The Coastal Star

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Boca Raton

BRiC evolving into a new focal point for city

Northwest growth could complement downtown without replacing it

By Mary Hladky

Though Related Ross has not yet announced plans for its recently acquired Boca Raton Innovation Campus, they surely will include further development of the 124-acre property.

That would add to the large-scale projects already completed or under construction in the rapidly growing northwest section of the city.

But what does that development portend for the city's downtown? Is its importance as a residential and retail hub fading as a result? Is the city's economic center of gravity shifting?

Developers, architects and others who spoke with *The Coastal Star* have differing answers to those questions.

However, if new development is a measure of strength, downtown Boca Raton does have some constraints.

So much development has taken place there in the past decade that it is almost built out. Large parcels have been snapped up. Little room remains for additional building.

In addition, city Ordinance 4035 that governs downtown development limits it to 8 million square feet. Almost all of that has been built.

City officials, though, are expected to revisit that ordinance to determine if changes should be made. No date has been set for that yet.

North by Northwest

While downtown projects haven't come to a halt — the City Council approved a 12-story Mr. C Residences condo at 14 SE Fourth St. on Oct. 26

See **BRIC** on page **16**



Sohaney



Zervis

City manager resigns, calls his deputy superb fill-in

By Mary Hladky

Deputy City Manager Jim Zervis has been appointed as Boca Raton's interim city manager, replacing Mark Sohaney, who resigned on Oct. 15 after serving just over one year in the city's top position.

The City Council tapped Zervis to take the reins on Oct. 27 after Sohaney recommended that Zervis temporarily replace him, saying that Zervis knows all aspects of city operations.

Zervis, who also held the title of chief financial officer, assumed his new job the next day.

"I can tell you there is nobody finer," Sohaney told the council. "I've got tremendous confidence in his leadership, judgment and understanding of the organization."

"I think it is a blessing we have Mr. Zervis here. He is immensely qualified," said Mayor Andy Thomson. "Take it from me, Jim is the right guy

See **MANAGER** on page 12



Surfers navigate dangerous water and floating debris at South Inlet Park in Boca Raton on Oct. 27. A week of strong wind and king tides brought some of the worst flooding in decades to communities just to the north. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Along the Coast

Boca Raton area dodges worst of king tide impacts



Highland Beach resident Richard Mendelson, a local homeowner for the past half-century, walks past the flooded future home of Cam D. Milani Park on Oct. 26.

By Valerie Gordon

King tides described by longtime residents and officials as the worst in nearly two decades flooded coastal communities in south Palm Beach County in late October, stranding vehicles, disrupting businesses and making some roads impassable.

Strong winds and high surf — with gusts up to 40 mph and surf heights of 10 to 12 feet forecast by the National Weather Service — compounded the damage, severely eroding beaches and damaging public beach access points.

Municipal officials in Boca Raton and Highland Beach reported significant flooding on roads and other low-lying areas, reaching up to 6 inches in Boca Raton, according to city spokeswoman Ileana Olmsted. But the most damaging impacts landed on communities to the north.

Highland Beach's fire department received one report of a vehicle requiring towing.

See **KING TIDES** on page **16**

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The Arts Paper



Traditional Japanese techniques get fresh takes at the Morikami Museum.
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Giving is good
Worthy causes abound in our Philanthropy Season Preview.
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Voters won't be able to pick location for proposed complex.
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Homeowners will see property tax savings.
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Publisher's Note

You can help our neighbors this giving season

Palm Beach County has always been a land of economic extremes.

Just a decade ago it was easy to generalize and say that the poorest few among us lived out west near Lake Okeechobee and in urban pockets in our biggest cities. Most of the county's population was made up of middle-class workers and recent retirees.

Coastal and gated communities were dominated by retirees and others in upper income brackets. Think households with managed wealth, not traditional savings accounts.

While the latter remains true, the county as a whole seems poorer. As we worked to put together this year's *Philanthropy Season Preview,* I was struck by the huge increase in the service that Boca Helping Hands provides around Boca Raton, one of the most affluent communities in America.

That increase is a testament to the changes in not only our national economy, but our local economy as well.

Most of the readers of this newspaper are living comfortably, and personal challenges like food insecurity are not part of our everyday lives.

Most of us can't imagine working a full-time job and then heading over to the food bank just to make ends meet.

Fortunately, as a group, the readers of this publication have the accumulated wealth to help address this growing need.

The Coastal Star makes a concerted effort year-round to celebrate those who give of their time and wealth to improve life in our communities.

Philanthropy Season Preview
Pages **AT1-AT14**

This month especially, we dedicate a significant portion of our news space to promote philanthropic giving.

Please do your part. Find one or more of the worthwhile causes highlighted in our Around Town section and dig deep. Our neighbors could use the help.



— Jerry Lower
Publisher



Coastal Stars



Todd and Stacey Breen of Boca Raton recently made a seven-figure gift to the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation. Their donation will enable renovation of a reception area in the main lobby of the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Boca Raton couple exemplifies the grace of giving quietly

By Tao Woolfe

NOMINATE SOMEONE TO BE A COASTAL STAR
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Flashy wealth is always on display in South Florida, but it doesn't seem to do much more than aggrandize its spenders.

Beneath the glare, though, are rarer souls who work hard, succeed, and then quietly direct their earnings back into their communities.

Although you may not have heard of them, Todd and Stacey Breen, of Boca Raton, are among those who give back without fanfare.

The couple, who reluctantly agreed to be interviewed, recently made a seven-figure donation to the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation.

The Breens have made similar low-key donations to healthcare institutions in Florida and New York throughout their adult lives.

Philanthropy, they both believe, is its own reward.

"We are private people and we quietly donate," said Stacey Breen. "We will always be donating. Philanthropy is a big part of what we want to do."

Their latest gift, described by Mark Easton, development director for the hospital foundation, as "a very large donation," will help the affiliated Lynn Cancer Institute pay for a construction upgrade.

The money (the Breens prefer the exact amount not be published) will specifically be used to renovate a reception desk and welcoming area in the lobby, Easton said, adding that the hospital foundation is profoundly grateful for such generosity.

"Donors like the Breens are pillars of our community. They allow us to continue to offer world-class care," Easton said. "The Breens don't just help themselves — they help everybody."

He added that the Breens — who allowed the foundation to determine how the money would be used — are "a sweet, friendly couple who wanted to support the mission of the institute."

The donation comes at a time when outside funding has diminished, Easton said.

The Breens moved permanently to Boca Raton last year from Roslyn, New York, but they are not newcomers to South Florida. Both sets of the couple's grandparents were longtime Boca Raton residents who welcomed their grandchildren's annual visits.

The Breens live in a Boca Raton building overlooking the ocean. They and their four grown children and six grandchildren have taken full advantage of their proximity to the water.

"We are enjoying eating out at the Boca restaurants, traveling, and especially spending time on the water. Boating is a great family activity. It's a big part of our lives," Stacey Breen said.

She said that she and her husband also enjoy the company of friends in South Florida and New York. They spend summers in Sag Harbor, New York.

The Breens' philanthropy is largely powered by the success of Sun Logistics, a Miami- and New York-based transportation and freight company founded by Todd Breen in 1973.

The company's Florida hub is on a 5-acre parcel in Miami that includes a 40,000-square-foot warehouse. Sun Logistics ships medical supplies and other goods nationwide, but primarily in South Florida and the Florida Keys.

Todd Breen believes his company's Florida business will continue to expand. "Miami is the international gateway for Central and South America. As the consumer population grows, so do deliveries."

Todd Breen, 72, is the company's CEO. Stacey Breen, 58, is a certified public accountant who enjoyed a successful career with Ernst & Young in New York. She joined Sun Logistics as its chief financial officer shortly after the pandemic and the coinciding retirement of Sun's longtime CFO.

The Breens have no plans to retire, Stacey Breen said. Asked whether living and working together every day is too much togetherness, she laughed. "Todd says it's the meeting that never ends."

And throughout their working lives they have donated part of their income to healthcare causes. When they moved to South Florida, the couple researched local healthcare institutions and chose to support Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

Todd Breen's father died young of what was then called lymphosarcoma. It is now known as non-Hodgkin lymphoma — a blood cancer that invades the lymphatic system and can spread throughout the body.

Todd Breen was 17 when his father died. The young man had been attending Queens College at the time, but had to drop out to support the family. The loss of his father led to the founding of Todd Breen's first trucking company and sparked his lifelong interest in helping others fight cancer.

"Without your health, you have nothing," Stacey Breen said. "Both Todd and I believe that no one should suffer, and anything we can do to make life better for the community, we try to do it." ★

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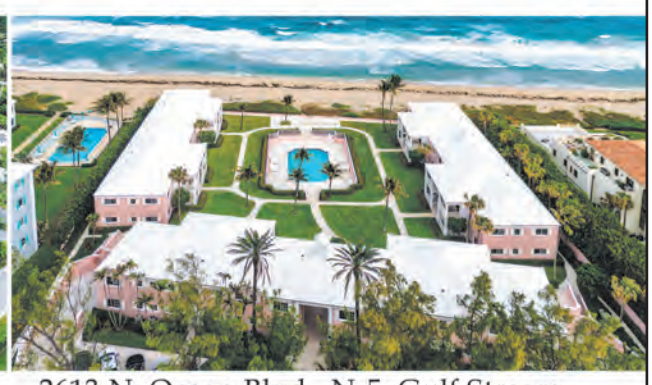
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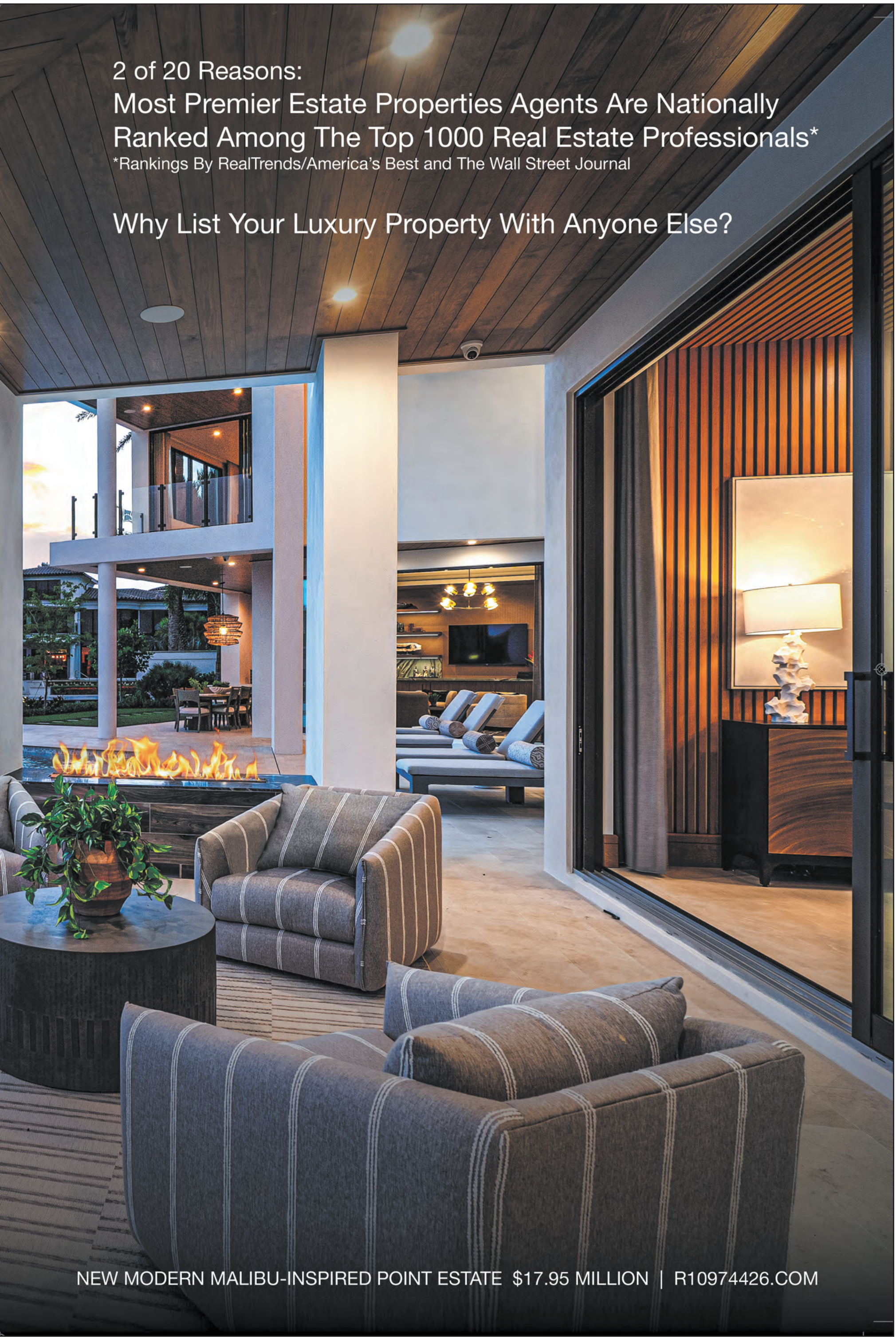
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ON THE COAST

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Along the Coast

Candidate qualifying periods underway for March municipal elections

Staff report

The 2027 municipal races are already shaping up. In Delray Beach, Commissioner Juli Casale has announced she will challenge Mayor Tom Carney in the March 9 mayoral election. In Boca Raton, eight candidates have signaled their interest in running for one of the two City Council seats up for election.

However, before any candidate's name can be placed on the March election ballot, they must first file required documents with their town or city's clerk office during the candidate qualifying periods in November.

Here is a breakdown of the qualifying periods for southern Palm Beach County's coastal communities and who currently holds the seats up for election. Registered voters interested in running for a seat should contact their clerk's office for more information.

Boca Raton

Qualifying period: 8 a.m. Nov. 2 to 5 p.m. Nov. 10

Elections (incumbents): City Council Seat C (Yvette Drucker*) and Seat D (Stacy Sipple)

Terms: Three years

*Under the state's resign-to-run law, Drucker is resigning her seat Nov. 9 because she ran this month to be Palm Beach County Clerk of Courts.

Briny Breezes

Qualifying period: Noon Nov. 10 to noon Nov. 24

Elections (incumbents): Town Council Seat 1 (David White), Seat 3 (Elizabeth "Liz" Loper) and Seat 5 (John Taylor)

Terms: Two years

Delray Beach

Qualifying period: Noon Nov. 2 to noon Nov. 20

Elections (incumbents): City Commission Seat 1 (Tom Markert), Seat 3 (Juli Casale), and Seat 5/Mayor (Tom Carney)

Terms: Three years

Gulf Stream

No municipal election in 2027.

Highland Beach

Qualifying period: Noon Nov. 10 to noon Nov. 24

Elections (incumbents): Vice mayor/commissioner (David Stern) and Town Commissioner (Judith Goldberg)

Terms: Three years

Lantana

Qualifying period: Noon Nov. 9 to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 20

Election (incumbent): Mayor/Group 5 (Karen Lythgoe)

Term: Three years

Manalapan

Qualifying period: Noon Nov. 3 to noon Nov. 17

Elections (incumbents): Town Commission Seat 1 (Cindy McMackin), Seat 3/must reside on ocean (Simone Bonutti), Seat 5/must reside on Point Manalapan (David Knobel) and Mayor/Seat 7 (John Deese)

Terms: Two years

Ocean Ridge

Qualifying period: Noon Nov. 2 to noon Nov. 13

Election (incumbents): Three commission seats (Geoff Pugh, Ainar Aijala Jr., Lanette Gustafson)

Terms: Three years for top two vote getters and two years for third-place finisher

South Palm Beach

No municipal election in 2027. ★

Gulf Stream News

Louder pickleball play coming to Little Club — Members of The Little Club will get to swap their softer, quieter balls and paddles for standard, noisier gear under a pilot program approved by the town.

In 2023, Gulf Stream town commissioners let club members begin play with the quieter equipment after neighbors worried that matches would downgrade their quiet enjoyment of life.

On Oct. 9, Carly Bellis, a Little Club director and chair of its pickleball committee, told commissioners that construction of a new building at the club, growth of clusia hedges and a new sound-blocking fence have offset the need for using restrictive gear.

"We did some sound-level testing and we found honestly that you couldn't hear the pickleball past even our building up there," she said.

Commissioners informally decided to allow standard equipment to be used and will review the pilot program results in January.

"We can always go back to it if people complain," Commissioner Joan Orthwein said.

Water connection with Boynton 'on schedule' — Work to rebuild Gulfstream Boulevard and add a new water main to connect Gulf Stream with the drinking water supply of Boynton Beach is moving along.

"The project's working pretty good. It's on schedule," Poonam Kalkat, director of public utilities for Boynton Beach, told Gulf Stream town commissioners on Oct. 9. "We're thinking by late January or February we should be able to make the final connection, so that's the goal."

Once the connection is made, Gulf Stream will end its decades-long arrangement of buying bulk water from Delray Beach, which had told the town it could no longer be its water supplier.

— Steve Plunkett



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Election News

County Clerk of Courts — Boca Raton City Council member Yvette Drucker, a Democrat, easily defeated Republican Mike Caruso, who is facing felony child sexual abuse charges and was removed from the position. She received about 62% of the vote.

U.S. House, District 25 — U.S. Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Coral Springs, won reelection by defeating former Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer, his Republican opponent, securing about 51% of the vote.

County Commission, District 4 — Republican County Commissioner Marci Woodward won reelection by a narrow margin, defeating Democrat Curtis Calabrese with about 50.7% of the vote.

These unofficial results are based on tallies complete as of Nov. 3.

Delray Beach

Tennis center managers awarded new contract

By Brian Biggane

In a move that Mayor Tom Carney termed "a bad look for us" and ultimately voted against, the Delray Beach City Commission at its Oct. 13 meeting awarded JCD Sports Group a new five-year contract to run the city's two tennis centers.

A story in the October edition of *The Coastal Star*, which featured former players and coaches of the Delray Beach Tennis Center and the Swim and Tennis Club harshly criticizing JCD management, led eight people to address the commission during the public comment period, seven of whom offered their support of JCD and managers Jeff Bingo and Jennifer Fiedler.

The exception was Patricia Ryan, who backed the complaints and said the reason more dissatisfied players were not at the meeting was that the commission had shifted its handling of the contract from Oct. 20 — the date mentioned in the story — to a week earlier.

City Attorney Lynn Gelin brought the commission up to date on the history of events going back to March, laying out how the city sought proposals from management companies interested in winning the contract that would replace the current one that expires in December.

Gelin said a three-person committee headed by Parks and Recreation Director Sam Metott selected five companies and heard their proposals. She said two of the companies dropped out after being emailed follow-up questions, leaving JCD, The Baral Group and FM Management.

The committee rated the three by a points system and judged JCD the best by a significant margin, then sent the commission its recommendation to award the contract to JCD, which has managed the facilities for the past 30 years.

The commission was scheduled to consider the recommendation in August, but deferred action when Carney suggested bringing all the companies back to be interviewed by the commission after hearing concerns about JCD's current management of the centers.

However, before the Oct. 20 meeting was held to hear from JCD and the other two finalists, City Manager Terrence Moore used his authority to disqualify The Baral Group and FM Management, saying they lacked the required 10 years of management experience the city had spelled out. Since there was only one company left, there was no need for the scheduled Oct. 20 commission interviews.

FM Management co-owner Brandon Flanagan, who runs tennis operations for the city of Boynton Beach, said his company has been in business since 2015 and three of its employees, including himself and co-owner Allington Mutimer, worked for many years at the Tennis Center prior to starting their business.

"I thought we had similar size and experience (as JCD)," Flanagan said when contacted later. "I have to say I'm disappointed the city staff interprets it that way."

Despite Moore's disqualifications, city officials said the other companies were allowed to make presentations to the selection committee. Commissioners pointed to the 50-point disparity in scoring between JCD and FM done by the three-member panel as a reason to favor JCD.

But Flanagan said two members of the panel rated the two very close; Lynda Wieland of Parks and Recreation separated the two by an almost absurdly wide margin, he said.

"Lynda Wieland was what killed us," Flanagan said.

Carney, who was attending the Oct. 13 meeting remotely, made a motion to start the process over and Commissioner Judy Mollica joined him, but the motion was defeated on a 3-2 vote. Commissioner Juli Casale then made a motion to award the contract to JCD, which was approved 4-1, with Mollica switching her stand to support JCD's bid.

While the contract is for five years with five one-year contracts to follow, there is no provision for reopening the bid process within the 10-year term. ★

Amendment 3

Voters approve property tax savings measure

Municipal leaders unsure how they will make up lost revenue

By Rich Pollack

Florida's homestead exemption will be increasing next year — meaning additional savings to large numbers of homeowners — following the passage of Amendment 3, but lawmakers must still meet to hammer out details.

Under Florida's new constitutional amendment, the homestead exemption for qualified homeowners will increase from $51,411 this year to $150,000 in the next fiscal year and $250,000 the following year.

Statewide, about 62% of voters approved Amendment 3, clearing the 60% threshold required for constitutional amendments, according to unofficial results on Nov. 3.

In Palm Beach County, the number in favor hovered right at 60%, showing almost the same support for the amendment as occurred across the state.

During the process of determining how to implement the legislation, state Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman said, legislators will most likely look at ways to address some of the concerns raised by opponents of the amendment, who fear it will create an unfair burden on local governments that could see dramatic cuts in revenue.

"Even though voters approved the amendment, we will have to go back and address the issue because it is not in perfect form," the Republican from Highland Beach said. "It will still be revisited on multi levels. We will still go look at issues that might put counties and cities in peril."

Among some of the options that could be explored could be creating a pool of funding to support any city or county struggling with the outcome, she said.

Even though there is still room for improvement, she said, the amendment is one step closer to tax relief for Floridians.

For some, the approval of Amendment 3 is a disappointing blow that could mean taking important decisions out of the hands of local officials and giving that power to state leaders.

Cities could, for example, ask the Legislature for an appropriation to fund a project that is no longer feasible with now-limited tax dollars, but that request would have to be approved by the Legislature and avoid a veto by the governor.

In Delray Beach, Marjorie Waldo, president and CEO of the nonprofit Arts Garage, says the passage of Amendment 3 will mean a shift in the popular venue's planning for the future.

"Now our focus turns to protecting what makes our communities work," Waldo said. "We had hoped that Tallahassee would respect local independence and give cities and counties the flexibility to keep investing in the arts, culture and services residents value, but this change to Florida statutes will almost certainly make that impossible."

In the lead-up to the vote, municipalities as well as nonprofit organizations had expressed concerns about how much revenue would be lost because of the amendment and began looking at ideas to compensate for that.

"For Arts Garage and nonprofits like ours across Florida, individual and corporate philanthropy will be critical in helping to fill any funding gaps that follow," Waldo said.

South Palm Beach Town Manager Jamie Titcomb, who previously served as executive director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, believes the passage of Amendment 3 will further reduce home rule and the ability of cities to govern their communities.

"There's no doubt the state government wants to constrain the funding and operational flexibility of local government," he said. ★



Lantana

Council proposes eliminating required voter approval of town land sales

By Mary Thurwachter

Although Lantana leaders have no immediate plans to dispose of three valuable waterfront properties owned by the town, they want to change the Town Charter to make it easier to sell them.

Currently, selling any of the three properties — at 206, 210, and 302 N. Lake Drive — would require a referendum, putting the decision in the hands of residents.

"This," Town Manager Brian Raducci says, "is very restrictive. You probably wouldn't buy property if you thought you could never sell it."

Because the properties are town-owned, they are exempt from property taxes.

Several Hypoluxo Island residents spoke against the proposed change, but the ordinance calling for a vote on changing the charter won preliminary Town Council approval in a narrow 3-2 vote at the council's Oct. 12 meeting. Mayor Karen Lythgoe and Council members Kem Mason and Mark Zeitler voted for it; Council members Jesse Rivero and Chris Castle were opposed.

The change must receive a second council vote at a future meeting before it can be placed on the March 9 municipal election ballot.

Past transactions

The town purchased the three lots in 2012 as a long-term investment. The $965,000 price was widely considered a bargain. At the time, then-Mayor Dave Stewart championed the acquisition and compared the strategic investment to the town's historic 1940s Lions Club land purchase (which cost just $4,000 but secured Lantana's municipal beach). Stewart said the buy would preserve valuable waterfront property for future generations.

If the measure receives voter approval in March, the Town Council would still need to approve any offer to sell, Raducci said.

But the prohibition on the sale of town-owned land without voter input is there for good reason, says Hypoluxo Island resident Patti Towle, who spoke during public comments.

"I was living in Lantana when, roughly 20 years ago, the Town Council quietly sold off Lantana's children's baseball park, an approximately 2-acre parcel that stood between Broadway and South East Coast Avenue, to a developer.

"The developer then built the Lyman townhomes where the park once stood. The park was popular and used by local kids. Residents were outraged that this was seemingly done in secret. As a result, the [regulation] prohibiting the sale of all town-owned land without public approval is now in place."

Towle says the current process is a good one. "At a future point when the town has a valid reason to sell the three town-owned lots it should be the voters — not the mayor and Town Council — who determine the sale."

As waterfront land becomes scarcer, the lots will continue to grow in value, Towle says. "Keeping them as town-owned land is a sound investment, better than money in the bank."

Few specifics

Gil Scharf, also of Hypoluxo Island, expressed concerns regarding the proposed charter amendment, including the lack of a specific plan for the properties, the intended use of potential proceeds, the importance of maintaining public oversight, and the potential financial implications of future property transactions.

Scharf and other residents were opposed to moving forward with the amendment and stressed the importance of identifying a specific public purpose before considering the sale of the properties.

Raducci said that the proposed amendment was intended to provide the town with greater flexibility to consider future opportunities involving the properties. He emphasized that no sale was pending and that any future transaction would require Town Council approval through public hearings. He discussed potential uses of the proceeds, including improvements to town facilities or the acquisition of other properties, but clarified that no specific use could be guaranteed. He said the town would seek fair market value for any future sale.

Some council members were concerned about proceeding without providing residents with a general understanding of how the funds might be used. Others emphasized the importance of maintaining flexibility for future opportunities.

Potential uses of the proceeds, including the acquisition of property along Ocean Avenue and improvements to the library and other public facilities, were discussed.

Town Attorney Max Lohman said that including specific sale prices or restrictions on the use of proceeds in the charter could create legal and practical limitations for future property transactions. ★

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Boca Raton

Voters to decide on smaller police headquarters, but not its location

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton residents will be asked for a second time if they support financing the cost of new police facilities.

Four City Council members, with Jon Pearlman absent, voted unanimously on Oct. 27 to place a measure on the March 9 city election ballot that would allow the city to issue up to $125 million in general obligation bonds to finance a new police headquarters and related facilities. A "dedicated downtown police facility" would be included.

But to the dismay of some outspoken residents, the council has put off specifying where the headquarters would be located and what the downtown facility would comprise.

The rationale is that those decisions need not be made until the council knows if residents are willing to pay for new police facilities.

The headquarters location is a divisive issue.

Some residents support the city's preferred location on city-owned land east of the Spanish River Library, while others insist the headquarters should remain in the downtown.

The ballot language, if approved by voters, would guarantee a police presence in the downtown although not necessarily a headquarters.

Nearly 55% of voters in this year's city election rejected financing for new police facilities.

Yet city officials say new facilities are badly needed to replace the current old and undersized headquarters on the downtown government campus.

To shore up support, they have reduced the size of the project from 165,000 to about 100,000 square feet, and the total cost from $190 million to no more than $125 million.

The original proposal was based on the size the city would need in 2046. The smaller one meets the needs at present.

An August survey of residents showed majority support for a new police complex, but disagreement on the best location.

If voters approve project financing, the city would issue general obligation bonds for a 30-year term.

Under the original proposal, the city would have issued up to $175 million in general obligation bonds. The remainder of the $190 million cost would have come from the city's general fund.

Under the plan now being advanced, the bond authorization would not exceed $125 million.

Residents would pay the cost through a property tax increase. But that hike would be less than it would have been under the original proposal. The city estimates it would cost the owner of an "average" home about $101 a year, without specifying such a home's assessed value.

The previous projection for a home with an assessed value of $475,000 was $124 a year. ★

12-story Mr. C condo building gets green light

The luxury Mr. C Residences Boca Raton has been approved for construction by the Boca Raton City Council.

The 12-story condo project will be built at 14 SE Fourth St., between Dixie and Federal highways.

Key International and Wexford Real Estate Investors announced the project in January, saying the 133 two- and three-bedroom units would be priced from $1.7 million.

It will be the third Mr. C Residences in South Florida, joining those in West Palm Beach and Coconut Grove.

Council members quickly approved the project at their Oct. 26 meeting, and no residents voiced objections.

The project is a reworking of Wexford's plans for the 2.1-acre property that were approved by the council in 2023 but not built.

Conceived as a 12-story luxury rental, it now is a condo.



The Mr. C. Residences Boca Raton will include a rooftop bar, infinity pool, spa, fitness center, sauna and more. **Rendering provided**

Wexford also has upgraded its architecture and landscaping. It now will have a 6,000-square-foot Bellini restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating that will be open to the public.

Facilities for residents will include rooftop bar, infinity pool, spa, fitness center, sauna, hot and cold plunge pools and yoga studio. A pickleball court and dog park will be outside.

101 E. Palmetto Park Road

The council also approved another project in the downtown, this one at 101 E. Palmetto Park Road.

A two-story building that dates to 1939 will have a restaurant with outside seating on the ground and offices on the second floor. Previous plans to turn the second floor into four residential units have been scrapped.

The project was controversial because it did not include parking spaces. The revised project also is without parking, but the property owner has agreed to instead make contributions to Palm Tran, Tri-Rail, the Circuit downtown shuttle service and Brightline.

— Mary Hladky

MANAGER

Continued from page 1

from my perspective."

The council now must decide when and how to select a new city manager. Sohaney's resignation is effective Nov. 11.

Zervis joined the city in 2024 as chief financial officer and was quickly promoted to also serve as a deputy city manager.

He previously was chief administrative officer for Kern County, California, which at the time had a $3.5 billion annual operating budget and a population of more than 900,000.

Council members also praised Sohaney and gave him a standing ovation.

"The feedback I have gotten is that everybody was very pleased to have you as the city manager," said Council member Stacy Sipple. "They felt you really reached out to the public and the public was heard for the first time in a very long time."

In his remarks, Sohaney thanked the city's 1,900 employees. "They are the strength of our city," he said.

"It has been a privilege and honor to serve, and thank you for allowing me to serve."

Sohaney is a retired U.S. Navy captain who served for nearly four decades. His positions include commanding the Naval Air Station in Key West and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.

He is departing to become senior vice president of global military operations at the University of Maryland Global Campus, based in Adelphi, Maryland.

He will oversee the university's worldwide military operations and serve as its senior leader for military and veterans affairs. The campus serves working adults and military service members through online and hybrid courses.

The campus is part of the University System of Maryland but operates separately from the University of Maryland in College Park.

Sohaney said his new job will allow him to return to serving the military community.

Sohaney actively sought a city manager job in Florida after retiring from the Navy. He was selected as a finalist in five cities, including Boca Raton. He lost out in three cities and withdrew from consideration from the fourth. He also was unsuccessful in a bid to become Palm Beach County's top administrator.

Since joining Boca Raton, he has been actively involved in decisions concerning where to build a new police headquarters, planning to make over the city's downtown government campus and has advanced initiatives to deal with homeless persons while also making services available to them. ★



Boca Raton



The eight-story club known as The Sanborn will be built on the former location of Boca Beach Chabad. **Rendering provided**

Private club to rise next to Sanborn Square

A private club is coming to downtown Boca Raton.

The City Council, sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency board, unanimously approved The Sanborn on Oct. 13 as supporters wearing navy and white T-shirts applauded.

Only two residents spoke against the project, saying that the downtown already is overbuilt.

The eight-story project, with two levels of valet parking underground, will be located at the intersection of Northeast First Avenue and East Boca Raton Road — immediately east of Sanborn Square and north of The Aletto office and restaurant development that is now under construction. It will replace a two-story retail and office building that had been the previous home of Boca Beach Chabad.

The invitation-only club will feature a restaurant, supper club, rooftop bar and grill and speakeasy. Other amenities will include a rooftop pool with private cabanas, library, private dining rooms, cigar lounge, spa and fitness club, a card room and another bar.

The building is designed by HDA Architects of Boca Raton.

The developers are Steven Newman of Hollywood and Scott Kerner of Boca Raton's Golden Harbour neighborhood, who bought the 0.3-acre property in March for $10 million, the *South Florida Business Journal* reported.

"It's a club for people who live here," Newman said in a release. "You'll walk in, someone will know your name and there will always be something you haven't found yet."

— Mary Hladky

The Boca Raton gets tentative approval for larger docks

By Jane Musgrave

The Boca Raton resort has won preliminary approval from the city to demolish three aging wooden docks and replace them with four new ones that will be longer, wider and more resilient to the vagaries of Mother Nature.

Both the city's Planning and Zoning Board and its Marine Advisory Board on Oct. 15 signed off on the resort's plans.

Both advisory boards had to approve the plans because three of the proposed docks will extend roughly 104 feet into the Intracoastal Waterway, 54 feet longer than city codes allow. The fourth proposed dock will measure 65.5 feet. All will be 8.3 feet wide, roughly 2.3 feet wider than codes permit.

Even though the docks will be far longer than the existing ones, they will still be at least 62 feet from navigation channels, said city Zoning Manager Tori Boone, who recommended approval.

Without discussion, the planning board unanimously agreed to waive city rules to allow the docks to be built. To make sure larger boats can reach the new docks, the area will be dredged. The resort agreed to relocate 12 colonies of coral that will be disrupted.

In addition to City Council approval, the resort must get permits from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before construction can begin.

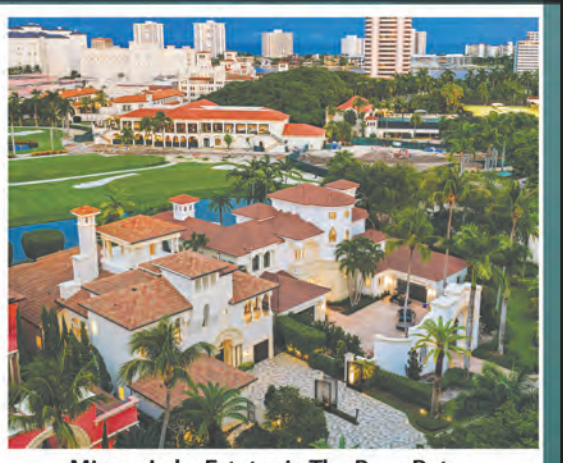
The state agency must also agree to increase the amount of submerged land the resort is leasing from the state to accommodate the larger docks.

It has already given preliminary approval to increase the lease from 24,600 square feet to 32,200 square feet, Boone said. ★





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Along the Coast



A summer of intense sargassum coverage on the beach did not affect nesting much but made the journey to the ocean harder for hatchlings like this loggerhead. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Beaches		2025 # of nests	2026 # of nests
Boca Raton	Loggerhead	819	1,118
	Green turtle	243	154
	Leatherback	21	43
Highland Beach	Loggerhead	723	763
	Green turtle	513	246
	Leatherback	10	20
Delray Beach	Loggerhead	300	196
	Green turtle	60	15
	Leatherback	19	10
Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Ocean Ridge	Loggerhead	481	661
	Green turtle	155	113
	Leatherback	16	51

Numbers for nesting north of the Boynton Inlet were not available because the records office was flooded.

Leatherbacks, loggerheads create banner year for nesting

Two species set all-time records in Boca Raton

By Steve Plunkett

With the exception of Delray Beach, mama sea turtles this year set records up and down the shoreline in south Palm Beach County.

In Boca Raton, two of the three species that nest along its 5 miles of shoreline broke all-time nesting records, said David Anderson, who leads the city's sea turtle conservation team.

"This year, we recorded 43 leatherback nests, surpassing the previous record of 33 set in 2012," Anderson said. "Loggerheads also set a new record, with 1,118 nests, exceeding the previous high of 1,075 recorded in 1990."

The third species, green sea turtles, had only an "average" year, with 154 nests, he said.

Sea turtle nesting season runs March 1 through Oct. 31.

In neighboring Highland Beach, the nest totals were also robust, with leatherbacks doubling their number from 10 to 20 nests and loggerheads digging 763 nests, up from 723 in 2025.

Greens dropped from 513 to 246 nests, in tune with their usual pattern of a high number in odd-numbered years followed by a low number in even-numbered years.

"As you can see, it was a good year for both the leatherback and loggerhead," said Joanne Ryan, head of the town's volunteer squad of nest monitors for roughly 3 miles of beach.

But in Delray Beach, "we experienced a somewhat slower nesting season this year for all three sea turtle species compared to last year," said Joseph Scarola, a senior scientist with Jensen Beach-based Ecological Associates Inc., which handles the turtle census for the city.

"Overall, we recorded 196 loggerhead nests, 15 green turtle nests, and 10 leatherback nests in 2026, compared to 300 loggerhead nests, 60 green turtle nests, and 19 leatherback nests in 2025," Scarola said.

Part of the reason for the lower numbers, he said, was a window for nesting activity more than a month shorter.

"The first crawl of the season was a leatherback nest

Continued on the next page

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recorded on March 3, 2026, while the last crawl was a green turtle nest documented on Aug. 31, 2026," Scarola said. "By comparison, the first crawl recorded in 2025 was a leatherback nest on Feb. 25, 2025, and the final crawl was a loggerhead false crawl on Oct. 4, 2025."

A "false crawl" occurs when a female turtle crawls up on the sand but returns to the Atlantic Ocean before depositing her eggs.

The folks at Sea Turtle Adventures, who monitor nests for about 3 miles through Gulf Stream, the County Pocket, Briny Breezes and part of Ocean Ridge, were happy with their nesting season totals.

The number of leatherback nests tripled, soaring from 16 last year to 51 this year. Loggerheads rose to 661 from 481, and greens declined from 155 to 113.

"Overall, we had a great turtle season, and we were all ecstatic about the number of leatherback sea turtle nests we got," said Emilie Woodrich, the group's data manager. "We blew our previous record of 19 out of the water."

Back in Boca Raton, a total 1,315 nests were documented, making 2026 the third-highest nesting season since 1987, when the city began continuously monitoring all 5 miles of its beach.

"The increase in leatherback nests was particularly noteworthy, with a 30% increase over the previous record. Leatherbacks are much less common on Florida beaches than loggerheads, making this record especially significant," Anderson said.

This year's impressive nest numbers "are undoubtedly the result of decades of education, conservation and monitoring," he said, calling the loggerhead results "the season's biggest headline."

"Their 1,118 nests were substantially higher than Boca Raton's recent 10-year average of 847 nests," Anderson said. "Considering the lowest loggerhead nesting year on record was just 361 nests in 2009, the gradual increase over the past 17 years is truly remarkable."

Hatchlings and eggs lost

Despite the healthy numbers of nests dug and hatched, there was cause for concern. After the eggs hatch, the turtle monitors inventory the contents to examine a nest's success.

"The success of the nests wasn't so great," Anderson said.

His team took inventory of more than 900 nests this season and found that on average, only 50% of the eggs hatched.

"This is mainly due to sand temperatures exceeding the thermal tolerance level of developing embryos. We had a particularly long hot and dry period this summer causing some nests to not even hatch at all," Anderson said.

In addition, Boca lost 182 nests from storms and late September/early October king tides. Another 129 nests were dug into by foxes, raccoons and a few coyotes, of which 13 nests were total predations.

And his team documented 86 nests in which hatchlings were disoriented by artificial light pollution. Lights from beachfront properties and the glow in the sky produced by urbanized southeast Florida can disorient hatchlings, causing them to crawl away from the ocean and increasing their risk of death.

"A conservative estimate of losing 25 hatchlings per disoriented nest means we lost over 2,000 hatchlings due to lighting," Anderson said. ★

Delray Beach

Turtle releases

Atlantic Dunes Park, Delray Beach — Oct. 20



Samantha Clark, co-founder and director of clinical operations at Sea Turtle Specialists, parades Windward, a juvenile green sea turtle, past students and chaperones from Cocoplum Nature School in Delray Beach. Windward and fellow juvenile green sea turtle Wheezy were successfully released back into the Atlantic Ocean after being rehabilitated by the South Florida rescue organization. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



BRIC

Continued from page 1

— projects in the northwest section of the city have come at a rapid pace.

The most recent is Bertani, an eight-story, 60-unit apartment building and parking garage on Broken Sound Parkway approved by the City Council on Oct. 27.

Other approved projects are rising from the ground now. They include the Eclipse on 28 acres at the Office Depot headquarters campus at 6600 N. Military Trail that includes 494 apartments, retail and renovated office space. Another is the Link at Boca, located near the Tri-Rail station, which will have 340 apartments, retail and a parking garage.

City officials now describe the area around BRiC and the Park at Broken Sound as the city's geographical center.

When asked by *The Coastal Star* about Related Ross' reasons for acquiring BRiC, Jordan Bargas, executive vice president at the company, gave its location as one reason.

"When you pull up a map of the city and you look at … where the heart of the city is, it's really not downtown anymore," he said.



The Boca Raton Innovation Campus is a landmark complex of brutalist architecture originally designed in the late 1960s. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

What's downtown's future?

Even so, city officials don't see the downtown as less important. They have spent more than two years deciding how to redo and revitalize the 30-acre downtown government campus, which also includes Memorial Park.

Yet Glenn Gromann, a real estate consultant, lawyer and former city planning and zoning board member, said the downtown campus is the only large parcel available for development.

"The story with downtown is there really is not much to redevelop in the downtown," he said.

"The real economic drivers," he said, "are in the northwest sector (including BRiC and the Park at Broken Sound) and Midtown."

He sees the city as having submarkets — the downtown, Midtown near the Town Center mall, and the northwest sector.

The downtown, he said, is a dining, entertainment, boutique shopping and residential center, while business is concentrated in the northwest.

Architect Derek Vander Ploeg, who has had roles in city development since Mizner Park was created 35 years ago, has a very different view.

He agrees that the area around BRiC and Florida Atlantic University has become very important and notes the advantages BRiC has being near Interstate 95, Florida's Turnpike, the Tri-Rail station and FAU.

But he doesn't count the downtown out because of the potential for redevelopment. The downtown, he said, "is not even halfway done."

On his redevelopment list is Royal Palm Place. "It is inevitable," he said. "It could be the next super-impactful development."

Similarly, he said that Mizner Park, which is up for sale and has been neglected for years, could be transformed by its new owner.

Beyond that, he sees potential for more high-end residential to accommodate business executives who locate their companies in Boca Raton. They will want to live by the ocean or downtown, he said.

'Great city' has many pieces

Others said it is wrong to think of the downtown's being eclipsed by BRiC or the northwest sector.

Rather, they point to cities like New York that have many distinct sections that, linked together, create a vibrant city.

"Great cities are not made by one downtown," said architect Jorge Garcia of GarciaStromberg.

One city he points to is Miami, which has Brickell, Bayfront, Coconut Grove and more. "You can have more than one nucleus of organized development," he said.

"I don't think downtown is moving anywhere," he said. "I think there are just subdivisions of urban development."

Ignacio Diaz, co-owner and managing partner of developer Group P6, sees the situation similarly.

"I think there will be different … centers of development," he said. "It doesn't all have to be in the downtown. The city can grow in different directions. A more mature city has different poles, different price points, different lifestyles.

"I believe the city will continue to adapt to what its residents are asking for in different areas," he said. "I think it includes both the downtown and the area around BRiC and the Park at Broken Sound. I don't think it is an either/or between those locations. Each location is unique. I think there is room for both." ★

KING TIDES

Continued from page 1



Visitors Dan and Traci Allen wade through water that reached thigh-deep in spots on George Bush Boulevard in Delray Beach on Oct. 27**. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

In Manalapan, where town officials declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, Police Chief Jeff Rasor estimated water reached 3½ to 4 feet deep in the hardest-hit areas along East Ocean Avenue extending to State Road A1A near Plaza del Mar and the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa.

"I would say this is the highest king tide," Rasor said. "I have one officer who has been with Manalapan 20 years who's never seen it like this."

Flooding began Oct. 25 and worsened through Oct. 27, leaving about 15 cars stranded. Officials maintained daily road closures along East Ocean Avenue and South Ocean Boulevard twice daily for several hours around high tide, Rasor said. The beach also sustained severe erosion, with Rasor estimating half of it had been washed away.

"The beach is severely, severely impacted. I've never seen it like this," Rasor said. "It's going to take a while to rebuild."

A confluence of factors impacted the region: the seasonally higher king tides, heavy rainfall and a low-pressure system stalled over the Bahamas that "pushed more water than usual into the system, prolonging the time it takes for high tide to recede," Delray Beach spokesperson Gina Carter said.

A preliminary reading at Lake Worth Pier reached 2.7 feet above the typical daily high-tide level on Oct. 27, according to the NWS, exceeding the previous record set there during Hurricane Nicole in 2022.

Ocean Ridge Police Chief Scott McClure said many longtime residents described the flooding as "the worst they had seen in their lifetimes."

Additionally, decks and stairs at three of the town's seven public beach crossovers — Corrine, Thompson and Porter — had extensive damage and remain closed with no estimated reopening date or repair costs, McClure said.

Adapting to flooding

Recent infrastructure improvements helped limit impacts in some places.

Highland Beach officials credited drainage improvements in an $8.3 million A1A road project with helping to reduce flooding, though it still left many stretches of the town's A1A pathway underwater even after the tides had receded. The work included improvements to roadside swales to help water soak into the ground.

In Boca Raton, Olmsted wrote that recent reconstruction of the Wavecrest sea wall eliminated seawater intrusion on the eastern side of Por La Mar, adding that the city also purchased a pump capable of moving more than 1,500 gallons per minute for deployment if flooding made the roadway impassable.

In Delray Beach, flooding affected the barrier island area of Andrews Avenue near Beach Drive and Seaspray Avenue, as well as Marine Way along the western banks of the Intracoastal Waterway south of Atlantic Avenue, where tidal flooding has been a recurring problem.

Carter said a sea wall project at Marine Way is moving forward, with the contractor and city staff negotiating a guaranteed maximum price for the project that is expected to be on the City Commission's Nov. 17 meeting agenda for a vote. ★

Boca Raton

Birthplace of PC won't bury its rich history, new developer says

By Mary Hladky

Now that Related Ross has acquired the Boca Raton Innovation Campus, the iconic former IBM campus is likely to undergo yet another transformation.

But Jordan Bargas, executive vice president at Related Ross, isn't tipping his hand at present on what company officials have in mind for the 124-acre birthplace of the personal computer.

Bargas, though, is mindful of IBM's rich history on the site which he said still "caters well to technology companies." And Related Ross chairman and CEO Stephen Ross said in a statement that technology "will play an important role in what comes next."

In an example of BRiC's appeal to technology companies, the California-based quantum computing company D-Wave Quantum has announced it will move its headquarters and research and development facility to the campus by the end of this year.

For now, Related Ross officials know they want to add retail and restaurants that current BRiC tenants have told them they would like to see to "really elevate their office life." And they want to continue former owner CP Group's initiative to welcome the public to the property.

"We want to do more community events that bring people onto the campus," Bargas said.

Before making firm decisions, company officials want to know the preferences of Boca Raton residents, business owners and current BRiC tenants.

"Our plan is to spend some time getting feedback from the community … to hear what people really want to see," Bargas said. "This takes time and we want to make sure we get this right."

But there's no doubt that the 1.7 million-square-foot building designed by Marcel Breuer — a Hungarian-born architect who also designed the Whitney Museum of American Art in Manhattan — will remain.

"It's a beautiful building," Bargas said. "There's certainly opportunities to breathe new life into it, and that's what we'll continue to do."







TOP: When first constructed, the IBM campus was an imposing building with barren landscaping. **MIDDLE:** The PC that led to widespread use of personal computing. **LEFT:** Former IBM engineer Dave Bradley came up with the control-alt-delete shortcut to reboot a computer. **Photos provided**

Key developer bows out

For CP Group managing partner Angelo Bianco, the sale is "bittersweet."

He wasn't looking for a buyer when Related Ross approached. "That was the last thing on my mind," he said.

CP Group, which acquired BRiC in 2018 for $179 million, completed a $100 million renovation one year ago that preserved the Marcel Breuer exterior but changed everything about the interior.

Now it has a conference center, banquet hall, fitness center that the public can join, a primary care facility that provides urgent care, cafés, an automated grab-and-go food station and outdoor spaces for socializing or eating. Weddings have been held there.

Art is a prominent feature adorning the main walls that is selected in collaborations with the Boca Raton Museum of Art, local universities and schools. Studios are available for artists. QR codes enable visitors to take self-guided tours.

More was in the works. CP Group planned a $1 billion "live, work, play" development and the Boca Raton City Council approved zoning code changes in 2023 to accommodate that. The plan was to add 1,240 residential units, retail and restaurants, a hotel, medical offices, a grocery and more to enhance BRiC's appeal to companies and their employees.

Whether Related Ross sticks with those plans or revises them to suit its own goals remains to be seen.

The transaction was very complicated, Bianco said, but eventually the two sides reached a deal that he said gave investors "a very good return on their money."

Even so, "I have been saddened that I cannot see through what I wanted to and someone else will have their own ideas," he said.

But Bianco isn't at a loss for what comes next. He now is in negotiations with Brookfield Properties to acquire another iconic Boca Raton property — Mizner Park.

Related Ross interest grows

Related Ross — founded by Ross, who owns the Miami Dolphins — became a major force in West Palm Beach development before moving into other parts of Palm Beach County. The company made its foray into Boca Raton in early 2025 when it was one of four that submitted proposals to redevelop the city's downtown campus.

It lost out to a joint venture of Terra and Frisbie Group after City Council members made clear they disliked the density of the Related Ross plan to build 975,000 square feet of office space in three buildings. (Boca Raton voters defeated the redevelopment plan in March.)

But Related Ross, which had been eyeing Boca Raton for some time, still wanted to build in the city.

Studying the city, its officials saw that BRiC was centrally located, near an airport and Tri-Rail station, flanked by good roads, and in a city with two universities, good schools and an abundance of parks, Bargas said. Stephen Ross, he said, "loved the site too."

"You also have this incredible historic building that exists that has so much storytelling that ... would be a great opportunity to invest in," Bargas said. Added to that, his company had clients who wanted to locate in Boca Raton.

Related Ross has since made its second move in the city. Less than two months after the company announced it had acquired BRiC on Sept. 11 for an undisclosed price, it bought North 40, a two-building, 350,000-square-foot office complex near the intersection of Congress Avenue and Yamato Road for $64 million. The site is immediately north of BRiC.

"North 40's location next to BRiC makes it a natural complement to the campus and an important part of our long-term commitment to Boca Raton," Bargas told the *South Florida Business Journal*.

Former IBMers like changes

The BRiC story begins in 1966 when IBM purchased 550 acres for a manufacturing plant to produce its System/360 Model 20 midsized computer.

The original site eventually grew to 3.6 million square feet in more than 40 buildings, according to the Boca Raton Historical Society. The company employed up to 12,000 people there.

By the late 1980s, IBM began to transfer operations elsewhere and finally sold its Boca Raton property in 1996.

But in that fairly short span of time, it made history and Boca Raton still bears the imprint of its success.

Former IBM engineer Dave Bradley came in 1975 to work on advanced technology for a system that would become the Series /1 minicomputer.

In 1980, he was one of a group of engineers given the task of creating a personal computer. They had one year to get the job done. As the world knows, they succeeded.

IBM lore has it that a group of 12 engineers worked on the personal computer. That, he believes, is a myth.

"I am one of 50 or 60 people who claim to be one of the original 12," he quipped. But if it was in fact 12, he says he was "the 12th of the 12."

The PC was only one of IBM's many significant endeavors, but "the PC was the most famous," Bradley said.

And his role in it gave him a moment of fame. He adds, "My fame has not spread far and wide."

He developed the control-alt-delete key combination that a user can press to terminate an application or reboot the operating system.

"I had no idea I was creating a cultural icon at the time," he said.

In fact, it was a simple task. He had a list of things he had to work on and was moving down the list. "It was a five-minute job creating control-alt-delete," he said.

"I hoped it would be successful," he said of the PC. "It was a fun thing to work on. I was glad I had the opportunity."

The PC, developed in great secrecy with the code name "Acorn," was wildly successful. Other companies also were in the race, but IBM pulled ahead because its personal computer could be upgraded, had easy set-up and was compatible with non-IBM software.

A greatly enlarged replica of that keyboard is embedded on an outside patio floor at BRiC.

Asked about the changes CP Group has made to the IBM building interior, Bradley said, "It is fine. Times change.

"You wouldn't expect a building built in the time of Don Draper and 'Mad Men' to retain its interior in the new millennium. I thought it was a reasonable thing to do."

Pete Martinez also was among the engineers who worked on the personal computer before becoming a high-ranking IBM executive.

He was "thrilled" when CP Group bought the former IBM campus after a series of previous owners had done little to improve the property.

"They understood the legacy of innovation in the campus" and showed that in part by incorporating the word "innovation" in the campus' name, he said.

The high-security IBM building was a sterile environment. When CP Group opened up the building, "we welcomed it," Martinez said of former IBMers. "It was a beautiful transformation."

Related Ross officials have met with him. "I am encouraged by their enthusiasm, vision, their continuation of the innovation path," he said. Martinez anticipates they will be sensitive to the IBM history when they construct new buildings.

One addition by CP Group that has resonance for Martinez is the addition of the 30-foot-tall "Rocket" sculpture by artist Hubert Phipps that visitors see as soon as they arrive on the campus. The Boca Raton Museum of Art facilitated its location at BRiC.

That's because IBM was involved in the Apollo space program to put a man on the moon.

Former IBM employees "saw things in (the sculpture) that most didn't," he said.

Martinez is among the many former IBMers who launched their own companies after IBM left Boca Raton.

He now is chairman and CEO of SIVOTEC, created to help physicians diagnose genetic diseases more accurately, quickly and at lower cost. It now focuses on rare genetic diseases in children.

SIVOTEC's offices are located at BRiC. ★





Town commissioners and staff had to relocate to the town library on Hypoluxo Island for their Oct. 27 meeting because of king tide flooding on A1A. **Emily Rose Finn/The Coastal Star**

Manalapan

Commission considers designs for new two-story Town Hall and police station

By Emily Rose Finn



A single building design, with three exterior finish options, was presented to the commission. **Rendering provided**

Manalapan voters could decide as soon as March whether the town should borrow money to build a new Town Hall and police station, with draft ballot language due to be reviewed by town commissioners in December, Town Manager Eric Marmer said.

Commissioners at their Oct. 27 meeting also took up an appraisal of the current Town Hall property, at 600 S. Ocean Blvd., by appraiser Marc Bertrand, whom the town hired to guide decisions about the site. The town has said it may sell the property to help pay for the new building.

That option is complicated by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, which "has indicated their desire to remain at the current location," according to a staff memo. In September, Marmer told commissioners the county would pay to build a new facility there.

The new building is planned for the former bank property the town acquired at Plaza del Mar, 131 S. Ocean Blvd. A circuit judge approved the town's taking of the property through eminent domain in June, and the town deposited $2.85 million with the court. A jury could still set a different final price.

A site plan by Currie Sowards Aguila Architects shows a two-story Town Hall and police station of about 15,000 square feet, larger than the 10,000 square feet the architects estimated last year and nearly three times the size of the current 5,300-square-foot Town Hall. The plan includes a secure parking lot.

On Sept. 28, architect Jess Sowards presented three architectural styles for the building, including a "Coastal Vernacular" design. Commissioners agreed on those as contenders, and Commissioner David Knobel said signage should be "front and center" on whichever design is chosen.

Marmer said the architects will now rank those three and additional options and return with a top choice. A rendering of that design would go on informational pamphlets for residents.

Commissioners urged the town to begin private fundraising soon; a resident pledged $1 million toward the project last year, *The Coastal Star* reported. ★

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

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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: William Wietsma



William Wietsma's love of architecture means his work is his hobby. The Ocean Ridge resident grew up in South Florida, went to school in Los Angeles, then started his career in Pasadena where he spent years honing his craft designing custom hillside homes. But he ultimately chose to return to his roots. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Architect William Wietsma, a self-described "water person," does like fishing and boating, often going to Chub Cay in the Bahamas and to the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo.

But these aren't his favorite hobbies. "My work is my hobby, but I do relax on the water," he said.

Wietsma, 72, of Ocean Ridge, and his business partner, William Lippolis, specialize in designing and building waterfront homes, and since work is his favorite hobby, he enjoys talking about it.

He's fond of Bermuda or Anglo-Caribbean style. "It fits in really nicely here," he says. "It's simple but still has some character."

And as for materials, he enjoys working with wallaba, a wood that comes from South America used for roofing shingles. "The wood doesn't rot. It holds up really well and it just looks beautiful."

"We're not trendy people. We don't do trends," he said.

In Wietsma's early days in the field, Roland Coate Jr. was an influential figure, he said.

"He was very successful. He retired from architecture in his 50s and became a painter. He approached architecture as art, and I appreciated that. He was my teacher and I worked for him.

"We did a project, Cabo Bello, in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, a series of homes tied together on a point overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It won awards and was published all over the world. It was a great project, and it helped my career."

Among his recent construction projects he's enthusiastic about the Cornelia T. Bailey Cultural Arts Center in Boynton Beach. And favorite historic property? "The Gulf Stream Golf Club. It's the most iconic building in our area," he said.

His company did six years of renovations on it, beginning in 2007. "We basically renovated that building from top to bottom. We were pretty proud of the work we did.

"It hadn't been changed since 1924, and building standards were a lot different then. The design of that building is actually pretty nice considering how old it is. The issue really was just the fact that the building was old and needed to be fixed structurally."

Over the years, he's completed many projects, and among his favorites is his own home on a canal off the Intracoastal Waterway. He built it for clients in 2002 and bought it back from them in 2021. "Of course, we remodeled it. I don't think we'll ever leave."

— Christine Davis

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

A. I grew up in Lighthouse Point and spent my childhood on the water traveling with my parents throughout the Bahamas and fishing with my father off the coast of Florida. Life on the water has been a passion for my entire life.

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

A. After I finished high school, I moved to California to study architecture at Southern California Institute of Architecture (in Los Angeles). I studied under some great architects, including Ray Kappe, Frank Gehry, Roland Coate Jr. and Thom Mayne.

After graduating, I worked for Skidmore Owings and Merrill, Charles Eames, and Richard Martin before taking my architectural licensing exam.

Upon receiving my license, I started my own practice in Pasadena, California, designing custom hillside homes and developing townhouse projects. After 15 years building my career in Southern California, I decided it was time to come home to South Florida. I opened my own architecture and construction practice, and that grew into a partnership with William Lippolis, forming Wietsma & Lippolis Construction LLC. We are a design-build firm that specializes in the design and construction of new custom waterfront homes.

Our most recent accomplishment that I am most proud of is the new Cornelia T. Bailey Cultural Arts Center at South Florida PBS, which we built earlier this year. As part of this project, we also built two immersive 3D visual studios within the PBS complex offering visitors a truly one-of-a-kind experience. We take great pride in having played a key role in bringing this vision to life.

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

A. Above everything, find something that satisfies your passion. Think outside of conventional processes to achieve your goal. Be flexible in adjusting your goals over time. And work hard, be persistent, and never give up.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in Ocean Ridge?

A. In 2002, I designed and built this home on Sabal Island for a wonderful client. My wife, Caroline, and I always loved the property. When the owner decided to sell more than 20 years later, we jumped at the chance to buy it back.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Ocean Ridge?

A. Ocean Ridge feels quiet and charming compared to other barrier island communities. The houses are not oversized, and the neighborhoods generally feel like Old Florida. It is an easy place to call home with its central proximity between Palm Beach and Boca Raton, and we love living on the water with the inlet only a few minutes away.

Q. What book are you reading now?

A. *The Gulf: The Making of An American Sea*, by Jack E. Davis. It's a history of the Gulf of Mexico beginning in prehistoric times up to the present.

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

A. That's a big room to fill. As I'm writing this, I'm listening to Astor Piazzolla, but I love American jazz, Brazilian samba, traditional Cuban, electro-tango. Most anything with a Latin base helps me wind down.

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

A. You cannot inspect quality into a product or service. It must be built into it. From *Out of the Crisis*, by W. Edwards Deming.

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

A. I have had the privilege of working with and for a remarkable range of accomplished individuals including talented architects, CEOs of major corporations, and incredible philanthropists. I listened closely to each of them, always looking to glean inspiration from them, their experience and perspective.

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

A. Gary Oldman.



Along the Coast

Elevated bacterial levels prompt no-swim advisories at beaches

By Steve Plunkett

As if rainy, windy weather and October king tides weren't enough to deter trips to the oceanfront, eight south Palm Beach County beaches were closed for a week to swimming and other water-related activities.

Reopened on Nov. 3 were the beaches in Boca Raton's South Inlet Park, Red Reef Park and Spanish River Park; Delray Beach's Sandoway Park; Gulfstream Park just north of Gulf Stream; Boynton Beach's Oceanfront Park in Ocean Ridge; and the Lantana Municipal Beach.

Nine locations in central and north county were also closed that week.

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County issued a water quality advisory on Oct. 28 after tests showed the water at the parks "does not meet the recreational water quality criteria for *Enterococcus* bacteria."

Boca Raton added its South Beach Park to the no-swim advisory list — even though water there was not tested — "out of an abundance of caution," it said.

The Health Department advised against any water-related activities at these locations "due to an increased risk of illness in swimmers." Sampling conducted during regular water quality monitoring showed that the level of bacteria exceeds the level established by state guidelines.

Enterococcus bacteria are a warning sign of fecal contamination and potential pathogen presence.

Health officials did not directly link the water quality advisory to the recent weather and tides.

"Causes of elevated bacterial levels that prompt advisories are unknown, but are generally associated with wildlife, heavy recreational usage, elevated surf from high winds, and runoff following heavy rains," the department said.

People wishing to swim in the ocean can always check lifeguard beach information chalkboards or the Florida Healthy Beaches website at www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality/index.html.

"To the best of our knowledge, the FDOH Healthy Beaches sign is flipped and a swim advisory is hand-written on the posted lifeguard beach information chalkboard," the Department of Health said.

The department follows a set schedule for testing water quality. Each Monday, samples are collected at the various sites and are delivered to the lab by noon, it said. The advisory was lifted after Nov. 2 testing.

Samples may be taken from any point within the designated beach as part of the Healthy Beaches Program. Water samples are collected in the surf using a grab method at approximately 18- to 36-inch water depth. When the water sample results are received from the lab, a news release is sent out within the hour. Immediately following the news release, the results are entered into the state's Healthy Beaches database and are available to the public.

The advisory lifted in early November was based on samples collected Oct. 26. It followed a similar no-swim advisory following the Oct. 19 sampling. But that advisory was lifted two days later after new tests showed *Enterococcus* in the acceptable range. ★

Man charged with threatening local legislator

By Rich Pollack

It wasn't the wording of the campaign mailers that led a 25-year-old Boca Raton man to reportedly send death threats to State Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman.

It was the flyers themselves, state law enforcement agents say. The campaign literature drew the ire of Luke Schlauder, who demanded in three phone messages within six minutes on Oct. 12 that Gossett-Seidman stop sending him flyers while at the same time threatening to slit her throat, according to court records.

"The threat was clearly an abnormal reaction to receiving mail," said Gossett-Seidman, who feared enough for her safety and that of her staff that she immediately contacted state law enforcement agencies and local police. "I was shocked."

The Republican legislator, whose district includes Boca Raton and Highland Beach, said she never expected to receive threats.

"You hear stories from around the country of politicians and their offices being threatened, but you never think it will happen to you," she said. "No person, regardless of their political affiliation, should fear for their life simply because they are running for elected office."

While police investigated and reportedly tracked the calls to Schlauder, Gossett-Seidman closed her office and had everyone work from home.

"The threats were disturbing and vile," said Gossett-Seidman, who told investigators that she was especially concerned because she knew the caller had to be living in her statehouse district near her home and office in order to receive the mailers.

According to court records, a Boca Raton police officer, who had been contacted by Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigators, visited Schlauder's home and asked if he had made the calls.

"Schlauder confirmed (to the Boca officer) he made the calls and left the messages," the FDLE agent wrote, according to court records. "Schlauder stated that he is just really tired of receiving the mailers sent to his address from her office. Schlauder further stated that he made the threats to try to get through to someone to get the mailers to stop coming to his residence."

Investigators said that Schlauder told them he was not registered with any political party.

Schlauder was arrested Oct. 15 and charged with making written or electronic threats and with unlawful use of an electronic communication.

A judge set bail for Schlauder at $250,000 and required that he wear an ankle monitor and avoid contact with Gossett-Seidman and members of her staff.

Gossett-Seidman was not the only South Florida elected official running for reelection to face death threats.

U.S. Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Coral Springs, whose district includes Highland Beach and portions of Boca Raton, issued a statement on Oct. 22, saying that a constituent of his was arrested in Boca Raton for calling the congressman's Coral Springs office and threatening his life.

Moskowitz said he is grateful to law enforcement at the state and local levels for acting quickly to keep him and his family safe. ★

Boca Raton says it's OK again to feed iguanas and other nuisance animals

A Boca Raton ordinance prohibiting residents from feeding iguanas, rats, mice and pigeons has met its demise less than two months after being enacted.

The City Council on Oct. 13 repealed the law that had been requested by Mayor Andy Thomson, which imposed a $100 fine on violators.

Council members Stacy Sipple and Yvette Drucker and Deputy Mayor Michelle Grau called for it to be stricken.

The ordinance, they said, resulted from a long-running dispute between neighbors rather than a request from residents.

Drucker called it an "embarrassment" and said it was unenforceable.

"We have been on every national news over this ordinance," she said.

Sipple, who voted in favor of it on Aug. 25, changed her mind after getting more information after that meeting.

"An ordinance should protect the public, not provide another weapon for harassment, retaliation, intimidation or invasion of privacy," she said.

City resources "should never be manipulated to carry out personal vendettas or target residents," she added.

Grau thanked Sipple for taking the lead on asking for repeal. She described the ordinance as an "example of over-legislation" and said the council should not turn a neighborhood dispute into a law.

Thomson attempted to salvage the ordinance by suggesting removing pigeons from the no-feed list. He got no takers.

The final vote was 4-1 for repeal, with Thomson dissenting.

— Mary Hladky



Highland Beach

Savings higher than expected from sewer-lining project

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach town leaders figured they would see a reduction in the amount of wastewater being treated at a plant in Delray Beach when a recent $1.4 million sewer-lining project was completed.

They just didn't realize how much ground water was seeping into the system and how much money it was costing to treat that extra flow.

It turned out that checks on the first few meter readings after the project was completed over the summer showed a reduction of about 15% in the amount of wastewater being sent to the regional treatment plant in Delray Beach.

"We are no longer sending out clean water to be treated," Town Manager Marshall Labadie said.

Labadie estimates that the reduction in volume could translate into a savings of $10,000 to $15,000 a month, or a reduction of as much as $180,000 from the $1 million to $1.2 million annual cost of sewage treatment.

"That's a big change," he said, adding that the savings should cover the cost of the sewer-lining project in about eight years.

So how did all that extra water get into the pipes?

The town manager said that when crews began lining the sewer main, they noticed some large breaks that allowed ground water to rush in. Those fissures ended up being more costly when heavy rains or king tides forced larger amounts of water into the wastewater disposal process.

Labadie said that the reduction in the number of gallons being treated will fluctuate day to day and during the season when the population increases.

The sewer-lining project is part of a bigger effort within the town to shore up older infrastructure and prepare for higher water tables due to increases in sea levels and events such as storms or king tides.

With the completion of the improvements, Labadie says, the town's wastewater treatment infrastructure could have an additional 30- to 50-year lifespan.

The town is in the process of upgrading its six lift stations by raising them to prevent them from being damaged by higher water.

The multiyear project will come with a price tag of about $3 million — or about $500,000 each — with the town receiving state appropriations to help with the cost of infrastructure improvements. ★

Town's Mingle Jingle coming Dec. 3

Highland Beach residents can get a fun kickoff to the holiday season as the town once again hosts its annual Mingle Jingle.

Set for 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 3, this year's holiday celebration in the parking lot of St. Lucy Catholic Church will include food trucks, live music, holiday sweets and offerings from local breweries.

There is also an opportunity to meet representatives from the town's several departments and to see public safety displays up close. The Highland Beach Sea Turtle team will have volunteers on hand to share information about the turtles.

To make it easy for residents to attend the event without having to get in their cars, the town is once again providing free trolley service to and from Mingle Jingle.

The event is free to Highland Beach residents and RSVPs are encouraged. To RSVP, visit the town's website, highlandbeach.us, and click on "save the date for Mingle Jingle."

Town officials are hoping to make sure residents know that there could be a request for a donation following the completion of the RSVP. That request is not related to the town and residents are not obligated to donate.

— Rich Pollack

Boca Raton

Meetings seek residents' ideas about Memorial Park's future

Boca Raton city officials are seeking input from residents on how to improve the west side of the downtown campus, including Memorial Park.

Residents' ideas will be considered by consultants Chen Moore & Associates, hired by the city to envision redevelopment plans.

The public input sessions will be held:

- Nov. 14, 2-4 p.m., at the Boca Raton Community Center next to City Hall.
- Nov. 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the second-floor mezzanine of the Spanish River Library, 1501 Spanish River Road.
- Nov. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., in a virtual session. Details on how to join have not yet been announced.

Also, three design charettes will be held at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 W. Plaza Real.

An introduction will take place on Dec. 10, 5-8 p.m.

Other charettes will be Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and on Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Those who can't attend the sessions can learn more at a Memorial Park information table at the Night Market at Sanborn Square on Nov. 5, 6-8 p.m., and at the Holiday Tree Lighting at Mizner Park on Nov. 21, 6-8 p.m.

Information also is available at the Memorial Park website at www.myboca.us/MemorialPark.

— Mary Hladky



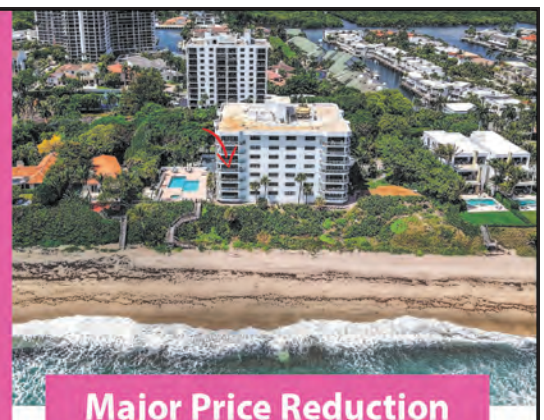
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Briny Breezes

FEMA comes through with grant after all

Briny Breezes got a pleasant surprise in October: an email from the Federal Emergency Management Agency asking if the town still wanted that $1.4 million grant that it applied for over a year ago.

It does. And the reimbursable FEMA mitigation grant comes with a bonus: It means the town qualifies for a matching grant from the state of Florida, also for $1.4 million.

"We were notified we got the grant, but then FEMA was rumored to be shut down by the administration and things were in a pause," Town Manager Bill Thrasher said. "We were told at one point that the town should not rely on this grant coming through. But it turns out that the grant request is alive and well."

The $2.8 million in grant money will go toward the town-wide drainage plan, as well as for cash flow purposes and some construction costs, since both the federal and state grants are not up-front money but can be used to reimburse town expenditures, he said.

The town is still seeking a loan of as much as $2.5 million from the state of Florida for capital improvement projects, which include the drainage improvements and enhancing the town's entire sea wall.

— Henry Fitzgerald

Lantana News

Long-term lease for Dune Deck? — The iconic Dune Deck Café, which has been operating at Lantana's beach since 1991, received some encouraging news from the Town Council during its Oct. 26 meeting. The council agreed to add a charter amendment on the March 9 ballot that would increase the maximum lease from five to 30 years, subject to council approval.

Town Attorney Max Lohman said the current five-year limitation had created challenges for long-term investments and improvements, particularly at the Dune Deck and the fire station properties.

The longer lease ensures the family-owned business remains the preferred anchor tenant as part of the town's public beach renovation.

The Dune Deck Café serves breakfast, lunch and weekend brunch alfresco by the ocean.

Peter Panais, co-owner of the restaurant, said he was supportive of the proposed amendment. He emphasized that a longer lease would encourage investment in necessary property improvements.

The current café building is slated for demolition to make way for a new facility featuring a Bahamian/Key West architectural style, with CPZ Architects handling the site design.

More restaurant news — The Town Council agreed to a special exception request to the code of ordinances to allow a Chipotle Mexican Grill with a drive-through window to be built at 1500 W. Lantana Road in the Commercial Zoning District.

The 2,427-square-foot fast food restaurant will be on the eastern portion of the Wells Fargo parking lot.

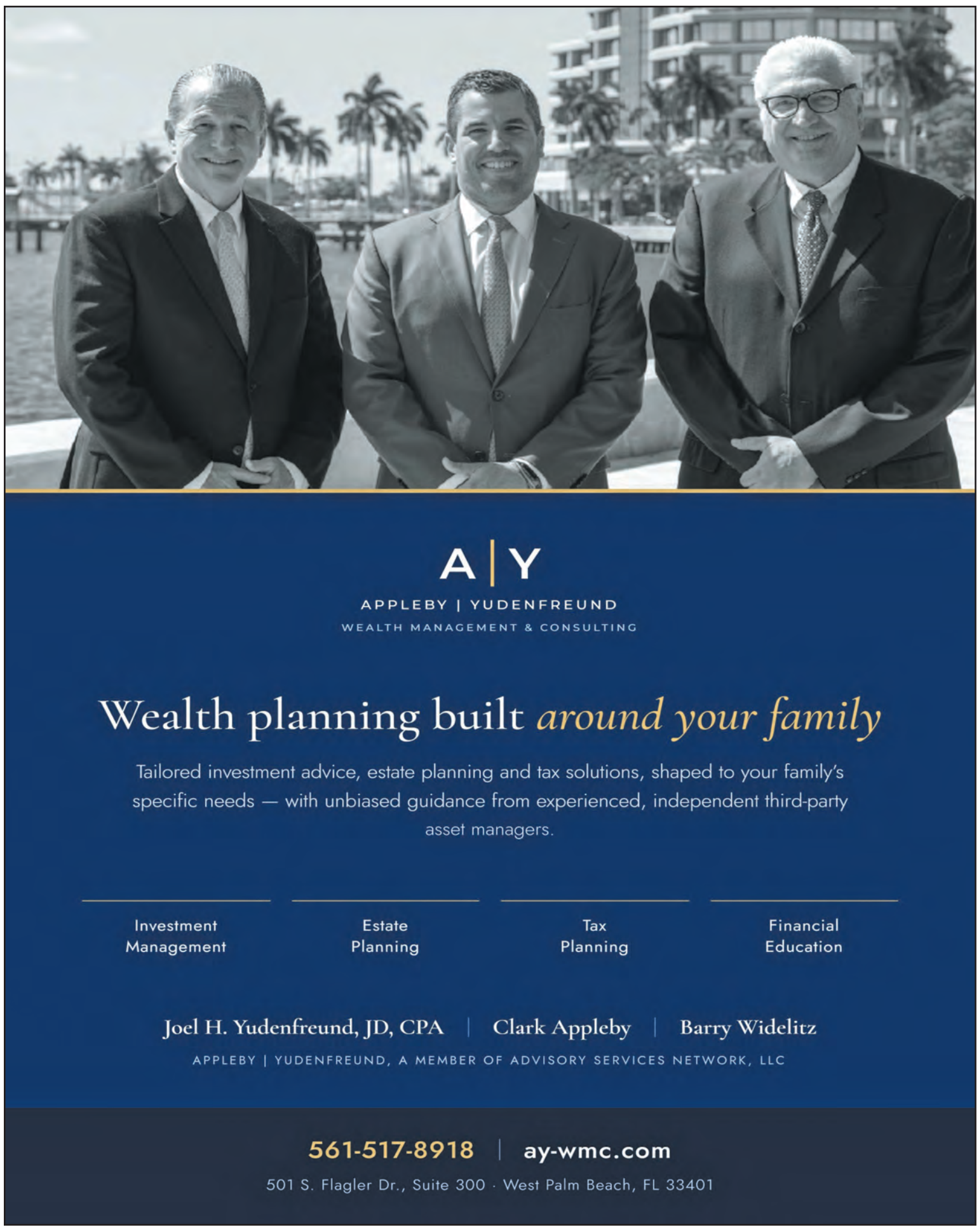
Farther east on Lantana Road, another fast-food restaurant came into the spotlight at the council's Oct. 26 meeting. Jeremy Starnes, owner and operator of the Chick-fil-A there, was recognized for donating food to the Chamber of Commerce, the town library and other organizations throughout the year.

The presentation was made by Rosemary Mouring, who Mayor Karen Lythgoe said is Lantana's "super volunteer."

New alternate to planning board — The Town Council appointed Kenneth Parks, a five-year Lantana resident, to an alternate position on the planning board for a three-year term. Parks is a building contractor with 46 years' experience and said he was interested in lending his expertise to help the town.

He was one of four candidates for the alternate position. Others were John Miller, a new homeowner and retired journalist; Jessica Pierce, who works for Discover the Palm Beaches; and Lyn Tate, a Hypoluxo Island resident who has previously served on the board.

— Mary Thurwachter



Manalapan

Gas lines for Point Manalapan getting new consideration

By Emily Rose Finn

Manalapan residents could vote in March on whether the town should borrow about $2.8 million to bring natural gas service to the Point Manalapan neighborhood.

Florida Public Utilities, which estimated the cost, said it "represents FPU's actual project costs without any additional profit," according to a staff memo for the Oct. 27 Town Commission meeting. Residents who choose to connect would pay a one-time fee of about $3,000.

Town staff is recommending the referendum be placed on the ballot in the upcoming municipal election. Town Manager Eric Marmer told commissioners that if the town has to front the money, voters should decide, as they will on the new Town Hall, because the town would have to borrow it.

Marmer said he asked FPU why the town should pay to reach the utility's own customers. FPU told him that, as a public utility, it charges the cost of installation and does not make money on it.

Commissioner David Knobel recalled a project in another community that customers financed without the town's involvement. FPU will return in December to present options.

The line would run to the street, and each homeowner would pay separately to hook up.

Commissioners were told installation would use directional boring in roughly 150-foot runs rather than tearing up roads.

The idea is not new. Point Manalapan residents turned down gas lines in a 2015 straw vote, when hookups were expected to cost about $5,000. Vice Mayor Simone Bonutti, who was on the commission then and backed the effort, revived it in 2025 when FPL announced plans to bury the Point's electric lines.

"I have only heard people wanting it. I haven't heard anyone against it," Marmer said.

The staff memo refers to both propane and natural gas service; commissioners asked FPU to clarify when it returns in December. ★

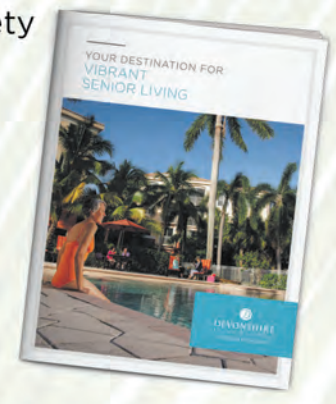




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The entrance sign shows some that remain and others that have left the Boynton Beach Mall. Tenants have been told to vacate by mid-January. **Anne Geggis/The Coastal Star**

Boynton Beach

Mall down to final months of operation

Developer envisions homes, retail once sale is complete

By Anne Geggis

The fading letters on Boynton Beach Mall's entrance monument faintly show which tenants time has erased from the mall — and now those absences foretell the 41-year-old shopping center's scheduled disappearance into memory.

Tenants report they have been told they have until mid-January to vacate the 91-acre site on Congress Avenue. And a pre-conceptual plan filed with the city, according to reports, shows Lennar, a national homebuilder, is planning 600 townhomes in place of the mall.

The mall died a slow death until 2020, when COVID-19 accelerated the decline. That's when representatives of the mall's Indianapolis-based owner successfully convinced the city to change the zoning from community commercial to suburban mixed to make it more attractive to homebuilders looking for acreage to buy.

There's only one Christmas shopping season left to go at this enclosed retail space, which measures hundreds of thousands of square feet.

"It's been a foregone conclusion for quite a while," said Thomas Christos, co-owner of the mall's 32-year-old Hallmark store, which at the end of October was decked out in both Halloween and Christmas finery.

Changing face of Congress

In his estimation, the mall's former owner, Simon Property Group, was not aggressive in its response to big-box stores, such as Super Target, Dick's Sporting Goods and Michael's, rising on the same street, starting a little less than 20 years ago. Simon, which also owns the Town Center in Boca Raton and Sawgrass Mills in Sunrise, spun the Boynton Beach Mall and other smaller malls off to another company, Washington Prime Group, in 2014.

Neither the marketing firm shopping the property nor Washington Prime Group could be reached for comment. The purchase is scheduled for completion in early 2027, a Lennar statement reads.

"Lennar expects … to develop a mixed-use community that helps alleviate Palm Beach County's severe housing shortage," the statement says. "Although planning is in the early stages and we look forward to stakeholder feedback, our vision is to take advantage of this unique opportunity with a mix of single-family attached housing opportunities, complemented by retail commercial, open space and civic uses that will create a walkable, connected environment."

Once a happening place

Few national chains still have shops at the Boynton Beach Mall — Spencer Gifts and Victoria's Secret are among the holdouts in these halls that still have easy listening music piped through the cavernous environs. Things Remembered, a national retailer which specialized in engraving keepsakes, stopped having brick and mortar shops in 2019 and now the engraving is done at a small kiosk in the middle of the mall.

Some of the stores that once served as the mall's anchors are likely unknown to a generation of people now old enough to vote: Jordan Marsh was there when the mall opened in 1985. Sears replaced that store in 1992. And Mervyns, Burdines and Lord & Taylor also took turns as anchors, designed to draw customers to the mall.

Christ Fellowship Church and Cinemark Boynton Beach own their lots separate from the mall-owned land, so any new development would have to accommodate them — somehow. JCPenney may also be operating past the mall's closing date, according to reports.

Ginger Pedersen, whose family has been in Palm Beach County since 1950, remembers the eye-catching fountain that graced Boynton Beach Mall's interior. She also remembers the cow pasture across the street — and how the parcel the mall now occupies was also once a cow pasture.

Pedersen remembers its opening was a big addition to the Palm Beach County landscape.

"It was that middle palace between the Palm Beach Mall and the Town Center," said Pedersen, who has published numerous local history books. "Obviously, Town Center was more upscale." Boynton Beach Mall "was more of a middle-class suburbia mall."

'It's kind of sad'

One recent weekday, there was no one to take your money if you wanted to go on the bungee ride or take a spin on the indoor carousel. Storefronts offering services, like Idol Brow Art and JJ Alterations & Cleaning, rival the number of places you can leave with something new in a bag. More than one clothing store announced everything in the store is $10 or less.

Keith Aaron, 24, of Margate, says he's become a regular here because of the griot — a fried pork dish — made into an eggroll at Val's Kitchen, which serves Haitian cuisine.

News that the mall's days were numbered also stirred some foot traffic one recent afternoon. Taina Martin, 26, of Delray Beach, was checking it out with a friend for the first time, despite having lived in the area for a few years.

"I wanted to come and look around," she said. "It's kind of sad." ★

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Obituaries

Rita L. Taylor

By Steve Plunkett

ATLANTIS — Rita L. Taylor, a fixture in the town halls of Gulf Stream, Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes for more than five decades, died in her home on Oct. 28. She was 95.

Ms. Taylor served as the town clerk of Gulf Stream for 32 years and nine months before retiring in 2022. At the time she was the town's highest-paid employee at $143,956 a year.



She had moved to the Gulf Stream post in 1990 after spending 20 years as the town clerk of Ocean Ridge. During that period, she also handled clerk duties for Briny Breezes on her own time.

Bill Thrasher, now town manager in Briny Breezes, worked with Ms. Taylor in Gulf Stream from the 1990s until his own retirement there in 2017. He remembered her as a woman who "knew government and she knew people" and easily worked with both.

He also recalled his hesitation about moving into his predecessor's office and taking his desk when he was named Gulf Stream's interim town manager in 1999.

"My very first day as interim town manager — I didn't know what it meant," Thrasher said, so he sat at his comfortable old finance director's desk.

But Ms. Taylor, always a mentor, told him, "You wanted to be a manager. Now be a manager and get in this office."

"She was very clear and got to the point," Thrasher said.

She and Thrasher became such a team that Gulf Stream's current town manager, Trey Nazzaro, invoked their names when he was appointed last January in telling how he planned to handle the job with current Town Clerk Renee Basel.

Basel's "not only the town clerk but does a lot of what I would consider assistant manager or senior-level things, just like the relationship that Bill and Rita had kind of running the town before, that's the relationship that I envision having with Renee."

Ms. Taylor and her husband, Ed, who hailed from Indiana, first settled in Briny Breezes in the mid-1960s after touring the country for five years with a travel trailer. They had no children and her husband died early in her tenure in Ocean Ridge.

"Back then there were a lot more travel trailers in Briny than what there are today. Oh, quite a few. In fact, they had one section that was all travel trailers," she told *The Coastal Star* right before she retired.

But lounging on the beach was not for her. Soon Ms. Taylor, who learned bookkeeping through jobs in Indiana banks, took a full-time job in Ocean Ridge.

Karen Hancsak became a police dispatcher not long after.

"I've known her since 1981 when I was hired in Ocean Ridge. She became my mentor in 1988 as her deputy clerk and a friend ever since," said Hancsak, who rose to be town clerk after Ms. Taylor left Ocean Ridge in 1990.

"I'm crying here now. I'm in total shock," she said when told of Ms. Taylor's death.

The two were very close and had met for lunch a week and a half before.

"We still got together at least monthly, either having a Banana Boat lunch, or dinner at Atlantis Grill or Rosalita's," said Hancsak, who retired from Ocean Ridge in 2016. Ms. Taylor attended her protegee's retirement festivities.

"She was my rock steady, especially after losing both my parents within three weeks of each other this summer," Hancsak said. "I could always call her. I will miss her greatly."

Ms. Taylor kept two homes: a three-bedroom, two-bath place in Atlantis and her mobile home a few houses from the Atlantic Ocean on Briny's Ruthmary Avenue.

In 2021 her former one-room office in the Town Hall was named the "Rita L. Taylor Gulf Stream Library" in her honor.

But her invisible fingerprints are all over the barrier island. Besides being its clerk, she was instrumental in arranging for Ocean Ridge to provide police service to Briny Breezes, helping establish Ocean Ridge's police dispatch system, training Ocean Ridge's volunteer firefighters and getting its first ladder fire truck, which Boynton Beach also relied upon.

In her last official government meeting in 2022, Ms. Taylor said she would never turn her back on Gulf Stream.

"I'll think of all of you even though I won't be here," she said, "and I'll be watching the papers, what *The Coastal Star* is going to have to say, about our meetings and the meetings you're going to have, because my interest will not die."

Anne Stokes Bright

By Kathleen Kernicky

DELRAY BEACH — Anne Stokes Bright was a competitive tennis player in her 40s when she started having trouble holding her racket. She had pain in her joints. Not long after, she was diagnosed with lupus, an inflammatory disease that causes the body's immune system to attack itself, damaging organs and tissues.



Mrs. Bright, a longtime resident of Delray Beach, lost her battle with lupus on Oct. 11. She was 83.

Mrs. Bright never let the disease put her on the sidelines.

She was a civic leader, volunteer and philanthropist who, over the years, raised more than $1 million for the Lupus Foundation of America.

A longtime supporter of the Achievement Centers for Children and Families in Delray Beach, Mrs. Bright served as a board member and co-founded the popular Delray Beach Home Tours, which benefited ACCF.

She was a member of the Delray Beach Rotary Club, a businesswoman, and a wife, mother and grandmother. She also owned and operated The Frame Factory for many years in Boca Raton.

Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Anne spent her childhood in Quebec, Maine, Manhattan and the Main Line in Philadelphia, where her grandparents were members of the prominent Biddle and Drexel families.

After graduating from the Chapin School in Manhattan, she moved to Delray Beach. In 1975, she married J. Reeve Bright, a lawyer who later worked with the Republican Party in the Florida recount of the 2000 presidential election.

Together, they met U.S. presidents and the pope, went to black-tie galas and spent summers in Maine.

"We became friends and then we became more than friends and that was the end of the story," Reeve Bright said. "She was a kind, loving and generous person. I was blessed to have her for 51 years."

In 2000, the Brights traveled to the Vatican for Pope John Paul II's canonization of Saint Katharine Drexel, who was a distant relative of Anne. "The pope blessed me and then Anne and she looked up at him and said, 'may God bless you, too,'" Reeve recalled with a laugh. "I don't remember what he said. I was so stunned."

When Mrs. Bright began raising money for the Lupus Foundation, Reeve Bright worked beside her. In 2021, he was elected to serve as chairman of the national organization. Mrs. Bright was honored with the Fleur de Lis Award for volunteer fundraising.

"Anne deeply believed that no one living with lupus should feel alone and she dedicated her life to making sure they didn't," said Amy Yalden, division vice president of the Lupus Foundation of America Southeast Region.

"Anne's legacy … lives in the countless people she touched, the hope that she gave and the community she helped build."

"That was her whole drive," Reeve Bright said. "She wanted to help other people who didn't have what she had. She wanted them to have access to the best healthcare; to be able to pick up the phone and get information. … She wanted kids to be able to lift themselves up.

"I could bring home anyone, from President Ford to a panhandler, and she would always welcome them to the house and make them feel comfortable." (Ford's motorcade did make an unexpected stop at their house once.)

"She enjoyed people and enjoyed helping people. She really put her heart in it."

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Bright is survived by two sons, Nicholas Bright, and from a previous marriage, Henry C.S. Mellon; and eight grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by a son, Matthew T. Mellon.



The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be distributed the weekend of Dec. 5

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Boynton Beach

Ocean One breaks ground on 371-unit downtown development

By Connor Walter Brickel

Boynton Beach's skyline is on the rise. After more than a decade of starts and stops and three years since final approval, Ocean One officially broke ground downtown on Oct. 6.

Hyperion Group is the investment firm behind Ocean One, which is also backed by Winter Properties, WREP and Silverstein Properties. The project is estimated to cost $174.1 million in total. The project, on the east side of Federal Highway north of Ocean Avenue, is planned to include 371 luxury rental residences and 25,500 square feet of retail space.

The project marks another step in the city's efforts to urbanize its downtown area. Rather than empty parcels of land, the city wants a walkable environment for its downtown with places to live, shop and eat.

Two more projects — The Pierce, to the west across Federal Highway from Ocean One, and Octavia, down Ocean Avenue next to City Hall — will also be adding eight-story buildings to the downtown skyline. Construction on the south parcel of Octavia began in August and The Pierce is awaiting final permitting.



Boynton Beach Mayor Rebecca Shelton (in pink) joined other city officials and representatives of Hyperion Group and Silverstein properties at the groundbreaking ceremony of Ocean One. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

"With the city's focus on a plan for workforce housing on the west site (The Pierce), we channeled our entire focus on the east site into making it one of Palm Beach County's premier residential experiences," said Rob Vecsler, CEO of Hyperion Group.

Ocean One was originally proposed by investor Davis Camalier, combining a private parcel with land owned by the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency. Camalier signed a purchase and development agreement with the CRA in 2018 and later sold to Hyperion. The CRA has approved $11.5 million in tax increment revenue funding over 14 years. Under the agreement, the development also will provide 110 public parking spaces, including 20 on-street spaces.

"Ocean One is more than a development—it's a commitment to Boynton Beach's future," Vecsler said.

According to Vecsler, the groundbreaking "marks the beginning of a project that will bring new housing, new jobs, and new energy to the city. We are grateful for the city's partnership and shared vision."

Miami-based architecture firm Arquitectonica has designed the project. It is known for contemporary urban developments, such as One West Palm in West Palm Beach and the upcoming Mr. C Residences in Boca Raton.

Planned amenities for Ocean One include a resort-style pool deck, fitness center, resident lounge, outdoor recreation areas, and co-working and gathering spaces.

Near Boynton Beach's City Hall and library, even more mixed-use development is underway. The city's Town Square project, which already includes the new City Hall, is now welcoming Octavia, which will span two parcels in the Town Square grid.

Octavia is a two-phase development by Time Equities Inc. The CRA approved $35.2 million in tax increment financing for both parcels, including $20 million for the south and $15.2 million for the north.

The south parcel, at 120 SE First Ave., is under construction and will include 465 apartments, about 6,400 square feet of ground-floor retail and approximately 50,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor amenities.

The north parcel, at 100 E. Boynton Beach Blvd., is planned for a later phase and would add 433 apartments and about 16,800 square feet of retail.

Officials with Ocean One, Octavia and The Pierce have all said they expect to have their first phases completed in 2028.★

CRA gives new future to an old sign

By Connor Walter Brickel

A landmark Boynton Beach building, which dates to the 1920s and until recently was home to Hurricane Alley, is set to be demolished. But one piece of history from the downtown building won't be headed to the landfill.

The city's Community Redevelopment Agency has agreed to preserve the Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Real Estate Insurance sign — and even has a future home in mind for it.

The preservation effort is expected to cost about $132,000. Developers have committed $40,000, leaving the CRA to fund the remaining $92,000. The City Commission, in its role as the CRA's governing body, approved the allocation of those funds on Oct. 6.

Demolition of the existing building paves the way for a new downtown development project, The Pierce. The mixed-use development project is slated to bring 300 residential apartments and 17,000 square feet of restaurant, retail and office space, along with 150 public parking spaces.

The historic sign is painted on the eastern facade of the former Hurricane Alley Raw Bar and Restaurant building on East Ocean Avenue. City staff says the sign will be preserved in a specialized case and eventually relocated to Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park and boat ramp on North Federal Highway.

Oyer, a former mayor and longtime local businessman, operated his insurance and real estate agency for nearly six decades in Boynton Beach.

The building is the last historical building on Federal Highway still standing.

"I want to thank you for finally being a City Commission that found the right balance between economic progress and preservation," said Oyer's son, Harvey Oyer III, at the Oct. 6 meeting.



The city plans to preserve this sign and make it part of a future addition at Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park. **The Coastal Star**

The sign is about 75 years old, and has only four digits in its phone number. Relocating the sign ensures that a familiar piece of local history remains visible to residents who have been driving by the sign for years. ★

City weighs nonrenewal of contract for Flock license plate cameras

By Connor Walter Brickel

Boynton Beach commissioners want to "block Flock" and find a better alternative to the program that uses cameras to read license plates and helps police track vehicles that may be connected to crimes.

On Oct. 20, the City Commission weighed its options with Flock, with which the city has an agreement until November 2027. Police Chief Joseph DeGiulio showed positive data from the program, but commissioners say Flock hasn't been transparent on data sharing.

Flock is the brand of automated license plate recognition technology that Boynton Beach uses to capture license plate information and other details about passing vehicles. That information can help investigators identify a vehicle connected to a crime.

These LPRs are different from the cameras in the city that attempt to catch drivers running red lights.

Flock has come under intense national scrutiny with concerns about how its data is used or can be misused. The commission reached a consensus that a nonrenewal would be the right path to take. City staff will begin identifying other software to bring before the commission and negotiate contracts with Flock to try to end the use of its cameras in the city sooner.

"My preference would be the option of nonrenewal," DeGiulio said. "It allows me enough time to provide some options for this commission, as we move forward with a new vendor."

Boynton Beach has 47 Flock cameras; 38 are operational and nine are awaiting permits. The city also has a seven-day data retention period.

The police chief presented crime clearance data showing that the department's use of the Flock cameras increased its overall crime clearance from 22% in 2024 and 32% in 2025 to 40% so far in 2026.

DeGiulio said the Flock program took over 300 days to set up in 2023, so changing to another LPR could cause a pause in operations. City staff said it would work on bringing options to the commission for an alternate LPR program. ★



Celebrating Our History

Bridge to the past: Delray didn't always reach the beach

By Holly Baltz









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: President Warren G. Harding in 1921 waves as he sails under the rebuilt Atlantic Avenue bridge. The first Atlantic Avenue bridge, built in 1911. Horses and wagons cross the Florida East Coast Canal by barge before the bridge was built. Miss Ewing, a schoolteacher, pulls the chain to move the passenger barge. Mrs. Henry Sterling is at the rail and Mr. Crownover is at the back. **Photos provided by the Delray Beach Historical Society**

Imagine Atlantic Avenue, the main street of Delray Beach, when it didn't reach the Atlantic Ocean.

That was the case around the turn of the 20th century as prominent families from the mainland built summer homes and settlers farmed land near the Orange House of Refuge on the barrier island.

The only way back and forth was two flat-bottom barges crossing the freshly dredged Florida East Coast Canal, now the Intracoastal Waterway.

A large barge ferried horses, wagons and produce across the waterway, and a smaller barge took people and supplies.

By 1911, the town of Delray had grown to 250 residents, with Henry Flagler's railroad bringing more visitors and settlers. Atlantic Avenue was paved with rocks from Swinton Avenue to the canal. The road had become a fledgling commercial strip.

That year, a hand-cranked wooden swing bridge connected the mainland to the island. When a boat came, the bridge would swing out horizontally to let the vessel pass.

Little boys liked to use it as a diving platform, "walking on the pulley wires and diving from the top of the posts into the canal," according to a 2000 application to put the bridge on the Delray Beach local historic register.

The town of Delray on the mainland was incorporated in 1911. On the other side, the town of Delray Beach would be incorporated in 1923 for a short time before they merged and took the island's name in 1927.

Summer beach houses

The Sundy family spent summers on the island because it was cooler than their place on Swinton Avenue, now the Sundy House (temporarily closed for renovations), said Kayleigh Howald, archivist at the Delray Beach Historical Society. John Sundy was Delray's first mayor.

Some of Sundy's children recalled fun on the beach in the early 1900s, according to a 1986 *South Florida Sun Sentinel* story.

They also recounted moments of terror riding the barge when John's infant daughter, Daisy, fell off the boat and sank. Luckily it wasn't far to retrieve her, as the waterway was but 5 feet deep. She would live to age 91.

Others spent time at the beach, including pineapple factory manager J.W. Acton, one of the town's first aldermen. Capt. Steve Andrews and his wife, Annie, kept the Orange House of Refuge, which provided shelter for shipwreck survivors, until it closed in 1896. It was another house on the island.

Swing bridge problems

It wasn't long before the bridge had problems.

On a Wednesday afternoon in July 1916, a truck loaded with pineapples fell through the bridge and rested in the canal, according to a *Palm Beach Post* story.

Rex Anderson and Thomas Young narrowly escaped with their lives, only because the rear end had headed into the water first. "A large gang of men" converged on the bridge to extract the truck from the water and repair the bridge, which months earlier had been fortified for heavier traffic. Still, it wasn't enough for the 4-ton truck.

"The swing bridge had become a travel menace and for months bore the sign 'Unsafe,'" the historic register application said, quoting a *Post* story.

The bridge flat-out collapsed into the water in 1917 when the bridge tender attempted to open it. It had gone from an "annoyance" prompting monthly discussion by county commissioners to one in need of immediate action, according to a *Post* story in June of that year.

In August 1918, a new wooden bridge was built and is "admired by all who see it," according to a story in the *Florida Times-Union*.

U.S. President Warren G. Harding passed through the bridge in 1921, waving to well-wishers gathered on the shore.

Boom brings new bridge

The real estate boom arrived around 1925, making Delray the largest town between West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale, according to the historical society. Land auctions were held daily as new subdivisions rose up.

Farmland was developed. Sidewalks were paved. Bonds were issued for water and sewer lines.

Delray built a new high school and gymnasium, new city hall and a city golf course. Several resort hotels were constructed.

And for the wealthiest residents, a yacht basin was constructed along the canal near the bridge.

Local brochures promoted Delray Beach as the "Ocean City," saying the ocean was closer to the center of town than in any other town or city in America, according to the Florida State Archives.

It was time for a new bridge to that ocean. State bonds paid $60,000 for the structure. The wood and concrete double lift bridge opened in 1926. It featured double sidewalks and was 60 feet wide for traffic.

It would last 25 years.

The GIs come home

Delray Beach began to thrive again after World War II.

The number of building permits hit record levels, the historic register application stated. The tourist population swelled. And most important, the federal government widened and deepened the canal, leading to County Commission and City Council discussions.

What emerged was the decision in 1947 that Delray Beach needed two new bridges — an Atlantic Avenue replacement and a new one at Northeast Eighth Street, now George Bush Boulevard, named after former President George H.W. Bush.

Merchants banded together to push the replacement first, arguing that it would affect business. Property owners got together and pushed for the Eighth Street bridge, saying the town needed two bridges and building a temporary replacement for Atlantic Avenue would cost more. They also argued that two bridges made for easier evacuation from a hurricane.

County Commissioner C.Y. Byrd heard all of them out. He promised to get a bill before the Florida Legislature for both bridges, including an election so voters could decide about the extra bridge. The bill providing money for both was successful as was the vote for Eighth Street.

As for the Atlantic Avenue bridge, businesses on the island expressed concern that customers wouldn't endure the hassle of a detour to Eighth Street.

In September 1950, a contract for a little more than $400,000 was awarded to Cleary Bros. to build the bridge of concrete and steel once the steel needed was available.

Cleary Bros. was a West Palm Beach general contractor that operated from 1919 until the late 1970s. The bridge would be fabricated by the Nashville Bridge Co. and delivered to Delray Beach. In Palm Beach County, the Nashville Bridge Co. had fabricated the Royal Park and Flagler Memorial bridges that connect West Palm Beach to Palm Beach, and the Boynton Beach and Camino Real bridges.

The Clearys had done work on Morrison Field (now President Donald J. Trump International Airport) and Boca Raton airfield. They also built the double bascule Singer Island bridge, which was later replaced with a fixed span, the Camino Real bridge and the Lantana bridge.

Construction on the Atlantic Avenue span didn't start until a year later, partially because of a steel strike in New York. It opened Nov. 10, 1952, without County Commissioner Ben Sundy, who had been scheduled to be master of ceremonies. He was one of John Sundy's children who had frolicked on the beach. His mother, Elizabeth, a pioneer, had died.

Daisy Sundy Earls, Ben's daughter who had lived through the mishap off the barge, would later reminisce to *The Coastal Star* in 2013 about the days when her father would make breakfast on his camping stove and her aunts would light bonfires on the beach. She also recalled how soldiers on horseback kept watch for German submarines during World War II.

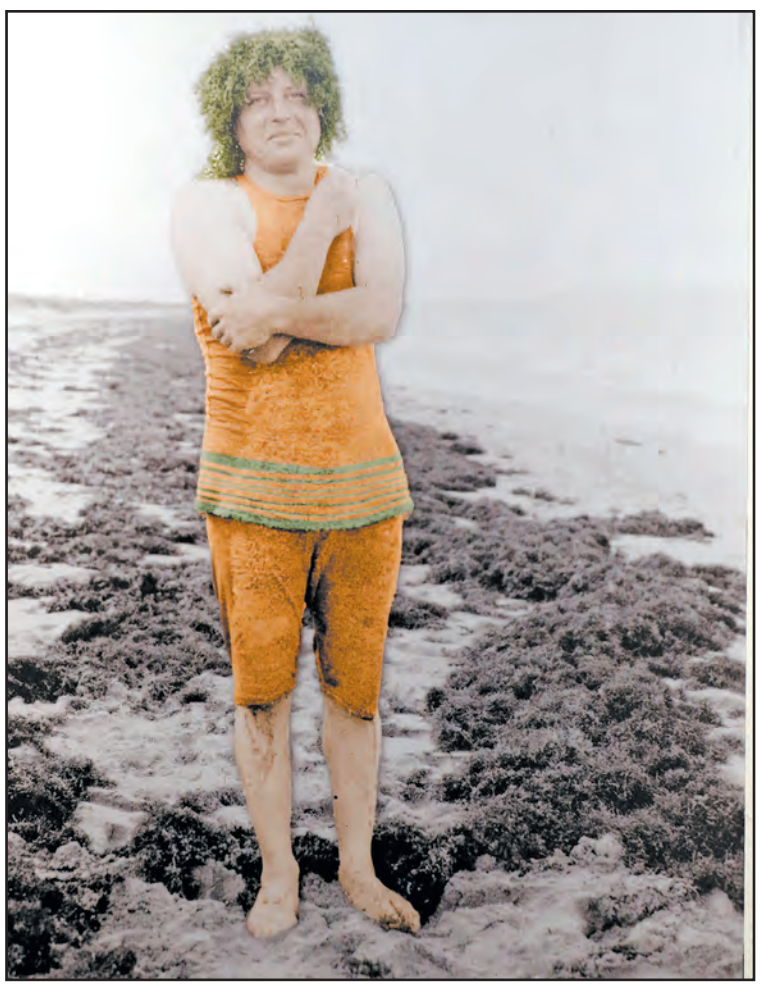
Like her grandfather, her father's name stuck with Delray Beach. It's on the same vibrant commercial boulevard, Atlantic Avenue. But Ben Sundy Memorial Highway heads in the other direction — from the city limits west to Florida's Turnpike. ★

Boca Raton

City's beach life gets historical perspective

By Ruth Santana





LEFT: Hand-colored photos recall a more innocent era of the city's beach-going past. **RIGHT:** Sargassum on the beach — and this man's head — was seasonal back then as it is now. **Photos provided by the Boca Raton Historical Society**

The crashing waves, the salty breeze, and the distant cry of seagulls — one can't help but think of the beach when thinking of Boca Raton.

Since the city's establishment, the coastline's white-sand beaches and clear blue waters have attracted tourists, businesses and innovation.

The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum's new temporary exhibit, "Life's a Beach," pays it homage.

Susan Gillis, the museum curator and honorary historical society member, masterminded this exhibit. With only a month to plan, decorate and source material, Gillis, along with her assistant Amanda Capote, was able to scour the museum's extensive collection and select the best items to commemorate the city's unique history with its coast.

"Well, it's our mission to share Boca Raton history, and we like to make it entertaining as well as educational for people," Gillis said.

Upon entering the room, visitors are greeted with a photo stand-in of a woman in a vintage bikini, a man in a bathing costume with seaweed for hair, and a crab. This colorful prop sets the tone of the exhibit.

As visitors walk around the room, they can see hand-tinted photo murals from the 1920s to the 1960s of young people enjoying the beach, a group of Army men from World War II posing for a picture, and colorful residents goofing around.

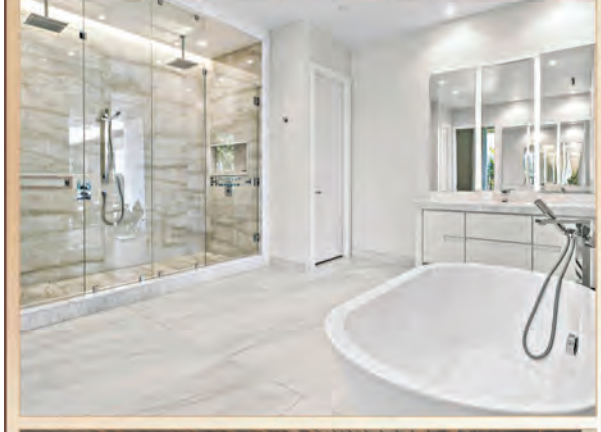
In a large glass display case near the entrance, guests can see vintage bathing suits for both men and women from the 1920s, 1930s and 1950s — loaned from the History Fort Lauderdale museum — displaying how fashion changed from the conservative swim dresses with stockings to more modern one-piece bathing suits and swim trunks.

"Seeing the vintage suits, I think, really brings home [that] people enjoyed the beach back in the 1920s and here's the goofy

Continued on the next page



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suits they had to wear," Gillis said.

The exhibit also displays pieces by Addison Mizner, an important architect and designer during the Florida boom in the 1920s. Furniture such as headboards from the Cloister Inn, a cast stone depiction of a Spanish coat of arms, and a Mediterranean-inspired light fixture are scattered around the room.

Memorabilia from once popular resorts and restaurants reflect Boca Raton's appeal to tourists. Photos and postcards from the Cabana Club (1930-1931), Hermansen's restaurant (1956), the Beach Club at the Boca Raton Hotel and Club (1980-1983), and Sabal Point Condominiums (1970) can be seen in a small clear box near the back of the room.

"Stuff left over from the Cabana Club … puts a perspective on the time my grandfather lived during World War II and the 1960s," said Nicholas Special, a city resident and a Florida Atlantic University graduate student. "The history of the beach that people tend to overlook is very important to telling the city's history."

Although the exhibit is temporary, it is connected to some of the museum's permanent rooms, such as the World War II, IBM and Addison Mizner exhibits, displaying how the coastline not only attracted vacationers, but also military prowess, technological advancement and architectural ingenuity.

"I think the exhibition just symbolizes what a vibrant community we have and what a committed community," said Zoe Lanham, historical society board member and vice president of The Addison. "I hope when people visit, they are not only proud of … the history, but also … a place where future generations can come together." ★

If You Go

The "Life's a Beach" exhibit is on display until Feb. 27. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday at 71 N. Federal Highway. $12; free the first Saturday of the month. The historical society will also host events such as Mahjong on Nov. 9 and 17 and a "Guided Tour of The Boca Raton" on Nov. 10 and 24. More information on these events can be found at bocahistory.org





Business Spotlight

Boca Raton hospital cuts ribbon on new patient tower

Four years after breaking ground, Baptist Health South Florida recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Gloria Drummond Patient Tower at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, which is scheduled to open in the next few weeks.

Part of the $1.1 billion total expansion of the campus, the tower adds 216 private patient rooms and 20 surgical suites. Additionally, the new tower introduces a 16-bed cardiac intensive care unit.

Amenities include an on-site pharmacy, gift shop, indoor-outdoor restaurant, chapel and a dedicated Shabbat room. With the expansion, the hospital houses a total of 561 beds.



The Gloria Drummond Patient Tower at Boca Raton Regional Hospital adds 216 private patient rooms and 20 surgical suites. **Rendering provided**

Jeff Greene sold the 134-room **Tideline Palm Beach Ocean Resort**, **2842 S. Ocean Blvd.**, **Palm Beach**, for $150 million.

The deed, recorded Sept. 22, reflected $112.61 million in real estate value. The balance covered non-real estate assets such as furniture, artwork and equipment as well as intangibles, like the hotel's branding.

"I owned it for 15 years. It was great to own it, but it's a lot of work running and operating a business, and we wish the new buyer the best of luck with it," Greene said.

He said he had put in "at least $20 million and that was just in the renovations. We put a lot into it, a lot of work and 15 years of a lot of sweat equity. Plus we put a lot of cash into it — tens of millions of dollars to make it like a new hotel."

The deed names the buyer as PB S Ocean Blvd. Owner LLC, a Delaware-registered limited liability company. *The Real Deal* reported that the buyer is an affiliate of Fort Partners, a real estate and hospitality firm. Another Fort Partners affiliate owns the Four Seasons Palm Beach Resort immediately north of the Tideline property.

Greene said that **Eastdil Secured Savills** brokered the sale.



London-based Christopher Rokos sold an ocean-to-Intracoastal Waterway estate at **1370 S. Ocean Blvd.**, **Manalapan**, for $83.2 million. The buyer was BigOcean 3M Land Trust, with BigOcean 3M LLC.

Bank of America provided a $58.24 million mortgage to the borrower, which had Rebecca Francus sign the document as the manager. The 18,360-square-foot home was built on a 2.83-acre site in 1972. Rokos is the CEO of hedge fund Rokos Capital Management. **Jack Elkins** of **William Raveis Real Estate** represented the seller in the deal. **Rosalind Clarke** of **Premier Estate Properties** worked with the buyer.

James Batmasian expanded his **Boca Raton** holdings with the purchase of an office building for $38.15 million and a retail/office complex for $4.5 million in a package deal. In the larger transaction, 595 Financial Plaza LLC, managed by Boca Raton resident John H. Slavik, sold the 249,794-square-foot office building at **555 S. Federal Highway** to 595 Federal Investments LLC, care of Investments Ltd., led by Batmasian. It last sold for $33.2 million in 2014. Slavik's 880 Palmetto LLC sold the 4,000-square-foot retail/office complex at **880 E. Palmetto Park Road** to Batmasian's 880 EPPR Investments LLC. It last sold for $2.6 million in 2017.

Salvatore Calvino, a founder and head of private equity firm Equivu Capital, and his wife, Karen, sold their 12,055-square-foot home at **2989 Spanish River Road**, **Boca Raton**, for $22.5 million. The new owner is 2989 SRRT LLC, managed by attorney Scott C. Ford in Boston. **Matthew Moser** and **Nicholas Gonzalez** of the **Matt and Nick Team** at **Serhant** brokered the deal.

Big Ben FL LLC, led by Mark Benjamin in West Newton, Massachusetts, purchased a waterfront home at **35 Spoonbill Road**, **Manalapan,** for $17.25 million. Rocket Mortgage provided an $11.21 million second home loan. The seller was homebuilder Ocean Blue Custom Homes, which had purchased the 0.36-acre lot for $3 million in 2022. It's located in a basin of the Intracoastal Waterway. **Gary Pohrer** of **Serhant** represented the seller in the deal, while **Chad Carroll** of the **Chad Carroll Group** at **Compass Florida** worked with the buyer.

A trust led by attorney William Mark Lanier, the head of a trial law firm in Houston, sold an 8,109-square-foot home at **133 W. Coconut Palm Road**, in the **Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton**, for $15.65 million. The buyer was the 133 W. Coconut Palm Road Trust, with attorney Manuel Farach as trustee. The home, which is on a 0.37-acre site along a canal leading to the Intracoastal Waterway, last traded new for $11.45 million in 2019. **David Roberts** of **Royal Palm Properties** represented both sides in the deal.

After departing Delray Beach in 2018, the New York-based company **ABC Carpet & Home** has returned to South Florida, leasing an 18,246-square-foot showroom at **601 N. Federal Highway**, **Boca Raton**. **Ripco Real Estate's Jeremy Modest** and **Ryan Tucker** represented ABC Carpet & Home in the transaction. **Daron Tersakyan** of Boca Raton-based **Investments Ltd.** was the listing agent for the building, which is owned by 601 Federal Investments LLC, managed by James Batmasian in Boca Raton.

Procacci Development Group has submitted preliminary plans to the city of Boca Raton for a nine-story, mixed-use building at **95** and **51 S. Federal Highway**. The project would total about 249,448 square feet, with 84 residential units, 8,494 square feet of retail and restaurant space, and 8,580 square feet of office space. It would have two below-ground parking structures: one self-park and one fully automated valet. Plans also include landscaping and hardscape improvements.

The proposal was on the agenda for the city's Planning Advisory Review meeting on Sept. 8. The developer is seeking an individual development approval. A preliminary submission is meant to get general staff comments and may or may not lead to a formal application. Miskel Backman LLP represents the developer, and Senior Planner Jacob

German is the assigned city staff member.

Procacci bought 95 S. Federal Highway in 2012 for $2.75 million. This 0.58-acre site is the company's corporate office. Procacci bought 51 S. Federal Highway, a strip of shops with parking behind on 0.54 acres, for $6 million in December 2025.

PBP Real Estate, 700 NW Seventh Drive in Boca Raton, has built an online housing data clearing house, covering 83 South Florida cities across five counties that refreshes every morning with numbers for buyers and owners. To access this free tool, visit pbprealestate.com/data/.

Discover the Palm Beaches, the county's tourism marketing organization, announced in September that the county welcomed 6.09 million visitors during the first six months of the year, up 6.4% from the same period in 2025.

Domestic visitor numbers rose 8.6% year over year during the first half of 2026. New York remained Palm Beach County's largest domestic source market, up 7.1%; Washington, D.C., increased 8.7%, Philadelphia rose 8.4% and Atlanta grew 5.4%. Dallas and Houston recorded some of the biggest gains, up 23.3% and 20.6%. International numbers increased 6% compared with the first half of 2025. Colombia led that growth with a 28.6% increase; the United Kingdom, up 21.8%; and Brazil, up 11.8%.

Canadian visitor numbers also increased despite a broader decline across Florida. Bucking a statewide decline, Palm Beach County saw a 1.8% increase in the first half of the year, while Florida fell 13.9%. The gap widened during the second quarter, when Canadian tourism to the county increased 12.5%, and Florida declined 4.2%.

Room night revenue totaled $918 million during the first half of 2026, an 11% increase from a year earlier. Average occupancy was 77%.

Florida Atlantic University won a $200,000 grant from the **U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology**. The money will go toward helping prepare students and professionals for new cybersecurity challenges related to quantum computers.

This comes as FAU gets ready to bring a powerful new quantum computer to its Boca Raton campus and expand hands-on education and training in the field.

The initiative will be led by **Yufei Tang**, an FAU electrical engineering and computer science professor and director of the FPL Center for Intelligent Energy Technologies.

PlanRev.ai, a new software company led by CEO **Shane Laakso** and general counsel **Erin Deady**, sponsored and exhibited at the Florida Association of Counties Innovation & Policy Conference in Jacksonville. PlanRev.ai uses artificial intelligence to check development plans against a city's or county's own rules. This helps local governments review plans faster and more consistently, while still keeping control of final decisions.

The company's tools are already being used by local governments and consultants for commercial, mixed use, marinas, single-family homes and other development projects.

Florida Atlantic University moved up to No. 99 for the first time in the **U.S. News & World Report** 2027 rankings of "Top Public Schools," a one-spot gain over last year. Florida Atlantic also earned a No. 68 ranking among "Best Value Schools for In-state Students" in the National Universities category, a new ranking introduced for 2027.

A.D. Henderson University School and **Florida Atlantic University High School** combined to rank No. 1 nationally and in Florida among "Best Public K-12 Schools," in **Niche.com's** 2027 rankings. This is the first time that FAU Lab Schools have earned the nation's top K-12 spot. Niche, a website that researches public and private K-12 schools, evaluated 1,903 schools across the country.

Individually, FAU High rose eight spots to No. 15 in the "Best Public High School" category. The school also ranked No. 5 in the country for "Best College Prep Public High School." In Florida, FAU High moved up to No. 2 in both the "Best Public High School" and "Best College Prep Public High School" categories. FAU Lab Schools' educators ranked No. 1 for "Best Teachers in Florida" at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

American Heritage Schools announced that 30 seniors from the Palm Beach Campus, Delray Beach, were named **National Merit Scholar** semifinalists. Another 64 seniors were honored as **National Commended Scholars**. The Palm Beach Campus leads Palm Beach County as the school with the highest number of National Merit Scholar semifinalists, and is second among schools in Florida.

TMGOC Ventures, a Boca Raton hospitality real estate investment firm, changed its name to the **Montford Group** in September. Founded in 2022 by Sunju Patel and Glenn Alba, the firm announced that its ownership, leadership, investment strategy, and portfolio are unchanged.

Montford Group manages about $1.5 billion in investments and development projects, covering more than 4,233 hotel rooms. The properties are affiliated with Marriott International, the Ritz-Carlton, Autograph Collection, Moxy by Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt and Accor's Fairmont.

Three startups joined the **Global Ventures** program at the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University**. They are: **BANKIRR** (short for Bank Interest Rate Research), a platform that helps homebuyers and investors upload a mortgage loan estimate and receive a competing offer within one business day; **Novprox LLC**, a nutrition technology company that makes low-cost, long-lasting foods from climate-resilient ingredients; and **Vesica Pulse Sensing**, a medical device company founded by a former U.S. Food and Drug Administration official.

Two businesses that joined the research park in 2025 are also expanding: **Standard Space Antennas**, a maker of high-performance antennas for satellites and space missions, and **CloudLabs**, an education technology company.



Smallwood



Burns



Fine



Balser

The **Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce** announced a set of changes to its board of directors and staff as it heads into 2027. **Andrea Smallwood**, a financial adviser with **Northwestern Mutual** who has served as chair of the Chamber's board of directors since April 2026, will hold the position into 2027. **Mark Burns** of **BlueIvy Communications** was named the incoming board chair and will take over the role at the close of Smallwood's term. Smallwood succeeded **Shaun Hall**, who continues to serve on the board. **Jeffrey Fine**, director of sales at **iThink Financial**, will join the board as a director. The Chamber also announced the hiring of **Justin Balser** as membership director.

The **Boynton Beach Chamber of Industry & Commerce,** in partnership with **Intention Enterprises** and The **Nexus Suites of Boynton Beach,** organized a back-to-school supply drive that benefited Poinciana Elementary School in Boynton Beach.

Christine Roberts, founder and CEO of Intention Enterprises and executive vice president of the Boynton Beach Chamber, said, "By partnering with local businesses and organizations, the Chamber was able to turn member participation into direct support for students and educators at Poinciana Elementary School."



Roberts

Roberts was also appointed to the Boynton Beach Library Advisory Board by the mayor and City Commission. She also serves on the Palm Beach County Small Business Development Advisory Board.

Four Sparrows Mahjong recently opened at **328 Plaza Real** in Boca Raton's **Mizner Park**, offering open-play tables, classes, private event space and a boutique of mahjong tiles, racks, mats and other accessories. Four Sparrows was founded by four sisters: **Andrea Reid, Michelle McGovern, Cristina Crenshaw** and **Danielle Catsman**. Their love of mahjong grew from playing with their mother, Arlene Oyola, around her kitchen table.

"Mahjong has this wonderful way of bringing people together," said Reid, a family law attorney. "You sit down to play, but before long you're talking, laughing and making memories. We wanted to create a place that captures that feeling, somewhere beautiful and fun, but also relaxed enough that anyone can walk in and feel welcome."

Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, call 561-218-4958 or visit foursparrowsmahj.com.

Parlor Doughnuts is now open at **9 Plaza Real S., Suite 108**, **Boca Raton**, offering its layered doughnuts along with gluten-friendly, vegan and keto options. Parlor also serves coffee and breakfast and brunch items that include avocado toast, acai bowls and breakfast tacos. "We want to create a space where neighbors can connect, laugh, and feel welcome over our crafted doughnuts," say the owners, **Corey Elwell** and **Ben Boulet**. Each Parlor Doughnuts franchise location features a unique local graphic inside the shop.

Parlor's ownership group is also passionate about giving back, especially through supporting active military members, veterans and first responders. Hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Marjorie Waldo, president and CEO of the Delray Beach nonprofit **Arts Garage**, is a finalist for Female Executive of the Year (Government or Nonprofit/ 11 to 2,500 Employees category) in the **23rd annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business**. Finalists were chosen from more than 1,500 nominations worldwide, scored by more than 190 professionals on seven juries. All finalists will receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze Stevie Award, to be announced at a banquet on Nov. 16 in New York City.

Waldo has led Arts Garage since November 2016 when the organization was in financial distress. She paid off its debt, brought in new sources of revenue, and rebuilt trust with donors. Arts Garage now presents more than 300 programs a year to more than 31,000 patrons from nearly 150 cities across 18 states. It generates an estimated $3.8 million in local economic impact each year. In 2024, when statewide cultural funding shifted, Waldo led a community campaign that kept programming and staff in place.

In December 2025, the City Commission voted to give Arts Garage $270,000 to support it through summer 2027.



Send business news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.



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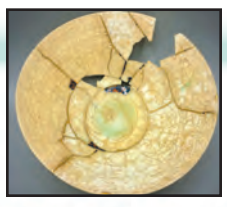


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INSIDE: The Arts Paper



Two artists use traditional techniques in new ways at Morikami. Page AT17

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November 2026

The Coastal Star

Philanthropy Season Preview



Volunteers distribute food at a drive-through as part of Boca Helping Hands' Pantry Bag Program, which operates 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily except Sundays in east Boca Raton. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star BELOW:** Friendship Baptist Church was where Boca Helping Hands began in 1998. **Photo provided**

The helped and helpers tell how Boca Helping Hands nourishes bodies, fuels dreams, changes lives

What began as a soup kitchen in a Baptist church has become a mammoth endeavor, and most of the people it serves are not homeless or unemployed

By Ron Hayes

On a Tuesday morning in September, Audra Wolfman pulled her car up to a canopy tent outside the Boca Helping Hands headquarters on Northwest First Court in Boca Raton and popped the trunk.

A volunteer added a bag of food and a box of produce and Wolfman pulled away.

And then another car pulled up. And another. And another.

The procession had begun at 9:15 that morning. When the distribution ended at 12:30 that afternoon, about 200 people had left with bags of food and boxes of produce to supplement their pantries.

The bags held cans of pinto beans, protein bowls, sourdough bread, cream of chicken soup, tomato sauce, Powerade. The boxes held frozen meat or fish, perhaps frozen pizza or dairy



products.

On Wednesday morning another line would form. And Thursday. And Friday.

Monday through Saturday, the cars line up so Boca Helping Hands can offer people like Wolfman a helping hand.



Wolfman

"I haven't been here in seven or eight years," said Wolfman, 60. "A long time. I don't like to take advantage, but I'm not working at the moment, and I take care of my mom. She's 80, so this is an opportunity to help with a little extra food. I'm very grateful."

Last year, Boca Helping Hands distributed 115,790 of those bags and boxes.

Philanthropy coverage
An expanded look at this season's opportunities to give. Pages AT2-AT14

Growing from a modest start

In November 1998, a small group of area churches and synagogues opened a soup kitchen, handing hot meals out the door at Friendship Baptist Church on Northeast Second Court.

That first day, they handed out 36 meals.

Last year, Boca Helping Hands distributed 3.5 million meals, divided among 40,000 people. This year it expects to offer 5.3 million meals. And that number doesn't begin to celebrate all the programs and services the 28-year-old nonprofit provides at five area sites.

While volunteers with the Pantry Bag Program were loading cars, a line of men and women waited not far away for hot takeaway meals. Some were homeless, some were not; some had jobs, some didn't. The meals were offered with no questions asked.

Every Friday, about 1,900 children in 15 schools

See **HELPING HANDS** on page **AT6**

Pay It Forward

Open house to showcase products of work from women in recovery

By Lou Ann Frala

Second chances are ubiquitous in life. Famous stories abound. Martha Stewart. Robert Downey Jr. James Taylor. Ebenezer Scrooge? OK, he's fictional, but he's the poster miser for second chances.

In Boca Raton, Her Second Chance employs women in the early stages of recovery from substance abuse in the manufacture of high-quality, branded merchandise.

The H2C line includes mugs and tumblers, soy candles, printed T-shirts, charm bracelets, custom logo items, greeting cards and more. See and shop nearly 300 products at the Her2ndChance store at Etsy.com.

"We believe when people work, it increases the chances their recovery will, too," said Marie Speed, a new member of the Her Second Chance board of directors.

"That's why we provide paid jobs in a safe and supportive environment designed to empower women early in their recovery journey to rebuild pride, resilience and self-sufficiency."

It's all part of the Bridge to Employment program.

"The women we employ have overcome significant obstacles in their lives, ranging from childhood abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder, to addiction and homelessness, yet each maintains the belief that as long as they work hard, they can create brighter futures," founder Keely Copeland says on the Her2ndchance.org website.

Her own story echoes her words. She founded H2C in 2018 as her own second chance from alcoholism took root.

The organization has hired more than 100 women during that time.

Her Second Chance is inviting the community to its annual open house from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Nov. 12 at its headquarters, 3100 NW Boca Raton Blvd., Suite 312.

The event will feature the announcement of a premium product line focused on quality, customer service and value.

Guests will have a chance to tour the workspace and meet the women who have embraced their second chances. The event is free and open to the public and will include music, light bites and coffee.

'It's a chance for us to say thank you to members of the community who already know us, and also to introduce ourselves to people who are hearing about us for the first time," said Sarah Lucas, of Delray Beach.

Lucas is an original board member of Her Second Chance and is herself in recovery for 18 years. ★

If You Go

What: Her Second Chance annual open house
When: 5:30-7 p.m. Nov. 12
Where: 3100 NW Boca Raton Blvd., Suite 312, Boca Raton
Admission: Free
Info: 561-405-6346; RSVP via the QR code at facebook.com/Her2ndChanceInc/



Women fashion custom mugs in the Her Second Chance workspace in Boca Raton. **Photo provided by Carina Mask**

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 10/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

NOVEMBER

Saturday - 11/7 - Boca's Ballroom Battle 2026 at The Boca Raton's Grand Ballroom, 501 E. Camino Real. 6 pm. Ballroom and Supporting sponsorships still available. 561-347-6799 x114; scholarship.org/events or ballroombattle.com

Sunday - 11/8 - Milagro Center's Boots and Beats at The Loft at Congress, 530 NW 77th St, Boca Raton. Featuring DJ & dancing, bbq, drinks, silent auction. 6-9 pm. $75. 561-279-2970; milagrocenter.org/event/boots-and-beats

Monday - 11/9 - The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County presents Author Talk with Nikki Erlick, bestselling author of "The Measure" and "The Poppy Fields," at FAU's MacArthur Campus, OLLI Auditorium, 5353 Parkside Drive, Bldg. PA-134, Jupiter. 6:30 pm. Tickets $50. VIP reception with the author is $100. 561-279-9103 or LiteracyPBC.org

Wednesday - 11/11 - Raise a Glass for the Y at NOBO Brewing, 2901 Commerce Park Drive, Boynton Beach. 6-8 p.m. $40 for two drinks, bites and raffle access (tickets extra). 561-395-9622 or ymcaspbc.org

Thursday - 11/12 - 12th Annual Hero's Toast Champagne Luncheon at Benvenuto, 1730 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Guest speaker: Pastor Chris Edmonds. 10:30 am. 561-369-3922; forgottensoldiers.org

11/12 - Her Second Chance Annual Open House at its headquarters, 3100 N.W. Boca Raton Blvd., Suite 312. The organization will celebrate "Growth, Impact and the Partners Who Make It Possible." 5:30-7 pm. Free. 561-405-6346 or her2ndchance.org

Friday - 11/13 - Fuller Center's Wee Dream Ball at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. 6-11 pm. $425. Registration ends Monday, Nov. 9. 561-391-7274, Ext. 134, or secure.qgiv.com

11/13 - Palm Beach State College's Emerald Torch Awards Gala at The Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa, 100 South Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. 6 pm. Tickets $450; table sponsorships $5,000. Andria Cunningham at cunninga@PBSC.edu or www.pbsc.edu/events/torch-awards/index.php

Thursday - 11/19 - YMCA of South Palm Beach's Annual Giving Campaign Victory Party for donors, volunteers and community partners at Elevate at The Opal Grand, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. 6-9 p.m. Contact Heather Dupree at Hdupree@ymcaspbc.org

11/19 - The Lord's Place 19th Annual Ending Homelessness Breakfast at the Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. "It Starts Here" will recognize Kate Grangard with the Ending Homelessness Award. 7:30-9:30 am. Tickets start at $100. 561-494-0125 or Thelordsplace.org/ending-homelessness-breakfast

Sunday - 11/29 - Boca Helping Hands Rock the Relief: Holiday Giving Celebration (Hunger Knows No Holiday) at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 6 pm. Tickets start at $15. 561-417-0913 or bocahelpinghands.org

Monday - 11/30 - The Salvation Army of Palm Beach County's Third Annual Twelve Trees of Christmas at The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. Reception, silent auction and luncheon. 11:30 am-2:30 pm. Tickets $425. Email michelle.rodriguez@uss.salvationarmy.org or visit westpalmbeach.salvationarmyflorida.org

DECEMBER

Tuesday - 12/1 - Dreyfoos School of The Arts Foundation Annual Prism Dinner and Concert at Dreyfoos Hall at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 5 pm cocktails; 7 pm dinner. Tickets $750. 561-805-6298. www.dreamsofdreyfoos.com

Wednesday - 12/2 - The Last Save / HeroPicks Leadership VIP Dinner at Matteo's, 233 S. Federal Highway, Boca Raton, to benefit The Last Save's new veterans branch with its focus on mental health, trauma and addiction. 6-9 pm. Tickets start at $150 for veterans, $250 for nonveterans. 602-616-7318 or https://www.thelastsave.com/events-1/the-last-save-vip-dinner-boca-raton-leadership-resilience-recovery

Monday - 12/7 - Palm Beach Symphony — Annual Holly Jolly Symphony Fête: Celebrating 10 years at the Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 10:30 am. Tickets $300, includes luncheon. Holiday attire. 561-568-0265.Email Hulya Selcuk hselcuk@palmbeachsymphony.org

Tuesday - 12/8 - YMCA of the Palm Beaches 17th Annual Prayer Breakfast at The Breakers Palm Beach, 1 South County Road, Palm Beach. The keynote speaker is Jesse Palmer, host of ABC's "The Bachelor" franchise, Florida Gator and NFL quarterback, college football analyst and host of Food Network's Holiday Baking Championships. 8 am. Tickets begin at $250. Contact Joely Pique, 561-508-4031 or jpique@ymcapalmbeaches.org

Wednesday - 12/9 - JARC Florida presents Fashion Show with a Heart at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. A luncheon, shopping and fashion show. 10 am. Tickets start at $125. 561-558-2550 or jarcfl.org

Sunday - 12/13 - Compass GLCC's 24th annual "Cocktails for Compass" at Club Colette, 215 Peruvian Ave., Palm Beach. 6-9 pm. Tickets start at $650. compasslgbtq.com/cocktailsforcompass/

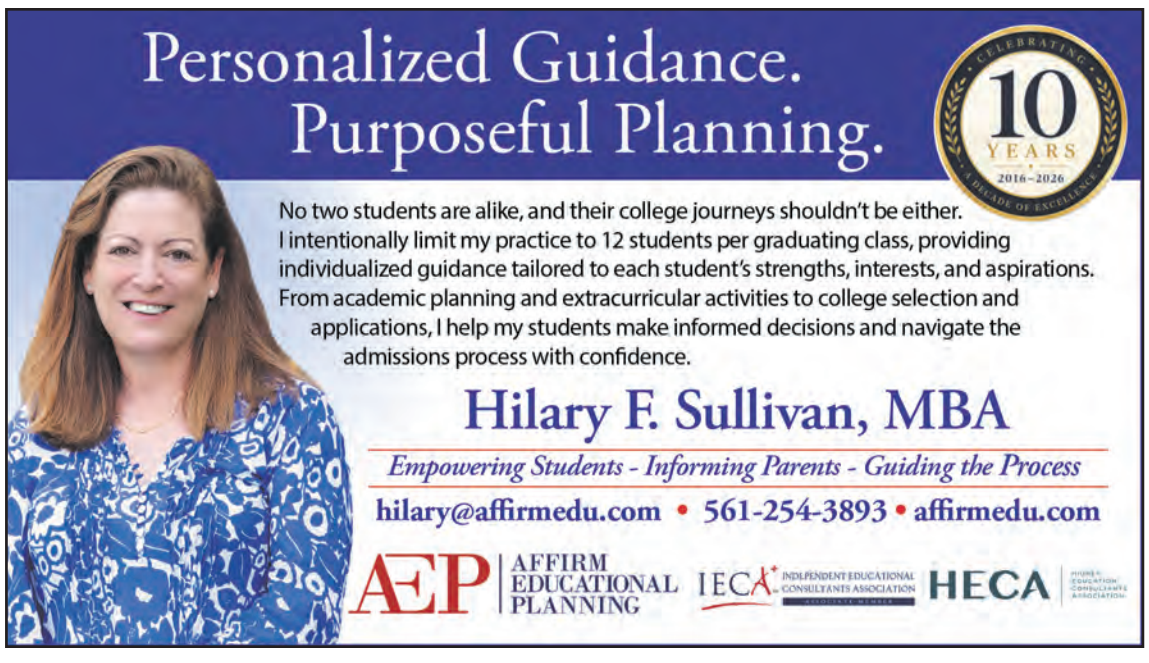
JANUARY

Friday - 1/ 8 - The 66th International Red Cross Ball at The Breakers, 1 South County Road, Palm Beach. 6:30 pm. Tickets are waitlist only at e.givesmart.com/events/Q3m/White tie optional. 561-607-8031

Monday - 1/18 - Palm Beach Opera Guild's 65th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Opera Interlude in honor of the first opera of the season: Verdi's "Aida," at the Four Seasons, 2800 South Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach. 6 pm. Cocktail attire. Ticket information at 561-324-8719 or 561.835.7569. Info@pboperaguild.org

Thursday - 1/28 - Ballet Palm Beach's "All That Glitters" annual dinner dance at The Breakers, 1 South County Road, Palm Beach. 6 pm. Tickets start at $1,450. 561-630-8235

Friday - 1/29 - 20th Anniversary Laugh with the Library gala for the Delray Beach Public Library at The Opal Grand Resort, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. 7:30-11 pm. Tickets $425 thru Dec. 31, $500 after. No tickets at the door. 561-266-0194. delraylibrary.org/laugh/







You're long-time residents of South Palm Beach County. How have you seen its civic needs change?

Back in 1992, South Palm Beach County's growth was steady, manageable and its civic needs were predictable. About a decade ago, growth accelerated, placing greater strain on infrastructure and services. The pandemic dramatically intensified these trends, driving rapid in-migration, housing pressure, and increased demand on public systems. Civic needs are now more complex, requiring proactive, data-driven planning and stronger coordination to remain sustainable.

Strong communities support the less fortunate. What causes do you personally find most compelling and why?

We believe strong communities are defined by how well they support those with the least margin for error. We're drawn to causes that address structural gaps, especially education and youth development that level the playing field early and deliver measurable, long-term impact. We value locally rooted, outcome-driven organizations that prioritize lives changed over dollars raised. The Y exemplifies that commitment through accountability, dignity, and lasting community investment.

You've donated to the YMCA. What was the focus of your investment and why did you pick the Y as a vehicle for that gift?

This was not a donation. It was an investment. Cathy and I chose the Y for its measurable, scalable impact at the intersection of youth development, family stability, and community health. The Y delivers quantifiable outcomes through education, childcare, and preventative health programs, while remaining deeply embedded locally. Its accountability, operational rigor, and focus on lives changed rather than dollars raised make it a durable vehicle for strengthening the community.

How would you describe the YMCA's community role to someone who's just moved into the area?

The Y is a core operating institution, not a peripheral nonprofit. It stabilizes the community by providing childcare, youth programs, wellness, and preventative health services that support families, workforce participation, and public health. The Y is also one of the few truly inclusive spaces, connecting people across income levels and backgrounds through means-tested access. For newcomers, it's where community becomes functional and preventative, not reactive.

BUILDING POSSIBILITIES

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE
YMCA OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY

For information on the YMCA of South Palm Beach County's multi-year initiative, visit:

Philanthropy Notes

Boca Raton Historical Society names Walk of Recognition honorees

The Boca Raton Historical Society and The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum have announced the 2026 inductees into the Walk of Recognition: philanthropists Marilyn Simon Weinberg and Jay Weinberg, business and civic leader John W. Temple, and community advocate Doris Marie Hester.

They were to be celebrated on Nov. 4, at the 30th annual Walk of Recognition, an event marking three decades of honoring people whose leadership and generosity have helped to shape Boca Raton.

Inductees are commemorated with granite stars and etched summaries in Mizner Plaza at Royal Palm Place.

"Thirty years ago, I wanted Boca Raton to have a place where the people who quietly do extraordinary things for this city could be remembered — not just for a moment, but for good," said Marta Batmasian, founder of the Walk of Recognition. "Marilyn and Jay, John, and Marie — each represent that spirit beautifully, and I can't think of a better class to mark our 30th year."



Hester



Temple



J. Weinberg



M. Weinberg

Achievement Centers celebrates teens at dinner

Achievement Centers for Children & Families hosted its scholarship celebration dinner on Sept. 10, bringing together students, families, donors and supporters to recognize four graduates from the ACCF Teen Program as they begin their next chapter.

Scholarship recipients Kamiyah Crometie, Shawn Promaphil, Guerre Faudrois and Marie Vandome spoke to guests about how the program helped prepare them for life after high school.

Crometie is studying criminal justice with a focus on crime scene technology at Palm Beach State College.

Promaphil, who graduated from high school with a 3.5 GPA, is enrolled in the Electrical Power Technology program at Palm Beach State College.

Faudrois, who has been part of ACCF for three years, is studying dental hygiene at Palm Beach State College.

Vandome is pursuing cosmetology at Boca Beauty Academy.

FLoatarama helps groups focused on LGBTQ youth

Eight South Florida nonprofits that provide programs and services for LGBTQ youth received grants from FLoatarama.

"At FLoatarama, we believe every young person deserves to feel supported, valued and empowered to reach their full potential," said Scott Schramm, president of FLoatarama. "These grants represent more than financial support. They are an investment in the organizations showing up for LGBTQ youth every day, providing mentorship, safe spaces, creative opportunities and the resources to help them thrive."

FLoatarama is known as Pride on the Water. It's a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization based in Fort Lauderdale that raises awareness and money to support youth in South Florida who identify as LGBTQ+.

The grants, ranging from $10,000 to $20,000, will support the following organizations and programs:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County, Big Pride: GSA group mentoring;
- Equality Empower Center, EmpowerU: LGBTQ+ Youth Care & Advocacy Program;
- The Humanity Project, Abuse and Anti-Bullying Program;
- Out My Closet, "The Spot," a creative resource and empowerment hub for LGBTQ+ youth;
- Prism Florida, content creation task force;
- SAVE LGBTQ, Save Young Leaders Program;
- South Florida Pride Bands, Pride Youth Band, Pride Youth Jazz Band and the fifth annual FLoatarama soloist competition; and
- SunServe, youth peer support and resilience group.

FLoatarama's grant review committee evaluated a record 30 applications, underscoring both the growing need for LGBTQ youth services and the breadth of organizations working to meet those needs across South Florida.

Since its founding six years ago, FLoatarama has awarded $532,000 through its LGBTQ Youth Fund, managed by its philanthropic partner, The Our Fund Foundation.



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

Imagine YOUR Donation 100 TIMES over!

That's the POWER of IMPACT.

Impact 100 Palm Beach County launched its 2026–2027 giving season on October 21 with a spirited Fall Kickoff at Neiman Marcus Boca Raton. More than 200 women attended, bringing together members and guests to celebrate the collective power of women transforming their community.

Fashion illustrator Amanda Perna sketched members and guests, creating personalized keepsakes that added a stylish touch to the festivities. Luxury raffle items generously donated by Neiman Marcus heightened the excitement, making for a lively evening that inspired a record number of membership renewals and new members.

The celebration set an enthusiastic tone for the year ahead, connecting women through a shared commitment to supporting nonprofits serving southern Palm Beach County. Since its founding, Impact 100 PBC has awarded 137 grants and invested more than $8.5 million in the community. By pooling individual $1,000 donations, members fund transformational $100,000 grants across five focus areas: Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation; Education; Environment & Animal Welfare; Family; and Health & Wellness.

The evening was made possible through the generosity of host Neiman Marcus Boca Raton, exclusive media sponsor The Boca Raton Observer, audiovisual partner MIG (Multi Image Group), and Signature Event Sponsors Kathy Adkins, Marta Batmasian, Tandy Robinson and Carrie Rubin.

Women interested in turning individual generosity into collective impact are invited to learn more by visiting us at Impact100pbc.org.

Impact100 PALM BEACH COUNTY

INSTAGRAM FACEBOOK

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Co-Presidents Elect Sue Diener & Laurie Applewhite accept their fashion illustrations from Designer Amanda Perna at 2026 Fall Kick-Off at Neiman Marcus Boca Raton.





Co-Presidents Carrie Rubin & Holly Schuttler at 2026 Fall Kick-Off at Neiman Marcus Boca Raton.

"Every event is full of giving and a shared sense of ownership for the IMPACT we are all making together." said Co-President Holly Schuttler

The Women of Impact celebrate the grand opening of the SchoolHouse Children's Museum's Florida mangroves exhibit, seeing firsthand how their grant dollars bring learning to life.

Join or Renew Today! Impact100pbc.org

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be distributed the weekend of Dec. 5

Celebrations

Witches of Delray Beach Bike Ride

Colony Hotel, Delray Beach — Oct. 24



The Wednesday Night Frights/Outcasts Football Club rode in support of the Witches Ride, the capper of a month of activities that raised nearly $60,000 for Achievement Centers for Children & Families. **LEFT:** (l-r) Tracy Backer, Nadia Davis, Jackie Owen, Ali Stamm, Hillary Jackson, Jenny Muir, Paige Eber, Amanda Maggiore and Ali Levin. **Photo provided by Debra Somerville**

'Hats Off Nonprofit Awards Day'

Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion, West Palm Beach — Oct. 15



The Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners proclaimed Oct. 15 as a day of recognition for the impact of the nonprofit sector, which included the 10th Annual Hats Off Nonprofit Awards. The proclamation paid tribute to Nonprofits First for its commitment to building a stronger nonprofit community. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Legacy of Giving Award to John and Julie Kime. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Susan Erichsen, Lauren Stiteler, Janice Brunson, Katia Saint-Preux, Marie Delva, Nonprofits First CEO Trudy Crowetz, Amelia Jadoo, Jennifer Sullivan, Mark Montgomery, Virginia Savietto, Denise Gravatt, Madison Andrews and Ethan Judge. **Photo provided by Nonprofits First**

Literacy Initiative Luncheon and Read for the Record kickoff

West Palm Beach Marriott — Sept. 16





The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County welcomed four-time Emmy Award-winning ventriloquist, singer, producer, puppeteer and author Megan Piphus Baptist as the event's guest speaker. Piphus Baptist is the author of the 2027 Read for the Record selection, 'Brave Like a Lion!' Read for the Record takes place on Feb. 25. **TOP:** (l-r) Briny Breezes Mayor Bill Birch, Piphus Baptist and Briny Breezes Alderwoman Holly Reitnauer. **INSET:** (l-r) South Palm Beach Mayor Rafael Pineiro, Piphus Baptist and South Palm Beach Town Manager Jamie Titcomb. **Photos provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

Toasts, Tastes & Trolleys 2026

The Addison, Boca Raton — Sept. 18





The Boca Raton Historical Society celebrated Boca's history with a progressive evening showcasing local food, drinks and landmarks while raising money for educational programs and preservation efforts. Visit bocahistory.org or follow @BocaHistory on social media. **TOP:** (l-r) Andrea Levine O'Rourke, Kimberly Wick and Kimberley Trombly-Burmeister. **ABOVE:** Dawn Zook and Laura Malone. **Photos provided by Polin PR**

HELPING HANDS

Continued from page **AT1**

and five summer camps go home with a KidsPack containing two meals, two cartons of milk, and two snacks to see them through the weekend when school meals aren't available.

The Helping Hands Homebound Program delivered 8,477 meals to shut-ins last year.

This year, the Thanksgiving Box Brigade will provide about 4,000 families with turkey and stuffing, cranberry sauce and yams, gravy and dehydrated potatoes.



Community members line up outside Boca Helping Hands' main facility in east Boca Raton to receive free, nutritious lunches. The nonprofit's Hot Meal Program is open 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and requires no identification or income verification from anyone seeking assistance. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



Boca Helping Hands' KidsPack program provides nutritious weekend packages to food-insecure schoolchildren and summer campers across Palm Beach County.

Serving the working poor

When Andrew Hagen retired as the senior pastor after 20 years at Boca Raton's Advent Lutheran Church, he asked himself, "What use would God want me to try next?"

In May 2025, after serving on its board for eight years, he became Boca Helping Hands' executive director, overseeing a $5 million annual budget and more than $6 million of in-kind food donations.

What began as a soup kitchen in a Baptist church is now a mammoth endeavor, and most of the people it serves are not homeless or unemployed.

"As a group, our largest number is the working poor," said Hagen, 64. "When we open the trunk to put in their boxes or bags, you'll see plumbing supplies, lawn care equipment, maids' mops. In Palm Beach County, you need to be making a minimum of $25 to $28 an hour to get by. These people are making $17 or $18 an hour."

They are people like Helana Renesto, 44, who joined the Pantry Program line three months ago after immigrating from Brazil with her husband and three children, ages 18, 12 and 10.

"My husband is a businessman, so he can work online, but I don't have a work permit, only a student permit, so this helps a lot."

Renesto is learning English through the Milo International Language Center, and the Pantry's bags and boxes compensate a bit until she can qualify for a job.

"The people are very helpful," she said. "Everyone is always so gentle and kind. This is amazing for us."



Andrew Hagen became the executive director in May 2025.

Meal Mobile expands service to Delray Beach
Page **AT8**

Developing workforce skills

Give a woman a fish and you feed her for a day.

Teach a woman how to do medical coding and billing and she can feed herself for a lifetime.

Gigi, 45, is a student in Helping Hands' workforce development program, preparing for a job in the healthcare industry. Her husband works, and they have a son, 9. Her family has received Pantry bags and boxes for two years and she's been in the workforce program a year.

"Helping Hands is paying for my books and online exams," she said. "I've earned my certification, but I still need to pass the national coding exam."

The program also offers what Hagen calls "wraparound" services, extra support while students develop their job skills.

"I took a one-week course before beginning the medical training," Gigi adds. "It covered emotional intelligence, motivation, financial literacy, job interviews. And then after I graduate they'll help with résumés.

"I'm going to take the national exam soon," she said. "But I have to be ready. It's one of the hardest exams."

In addition to medical coding, the program offers training in eight other disciplines, including drafting, nursing assistants, an electrical apprenticeship, and obtaining a commercial driver's license.

Last year, 99 men and women were enrolled in the program, and 54 found jobs.

Volunteers

Helping Hands needs a lot of hands to help, and most of them are volunteers.

In addition to 25 paid staff, the agency is supported by about 300 unpaid volunteers. Add another 400 helpers with community service groups or students earning service hours and the number is closer to 700, Hagen says.

They're in the main warehouse, packing those bags and boxes. They're across the street, putting boxes of mac 'n' cheese, granola bars and boxes of raisins into KidsPacks.

Erika Hawn began volunteering in 2012, when she was 12, packing produce boxes alongside her father. Today she is back as the agency's volunteer program manager, organizing all those volunteers.

"It's crazy," she says as they bustle around her. "Everyone is from a different background. You can volunteer without an adult if you're at least 16, so we have people from 12 up to 90. I've got one volunteer who's new to the area and just turned 100."

Last year, those volunteers donated 57,943 hours.

And then there are the corporate donors and supporters.

On Sept. 22, about 20 employees from area Publix stores were helping put boxes in trunks.

The KidsPack meals are delivered to those 15 schools by Amazon delivery drivers.

Publix, Aldi, Costco and BJ's Club donate food, and Chick-Fil-A brings chicken nuggets and waffle fries.

The sheer number of hands it takes to do all Boca Helping Hands does is stunning, but nearly three decades after those first 36 hot meals were handed out at Friendship Baptist Church, the first mission remains.

Monday through Friday, homeless people can still walk up and receive a hot takeaway meal with no questions asked.

Helping Hands' executive director, who has found what God wanted him to do next, understands.

"One day back in 1986, when I was a student at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, our assignment was to be homeless for a day," Hagen recalls.

"I stayed in a shelter, and I had to sit through the worship service, and then I got a job selling *The Chicago Tribune* on the street. And I got scared.

"Believe me, if you're not mentally ill when you become homeless, you will be. A hot meal becomes the brightest spot of their day."

Last year, Boca Helping Hands handed out 64,326 hot meals. ★

For information on how to qualify for the Pantry food distribution program and other services, visit bocahelpinghands.org or call 561-417-0913.

You can give a Thanksgiving meal to a family

For 22 years, Boca Helping Hands' Thanksgiving Box Brigade has provided thousands of area families with all they need to prepare a traditional holiday feast.

A turkey and all the fixin's — stuffing and gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, yams and more.

Last year, the Box Brigade fed 4,200 families, and it expects to do the same again this Thanksgiving, on Nov. 26.

Donors can either give the $29.72 cost for a box or fill a box themselves from a detailed shopping list.

The deadline for ordering is Monday, Nov. 16, with boxes to be distributed at Helping Hands' five locations on Saturday, Nov. 21.

For information on deadlines, pickup schedules, and how to donate, visit bocahelpinghands.org/thanksgiving.

— Ron Hayes

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The kitchen on the 42-foot bus serves hot lunches to homeless people on Tuesdays outside St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. The bus is a converted mobile command unit formerly owned by the city of Coral Springs. A shower service is also provided at the church. **Photo provided**

Philanthropy

Meal Mobile adds Delray stop

By Janis Fontaine

The homeless community in Delray Beach is getting hot lunches each Tuesday at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

The Lord's Place in West Palm Beach this year was able to add a weekly stop by its food truck, the Meal Mobile, at the church to its rotation, thanks to a grant from GL Homes.

"It's part of our mission to break the cycle of homelessness through innovative, compassionate and effective services," said Cristina Lucier, vice president of community programs for the Lord's Place.

The bus travels to sites in the county to offer hot lunches along with social services by meeting homeless people where they are.

Food is a conduit to building trust, Lucier said. It gets people in the door, where they see a team made up of others who were once homeless too.

As they searched for a place in South County to expand, the Lord's Place reached out to Judy Fenney at the Interfaith Committee for Social Services, a Boynton Beach-based nonprofit which runs an active shower ministry at St. Matthew's every Tuesday and Friday. She put them in touch with church leaders, who loved the idea.

In February, the bus began serving lunch to 20-25 people in the church parking lot following the shower and laundry ministry, Fenney said. "Our guys wait, because it's really one of the best meals they get all week."

Fenney, who with Kathleen Megan has been fighting homelessness for more than a decade, admits she was a little skeptical. "I wasn't sure how it would work, but it has been terrific. The people get a really nice hot meal, and there are social workers to help them. They've never missed a week, even when it's raining."

GL Homes has been the driving financial force behind the Meal Mobile since its inception. Through Sept. 1, the company contributed more than $800,000 to support the Meal Mobile.

Since the Meal Mobile hit the road on Sept. 18, 2023, the Lord's Place street outreach and engagement team and volunteers have served an estimated 41,750 meals. They have also connected 1,431 individuals with services and resources and provided 1,657 people with housing.

"I'm impressed by the company's commitment to helping us end homelessness," Fenney said of GL Homes. "They even wrote us a check for $10,000." ★

Publisher's Note

Stories of local charities highlight giving opportunities

Since 2008, we have been doing our best to promote philanthropic giving with the news coverage we provide in *The Coastal Star*. We are happy to share our Philanthropy Season Preview again with our readers.

This once-a-year special section is intended to promote local charitable organizations and to serve as a reminder to all of us that the end-of-the-year giving season has arrived. On the next few pages, you will see paid features and advertising packages funded by some of these organizations — and their donors — to amplify their stories and promote fundraising events.

In this month of Thanksgiving, we encourage you to give generously to help these and the other charitable organizations that make our community a better place to live.

— Jerry Lower, Publisher



JACK VICTOR

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BOCA TOWN CENTER & THE GARDENS

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https://supportfloridajournalism.com/newspaper/the-coastal-star/

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The Coastal Star

Send news tips to: news@thecoastalstar.com

Literacy Coalition

Building Better Readers with community support

Community support is at the heart of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's mission to help children and adults build stronger literacy skills. Through volunteer engagement, book distribution and educational programs, the Coalition continues its commitment to advancing literacy.

The Coalition served 73,116 adults and children last year, distributed 141,970 books and involved 1,450 volunteers and 30 Literacy AmeriCorps members to support its mission. The Coalition provides eight programs and many initiatives, but one program is pivotal when it comes to helping local children improve their reading skills.



Calder

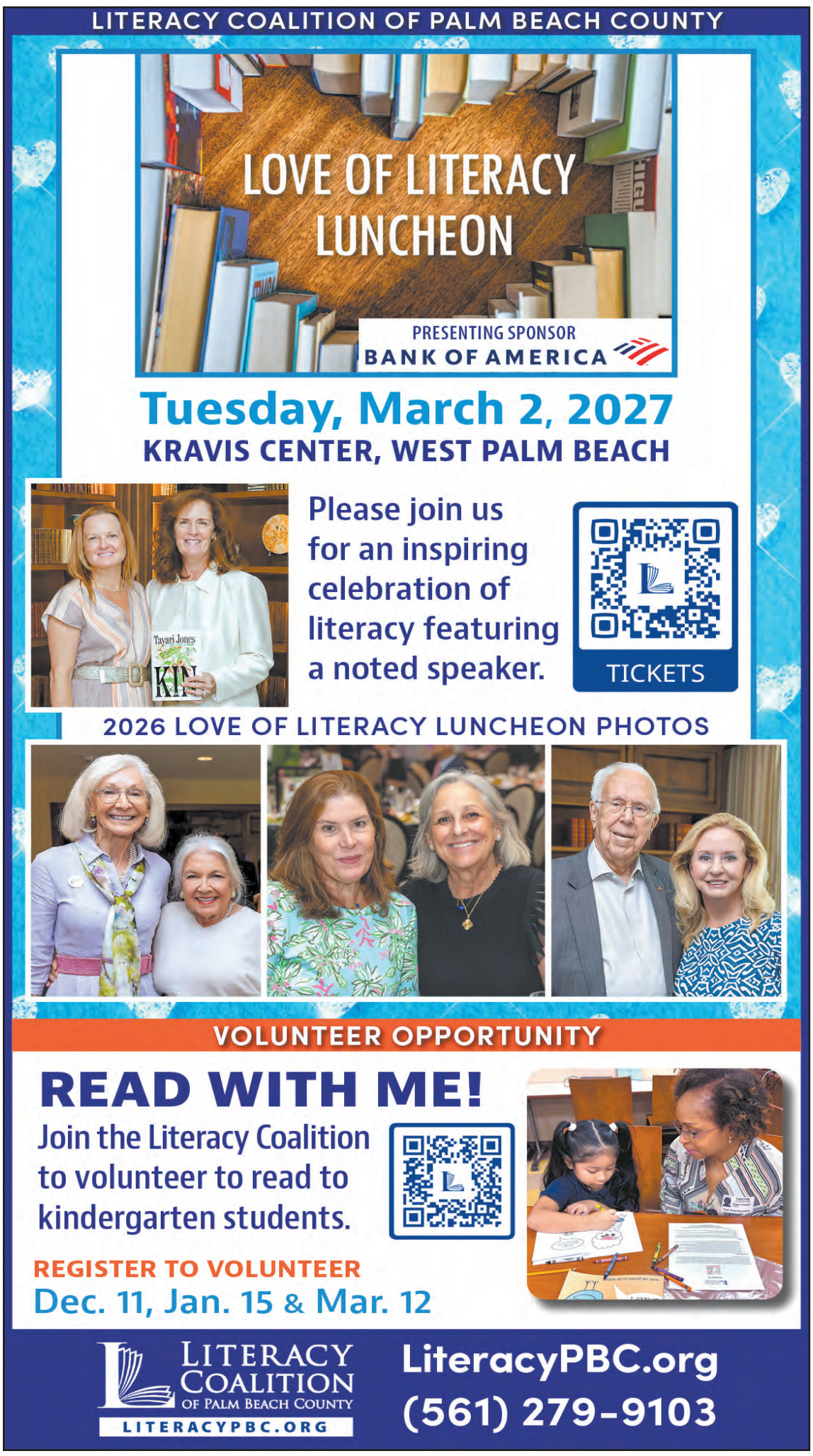
Kristin Calder, CEO of the Coalition, said of the nonprofit's signature Building Better Readers program: "The community members we train to be volunteer tutors are an integral part of the solution in helping children and youth learn to read."

The Literacy Coalition's reading tutors help students one-on-one to strengthen their reading skills in nearly 60 elementary and middle schools, two libraries, at the Coalition's Blume Literacy Center in Boynton Beach and virtually.

"In addition to achieving literacy, we invite the community to join us to celebrate reading and strengthen our community through funds raised at our Author Talks, Love of Literacy Luncheon and Literacy Links Golf Tournament," Calder said.

Volunteer opportunities are also available and range from weekly and monthly commitments to one-time experiences, such as reading to children in classrooms.

To learn more or get involved, visit LiteracyPBC.org.



The Arc of Palm Beach County

The Arc helps individuals meet their full potential

Since 1958, The Arc of Palm Beach County has envisioned a community where every person feels welcome, connected, and accepted. The Arc is a nonprofit organization that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helping them grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.



Educational programs at Bodwell Academy help people with disabilities reimagine what is possible.

Through a continuum of care that spans a lifetime, The Arc provides services and programs that support individuals from infancy through their senior years. These programs include early intervention services, residential and group homes, respite care, employment services, and community enrichment programs. The Arc is also home to Bodwell Academy, a tuition-free charter school dedicated to children, teenagers, and young adults with disabilities.

The Arc provides continuing education opportunities, advocates for individual rights, and fosters connections that build confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging. Through compassion, dedication, and commitment to lifelong support, The Arc is changing lives, defying odds, and reimagining what is possible for people with disabilities.

Visit www.arcpbc.org



The Arc Palm Beach County

Golden Hour Gala

An Evening Glowing With Possibility
Presented by the Angelwish Fund

On February 20, 2027, The Arc of Palm Beach County invites you to the Golden Hour Gala, an elegant evening at the Kravis Center's Cohen Pavilion in West Palm Beach. Bathed in the warmth of its namesake hour, the evening celebrates the talents, resilience, and boundless potential of children and adults with developmental disabilities across Palm Beach County.

Co-chaired by Beverlee and John Raymond and Julie and Aaron Menitoff, dedicated advocates for inclusion and opportunity, the Golden Hour Gala supports The Arc's mission to champion independence, connection, and belonging for every individual it serves.

The ticketed event is $550 per person. All proceeds benefit The Arc's life-changing programs.

Event Website

For more information about tickets or sponsorship opportunities, contact Pamela at 561-842-3213, ext. 128.

Partner Content



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Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation
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Boca Raton Regional Hospital



Inside the new Gloria Drummond Patient Tower are 20 operating rooms, including two hybrid operating rooms equipped with advanced imaging technology, along with an intensive care unit, expanded surgical and radiology services and 216 private patient rooms. **Photos provided**

Philanthropy helps shape a new era at Boca Raton Regional Hospital

A new chapter in Boca Raton Regional Hospital's history is taking shape with the Gloria Drummond Patient Tower, marking an important step in the hospital's continued growth and commitment to meeting the healthcare needs of the community.

The eight-story, 427,000-square-foot tower is the centerpiece of the largest campus transformation in the hospital's history. Its name honors Gloria Drummond, whose determination to establish a hospital in Boca Raton following a personal tragedy helped lay the foundation for the institution serving the community today. Decades later, that same spirit of giving continues to shape the hospital's future.


Drummond

Philanthropy has played a defining role in bringing this vision to life. Significant gifts to the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation, together with the support of numerous donors, helped make the new tower possible. Through its Keeping the Promise Campaign, the foundation raised more than $450 million, the largest fundraising effort in the hospital's history, to support the tower and broader improvements across the hospital. This extraordinary community support is complemented by Baptist Health's investment in expanding local healthcare services and facilities.



AI-assisted smart technology throughout all patient rooms will transform the patient experience and enhance clinical efficiency.

The result is a substantial increase in the hospital's capabilities. With the addition of the tower, the Boca Raton Regional Hospital campus now encompasses more than 1 million square feet. Inside the new building are 20 operating rooms, including two hybrid operating rooms equipped with advanced imaging technology, along with an intensive care unit, expanded surgical and radiology services and 216 private patient rooms.

Just as important as the technology is the experience of being in the building. Natural light, outdoor courtyards and a sanctuary create places for quiet reflection, while retail, dining and gathering areas make the environment more inviting. Each private room incorporates AI-assisted smart technology designed to support safety, clinical efficiency and a more personalized care experience. Thoughtfully planned spaces offer comfort and encourage connection throughout a hospital stay.

"This new tower represents an extraordinary investment in the future of healthcare in our community," said Lincoln Mendez, North Region Executive for Baptist Health and CEO of Boca Raton Regional Hospital. "Every aspect of the Gloria Drummond Patient Tower was designed with our patients and families in mind, from the advanced surgical capabilities and private rooms to spaces that promote comfort, healing and connection. It allows us to continue expanding the highly specialized care our community needs, close to home."

The tower is one part of a broader transformation underway at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. Expanded services at Marcus Neuroscience Institute and Lynn Heart & Vascular Institute, the Toby and Leon Cooperman Medical Arts Pavilion and proton therapy at Eugene M. & Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute further strengthen access to specialized treatment. Future improvements to existing patient units will continue that work, enhancing the care environment across the hospital.

For the foundation and its supporters, the new tower reflects a longstanding partnership with a shared purpose: helping the hospital respond to the needs of a growing community. It builds on the vision of Gloria Drummond and the many individuals who have supported Boca Raton Regional Hospital over the years. Their generosity is helping create new opportunities for care, medical education and innovation, ensuring that the hospital remains prepared to serve this community for generations to come.

Delray Beach Public Library

Laugh with the Library celebrates 20 years of laughter and giving

Twenty years of laughter, lasting friendships and nearly $2 million raised for a great cause! The Delray Beach Public Library will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its signature fundraiser, Laugh with the Library, at 7 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Opal Grand Resort & Spa, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach.

What began as a creative fundraising idea has become one of Delray Beach's most anticipated charitable events, supporting the programs, services and resources that keep the library vibrant and accessible to the community.

The event was founded by longtime library supporters Becky Walsh and Heidi Sargeant, who co-chaired it for its first 10 years.

"We created Laugh with the Library to help bridge the funding gap for the Delray Beach Public Library's unique public/private partnership," said Walsh and Sargeant. "We saw the need for programs for at-risk children and teens in our community and wanted to create an event that was different from other fundraisers. And, well, who doesn't love to laugh? Twenty years later, the event is still making people laugh for a very good cause!"

For Mykal Banta, executive director of the Delray Beach Public Library, who has attended every event since its inception, the evening represents more than fundraising.

"Laugh with the Library has been the Delray Beach Public Library's premier fundraiser for two decades. Every one of those 20 years has been an expression of love between the library and the donors in the audience," said Banta. "I have been to every Laugh with the Library, and I can tell you personally that the warm support and enthusiasm I feel during this event has been spirit fuel for myself and the entire library staff."



Longtime library supporters Heidi Sargeant and Becky Walsh. **Photo provided**

To go with the annual comedy show, the anniversary celebration promises delicious food, creative cocktails, lively entertainment and surprises, including themed culinary stations, the popular sushi and sake bar, Asian-inspired fare, live and silent auctions, and a dessert and candy display sponsored by Moroco Orthodontics.

The library invites longtime supporters, past attendees and new friends to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate two decades of community generosity — and the laughter that has made this tradition so special.

Sponsorships and tickets

Sponsorship opportunities range from $1,000 to $20,000. Individual tickets will go on sale after Dec. 15.

For more information, visit delraylibrary.org, call Kae Jonsons at 561-266-0798, or email kae.jonsons@delraylibrary.org.



St. George's Society

Celebrating English language, history, culture and traditions

The St. George's Society of Palm Beach was founded in 2007 with a focus on all things English. Over the years, as our membership grew, we recognized the need to expand our focus to all of Britain AND to incorporate those who are not only Anglophiles, but who also love traveling to Britain. Members have always enjoyed our variety of events — something for all tastes.

Many of our members are long term and enjoy almost two full decades of friendships. New members embrace joining an established 501(c)(3) organization that is welcoming and has such interesting members from diverse backgrounds. And we all love that our society has found ways to give back locally, in Britain, and internationally in impactful ways.

We have maintained a fabulous relationship with Florida Atlantic University for many years now. Its professors have been speakers at our events for years, especially Dr. Sandra Norman, a former department chair, who recently spoke at our Oct. 29 meeting. And numerous staff have attended our meetings as well.

This social season promises to be one of camaraderie, fun and fundraising. Our goal this year is to complete our funding of our British History Endowed Chair at FAU. Presently it is nearly 75% funded.

FAU has the honor of having the largest British History Department in the state university system. Donations and event proceeds this season will be used exclusively for this purpose.

One of our members donated a very rare, royally autographed autobiography to the FAU archives in early 2025 via our organization. We are delighted to help our local university with research grants and to build FAU's reputation.

Our society enriches the lives of our members with stimulating and entertaining events. We bring together a diverse group of people looking to make new friends, who love Britain and traveling, as well as giving back locally and internationally.

The society has six key focus areas for funding through our almost 20 years in existence:

Environment/animals — this focus area is the most popular, especially our various tree plantings, locally and internationally;

FAU— endowment chair;

Food banks — locally and in the United Kingdom;

Disaster relief — internationally;

Building restoration/young people — local and British groups; and

St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle — numerous donations to restore ancient books and help with building restoration.

Learn more on our website: SGSofPB.org



To join

The member base is open to include all Brits, all Anglophiles and those who love to travel. Several new members bring a new level of excitement to the group. Upcoming meetings will likely be in some new locations and feature new events.

Memberships range from $25 to $125, which will act as a donation.

To learn more about donating to or joining the St. George's Society of Palm Beach, visit SGSofPB.org.

2026/2027 Social Calendar

Saturday, December 12: Holiday Celebration
The Marriott West Palm Beach
6pm cash bar & holiday shopping
7pm dinner and entertainment

Saturday, January 23: Pan's Garden Tour
9:30am precisely followed by lunch at Pizza al Fresco

Thursday, February 11
Private Tour of FAU Archives
10:30 am
Florida Atlantic University Library
Boca Raton
followed by lunch at the Faculty Club

Saturday, March 6
Bricktops, Palm Beach
1pm lunch

St. George's Society of Palm Beach

For info, please go to http://www.SGSofPB.org

The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties

Five decades of neighbors helping neighbors

As the season of giving begins, the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties shows how a $50,000 idea grew into more than $300 million in local impact.





Reading and feeding programs are two ways the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties serves residents. **Photos provided**

In 1972, Winsome and Michael McIntosh noticed something missing in their community. Palm Beach and Martin counties had plenty of generous people and countless nonprofits serving their neighbors. What the region lacked was a way to bring the two together.

So, the McIntoshes built one. With a $50,000 endowment, they helped establish the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, a permanent charitable resource meant to answer today's needs while preparing for tomorrow's. More than five decades later, that modest start has become one of the region's most enduring sources of local giving. Since its founding, the foundation has distributed more than $300 million in grants and scholarships. That money has reached classrooms, clinics, arts programs and efforts to help families build financial stability.

As November ushers in Thanksgiving, and the year-end giving season, the foundation's story is a timely reminder of what patient, local generosity can accomplish.

Scholarships that open doors

Some of the clearest evidence of that impact sits in a Tallahassee finance classroom. Kaylee Quinter, Elias Aquel-Lacayo and Amedstone Plaisir are all graduates of Palm Beach County high schools now studying finance at Florida State University. All three are Community Foundation scholarship recipients, and all recently earned spots in Noles on Wall Street, a selective program that prepares students for investment banking careers.

For Aquel-Lacayo, the scholarship did more than help with tuition. It bought him time. "If I didn't have that support, I'd probably be working a lot more hours just to cover costs," he said. "I wouldn't have the time to pursue the opportunities that helped me get here."

A legacy written in reading

The foundation's reach also extends to the youngest learners. At S.D. Spady Elementary School in Delray Beach, the newly created Betty Harman Warner Montessori Model United Nations Reading & Emerging Leaders Center honors an educator whose pioneering reading program shaped generations of students.

The center was made possible through a donor-advised fund at the Community Foundation. That giving tool turned admiration for a beloved local educator into a lasting space where children can grow as readers and leaders.

Meals in moments of need

Some of that impact is measured one meal at a time. Boca Helping Hands began in 1998 with a simple mission: meet families in their moment of need and help them get back on steady ground. Today, it provides millions of meals a year to families across southern Palm Beach County.

In 2026, Boca Helping Hands was among 177 nonprofits sharing more than $6.5 million in Community Foundation grants, a reminder that, for some neighbors, a full plate is never a given.

Generosity at every level

What ties these stories together, says Community Foundation President and CEO Danita R. DeHaney, is the belief that philanthropy isn't reserved for the wealthy. "You do not need to be a millionaire to make a difference," DeHaney said. "Every gift matters. Every volunteer hour matters."

The proof, she noted, is everywhere. "We see it throughout our community. We see it in nonprofits feeding families, supporting seniors, providing mental health services, expanding literacy programs, and helping individuals achieve economic independence. Behind every one of those success stories is someone who chose to give."

That message carries extra weight right now, as local nonprofits see rising demand and many households navigate economic uncertainty. The Community Foundation's role is to connect generous people with the organizations doing that work, and to build permanent resources for tomorrow's challenges as well as today's.

The next chapter

The McIntoshes couldn't have known in 1972 that their idea would one day help a Delray Beach school open a reading center, send three local students toward Wall Street or help families in southern Palm Beach County. But they understood something that still holds true: Strong communities are built by people willing to invest in something bigger than themselves.

As families gather around Thanksgiving tables this month, that may be the most fitting tradition of all. Whether it's a scholarship gift, a donor-advised fund, a Giving Tuesday contribution or an afternoon spent volunteering, the next chapter of Palm Beach and Martin counties' story is still being written. Anyone can help write it.

To learn more about the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, visit YourCommunityFoundation.org.

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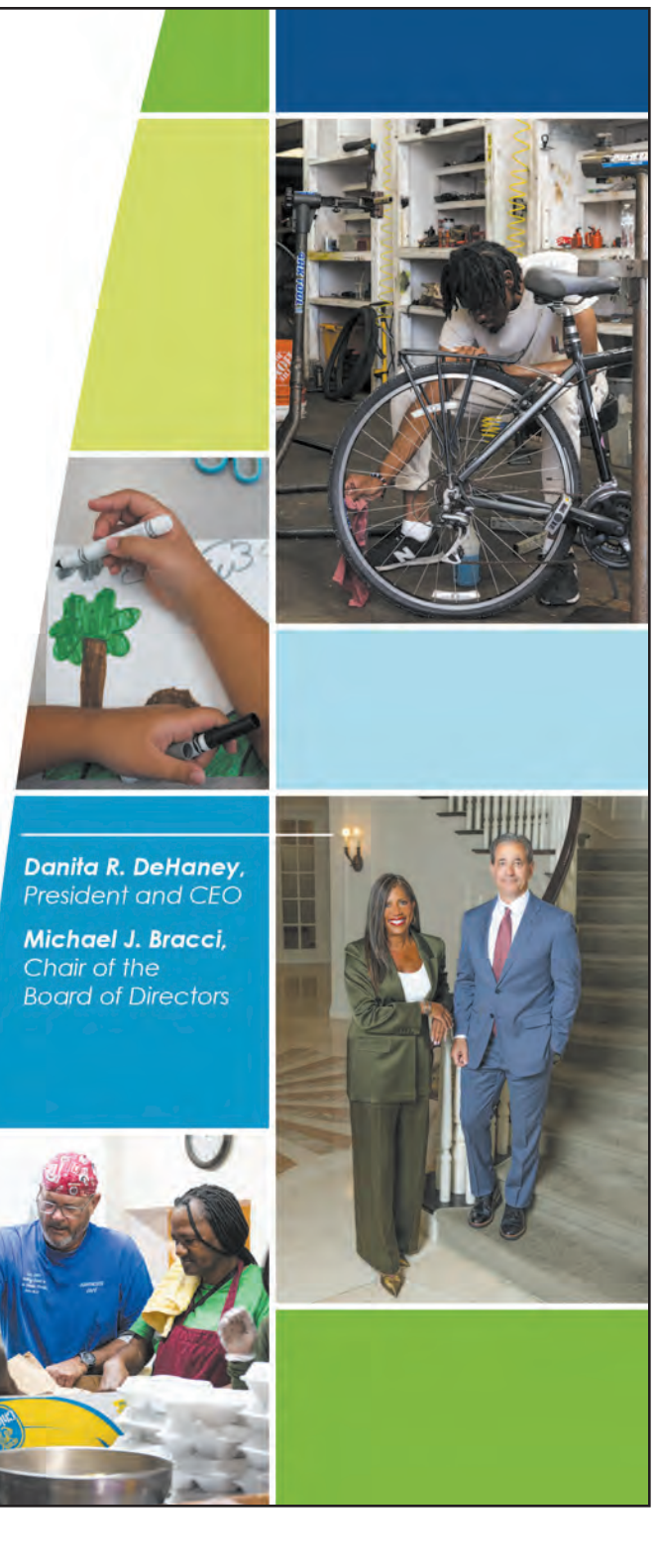
For more than 50 years, the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties has empowered business leaders, families, and advisors to turn charitable goals into lasting impact.

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To learn more or to contribute, visit **yourcommunityfoundation.org**, email **info@cfpbmc.org**, or call **561.659.6800**.



Danita R. DeHaney, *President and CEO*

Michael J. Bracci, *Chair of the Board of Directors*

LIFE

Comedians Jay Leno and Rita Rudner headline LIFE's 33rd Annual Lady in Red Gala

Comedy icons Jay Leno and Rita Rudner will headline LIFE's 33rd Annual Lady in Red Gala at 6 p.m. March 14 at The Breakers Palm Beach.

Hosted by philanthropist and humanitarian Lois Pope, the signature Palm Beach event will embrace a glamorous Masquerade theme, bringing together the community for an evening of exceptional entertainment, dining, dancing and philanthropy.

One of the area's most anticipated social events of the season, the Lady in Red Gala will feature Jay Leno's trademark humor and the return of Rita Rudner, a longtime gala favorite known for her clever observations and impeccable comedic timing. Together, the entertainers will headline an evening designed to delight guests while raising critical support for children facing hunger and vision challenges, as well as families struggling to afford essential medical care for their pets.

"The Lady in Red Gala is a night of glamour and celebration, but its greatest impact is knowing that our generosity will help children get enough to eat, provide vital vision care, and give beloved pets lifesaving care," said Pope, founder and president of LIFE. "That is the true magic of the Lady in Red Gala."





Laughs are on the menu again this year. **FAR LEFT:** Comedian Jay Leno poses with Lois Pope. **LEFT:** Rita Rudner **Photos provided**

The evening will begin with a cocktail reception and a special live performance by the Palm Beach Symphony playing Broadway hits, followed by an elegant dinner and headliners Jay Leno and Rita Rudner. After a decadent dessert, the famous Danny Beck Band will keep the celebration going with an energetic mix of timeless favorites and dance-floor hits.

Leading the event are Gala Chairs Lois Pope and Suzi Goldsmith, with Ari Rifkin serving as Grand Honorary Chair. Co-chairs are Holly and David Dreman, Marti LaTour, and Ambassador Mike and Diana Retzer.

Friends for LIFE are Christine Lynn, Nancy Pontius, and Ambassador Leandro and Denise Rizzuto. LIFE Savers include Edward Campbell, Brooke Samples and Lloyd Schiller, Suzie Sayfie, and Gail Worth and Frank Orenstein. Erika Rizzuto serves as Junior Chair, and Sunny Sessa as Entertainment Chair.

Inspirational Chairs are Dr. Peter and Simone Bonutti, Caroline Harless, Drs. Henry and Marsha Laufer, and Cindy and Ron McMackin.

Corporate Ambassadors are Sally Kimball, president and founder of Ambassador Realty Corporation, and Walter J. Schwenk, AAMS, managing director–investment officer with Linwood Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit three programs that provide essential services to children and families throughout the year:

• Food4Kids at the Palm Beach County Food Bank provides nutritious food to children experiencing food insecurity, including during weekends and school breaks.

• Vision4Kids at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute offers free vision screenings and glasses to underserved children, helping them see clearly and participate more fully in school and everyday activities.

• The Lois Pope Pet Clinic at Tri County Animal Rescue provides affordable medical care for pets from low-income families, helping animals receive needed treatment while keeping beloved pets with the families who love them.

For more than three decades, the Lady in Red Gala has united Palm Beach's philanthropic community in support of LIFE's mission. The 2027 Masquerade celebration will continue that tradition, transforming an evening of entertainment and elegance into meaningful support for children, families and animals in need.

As the Lady in Red Gala traditionally sells out, guests are encouraged to reserve tickets and tables early.

For information, contact LIFE at 561-582-8083 or life@life-edu.org, or visit life-edu.org.



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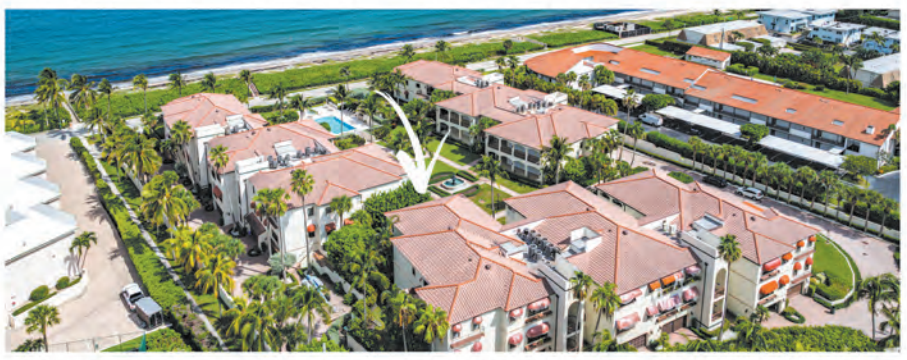
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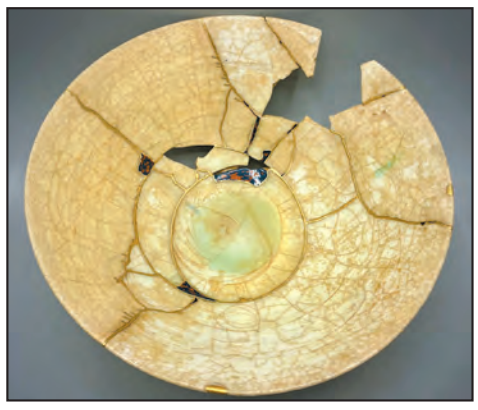
Prints & Pottery

Pair of exhibits at Morikami showcase old techniques from new perspectives

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens opens its season with two distinct exhibitions that celebrate artistry, tradition and cultural connection: *Mending Cracks in Time: Kintsugi Art of Naoko Fukumaru* and *Clifton Karhu: An American in Kyoto.*

Karhu (1927-2007) was an American of Finnish descent who was first introduced to Japan while serving in the military in the port city of Sasebo on the island of Kyushu. After studying at the Minneapolis School of Art from 1950 to 1952, he returned to Japan in 1955 as a missionary, but later left to resume his art studies.



TOP: *White Heron Castle*, a woodblock print by Clifton Karhu.
ABOVE: *It's OK to Be Broken* by Naoko Fukumaru. **Photos provided**

He was inspired by traditional *ukiyo-e* (floating world) woodblock printing, where intricate designs are carved into a block of wood, coated with ink and then transferred onto paper resulting in images celebrated for their color and craftsmanship.

Drawn entirely from the Morikami's collection, the exhibition (through Jan. 17) brings together 51 works in two rotations of Karhu's woodblock prints, ceramic and stone works. Known for his bold outlines, structured compositions and saturated color, Karhu was the first non-Japanese artist admitted as a member of the Japan Print Association.

He embraced Japanese culture, took to wearing traditional Japanese dress, even scooting around Kyoto on a motorcycle and kimono, spoke Japanese, made and played the shakuhachi (a bamboo flute), visited geisha houses and drank sake.

See **MORIKAMI** on **AT18**

Theater

Entr'Acte Theatrix finds new home in Lake Worth

By Erik Kvarnberg
Contributing Writer

For the last 27 years, Vicki Halmos has been providing young actors and theater-makers a place to work.

She founded Palm Beach Principal Players in 1999 at the Creative Stage on Lucerne Avenue in Lake Worth — then without the "Beach" in its name — to help young people in theater, then later transformed it into Entr'Acte Theatrix as the performers grew older but wanted to keep doing shows. The name itself comes from the music that introduces a show's second act.

The company's mission to serve high school and college students was designed to give them invaluable stage time that they wouldn't get otherwise. "There wasn't anybody hiring people studying theater, or learning acting in school," said Halmos. "Kids learn by doing. They can't just sit and watch other people do it."



Halmos

Last month, Entr'Acte Theatrix, which had been performing in a number of

See **ENTR'ACTE** on **AT22**

Music

At 70, Rossano is South Florida's greatest all-arounder

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

"All-around musician" is a blanket term that usually describes someone who, at the very least, sings while playing an instrument. And/or plays more than one instrument with advanced proficiency. Especially while performing their own compositions, plus perhaps arrangements of songs written by others. And preferably with their own flair.

Boynton Beach resident Rick Rossano is a rarity who checks every one of those boxes. And he's been doing so in South Florida for 50 years, complete with a whip-smart, absurdist sense of humor rivaling Frank Zappa's. In fact, the only thing preventing this local from legitimately being called Palm Beach County's greatest all-around popular musician — of all-time — might be the fact that he was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma.

The self-deprecating Florida transplant wouldn't agree with such accolades. Rossano is one of those rarities who doesn't seem as comfortable accepting props as dishing them out. Which makes him better, even if he doesn't appear to know it.

"I moved to South Florida with my mom at age 16," Rossano says, "after my dad got sick and passed away in Oklahoma. And I got involved with a lot of great musicians down here, including Scott Henderson," referring to the West Palm Beach native and guitarist who's become a jazz/fusion star since he moved to Los Angeles in 1980.

Rossano is now 70, and has retired from his long day-job stretches for Palm Beach County and the city of West Palm Beach. So other than teaching music to a handful of private students, his jobs now involve a fledgling solo acoustic act and a relatively new trio called The Dillies, both on a monthly basis at Rudy's Pub in downtown Lake Worth Beach.

There's also pianist and choir director Howard Lemon's ensemble at the First Christian Church in West Palm Beach, and the veteran Beatles tribute act Across the Universe.

But if you're reading this, it may be because you recognize Rossano's name from a previous scroll of bands, such as the Renegades (also known later as the Grenades) in the 1970s, then the Paul Ohara Project, Rickie & the Rocketships, and the White Owls in the 1980s.

See **ROSSANO** on **AT20**



Rick Rossano will play several local gigs in the coming weeks. **Photo provided**

MORIKAMI

Continued from page **17**

More than a showcase of Karhu's technical skill, the exhibition offers viewers a visual journey through the Japan he came to love and call home.

"Visitors will learn a lot about Kanazawa and Kyoto, Karhu's favorite city," says Carla Stansifer, chief curator at the Morikami. "You can take a mini-tour of Japan through his work, seeing the tea district, geisha houses, temples, lanterns and shrines of the city as well as the evolution of Kyoto itself.

"Anyone who has been to Kyoto will recognize his prints of famous sites in Kyoto but through his unusual and slightly skewed perspective," she says.

Over his long career in Japan, Karhu earned the respect of his Japanese peers, despite some thinking his works were "too traditional." Stansifer says Karhu remained true to the traditional techniques and materials of *sōsaku-hanga* (creative) printmaking where the artist controls every stage from design to final print.

Guests, she says, love Karhu's warm and inviting color palette and vibrant, exciting reds, yellows and oranges.

Two of her favorite prints are one depicting the exterior and gardens of Katsura Imperial Villa, with sliding shoji screens, overlooking a winter landscape with snow-covered ground



In Clifton Karhu's *Imperial Villa*, warm, vibrant colors are used to depict a traditional Japanese scene. **Photo provided**

and trees, and one titled *Cloth Drying*, where large bolts of dyed cloth are put in the river and then set in fields to dry. The print depicts large swaths of bright colors drying in the fields.

Karhu also created many self-portraits, one of which — a small, octagonal porcelain plate that he designed with a likeness of himself on both sides and even on the box — is featured in the exhibit.

"Karhu was a one-man show," Stansifer says. "And while there were other artists doing this, it was unusual to have a foreigner doing this all by hand — mixing the inks and applying them in various textures."

Alongside an American artist in Kyoto who dedicated his life to mastering Japanese traditions, the Morikami showcases the Kyoto-born Fukumaru's works, which highlight one of Japan's most poetic art forms: *kintsugi*. That is the practice of repairing broken ceramics with lacquer and gold.

In *Mending Cracks in Time: Kintsugi Art of Naoko Fukumaru* (running through Feb. 28), more than 160 works, including ceramics, tea ceremony utensils, utilitarian vessels, imported wares and kiln-deformed pieces, are on display.

For the Japanese-Canadian artist, whose name means "blessed circle" or "continued blessings," the ancient tradition of *kintsugi* has deeply personal meaning.

After a turbulent 21-year marriage ended, she found healing and new life in the art of *kintsugi*. With decades of ceramic restoration experience, she was able to quickly master the techniques and philosophy of the ancient Japanese art.

While rooted in traditional techniques, her work often incorporates resin, calcium carbonate and unexpected materials such as driftwood, barnacles, thorns and brass.

"My artwork aims to open hearts and to encourage self-acceptance, to help heal ourselves and the world," Fukumaru says in her artist statement. "Suffering and flaws are integral parts of our identity, elements that shape our history and uniqueness.

"By beautifully magnifying imperfections in objects, my work allows us to accept fragility and imperfection in ourselves and in life," she writes.

The practice of *kintsugi* dates back to the 15th-century shogun Yoshimasa Ashikaga (1436-1490), whose damaged ceramic reportedly inspired a more beautiful method of repair. It is this technique that has helped heal the artist and one she wants to share with others.

Her intention, she says, "is for viewers to be open, to reflect on self-awareness and acceptance while moving towards building resilience and gratitude that can help heal ourselves and the world."

Stansifer was taken by Fukumaru's works after meeting the artist and seeing her pieces in 2023.

"I loved her work right away," she says.

She flew out to Portland, Ore., for the opening and says, "That sealed the deal — I knew we wanted to showcase her works at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens."

Continued on the **next page**

If You Go

What: *Clifton Karhu: An American in Kyoto* (through Jan. 17) and *Mending Cracks in Time: Kintsugi Art of Naoko Fukumaru* (through Feb. 28)
Where: Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. Open 10 to 5 Tuesday through Sunday.
Admission: $18; $16 seniors and military; $14 college students; $12 ages 6-17; free for members and 5-under.
Info: 561-495-0233 or morikami.org

ON VIEW THROUGH DECEMBER 31



Devin Noel, *That Sounds Swell Darling*, 2026, mixed media, acrylic, and wood on wood panel (detail)

SUN SAND SURF

South Florida's coast provides an ever-changing source of inspiration for Palm Beach County-based professional artists. From atmospheric skies and shifting reflections to surf culture and shoreline environments, this exhibition captures the experiences, rhythms, and enduring influence of the beach on life in The Palm Beaches.

Exhibition generously sponsored by: Florida Weekly · wlrn · Discover The Palm Beaches Florida

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Cultural Council for Palm Beach County
Arts. Sciences. History. Community.

Robert M. Montgomery, Jr. Building
601 Lake Avenue,
Lake Worth Beach, FL 33460
Tuesday–Saturday, 12–5 p.m.
Free and open to the public



Beautiful Trauma, by Naoko Fukumaru, shows the artist's use of a traditional Japanese technique called *kintsugi* to impart a modern yet age-old message. **Photo provided**

Like the experience of contemplation in a Japanese garden, the curator says Fukumaru brings that sensibility to her creations.

"It's about unplugging, feeling grounded and being in the moment," Stansifer says. "With her work, Fukumaru brings this philosophy of contemplation, mindfulness and acceptance indoors."

Among Stansifer's favorite pieces is a fragment of Roman glass that Fukumaru repaired with gold and lacquer, then embellished with gemstones in a departure from traditional *kintsugi* techniques.

Another standout is *Liberation*, a pre-Columbian vase restored with crystals and a fragment of wood gathered from the Morikami gardens.

She is equally drawn to *Reincarnation*, a series of 84 plaster faces depicting Fukumaru's emotional evolution since she began the practice of *kintsugi*. The work continues to evolve as the artist creates new pieces for the series.

"This is Fukumaru's biggest message," Stansifer says. "We are all a work in progress."



40TH DUNCAN THEATRE ANNIVERSARY

DUNCAN THEATRE
2027 SEASON

MODERN DANCE SERIES

Trinity Irish Dance Company
January 29 & 30

Rioult Dance
March 5 & 6

Parsons Dance
March 19 & 20

American Ballet Theatre Studio Company
April 2 & 3



CLASSICAL CAFÉ SERIES AT STAGE WEST

Charlotte Hu, Piano
January 13

Tommy Mesa, Cello
February 3

Jupiter String Quartet
February 24

Merz Trio
March 17

JUKEBOX SERIES

The Boulevards Present Rock & Roll Is Here to Stay
January 12

Stop! In the Name of Soul
February 4

Benny Benack and The Magic of Manhattan
February 19

The Bronx Wanderers
March 15



MIXTAPE SERIES

Queens of Song, Starring Crystal Stark
January 11

Double Duran, the Ultimate Duran Duran Experience
January 22

Stayin' Alive, One Night of the Bee Gees
February 22

The Barricade Boys
February 25

Michael Cavanaugh
March 22

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PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

Boca Ballet Theatre's production of the
Edith & Martin Stein Family Foundation's

The Nutcracker

BOCA BALLET THEATRE

Artistic Directors: Dan Guin & Jane Tyree

International Guest Artists



Emily Bromberg



Lucas Segovia

Performance photo by Sharon Morgenstern

Cultural Council FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY · VISIT THE PALM BEACHES FLORIDA · PALM BEACH COUNTY FLORIDA

Nov. 27, 2026 at 7:30pm | Nov. 28, 2026 at 2:00pm & 7:30pm | Nov. 29, 2026 at 2:00pm
Performance Venue: Olympic Heights Performing Arts Theater | 20101 Lyons Road • Boca Raton

Gingerbread Ball
Let your little ones meet Clara, Sugar Plum Fairy, and other magical characters onstage at the post matinee children's party.
Tickets sold separately - $12

FOR TICKETS
BOCABALLET.ORG
561.995.0709

Guest Artists Subject to Change

ROSSANO

Continued from page 17

Rossano played bass in both the Renegades/Grenades and the vibraphonist Ohara's group, an improvisational ensemble that even included an occasional King Crimson medley.

"I've been blessed to play with some great folks, including right now," he says in a recurring theme. "Mr. Lemon is from Detroit, and he leads a full-on gospel communion on Sundays. In Across the Universe, there's Greg Steiner as Paul, Diego Vasquez as George, Peter Maerz as Ringo, and me as John. Peter is also the drummer in The Dillies, our trio with bassist Chuck Farthing."

The White Owls once ruled the roost as a retro 1960s cover band, and held a standing-room only, one-off reunion last year upstairs at Rudy's at Bamboo. Rossano formed the Rocketships as its vocalist and guitarist in the mid-'80s, and his electric six-stringed playing eventually equaled his already impeccable bass work. One night at the now-defunct Drexel Saloon in West Palm Beach, he sang Smokey Robinson & the Miracles' "Tears of a Clown" and nailed the singer's falsetto from start to finish.

All of which led to The Dillengers, Rossano's group through the 1990s and beyond — and one of the best in South Florida history. Bassist/vocalist Charlie Gonzalez and drummer/vocalist George Anderson rounded out the trio on three recordings, starting with the independent studio cassette EP *At Large* in 1992 and then the full-length concert CD *Live at Elwood's* (Extensive Records, 1997).

That live album was recorded at what was The Dillengers' perfect house gig from 1994 to 2001. Elwood's was an open-air barbecue restaurant at 301 E. Atlantic Ave., now the neon-lit Johnnie Brown's in downtown Delray Beach.

Another now-defunct musical entity, Saturn Sound Studios in West Palm Beach, brought its mobile recording truck there on St. Patrick's Day in 1996 to capture original material and raucous covers ranging from Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker to Tom Waits and Johnny Cash.



Guitarist Rick Rossano of Boynton Beach has played in numerous bands and as a solo artist. **Photo by Tom Tracy**

If You Go

See Rick Rossano with Across the Universe at 8 p.m. Nov. 7 at Biergarten, 309 Via De Palmas, Boca Raton (561-395-7462); and with The Dillies at 7 p.m. Nov. 13, and solo at 7 p.m. Nov. 28, at Rudy's Pub, 21 S. J St., Lake Worth Beach (561-602-5307).

Several of Rossano's exemplary performances were too impressive to go unnoticed beyond South Florida. The international glossy magazine *Guitar One* included him in its 2000 article titled "America's 10 Best Unknown Guitarists," largely on the strength of *Live at Elwood's*. Rossano's instructional book/CD combo, *Roots-Style Rhythm Tracks*, was then published by Mel Bay in 2001.

Its Mel Bay follow-up book, *The Complete Guide to Roots-Style Guitar*, became available earlier this year.

"There are downloads with this book rather than a CD," Rossano says. "It's a sign of the times."

In 2004, The Dillengers released the surf music-heavy instrumental studio CD *Instro-Mania* on Favored Nations Records. It caught the ear of Favored Nations founder and guitarist Steve Vai, who distributed it internationally.

"Rick is an incredible guitar player," Vai said in a 2024 *Arts Paper* interview. "He has every nuance of roots music and rock at his disposal, and he's an expert at utilizing all of them."

The Dillengers' recorded performances include Rossano originals like the Beatles-influenced "What In the World," and the Elvis Costello-tinged "Anything I Didn't Say."

That trio carried on into the 2010s, with capable replacements in bassist/vocalist Bill Rabon (who joined in 2007) and drummer/vocalist Mike Vullo (2004), before Rabon moved back to his native Alabama. Rossano, a lifelong Beatles fanatic, joined Across the Universe as a rhythm guitarist; completed his day jobs, and set the stage for his current play jobs.

A recent Rossano solo show at Rudy's Pub displayed more recognizable pop music, with material by John Lennon, David Bowie, Elton John, The Monkees, Buffalo Springfield, and the Rolling Stones.

The Dillies lean on Rossano's musical acumen and his deep knowledge of chords and structures of cover tunes. Which allows for a rootsy song list that differentiates from that of The Dillengers.

"We try to do three-part vocal harmonies wherever possible," Rossano says, "while veering toward more New Orleans-like groove material."

Perhaps most surprising is the fact that, with all his considerable talent, Rossano is still in South Florida nearly 55 years after landing here — not, say, Nashville or L.A.

"There are kids flipping burgers in those places who will fumigate you musically," says Rossano. "I've ridden couches in those cities, and then gotten my ass right back home. We have a good thing going here."





Film Review

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

Musk (opened Oct. 16)

Four hours of Elon Musk is — well, it's a lot, you might think. A hotter take might be that it's not enough.

As filmmaker Alex Gibney argues in his epic documentary *Musk*, the world's richest man is using his historic wealth to impact global life on an incalculable scale. Unhurriedly and methodically, like a prosecutor building his case, Gibney casts Musk — who, in an on-brand fit of pique, refused to sit down with Gibney — as a comic book villain, a Doctor Octopus by another name, whose tentacles choke just about every major sector of life on our little blue dot and beyond: communications, through Starlink and X; artificial intelligence, through xAI; transportation, through Tesla and its self-driving electric vehicles; and the cosmos, through SpaceX.

And then there's DOGE, in which Musk treated the administrative state of the federal government in much the same way his employer erased the White House Rose Garden. In this context, wherein the film's subject is arguably more powerful than any president or legislative body, *Musk* more than justifies its length. If anything, it is a brief snapshot in an ongoing cautionary tale of obscene wealth, stratospheric hubris, and the disastrous consequences of their combination.

Musk pivots on a central question Gibney poses in his prologue: "How could he assume so much power, and why had we given it to him?"

Gibney, perhaps weary of his subject's increasingly hulking scope, devotes scant attention to Musk's upbringing in apartheid-era South Africa. Aside from a story his father, Errol, shares with Gibney about his son's victimization by bullies and the father's less than sympathetic response, Musk emerges as a fully formed golden boy in the Silicon Valley of 1998, where he has created Zip2, a kind of Yellow Pages for the early internet. He would sell the venture to Compaq a year later for $307 million. Even here, long before his villain era, Musk's scruples come into question. In a resurfaced clip from this formative time, Musk brags to the camera about finding a workaround to leach the Web connection from a neighboring tenant in their building.

Gibney is most charitable to Musk in documenting his adventures in rocketry. As President Obama wound down what had become a moribund space shuttle program, Musk proved eager to let his private enterprise fill the vacuum. It took four dramatic attempts for Musk to successfully launch and return a rocket, at an expense that nearly bankrupted him; but in the process, SpaceX saved the federal government some $30 billion. Had Musk simply lost himself in space, he might still be viewed as a positive if eccentric figure — a dreamer who, in one early clip in *Musk*, expresses a philosophy of curiosity: "I just want to know what's going on."

Musk's first major breach of morality, in Gibney's telling, occurred when, upon his appointment as CEO of Tesla in 2008, he fired the company's co-founder, pioneering engineer Martin Eberhard, and essentially confiscated his role in the company, legally deeming himself a founder of Tesla. Musk has coasted on this invention, abetted by a largely obedient media, for nearly two decades, as he grew Tesla into the dominant electric vehicle manufacturer.

Many are left behind in the rungs of his past, including numerous ex-wives, partners, surrogate mothers and the children that don't comply with his worldview. Repeatedly, the women in Musk's life appear as objects or annoyances.

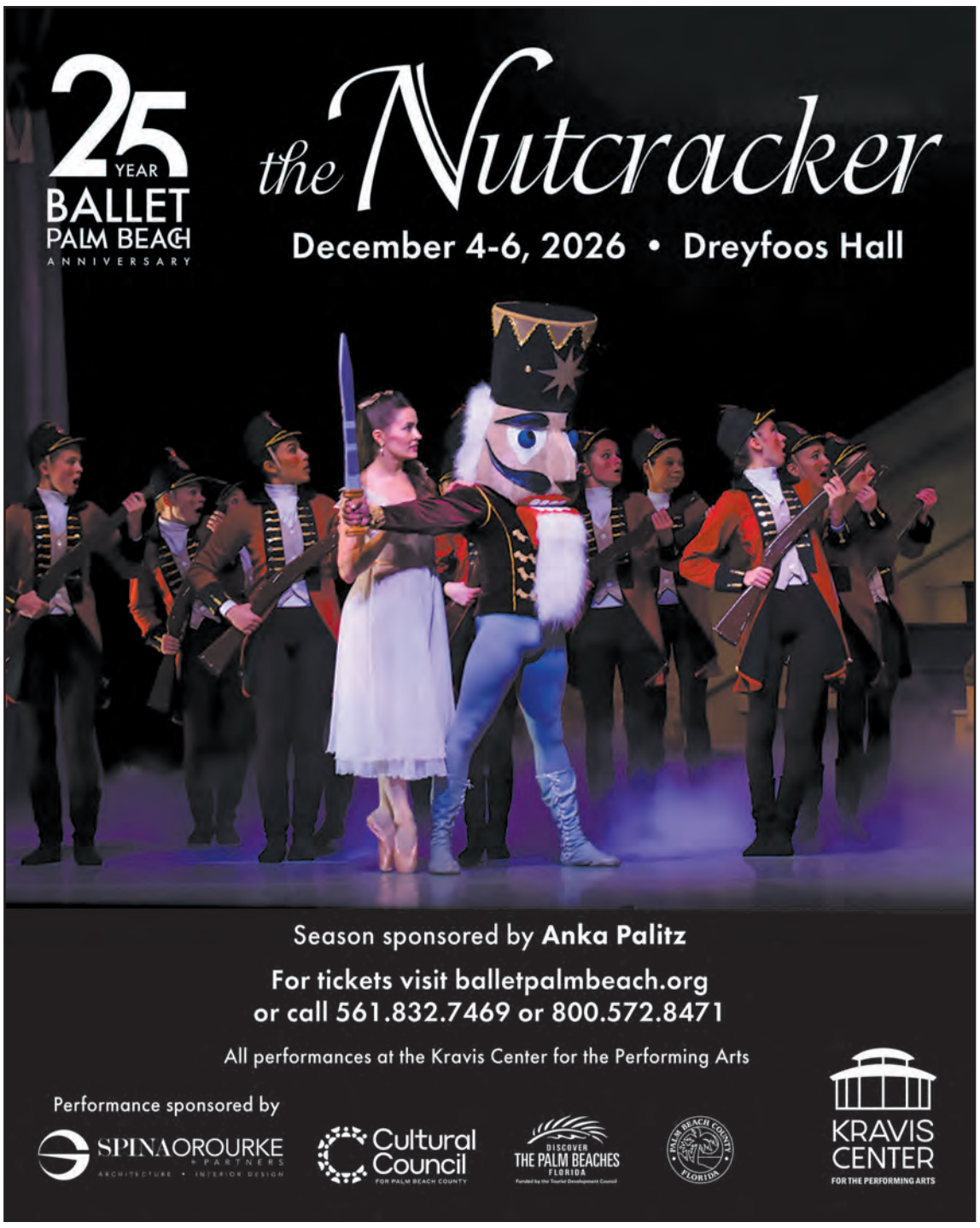
While Gibney weaves an enormous amount of information in *Musk*, two chapters in particular feel like the movie's tent poles. In the first, aided by court depositions, hacked evidence, and an interview with a dogged attorney, Gibney breaks down the hype and rampant dishonesty of Musk's AutoPilot and fully self-driving Tesla technology, which Musk promoted as a "solved problem" even while its errors have killed at least 60 people.

The second concerns Musk's radicalization toward right-wing politics, which first manifested during the pandemic and then in his allyship with Donald Trump, to whose 2024 re-election he credits himself. Through an interview with Ashley St. Clair, a former conservative influencer and mother to a child by Musk, Gibney even floats the idea of Starlink-aided interference in that election, pointing to Musk's surety — not overconfidence, but *surety* — of the race's results just as votes were being counted on election day.

But it is the cumulative effect of *Musk*, rather than one individual moment of clarity, that is so damning. Musk comes across as a figure starved of genuine, unconditional love from an early age, and who grew into a petty tyrant bent on forever justifying his value to an ever-skeptical populace.

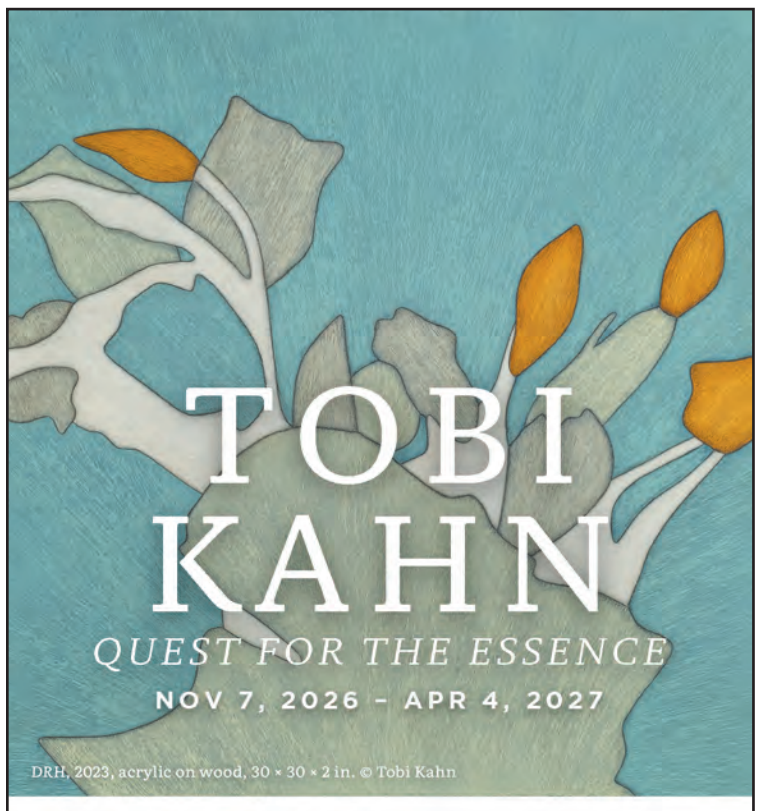
Certainly, *Musk* could have been more magnanimous, you might say — a "balanced" take more in line with Walter Isaacson's biography *Elon Musk*.

Yet Gibney understands the danger Musk poses — to the elections, to the war in Ukraine, to our very existence — and, in *Musk,* attempts to put a flamethrower to the five-alarm fire that's unfolding around us. It might be imperfect, but to call it the year's most vital film is an understatement. — *Staff report*









Arts

Four Arts' makeover looks to its next century

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer



A rendering of the renovated O'Keeffe galleries at the Society of the Four Arts. **Provided by Blinder Belle Architects**

Driving over the middle bridge into Palm Beach, visitors likely will notice the green fences surrounding the Society of the Four Arts (fourarts.org), particularly around the Esther B. O'Keeffe Building and the John E. Rovensky Building.

That's because the cultural hub is undertaking the largest transformation in its history as it prepares for its next century.

"This project marks a proud moment as we advance The Four Arts towards its second century with a collective vision and a strategy for the future," said Randolph Guthrie, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The sweeping renovation marks the first comprehensive modernization of the campus in nearly 100 years.

Plans call for upgraded visual and performing arts facilities, improved audience experiences and a more unified campus design. The project will also establish a dedicated home for the Children's Library in the Rovensky Building.

The Children's Library offers one of the organization's primary educational and community outreach programs to introduce the next generation to the arts and ensure that its future endures.

More than $200 million for the project was raised in the Four Arts Centennial Campaign. Work began last spring and is expected to go through at least 2027. Despite the disruption, the Four Arts continues its programming and remains open to the public during construction.

While maintaining its original stucco surfaces, distinctive windows and barrel-tile roof, the O'Keeffe Building's footprint will expand by 45 percent. Gallery space will increase by 300 square feet as art storage moves to the second floor. The art galleries will be enlarged, and the drop ceiling will be replaced with 20-foot ceilings showcasing the original pecky cypress beams.

The Rovensky Building is undergoing an equally ambitious transformation, including a new three-story addition that, combined with the renovations, increases the building's square footage by 44 percent to accommodate the Children's Library on the ground floor.

As part of the overall vision for the campus, the Philip Hulitar Sculpture Garden will be revitalized. A new colonnade from the O'Keeffe Building and a new entry plaza for the Children's Library will unify the two buildings and be more welcoming to visitors.

The Society of the Four Arts has "held to its founding conviction that the arts are essential to a life fully lived," said Four Arts President Philip Rylands in a prepared statement. "This project affirms that mission, an investment not merely in our buildings, but in the communities and artists we serve."

New York architectural firm Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners (BBB) is working in conjunction with local architects Spina O'Rourke and Suffolk, the general contractors.

Nathaniel "Nate" Rogers, director of historic preservation at BBB said, "We wanted to breathe new life into these old buildings and to create a more cohesive feel to the 20-acre campus."

As part of their efforts to unify the campus, they plan to increase signage, improve the hardscape and make the campus more pedestrian-friendly.

In addition, the Walter S. Gubelmann Auditorium will be modernized, with upgraded restrooms, improved sightlines, new acoustics and state-of-the-art technology. A much-needed backstage area with dressing rooms will be added.

Thanks to its cultural partners, the Four Arts has a full roster of offerings for the 2026-27 season, says Sofia Maduro, chief operating officer.

O'Keeffe lectures and concerts will take place at the Royal Poinciana Chapel, films will be shown at the Palm Beach Day Academy, and other lectures will be held at the Norton and Flagler museums.

Thus those green fences, though inconvenient, symbolize the organization's continued legacy in Palm Beach.

ENTR'ACTE

Continued from page **17**

venues across Palm Beach County, announced that it has found a new, permanent home at 805 Lucerne Ave., back in Lake Worth Beach.

A major factor in the move is that most places have become "prohibitively expensive," Halmos said. Having a fixed location for Entr'Acte Theatrix means other companies can bring their work to the community as well.

"More and more of the smaller theaters are falling by the wayside and aren't being replaced by any kind of a venue for smaller theater companies," Halmos said. "We are hopeful to host other theater companies who are also having a problem finding performance venues."

Performing in transitional, non-theater spaces has led Entr'Acte Theatrix to appreciate the small-format factor. "We want people that come into our cast to see that things can be done very well on a dime," Halmos said.

If You Go

What: *Mary Poppins*
Where: Entr'Acte Theatrix, 805 Lucerne Ave., Lake Worth Beach
When: Nov. 13-22
Tickets: $25-$45.
Info: palmbeachtheater.org.

To celebrate the new space, cast and crew are uncorking a production of *Mary Poppins* to open Nov. 13.

Based on the books by P.L. Travers, *Mary Poppins* is one of the most well-known Disney movies of all time. As a Broadway musical, the show ran for more than 2,600 performances and received nominations for seven Tony awards.

Even though the *Mary Poppins* name is big, the performance at Entr'Acte Theatrix will be an intimate one, lovingly showcasing the handmade quality of the art form.

"I want to make sure the show has a very handmade feel," said the show's director, Carlo Sabusap, in a prepared statement. "I feel it is important that the 'brushstrokes' of the artists in this production are evident, whether it be the individual choices of the performers on stage, or the props and sets. In fact, we pride ourselves on providing our audiences with an intimate, interactive and immersive theatrical experience."

Entr'Acte Theatrix is hitting the ground running in its new space. The theater company produces at least two family-friendly musicals each year, with the occasional edgy entertainment between the singing and heartwarming stories.

One of the company's most popular, edgiest shows is its Broadway-style production of *The Rocky Horror Show*. With many of Entr'Acte Theatrix's past performances taking place within churches or rented spaces, future productions can now unfold on a stage where actors, techs, and audiences are more comfortable.

Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through Nov. 30 were current as of Oct. 23. Check with the presenting agency for any changes.

ART

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: Through Jan. 10: *In Full Bloom: Flowers in the Garden*. $15; $10 seniors; $7 children. 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org

Boca Raton Museum of Art: Opens Nov. 7: *Tobi Kahn: Quest for the Essence*; *Spiritual Ecologies: Art, Nature, and Community*. Opens Nov. 21: *Between Detachment and Devotion: On the Paradoxes of War*. Through Dec. 6: *Exploring Jess: Beat Generation Visionary*. Through Feb. 8: *Drawing with Scissors: Collage from the Collection*. $16; $12 seniors. 501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm W, F, Sat, Sun. 11 am-8 pm Th. 561-392-2500, bocamuseum.org

Cornell Art Museum: Through Jan. 24: *River of Grass*; *Blooming in Color!* Through Feb. 28: *Ron Garrett, Impressions & Expressions: A 40-plus-Year Printmaker Retrospective*. Free. Noon-5 pm W, Sun; noon-7 pm Th, F; 10 am-5 pm Sat. 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-243-7922; oldschoolsquare.org

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through Nov. 14: *Lush*. $5 non-members. 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta. 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 Nov. 29: *Dancing Brush: The Art of Calligraphy*. Through Jan. 17: *Clifton Karhu: An American in Kyoto*. Through Feb. 28: *Mending Cracks in Time: Kintsugi Art of Naoko Fukumaru*. $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 Dec. 6: *Art and Independence: America at 250*. Through Jan. 3: *Ralph Coburn: Land, Sea, and Sky*. Through Jan. 30: *Chang Dai-chien: A Master of Modern Chinese Painting*. Through Feb. 21: *Visible Fictions: Photography and Artifice*. Through March 14: *Blazing Light: Photographs by Mimi Plumb*; *Gertrude Abercrombie: The Whole World is a Mystery*. $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

DANCE

Wednesday, November 4,
Thursday, November 5

Palm Beach Atlantic University Dance Ensemble: Presenting *Story*, featuring a variety of genres. 7:30 pm. $25-$50; $12 students. Rinker Playhouse, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or pba.edu/event/pba-dance-ensemble-story or kravis.org.

Saturday, November 7, Sunday, November 8

FLYBallet's *The Nutcracker:* Enjoy this classic holiday performance following a young girl named Clara whose toys come to life on Christmas Eve. 7 pm and 4 pm. $45-$65. The Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-995-2333 or thewick.org

American Street Dance Theater: Rennie Harris PureMovement showcases hip-hop and street dance. 7 pm Sat, 1:30 and 7 pm Sun. $46. Rinker Playhouse, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469; kravis.org

Saturday, November 21

Miami City Ballet: Making its Glazer Hall debut, MCB performs with the New World Symphony in *Choreographic Concerto*, George Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante* and "Rubies," a movement from *Jewels*. 3:30 pm and 7 pm. $125-$150. 70 Royal Poinciana Way, Palm Beach. 561-576-7860 or glazerhall.org

Paris Ballet and Dance: Jean-Hugues Feray's Jupiter dance school presents *The Nutcracker*. 1 pm and 7 30 pm. Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach State College, 4200 S. Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. $50. 561-868-3309, or palmbeachstatecollege.edu/theatre

Friday, November 27-Sunday, November 29

Boca Ballet Theatre: Dan Guin and Jane Tyree's company presents its annual production of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. Followed on Sat and Sun by a meet-and-greet for an extra $12. 7:30 pm F, 2 and 7:30 pm Sat; 2 pm Sun. $25-$55. Olympic Heights Performing Arts Theater, 20101 Lyons Rd, Boca Raton. bocaballet.org

CLASSICAL

Friday, November 6

Paul O'Dette: The celebrated conductor of Baroque opera will lecture and perform in Boca Raton. Lecture: 1:30 pm; Performance: 7:30 pm. Free admission with prior registration. Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. 561-237-9000, lynn.edu/events/lute-master-paul-odette

Sunday, November 15

The Symphonia: Conductor Alastair Willis and concertmaster Leonid Sigal perform the Violin Concerto of Felix Mendelssohn. $58-$95; $10 students. St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 561-376-3848 or thesymphonia.org

Tuesday, November 17

Palm Beach Symphony: French pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet joins conductor Gerard Schwarz and the symphony for Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No. 5 (*Egyptian*). Also: Brahms's Fourth Symphony and a world premiere, *Consolation*, by American composer Daron Hagen. 7:30 pm. $34-$121. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Saturday, November 22

Seraphic Fire: Florida's Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble's program *Blue Notes* explores the music of the Great American Songbook. 4 pm. $50-$75. St. Gregory's, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 305-285-9060 or seraphicfire.org

JAZZ AND BLUES

Wednesday, November 4

Marcus Miller: The Grammy-winning composer and bass legend will bring his jazz and R&B talents to Crazy Uncle Mike's. 6 pm and 8 pm. $115 and up. 6450 N Federal Highway, Boca Raton. crazyunclemikes.com

Friday, November 6

Gerald Albright: This smooth jazz saxophonist has worked with notable names like Phil Collins and Norman Brown. 6 and 9 pm. $126 and up. Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Highway, Boca Raton. crazyunclemikes.com

Sunday, November 7

The Ladies of Simone: Three South Florida vocalists take on the discography of Nina Simone at Arts Garage. 8 pm. $56-$62. 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Thursday, November 12

Andrew Neu: This recording artist has a unique mix of jazz, R&B, classical, and Latin music. 6 pm and 9 pm. $35-$60. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Wednesday, November 18

GA-20: Formed in 2018, GA-20 is reviving traditional blues. 7 pm. $39-$55. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Friday, November 20

Jessy Díaz: This Cuban-born vocalist and vibraphonist blends traditional Afro-Cuban music with the contemporary Latin jazz. 8 pm. $60-$65. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Saturday, November 21

Cary Hoffman: The singer pays tribute to the music of Frank Sinatra. 8 pm. $64-$69. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

POPULAR MUSIC

Thursday, November 5-Saturday, November 7

Rush: This Rock and Roll Hall of Fame-inducted Canadian rock band, formed in 1968, is stopping in Florida for its Fifty Something Tour. 7:30 pm. Hard Rock Live. $474 and up. ticketmaster.com

Friday, November 6

Wednesday, November 11

Doja Cat: "Paint the Town Red" at the Kaseya Center for the singer/rapper's Ma Vie world tour. 7:30 pm. $39 and up. Kaseya Center, 601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami. ticketmaster.com

Friday, November 12

The Neighbourhood: This Californian rock band is known for "Daddy Issues" and "Sweater Weather." 7 pm. $311. Kaseya Center, 601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. ticketmaster.com

Sunday, November 15

UB40: The English reggae-tinged band had a couple of megahits in the 1980s. 7 pm. $76 and up. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. ticketmaster.com

Wednesday, November 18

Lindsey Sterling: It's time for this energetic violinist's Snow Waltz tour. 7 pm. $57 and up. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. ticketmaster.com

Thursday, November 19 & Friday, November 20

Olivia Rodrigo: The pop star hopes she will be "The Cure" for your sadness in her Unraveled Tour. 7 pm. $363 and up. Amerant Bank Arena, 1 Panther Parkway, Sunrise. stubhub.com

THEATER

Opens November 5

The Nether: In this dystopian sci-fi drama, a detective investigates an oddly lifelike online world. Through Nov. 15. 7:30 pm and 2 pm. $30. Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410 or lakeworthplayhouse.org

Opens November 6

***A Certain Raquel*:** The true story of Raquel Liberman, a Polish-Jewish Argentinian immigrant who exposed a human trafficking network. Written by Nora Glickman. 2 and 7 pm. Through Nov. 15. $17-$27. Studio One Theatre, FAU, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. fauevents.universitytickets.com.

Last of the Red Hot Lovers: In this Neil Simon comedy, a married father of three decides to have an affair. Through Nov. 15. 1 and 7 pm. $25. Willow Theatre, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. 561-347-3948 or myboca.us

Opens November 10

***Spamalot*:** This Tony-winning musical comedy is based fondly on the classic 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Through Nov. 15. $65-$127. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or kravis.org

Opens November 13

Mary Poppins: Through Nov. 22. $25-$45. Entr'Acte Theatrix, 805 Lucerne Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-833-7529 or palmbeachtheatre.org

Opens November 19

Oliver!: Through Dec. 20. 2 and 7:30 pm. $120-$157. Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-995-2333 or thewick.org

Opens November 20

Hairspray: Through Dec. 13. 2 and 7:30 pm. $55 and up. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St.. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

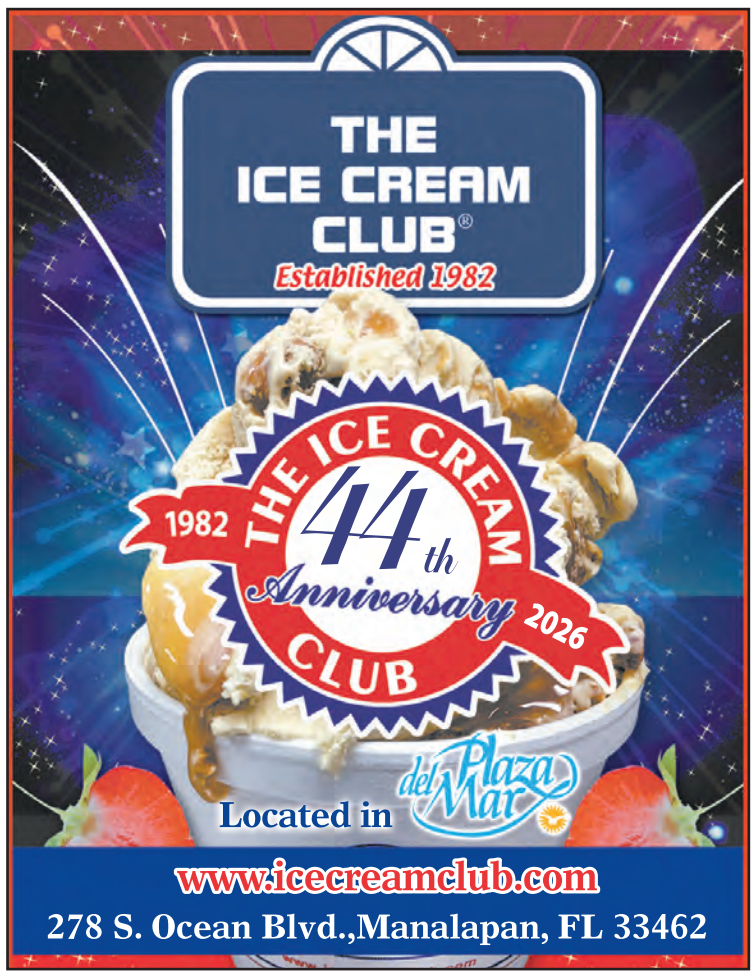
The Game's Afoot: Set in 1936 Connecticut, this play follows actor William Gillette as his Christmas Eve gathering, held at his castle, goes terribly wrong. Written by Ken Ludwig. Through Dec. 6. 2 and 7:30 pm. $44-$126. Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410 or lakeworthplayhouse.org

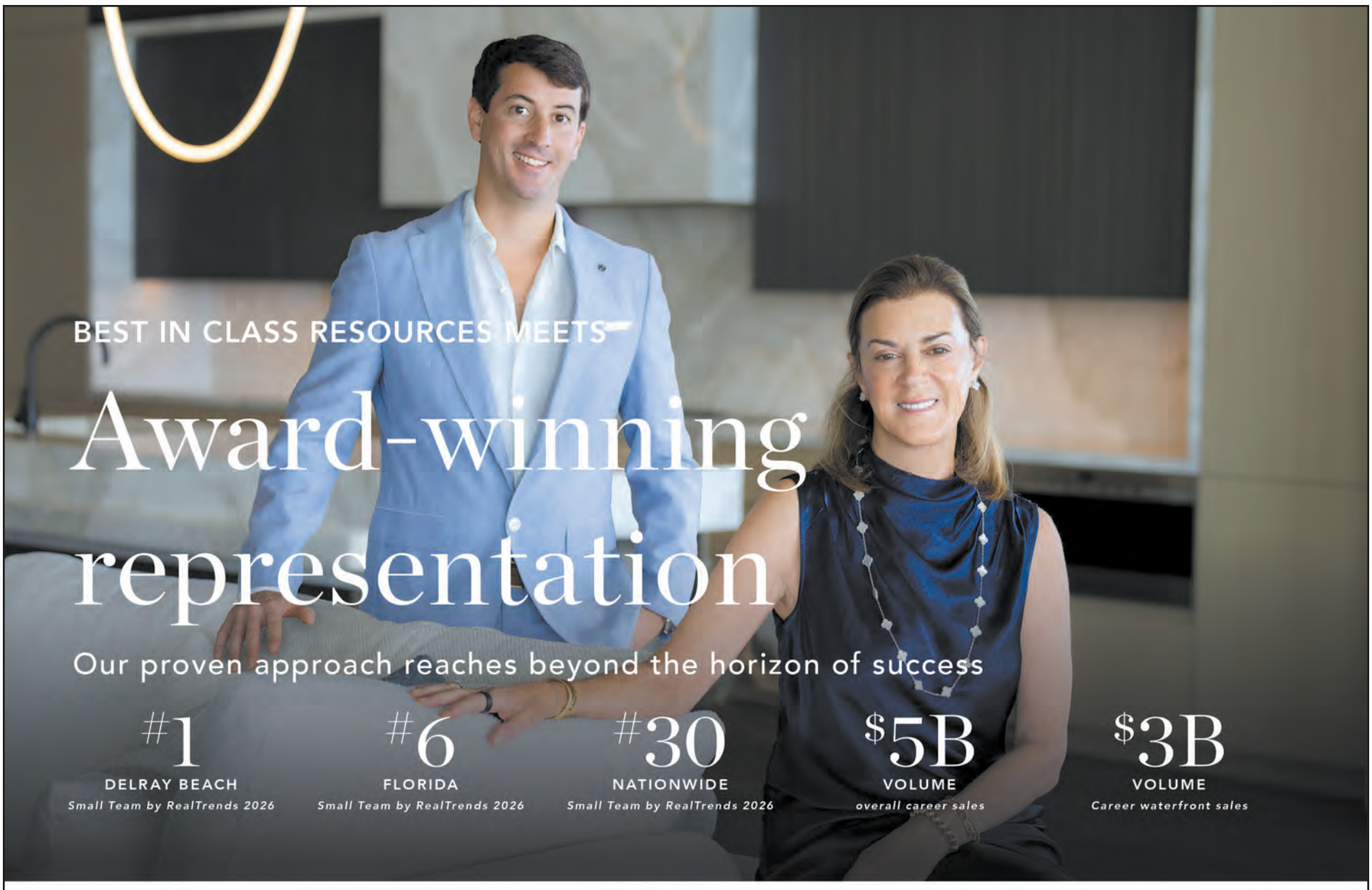
Through November 22

Hershey Felder: The Piano and Me: $100-$135. A musical play that explores the pianist's 30-plus years on stage. 2 and 7:30 pm. Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org





















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Dining

Wine collector opens shop by day, bar by night



General Manager Josh Busby pours a glass of wine at Preface Wine, new to Pineapple Grove in Delray Beach, which offers about 3,000 bottles on its shelves. Once 4 p.m. arrives, the shelves recede and the shop turns into a 28-seat wine bar. **Photo provided**

A new wine shop that converts into a wine bar at night has opened in Delray Beach's Pineapple Grove.

Owner Jonathan Frutkin, a lawyer and wine collector, opened Preface Wine in September for "people who love wine but don't love feeling tested by it."

He believes wine should be fun, not intimidating, and the shop is intended to serve those who would like to learn as they shop and sip.

"No product is more confusing than wine," he said. "But wine shopping can be very fun if you have a way to be guided through it."

While his personal collection tends toward the French, the shop features both domestic and international wines.

At the shop, about 3,000 bottles are on shelves arranged by "stacks" as in a library. From them, customers can browse, then choose a wine to drink on-site or take home. Labels that can be scanned describe the wines from both well-known estates and small producers.

At 4 p.m., the lights dim a little, shelves push back into the walls, and 700 or so are left around the room that now has 28 seats at tables built into the shelves. An eight-seat owner's table is the setting for special events.



Frutkin

Tasting flights are served daily with charcuterie or an appropriate food.

"These are fun, and unexpected too," Frutkin said. "With our Champagne flight, called the Bubble Society, we served popcorn with a light cheese, and chicken fingers. On a dessert wine flight we serve a churros and caramel dip."

The focus of educating a wine consumer extends to the business community that Frutkin says has a social gap, owing to the pandemic and time that people spent online instead of out with friends.

"The younger people are great at AI — really great. But they're slow at social skills," he said, particularly the professionals who close deals in a social setting.

For that reason, he said, he created the Preface Primer, a class where law firms and corporation leaders can sign up younger workers for the course in basic wine knowledge for business occasions.

Since the pandemic and the fall-off of dining out, there has been a slight uptick in social dining, he said.

"People miss the social interaction. This is a space to hang out and share stories — and drink wine."

A special digital sommelier service in the store catalogs wines that customers have liked, and produces lists of wines to try along similar lines. Called JJ, the technology learns with each tasting. Also featured is the Preface Wine Club, and members can use JJ's service at restaurants or other wine shops and stores.

Frutkin's wine following comes from his online presence with YouTube videos, Wine with Jon. He's kept up with the trends that include lighter reds and a growing alcohol-free society.

Non-alcoholic wines also are offered that Frutkin chose after tasting "a lot of bad wine."

Preface is offering club membership where those enrolled get a curated six-bottle case of wines bimonthly, and can choose bottles tiered as approachable, to premium, to limited-production bottles.

Top tiers of the club also get a concierge service, early access to wine events at Preface, and wine education sessions.

Events at the owner's table, such as the grand opening's "Wine & Baseball: Starting Lineup" tasting before the World Series, with six guided pours and elevated baseball foods, or the "Rock & Roll Hall of Pours," are meant to be educational as well as casual, unpretentious gatherings.

All events are open to the over-21 public.

Preface Wine, 279 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. Open Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Phone 561-930-9463; preface.wine.

Captain Clay and Sons Seafood Market is blowing out 20 candles on its anniversary cake. Or maybe they'll celebrate with stone crabs that just arrived in markets for season.

The Clay Brand family is native to Florida, where they own commercial boats that fish mostly local waters. They sell their daily catch in their shop on North Federal Highway in Delray Beach — their 2-year-old location. They've operated a seafood store in the city since opening in 2006.

The shop has become a favorite for seafood lovers who buy "day-boat" catches that sell out quickly or enjoy a house-prepared fish dip that has an almost cult-like following.

Shoppers can go right to the source for recipes: Clay Brand the elder, who still fishes and books chartered trips, works behind the counter and is known as a gourmet cook. He can provide his favorite recipes for any species he's selling that day.

His son Reed Brand, 32, has brought the fish store into the digital world, and as "Reed the Fishmonger" shoots videos for their webpage, TikTok and YouTube, with tips on buying and preparing all types of seafood. He also has educational clips about commercial and recreational fishing and ocean conservation.

As season gears up, it's all about the stone crabs. A bountiful start is noted, and the claws are in the store at prices relatively the same as last year, from $28.99 a pound for mediums, to $78 for jumbos.

Captain Clay and Sons Seafood Market, 1319 N. Federal Highway, Ste. 1, Delray Beach. Phone 561-266-2068; online, captainclayseafood.com. Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At Thanksgiving, food banks and organizations put out the call for extra volunteers and donors.

At **Feeding South Florida**, the area's largest food distribution program that supports other feeding programs, the annual campaign culminates at Thanksgiving.

More than 9,000 families will get turkeys, sides and desserts for a full meal at Thanksgiving during its "Share Food. Share Joy" campaign.

Donations are taken for a gift to a family for a turkey, $30; a turkey and sides, $50; or four turkeys for four families for $100.

To participate, go online to feedingsouthflorida.org/annual-events.

The annual **Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches** campaign, Pie It Forward, runs until Nov. 24.

Donors can order a pie online through Nov. 18, choosing from apple, pumpkin, pecan or Key lime, and pick it up Nov. 24, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

South County pie pickup is curbside at the Old School Square parking garage entrance. Other pickup options are in West Palm Beach, Jupiter, Hobe Sound and Belle Glade.

The nonprofit expects to sell 4,000 pies before Thanksgiving at $30 each. There are limited quantities, and once a flavor has sold out, it is pulled from the website.

Those who want to give without getting a pie can buy a "virtual" pie. Corporate buyers and selling teams are welcome, and there are opportunities to hand out pies, or ongoing opportunities to deliver meals.

All money goes to the nonprofit Meals on Wheels program, which delivers hot meals to homebound older adults.

For more information or to order a pie, go to mowpbpie.org.

In brief

Bissinger's, a handcrafted chocolatier, has opened in Boca's Mizner Park. Another branch of the chain making Old World European chocolates is in Palm Beach. Its French pedigree is said to date to Napoleon and King Ludwig of Bavaria. Karl Bissinger brought the family recipes to Cincinnati in the 1800s, and they are now in nine retail stores, including in Tampa and Sarasota. ...

Park Tavern in Delray Beach closed last month after a 15-year run on Atlantic Avenue. It follows the closure of **Cut 432**, a steakhouse on the Avenue also owned by Modern Restaurant Group. MRG also owns **El Camino**, a Mexican concept with branches in Delray Beach, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale, which remain open. No reason was given by management for the closure, but a non-renewed lease may have played a role, as it has for many restaurants that closed in the past year.



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativefla@gmail.com.

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Religion Notes

Mitzvah Day is a chance for volunteers to help community

B'nai Torah Congregation hosts the annual Mitzvah Day with the Meryl and Ron Gallatin Tzedakah, Learning & Chesed Program from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 8.

In 2025, more than 1,500 people participated is this meaningful morning of service that brings together more than 20 local community organizations with hands-on volunteer opportunities for all ages and interests — from giving a pint of blood to sandwich-making to flower arranging to packing care packages.

TeenLC and SeniorTech volunteers provide hands-on tech help for folks with technology questions and Happy Human hosts a pop-up shop offering free clothing and footwear for underserved children and adults.

The activities take place at B'nai Torah Congregation, 6261 SW 18th St., Boca Raton, where refreshments and a live DJ will keep the energy high throughout the event. For more info and to register, visit btcboca.org/event/mitzvah-day-2026/.





Rebekah Ramer writes a card for a Troop Care Package while Shia Silverman and Noah Goldfaden pack Bags of Hope on B'nai Torah Congregation's Mitzvah Day in 2025. The 2026 Mitzvah Day is Nov. 8. **Photos provided**

St. Lucy's to host flag retirement ceremony

Father Brian Horgan will lead an official "Flag Retirement Service and Ceremony" at 11 a.m. Nov. 8 at St. Lucy Catholic Church, 3510 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. Sometimes called a Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags or Ceremony of Final Tribute, this solemn event includes refreshments after the service.

Anyone with an old/worn/used flag is asked to bring it to the event. All active and retired service members are requested to dress in their military uniforms. A reception will follow for all in the parish center. Questions? Call the church at 561-278-1280.

Temple Beth El sets panel talk on 'normal' substances

As the holiday season with its parties and celebrations approaches, Temple Beth El's Schafer Campus hosts a panel discussion and conversation about mood-altering substances we consider "normal" in society — caffeine, nicotine, alcohol and more — and when social use crosses the line to misuse.

"Asking for a Friend" takes place from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Nov. 8. It's chaired by Jill Swimmer with panel members Andrea Pittell, LCSW; Adam L. Saslov, LMHC PA; John Puls, LCSW, MCAP; and Sari Sheiner, SLP. It includes breakfast provided by the Temple Beth El Brotherhood. The campus is at 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton.

Topics include knowing when "just social" becomes something more; how to have open, judgment-free conversations; and recognizing signs of abuse.

The event is free but registration is required at tbeboca.org/event/asking-for-a-friend-where-social-use-ends-misuse-begins-panel-discussion/.

St. Gregory's Fall Bazaar offers shopping, deals

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Women will host their annual Fall Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 14 at the church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Harris Hall and the courtyard will become a shopping hot spot with the YAYA Eco-Chic Boutique featuring stylish, sustainable finds; a garage sale section with deals on housewares and décor; and a selection of artwork and seasonal items. There's also a thrift store section with unique finds. Call 561-395-8285 or visit stgregorysepiscopal.org/.

Boca set for interfaith Thanksgiving event

The Boca Raton Interfaith Clergy Association and St. Gregory's Episcopal Church will host their annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, A Celebration of Gratitude, Faith & Community, at 7 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1530 W. Camino Real, Boca Raton. A meaningful evening of gratitude, unity and connection is planned as friends and neighbors from diverse faith traditions come together to celebrate and give thanks.

The event features inspirational messages and teachings from local faith leaders, and small group table discussions exploring our common values. Teens from the Boca Raton Interfaith Youth Association will participate. Families are encouraged to bring a food box of nonperishable items to donate to Boca Helping Hands' Thanksgiving Box Brigade. Refreshments and fellowship follow. For more information, visit BRICA's Facebook page at facebook.com/BRICAInterfaith.

St. Paul's to host multifaith Thanksgiving service

St. Paul's Episcopal Church hosts the annual Delray Beach Thanksgiving Service at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at the church, 188 S. Swinton Ave. This interfaith community gathering has a theme of "United by Love."

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Corinna "Cori" Olson, co-president of People Engaged in Active Community Efforts, or PEACE, and will include hymns sung by St. Paul's Chancel Choir and the Temple Sinai Choir.

The service is led by clergy from St. Paul's, Jesus Lounge Ministry, Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County and the Islamic Center of Boca Raton, and will feature prayers and blessings offered by Christians, Jews and Muslims. For more information, visit stpaulsdelray.org or call 561-276-4541.

Temple's Fall Market Boutique set for Nov. 19

Temple Beth El hosts its annual Fall Market Boutique from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 19 on the Beck Campus in the Early Learning Center at 9800 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Shop a variety of local small businesses for women's and children's apparel, accessories, jewelry, Judaica, sweets and more. Don't miss the raffle. Tickets are $5 in advance, $8 at the event. Registration is requested at tbeboca.shulcloud.com/event/fall-market-2026. More info: 561-391-8900 or tbeboca.org/

Worship Night offers chance to learn more about church

Connected Life Christian Church, 2500 NW Fifth Ave., Boca Raton, is hosting a special Worship Night at 7 p.m. Nov. 20 to welcome people who want to know more about the church. It's also planning a Christmas Talent Show and Cookie Exchange on Dec. 12. A batch of cookies is the price of admission to participate in the festive event. Call 561-395-4901 or visit connectedlifecc.com.

18th annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk offers fun for all

Every year on Thanksgiving Day, the Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk gets the community out to run, walk or stroll to benefit family and children's services at the Levis JCC. The race begins at 7:30 a.m. Nov. 26 and features a Youth 1 Mile Fun Run.

All runners will enjoy refreshments following the race. Everything takes place at South County Regional Park, 12551

Continued on the next page



Finding Faith

Clergy members decry hateful talk on proposed Islamic Center

An overflow crowd showed up to a meeting hosted by County Commissioner Maria Sachs in early October to protest three approved projects in the Agriculture Reserve in western Delray Beach. The parking lot was filled with people who were unable to get one of 300 available seats inside the Dr. André Fladell Civic Center.

At issue: A proposed Islamic Center, a future DMV facility and the planned Chabad Chai center on Clint Moore Road.

Tempers ran hot. Some, including Sachs, called for a moratorium on all building in the 22,000-acre reserve, but most used the politics as a smokescreen to hide thinly disguised bigotry toward Muslims.

The proposed Islamic Center of West Delray Beach was approved by the administration in 2022, in keeping with the Unified Land Development Code that governs property development in the Ag Reserve.

It would be built on 6 acres at the southeast corner of Lyons Road and 152nd Place South, a former plant nursery. An adjacent 3,632-square-foot sanctuary and a 3,600-square-foot multipurpose building intended to house a school and daycare were approved in 2023.

The code says certain projects — including houses of worship and government facilities — can be approved by the development review officer, an administrative team within the Planning, Zoning and Building Department, without a public County Commission hearing, as long as they meet basic code requirements. Every year, projects are approved without protest.

The meeting was supposed to be a discussion of the future of the Ag Reserve, but it quickly became a forum to speak out against Islam. Both anti-Islam and antisemitic rhetoric have grown louder in the wake of Hamas' deadly Oct. 7, 2023, attack in Israel, and after the meeting, comments on news stories and social media message boards exploded with hateful statements, many false.





LEFT: County Commissioner Maria Sachs leads a discussion of the proposed Islamic Center of West Delray Beach, which is approved to be built in the Agriculture Reserve. **ABOVE:** A Muslim woman in a hijab who called herself Anna invited the crowd to come to her mosque and ask questions about her religion. Some jeered. **Photos provided**

In response, the Boca Raton Interfaith Clergy Association made an official statement that read, in part:

"Over the past week we have seen painful and at times hateful remarks about various faith traditions in online conversations about this issue. We condemn unreservedly any expressions of hatred, bigotry, and the vitriol we have seen. We cannot tolerate this level of intolerance.

"We always encourage residents to bring their concerns to elected officials. We ask that they do so with respect and gratitude for the blessing of a diverse religious community.

"We stand together in defending every faith community's right to gather and to build houses of worship and community centers. This is a fundamental freedom of our American democracy, and it is essential to living out our commitments to our faiths."

The same people so anxious to exercise their First Amendment rights to speak out against Islam ignored that the First Amendment also guarantees the right to worship the God we choose. This country was founded by people escaping religious persecution, but it was not founded as a 'Christian nation.' "

Father Andrew Sherman of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church of Boca Raton said, "As a co-convener of the Boca Raton Interfaith Clergy Association, we stand against any kind of bigotry. We certainly believe that every house of worship ought to have an opportunity to have a place to gather, to worship and to do activities that are important to the community. That's who we are as Americans."

Father Andrew said he believes what's driving some of the protests is intolerance. "If they're using politics as an excuse to be anti-Muslim, you call it out," he said. "You have to say that it's not appropriate. Yes, it is a free country, and people can say vile things, but it must be challenged."

Father Andrew says BRICA's members represent many religions, and "we do feel that part of our role is to be the conscience of the community. We stand with houses of worship wanting to have places to exercise their ministry."

David Steinhardt, formerly rabbi at B'nai Torah Congregation and the former president of BRICA, is currently the senior faculty and engagement officer at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. He's studied racial and sectarian hate.

"It's rooted in fear of the unknown," he said. "When something or someone is not known, then they become suspicious. Suspicion leads to fear, and that often leads to anger. I believe many of these people carry the scars of Oct. 7 with them. I think they are losing sight of their responsibilities as American citizens — that this is a country that's rooted in freedom of religion and justice for all."

Over the years, Steinhardt has developed relationships with members of the Islamic Center of Boca Raton. "These have been respectful, productive relationships. From everything that I know, there is not a single reason for us to be suspicious of this group locally," he said.

"What's happening here is a reflection of the political climate, which is a climate of intolerance. And we have to shift that. We need acceptance. There's a lot of work that has to be done."

Calls to the Islamic Center of Boca Raton for comment on this story were not returned.

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at fontaine423@outlook.com.



Glades Road, Boca Raton. Fees for the 5K are $40 until Nov. 15, $45 Nov. 16-25 and $50 on race day for ages 11 and older. Ages 10 and younger: $30 until Nov. 15, $35 Nov. 16-25 and $40 race day. Register at levisjcc.org/wellness/turkeytrot/.

All invited to Thanksgiving meal at St. Gregory's

The Meals with Meaning ministry at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, is hosting its annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26. Everyone is welcome to a free Thanksgiving meal, plus they'll have prizes and giveaways. Contact Gena Vallee at 561-395-8285 or visit mealswithmeaning.org.

— Janis Fontaine

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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. • Phone: 561-276-4541 • Web: stpaulsdelray.org. Father Paul Kane. Services of Holy Eucharist: Saturdays 5:00 p.m.; Sundays 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; Sundays 10:00 a.m. Family Prayers and Praise Service; Thursday 12:10 p.m. Healing Service; Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer and 8:00 p.m. Compline.

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.

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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.

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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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 10/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

NOVEMBER 8-14

Sunday - 11/8 - Zoom Bible Study at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: communications#accboca.net; 561-997-5486; ascensionboca.org

Monday - 11/9 - Women's Bible Study via Zoom at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every M 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

11/9 - Rosary for Peace at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:45-6:15 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Tuesday - 11/10 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 11/11 - Men's Spirituality Hour via Zoom at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W 8 am. Free. For link: 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

11/11 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Thursday - 11/12 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee presented by Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Phone meeting (605-475-6006, passcode 3031030). Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

11/12 - Men's Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

11/12 - Women's Bible Study at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Youth Room, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Th 1 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

Friday - 11/13 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 9:30-11 am. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

11/13 - Bible Study w/Dave Kirk at Advent Boca Raton Fellowship Hall, 300 E Yamato Rd. Every F 10-11:30 am. 561-395-3632; adventboca.org

11/13 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaipbc.org

NOVEMBER 15-21

Tuesday - 11/17 - Annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service: United by Love at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. Free. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org

Wednesday - 11/18 - Next Genesis at Chabad of East Boca Raton, 120 NE 1st Ave. New monthly course for women from Rosh Chodesh Society. 7 W through 5/5/2027. 6:30 pm. $165/includes textbook; $35/class. RSVP: 561-394-9770; bocabeachchabad.com

DECEMBER 4

Friday - 12/4 - Hanukkah begins

Taking the month off



Jan Engoren's Health & Harmony column will return in December.

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Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 10/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

NOVEMBER 7

Saturday - 11/7 - Saturdays @ Sanborn: Yoga Class at Sanborn Square, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 8:45 am registration; 9 am class. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

11/7 - Zumba Class at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

11/7 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West, 1221 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. 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

11/7 - Judo Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6:30-8:30 pm mixed ages/ranks; Sat 10 am-noon all groups. Per month $21.50/resident; $27/non-resident. Registration: 561-393-7807; myboca.us

11/7 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

11/7 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W/Sat/Sun 6:30 pm. $12-$15/class; 60-day membership $70/resident, $87.50/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

NOVEMBER 8-14

Sunday - 11/8 - 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

11/8 - Codependents Anonymous Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

11/8 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W/Sat/Sun 6:30 pm. $10-$12.50/class; 60-day membership $70/resident, $87.50/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Monday - 11/9 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every M/W 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

11/9 - LGBTQ ACOA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every M 6:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

11/9 - Adult Zumba Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Every M 7-8 pm. Per class: $7/resident; $8.75/non-resident. Registration: 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Tuesday - 11/10 - 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

11/10 - Yoga with Sophia at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Also 11/24. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/10 - Al-Anon Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 11/11 - Form & Frame: Mat Pilates in the Galleries at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Also 11/18. 8-9 am. $15/member; $15-$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

11/11 - Bootcamp at Wildflower Park, 551 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. Every W 10 am. Free. myboca.us/wildflower

11/11 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 10 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

Thursday - 11/12 - Pilates Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Age 18+. Every Th through 11/19 9:30-10:30 am. $20/resident; $25/non-resident. Registration: 561-393-7807; myboca.us

11/12 - LGBTQ+ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Th 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

11/12 - Alateen Meeting at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

Saturday - 11/14 - Health & Wellness Expo at Boca Raton Tribune, 980 N Federal Hwy, #110, Boca Raton. 10 am-2 pm. Free. bocaratontribune.com

11/14 - Sound Healing at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Held again 5-6 pm 11/18. 3-4 pm. $20/member; $40/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

NOVEMBER 15-21

Wednesday - 11/18 - Tai Chi in the Sculpture Garden at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 8-9 am. $15/member; $25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

11/18 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Controlling the Where, When and How Long of Vaccine Delivery w/Darrell Irvine, Ph.D. 1-hour virtual lecture. 7 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu

NOVEMBER 22-28

Tuesday - 11/24 - Full Moon Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. 6:30 pm. $12/resident, $15/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

11/24 - Full Moon Yoga & Night Market at Old School Square Park, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6:30-9:30 pm. Free; $5 suggested donation. 561-561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

Wednesday - 11/25 - Paintings & Pilates at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Held again 12/2. 5:30-6:30 pm. $15/member; $25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

NOV. 29-DEC. 5

Tuesday - 12/1 - Tai Chi Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Age 18+. Every T through 12/29 6-7 pm. Per class: $8/resident; $10/non-resident. Registration: 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Wednesday - 12/2 - Yin Yoga at the Museum at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 8-9 am. $15/member; $30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

12/2 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W/Sat/Sun 6:30 pm. $12-$15/class; 60-day membership $70/resident, $87.50/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Thursday - 12/3 - Pilates Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Age 18+. Every Th through 12/17 9:30-10:30 am. $20/resident; $25/non-resident. Registration: 561-393-7807; myboca.us

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Health Notes

FAU professor wins research grant from National Institutes of Health

Florida Atlantic University neuroscientist Laura Fontenas, Ph.D., received a $448,664 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how the body makes myelin, the protective coating around nerves. The research could shed light on myelin loss in diseases such as multiple sclerosis and how damaged myelin might be repaired.


Fontenas

Fontenas and her team recently found a new type of cell in zebrafish that makes myelin. They will study how these cells work and whether healthy ones could help repair damaged nerves. The grant will also give undergraduate students in South Florida hands-on research experience.

New technique speeds shoulder surgery recovery

Delray Medical Center now offers patients total shoulder replacement with the Inhance Intact tissue-sparing surgical technique, performed by orthopedic shoulder and elbow surgeon Dr. Vani Sabesan.


Sabesan

This technique preserves the subscapularis tendon, a key shoulder tendon, so surgeons don't have to cut and repair it. As a result, some patients may be able to start moving their shoulder as early as a day after surgery.

Other benefits include faster rehabilitation, low complication rates and potentially shorter hospital stays.

Hospital announces governing board members

Delray Medical Center also announced the members of its governing board.

They include: Lon Sadowsky, DO; Jeffrey H. Newman, MD; Louis G. Tumminia, MD; Ivan Puente, MD; Lori Vinikoor; William Stansbury; Yitzchak Isaac Newman; Juli A. Casale; Jessica Clasby; Lisa Lani Kronhaus; and Rob Long.

Send health news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.

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Paws Up for Pets

Older dogs come with an abundance of wisdom and love

Puppies earn top marks for cuteness, but raising one means sacrificing sleep for potty training, guarding socks and shoes from curious teeth, channeling boundless energy, and teaching good manners through obedience classes.

I refer to the first year of living with a puppy as "the wonder year," as in you wonder where your sanity went.

Fortunately, there is a saner option: adopting a senior dog or cat. Often, they are wiser and ready to love.

Fittingly, November, a month celebrated by giving thanks for friends and family, is also designated as Adopt a Senior Pet Month.

Need motivation to adopt a senior pet? Check out the happy adoption tales of dogs named Rusty and Finny. Both dogs were rescued by JoAnn Goodrich, founder of Destiny for Dogs, based in West Palm Beach. She has been rescuing homeless dogs for more than 30 years.

"We don't rush dogs in and out," says JoAnn. "We do what we need to do to help them find the right homes."

Case in point: Rusty, a shih tzu, almost 14 years old. After his owner died, he was sent to live with a foster for Destiny for Dogs. "During the initial veterinary exam, we learned that he needed all his vaccinations and some teeth removed," JoAnn says. "We were determined to find him a good home to live out his senior years."

Kathleen Sprague Riescher, of Delray Beach, was scanning older dogs available on an adoption website and up popped Rusty's bio.

"At my age — 77 — it is not easy to raise a puppy," says Kathleen. "Senior dogs need love, too, and they are so grateful when you adopt them. The minute I spotted Rusty on the adoption site, I knew he was the one for me."

Today Rusty enjoys his golden years with Kathleen and her 9-year-old shih tzu-mix named Mia, whom she adopted three years ago.

"Rusty loves to run and play with Mia and Mia loves to mother him," says Kathleen. "He has a significant heart murmur and will need to be on medication for the rest of his life, but he is now healthy and happy."

Now for the adoption tale of Finny. This senior Pomeranian's bio on the Destiny for Dogs site grabbed the attention — and heart — of Jamie Corbin, who lives in The Villages near Orlando. Two weeks after completing paperwork and having her references checked, she brought Finny home to join her dog named Silke.

"I had adopted Silke also from Destiny for Dogs," says Jamie. "I am a senior myself and I wanted a senior dog, not a puppy. We guess Finny is about 13 and he absolutely loves to ride around with me in my golf cart. He is a happy-go-lucky guy, while Silke is more docile and prefers being at home. I am so glad I adopted them both as older dogs."

A major advocate for senior-aged pets is Suzi Goldsmith, executive director of Tri-County Animal Rescue, based in Boca Raton. The shelter, which now includes a veterinary center, has saved more than 100,000 animals since 1996.

"We have rescued more older dogs than younger ones," Suzi says. "I believe in giving dogs ages 7 and older a second chance at life. ... Older dogs know they have been rescued, more so than younger puppies."

Tri-County offers a senior-to-senior adoption program, which comes with a discounted rate.

"Sometimes, we just charge the administrative fee of $50 but the bedding, food, all necessary shots and dental surgeries on these senior dogs have been done here at our veterinary center," Suzi says. "We also have the same policy for those wishing to adopt senior cats. We tell people that older pets learn very quickly in new homes and do not have to be walked as many times a day as a puppy or young dog do."

JoAnn notes that Destiny for Dogs is foster-based, meaning that dogs up for adoption stay with vetted foster volunteers in their homes until they are adopted.

JoAnn, 72, and her husband, Kenny Goodrich, 82, share their home with three senior dogs: Bennie, Teddie and Sophie.

"We are all seniors," she says. "Every day, our dogs bring us a lot of joy. Senior dogs are simply the best."

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









TOP: JoAnn Goodrich with her senior dogs (l-r) Bennie, Teddie and Sophie. Goodrich is founder of Destiny for Dogs, where she finds loving homes for older dogs. **LEFT:** Jamie Corbin adopted two senior dogs from Goodrich: Finny, seen riding with Corbin in her golf cart, and Silke. **RIGHT:** Kathleen Sprague Riescher of Delray Beach with Rusty, whom she adopted from Goodrich. Sprague Riescher says a puppy would have been a handful for her. **Photos provided**

Senior adoption options

If you want to adopt a senior dog or cat, or learn more about the process, reach out to these organizations in Palm Beach County that offer special plans and discounted rates for older animals:

- **Destiny for Dogs**, West Palm Beach. destinyfordogs.com.
- **Peggy Adams Rescue League**, 3200 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. peggyadams.org.
- **Tri-County Animal Rescue**, 21287 Boca Rio Road, Boca Raton. tricountyanimalrescue.org.
- **Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control**, 7100 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach. discover.pbc.gov/publicsafety/animalcare/Pages/Adopting.aspx.





Pets

27th annual Blessing of the Animals

Unity of Delray Beach — Oct. 3









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Liz Lathourakis holds her dog, Yogi, and Nancy Larson holds her dog, Rhett Butler, as well as their Awesome Participant Awards at the 27th annual Blessing of the Animals at Unity of Delray Beach. The Rev. Jeanmarie Eck laughs about Beamer's need to be petted at all times. Hattie enjoys being patted while she gets her blessing. Hattie lost her brother, McCoy, a month prior, so a prayer was said for him as well. Eck blesses Mia and Luna while they are held by their owners, Linda and Bob Moore. **Photos by Rachel O'Hara/The Coastal Star**

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Tots & Teens

Dreyfoos students' free app assists young entrepreneurs

By Faran Fagen

Anthony Tan and two classmates at Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts founded Prodigy Pro to build the starting point they wished they'd had as young entrepreneurs.

"Attending Dreyfoos also shaped how we saw the project," said Tan, of Hypoloxo. "At an arts school, we learn to create, take criticism, and translate the ideas in our heads into experiences for other people."


Tan

Tan, Aiden Azoy and Mia Rubio, all seniors at Dreyfoos, launched Prodigy Pro to make entrepreneurship accessible to their peers. The AI-powered platform helps students organize ideas, document tasks and milestones, and validate business risks.

Their mission: To build the missing infrastructure between a young person's idea and the resources, guidance, teammates and systems needed to turn it into a real venture.

"A student can start with nothing more than an idea," said Tan, 17. "They have an idea but don't know what to do next. Prodigy Pro helps them define the problem and who they're serving and test their assumptions."

Prodigy Pro (Prodigypro.app) also remembers each student's goals and progress, so the guidance gets more specific over time. More than 15,000 students in 20 countries — including Sudan and Malaysia — have now used it, much use coming from students recommending it to their friends.

Earlier this year, the Dreyfoos students won $7,500 in the nationwide Mott Million Dollar Challenge, which helped them fund the platform, making it free for its users.

Prodigy is a single workspace for taking a venture from idea to pilot: tasks, road map, validation, contacts, forms and automations, all in one place. The site covers every part of the product, from the sidebar structure down to the individual fields on a record.

The trio were inspired by West Palm Beach's growing reputation as one of America's next tech hubs. A networking group dubbed Wall Street South often holds events not far from the school, and Tan was in awe when he attended with his friends.

"We saw a huge inflow of major firms coming to South Florida, like Wells Fargo, ServiceNow, and recently Andreessen Horowitz, but there was little that teenagers like us could actually take part in, even though we were literally hundreds of feet away from where it was happening," Tan said. "Access depended on who you knew, that the information was scattered, and most programs assumed you were an adult who already knew the process."

Tan identifies several keys to the program's success: Prodigy Pro started with a problem the three personally experienced, and they kept changing the platform based on where users got confused. Another paramount factor is that the problem has proven to be global, and word-of-mouth growth has been really meaningful in helping them reach people.

Prodigy Pro isn't just an app, it's a framework Tan uses to pressure-test his own ideas. Questions that he's faced daily include: What problem are we solving? Who has it? What evidence do we have?

Tan's mom, Elisa Hung, is amazed at how many people Tan and his classmates have reached with the project.

"We are deeply grateful to Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts for the strong academic preparation and an exceptional music education that have helped Anthony grow into a well-rounded young man," Hung said. "This foundation, combined with his interests in business and technology, has given him the confidence to pursue his dreams and believe in what he can achieve."

Tan hasn't committed to any colleges yet, but plans to major in the area of applied math or economics.

"I want to keep working where technology, business and research meet problems that actually matter to people," said Tan. "I want to change the world and make an impact on people. Hopefully this is just a step toward bigger things I can do in the future."

The founders of Prodigy Pro will graduate in May, but say the platform will remain a free resource for students worldwide. ★

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 10/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

NOVEMBER 7

Saturday - 11/7 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Sat 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/7 - Morning Makers - Creatures of Color at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Ages 5-12. 10-11:30 am. $10/members; $5-$20/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

11/7 - STEM Camp: 3D Printers at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-12. Held again 11/14. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/7 - Once Upon a Story at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All ages. 11-11:30 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/7 - 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

11/7 - Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/7 - Fun on Wheels at Catherine Strong Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Ages 2-8. Light snacks will be provided. 2-5 pm. Free. 561-243-7194; mydelraybeach.com

NOVEMBER 8-14

Monday - 11/9 - Special Guest Storytime w/Fire Rescue at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/9 - Homework Help at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. For grades K-5. Runs through 12/18. M-W 3:30-4:15 & 4:15-5 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 11/10 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages walking to 23 mos. Every T. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/10 - PreK Prep: 123's at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 3 & up. Held again 11/17 10 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/10 - Tumble Tots at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5. Every T 11 am. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/10 - Toddler Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-24 mos. Held again 11/24. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

11/10 - Search Smarter: Research Without AI at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

11/10 - ColorSpace at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 11/12 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Th (closed 11/26) 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/12 - Little Lap Adventures at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-1 yr. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/12 - Tots in Tutus at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5. Held again 11/19 10 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/12 - Kids Music Circle at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. Held again 11/19 11 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/12 - My First Book Club at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 6-7. Held again 11/19 & 12/3. 4:30-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/12 - Picture Book Club: *I Wish You More* by Amy Rosenthal at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-11. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 11/13 - Preschool Science at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5. Held again 11/20 10 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/13 - Art Exploration at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5. Held again 11/20 11 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/13 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Ages 0 months to non-walking. Every F 11-11:30 am. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

11/13 - Falling for Crafts at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 0-10. 3-4 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/13 - Ms. Lovely's Yoga at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-5 yrs. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 11/14 - Teen Advisory Board at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades 6-12. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

11/14 - Creation Station: Missing Pieces at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 10 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

11/14 - Lab Rats at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/14 - My Grown-Up & Me Craft Time: Autumn Wreaths at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 11 & under. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

NOVEMBER 15-21

Monday - 11/16 - Baby Story Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes & songs. Ages 6-12 months. Held again 11/30. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390;

Tuesday - 11/17 -Young @ Art at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create fun arts/crafts, learn principles of art. Ages 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/17 -Stories Across Cultures at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All ages. 6-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 11/18 - PreK Prep: ABC's at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 3 & up. Held again 11/25 9:30 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/18 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every W 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/18 - Imagine That! at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 3 & up. Held again 11/25 10 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/18 - Messy Play at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 18 mos. & up. Held again 11/25 11 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/18 - Sensory Circle Time: Pumpkin Spice & Everything Nice at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 11 am-12:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

11/18 -Young @ Art at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create fun arts/crafts. Ages 9-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/18 - 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

11/18 - Mixed Media Adventures: Art Dolls at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-17. Every W 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 11/19 - Toddler Tales at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 1-3 yrs. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/19 - Once Upon a Recipe at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Combine literacy with hands-on cooking experience. Ages 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/19 - Make & Take: Gratefulness Rocks at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 11/21 - Bones to Books at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Children read to friends from Bonafide Therapy Dogs. All ages. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

NOVEMBER 22-28

Monday - 11/23 - Thanksgiving Special Family Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/23 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 11/24 - Storytelling through Music & Movement at Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2.5-5. 10 am. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

11/24 - Teen Movie Night: *Dune: Part 2* (2024, PG-13) at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:45 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 11/28 - Bones to Books at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-8. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

NOV. 29-DEC.5

Sunday - 11/29 - Special Charlie Brown Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/29 - Grand Stories & Keepsakes at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Celebrate the special bond between grandparents and grandchildren. All ages. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Monday - 11/30 - Baby Story Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 6-12 months. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

11/30 - Booktastic Book Talk: *Knights vs. Dinosaurs* at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Free copy of book upon registration. Ages 8-10. 3:30-4:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/30 - Story Explorers Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/30 - Books & Badges at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-12. Each Monday celebrates a different holiday. Held again 12/7 & 14. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 12/1 - Ultimate Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

12/1 - Teen Book Club: *Snowglobe* by Soyoung Park at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 12/15. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 12/2 - Sensory Circle Time: Snowy Drifts at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5. 11 am-12:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 12/3 - Holly Jolly Holiday Party! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 12/4 - Winter Make & Take at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 0-10. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

12/4-6 - *Seussical Jr.* at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Performance by students ages 7-16. F/Sat: 6 pm; Sat: 3 pm. $12. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Saturday - 12/5 - Morning Makers - Collage Lab 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

12/5 - STEM Camp: ARTIE 3000 at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-12. Held again 12/19. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

12/5-6 - Creation Station: Vivid Layers at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 10 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Outdoors

Hiking group knows where to go to escape everyday chaos

You wouldn't think of South Florida as a hiking destination given its abundance of housing developments, condo communities and shopping centers. But there are plenty of relatively hidden trails in or near Palm Beach County where a hiker can feel miles away from the everyday chaos.

Some of those serene trails are in local parks, where you are serenaded by the calls of songbirds and squawks of wading birds instead of the drone of traffic. Others are in remote wildlife management areas, where you might see white-tailed deer, wild hogs, wild turkeys and maybe even a black bear.

One of the best ways to find and explore those trails is with the Loxahatchee chapter of the Florida Trail Association, one of the organization's 19 chapters that stretch from the Florida Keys to the Panhandle.

The Loxahatchee chapter (loxfltrail.org) has regular early morning hikes from Boca Raton to Hobe Sound that are posted on Meetup. In the next month they include:

- John Prince Park in Lake Worth Beach
- Peaceful Waters Sanctuary in Wellington
- Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound
- Okeeheelee Park in West Palm Beach
- Riverbend Park in Jupiter
- Pondhawk Natural Area in Boca Raton
- DuPuis Wildlife and Environmental Area near Indiantown

The trails range from paved to gravel to sandy to muddy, and some locations have boardwalks that traverse ponds and wetlands. There are even some beach walks. And they attract all types of users.



Members of the Florida Trail Association's Loxahatchee chapter enjoy a hike at Okeeheelee Park in West Palm Beach. South Florida has other hiking trails like this one if you know where to look. **Steve Waters/The Coastal Star**

During a 4-mile hike with the group on the gravel trails in the southern half of Okeeheelee, there were cyclists and runners in addition to hikers. That section of the park also has a 9-mile horseback riding trail in addition to other equestrian amenities.

The signage at the park could be better. There are occasional signs telling you what trail you're on and a few "you are here" maps, but there are forks in the trails with no information and nothing telling you how to get back to your starting point or if you're even going in the right direction.

That's the value of hiking with the FTA's Loxahatchee chapter. Paul Cummings of Lake Worth is one of the chapter's activity leaders and he organizes many of the hikes.

"I try to do a little bit all around the county, so that every month we hit a Boca and a Jupiter," said Cummings, who has served as the chapter's president as well as president of the FTA. "We have a lot of activity leaders in the Florida Trail Association and some of them lead 12-mile hikes on weekends or through the more difficult swamps and that kind of thing. I try to be relatively leisurely so we don't rule out anybody."

Sometimes just getting to the trail locations is difficult because of hidden entrances and incorrect online and GPS searches. Cummings specifies where the meeting locations are and how to get there.

For example, Okeeheelee is divided by Forest Hill Boulevard. One hiker said that the first time she went to the park for a chapter hike, she went to the north side and ended up calling Cummings to find out where everybody was.

"Yeah, people put Okeeheelee Park in their GPS and it never gets them here," said the fit and trim Cummings, who grew up in Michigan at a time when a youngster walked everywhere.

In addition to hikes, the chapter does monthly maintenance on trails, whether it's cleaning up trash and debris or trimming vegetation.

The chapter also created and maintains the 63-mile Ocean to Lake Trail in Martin County that runs from Port Mayaca to Hobe Sound and has a six-day backpacking hike on it every February.

Gear recommendations

Two products that are ideal for hiking are the GTFO Mountain Pant by Origin and Danum shoes by Freet.

Origin's pants are incredibly lightweight and tough enough to handle any obstacles on a trail. Made in America from American-sourced materials, the pants feature Nyloc, a tightly woven fabric that provides superior abrasion resistance.

The pants have reinforced knees, yet they're as mobile as they are durable. They're water resistant, dry quickly and shed wrinkles. The handy thigh utility pockets have zippers and a flap to keep out moisture and keep in your car keys and other essentials. Visit originusa.com.

Wearing Freet's Danum shoes on the trail is like hiking barefoot. They have zero-drop construction, which means there is no height at the heel, along with a wide toe box and flexible sole that offers secure traction. You can feel the earth as you walk. They're lightweight, breathable and packable, and have a higher ankle to keep out trail debris. Visit usa.freetbarefoot.com/products/danum.



Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 10/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

NOVEMBER 7

Saturday - 11/7 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. For experienced paddlers ages 13-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. $20/member; $25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

11/7-8 - Nature Connections at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet in amphitheater for a short presentation featuring our native flora and fauna All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Every Sat/Sun. 11:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

NOVEMBER 8-14

Sunday - 11/8 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 7-adult; each child under 13 must be accompanied by one adult. 9-10:30 am. $20/resident & member; $25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Tuesday - 11/10 - Island Treks at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Visitors guided on a short trek along the shaded boardwalk through the tropical hardwood hammock forest, pausing for intracoastal views through the mangroves. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

11/10 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about seashells, the animals that make them. Caravan to Red Reef Park, 1400 N State Rd A1A, to search for ocean treasures. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. 2-3:30 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 11/14 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course at Spanish River Park HQ Building, USCG Auxiliary Classroom, 3939 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 9 am-5 pm. $35/adult; $5/teen. 561-391-3600; peauxboca@gmail.com

11/14 - 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

NOVEMBER 15-21

Sunday - 11/15 - 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. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Thursday - 11/19 - Early Birding w/Al at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about native & migratory birds from an experienced birder. Binoculars recommended. Meet on nature center front porch. Age 10+; child must be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Friday - 11/20 - After Hours Tours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour ends w/sunset views of the Intracoastal Waterway. Ages 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6-7:30 pm. $10/resident & member; $13/non-resident. Held again 12/4. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 11/21 - Coast Guard Auxiliary: GPS for Mariners Course at Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. Park, 2010 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Focuses on the GPS equipment typically owned by the recreational boater. 9 am-noon. $35/paypal; $30/cash. 561-312-6439; birdlover5@bellsouth.net

NOVEMBER 22-28

Sunday - 11/22 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. $20/member; $25/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Tuesday - 11/24 - Sunset Kayak at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; each child under 13 must be accompanied by one adult. 5-6:30 am. $24/resident & member; $30/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 11/28 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course at Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. Park, 2010 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 8 am-3 pm. $35/paypal; $30/cash. 561-312-6439; birdlover5@bellsouth.net

11/28-29 - 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

NOV. 29-DEC. 5

Wednesday - 12/2 - Coral Reef Marine Life Identification at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of the Ocean Science Lecture Series with Pinnacle Ecological. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 12/5 - Ornaments Naturally at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Create nature ornaments/decorations w/holiday themes using shells, sea beans, pine cones, other materials (provided). Age 7 & up, child under 18 must participate w/an adult. 10 am-noon. $20/resident & member; $24/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 10/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

NOVEMBER 7

Saturday - 11/7 - Tree Giveaway at Hatch 1121, 1121 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Must be a Lake Worth Beach Resident. First come, first served, limit 2 trees per household. 9 am. Free. 561-927-8733; communitygreening.org

11/7 - Shred Day at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 9 am-noon. Free. 561-243-7266; delraybeachfl.gov

11/7 - Annual Mayors' Chess Challenge at Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave. For players of all ages/experience. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-243-7250 x 6042; delraybeachfl.gov

11/7 - Historic Walking Tour: A1A & The Beach at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. 2.7 mile walk. 10 am-noon. $30/person; $20/members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

11/7 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy. Free family craft activities 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

11/7 - Abstract Flow: Simple Expressive Watercolor Landscapes at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. $40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

11/7 - Mimic the Masters Acrylic Painting at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. $90. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

11/7 - Lunchbox Matinee: The Spaghetti & Matzo Ball Show at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Noon. Tickets start at $59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

11/7 - Glow & Pour: A Luxury Candle-Making Experience at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-4 pm. $85. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

11/7 - The Tequila Festival at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Art, music, food & tech. Ages 21+. 4-8 pm. $125/VIP; $75/general admission. thetequilafest.com

11/7 - Troop 336 Annual Endless Spaghetti Night at First United Methodist Church, 625 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. $10/adults; $5/kids 10 & under. 4-8 pm. Tickets: troop336.net

11/7 - Subtropic Film Festival at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. *First They Came For My College*: 5:30 pm; *Junkie*: 8:15 pm. $65. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

11/7 - Joe Devito at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. Tickets start at $59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

11/7-8 - Art on the Square Fine Art Show at Old School Square Amphitheatre, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Sat: 10 am-5 pm; Sun: 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com

11/7-8 - Boca Raton Fine Art Show at Sanborn Square Park, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 941-755-3088; hotworks.org

11/7-8 - A Certain Raquel at FAU Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 11/15. F/Sat: 7 pm; Sat/Sun: 2 pm. $17-$27. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

NOVEMBER 8-14

Sunday - 11/8 - Art & Friendship: A Dialogue between Tobi Kahn and Douglas Dreishpoon at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Adults. 3-4 pm. $10/members; $25/non-members. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

11/8 - Sunday Music Matinee Series: Boca Jazz Union at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

11/8 - Behind The Linds: A 9/11 Story at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. $44. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 11/9 - Career & Employment Help w/CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T through 12/22 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

11/9 - Is It Legal or Is It Right? w/Sigal Rubin 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

11/9 - Seminar: Ripped from the Headlines w/Eliot Kleinberg at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 11/30. 12:30-2 pm. $60/annual membership; $69.60/member; $87/non-member; $30/guest pass. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/9 - Set Sail the Lifelong Learner Way! The Semester at Sea Experience w/ Vera Nicholas at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/9 - Mahjong Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 11/23. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/9 - Advanced Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every M 2-4 pm. $6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

11/9 - Monday Movies - Documentary: *Every Little Thing* directed by Sally Aitken at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

11/9 - Scrabble Game Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 11/23. 6-7:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/9 - Jazz Combos Concert at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. $5-$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

11/9 - Boynton Beach Historical Society Meeting: History of the Lake Worth Playhouse at First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach, 235 SW 6th Ave, Boynton Beach. 7:15 pm. Free. boyntonhistory.org/events/

Tuesday - 11/10 - Guided Tour of The Boca Raton at 501 E Camino Real. Presented by Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. Walking tour follows the resort's evolution; includes Addison Mizner's story, his architectural inspirations, furnishings. Not recommended for children under 12. Held again 11/24. 2-3:30 pm. $29/advance tickets. Reservations: 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

11/10 - Beginning Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age s18+. Every T through 11/17 5:30-7 pm. $60/4-weeks; $20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

11/10 - Movie Night at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. Held again 11/17 & 12/1. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

11/10 - Heritage Lecture - Hurricane! w/Eliot Kleinberg presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Creative Arts School at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. 6 pm. $10/person; $5/members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

11/10 - *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout part of Tuesday Evening Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

11/10 - Trivia Night at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

11/10 - Annual Chef Showdown Country Club Competition at Broken Sound Club, 2401 Willow Springs Dr, Boca Raton. Benefits Trustbridge Hospice Foundation. 6-10 pm. $400. 561-315-0423; trustbridge.com

11/10 - MAS: Music of The Americas at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. $5-$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

11/10 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd T 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

11/10 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 2nd T 8-10:30 pm. $10-$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 11/11 - Veterans Day

11/11 - Modern Dance at the Museum at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 6-7 pm. $15/member; $15-$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

11/11 - Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band Concert: Ringing in the Season at Coral Lakes Theater, 12751 El Clair Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. $10. goldcoastband.org

Thursday - 11/12 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon.

Municipal Meetings

11/9 – Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org
11/10 – South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com
11/10 & 11/24 – Boca Raton Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us
11/13 – Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org
11/17 – Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov
11/17 & 12/1 – Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org
12/1 – Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. highlandbeach.us
12/7 – Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com
Briny Breezes – November meeting canceled. brinybreezes.us
Manalapan – November meeting canceled. manalapan.org



Veterans Day



Note: Events are current as of 10/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

Tuesday -
11/10 - Veterans Day Appreciation at Town of South Palm Beach, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 5 pm. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com
Wednesday - 11/11 - Veterans Day
11/11 - Veterans Day Ceremony 2026 at Old School Square Fieldhouse, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Featuring special speakers, musical performances and the presentation of honors. 9-11 am. Free. 561-243-7250; delraybeachfl.gov
11/11 - Veterans Day Celebration at Police Department's Fallen Officer Memorial on Greynolds Circle, 504 Greynolds Cir, Lantana. 10-11 am. Free. 561-540-5754; lantana.org
11/11 - Boynton Beach Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, 411 N Federal Hwy. 1 pm. Free. 561-742-6241; boynton-beach.org
11/11 - Red, White & Boca: A Veterans Day Celebration at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. Ceremony, free lunch for veterans, concert, veterans resource fair, classic car show, more. Seating/chairs available; food/beverage available for purchase. 4-7 pm. Free. 561-393-7810; myboca.us/1467/Veterans-Day
11/11 - Lake Worth Annual Veterans Day Ceremony of Honor at Bryant Park, Lake Ave & Golfview, Lake Worth Beach. Cultural Plaza, 414 Lake Ave. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-586-1600; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

Green Markets

Lake Worth Beach Waterside Farmers Market every Saturday under the overpass at A1A and Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 561-547-3100; lakeworthfarmersmarket.com
Delray Beach Winter GreenMarket every Saturday at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. More than 60 culinary and artisan vendors, plus live music. 9 am-2 pm. 561-276-8640; delraycra.org/green-market
Boca Raton Green Market every Sunday at 5th Avenue Shops, 1954 NE Fifth Ave, Boca Raton. Fresh fruits & vegetables, goods by local artisans, fresh curated & caught meats and seafood, locally-grown flowers, and a variety of handcrafted wares. 9 am-1 pm. Free. bocagreenmarket.com
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
The Good Day Market on select Sundays (11/8 & 11/22) near City Hall and Centennial Park Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. Features farmers, food vendors, artisans and wellness brands. 9 am-2 pm. Free. eventeny.com/events/the-good-day-market-boynton-beach-community-farmers-market-33688/?series=12481

$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org
11/12 - Jewish Contributions to Humanity w/Irving Berkowitz 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
11/12 - Wild Bloom: Painting Abstract Flowers at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. $75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
11/12 - Line Dancing at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. All ages. Every Th 11 am-noon. $7. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
11/12 - Retail Therapy at Le Colonial - Delray Beach 601 E Atlantic Ave. Begins with a champagne and rose lunch reception, followed by trolley stops to premiere boutiques around Delray. Concludes with happy hour at Elizabetta's. Proceeds benefit the Delray Beach Public Library. 11 am-4 pm. $135/person; $200/duo. Registration: 561-266-0798; delraylibrary.org
11/12 - Alcohol Ink Art on Silk Scarves at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-4 pm. $55-$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
11/12 - Brushstrokes & Bookmarks - Far From My Father at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4:30 pm. $15/member; $20-$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
11/12 - Looking With Literature - Viola Frey's "Flower-Eater" + Homer's "Odyssey" at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Adults. 5:30-6 pm. Free w/ paid museum admission. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
11/12 - Concert: Frankie B - Sinatra Tribute at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us
11/12 - Intermediate Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every Th through 11/19 5:30-7 pm. $60/4 weeks; $20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
11/12 - Jewish Venice: A Virtual Walk w/Dr. Ilaria Serra at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
11/12 - Special Event: Open Studio Night with Resident Artists at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
11/12 - Back to Basics, Vol 9: A Tribute to the Queens of Jazz at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. $5-$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
Friday - 11/13 - Mahjong Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 11/20 & 12/4. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
11/13 - Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. Held again 6-8 pm 11/19. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. $15. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
11/13 - Creative Breakthrough: Find Your Artistic Voice with Paint at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. $75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
11/13 - Bird Nerding 101 w/Autumn Kioti Horne 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
11/13 - Movies at the Square: *Wizard of Oz* at Old School Square Amphitheatre, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Gates open 5 pm; 6-8 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com
11/13 - Artisan Market at The Shops of Boca Center, 5150 Town Center Circle. Every F through December 18. Unique artisan and handcrafted items from local makers, artists, crafters and live music. 5-10 pm. Free. bocacenter.com
11/13 - Beginner Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every F 6-7 pm. $6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
11/13 - 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
11/13 - Georgina Dieter Dennis Annual Honor Choral Festival at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Free. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
11/13 - Kendra Erika: License To Thrill at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at $44.50. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com
11/13 - Beautiful Loser - The Bob Seger Tribute at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. $55.50-$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Saturday - 11/14 - 2026 Walk to Defeat ALS Boynton Beach at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. Participants are encouraged to fundraise to advance the fight against ALS. Registered participants who raise $100 or more will receive a commemorative t-shirt. 9 am. 772-210-9965; als.org/WalkBoyntonBeach
11/14 - e-Waste & Shred Event presented by Boca Raton Police Services Department and Office of Sustainability at 6500 Building, 6500 Congress Ave, Boca Raton. Free for Boca Raton residents. 9 am-noon. myboca.us/takeaction
11/14 - Warehouse Market 2026 at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10 am-3 pm. Free. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
11/14 - League of Women Voters Munch & Mingle at Gizzi's Coffee, 2275 S Federal Hwy, Delray Beach. 11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-702-0245; lwvpbc.org
11/14 - Lynn Conservatory of Music: Meet the Percussion Instruments at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Presented by The Friends of The Boca Raton Public Library. All ages. 2:30-4 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
11/14 - Dick Lowenthal's Big Band featuring Lisanne Lyons at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. $63-$68. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

NOVEMBER 15-21

Sunday - 11/15 - 2nd Annual Tour de Friendship Charity Ride begins at Chabad Central, 17950 N Military Tr, Boca Raton. Tour de Friendship brings together passionate riders and a powerful mission — supporting children and young adults with special needs. All proceeds go directly to Friendship House's year-round programs for individuals with special needs. Check in: 8 am; ride begins 9 am. $150/rider; $1,500 minimum fundraising commitment per rider. 561-576-1650; tourdefriendship.com
11/15 - Recess Olympics in South Florida at Clive Daniel Home, 1351 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Kids & adults compete in four square, jump rope, and hula hoop competitions, building to a Hopscotch Tournament and Extreme Hopscotch, a team obstacle course and relay race. Proceeds will benefit Hopping 4 A Cure and the Arielle Anacker Cancer Foundation, helping people living with MS and childhood cancer. 11 am-2 pm. $20. 352-469-6028; recessolympics.org/fl
11/15 - 7th Annual Delray is Going to the Dogs: Pooches & Presents in the Park at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Noon-4 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com
11/15 - Masters of the Matrix: Latin American Printmaking - Museum of Central American Art at the Annex Artspace, 290 SE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-808-8587
11/15 - Exhibit Opening Reception at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 12/5. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org
11/15 - Music in the Museum - Fragments of Eternity at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. $15/member; $20-$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
11/15 - Daniela Soledade presents *The Girl From Impanema* at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. $54-$59. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Monday - 11/16 - *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson part of Nonfiction Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
11/16 - 49th Annual Carbonell Awards Ceremony at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. South Florida's theatre and arts honors. 7:30 pm. $45. carbonellawards.org
Tuesday - 11/17 – Socrates Café at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org
11/17 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/ Biographies: *Regret Almost Everything* by Keith McNally at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
11/17 - Versed in Verse: Poetry Reading with Poets on the Fringe and Community Open Mic at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
11/17 - Writing Lounge at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5:30-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
11/17 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing at FAU Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 8 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; physics.fau.edu/observatory/events/
11/17-18 - Creative Ladies 2-Day Workshop - Exploring Mixed Mediums at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 11 am-3 pm. $200. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
Wednesday - 11/18 - The Uses and Abuses of the Word Genocide w/ Samuel M. Edelman 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
11/18 - Book Buzz Adult Book Club at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
11/18 - Dramatic Sky: Abstract the Clouds w/Acrylic at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. $75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
11/18 - The New Tech Titans of China with author Rebecca Fannin at Society of The Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Part of Florida Voices Series. Free. 1:30 pm. Reservations: 561-655-7226; fourarts.org
11/18 - Bagels Over Berlin: Honor, Valor, and the Jewish Airmen of WWII w/Alan Feinberg at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. $60/annual membership; $30.40/member; $38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
11/18 - Colored Pencil Drawing & Painting for All Levels at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Held again 11/25. 5-8 pm. $55/class. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
11/18 - Bookbinding Essentials: Create Your Own Photobook at Arts Warehouse,



313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 5-8 pm. $150. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

Thursday - 11/19 - How to Learn a Language for Life: An Introduction w/Steve Leveen 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

11/19 - John O'Sullivan Memorial Lecture: Seeking Monsters to Destroy: How America Goes to War w/Jeffrey Engel at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4-5:30 pm. $60/annual membership; $25. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/19 - Opening Reception - Waves of Impact: Live Art Collaboration at the Palm Beach Design Showroom, 500 N. Dixie Hwy, Lake Worth Beach. 100% of the proceeds from the collaborative art surfboard will befit United Way of Palm Beach County. Featuring artists Karen Hewitt Hagan, Nadine O. Vogel, and Denis Leon. 5:30-8 pm. Free. Reservations: eventbrite.com/e/2003317074297

11/19 - Song and Dance with the FAUSO, Choral Ensembles, & Schola Cantorum at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. $5-$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

11/19-21 - 33rd Annual Southern Handcraft Society Art & Craft Show: An Olde Fashioned Holiday at the Vintage Gym at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. Th: 10 am-7 pm; F: 9 am-7 pm; Sat: 9 am-2 pm. Free admission. delrayoldschoolsquare.com

Friday - 11/20 - Seminar: Riding the Wave of Change: The Smart Way Through Life Transitions w/Aimee Bernstein at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. $60/annual membership; $40/member; $50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/20 - Bonfires & Night Market at Lake Worth Beach Complex, 10 S Ocean Blvd. Bring beach chairs/blankets. Every 1st & 3rd F through 2/19. 6-9 pm. Free; metered parking. 561-533-7395; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

11/20 - Many Scores, One Humanity: FAU Chamber Singers & Symphony Orchestra at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. $5-$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

11/20-21 - An Honest Conversation Subtropic Film Festival presented by AIA Theatrical Productions at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Held again 12/11-12. F: 7:30 pm; Sat: 2 pm. $47. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

11/20-22 - 3rd Annual Scandinavian Christmas Market at Annan Maja at Finnish-American Village, 1800 South Dr, Lake Worth Beach. F: Noon-8 pm; Sat/Sun: Noon-6 pm. Free. 561-588-4333; farh.org

Saturday - 11/21 - 40th Annual Delray Beach Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk at Anchor Park, 340 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. 6:30 am registration; 8:45 am award ceremony. Run $37.57-$42.87/adult, $38.10/Delray Beach Employee. 561-243-7277; delraybeachfl.gov or victorysportsmgt.com/dbtt5k/

11/21 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Writers Studio presented by Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All other Sat via Zoom. 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

11/21 - Creativity by the Coast Workshop Series at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. For ages 13+; parent/guardian must register to participate with minors. 10-11:30 am. $10/resident; $13/non-resident. Reservations required: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

11/21 - Virtual Class: Short Stories for Writers w/Dr. Caren Neile presented by Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every Sat 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

11/21 - Historic Walking Tour: Atlantic Avenue at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. 10 am-noon. $30/person; $20/members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

11/21 - Wild Bloom: Painting Petals With Zest at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. $75. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

Holiday Calendar



Saturday - 11/21 - Holiday Tree Lighting at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. Hosted by City of Boca Raton Recreation Services. Tree lighting ceremony, stage show, food vendors, more. 6-10 pm. Free admission. myboca.us/1466/Holiday-Tree-Lighting

Saturday - 11/28 - Christmas Market at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, 3300 S Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-732-3060; stjoesweb.org

Monday - 11/30 - Holiday Tree Lighting at Cultural Plaza, 414 Lake Ave. Featuring performances, Santa meet & greet, and family activities. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-533-7395; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

Tuesday - 12/1 - 100-Foot Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-243-7250; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events/

Wednesday - 12/2 - 54th Annual Holiday Street Parade: Boca by the Beach begins at Federal Highway & SE 5th Street, north to Mizner Park Amphitheater. **Note:** Route is TBD due to FDOT road work on Federal Highway. 7:30-9 pm. 561-367-7073; myboca.us/1465/Holiday-Street-Parade

Thursday - 12/3 - Annual Mingle Jingle at St. Lucy Catholic Church, 3510 S Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. Featuring live music, food trucks, public safety displays and more. Trolley transportation provided. 5-8 pm. Free for Highland Beach residents. Registration: highlandbeach.us/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/150

12/3 - 3rd Annual Delray in White Holiday Dinner & Charity Toy Drive at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 5-10 pm. Free. 561-243-7250; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events/

Friday – 12/4 - Annual Light the Lights Celebration: It's A Wonderful Life at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. Annual celebration incudes a visit from Santa. Family fare. Residents only. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-732-2635; oceanridgeflorida.com

Friday - 12/4 - Hanukkah begins

Saturday - 12/5 - 60th Annual Lake Worth Beach Holiday Parade: Candyland at Cultural Plaza, 414 Lake Ave. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-586-1600; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

11/21 - Intro to Photography Class at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. 10:30 am-2:30 pm. $160. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

11/21 - Sounds of Silver Flute Ensemble at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

11/21 - Magic In Mizner: Modern Magician Remy Connor at The Studio at Mizner Park, The Club Room, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Tickets start at $38.40. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

11/21 - Candela Presents: Siembra at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. $5-$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

11/21 - Natalie Cuomo at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Tickets start at $44.50. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

11/21 - Cary Hoffman - My Sinatra at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. $64-$69. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

11/21-22 - Billie Jean King Cup: Team USA vs. Hungary at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 N Swinton Ave. Featuring stars Coco Gauff, Madison Keys, Ann Li, Taylor Townsend and Nicole Melichar-Martinez, captained by Lindsay Davenport. Daily start time: 1:30 pm. Two-day tickets start at $50. delraytennis.com/billie-jean-king-cup

NOVEMBER 22-28

Sunday - 11/22 - Concert: Delray String Quartet: Masterworks 1 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 3 pm. $35-$50. 561-808-5084; stpaulsdelray.org

11/22 - Renaissance Art Conversations: Piazza della Signoria: Florence's Open-Air Museum at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Adults. 3-4 pm. Free/members; $20/non-members. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

11/22 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

11/22 - FAU Band-O-Rama at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. City of Boca Raton hosts FAU band's FAU Wind Ensemble, Marching Owls, Jazz Orchestra, Chamber Winds. Bring chairs/blankets. Chairs available for rent $5.00/cash. 6 pm doors open; 7 pm concert. Free. 561-393-7890; myboca.us

11/22 - One Hit Wonders at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. $59-$64. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 11/23 - Pop Culture Presidency w/Kristin Shockley 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

11/23 - *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

11/23 - Pharaoh's Treasures & Timeless Mysteries: Ancient Egypt in 2025-2026 w/Laura Ranieri at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. $60/annual membership; $30.40/member; $38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/23 - Monday Movies - Feature Film: *The Producers* directed by Mel Brooks at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

11/23 - Cinematic Crossroads of the World w/Shelly Isaacs at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 12/14. 7-9 pm. $60/annual membership; $64/member; $80/non-member; $30/guest pass. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/23-24 - The Edwards Twins Holiday Show at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 3 pm. Tickets start at $79. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 11/24 - Seminar: You Look Good For Your Age: Thoughts and Stories About Aging and Ageism w/Linda Schuyler Ford at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. $60/annual membership; $40/member; $50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/24 - Friends Virtual Book Club: *The Librarianist* by Patrick deWitt presented by Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 7-8 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

11/26 - Thanksgiving Day

Friday - 11/27 – The Art of Laughter with Richy Leis featuring Mai L.G. & Mariza Brussolo at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. $49. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

11/27-29 - Menashe at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. F: 6 pm; Sat: 3 pm & 5 pm; Sun: 2 pm. $11/show. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Saturday - 11/28 - Greggie & The Jets - A Tribute to Elton John at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. $60.50-$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

11/28 - *VIRGINIA* - Written and Performed by Joanna Castle Miller at FAU Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 12/20. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at $5. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

NOV. 29-DEC. 5

Sunday - 11/29 - Blake Country; Blake Shelton Tribute at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. $53-$58. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 11/30 - Seminar: A Life Well Lived: Resilience Found in Nature's Unexpected Paths w/Jessica Morgenthal 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

11/30 - The $20,000 Handshake: Glackens, Barnes, and the Birth of a Collection w/Armando Droulers at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. $60/annual membership; $30.40/member; $38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/30 - Music Americana: From Blues To Folk: Lead Belly & Guy Davis w/Rod MacDonald at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-5 pm. $60/annual membership; $30.40/member; $38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

11/30-12/2 - Her Name is Barbra at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Lunchbox noon add-on available. 1 pm. $59 w/ optional $10/lunch add-on. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 12/1 - Iran and Its Proxies: What Comes Next? w/Robert Rabil 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

12/1 - The Reckoning: Fritz Bauer and the Hunt for Adolf Eichmann w/Anette Isaacs at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. $60/annual membership; $30.40/member; $38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/1 - Book Talks - An Hour to Kill: *Swallow the Ghost* by Eugenie Montague at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

12/1 - The Bumpy Road to the NFL w/Nick Pugliese at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. $60/annual membership; $30.40/member; $38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/1 - Beginning Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every T through 12/15 5:30-7 pm. $60/4-weeks; $20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

12/1 - 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 - 12/2 - Federalism, States' Rights, and the Tenth Amendment: Who's in Charge? w/Roy Klein 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

12/2 - Discovering Florida's Avian Invaders: The Delightful and the Destructive w/Scott Zucker 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

12/2 - 2026: The Year in Foreign Policy Review w/Jeffrey Morton at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. $60/annual membership; $40/member; $50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/2 - Echoes and Metamorphoses at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. $5-$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Thursday - 12/3 - Image is Everything: First Ladies and the Nuclear Family in Cold War America w/Nicole Anslover 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

12/3 - Seminar: The American Constitution: A Great Experiment w/Burton Atkins at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. $60/annual membership; $40/member; $50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/3 - Intermediate Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every Th through 12/17 5:30-7 pm. $60/4 weeks; $20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

12/3 - Lecture - On the Psychedelic Rainbow Road: The Beat Movement at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 6-7 pm. $10/member; $15-$20/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

12/3 - Erma Bombeck: The Humor of the Home w/ Rosemarie Law at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

12/3 - Exhibit Opening Reception: KOLLERISM: "Vivid & Wild" by Helmut Koller at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Runs through 3/21/27. 6-8 pm. $5. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

12/3 - Let It Be: The Ultimate Tribute to The Beatles at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. $60/annual membership; $40/member; $50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

Friday - 12/4 - Grown-Up Takes on Children's Classics w/Jane Caputi 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

12/4 - First Friday @ 5 at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. 5 pm. Free. 561-742-6024; boyntonbeach.org

12/4 - First Friday Art Walk at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

12/4 - First Friday Art Walk at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

12/4 - Bonfires & Night Market at Lake Worth Beach Complex, 10 S Ocean Blvd. Bring beach chairs/blankets. Every 1st & 3rd F. 6-9 pm. Free; metered parking. 561-533-7395; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

12/4-5 - *Scrooge: A New Christmas Carol* at The Studio at Mizner Park, The Club Room, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Held again 12/11-12. F: 6:30 pm; Sat: 11 am & 2 pm. $25-$50. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

12/4-6 - The Nutcracker at Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach. Presented by Ballet Palm Beach. 12/4 - 7 pm, 12/5 - 2 pm & 7 pm, 12/6 - 1 pm & 5 pm. Tickets start at $30. 561-832-7469; balletpalmbeach.org

12/4-5 - Cece Teneal - Tribute to Aretha at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. $56.50-$61.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 12/5 - Holiday Pops with The Symphonia at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Tickets start at $25. 561-994-4909; thesymphonia.org

12/5 - Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band Concert: Ringing in the Season at Coral Lakes Theater, 12751 El Clair Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. $10. goldcoastband.org

12/5-6 - 26th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Art Festival, 401 E Atlantic. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 561-746-6615; artfestival.com

Library Classes

Local libraries offer hundreds of adult classes each month. To discover what you can learn at your library, please visit:
Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
For children and teen classes, please see our **Tots & Teens** calendar.

"Libraries are the free universities of the people." — Andrew Carnegie

House of the Month





LEFT: Offering an intimate and refined lifestyle, the dining room overlooks the oceanfront. **RIGHT:** A soaking tub and large, marble-walled shower are the highlight of this recently renovated bathroom.



With only two residences per floor, a key-locked elevator opens directly into your home in the premier Villa Nova building at 3505 S. Ocean Blvd.

Luxury at Villa Nova in Highland Beach



The home is thoughtfully designed for both comfort and sophistication and showcases exceptional, unobstructed ocean views through dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows.

Spanning an impressive 2,600 square feet of living space, plus more than 700 square feet of wraparound balconies, this luxurious 14th-floor condo offers two spacious bedrooms and two and one-half bathrooms. The primary suite is a true retreat, featuring a recently renovated bedroom and spa-inspired bathroom with refined, modern finishes.

In addition, it captures stunning sunsets over the Intracoastal Waterway.

The expansive layout is ideal for both relaxed living and elegant entertaining with attached living and family rooms that overlook the ocean.

Additional amenities include a doorman, impact windows, in-unit laundry as well as two deeded, covered garage parking spaces and an extraordinary bonus — three large, air-conditioned private storage rooms, a rare offering in oceanfront living.

Offered at $2,799,000.

Natasha Moore, Live South Florida Realty, Inc. 561-352-6932. Natasha@livesouthfl.com.

Each month, The Coastal Star *features a home for sale in our area. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our homes.*

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REAL ESTATE TEAM

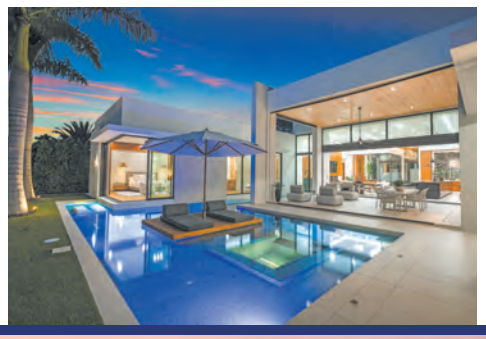
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THE SUNSET VILLA | 1801 Spanish River Road

1801 Spanish River Road Boca Raton FL 33432 | **$14,995,000** | Single Story Modern Home on 109Ft of Water Frontage completed in 2022

An exceptionally rare single-story modern estate situated on 109 feet of direct Intracoastal frontage in Boca Raton. This architectural masterpiece features soaring ceilings, walls of glass, a custom Poggenpohl kitchen, a stunning waterfront clubroom, and seamless indoor-outdoor living. Enjoy breathtaking sunsets, a resort-style pool and spa, a four-car garage, and the potential for a boat or Jet Ski lift, subject to approvals. Located in the prestigious, non-HOA Spanish River Land neighborhood, just moments from the beach, dining, and shopping. **A truly unique opportunity to own one of Boca Raton's most distinctive waterfront estates.**





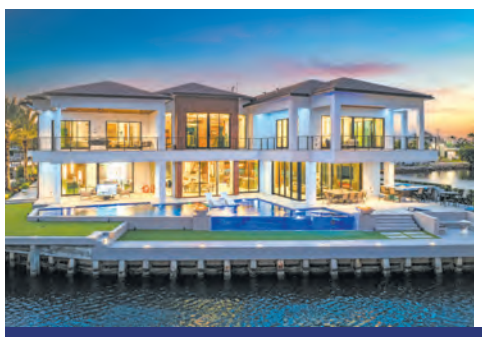
2934 NE 8th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33431

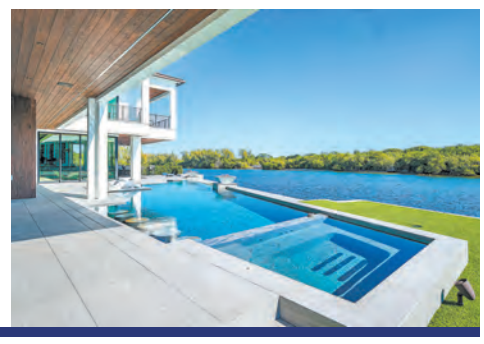
2934 NE 8th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33431 | **List Price:** $32,500,000 and Lease $175,000 Per month

Rare Point Lot Estate with 368Ft of Direct Intracoastal Water Frontage | Sweeping Water Views Spanning East, South & North Exposures | Newly Constructed Waterfront Compound Built to the Highest Standards of Luxury & Sustainability | Approximately 14,000 Living Sqft | 7 Bedrooms | 7.1 Bathrooms

2,000 SQFT Waterfront Primary Suite | Fully Built Out Gym & Spa Suite with Infrared Sauna | Private Elevator | Club Room & Custom Bar | Resort Style See Through Infinity Edge Pool

Outdoor Entertainment Deck with Pop Up TV & Jacuzzi | Chef's Kitchen Featuring Eggersmann Cabinetry & Gaggenau Appliances | Full Smart Home Automation | 5+ Car Garage





The Matt and Nick Team

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