408 million in volume.

Other south Palm Beach County agents who ranked in the top 50 for volume in Florida include: No. 13, **Rochelle LeCavalier**, **Douglas Elliman**, Boca Raton, with \$206 million; No. 22, **Michael Ledwitz**, **Engel & Völkers**, Boca Raton, \$161 million; No. 28, **Alejandro Salazar**, **Douglas Elliman**, Boca Raton, \$136 million; No. 37, **Kathy Koch Pitlake**, **Douglas Elliman**, Boca Raton, \$116 million; and No. 44, **Larry Mastropieri**, **The Mastropieri Group**, Boca Raton, \$105 million.

Area agents who ranked in the top 50 in the sides category for Florida include: No. 4, **Larry Mastropieri**, **The Mastropieri Group**, Boca Raton, with 219 sides; No. 14, **Michael Ledwitz**, **Engel & Völkers**, Boca Raton, with 104 sides; No. 28, **Rochelle LeCavalier**, **Douglas Elliman**, Boca Raton, with 83 sides; and No. 46, **Dylan Lamb**, **Compass**, Delray Beach, with 73 sides.

Area small teams category winners for volume include: **The Senada Adzem Team**, **Douglas Elliman**, Boca Raton, placed No. 10 nationally and No. 3 in Florida with \$444 million. **The Matt and Nick Team**, **Serhant**, Delray Beach, placed 26th nationally and No. 5 in Florida with \$324 million. **The Candace Friis Team**, **Corcoran**, Delray Beach, ranked No. 30 nationally and No. 6 among Florida agents, with \$315 million. **The Pascal Liguori Estate Group**, **Premier Estate Properties**, Delray Beach, ranked No. 33 nationally and No. 8 in Florida with \$308 million. **The D'Angelo/Liguori Team**, **Premier Estate Properties**, Boca Raton, ranked No. 37 nationally and No. 10 in Florida, with \$272 million.

Additionally, **Ina Bloom**, **Compass**, Boca Raton, placed No. 39 in Florida with \$99 million. **Susan Demerer**,

Continued on next page

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Compass, Boca Raton, placed No. 49 in Florida with \$86 million.

Small teams category rankings in Florida for sides include: No. 16, **The Matt and Nick Team, Serhant**, Delray Beach, with 118 sides; and **Luxury Collective, Coldwell Banker Realty**, Delray Beach, 95 sides.

Medium team for volume honorees include: **The Exclusive Group, Douglas Elliman**, Delray Beach, with \$732 million, ranked No. 4 nationally and No. 1 in Florida. Others in the top 50 for Florida are No. 12, **Jennifer Kilpatrick Team, Corcoran**, Delray Beach, \$156 million; No. 34, **The Buchbinder Group, Compass**, Boca Raton, \$95 million; No. 35 **The Megann Lucaj Group, Compass**, Boca Raton, \$95 million; and No. 46, **Bonnie Heatzig Luxury Group, Compass**, \$77 million.

Medium teams for sides rankings in Florida include: No. 19, **The Exclusive Group, Douglas Elliman**, Delray Beach, 132 sides; No. 24, **The Julian Soffer Team, Keller Williams**, Boca Raton, 119 sides; No. 45, **Homes by Cusi Team, Keller Williams**, Boca Raton, 97 sides.

Large teams by volume rankings in Florida: No. 8, **The Jonathan Postma Group, Coldwell Banker Realty**, \$179 million; No. 23, **The Modern Group, One Sotheby's**

International Realty, Boca Raton, \$117 million.

Large teams by sides in Florida include No. 33, **The Karp Group, Keller Williams**, Boca Raton, 136 sides.

Mega teams by volume include: No. 28 nationally and No. 4 in Florida, **The Koolik Group, Compass**, Boca Raton, \$342 million; No. 31 nationally and No. 5 in Florida, **The Premier Group, Compass**, Delray Beach, with \$331 million; and No. 20 in Florida, **The Saperstein Group, eXp Realty**, Delray Beach, \$138 million.

Mega teams by sides in Florida: No. 11, **The Saperstein Group, eXp Realty**, Delray Beach, 353 sides. No. 15, **The Premier Group, Compass**, Delray Beach, 295 sides; and No. 26, **The Koolik Group, Compass**, Boca Raton, 234 sides.

For enterprise teams: **Champagne & Parisi**, Boca Raton, ranked No. 84 nationally and No. 9 for volume with \$255 million. This team also ranked No. 16 in Florida for sides with 321.

The rankings were open to real estate professionals who chose to participate in the project, based on their reported sales volume and other criteria.

Under the rules of the survey, agents and brokers who handled both sides of a transaction — representing the buyer and the



The Eau Spa at Eau Resort & Spa is offering two new treatments sure to please spa visitors. Photo provided

seller — were allowed to double the final dollar figure when they calculated their total volume for the sale.

Two years after Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison paid \$277 million for the 310-room **Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa** in Manalapan, he's getting ready to give it a makeover.

If all goes as planned, in September work will begin to transform the guest rooms, hotel general manager Tim Nardi told the Town Commission on June 23.

The face-lift, which will take about two years to complete, will be done in phases, he said. Work will begin in the south tower, move to the north tower and then to the center tower.

Nardi declined to offer specifics or reveal how much the renovations would cost. The rooms will be modernized with the addition of state-of-the-art sound-proofing and lighting and transformed with the use of teak and oak wood furnishings. A second "mini" presidential suite is planned. "It's going to be really beautiful," he said.

The newly updated **Eau Spa at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa** is offering two new treatments: the Psammo Quartz Ritual, which combines quartz immersion, inversion therapy and sound healing, and the Coastal Contour body treatment that includes a toning scrub and massage. Visit eauresortandspa.com/spa.

Premier Estate Properties and **Saunders & Associates** recently partnered to connect two luxury coastal destinations. Premier Estate Properties, owned and operated by **Gerard P. Liguori, Carmen N. D'Angelo Jr.**, and **Joseph G. Liguori**, has 50 agents across offices in Boca Raton, Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Vero Beach and Fort Lauderdale.

Led by founder and president **Andrew Saunders**, Saunders & Associates operates in The Hamptons with 200 agents.

Boca Helping Hands' board of directors recently named **Andrew Hagen** as chief executive officer. Hagen, a Boca Raton resident, previously served as the nonprofit's executive director and as a longtime volunteer.



Hagen

Jane Musgrave contributed to this column.



Send business news to Christine Davis at davis9797@gmail.com.

Luxury Lives

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The Coastal Star

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 Author, motivational speaker teaches kindness. Page AT10



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 Dive shops gear up for lobster mini-season. Page AT12



Finding Faith
 Kimono donation connects cultures. Page AT13



ABOVE: A Curaçao player encourages four members of the Boca Raton girls 10-and-under team, which joined the World Cup athletes on the field after their practice on June 11 at FAU. BELOW: Alex Lessen (l-r), Daniel Nagle, Chad Sher and Aaron Sher hold up stickers they collected of Curaçao players while attending practice. Photos by Rachel O'Hara/The Coastal Star

Fútbol fan-atics

Local soccer fans got the chance of a lifetime to see the World Cup's smallest qualifier make a big splash in Boca Raton

By Brian Biggane

The World Cup has come to America, and Boca Raton and Florida Atlantic University have made sure it has also had its moment in Palm Beach County.

Curaçao, an island nation off the coast of Venezuela with a population (160,000) smaller than that of Fort Lauderdale, became the smallest country ever to qualify for the world's biggest sporting event last November, whereupon FAU Athletic Director Brian White and the city of Boca Raton offered to become the team's U.S. host.

Curaçao accepted, joining England



and Portugal, both of which set up base in Palm Beach Gardens, in calling Palm Beach County home.

The team arrived on June 8, and the next day held its first practice on the FAU football field; two days later it staged an open workout in front of a crowd

limited to 5,000 before heading to its first-ever World Cup game vs. Germany in Houston.

Players gushed over what they saw moments before their first workout.

"It's beautiful here," midfielder

See **WORLD CUP** on page AT16

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Philanthropy Notes

Wertheim donates record \$100M to Baptist Health South Florida

Manalapan philanthropist Dr. Herbert "Herbie" Wertheim has given \$100 million to Baptist Health South Florida to finance an expansion of cancer research, treatment and prevention.

The largest single donation in Baptist Health's history will allow additional services at the Miami Cancer Institute, to be renamed for Wertheim, and bolster the nonprofit's care network, BHSF leaders said at a May 20 news conference.

Wertheim, a billionaire who turned 87 on May 23, said, "My goal is to be able to do whatever I can to be transformative."

The gift also will reinforce Baptist Health Research's association with Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, named for the ophthalmologist/entrepreneur after he and his late ex-wife, Nicole, donated \$20 million in 2009.

Literacy Coalition announces officers

The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County has announced its slate of officers for the 2026-27 board.

The executive committee is: President Chris Duke of Palm Beach Gardens, with Akerman LLP; Vice Presidents Aurora Arthay of Palm Beach Gardens, deputy library director at the Palm Beach County Library



Dr. Herbert Wertheim is celebrated by supporters echoing his dress style at a news conference announcing his donation to Baptist Health. Photo provided

System, and Carol Rose of Wellington, community volunteer and retired *The Palm Beach Post/Palm Beach Daily News* editor; Secretary Bernadette O'Grady of Palm Beach Gardens, with WPTV Channel 5; and Treasurer Matthew Criscuolo of Boca Raton, with Cozen O'Connor.

Members at large are: Caleb Bowser of Palm Beach Gardens, vice president and relationship adviser at Northern Trust; Grace Halabi of Boynton Beach, senior vice president at First Horizon; and immediate past president Dr. Regine Bataille of Delray

Beach, with Gentle Medicine Associates.

Parliamentarians are: Laurie Gildan of North Palm Beach, with Greenberg Traurig; Len Gray of Palm Beach Gardens, retired executive; and Sharon Hill of West Palm Beach, community volunteer and retired Palm Beach County librarian.

The Literacy Coalition provides adult, family and children's programs, plus the Literacy AmeriCorps program. For more information, visit LiteracyPBC.org or call 561-279-9103.

Fuller Center to celebrate 55 years of service to families

Purpose meets party as the Fuller Center prepares to celebrate 55 years of service to hardworking and underserved families and children across 60 ZIP codes in Palm Beach and Broward counties.

A decades-themed shindig is set to be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on July 11 at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N. Federal

Highway in Boca Raton.

Guests are invited to dress in styles from the '70s all the way through 2010s and 2020s. There will be drinks, light bites and an auction to help the center support the more than 1,000 children it serves.

Tickets are \$25 and \$55 (VIP) and can be bought through secure.qgiv.com/event/livingourlegacy/

School supply drive now underway at Lang Realty

Lang Realty and Lang Management have kicked off their annual school supply drive for the benefit of the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County. Through July 31, the public is invited to drop off new school supplies at any Lang Realty or Lang Management office throughout the county.

The Education Foundation's Red Apple Supplies campaign stocks a free resource store where teachers in Title I schools can shop for classroom materials at no cost to them.

"Giving back to the students

and families of Palm Beach County is something Lang has always been committed to," said Scott Agran, president of Lang Realty. "This drive is one tangible way we can make sure every child walks into the classroom this fall ready to learn and ready to thrive."

Requested supplies include: backpacks, colored pencils and markers (8-12 count), wide-ruled composition books, construction paper, crayons, dry erase markers, erasers (wedge), flip chart markers, glue sticks, highlighters, pencils, Scotch tape, student dry erase boards (small), headphones/earbuds.

All donations will go directly to the Red Apple Supplies store.

Teen-led food drive nets 11,079 pounds of cereal

Cereal4All was founded in 2016 by Boca Raton twins Jett and Luke Justin, now 18. Their annual spring cereal drive collected 11,079 pounds for families served by Boca Helping Hands.

Boca Helping Hands, which began as a soup kitchen in 1998, provided more than 3.5 million meals to people in 2025.

The twins, now at the University of Florida, volunteered at BHH and learned that breakfast foods are among the most needed, but least donated, items at food banks.

"Cereal is about breakfast," Jett Justin said, "but it's also about starting the day with a sense of normalcy and happiness. It bothered us that so many families were missing out on that, so we started Cereal4All to help fill that gap."

Today, Cereal4All partners with more than 175 schools and 95 food banks across 22 states, Toronto and the Bahamas through the twins' self-piloted "Oatmeal Airlift" missions. The organization has delivered the equivalent of more than 800,000 bowls of cereal, over \$400,000 worth of breakfast food, and inspired thousands of students to volunteer. See cereal4all.org to donate or volunteer.

Woman's club hosts tour of Overtown, Design District

The Taste History Art & Culture Study Tours hosted 12th-grade debutantes of the Frances J. Bright Woman's Club of Delray Beach for an immersive trip on April 18 to Overtown and the Design District in Miami.

The girls attend Atlantic High School in Delray Beach, FAU High School in Boca Raton, Olympic Heights High School in Boca Raton, and Park Vista High School in Greenacres.

Frances J. Bright Woman's Club Charitable Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) volunteer community service organization named in honor of Bright, an educator who came to Palm Beach County in 1899 and was the first Black woman teacher in

Palm Beach & National



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The mission of the nonprofit Taste History Art & Culture Study Tours is to offer curriculum-based multisensory educational experiences for students.



Boca Garden Club reveals 2026 collectible ornament

The Boca Raton Garden Club has announced that the 2026 commemorative ornament celebrates the Sugar Sand Park Carousel.

This year's ornament, the 32nd in the collectible series commemorating landmarks in Boca Raton, is available for \$28. Send a check, payable to Boca Raton Garden Club, to Ornaments, Boca Raton Garden Club, 4281 NW Third Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33431. Ornaments will be delivered in early October.

Palm Beach Symphony announces three winners

The Palm Beach Symphony has announced the three recipients of the 2026 Randolph A. Frank Prize for the Performing Arts. Instrumental musician Mickey Smith Jr. was named Performing Artist, dancer Heather Lescaille was named Performing Arts Educator, and choral musician Roberto J. Vidal was named Emerging Artist.

Smith is associate director of instrumental arts at The King's Academy in West Palm Beach. Lescaille was appointed dean of the dance department at the Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts in 2016. Vidal serves as the chorus director, vocal academy director and Fine Arts Department chair at Eagles Landing Middle School in Boca Raton.

Nominations for the 2027 awards will open in November.

Heritage Month honors Boca's Elliott Broidy

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Elliott Broidy, Nobel laureate Dr. Harvey J. Alter and Rabbi David Baron were honored on Capitol Hill on May 19 during the Jewish American Heritage Month celebration. The annual gathering of members of Congress, foreign ambassadors and trade ministers, and Jewish communal leaders recognizes the significant role Jewish Americans have played in the United States.

Broidy, of Boca Raton, was honored with the Visionary Award for his leadership in philanthropy, national security, Holocaust remembrance, Jewish communal life, and efforts

to combat antisemitism and extremism.

Broidy is chairman and CEO of the private equity firm Broidy Capital Holdings, which invests in a range of national security and public safety technology companies.

White Coats-4-Care scheduled for Aug. 20

The 16th annual White Coats-4-Care reception will recognize philanthropy advancing Palm Beach County's only medical school — Florida Atlantic University's Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine — while welcoming the incoming class of 80 future physicians.

The evening will bring together health care, business, university, civic and philanthropic leaders to celebrate June Gelb's 100th birthday. A portion of money raised will benefit the June and Ira J. Gelb, M.D. Endowed Medical Scholarship Fund.

The reception will be at 6:30

p.m. Aug. 20 at The Club at Boca Pointe. Tickets are \$350. Underwriting and sponsorship opportunities are available at fau.edu/medicine/white-coats-4-care.

Changing Lives of Boca hosts Unity Day expo

More than 25 nonprofit organizations and community groups joined together April 25 for the Changing Lives of Boca Raton fourth annual Unity Day Expo Fair, offering direct access to housing assistance, health care, mental health services, food resources, legal aid and employment support.

Participating organizations included: Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse Inc. (AVDA), Boca Helping Hands, Salvation Army, Feeding South Florida, the Palm Beach Health Care District, South County Mental Health Center, Developing Interracial Social Change (D.I.S.C.), Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches, the

Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Breaking the Chains Ministries, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Boca Raton Housing Authority, iThink Financial Credit Union, Florida Immigrant Coalition, Ovadia Law Group P.A., The Legacy Closet, Sunshine Pathways Foundation, Ask Nora, Palm Beach County Community Services, Vita Nova Inc., Genesis Community Health, YMCA, Drug Abuse Foundation, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, and People Engaged in Active Community Efforts (PEACE).

Changing Lives is committed to providing comprehensive services, including housing assistance, mental health support, employment opportunities and long-term stabilization programs for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Arts Garage raises funds for summer camp at '70s party
Arts Garage, the visual

and performing arts center in downtown Delray Beach, is celebrating 15 years of connecting the community through the arts, raising nearly \$15,000 during a May 29 '70s-themed anniversary party.

Proceeds will support scholarships, program resources and expanded access to arts education through Places!, the center's immersive summer camp for aspiring performers ages 8-15. This program includes four weeklong sessions, July 6-31, led by theater professionals, each focused on a different area of training.

To learn more, visit artsgarage.org/events/category/places/



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Celebrations

Swing to Achieve Golf Tournament

Palm Beach Par 3 — June 5



Achievement Centers for Children & Families' seventh annual Swing to Achieve raised nearly \$40,000 to support the organization's early learning, after-school, teen and summer camp programs serving families throughout Palm Beach County. The foursome captained by co-chair Leon Teske took home top honors. 'Every dollar raised goes directly toward giving children in our community access to the programs and opportunities they deserve,' said Gina Griffin, director of development. 'Days like today remind us of what's possible when this community comes together.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Andy Brody, Jim Newman, Lew Pollack (kneeling), Andy Chavkin, Michael Young, Marcia Scheiner, Griffin, Carol Lazar, Andy Lazar, Patty Greenstein, Richard Scheiner, Cindy Goffin and Paul Swaye. **INSET:** Teske with Steve Clawson. **Photos provided**



Seminole Hard Rock drag brunch

Seminole Hard Rock, Hollywood — May 31



Nearly 1,000 guests converged for the nation's largest drag brunch. The Pride Drag Brunch, presented by CAN Community Health, raised money for The Pride Center at Equality Park in Wilton Manors. The celebration included The Pride Center's annual Icon Awards ceremony, honoring leaders whose work advances equality, advocacy and public service. The Icon Awards were presented to Kevin Jennings, CEO of Lambda Legal; Katie Phang, senior adviser for Democracy Defenders Fund; and William C. Schultz, chief of police for the City of Fort Lauderdale. Proceeds benefit The Pride Center's mission to provide programs, services and support that empower and enrich for LGBTQ+ individuals and families throughout South Florida. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Tp Lords, Erika Norell, Erick Eldridge, FKA Twink (front), Christopher Peterson of Manalapan, Daisy DeadPetals, Jesse Hernandez, Quinn Zrenity, Fay What! and DJ Mark Rivera. **Photo provided by Carina Mask**

Literacy Links Golf Tournament

Palm Beach Par 3 — May 15



The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach Country turned from page-turning to pars and raised more than \$50,000 to support programs for adults and children during the 10th annual tournament. Coalition board members Caleb Bowser and Nancy Vera co-chaired the event, and committee members included Travis Foels, Nancy Haviland, Adam Hodges and Valrie Martin Buchanan. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Casey Syring, Leanne Adair, Brenda Medore and Janet Donovan. **Photo provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

Girl Scouts Emerald Awards

Four Seasons, Palm Beach — May 5



The Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida recognized five women whose leadership and service are having an impact in the community. Ruby Rinker, CEO of Ruby S. Rinker Co., herself a former Girl Scout, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Philanthropy in appreciation of her support for initiatives benefiting local families, including Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach and the Rinker Playhouse at the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. Honorees also included Amy Angelo of Oceana Coffee, Nicole Cummings of L3Harris, Nellie King of the Law Offices of Nellie L. King, P.A., and Kelly Smallridge of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, each praised as a role model for the next generation of leaders. The event raised more than \$160,000. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Rasika Deshmukh, Smallridge and George Elmore. **Photo provided by Premier Photo Palm Beach**

Taking the month off

Jan Norris's dining column will return in August.





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Music



Duane Betts and Palmetto Hotel play the Funky Biscuit in Boca Raton in May 2025. The club marks its 15th year of live music this month. Photo by Regina Campbell

Bring on the **FUNK!**

The Funky Biscuit celebrates 15 years of live music in Boca

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

When the Funky Biscuit opened in Boca Raton in mid-July of 2011, there were certainly no guarantees that the live music establishment and restaurant would still exist 15 years later.

Creative music in general, and full-band live music in particular, were just starting their slow decline in tourist-heavy South Florida. And the club, situated in a nook of Royal Palm Place amid shops and restaurants off Mizner Boulevard, isn't easy to find and thus doesn't exactly attract much drive-by or walk-in traffic.

Yet owner Al Poliak's only hiatus

during the 15 years since was a brief, COVID-19-induced shutdown in 2020.

The Funky Biscuit started out of the gate as a blues venue, taking the baton (and multiple employees) from the Bamboo Room in Lake Worth Beach.

That club likewise featured touring artists, but was in the midst of an extended shutdown. It then went through a few different iterations before reopening as Rudy's at Bamboo in 2025, and now features local and regional acts.

Pictures on the walls from past performances at the Funky Biscuit tell the story of the past decade and a half. There are several Allman Brothers Band members (singing keyboardist Gregg Allman, drummer Butch Trucks, bassist Oteil Burbridge), roots music icons like Leon Russell, Tab Benoit and David Bromberg, jazz saxophonist Bill Evans, uncategorizable singer/guitarist Col. Bruce Hampton, and hundreds more.

Jazz/fusion stars from guitarists Larry Carlton, Wayne Krantz, Oz Noy and Greg Koch to drummers Billy Cobham, Dave Weckl, Dennis Chambers and Simon Phillips have dotted the calendar in recent years, and several smooth jazz artists are now draws.

"I'm from the Washington, D.C./Maryland area, where the music scene is very robust," says Poliak. "Many of the clubs there have live music every night, in all different genres. I've tried to copy that format down here, but South Florida wasn't ready for having live music six or seven nights a week. So it was a major force-feeding job at first, but people have slowly become accustomed to it."

A spacious stage, excellent PA system and sound engineers, and a creative menu of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, craft beers, wines and cocktails have helped

See **BISCUIT** on AT6

Mozart among offerings at Gingold festival

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

"Music reminds us that we have far more in common than what separates us," says Grammy-nominated violinist Andrés Cárdenes.

He is the co-founder of the Josef Gingold Chamber Music Festival, which returns to South Palm Beach County for its third year this month with seven free or low-cost performances including a number of community engagement events.

Those community concerts will take place between July 7 and 19 at Alzheimer's Community Care in Boca Raton, Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County and the Shirley and Barton Weisman Community Center, both in Delray Beach.

Founded in Miami in 2017, the festival is a program of violinist Elmar Oliveira's Elevar Foundation, which brings emerging artists together with internationally acclaimed performers and honors the memory of Russian-American violinist Josef Gingold (1909-1995), a mentor to many, including Cárdenes.

Cárdenes is the primary heir to Gingold's technique, vision and philosophy of violin playing and a belief in music as a profound form of human connection.

He also chaired the jury for the 2026 Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition, another Elevar Foundation initiative, and has served on juries for the prestigious Tchaikovsky and Stradivarius international violin competitions.

See **GINGOLD** on AT7

For dog days of summer, Glazer Hall to howl with sounds of jazz

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

Summer is usually a dormant season for South Florida musicians. Especially jazz musicians, who frequently perform in establishments that sometimes eliminate live entertainment during summers because most tourists have left for cooler climates.

Which means that area fans of one of America's greatest audio art forms are also figuratively left out in the cold while bearing the brunt of the seasonal heat.

Yet Glazer Hall in Palm Beach offers a cool remedy for area jazz lovers, whether musicians or listeners; locals or visitors.

Its inaugural Summer Jazz

Series features three preeminent South Florida jazz artists — the Yvette Norwood-Tiger Jazz Ensemble, the Copeland Davis Ensemble, and Troy Anderson and the Wonderful World Band — every other Wednesday between July 8 and Aug. 5.

Curated in partnership with the Palm Beach International Jazz Festival (the annual event presented every spring in celebration of UNESCO's International Jazz Day), the series also includes an alternative to the theater seating at the former Royal Poinciana Playhouse.

The new waterfront venue's additional jazz club seating allows patrons to enjoy snacks and drinks from the lobby bar at cabaret-style tables during the

shows.

"We wanted to do something fun during the summer months that showcased incredible talent and is an easy night out after work," says Glazer Hall's executive director Allison Stockel.

"This is more than just catching a great show, it is a place to meet other people and just enjoy the waterfront view, a drink on the terrace, and feel like you're in a jazz club in New York City."

In addition to being the founder and director of the Palm Beach International Jazz Festival, Norwood-Tiger is an award-winning multilingual jazz vocalist, recording artist, songwriter, international touring

See **GLAZER** on AT7



Yvette Norwood-Tiger plays Glazer Hall in Palm Beach on July 8. Photo provided

Film Review

Here is an excerpt from a recent review in Palm Beach ArtsPaper. For the full review, visit palmbeachartspaper.com.

Disclosure Day (now playing)

Disclosure Day may be a more important movie than a successful one.

This isn't to say that Steven Spielberg's latest dive into what ET enthusiasts refer to as "the phenomenon" is not, by and large, a successful work of both art and entertainment. But its cultural impact far outweighs the typical barometers of triumphs and misfires with which we judge movies.

Disclosure Day is hulking and ambitious enough to contain many of both, but it's the feeling of emerging from the cinema dazed, maybe a little confused, and quite possibly changed that will be the lasting impact of this rare specimen, a vital popcorn picture.

Given Spielberg's past approaches to the alien question, his sincerity, curiosity and, yes, sentimentality should never have been in doubt. His *War of the Worlds* remake serving as the exception proving the rule, Spielberg's worldview, from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* to *E.T.* to *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*, has presented off-world life as peaceful, not destructive. Anyone expecting to see malicious Martians evaporating U.S. cities will be mighty disappointed.

In fact, even those hoping for a movie populated by advanced beings or spectacular craft will leave the cinema with only scant presentation. Yet it's a film steeped in lore, with Easter eggs aplenty for those educated on the subject.

But this is a film about us, not them. It's about the layers of compartmentalized obfuscation maintained by the U.S. government. Josh O'Connor plays Daniel Kellner, a cybersecurity expert for a government contractor called Wardex, who absconds with USB drives containing his organization's entire trove of ET evidence, dating back to the Roswell crash of 1947.

Daniel's motivations as a whistleblower are noble: The public, "all 8.5 billion of us," deserve to know that we're not alone in the universe. Daniel is among 12 Wardex defectors, including Colman Domingo's Hugo Wakefield, who controls their operation from a warehouse where a mysterious set is being built.

While Spielberg usually excels in opening acts, the *Snowden*-esque gambit of Daniel's escape with the precious loot is the movie's weakest tea. In it, we're introduced to the film's chief nemesis, Wardex head Noah Scanlon, played by Colin Firth with all of the subtlety of a megalomaniacal Marvel villain. They scramble over a MacGuffin-like handheld device that, we'll learn, grants the holder supernatural powers.

O'Connor is not at his best here; his reticence as unwitting hero comes across as affectless and lacking the presence to carry the film.

It takes the appearance of the deservedly ballyhooed Emily Blunt, who is already earning Oscar buzz, to lift *Disclosure Day* into a more vaunted place in its storytelling and characterization. In a parallel narrative, she plays Margaret Fairchild, a bubbly meteorologist for a Kansas City news station whose ambitions have begun to clash with those of her musician boyfriend, Jackson (Wyatt Russell), who is just finding his footing in the K.C. scene.

These are just the sort of real-world people, their complications presented in smart and concise exposition from screenwriter David Koepp, that had been lacking in the film's other plot.

Margaret's arc grows even more compelling after she develops psychic abilities beyond all comprehension and meets Daniel, whose aptitude for mathematics likewise expands beyond human knowledge.

We won't spoil the ending, but suffice it to say it's one of the director's signature accomplishments over a more than 50-year career, as well as one of the most deftly edited montages in recent cinema history. For all its imperfections, this is a film that aspires to heal a fractured nation. It's the movie we all need to see. — *Palm Beach ArtsPaper Staff*

BISCUIT

Continued from page 5

fuel that effort.

As has local talent, mostly booked on weeknights. For Boynton Beach-based singing multi-instrumentalist Richie Schmidt, the Funky Biscuit has practically become a personal house gig. His band the Fabulous Fleetwoods, one of the longest-standing blues acts in South Florida, is a frequent booking.

Schmidt has also been part of multiple stagings of *The Last Waltz*, director Martin Scorsese's documentary about the 1976 farewell concert by The Band at the Winterland Ballroom in San Francisco.

More frequent is the duo Twocan Blue with his wife, singing keyboardist Tess Schmidt. The couple has provided weekly Friday happy hour entertainment for 14 years, with Richie alternating among guitar, flute, mandolin, harmonica and violin.

And then there's his front man status in the Funky Biscuit Allstars. That group has gone from playing Monday nights backing area jam musicians, with no admission, to becoming a major ticketed draw — all because of Schmidt and fellow musicians like guitarists Drew Preston and Jeffrey James Harris, keyboardists Bob Taylor and Mitch Farber, bassists Tom Snellgrove and Mark Telesca, drummer Antony Livoti, and other major South Florida talents who've rotated through its expert cover band personnel.

Ask for an Allman Brothers Band classic, for example, and you're literally in good hands.

A former president and CEO of the Recording Industry Association of America, Jay

If You Go

Trouble No More: A Celebration of the Allman Brothers Band performs at the Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. **When:** 8 p.m. July 15, 16 and 18; 9 p.m. July 17 **Tickets:** \$50-\$76.42 **Info:** 561-395-2929, funkybiscuit.com

Berman, frequents the Funky Biscuit — and he certainly knows quality music when he hears it.

"They're literally helping to keep live music alive," Berman says about the Funky Biscuit Allstars.

For its 15th, the Funky Biscuit continues the Allman Brothers Band's legacy. One of the greatest of American groups in any genre, the Allmans emerged from Macon, Ga., and reigned over the international Southern rock and jam band scenes from 1969-2014 — in spite of deaths, replacements, personal struggles and hiatuses — by adding elements of blues, jazz, country, gospel and beyond. And four consecutive nights of the tribute act Trouble No More offer a prolonged salute from July 15-18.

The band's lineup features sons of Allmans bass-playing alumni in vocalist Lamar Williams Jr. and bassist Berry Duane Oakley, plus singing guitarists Brandon "Taz" Niederauer (a rising star at age 23) and Quinn Sullivan, Grammy Award-nominated keyboardist Peter Levin, drummer Aaron "Bucky" Buckingham, and special guests.

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GLAZER

Continued from page 5

artist, and Recording Academy voting member.

Her presentation of “Billie, Ella, Nina & I” on July 8 salutes a significant portion of the transplanted Detroit native’s roots. Norwood-Tiger’s interpretations of legendary jazz vocalists Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Nina Simone have already made her a favorite with South Florida audiences. Her intonation, scat-singing and storytelling capabilities, while backed by her ever-talented jazz ensemble, will be on full display.

Pianist Davis, a South Florida legend, performs July 22. The Florida native studied music at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, then relocated to areas including Sin City before he found South Florida calling him back.

“I’m originally from Orlando,” he says, “but lived and performed in Las Vegas at rooms like the Stardust and Holiday International from 1978 to 1982 before moving to Massachusetts. I’d studied music in Palm Beach County, and love it here, so I moved back in 2003.”

The dazzling pianist has also written arrangements for 1970s pop vocal hit-makers The Fifth Dimension, released multiple albums, and appeared on *The Tonight Show* and *Good Morning, America*. Most recently, his medleys of jazz and pop classics have been presented during a long-standing house gig at Cafe Centro in West Palm Beach, often in the restaurant’s appropriately titled Legends Room.

Aug. 4 would have been the late Louis Armstrong’s 125th birthday, but



Trumpeter Troy Anderson brings his salute to Louis Armstrong on Aug. 5. Photo provided by Glazer Hall

If You Go

The Summer Jazz Series takes place at Glazer Hall, 70 Royal Poinciana Way, Palm Beach.

When: 7 p.m. July 8, July 22 and Aug. 5

Tickets: \$65-\$85

Info: glazerhall.org; 561-576 7860

on Aug. 5, trumpeter and vocalist Troy Anderson brings “Satchmo” to life. Backed by his Wonderful World Band, Anderson is known throughout South Florida and beyond for re-creating both the fiery trumpet playing and trademark vocal growl of Armstrong — perhaps the most influential instrumental and singing combination in jazz history.

A former paratrooper, Anderson fell in love with Armstrong’s music while playing with the United States Army’s 2nd Armored Division Jazz Band in Germany. His career as one of the world’s top “Pops” interpreters has soared ever since. Guests can even enjoy a specialty cocktail, the Orange Satchmo, named in honor of the late New Orleans native.

GINGOLD

Continued from page 5

“We’re thrilled to be here in the community and bring music to the area, especially in the summer when there’s not much classical music around,” says Jill Arbetter, executive director of the Elevar Foundation and a former violinist with the Zurich Opera and Berlin Symphony Orchestra.

In keeping with this year’s theme of “The Next Generation,” Cárdenes says, “We wanted to create programs that connect generations of musicians through some of the greatest works in the chamber music repertoire.”

Central to the program are works by Mozart because, Cárdenes says, his works “demand clarity, communication and collaboration.”

“These are qualities that are essential to chamber music,” he says. These works provide the opportunity for established artists and emerging performers to share the stage and engage in a meaningful artistic dialogue, he adds.

The works include a wide-ranging survey of the chamber music repertoire, from Mozart’s “Dissonance” Quartet to the Romantic breadth of Brahms, Rachmaninov, Schumann, and Chausson. Concerts will be performed at a variety of venues, including Lynn University and the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

The program opens with a recital July 7 by EOIVC laureate and emerging artist Julia Jones and continues July 9 with “Jewish Prayers and Celebrations,” with music by Bruch, Bloch, and Israeli composer Paul Ben-Haim.

That concert is followed by two “Mozartiade” programs devoted to the music of Mozart, and three “Romantic

Tapestries” concerts, culminating in Chausson’s Concerto for Violin, Piano, and String Quartet.

In addition to Cárdenes, those artists include violinists Jones, Gary Levinson and Erica Richardson; violists Michael Klotz and Jack Kessler; cellists Sara Sant’Ambrogio and Anne Martindale Williams; and pianists Robert Koenig and Sheng-Yuan Kuan.

Cárdenes says he is particularly excited to welcome Kessler and Jones, fourth-prize winner at this year’s Oliveira Competition, and former student Erica Lynn.

“Seeing former students return as artistic colleagues is especially rewarding and speaks to the continuity of the chamber music tradition,” Cárdenes says. “The festival is not only about celebrating great music, but also about nurturing the artists who will carry that tradition forward.”

He’s grateful for the opportunity to bring the series back to Boca Raton this year and says that being under the Elevar Foundation umbrella has given the festival the support it needs to grow.

“It is incredibly gratifying to be welcomed in the community,” he says. “From the beginning, our goal was to build a festival that honored Josef Gingold’s artistic legacy while creating something meaningful for the South Florida community.

“Seeing the festival continue to grow — and feeling the community’s support behind it — has been very gratifying,” he adds.

For the full schedule and details, please visit the Gingold Festival website at www.elevarfoundation.org/jgcmf. While the concerts are free or low-cost, guests are asked to pre-register.

Part of the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation’s 2025-2026 Season of Dance

La Bayadère

August 1, 2026 at 7:30pm

August 2, 2026 at 2:00pm



Boca Ballet Theatre is proud to present this ballet by Marius Petipa, choreographer of *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*. *La Bayadère* is a classic tale of love and betrayal set in mythical India. Known for its dramatic story and the iconic “Kingdom of the Shades,” this ballet is a jewel of 19th-century choreography.



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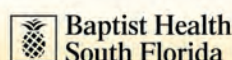
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Guest Artists Subject to Change

Vegso Family Foundation

Edith & Martin Stein Family Foundation

Irvin Stern Foundation



Kettering Family Foundation



Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through July 31 were current as of June 24. 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 Amy Butell's immersive landscapes. 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*; *Typeo Gran: Anatomy of a Practice*, featuring the Miami-based artist's mixed media pieces in his first museum solo exhibition. Through Nov. 8: *Frédéric Bruly Bouabré: Selections from the 404 Art Collection*, a showcase of over 40 drawings by one of Africa's most admired contemporary artists. Through Dec. 6: *Exploring Jess: Beat Generation Visionary*, learn about Burgess Franklin Collins's life beyond his hand in creating the atom bomb, through his own art. Through Feb. 8: *Drawing with Scissors: Collage from the Collection*. \$16, \$12 seniors, free for students. 501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm W-Sun (to 8 pm Th). 561-392-2500 or www.bocamuseum.org

Cornell Art Museum: Through Sept. 10: *Persistence of Matter* featuring art made from reclaimed, repurposed, and upcycled materials; *Rodney Demps: The Surrealist of the Highwaymen*; *Spotlighting James Knill: Through a Lucid Lens*, explores the quiet power and mystery of nature through both photographs and oil paintings. 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: Opens July 3: *Dominique Denis: Metamorphosis*, a solo exhibition for a mixed-media artist whose work explores art and architecture through a nostalgic lens using fabric, handmade ceramics, wood, and yarn. Through Aug. 21. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through Aug. 1:

Trio, representing the "Rule of Three" — the concept that things that are presented in threes are more interesting and memorable. \$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: *Yokai: Scenes of the Supernatural in Japanese Woodblock Prints*, an exhibition centering on a mysterious phenomenon of bizarre spiritual beasts that have inhabited Japan's landscapes, homes, folklore, and imagination; *Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience*. Through Sept. 20: *Threads of Silver and Gold* spotlights the history of the *uchikake*, a formal robe worn by high-ranking women. \$15; \$13 seniors; \$9 children; free for members, ages 5 and under. 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. 10 am-5 pm T-Sun. 561-495-0233, morikami.org

Norton Museum of Art: Through Aug. 16: *60 Seconds: Polaroids from the Collection*, an exploration of instant film and the creativity it brings in its immediacy. Through Aug. 23: *Galloping Steed: Celebrating the Year of the Horse in Chinese Paintings*, featuring works by Xu Beihong, one of the most celebrated artists of 20th-century China, alongside rare paintings by Louis Antoine de Poirot, a French Jesuit artist who served at the Qianlong Emperor's court. Through Sept. 27: *Recognition of Art by Women: In Retrospect*, Norton's 10th anniversary exhibit, this one showcasing the works of artists featured in past iterations. Through Oct. 4: *Danielle McKinney: Shelter*, a solo exhibition portraying women's moments of solitude, often evoking a sense of subtle nostalgia. Through Nov. 1: *Cursed Images: Pictures Out of Context*, a collection of amateur photographs showcasing the unusual, "uncanny" things we encounter in day-to-day life. \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196, www.norton.org

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Tuesday, July 7-Sunday, July 19

Josef Gingold Chamber Music Festival: This summer chamber music gathering returns to Boca Raton for seven performances led by violinist Andrés Cárdenes. Featured this year are two all-Mozart concerts, a concert of Jewish-themed music, and three devoted

to "Romantic Tapestries," culminating in a performance of the rarely heard Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet of the French composer Ernest Chausson. Performances July 9 (7 pm) at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County; July 11 (7:30 pm) and 12 (3 pm) and July 18 (7:30 pm) and July 19 (3 pm) at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music; July 16 (5:30 pm) at the Boca Raton Museum of Art; the opening concert July 7, a recital by violinist Julia Jones, is available by calling Dave Welch at 561-368-0042. All concerts except the Boca Raton Museum event (\$10 per ticket) are free, but registration is required. Visit www.elevarfoundation.org/jgcmf for details.

JAZZ AND BLUES

Wednesday, July 8

Yvette Norwood-Tiger Jazz Ensemble: The award-winning jazz vocalist and founder of the Palm Beach International Jazz Festival will perform "Billie, Ella, Nina, and I" as part of Glazer Hall's Summer Jazz Concert Series. 7 pm. Tickets: \$65-\$85. 70 Royal Poinciana Way, Suite P70, Palm Beach. 561-576-7860 or glazerhall.org

Wednesday, July 22

Copeland Davis Ensemble: The well-known Palm Beach County jazz pianist takes the stage for the second installment of Glazer Hall's Summer Jazz Concert Series. 7 pm. \$65-\$85. 70 Royal Poinciana Way, Suite P70, Palm Beach. 561-576-7860 or glazerhall.org

Sunday, June 12

Jeff Kashiwa: This smooth/contemporary jazz saxophonist rose to fame in 1989 with The Rippingtons, an influential jazz fusion group. He's performing two shows, 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm. \$35-50. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

POPULAR MUSIC

Tuesday, July 7

Tori Amos: Known for her passionate compositions and activism, this multiplatinum singer-songwriter and pianist released her 18th studio album, *In Times of Dragons*, in May. She is kicking off her extensive U.S. summer tour in West Palm Beach. 7:30 pm. Limited tickets available: \$86-\$166. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Wednesday, July 8

Train: Hey, soul sister! The "Drops of Jupiter" band, Train, is on track toward South Florida this summer, joined by Barenaked Ladies and Matt Nathanson. 6:45 pm. \$36 and up. iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. ticketmaster.com

Monday, July 13

Chicago: It might not be hard to say you're sorry if you miss this nostalgic rock band during their Windy Cities Tour. They'll be joined by Styx, another popular rock band from Chicago, where they'll be adding some horn pizzazz to "Come Sail Away." 7 pm. \$55 and up. iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. ticketmaster.com

Wednesday, July 15

Ne-Yo and Akon: R&B veteran Ne-Yo and Senegalese-American hit-maker Akon are joining forces for their Nighta Like This tour. 8 pm. \$47 and up. iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. ticketmaster.com

Friday, July 24

Lionel Richie and Earth, Wind & Fire: Co-headlining a tour together are these two iconic artists, each with massive chart-topping hits, including Richie's "All Night Long" and Earth, Wind & Fire's "September." 7:30 pm. \$187 and up. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. ticketmaster.com

Louis Tomlinson: The former One Direction member is currently touring North America following the January release of his third solo studio album, *How Did We Get Here?* 7 pm. \$55 and up. Kaseya Center, 601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami. ticketmaster.com

Friday, July 31

Toto, Christopher Cross and The Romantics: The talented singer-songwriters, instrumentalists, and performers of hits like "Rosanna," "Sailing," and "Talking in Your Sleep" are about to finish up their summer collaboration tour, but not before stopping in South Florida. 6:45 pm. \$37 and up. iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. ticketmaster.com

THEATER

Opens Thursday, July 9

Falstaff: Shakespeare's Greatest Invention: A mashup of the Shakespeare plays featuring the old knight addicted to sack and sugar has its premiere at the Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival as part of their Shakespeare by the Sea series. Thursdays through Sundays, July 9-12

and 16-19 at the Seabreeze Amphitheater, 750 S. Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway in Jupiter. 8 pm. Free admission with a \$5 per person suggested donation. pbshakespeare.org

Opens Friday, July 10

Little Women: Presented by Florida Atlantic University as part of its 2026 Festival Repertory Theatre, this 2005 Tony-nominated musical by Jason Howland and Mindi Dickstein follows Louisa May Alcott's classic story. 7 pm night performances, 2 pm matinees. \$30. Through July 26 at Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd., Boca Raton. fauevents.com or 561-297-6124

Saturday, July 11

Seussical Jr.: Your favorite Dr. Seuss characters all come together in this musical, presented by the kids of Delray Beach Playhouse's Broadway Youth Camp. Directed by Elizabeth Guerra. 2 pm and 6 pm. \$15 children, \$20 adults. 950 NW 9th St, Delray Beach. 561-272-1281 or delraybeachplayhouse.com

Opens Saturday, July 11

Burst: This world premiere play by Rachel Bublitz follows the CEO of a tech company as she, along with her CTO, goes head-to-head with a relentless journalist. Directed by Elizabeth Price. \$48. Through July 26. New City Players, Island City Stage, 2304 N. Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors. newcityplayers.org or 954-376-6114

Friday, July 10-Sunday, July 12

Our Dear Dead Drug Lord: A group of teenage girls gather in an abandoned treehouse to summon the ghost of Pablo Escobar. Follow this chaotic, twisted journey of girlhood as they mess around with the infamous drug lord — or, maybe just each other. Play by Heather Fortner and Melanie Simmons. 7 pm July 10, 1 pm July 11 and 12. \$21. Stonzek Studio Theater at Lake Worth Playhouse. 713 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410 or lakeworthplayhouse.org

Opens Friday, July 17

In the Heights: This high-energy musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda follows the residents of the working-class New York neighborhood of Washington Heights as they chase love, ambition, and identity amid gentrification and other hardships. Through August 2. Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 pm. Sunday matinee, 2 pm. Tickets: \$28 general admission. 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410 or lakeworthplayhouse.org

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Paws Up for Pets

Preparation, communication can save pets from house fires

When you see or hear the words, “firefighters” and “dogs,” you may conjure an image of a happy Dalmatian inside a fire station.

But the sad reality is that each year, more than 40,000 dogs, cats and other household pets become injured or die in house fires across the country.

And here’s another scary stat: Pets cause more than 1,000 house fires annually, according to the National Fire Protection Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

July 15 is national Pet Fire Safety Day. In Palm Beach County, local fire departments are doing their part to rescue pets in house fires. Many rescuers have their own pets.

“One of the biggest problems we encounter with house fires is that pets inside get scared and may be hard to find with the fire and smoke,” says Boca Raton Fire Rescue Lt. Karl Richards. “A big issue with house fires is smoke inhalation. It does not take a lot to be overcome by the carbon monoxide in the smoke. The more smoke pets inhale, the more lethal it becomes.”

Adds Tyeisha Knight, community resilience manager for the Delray Beach Fire Rescue Department: “In a house fire, frightened pets are likely to hide in places where they feel safe and protected. Common hiding spots include under beds, inside closets, behind furniture or in cabinets or other small, enclosed spaces. This can make it difficult for family members and firefighters to locate them quickly during an emergency.”

Highland Beach Fire Rescue Chief Glenn Joseph urges residents to not only have smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers inside their homes, but to test them regularly. Consider doing this twice a year, say when you need to change your clocks in the spring and the fall.

He adds that the most common culprits are kitchen fires, space heaters tipped over, forgetting to clean chimney flues, plus electrical cord shorts.

“A dog or a cat can bump or paw a stovetop knob and accidentally turn it on. That can lead to a fire,” says Joseph. “Or a cat can paw or a dog’s tail can knock over a lit candle and start a fire quickly.”

During a house fire, quickly escape and alert firefighters about what pets are in the home and where they tend to hide.

“Tell the responder that your



Highland Beach firefighter/paramedic Kristi Kemper and Sparky demonstrate some of the town’s pet rescue equipment. Photo provided

dog usually hides under a table or under the bed or in the closet when scared,” says Joseph.

To reduce pet-caused house fires, local firefighters

recommend that you:

- Have a family escape plan and practice evacuating the entire family, including the pets.
- Keep leashes and pet

Learn more

National Pet Fire Safety Day is July 15 and is sponsored by the American Kennel Club and ADT Security. To learn more, visit akcreunite.org/firesafety and adt.com/pet-safety.

carriers close to an exit so you can use them to get your frightened pets out quickly.

- Consider using flameless or LED candles in the home instead of flame-burning ones.
- If possible, condition your dog or cat to the piercing sounds of a smoke detector. Reward them with treats when they come to you or go into a safe spot such as in the bathroom or in an open pet crate upon hearing the noise.
- Install child-safety covers on stove knobs or remove the knobs when you’re not actively cooking.
- Secure electrical cords with covers to keep pets from checking the cords and causing sparks or fires.

Knight, who has been with Delray Beach Fire Rescue for four years, shares her home with Bella, her 8-year-old pit bull.

“To help keep Bella safe while we are home, she has been trained to stay out of the kitchen,” she says. “When we are away from home, Bella stays in her own room with a safety gate in place.”

Make sure all your pets sport identification tags bearing your name and cellphone number so that your pets can be more easily reunited with you should they dart out during a house fire.

Consider placing stickers on windows that indicate the type and number of pets you have in your home to alert firefighters.

In Highland Beach and many other municipalities in Florida, residents can place household information such as pet descriptions in a secure portal called Community Connect that can be quickly accessed by first responders during an emergency. Consult your city or town for more details on how to register.

“If we get an emergency call to your address, that information immediately goes to the first responders heading to the scene,” says Joseph. “This is a great and safe program.”

Final good news: More fire departments are equipping their trucks with various sized pet oxygen masks and ensuring their staffs complete pet first aid/CPR classes.

Arden Moore is an author, pet podcast show host and master certified pet first aid instructor. Check out petfirstaid4u.com and ardenmoore.com.



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Health & Harmony

FAU grad shows how one person's kindness has ripple effects

Every month in this column we talk about the health part of Health and Harmony. This month, we're focusing on the harmony — through the work of Boynton Beach resident Rayna Rose Exelbierd, 34, whose nonprofits, The Rose Grows and Teen Tribe, along with her children's books are inspiring young people to believe that one person's actions can make a meaningful difference.

The granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Exelbierd grew up in Memphis and moved to Florida for college. She graduated from FAU in 2015 with a degree in business. After several years of working in the nonprofit world mentoring students, she saw a growing need to teach leadership, self-confidence, kindness, understanding and diversity to children.

Exelbierd's work is part of a larger movement to teach kindness as a discipline.

In June, the Boca Raton Museum of Art and Kindness Matters offered a four-part series titled "Practicing Kindness: Deepening Brain Regulation," designed to support emotional well-being, self-awareness and meaningful connection through practicing kindness.

More than 55 participants signed up, and a second series is planned for the fall.

David Matteson, director of learning and engagement at the museum, believes that teaching kindness and art go hand in hand.

"Art can help us build stronger, more empathetic relationships with ourselves and one another," he says. "Many people are feeling overwhelmed or divided, and there is a real need for spaces like museums that encourage respite and reflection."

He hopes participants leave



feeling more connected to themselves and to the museum and learn practical tools such as pausing before reacting, listening more generously, or noticing opportunities to express gratitude in everyday life.

It's the same philosophy that drives Exelbierd's work — that one person's act of kindness can have ripple effects on a child's or other person's life.

"I came across a poem I wrote five years ago about my dad, who died when I was 27," she said. "That poem inspired me to write my first book, *The Girl Who Said Hello to Everyone: Teaching Kids Kindness, Conversation and Resilience*."

The book is dedicated to Delray Beach probate attorney Pamela Higer-Polani and her



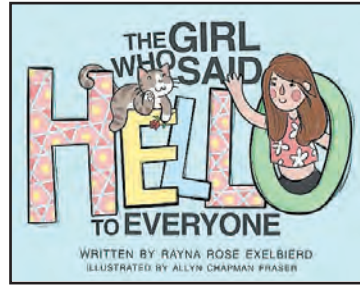
Higer-Polani

Polani, who founded the nonprofit Brain Bowl in 2014. The organization raises funds and awareness for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. "She's beyond brave and always wants to help others, especially to empower women."

Since Exelbierd published her first book, children in more than 19 countries have read her stories — including her second title, *The Girl Who Wore Two Different Shoes*:

husband, Mark, both mentors to Exelbierd.

"Rayna lives up to the meaning of her name — queen," says Higer-



Rayna Rose Exelbierd's life goal is to teach kindness to others, which she does through her two nonprofits. She has also written two children's books (above) and is working on a third. **Photos provided**

Empowering Kids to Celebrate Standing Out Instead of Trying to Fit In. It teaches empathy and the importance of embracing individuality. Both books are illustrated by her childhood friend, Allyn Chapman Fraser.

This year, Exelbierd's nonprofit The Rose Grows ("Where One Grows, We All Grow") distributed 8,000 books to public elementary school students from underserved backgrounds. She estimates she has spoken to more than a quarter million youth around the world over the last decade about leadership and understanding differences.

Exelbierd is also helping 96-year-old Holocaust survivor Anya Baum write her memoir and is at work on her third children's book, tentatively titled *The Girl Who Said I Can't Run*.

Locally, she has provided copies of her books to the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County, which distributes backpacks of school supplies to children. And she is partners with Junior Achievement of the

Follow Rayna Rose Exelbierd on Instagram or visit therosegrows.com or teen-tribe.com.

To learn about the Boca Raton Museum of Art, visit BocaMuseum.org.

Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast.

Erica Eggerman, director of elementary programs for the local Junior Achievement, says, "Rayna's partnership has been invaluable in helping us create experiences that are not only educational, but truly transformational."

At StandWithUs, an international organization that combats antisemitism, Exelbierd met and mentored Miami native Danielle Yablonka, 25, who was immediately struck by her energy and presence.



Yablonka

"The minute I met Rayna and saw the way she sparked in a room, I knew I had to meet her," Yablonka says. "She was wearing a neon

pink dress, basketball sneakers and a floppy hat — and her speech was so inspiring.

"Rayna gave me my first public speaking opportunity and encouraged me to tell my story," adds Yablonka, who graduated from FAU in 2023 with a degree in communications and Jewish studies. "I wouldn't be where I am without her."

Exelbierd says she is inspired most by women who champion other women, such as Spanx creator Sara Blakely for being real, vulnerable, funny and hardworking, as well as by Blakely's husband, Jesse Itzler, an author and entrepreneur. They motivated her to "chase my dreams."

Exelbierd believes that when people bring their diverse talents and backgrounds together, they can support one another in reaching goals and overcoming challenges. She signs all her books, "You are just a hello away from new friends and adventures."

Her personal motto — "Never dimmer your shimmer" — reflects the resilience she considers her greatest accomplishment. Not giving up, she says, is what allows her to keep helping children discover their self-confidence and their voice.

"I'm so blessed if I can inspire even one child to think bigger in their own life," she says.

Jan Engoren writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.



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Health Notes

Palm Beach Health Network widens philanthropic reach

The former St. Mary's Medical Center Foundation officially transitioned to The Foundation for Palm Beach Health Network, expanding its philanthropic reach to support all six hospitals within Palm Beach Health Network. The foundation now encompasses Delray Medical Center, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Palm Beach Children's Hospital, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, St. Mary's Medical Center and West Boca Medical Center.

Also, the foundation has appointed Felicia B. Morton as its new executive director.

Biotechnology company raises \$2.5M in financing

BioStem Technologies, a biotechnology company developing placental-derived

tissue grafts for advanced wound care, raised \$2.5 million in private financing from its first institutional investor. The capital will help the firm strengthen its balance sheet as it works to uplist to the Nasdaq stock exchange. The company trades on the OTC market under the ticker BSEM. It did not disclose the investor's identity.

BioStem purchased a 4-acre property within the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University last November, with plans to move its headquarters from Pompano Beach.

Medical practice celebrates grand opening in west Boca

BeninMed, a medical practice founded by Drs. Samantha Benin and Andrew

Benin, celebrated its grand opening at 9250 Glades Road, No. 108, Boca Raton, in June. The couple's practice combines traditional internal medicine and cardiology with a proactive approach to prevention, longevity and overall wellness.

Samantha Benin specializes in cardiology and internal medicine with a focus on preventive cardiology and cardiovascular risk reduction. Co-founder Andrew Benin is an internal medicine physician focused on preventive care and the management of chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular risk factors.

— Christine Davis

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 5-11

Sunday - 7/5 - 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

7/5 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous) Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

7/5 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W/Sun 6:30 pm. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Monday - 7/6 - LGBTQ ACOA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101 NW 22nd St. Every M 6:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Tuesday - 7/7 - 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

7/7 - Al-Anon Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 7/8 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W/F 10 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

7/8 - 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 - 7/9 - LGBTQ+ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Th 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

7/9 - Alateen Meeting at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

Saturday - 7/11 - 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

7/11 - 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

7/11 - Zumba Class at South Beach Park

Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

7/11 - 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

7/11 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JULY 12-18

Sunday - 7/12 - Yoga at the Museum

at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Tuesday - 7/14 - Yoga with Sophia at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 7/28 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

JULY 26-AUGUST 1

Tuesday - 7/28 - 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

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On the Water

Dive shops offer gear, training, guiding for lobster mini-season

For most Palm Beach County scuba divers, the annual two-day lobster mini-season is the highlight of their year.

Not only is it the first opportunity to catch lobsters since the regular season closed on April 1, but it also allows underwater hunters to keep 12 of the tasty crustaceans a day, which is twice the regular season daily bag limit of six per person.

That will have local divers, as well as visiting divers from everywhere, heading to the coral reefs spanning from Boca Raton to Jupiter in search of a lobster dinner during the mini-season, which is July 29-30.

Steven Constantiner, the owner of Force-E Scuba Centers, calls it the “World Cup of lobstering,” a timely reference to the excitement that soccer fans are currently experiencing during that sport’s biggest event.

That makes July the busiest month for Constantiner’s dive shops, which are in Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Riviera Beach, Pompano Beach and Fort Lauderdale, with a sixth scheduled to open this month in Jupiter, as divers get their air tanks filled and scuba gear checked in time for opening day.

If you’ve never caught lobsters during mini-season, whether it’s because you haven’t tried it before or because you stink at it, Force-E’s training director Nikole Heath said the stores not only can get you prepared and book dives on local charter boats, they also can guide you to a successful mini-season.

“We have certified diving professionals, instructors that teach underwater hunting,” Heath said, noting that Force-E (www.force-e.com) also has lobster-hunting guides to help you catch lobsters just as fishing guides help you catch fish.

“You can actually just hire them to come out for the day



Nikole Heath, Force-E training director, shows a lobster she caught during a mini-season. **BELOW:** Force-E Scuba Centers staffers inspect air tanks, a process fill stations require annually. Lobster mini-season is July 29-30. **Photos provided**



for your mini-season and you’ll catch everything together. That’s something pretty different. So instead of an instructor teaching you how to dive, they actually take you out hunting for lobsters.”

Heath, who also handles marketing and social media

for Force-E — the YouTube channel @ForceEDivers has an abundance of videos on everything from scuba gear and travel destinations to spearfishing and sea turtles — said the company has professionals who can help set up your boat for mini-season.

That could include checking safety items such as first aid and oxygen kits to securing air tanks, so they don’t roll around or fall over in choppy seas.

Speaking of air tanks, Heath said all the Force-E stores will have extended hours both days of mini-season to fill tanks. It’s wise to bring in your tanks well in advance of mini-season to get them inspected and filled, or replaced if they’re unsafe.

“Any fill station requires a visual inspection of tanks once a year,” Heath said, explaining that tanks need to be checked for pitting, rust, cracks and even insects such as spiders that crawl into them. She added that for mini-season, Force-E will inspect two tanks for the price of one inspection.

If you haven’t dived since last year’s mini-season or longer, you also need to have your dive gear inspected. Something as simple as a worn-out O-ring in a regulator can keep you from

diving. Air hoses that have leaks can be deadly — you might not be able to breathe underwater or get back to the water’s surface.

Heath said if your diving skills are a little rusty, it’s a good idea to dive with an instructor, whether it’s off a boat or from the beach.

“We get a lot of people who come out for mini-season and they’re like, ‘My last dive was 10 years ago.’ We really try and emphasize that people do refresher dives with us before mini-season or even get their rescue diver certification so that they’re a more well-rounded diver,” Heath said. “We want you to get your lobsters and we want you to be safe.”



Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 5-11

Sunday - 7/5 - Nature Connections at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Get in touch with the wild side of Florida. Meet in the amphitheater for a short presentation featuring our native flora and fauna. All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Every Sat/Sun (closed 7/4). 11:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

7/5 - 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

7/5 - 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

Tuesday - 7/7 - Island Treks at Gumbo

Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Visitors will be guided on a short trek along the shaded boardwalk through the tropical hardwood hammock forest, pausing for some intracoastal views through the mangroves. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 7/11 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Stand Up Paddleboarding at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ecosystems. Ages 13-adult; minors must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

JULY 12-18

Sunday - 7/12 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; each child under 13 must be accompanied by one adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 7/18 - 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

JULY 19-25

Saturday - 7/25 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course at Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. Park, 2010 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 8 am-3 pm. \$35/paypal; \$30/cash. 561-312-6439; birdlover5@bellsouth.net

7/25 - 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 required: 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

JULY 26-AUGUST 1

Sunday - 7/26 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Stand Up Paddleboarding at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ecosystems. Age 13-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

Friday - 7/31 - After Hours Tours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour ends w/ sunset views of the Intracoastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole chickee. Ages 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30-8 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 8/1 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Stand Up Paddleboarding at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ecosystems. Age 13-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

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Finding Faith

Donation of old kimonos connects Jewish, Japanese cultures

In an act of cultural compassion, eagle-eyed Eric Goldman, vice president of retail services at the Levis Jewish Community Center's Resale Boutique, rescued two kimonos left in a plain, unmarked cardboard box by the back door of the store in east Boca Raton.

Goldman's experience told him these garments might have real cultural significance, so he reached out to James Rodgers, the collection manager at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, who invited Goldman to meet. Jennifer Giacone, the Levis JCC's chief marketing and communications officer, was there.

"When I saw what Eric presented and how it was handled, it was really extraordinary. We watched the staff at Morikami put on white cotton gloves so carefully, almost reverently, and then look at these two artifacts, really examining them and trying to point out where historically they belonged. It was a very special moment."

On initial examination, Rodgers said, they knew little about the pieces. The black kimono was a kurotomesode, "a very formal type of kimono typically worn at weddings by the mother or grandmother of the bride or groom. This one is particularly formal," he said.

Kimonos are deeply symbolic, reflecting artistry, tradition and critical life moments, Rodgers said. This kimono probably belonged to an important family because of the presence of five "mon," the family's emblem or symbol, that were included.

"In Japanese it's called *maruni tachi omodaka*, which in English translates to standing arrowhead in a circle. It denotes that they might have come from a samurai family. They were probably middle class to wealthy."

Rodgers thinks the family may have had to sell the kimono during or after the war. "When the U.S. military was occupying Japan after World War II, a lot of families, particularly those in areas that were bombed or destroyed, found themselves on really hard times and ended up having to sell their precious family belongings to U.S. soldiers just to survive. The soldiers brought them back to the United States as souvenirs," he said.

The museum has gotten



Rumi Ota Borgese dons white gloves to examine the kimonos found outside the Jewish Community Center resale store. Miwako Patton, the Morikami's marketing and public relations manager, looks on. The white wedding kimono possibly dates to the 1940s. The black formal kimono would have been worn during traditional ceremonies. **Photo provided**

kimonos before that were carried home by servicemen.

"We've been collecting kimonos from the very beginning, since 1976," Rodgers said. "We get kimonos fairly often, but because our collection is fairly large, we don't put too many into the collection."

The second kimono was an uchikake, or wedding kimono, Rodgers said. "Daughters in samurai families would have a very formal kimono that they would wear when they get married. You'll see the sleeves are very long, which indicates that the woman who wore it was unmarried. This one is quite colorful with a four seasons theme, so you have spring, fall and summer colors, different flowers and plants that give it that year-round, very seasonal motif," he said. "In our collection, we have about 25 or so more modern uchikake; this

is a good example of one of the older ones."

This was the JCC's first interaction with the Morikami, but it has already opened doors between the two groups.

"I'm delighted to say that as an outgrowth of that experience, we're in contact with Miwako Patton to pursue some opportunities through our Sandler Center for Arts, Culture and Learning," Giacone said. "We're brainstorming ideas; maybe a JCC series at Morikami or guided tours of the museum and gardens."

A shared history and intersections of the cultures can be explored, Giacone said.

"Years ago, we had a film festival that screened a film about a courageous Japanese diplomat who saved thousands of Jews in Lithuania. He was an unsung hero who understood this is not OK and helped save people who were running for their lives."

The film, 2015's *Persona Non Grata*, tells the story of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, who defied orders and issued more than 2,000 transit visas to Jewish refugees, allowing them to travel through Japanese territory. He risked his career and his family to save people fleeing Poland and Lithuania. Experts estimate he saved more than 6,000 lives before the Nazis

invaded Lithuania a year later in 1941.

"They were very interested in screening that film with us. I think that there's a lot of opportunity for us to partner on, to present our community with opportunities to learn about different cultures and the intersections between them," Giacone said.

Rodgers agrees it's important to foster local relationships. "We took the kimono because we wanted to build a relationship with the JCC," he said. "It's always good when museums and nonprofit organizations work together. With that in mind, we took this into the collection."

Giacone agrees. "South Palm Beach County is an extremely culturally rich area. We have such amazing cultural and educational opportunities here. I think cultivating that is going to go a long way to really fostering better understanding of one another."

"I think people sometimes are afraid of what they don't understand, and so by opening these doors to understanding, we learn more about one another and we appreciate each other's cultures. It makes us a better community."

Of course, Giacone can't help but see divine intervention at work. "Everything lined up the way it was supposed to. Eric saw something special. He reached out. We connected. All the stars aligned for that."

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens currently has an exhibition of uchikake called "Threads of Silver and Gold," which runs until Sept. 20. Five uchikake, each with a different motif, are on display. Around mid-July, the museum will switch them out and display five more. Visit the museum at 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. For more info on the exhibit, visit morikami.org/current-exhibitions/.

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

Alpert JFS honors county's Holocaust survivors

The Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service honored nearly 100 Holocaust survivors from Palm Beach County during its sixth annual Holocaust Survivor Day, held June 4 at Temple Beth Tikvah in Lake Worth Beach.

Established in 2021 to recognize and lift up Holocaust survivors with a day of celebration and appreciation, the event featured a tribute to the significance of Holocaust Survivor Day and a presentation of proclamations by Palm Beach County and the state of Florida. But the highlight of the event was the recognition of the survivors in attendance. It included a musical performance by Gyorgy Lakatos. More than



Rabbi Howard Shub speaks to the audience at Holocaust Survivor Day. Photo provided

150 guests attended. The Alpert JFS is one of Palm Beach County's leading providers of mental health and social services, serving more than 12,000 people annually. Find out more about the work at www.AlpertJFS.org or call 561-684-1991.

To learn more about

Holocaust Survivor Day, visit holocaustsurvivoraday.com.

Study shows prayer calms patients, lessens pain

There's scientific evidence of the power of prayer.

A randomized controlled trial conducted at the University of Maryland School of Medicine has found that a five-minute session of proximal intercessory prayer (PIP) — in-person prayer offered by a trained volunteer — significantly reduced pain and anxiety in primary care patients. The study published in the May/June 2026 issue of *The Annals of Family Medicine* is among the first randomized controlled trials of PIP conducted in a standard primary care setting.

Prayer is the most common form of complementary medicine used in the United States. About 43% of people report using prayer to lessen pain or relieve anxiety. But it's hard to show it works.

This study said positive results were reported by both the pain and anxiety groups. The pain group reported significantly greater pain reductions immediately after the session and at the two-week follow-up. The anxiety group participants showed significantly greater reductions in anxiety scores immediately after their treatment. This effect persisted at two- and six-week follow-ups, suggesting durable effects lasting at least a month

and a half for the anxiety group.

According to the study, prayer worked regardless of the patient's faith — or lack of faith. Research suggests that prayer influences the brain in several ways: It strengthens neural pathways of peace and gratitude and lowers stress by calming the parasympathetic nervous system, which lowers levels of cortisol, the body's primary stress hormone. It also promotes empathy and social connection because we often pray for others' needs as well as our own.

So, a quick, drug-free, cost-effective answer to pain and anxiety might be as close as a friend who knows how to pray. And you can help. Many church

Continued on the next page

PLACES OF WORSHIP DIRECTORY

CATHOLIC

ST. LUCY CATHOLIC CHURCH 3510 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, FL 33487 • Phone: 561-278-1280 • Web: stlucy.net • Daily Masses: Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. • Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH 643 NE 4th Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone 561-734-9330 • Web: stmarkboynton.com • Daily Masses: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. • Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 (Spanish).

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST 566 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33432 • Phone 561-391-7689 • Web: christianscientistboca.org • Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday Service: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

EPISCOPAL

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, FL 33432 • Phone: 561-395-8285 • Web: stgregorysepiscopal.org • Email: office@st-gregorys.com The Reverend Andrew Sherman, Rector. We warmly welcome all seeking God's love and grace. Join us Sundays for Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (with coffee hour after), and 6:00 p.m. evening service.

ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3300A S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435. • Phone 561-732-3060. • Web: stjoesweb.org. • Worship Schedule: Saturdays 5:00 p.m. Reflective Healing; Sundays 9:30 a.m. Choral Rite II; 10:45 a.m. Coffee Hour; 11:45 a.m. Contemporary service, live band (livestreamed).

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. • Phone: 561-276-4541 • Web: stpaulsdelray.org. Father Paul Kane. Services of Holy Eucharist: Saturdays 5:00 p.m.; Sundays 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; Sundays 10:00 a.m. Family Prayers and Praise Service; Thursday 12:10 p.m. Healing Service; Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer and 8:00 p.m. Compline.

JEWISH

BETH AMI CONGREGATION - A Contemporary Conservative Congregation, 1401 NW 4th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33432 • Phone: (561) 347-0031 • Web: BACBOCA.com • Email: info@Bacboca.com • Rabbi Bertram Kieffer, Cantor Lewis Messulam • Friday Service 7:00 p.m., Shabbat morning and Festivals, 9:30 a.m.

CHABAD OF EAST DELRAY 101 SE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444 • Phone: 954-283-7261 • Web: Jewisheastdelray.com • Rabbi Shmuel Biston. • Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

TEMPLE SINAI OF PBC 2475 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33445 • Phone: 561-276-6161 • Web: templesinaipbc.org • Rabbi Steven Moss & Cantorial Soloist Shir Rozzen • Friday Service: 7:30 p.m.; Saturday Service: 10:30 a.m.

LUTHERAN

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH 2929 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone: 561-732-2929 • Web: ascensionlutheranchurch.net. Worship Service/Holy Communion Sundays 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Our mission is Ministry: God has called us to share His love through healing hurts, filling needs and caring for those who are less fortunate in our family, in our community and around the world.

See ad this section for Easter Services

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

CHURCH OF THE PALMS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1960 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444 • Phone: 561-276-6347 • Web: churchofthepalms.net • Services: Sunday 10:00 a.m., Online Worship Sunday 4:00 p.m.

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ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2100 Yamato Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33431 • Phone: 561-994-4822 • Web: saintmarkboca.net • Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers (Matins); 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy. All are welcome.

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 YouTube and Facebook. Fresh traditional worship; volunteer opportunities. Personal spirituality deepens in community worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH 33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, FL 33483 • Phone: 561-276-6338 • Web: firstdelray.com • Our purpose is Building Disciples, Transforming Lives. • Sunday Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Religious institutions of all faiths are invited to be included in this paid feature. For more info, call 561-337-1553.

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 5-11

Sunday - 7/5 - 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 - 7/6 - Women's Bible Study via Zoom at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every M 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

7/6 - Rosary for Peace at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:45-6:15 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Tuesday - 7/7 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 7/8 - Men's Spirituality Hour via Zoom at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W 8 am. Free. For link: 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

7/8 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Thursday - 7/9 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee presented by Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Phone meeting (605-475-6006, passcode 3031030). Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

7/9 - Men's Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

7/9 - Women's Bible Study at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Youth Room, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Th 1 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

Friday - 7/10 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 9:30-11 am. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

7/10 - Bible Study w/Dave Kirk at Advent Boca Raton Fellowship Hall, 300 E Yamato Rd. Every F 10-11:30 am. 561-395-3632; adventboca.org

7/10 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaipbc.org

Continued from previous page

ministries are devoted to this work. At Spanish River Church in Boca Raton, the Visitation Team is starting a new ministry that visits homebound and hospitalized people who need a bit of prayer. Learn about the vision and opportunities to serve at an interest meeting at 10:15-10:45 a.m. July 12 in Connect Center Room 1 at the church, 2400 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. For more info, call 561-994-5000 or visit spanishriver.com.

New prayer circle forms at St. Gregory's

Join the Center for Spiritual Formation at St. Gregory's in Boca Raton for a new contemplative prayer experience.

The Lectio Divina Prayer Circle facilitated by Rose Sandoval takes place at 10 a.m. July 11 in St. Mary's Chapel and features 40 minutes of Lectio Divina, the ancient Christian practice of using Holy Scripture to center prayer. Participants focus on a short piece of scripture to concentrate their prayers.

This circle will meet on the first Saturdays of succeeding months at 10 a.m. Beginners are welcome. For more information, contact Sandoval at Rose@rose-sandoval.com.

Also continuing in July: At 4 p.m. July 16, Yoga and Sacred Movement mixes gentle stretching movements and breath work with reflection on scripture and prayer.

Then, at 4 p.m. July 25, YogaMass is held in St. Mary's Chapel. This is a time for graceful yoga, words of faith and contemplative meditation. Bring your yoga mat and water for both events.

Call 561-395-8285 or email rneville@st-gregorys.com.

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church is at 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton.

Exploring Christianity class at Spanish River Church

Spanish River Church will hold a seven-week class beginning July 16 for people who have decided to follow Jesus and are asking, "What's next?"

This introduction to Jesus through the Gospel of Mark features short films and guided discussions where questions are encouraged.

The course is designed for people who are new to the faith, but anyone looking to grow deeper in their understanding of Christianity will benefit.

The class meets 6:30-7:45 p.m. Thursdays beginning July 16 through Aug. 27 in the Education Building, Room 620 on the East Campus, 2350 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Info:

561-994-5000 or spanishriver.com/.

Boca Community Church catches World Cup fever

At 7-9 p.m. July 17 and 31, Boca Raton Community Church will host a little friendly soccer competition, open to men and women of all ages and levels of experience. The best news is that it takes place indoors in the gym at the church, 470 NW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. Info: bocacommunity.org or 561-395-2400.

First Presbyterian to host a church picnic

The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach are hosting a classic summer potluck picnic on July 26 beginning at 11 a.m. following worship services. This fellowship event connects the church family via a shared meal with plenty of food and conversation. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share.

Reservations are encouraged at firstdelray.com/upcoming-events/summer-picnic-rsvp/ to help with planning. First Presbyterian Church is at 33 Gleason St., Delray Beach. For more info, call 561-276-6338.

Temple Beth El's Giving Tree gets own space

The Giving Tree, Temple Beth

El of Boca Raton's charitable program that grants holiday wishes to thousands of local children and provides backpacks and school supplies to hundreds of students, is finally getting a space to call its own. After operating out of people's garages and donated space for 30 years, the group now has a

dedicated 2,400-square-foot area for its exclusive use. They certainly earned it! See my story about the work they do here: thecoastalstar.com/profiles/blogs/list/tag/giving+tree.

— Janis Fontaine



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WORLD CUP

Continued from page AT1

Juninho Bacuna said. “The pitch is amazing.”

“This is typical America,” goalkeeper Tyrick Bodak added. “You watch the movies and it’s always this kind of environment. It’s great to be here and feel it for myself instead of watching on TV.”

Curaçao was part of the Netherlands Antilles chain until becoming independent in 2010. While a number of its natives have played professionally in Europe, Curaçao had never enjoyed even regional success prior to hiring legendary coach Dick Advocaat in January 2024.

Advocaat, who had previously coached the Netherlands and South Korea in World Cups, stepped down to spend time with his ailing daughter in February of this year but returned in May when her condition improved. He has become the oldest coach in World Cup history at 78.

After three wins and two ties in its first five qualifying matches, Curaçao faced host Jamaica on Nov. 18 needing only a tie to advance and got it with a 0-0 result.

“We ran on the pitch, jumping, shouting, crying,” Bodak said. “Every emotion you could have was there.”

That was away, but home fans — an estimated 6,000 of whom traveled to Houston for the first World Cup match — got to share in the excitement when Curaçao beat Aruba 4-0 in its send-off game.

“After that we drove to the hotel and people were lined up in the streets, singing, dancing,” Bodak said.

A number of blue Curaçao jerseys were on hand at the open practice at FAU — the team’s nickname is “The Blue Wave” — and many of the natives now living in Florida made a point



ABOVE: Members of the Curaçao team practice with Boca Raton boys soccer players at the end of the June 11 training session at FAU.

Boca watch party

What: Watch party for World Cup quarterfinal game at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

When: Doors open at 4 p.m. Match begins at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 11.

Where: Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton.

Notable: Event is part of Boca Raton’s Summer in the City series. Food and entertainment will be featured.

Admission: Free.



LEFT: Christopher Ferreira and Lauren Francis display a banner showing the traditional spelling of Curaçao. The surname Korsou has historical roots in Eastern Europe, particularly within the regions that are now part of modern-day Poland and Ukraine. **Photos by Rachel O'Hara/The Coastal Star**

to be there. Among them was Rustico DeJesus, who lives in Jacksonville but frequently does business in Riviera Beach.

A single goal is a victory

Reminded that virtually no one expected the World Cup newcomers to advance from their group, DeJesus said his hopes remained high.

“They made it this far, so they have a chance. The first game some of the big teams stumble, so we’re hoping that happens. Just to get here is a celebration.”

Players also expressed confidence.

“If we get one goal it’s already

a party,” Bodak said. “It’s our first time, so how is everyone going to react?”

As it turned out, they did get the one goal against Germany to forge a 1-1 tie midway through the first half of their game in Houston, prompting Fox broadcaster Ian Darke to say if they did pull off the upset it would be the biggest in the 96-year history of the World Cup. Four-time champion Germany regrouped, however, and ultimately went on to win 7-1.

Curacao was much more competitive in its remaining two games, earning its first point in the standings with a 0-0 tie against South American

power Ecuador and then falling 2-0 to Ivory Coast in its finale — failing to advance in the competition.

Connecting with kids

Back at the practice, an assistant coach explaining the rules and narrating the action kept the crowd engaged. The players appreciated it.

“We felt the energy and atmosphere with a little taste of the island,” winger Kenji Gorre said.

About one-fourth of the crowd was made up of youth players, some intent on collecting stickers featuring World Cup stars that were part

of a soft drink promotion.

But one group stood out: Players on two Boca Raton 10-and-under teams in their yellow game uniforms joined the Curaçao players on the field for a joint workout afterward.

Gorre said he and his teammates embraced the opportunity. “It’s a huge opportunity, because you can impact the next generation.

“This is a story of hope; this is a story of making your dreams come true. And when that’s translated into the youth, it’s just amazing. We can show them that your dreams are possible. Anything is possible if you believe.” ★

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 5-11

Monday - 7/6 - Baby Story Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes & songs. Ages 6-12 months. Held again 7/20. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
7/6 - Lab Rats at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/6-9 - Rising Start Summer Basketball Camp at Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave. Ages 7-15. M-Th. 9 am-noon. \$50/session. 561-243-7250; mydelraybeach.com
7/6-7/10 - 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
7/6-10 - Summer Theatre Camp at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Weekly themes with showcase every Friday for

friends & family. Ages 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

7/6-10 - Art-Sea Living Summer Camp at Art-Sea Living, 510 E Ocean Ave #103, Boynton Beach. Runs through 8/7. Ages 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

7/6-10 - Summer Meals Service at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Palm Beach County School District serves lunch/snacks to youth 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

7/6-31 - 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

7/6-31 - Places! A Summer Theatre Camp at Arts Garage, 94th NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 8-15. Weekly themes. M-F 9 am-4 pm 7/6-7/31. \$500/week; \$1500/4-weeks. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Tuesday - 7/7 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Stories, music, movement. Ages walking to 23 mos. Every T through 7/21 10-10:30 am. Free.

Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

7/7 - Sandoway Discovery Center Daily Feedings at 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Invertebrate touch tank 12:30-2:30 pm; Shark & stingray feedings 1 pm; aquarium feedings 2 pm; animal encounters 3 pm. T-Sat. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org
7/7 - X STREAM Art at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-9. Held again 7/21. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/7 - Teen Adventurer’s Book Club: Empire of Shadows by Jacquelyn Benson at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 7/21. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/7 - Eco Adventures: Get Prehistoric at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. Every T through 7/21 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday - 7/8 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every W through 7/22 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

7/8 - Sensory Circle Time: Red, White & Blue at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 11 am-12:15 pm. Free.

561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

7/8 - X STREAM Art at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-9. Held again 7/22. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/8 - Hands-On Cultural Creations at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. Every W through 7/22 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 7/9 - Tiny T Rex Tales! at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3 mos-3 yrs. Held again 7/16. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/9 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

7/9 - STREAM Thursday Adventure: Movie: Walking with Dinosaurs (PG) at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-17. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/9 - 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

7/9 - 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

7/9 - Make & Take: Perler Beads at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-11. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 7/10 - STREAM Into Summer Stories at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All ages. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/10 - Musical Story Time w/ Noam Brown at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories & music. Ages 0-5. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/10 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Ages 0 months to non-walking. Every F through 7/24. 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

7/10 - Friday Special: Salty Sue the Pirate at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Saturday - 7/11 - Children’s Art Workshop: “Fishing 101” at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. Ages 8-15. Students should bring a bagged lunch, hat, sunblock & water. 9 am-1 pm. \$25/student. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

7/11 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Held again 7/18 & 8/1. 10-10:30

am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
7/11 - Diggin' Into Science: Discovery Saturdays at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. Held again 7/25. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/11 - ColorSpace: Artistic Excavations at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 7/25. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/11 - Sketching in the Galleries at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Family fare. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
7/11 - Seussical Jr. at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Two shows: 2 pm & 6 pm. \$20/adults; \$15/children. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
7/11 - Explore the Art of Painting at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-6. Child attends independently. Held again 7/18. 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
7/11 - Tween Tea Time Book Club: Turtle In Paradise by Jennifer L. Holm at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 9-11. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

JULY 12-18

Sunday - 7/12 - Beads and Brontosaurus at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 6-12. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Monday - 7/13 - Summer Tween Club: National Parks Acrylic Bookmarks at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 9-11. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/13 - STEM in Action: Fossils at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 7-8. 4-4:45 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
7/13 - Teen Career Workshop: Firefighter at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-17. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Tuesday - 7/14 - Toddler Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-24 mos. Held again 7/28. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/14 - Gaming Guild at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/14 - STREAM Family Nights at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5+. Held again 7/28. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Thursday - 7/16 - STREAM Thursday Adventure: Florida Public Archeology Network Beyond Artifacts! at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-17. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/16 - Scavenger Hunt: Hot Dog Edition! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories & music. Ages 5-11. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/16-17 - Children's Art Workshop: "Memory Box Decoupage" at the Delray Beach Historical Society Historic Bungalow, 3 NE 1st St. Ages 6-13. Students should bring a bagged lunch. 10 am-3 pm. \$30/student. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org
Saturday - 7/18 - Morning Makers - Sculpting the Surface at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Creative family program designed for children ages 5-12. 10-11:30 am. \$10/members; \$5-\$20/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
7/18 - 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
7/18 - Bones to Books at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Children read to friends from Bonafide Therapy Dogs. All ages. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

JULY 19-25

Sunday - 7/19 - 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
Monday - 7/20 - 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. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/20 - STREAM Story Explorers Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/20 - STEM in Action: Ancient Bridges at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 7-8. 4-4:45 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Tuesday - 7/21 - Story Time: Palm Beach Opera presents "Hansel & Gretel" at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes & songs. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/21 - STREAM Word Warriors Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Wednesday - 7/22 - Sensory Circle Time: Construction Play at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 11 am-12:15 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/22 - Game Day at Boynton Beach

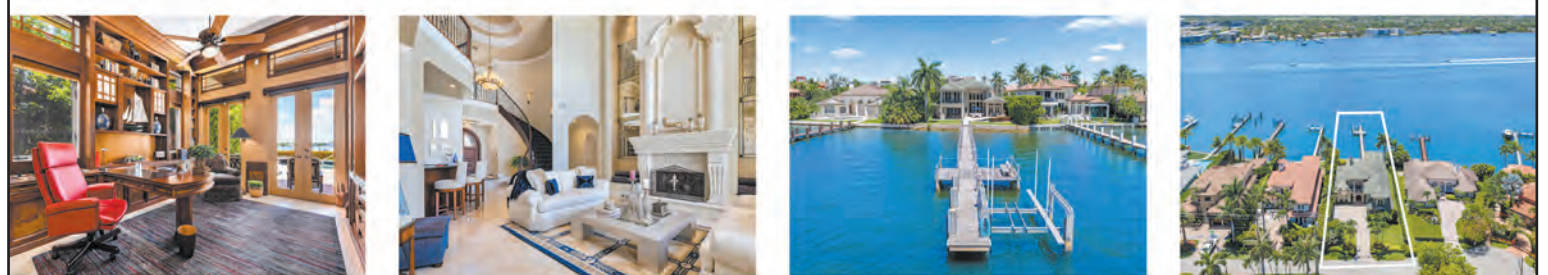
Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Every W 4:30-6:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Thursday - 7/23 - STREAM Grand Finale Party featuring Sharks4Kids at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-17. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/23 - News from Outer Space! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-11. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Saturday - 7/25 - Teen Advisory Board at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades 6-12. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/25 - Creation Station: Wavy Wonders at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
7/25 - Bones to Books at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-8. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

JULY 26-AUGUST 1

Monday - 7/27 - 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 (weather permitting). Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/27 - Baby & Me Yoga at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. For adults and their little ones. Ages 0-12 months. 11 am-

noon. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/27 - Play-Dough Party at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 0-12. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
7/27 - Summer STEAM Club: Garden Stepping Stones at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 11 & under. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/27 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/27-8/7 - Youth Summer Camp: 2-Week Theatre & Arts Training Program at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Ages 9-16. M-F, 9 am-4 pm. \$875. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com
Tuesday - 7/28 - Teen Tuesday at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/28 - Teen Movie Night: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981, PG) at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:45 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Wednesday - 7/29 - Special Story Time: Paleo Sue at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 0-5. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 7/30 - Family Nights - Back to School Bash at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 4-7:30 pm. Free/members; \$10/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
Friday - 7/31 - End of Summer Wrap Up Foam Party at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 0-17. 11 am-1 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/31 - Friday Special: Ooga the Cavewoman at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-10. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Saturday - 8/1 - Back to School Bash at Norman J. Wimbley Gymnasium, 1515 Wingfield St, Lake Worth Beach. For all students in the 33460-33461 area - must present a Lake Worth bill. Featuring food, music and free backpack with supplies while they last. 9 am-noon. Free. 561-586-1702; lakeworthbeachfl.gov
8/1 - Morning Makers - Play with Prints at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Creative family program designed for children ages 5-12. 10-11:30 am. \$10/members; \$5-\$20/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
8/1 - The Spongebob Musical at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Two shows: 2 pm & 6 pm. \$20/adults; \$15/children. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com



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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 5-11

Monday - 7/6 - Delray Beach Summer GreenMarket every Saturday through July 25 at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9am-1pm. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

7/6 - Advanced Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every M 2-4 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

7/6 - Pickleball at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Combines badminton & tennis. Adults. M/F 6-8 pm. \$5-\$7; \$50-\$65/24-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

Tuesday - 7/7 - 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

7/7 - Seminar: Redefining Retirement: Embrace the New Age of Retirement w/Christine Catoggio at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 7/28 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$69.60/member; \$87/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

7/7 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

7/7 - Book Talks - An Hour to Kill: The Doorman by Chris Pavone at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

7/7 - Beginning Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 7/28 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4-weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

7/7 - Federal Benefits Educational Association - Maximize Your Social Security Benefits at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again Noon-3 pm 7/11. 5:45-7:45 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/7 - Mick Foley: 40 Years of Foley at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$35. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

7/7 - Comedy Open Mic at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 1st T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 7/8 - Benjamin Franklin: The Incredible Story of "The First American" w/Robert Watson at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual

membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

7/8 - High Flying Summer Flix for Grownups: Flightplan at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/8 - Sunset Sips & Game Night Hits - Scrabble & Sangria at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 6-8 pm. \$25. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 7/9 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

7/9 - 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

7/9 - Summer Film Series - "Young Picasso" 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

7/9 - Manny: The Life and Films of Edward G. Robinson w/Kurt Stone at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 8/27 3-5 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$125.25/member; \$167/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

7/9 - 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

7/9 - Intermediate Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every Th through 7/30 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

7/9 - Artist Talk: Amaya Estrada at Creative Arts School, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6 pm. Free. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

7/9 - Peanut Headz: Black History Toonz Series 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

7/9 - Summer at Sea Outdoor Movie Series - 20 Thousand Leagues Under the Sea at the Delray Beach Historical Society outdoor patio, 3 NE 1st St. Bring a picnic dinner. Free popcorn, water & tea. Doors open 7 pm. \$10/person. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

Friday - 7/10 - Mahjong Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 7/17 & 24. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/10 - Lecture Series - Breaking the

4th of July Events



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 - Celebrate the Fourth at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. All day family friendly activities. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org

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. Live reading of the Declaration of Independence, 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 Bicentennial Park, 321 E. Ocean Ave. 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

Frame: Reflecting on Modern Art - Pop Art at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 10:30am-12:30 pm. \$30/member; \$40-\$50/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

7/10 - Beginner Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every F 6-7 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

7/10 - 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

7/10 - The Allman Revival - A Tribute to the Allman Brothers Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 7/11 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Sat through 8/29. 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

7/11 - \$5 Studio Days at Creative Arts School, 51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 5+. 11 am-12:30 pm or 1-2:30 pm. \$5. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

7/11 - Ceramics by You Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Sat through 8/29. 1-3 pm. Per class \$10/resident; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

7/11 - Make & Muse: Figures of Meaning - 2-Day Ceramics Workshop at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Held again 7/18. 1-3:30 pm. \$120/member; \$160/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

7/11 - Workshop: Pastel Painting at Boca Raton Museum Art School, 801 W Palmetto Park Rd. 1-4 pm. \$90. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

7/11 - Colored Pencil Drawing & Painting 4-Week Workshop at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Held again 7/18, 25 & 8/1. 1-4 pm. \$220. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

7/11 - 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

7/11 - World Cup Quarterfinal Game Watch Party at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of the Summer in the City series. Bring blankets/chairs. Doors open 4pm; match begins 5

pm. Free. 561-393-7890; mizneramp.com

7/11 - Celebrating Fuller Center's 55th Birthday and the Living Our Legacy Society at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 5-7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$25. 561-391-7274; fullercenterfl.org

7/11 - Yvad and The Legal Roots - Tribute to Bob Marley at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$53-\$58. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

JULY 12-18

Sunday - 7/12 - Boca Farmers Market every Sunday at Boca Raton Innovation Campus (BRIC), 4950 Communication Ave, Boca Raton. Featuring 9:30 am yoga, fresh, local food and handmade goods. 9 am-1 pm. Free. bocafarmersmarket.com

7/12 - Exhibit Opening Reception at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 8/1. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org

Monday - 7/13 - Monday Movies - Documentary: Kenny Schart: When Worlds Collide directed by Malia Schart & Max Basch at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

Tuesday - 7/14 - Seminar: The Psychiatrist Is In! w/Peter Holland 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

7/14 - The Japanese Soul on Screen w/Shelly Isaacs at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 8/4 2:30-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

7/14 - Movie Night at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. Held again 7/28. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

7/14 - Summer at Sea Lecture - Shipwrecked in South Florida 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

7/14 - Undiscovered by Gabriela Wiener part of Tuesday Evening Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

7/14 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd T 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

7/14 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 2nd T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 7/15 - The Story of the Constitution w/Robert Watson at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

7/15 - Book Buzz Adult Book Club at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/15 - Still Life, Full Throttle: Bring the Ordinary to Life with Paint at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Held again 7/25. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

7/15 - League of Women Voters Hot Topics Zoom Discussion: Voting Rights Under Fire - How the League is Fighting Back w/Jessica Lowe-Minor presented by League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County. Noon-1 pm. Free/registration required for Zoom link. Registration: 561-276-4898; lwvpubc.org

7/15 - Art in Focus Tour - Frank Stella, The Quarter-Deck & Miriam Schapiro, Heart in the Highlands at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/paid museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

7/15 - 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; artswarehouse.org

Thursday - 7/16 - Artist Marketplace at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Held again 7/30. 3-8 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

7/16 - Breathe Better: Indoor Air Quality Workshop at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0798; delraylibrary.org

7/16 - Muse & Mingle: Summer Lovin' at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 5-8 pm. Free/member; \$10/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Friday - 7/17 - Long Pose Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 18+. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

7/17 - Yvad & The Legal Roots: A Tribute to Bob Marley at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of the Summer in the City series. Bring blankets/chairs. 7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7890; mizneramp.com

7/17-18 - The Motowners at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$63-\$68. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 7/18 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Writers Studio presented by Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All other Sat via Zoom. 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/18 - Workshop: Intro to Watercolor: Essential Techniques & Your First Paintings at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

7/18 - Palette Knife Power: Paint with Boldness & Texture Workshop at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

7/18 - Buble & Beyond - A Tribute to Michael Buble at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$75. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

JULY 19-25

Sunday - 7/19 - Adult Workshop w/ Amaya Estrada at Creative Arts School, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 11 am. Free. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

7/19 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

Tuesday - 7/21 - New York City A Musical Back Drop w/Steven Friedman at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/nonmember. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

7/21 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/

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Municipal Meetings

- 7/7 & 7/21 – Boynton Beach** City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. boynton-beach.org
- 7/8 – Ocean Ridge** Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. oceanridgeflorida.com
- 7/10 – Gulf Stream** Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. gulf-stream.org
- 7/13 & 7/27 – Lantana** Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. lantana.org
- 7/14 & 7/21 – Delray Beach** City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. delraybeachfl.gov
- 7/14 – Highland Beach** Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. highlandbeach.us
- 7/14 – Manalapan** Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 9 am. manalapan.org
- 7/14 – South Palm Beach** Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. southpalmbeach.com
- 7/23 – Briny Breezes** Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm.
- 7/28 – Boca Raton** Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. myboca.us

Biographies: Electric Spark: The Enigma by Laurence Leamer at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

7/21 - Spoken Word Open Mic: Poetry, Storytelling & Lyrics at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 3rd T 8-10:30 pm. \$20-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

7/21 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing at FAU Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 8 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; physics.fau.edu/observatory/events/

Wednesday - 7/22 - Objection! Current, Contentious, and Confusing Legal Battles w/Irving Labovitz at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 8/26 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$95.20/member; \$119/non-member; \$30/at the door. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

7/22 - Sea & Sky: Abstracting the Coastline in Paint Workshop at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

7/22 - High Flying Summer Flix for Grownups: Always at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/22 - Art & Jazz on the Avenue at Pineapple Grove, NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach.

Live music, art, culture, dancing, dining in the street. 6-9:30 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com/artandjazz

7/22 - Town Hall Talks: Spain: The Forgotten Alliance - Independence of The United States w/Martha Gutierrez-Stenkamp 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

Thursday - 7/23 - Two Turning Point Presidential Elections: 2000 and 2008 w/Ronald Feinman 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

7/23 - On Collecting Knowledge: A Conversation on Frederic Bruly Bouabre and the 404 Art Collection at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 6-7 pm. Free/member; \$9-\$16/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

7/23 - Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. 6-8 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

7/23 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The Masterpiece by Fiona Davis presented by Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 7-8 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 7/24 - Lecture Series - Breaking the Frame: Reflecting on Modern Art - Conceptual Art at Boca Raton Museum

of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 10:30am-12:30 pm. \$30/member; \$40-\$50/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

7/24 - Sunset Concert Series: A Tribute to Boston and Foreigner at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5 pm. \$50/VIP; free/general admission. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

7/24 - Tree Giveaway at Boynton Beach City Hall Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. City of Boynton Beach residents only. First come, first served, limit 2 trees per household (1 fruit tree max). 5 pm. 561-927-8733; communitygreening.org

7/24 - Hamilton: Movie of the Stage Performance at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of the Summer in the City series. Bring blankets/chairs. Doors open 7 pm; movie 8 pm. Free. 561-393-7890; miznerpark.com

7/24 - Magic In Mizner: Change-Field 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

7/24 - Moonflower - The Spirit of Santana at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$53-\$58. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

7/24-25 - Boynton Beach Night Market at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. Live music & entertainment. Stroll the plaza, visit downtown merchants & restaurants. 5-11 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com

Saturday - 7/25 - Christmas in July at Lantana Community Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. Shop from unique craft vendors. 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-588-9546; casuarina.wc@gmail.com

7/25 - AARP Safe Driver Course at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 9 am-3 pm. \$20-\$25/check or money order (no cash). Registration: 561-266-0798; delraylibrary.org

7/25 - Abstract Flow: Simple Expressive Watercolor Landscapes Workshop at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40.

561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

7/25 - Farming While Black at Creative Arts School, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Presented by Spady Cultural Heritage Museum's Black Movie Experience. Age 18+. 2 pm. Free. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

7/25 - Start me Up - A Tribute to The Rolling Stones at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

JULY 26-AUGUST 1

Monday - 7/27 - Three Days in June by Anne Tyler part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

7/27 - Monday Movies - Feature Film: Aida Estou Aqui (I'm Still Here) directed by Walter Salles at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

Tuesday - 7/28 - Court Culture and the Rise of Romance: Chivalry, Love, and the Medieval Imagination w/Teresa Russo 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

Wednesday - 7/29 - Brush Boss: Master Bold Strokes + Texture w/ Acrylic Workshop at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

7/29 - Art in Focus Tour - Romare Bearden, Lady and the Egret & Betye Saar, Cryptic Confessions, The Question at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/paid admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

7/29 - 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; artwarehouse.org

7/29 - Delray in the Sky Drone Show at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5-9 pm. Free.

561-243-7250 x3; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

7/29 - Behind The Screen - What Every Parent Needs to Know About Online Safety at Boca Raton Innovation Campus, 4930 Conference Way N., Boca Raton. Presented by Child Rescue Coalition. 5:30-7 pm. Free. 561-208-9000; behindthescreen.givesmart.com

Thursday - 7/30 - Twentieth Century Foundation of Antisemitism: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion w/ Rabbi Leon Weissberg 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

Friday - 7/31 - Mixed Media Magic: Fragment the Figure Workshop at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

7/31 - Peace of Woodstock Band: A Tribute to the Woodstock Era at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of the Summer in the City series. Bring blankets/chairs. 7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7890; miznerpark.com

7/31 - Dr. Gianni Bianchini & The Type 1 Trio at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$53-\$56. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 8/1 - \$5 Studio Days at Creative Arts School, 51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 5+. 11 am-12:30 pm or 1-2:30 pm. \$5. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

8/1 - Jonathan Ellison at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$50.50-\$55.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

8/1-2 - Swing Era Jazz Concerts at FAU Carole & Barry Kaye Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Sat: 7 pm; Sun: 2 pm. \$20-\$30. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

8/1-2 - Boca Ballet Theatre: La Bayadere at Olympic Heights Performing Arts Theater, 20101 Lyons Rd, Boca Raton. Sat: 7:30 pm; Sun: 2 pm. \$25-\$55. 561-995-0709; bocaballet.org

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July-August 2026

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FREE 4th of July Festival and Fireworks

July 5 &
August 2

Free COCO MARKET Wellness Festival

July 3 &
August 7

FREE First Friday Art Walk

every Saturday thru July FREE Summer GreenMarket

FREE Sunset Concerts every 4th Friday

free Art & Jazz on the Avenue Pineapple Grove | July 22

FREE Delray Beach Drone Show July 29

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