Boynton Beach
Along U.S. 1, development plans frozen in time
By Thomas R. Collins

As you enter Boynton Beach from the north, the Peninsula development greets you — a shiny new collection of townhomes and condos. It’s just about to open its doors to happy new residents. Or it was, anyway.

Getting its timing all wrong, the project got whacked by the market and is in foreclosure. It’s 90 percent built, but its prospects are uncertain. It’s “stale and dead,” city Planning Director Mike Rumpf said.

“We hope it gets purchased and resurrected by someone,” he said, a map of the city’s zoning plan on a wall next to him. "With hardly any other choice, he looks on the bright side. "That’s the only one of its kind that got caught, trapped, so far along," he said. "In most cases, they didn’t get off the ground to begin with."

But there are plenty that never got off the ground. Vacant lots sit up and down road — perhaps the very spine of the city.

The sour economy has frozen the landscape in time. Land that was cleared, with high hopes of dazzling new condos and shops, just sits there. The Federal Highway corridor in Boynton Beach might be one of the hardest-hit spots in the county, and it is central to the city’s redevelopment efforts.

In 2001, the city approved a development plan for the road. It’s a “wedding-cake shape” plan — as Rumpf puts it — with the tallest and most intense development near Boynton Beach Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, and lower tiers of development extending north, south and west from there.

Pieces of that plan have come to pass.

Marina Village, a condo project between Boynton Beach Boulevard and Ocean Avenue — just east of Federal — was finished before the

Along the Waterway
Bridge tenders have luck of the draw
By Ron Hayes

If you think waiting for the drawbridge to go down takes patience, spare a moment to honor those dedicated men and women who spend eight hours a day waiting to lower it.

And raise it again.

And lower it again.

And know whom to call when it sticks.

"A lot of people say, ‘I’d like to be a bridge tender,’” says Barry Meve, the county’s bridge superintendent, "but they get bored and can’t take it. You can’t leave. You have to bring your lunch."

Twenty drawbridges span the waters of Palm Beach County, and more than a hundred men and women tend them.

The money’s not great, but the view can be.

Take the newly renovated tower on the Linton Boulevard Bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway in Delray Beach. Completed in April at a cost of $230,000, the bridge house rises 50 feet above the water and is adorned with a Key West-style roof and hurricane-proof windows.

On a clear day, Nicholas Evans has the kind of view wealthy condo-dwellers pay millions for. "People think you can come to work and relax, that it's a cushy job," says Evans, "but sleeping is not allowed."

In addition to an elaborate control console for operating the bridge’s 130-foot span, Evans’ 15-by-15-foot office has air conditioning, a TV set, refrigerator, microwave oven, jug of spring water, desk and easy chair. And a restroom, one flight down.

Hypoluxo Island / Point Manalapan
Tree lovers dig in for better town planting plan
By Emily J. Minor

You’d think planting a tree would be easy. Pick the tree, dig a hole, hook up the garden hose. But Daryl Cheifetz knows better.

Cheifetz lives on the southernmost point of Hypoluxo Island in the small enclave of wealth and beauty called Point Manalapan.

She’s been there five years now and loves the intimacy of her neighborhood. "It’s quiet. It’s beautiful. It’s serene," she said. "And the people are fantastic."

But there is something about coming home — driving down the winding, shady road through the Lantana portion of Hypoluxo Island and into her part of town — that bothers her.

"It looks like a landing strip," she said. "You get to Point Manalapan and your reaction is: ‘What happened to the greenery?’"

What happened is this: The part of the island just to the north of her — south of the mainland causeway and north of Point Manalapan’s guard gate — is in the town of
Editorial
Tap local brains for municipal savings ideas

Call me crazy. This past month I’ve been attending the annual budget workshops of our coastal towns, and have (almost) enjoyed the experience. I’ve learned a lot about how municipalities operate and how difficult balancing a budget can be in a year with a depressed economy and decreased property values. It will be difficult for any municipality to avoid either tax increases or reduced services — no one will come out unscathed.

Different towns have chosen different tactics to find solutions to this year’s budget process and that makes sense considering the unique needs of each community. Still, with next year’s budget process appearing no easier than this one, maybe our communities should explore commonalities that might provide less painful solutions.

Two examples come to mind:

1. Delray Beach has assigned a seven-member community task force to explore ways to cut expenses and generate revenue without slashing services or jobs. This independent board has located nearly $1.6 million in potential revenue.
2. Our coastal towns already contract with the county, neighboring cities and private contractors for many services: water, sewage, trash collection, police and/or fire rescue services. As a result, our town budget must consider the increases imposed by the larger governments who are facing an even more difficult budget year than our own.

With our coastal communities sharing so many of the same needs and concerns, our towns would benefit from a beach-area citizen advisory board to explore resource sharing and help identify sources of revenue and cost savings.

For example, if Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes, the county pocket, St. Andrews and Golf Stream all agree it’s a priority to have fire-rescue emergency services nearby on the east side of the bridge, an intralocal advisory group could explore the options and help to negotiate the most cost effective way to make this happen.

If Briny Breezes should select not to sell its property, this same group could work with the town to find funding sources for self-development and/or infrastructure repairs that would benefit residents and the surrounding communities.

I’m not suggesting everyone sit through budget workshops. I’m not THAT crazy. But maybe this year’s budget constraints will raise awareness and prompt people to get involved.

If we act now to tap into the local brain trust and you can’t tell me some of the best and brightest in our country don’t live here — maybe we can find creative solutions to increase our quality of life and save a few taxpayer dollars as we look ahead to 2010.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

Preservation pays off

Ilona Balfour stands at one of her favorite spots in the Lantana Nature Preserve, an abandoned garbage dump she helped transform. Photo by Jerry Lower

There’s only a bit of truth to the legend that Ilona Balfour chained herself to a spreading ficus tree to protect it from destruction.

“I only threatened to tie myself to that tree,” she says in the lilt of her native South Africa. “I had to sign a document that I wouldn’t protest anymore.”

Balfour, of Lantana, lost that battle, but she continues, at 72, to keep fighting the good fight. And because of Balfour’s efforts, and those of neighbors Elizabeth and Rod Tennyson, an abandoned garbage dump along the Intracoastal Waterway is today the Lantana Nature Preserve.

About 10 years ago, there were efforts to sell the 6½-acre tract just north of Ocean Boulevard. “But we went down there and fought and rabble-roused and got every fisherman involved,” Balfour recalls.

Today, the preserve boasts native vegetation and is home to myriad critters and wading birds. There’s a little walking path so folks can stroll amid nature. A nature board is on the board and is home to myriad critters and wading birds. There’s a little walking path so folks can stroll amid nature. An, the focus is gone. “It wasn’t considered native,” Balfour says with a tinge of regret.

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Bicyclist Tim Warren suffered serious injuries when a car turned in front of him just south of Anchor Park in Delray Beach. Photo by Ken Steinhoff

Celebration ride encounters injury

By Ken Steinhoff

Frank Stark was an airline pilot who was forced to retire after quadruple bypass surgery and two heart attacks. He took up cycling as rehab and worked up to the point that he would “ride his age” every year on his birthday. One of his friends said he had a nurse riding with him in the early stages of his rehab.

Before long, the Boca Raton Bike Club started looking forward to the birthday rides. When Frank died of heart failure on a bike ride just a month short of his 71st birthday, the members established the Frank Stark Celebration Ride. The ride is very well-organized. It’s the only one I can remember doing where iced towels are provided.

Mother Nature gave a bit of a break to cyclists participating in this year’s annual ride July 12. The humidity was high, but the temperatures were in the low 80s when the riders rolled out to do a 30-mile or 62-mile loop starting in Boca Raton.

The club was offering new members a great deal. If you signed up at the ride, you could get an 18-month individual membership for $25 and a family membership for $40. What makes it an even better deal was that it included membership in the Florida Bicycle Association and the League of American Bicyclists.

There was one thing that marred the event, however. Cyclists participating in the ride encountered an independent rider who was southbound on A1A just south of Anchor Park in Delray Beach when a car turned in front of him.

Witnesses said that rider Tim Warren had the green light. The first cyclists to stop did a good job of making sure his neck was stabilized and that nobody moved him until medics arrived.

Warren was taken to the hospital, where he underwent surgery to repair several facial fractures. His wife says his jaws will be wired shut for up to six weeks.

The driver of the car received citations for failure to yield and for an expired tag. That just goes to show that you can be doing everything right — be part of a well-organized group ride; ride responsibly, wear a helmet and obey the traffic laws — and still your life can change in an instant.

Cycling really isn’t a dangerous sport, but we should always remember that we don’t have airbags, seatbelts and safety glass to protect us. Our crumple zone starts at the tip of our nose.

Ken Steinhoff is an avid bicyclist and founder of PalmBeachBikeTours.com.
market bust and sold out
within a year, said Lorraine
Freed, Palm Beach County
manager for owner Related
Cervera Realty Services.
"It's still doing great," Freed
said.
Boynton Beach Community
Redevelopment
Agency Director Lisa
Bright said Marina Village’s
residential units are fully
occupied.
Next-door, where
Boynton Beach Boulevard
meets Federal Highway, the
towers of the Promenade
development are nearing
completion.
The status of the "top of
the wedding cake" project is
unknown. According to
Bright, developers
had commitments for 40
percent of the space when
construction started two years
ago, but she doesn’t know
where it stands now.
"Their biggest thing is:
Will their people sign on the
dotted line for the contracts," Bright said. She described the
project as "for our downtown,
absolutely critical."
A plan for 166
residences and 1,900 square
feet of commercial space is a
crumbling
asphalt parking lot, empty
opaque fencing, with cracks in
the giant piece of land sits
surrounded by construction
fencing.
The mixed-use project that
was planned for the southwest
corner of Ocean Avenue and
Federal is no longer planned.
Looking toward a change in
the market
Federal Highway in
Boynton Beach is still
considered positioned for
success once the market turns
around.
Bright said there’s already
been a burst in requests for
more money from the CRA,
but the agency’s ability to chip
in has been hampered. The
budget, which gets its money
from new development, has
been cut 10 percent and 23
percent over the last two
years. Other than that, the
CRA has been trying to find
tenants.
"Like any good sales
person, we run down every
lead and try to do everything
we can," Bright said.
Anderson, of Las Ventanas,
offered: "I think this is going
to be a big growth area."
But for now, director
Rumpf has to settle
for small victories. There's the
application that came in
recently for a marina project
at the north end of town
—but when that would get
built is anyone’s guess. There
is the apparent success of
the Gulfstream Gardens
townhouse project north of
Gulfstream Boulevard, which
is "getting over the edge," he
said.
"Even now, given
the economy, we have
people coming in asking
questions, trying to package
opportunities," he said.
"People have land — and they
don’t want to sit on it."
BOYNTON BEACH:
Continued from page 1

Summer Nights on the Avenue
Caribbean Summer Nights - August 7
Party with Barbie - Her 50th! - August 14
Dancing in the Street - August 28
Tastemakers - August 14 & 15
Art & Jazz on the Avenue - August 20
5th Ave Jazz - August 20
DowntownDelrayBeach.com

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Regency Place in Manalapan Over 130 ft of water frontage and wide, east water views from every room of this newly renovated, designer appointed 8BD/7.5BA residence. Offered at $5.2M Available furnished.

Over .75 Acre Lot with 100 ft. of East-facing Water Frontage
Renovate or build new. Spectacular location and wide water views. Price reduced to sell! $1,400,000

Point Manalapan— Over 1/2 Acre
5 BD/4.5BA Pool Home
This spacious home has the perfect family floor plan including a 780 SF guest/staff suite w/2nd full Kitchen. Conveys with gratis membership to Ritz Carlton La Cocquille Club. $1,295,000 Also available for Annual Lease

Lands End Road Pool Home
Hypoluxo Island
3BD/2BA with 2-car garage and heated pool in the best of all coastal neighborhoods. Over 3,000 SF under A/C. Walk to beach! Offered at $795,000

Hypoluxo Island Pool Home
3BD/3BA Huge Covered Lanai
Sited on a large corner lot, this home has been immaculately maintained and offers spacious indoor and outdoor living areas. Wonderful private and tropical setting for seasonal or year-round living. Offered at $595,000

Hypoluxo Island Hideaway!
3BD/2BA Key West Style
Tropical privacy and casual living complement this unique offering on Hypoluxo Island. Vaulted cypress ceilings, fireplace, large screened porch. REDUCED: $575,000

Hypoluxo Island “Old Florida”
38D/2BA — Walk to Beach!
One of the island’s original cottages with beautiful wood floors, open layout, screened patio and room for a pool. Don’t Wait! Offered at only $399,000!

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For Annual or Seasonal Lease
4BD/4.5BA w/heated pool/spa is the ultimate choice for luxury waterfront living. Lease conveys with gratis membership to Ritz Carlton La Cocquille Club. Call for lease details.

Hypoluxo Point 3BD/2BA
Deep Water Dockage — Annual Lease
Immaculately maintained home with split bedroom layout and private, protected dockage for up to 50’ boat. Available immediately. $2000 month F/L/S. References/background Rqd

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HYPOLUXO ISLAND "OLD FLORIDA"
3BD/2BA — Walk to Beach!
One of the island’s original cottages with beautiful wood floors, open layout, screened patio and room for a pool. Don’t Wait! Offered at only $399,000!

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LANDS END ROAD POOL HOME
Hypoluxo Island
3BD/2BA with 2-car garage and heated pool in the best of all coastal neighborhoods. Over 3,000 SF under A/C. Walk to beach! Offered at $795,000

BEST PRICE ON ISLAND
LANDS END ROAD POOL HOME
Hypoluxo Island
3BD/3BA — Walk to Beach!
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**Gulf Stream**

**New fire services contract with Delray Beach boosts tab by 80 percent**

By Margie Plunkett

Gulf Stream will pay $286,250 annually for fire rescue services provided by Delray Beach, an 80 percent increase from last year and an amount some argued should have been higher.

During a special meeting late in July to approve the contract, Mayor William Koch offered payments of past fires of fire services: In 1947, Gulf Stream paid $500 a year for fire services. In 1959, it cost $12 for a fire call.

And from another angle, consider that Gulf Stream is wrestling with a budget shortfall near $8 million — like most municipalities, thanks to the housing market plunge — of $125,000, which harkens to the difference in the price of the new fire contract and the $159,000 paid last year.

The rise in the final fire contract doubled from the 40 percent increase in a $220,000 contract Gulf Stream commissioners earlier approved after Delray Beach submitted it before commissioners there had reviewed the agreement.

The price tag on the new 10-year contract, which includes a yearly cost-of-living adjustment, will not climb again when Delray Beach hires another firefighter to fully staff Fire Station No. 2 — the primary firehouse for Gulf Stream. The premature contract would have $286,250 annually for fire services provided by Delray Beach, an 80 percent increase from last year and an amount some argued should have been higher.

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**Delray Beach**

**Bernard leaves commission with vacancy, as he runs for state House**

By C.B. Hanif

“District 84 goes all the way out to the Glades, so I have to do a lot of traveling,” said former Delray Beach Commissioner Mackenson Bernard. He’ll be doing a lot more if he wins the Florida House of Representatives seat he is seeking.

“Mack” Bernard has resigned his commission seat to run for the state House district that stretches from North Palm Beach to West Palm Beach and the Glades.

With the July 28 qualifying deadline looming, two other Democrats had announced their intention for the Aug. 25 special primary election: Former state Rep. James Henry “Hank” Harper Jr. and Riviera Beach Councilman Cedrick Thomas.

Bernard, originally appointed to the Delray Commission in 2008 to fill Brenda Montague’s term when she resigned, planned to finish the remainder of the term to which he was elected in March, then seek term-limited Taylor’s District 84 seat.

But the University of Florida law grad, who was raised in Delray after coming from Haiti at age 10, said, “Tinning is everything. If I don’t take that opportunity now, I don’t know if I will ever get that opportunity (again).”

No Republican is expected to enter the race in the African-American and Democrat-dominated district. In that case, the election will be won in the dueling- runoff of a lettuce of names primarily as “Mack” and “Hank” mustered votes during the summer doldrums.

West Palm Beach business consultant Harper was a legislative aide and District 84 rep before losing a commission bid. During his July 14 campaign kickoff he cited his experience, his fifth-generation roots and focus on creating jobs.

Attorney Bernard, who would have to move into the district by the Sept. 22 general election date, said his own experience, understanding of the issues and ability to work with people across lines make him the best choice.

“I want to thank the citizens of Delray Beach for their graciousness in letting me have the opportunity to serve,” he said, adding that the all-white male commission should replace him with “someone who has a different voice to address the needs of the community. I worked closely with the commission to do that.”

Applications to fill Bernard’s seat will be accepted beginning Aug. 11 until 5 p.m. Aug. 25 in the form of a letter of intent and resume to be submitted to the City Manager’s Office. For more information, call (561) 243-7000.
Tending the ups and downs of Intracoastal bridges

BRIDGES:
Continued from page 1

The TV has a DVD player, but Evans doesn’t use it. “I’m not into movies,” he says. “I like to read.”

A retired manager for employee health and safety at a New Jersey medical firm, he passes the quiet time between bridge openings reading medical mysteries of Robin Cook and Tess Gerritsen.

At Linton Boulevard, the bridge is opened on the hour and half-hour. Then Evans puts down his book and begins a strict routine, for which he has received 40 hours of training, plus individual preparation for each of the eight bridges he’s certified to operate.

He lowers the safety gates over the road, then the pedestrian gates. He raises the roadway barriers, then unlocks the span. Another knob engages the 75-horsepower motors that lift the north and south spans on a counterweight system similar to a seacow. He notes the time and vessel on a clipboard.

The motor yacht Xanadu passes, and Evans repeats the process in reverse.

This may seem to take a half-hour when you’re waiting in a car, but Evans says the average operation lasts only about five minutes.

“My biggest fear,” he says, “is a sailboat coming through and you bring the span down too soon on the boat.”

Of the area’s 20 drawbridges, eight are operated by the county’s Engineering and Public Works Department, and 12 by a contractor working for the state Department of Transportation, depending on whether the bridge is on a state or county highway.

Of the bridge tenders, two to three per bridge, earn up to $15 an hour, with a lump-sum cost-of-living raise yearly. Tenders on state-run bridges make $9.50 an hour.

So how do you become a bridgetender? Marty Weingel saw a sign in a window. “I was having dinner with my son,” says Weingel, 80, of Boynton Beach. “We were walking back across the Atlantic Avenue Bridge and I saw a ‘help wanted’ sign in the bridge house window.”

For the past four years, Weingel has worked in that same Atlantic Avenue bridge house.

Unlike the Linton Boulevard tower, Weingel’s office is at sidewalk level, mere feet from the grated span on which thousands of cars rip by each day.

“I don’t even notice the sound anymore,” says Weingel. “I get the paper each morning and it takes me eight hours to read the whole thing and do all the puzzles.”

The bridgetender’s biggest worry, of course, is the sort of malfunction that prevents a bridge from opening or, even worse, closing.

“Then you have to wait for the electrician, who might be up in Lantana and says he won’t be here for an hour,” says Weingel. “But I’ve only had one malfunction so far, and I’ve never had a boat captain argue with me. Most just say, fine, let me know when you can open it.”

Like Evans and Weingel, most bridgetenders tend to be retirees supplementing their pensions and Social Security. “You can only golf and fish so many times,” says Sam Clark, a former tool and die engineer who tends the Ocean Avenue Bridge in Boynton Beach.

Though bridgetending often is predictable, Clark says, the job has unexpected rewards.

“From his bridge house overlooking the marina at Two George’s restaurant, he sees ospreys and manatees, exotic birds, friendly joggers who always wave, even the occasional Spring Break jumper taking a dare. Once, Clark says, he saw a seal.”

“It was about five years ago,” he recalls. “Down at the Atlantic Avenue Bridge. I’m sure of it. I saw the face and the whiskers. I know what a seal looks like. I didn’t want to tell my boss because he’d think I was crazy, but then later I read in the paper that they’d spotted one up in West Palm. They get disoriented.”

And once a year, at any rate, a bridgetender’s job does explode with real fireworks.

“Oh, I’ve got a great view of the Fourth of July from up here,” Clark says. “I can see the Boynton Beach fireworks and the Delray Beach fireworks, all at the same time.”

Lantana bridge replacement on drawing board

By Ron Hayes

Detour ahead. Designs are being drawn to replace the Ocean Avenue bridge in Lantana, probably within the next two or three years.

“Sometimes we build a new bridge next to the existing one so traffic can keep flowing, then take down the old bridge,” says county bridge superintendent Barry Meve, “but in this case we’re going to put the new bridge right where it is now, so it won’t be passable during construction.”

Built in 1950, the current Lantana Bridge has a 12-foot vertical clearance. The new bridge will rise 21 feet, and could cost between $25 million and $40 million, Meve said.

“But now that times are getting tough, a lot of these bids are coming in low,” he added.

The construction probably will take two to three years, he said. However, Meve emphasized that nothing will be settled until the final design is ready.

In the meantime, he reports that seven of the eight drawbridges operated by the county have been equipped with hurricane-resistant glass. Only the Palmetto Park Road Bridge, which has slanting windows, remains to be done.

Why should the average citizen care? “We used to have 20 people running around putting up shutters and taking them down again,” explains Meve. “And if it wasn’t a real storm, FEMA wouldn’t compensate us for the overtime.”
Local governments sue state, opposing new development law

By Nirvi Shah

Several government agencies have sued the governor and other state officials over a growth management law they believe is unconstitutional and will foster unbridled growth, with local governments powerless to control it.

The Community Renewal Act, which passed easily in the House and Senate, was signed by Gov. Charlie Crist in June. Those who advocated for the law said it would allow more development, because permitting would go more smoothly and lead to more construction jobs.

The law eliminates the state Department of Community Affairs’ authority to oversee projects of regional impact in much of the state.

That kind of oversight, in part, led to the evaporation of a developer’s proposal to buy Briny Breezes in recent years. The state did not warm to the deal because of concerns that proposed waterfront high-rises would overwhelm the surrounding area.

Led by the city of Weston in Broward County, the governing bodies of Key Biscayne, Coconut Grove, Biscayne Beach, Pompano Beach, Fruitland Park, Miami Gardens, North Bay Village, Caramba Bay and Lee County sued Crist, Secretary of State Kurt Browning, Senate President Jeff Atwater, R-North Palm Beach, and House Speaker Larry Crotul, R-Ocala, over the new law in early July.

"Despite strong and vocal disapproval from numerous Florida cities and counties," Weston City Manager John Flint said, "the legislature passed and the governor signed this bill, essentially dismantling 30 years of growth management and now allowing relatively unrestricted growth without concern for taxpayer issues."

But the lawsuit takes less issue with the substance of the bill than with its constitutionality.

The state Constitution says the legislature can’t adopt one law that tackles many unrelated subjects. Aside from growth management, the new legislation includes language about security cameras at private businesses and affordable housing.

Another constitutional provision limits “unfunded mandates,” or new laws that don’t come with a way to pay for their enforcement. If a bill passes each chamber with at least a two-thirds vote, the legislature can get around this requirement, but that didn’t happen, and there isn’t a source of funds to pay for local governments to revise their growth plans in accordance with the new law.

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Briny Breezes

Water rates up, but effect on residents delayed

By Margie Plunkett

Water rates won’t go up before this fiscal year is out — but that’s only because Briny Breezes absorbed the costs of a steep increase from Boynton Beach. Residents might want to brace themselves for when the time comes.

“We’re trying to deal with this year,” said Mayor Roger Bennett. “An increase would come next year.”

Water provider Boynton Beach boosted rates 49 percent — 60 percent including the utility fee — to Briny Breezes effective May 1, bound to “Briny Breezes effective May 1, stated. Even though Briny Breezes usage went down 600,000 gallons in May as summer kicked in, the monthly bill nearly doubled to $7,000 compared with May 2008, he said.

The added water costs spill over into Briny Breezes’ tight budget, one which compares favorably to other municipalities but is still subject to recessionary pressures.

“We’re not going to have enough in the budget to cover all of it,” Town Clerk and Alderman Kathy Bray said at Briny Breezes’ May 28 meeting. “We’ll have to cut other areas.”

Residents and Gulf Stream Town Clerk Rita Taylor noted, “Everybody’s rates are going up. There should be no problem to increase the monthly bill to the current rate. It always pays to budget ahead with utilities, because you never know when this comes up.”

Briny Breezes Inc. Board Member Don Faron, who attended the meeting, said, chuckling, “Let it be on the record that the corporation doesn’t have any money to pay for the increases.”

When the town decides it needs to pass the increase on to the corporation, he said, keep in mind it’ll take three to four weeks minimum to approve a special assessment and get it to residents.

Other towns and the county have already raised water and other fees for residents.

In Lantana, for instance, the minimum monthly water rate rose to $19.06 from $18.15 in June. Palm Beach County hikes water prices in April, including a 11.75 percent increase for drinking water and wastewater, which replaced a 15 percent surcharge imposed last year, the county’s Web site said.

Boynton Beach voted 3-2 at its April 21 meeting to raise water rates to its customers, a move that will generate $4.27 million for the rest of this fiscal year and $8.6 million next, according to the meeting minutes.

The base cost of water was boosted to $10.77 from $4.84 for its residents. Combining base rates and fees adjusted for usage, a 5,000-gallon-a-month user would pay $49.82 under the new rates, up from $37.27 previously, according to Boynton Beach.

As non-residents of Boynton Beach, Briny Breezes pays more than residents. Anyone outside of the city pays a 25 percent surcharge — except for Ocean Ridge, said Peter Mazzella, deputy utilities director for the town.

Ocean Ridge, the only outsider that owns its water system, is responsible for maintenance and replacement costs, he said, while Briny Breezes and other outsiders pay the surcharge.

Ocean Ridge retained the rights to the water mains when it became a separate city from Boynton Beach in 1931. Briny Breezes remained a part of Ocean Ridge from 1931 until Ocean Ridge became a separate municipality, according to Gail Adams Azakov, author of The History of Ocean Ridge.

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Ocean Ridge explores merge with Briny Breeses

Town Attorney Ken Spillias will review Ocean Ridge’s options — including re-annexation of Briny Breezes — to guard against the effects of Senate bill 360, development legislation that maximizes density along the east coast.

The law raises concerns because it removes responsibility from a developer to provide roads to handle increased traffic, among other things, Commissioner Terry Brown explained.

That, combined with the possibility that Briny Breezes could be sold in the future following its failed deal, raises threats of development that could flood A1A with traffic, the commissioner said.

Brown brought up the issue at the last commission meeting after a Weston group invited the town to kick in $2,500 and join its lawsuit over permitting that would come under the new law by Gov. Charlie Crist in June. Those who advocated for the law said it would allow more development, because permitting would go more smoothly and lead to more construction jobs.

The law eliminates the state Department of Community Affairs’ authority to oversee projects of regional impact in much of the state.

That kind of oversight, in part, led to the evaporation of a developer’s proposal to buy Briny Breezes in recent years. The state did not warm to the deal because of concerns that proposed waterfront high-rises would overwhelm the surrounding area.

Led by the city of Weston in Broward County, the governing bodies of Key Biscayne, Coconut Grove, Biscayne Beach, Pompano Beach, Fruitland Park, Miami Gardens, North Bay Village, Caramba Bay and Lee County sued Crist, Secretary of State Kurt Browning, Senate President Jeff Atwater, R-North Palm Beach, and House Speaker Larry Crotul, R-Ocala, over the new law in early July.

“Despite strong and vocal disapproval from numerous Florida cities and counties,” Weston City Manager John Flint said, “the legislature passed and the governor signed this bill, essentially dismantling 30 years of growth management and now allowing relatively unrestricted growth without concern for taxpayer issues.”

But the lawsuit takes less issue with the substance of the bill than with its constitutionality.

The state Constitution says the legislature can’t adopt one law that tackles many unrelated subjects. Aside from growth management, the new legislation includes language about security cameras at private businesses and affordable housing.

Another constitutional provision limits “unfunded mandates,” or new laws that don’t come with a way to pay for their enforcement. If a bill passes each chamber with at least a two-thirds vote, the legislature can get around this requirement, but that didn’t happen, and there isn’t a source of funds to pay for local governments to revise their growth plans in accordance with the new law.

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The COASTAL STAR

August 2009
**Boynton frame shop hangs it up after 28 years**

By Thom Smith

A cursory glimpse at Boynton Beach east of U.S. 1 conjures up images of Tombstone, Ariz. — billed in an old TV Western as "the town that refused to die."

Yep, it’s slow in Boynton, but it’s not dead.

Ginny Foot closed the Art of Framing on Ocean Avenue on July 31, but not because of the economic downturn.

"I still have loyal customers from Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream and Boynton," she said. "I see ‘em in the grocery store and tell ‘em Your frame’s ready. But I’m ready to retire. I’ve been here 28 years."

Foot tried to sell the business but found no takers, so she’ll down her shingle and take a few more walks to the beach with husband, Bob, or take a stroll in a bridge and tunnel.

"We’re not going anywhere," she said. "This is a neat place to be."

A few doors away in Ocean Plaza, Art-Sea Living is preparing to clear out. Not closing, mind you. Just moving from one bridge view to another. "We’ll have a lot more space," employee Terry Esposito said of the September move next to Jo-Ann Fabrics in Riverwalk Plaza at the corner of Woolbright Road and Federal Highway. "This is a cute spot and we hate leaving."

Foot, who opened May 6 in downtown, said of the September move in Old City Gardens and Beach Gardens and DeVito (as in Danny) in South Beach, Manaloper described The Office to New Times as "very California in style ... imaginative American with Asian influences ... the ultimate gastropub." The guy on the jackhammer offered a simpler description: "a fancy burger joint."

Thanks to former Manalapan resident Bren Simon, the Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach in Manalapan doubles as a museum thanks to its collection of European art. So what better to stimulate the senses than to check out the art in the five-star hotel’s public areas and then enjoy a bargain lunch. The Ritz’s Temple Orange casual restaurant with an ocean view is offering three-course lunches for $20.09. Executive Chef Ryan Artim is offering roasted tomato gazpacho and classic Caesar salad, followed by grilled salmon club or grilled churrasco-marinated filet with warm potato salad and capped with vanilla crème brulée or tiramisu. The three-course dinners can be devoured for just $35. Part of the Palm Beach Restaurant Summer, a joint effort by some of Palm Beach’s prime eateries to generate summer action, has been extended through September.

The $20.99 and $35 specials are offered by Bice, Cafe Boulud, Cafe L’Europe, Charley’s Grab, the Leopard Lounge at the Chesterfield, Coco (dinner only), Flagler Steakhouse and The Seafood Bar at The Breakers, The Ocean Bistro at The Four Seasons and Renato’s. Chow down!

Thom Smith is a freelance writer. Send news items to him at thomsmith@gmail.com.

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**Delray Beach**

City expands use of reclaimed water

By Nirvi Shah

While the roads along the Delray Beach coast are torn up, the temporary inconvenience will soon give way to a long-term change in residents’ water-use habits.

The ripped-up strip of the coast from Atlantic Avenue north to Beach Drive is the fifth section of the city being fitted with pipes that will carry filtered wastewater for use on lawns and other purposes, aside from drinking, said Victor Maiteny, deputy director of public utilities.

"If we can get their irrigation line on reclaimed water, that will be a big help in offsetting our use of potable water," he said.

Maiteny and this part of the project alone will keep at least 230,000 gallons of drinking water from being sprinkled on lawns each day. If more grant money becomes available, the next phase of the project would be from Beach Drive north to George Bush Boulevard. That part of the water reclamation project could keep another 720,000 gallons of drinking water off residents’ yards.

"Funding is going to be the issue," Maiteny said.

The current South Florida Water Management District grant of more than $1 million requires the pipe now being laid to be in place by the end of August. It could be another two months before the roads are back to normal, however.

Eventually residents will be required to connect to the web of pipes that carry recycled wastewater. They should be getting notices of that in the next few months. Maiteny said the cost to homeowners should be small and will be subsidized by the city.

Delray Beach started its wastewater reclamation project in 2003, adding pipes to different parts of the city as grants were secured from the water management district. If more grant money becomes available, a city masterplan calls for eight more phases of water reclamation work.

Each customer added to the recharged water system gets the city one step further from building a new water plant for drinking water that might require the expensive conversion of salt water into fresh water, he said.

"Plus, it’s the right thing to do," he said, because filtering wastewater and putting it on lawns keeps sewage out of the ocean and from being injected deep underground.

Farther south, Boca Raton has been working on its own recycled water project since the mid-90s. Some 977 customers tap into the system now, including some especially large water users — golf courses. The plant now processes about 5 million gallons of wastewater a day, but it can handle twice that load. The city has plans to expand the project’s reach to more customers.

Boca Raton says its project has resulted in more than 500 million gallons of drinking water since the water reclamation project was put in place.

The long-term benefits of using reclaimed water will outlast the short-term pain of the road work. Photo by Mary Kate Leming
By Linda Haase

Although Boynton Beach city commissioners applauded fellow Commissioner Jose Rodriguez’s budget proposal, which would set the tax rate at $6.53 per $1,000 of taxable value, they approved a tentative tax rate of $7.30 at their July 21 meeting.

“We can always go down but we can’t go up (once we approve it),” said Mayor Jerry Taylor, who indicated he would be looking for ways to reduce the rate. “I need time to verify your numbers and if we can do what you say with that budget, I’d vote for it.”

Under the proposed tax rate there wouldn’t be any layoffs and there would be money for a controversial new police and/or city hall complex.

“We don’t know at this point if we would be using an existing building or building a new one, or if it would be just a police station or a police and city hall complex,” said City Manager Kurt Bressner. “But we need to get the proposals in so we can see how much it will cost and if we want to move forward.”

One proposal is an estimated $21 million stand-alone station which could be built on city-owned property at the corner of Gateway Boulevard and High Ridge Road, adjacent to Fire Station No. 5. Commissioner Woodrow Hay said he was in favor of looking at projected costs “with no obligation to accept proposals.”

Rodriguez took a stronger stand on the issue: “I think we can do it all and get the millage rate to $6.50. That’s my challenge to the city manager.” Rodriguez’s proposed tax rate, which cut $1.17 million from the budget, included money for the police station.

Commissioner Ron Weiland disagreed. “This is not the proper time to do this,” he said. He also indicated that the city needed to “look at restructuring some departments,” saying that even if the city balances the budget this year, the tough times aren’t going to be over soon.

A public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 14 to discuss the budget and tax rate.

Boynton Beach

Tax rate increase approved

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Ocean Ridge

Fatal on A1A

A visitor from Georgia was killed and a Boynton Beach woman received multiple minor injuries when their cars collided in Ocean Ridge early July 18.

Luci D. Menegolo, 55, of Kennesaw, Ga., was driving north on Ocean Boulevard about 2:12 a.m. that Saturday when her 2008 Nissan SUV veered into the southbound lane as she was negotiating the curve at the Boynton Inlet, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office. She collided head-on with a 2007 Chevrolet sedan being driven by Cherry M. Cheek, 49. Menegolo, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was thrown from the vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene. Cheek was treated and released at Delray Medical Center.

Investigators suspect Menegolo was drunk, but a Sheriff’s Office spokesman said alcohol impairment results will not be available for “a couple months.”
Delray Beach

Smart cards coming to beach-area parking

By Margie Plunkett

Don’t like to carry change? Beach-goers in Delray Beach will soon have a new option to pay for parking in several area lots and on A1A: a smart card.

The $148,303 parking system that was newly installed and operating in beach-area parking lots as of June 26. The city hopes to make the smart cards available in August.

The new Pay-N-Display meters replace single meters in beach-area lots, Krejcarek said. One of the benefits of the new system is that it eliminates tickets written in error because the patron entered the wrong parking space number in the machine.

Visa and MasterCard can be used to pay for parking, as well as exact change in coins; the machines do not accept paper money.

The smart card option is new to Delray Beach. Parkers will be able to get credit-card sized smart cards that are loaded with $5, to pay for parking on the new system as well as single meters on A1A. The cards can be replenished at some of the multi-space meters, City Hall or the Visitors Center at Atlantic Avenue and Ocean Boulevard.

The smart card is used like a credit card to pay for time in the multi-space meters, which deduct payment from the card. The meter prompts users. To pay on a single meter, the user inserts the card into a slot on the meter, and the card automatically starts paying the meter in increments of 25 cents. When the user reaches the time desired, the card is pulled out of the meter.

The single meters are being modified to accept the smart cards.

The meter will let residents pay only for parking time that is allowed in the space. If the space allows parking for two hours, for instance, the meter will deduct no more than two hours of time from the card.

Contest to elicit residents’ revenue ideas for city

Delray Beach is taking a unique approach to finding new revenue streams for the city to replace tanking property taxes: a contest.

To win a $500 grand prize, $300 second prize or $200 third prize, all you have to do is come up with an idea for bringing in new income that’s easy to put in place and doesn’t increase taxes.

The contest, co-sponsored by the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, was established after long-time Delray Beach resident and Budget Task Force member Robert Moore donated $1,000.

“This will give our residents the opportunity to analyze the current financial crisis and become engaged in the process,” said Chamber President Bill Wood in a statement. “We look forward to the submissions.”

Entries should be about 500 words, include name, address, phone number and e-mail address. They can be:

• E-mailed to bwood@delraybeach.com

• Sent through mail — postmarked no later than the entry deadline of Aug. 21 — to the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, 65-A SE Fifth Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33483; or

• Dropped off at the Chamber.

Winners will be announced in September. City residents are eligible to enter, as are city employees except Budget Task Force members, city commissioners and their families, the city manager and the judges.

— Margie Plunkett

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This timeless estate, built on a wooded acre is just minutes from the Atlantic Ocean. The resort-like atmosphere is ideal for entertaining and relaxation. Spacious interior designed to bring the outside in.
Delray Beach

New housing rules get city’s final approval

By Margie Plunkett

Delray Beach has a new set of rules in place for transient housing, limiting the number of unrelated people who can live in a household in single-family areas as well as the number of times a property can be leased.

Commissioners passed ordinances after a second public hearing July 7 that brought out another round of landlords, sober house owners, single-family homeowners and other residents to defend their homes occupied by college students and others, which focused largely on sober houses claiming homestead exemption.

City commissioners approved a request by Father Chap Stokes at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church was read that reiterated his contention against unrelated adults who live together, college students, gay and lesbian people, farm laborers and the poor who consolidate for cost savings, as well as the sober house community.

The group of ordinances, passed on first reading in June, addressed transient housing by defining family as no more than three unrelated people; updating terminology to conform with the state; and prohibiting transient residential uses in single-family and planned residential developments, but allowing them in medium density residential districts. They also limited the number of times a single-family home can be rented to six times annually and provided for regulation, including permitting, permit fees and revocation of permits.

Lantana

Town Council holds tax rate

After hearing from town residents struggling to pay increasing utility bills, Lantana commissioners voted July 27 to maintain the existing tax rate as part of their 2010 budget — charging Town Manager Michael Bornstein with finding other ways to fill a $341,000 deficit. The vote was 3-1, with Mayor David Stewart dissenting.

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August 2009
Lantana. The homes are generally older. There are no sidewalks, so people can plant right up to the road.

And Mike Greenstein, Lantana’s director of operations and also a longtime forester, directs a program that allows residents to buy a tree and have it delivered.

“I actually go and pick the tree out, because I don’t want them to get a bad tree,” he says. “Half the time, they don’t know what they want. And we tell them.”

Hypoluxo Island resident and Realtor Jennifer Spitznagel said they’ve probably planted about 75 trees since the spate of hurricanes.

“We had a lot of the old banyan trees that act like sails in the wind,” she said. “Not only do we not have the telephone poles are leaning over.”

They did some driving around South Florida — actually, a lot of driving — and came up with a plan that they recently took to the Town Commission.

“Why would you not love a tree?” she said. “Not only do we not have tree, but the mailboxes are broken and the telephone poles are leaning over.”

They did some driving around South Florida — actually, a lot of driving — and came up with a plan that they recently took to the Town Commission.

“The town doesn’t look good,” she said. “Not only do we not have trees, but the mailboxes are broken and the telephone poles are leaning over.”

The plan, though, fell flat.

“The plan, though, fell flat.”

Many residents including Daryl Cheifitz feel that Lands End Road in Point Manalapan looks too much like an airport runway...
We asked bartenders at local watering holes to recommend summer drinks; our friends at Caffe Luna Rosa took it a step further, they created The Coastal Star

By Jan Norris

The only way to beat the stifling summertime heat is to pull up a piece of shade by the pool and act like you’re on vacation. That requires only sunglasses and a cool drink in your hand. Clothing is optional.

There are a number of watering holes in our area to find libations if you’d rather buy than build a decent drink, but these recipes are so good, you’ll want to add them to your repertoire.

To honor The Coastal Star, the bar staff at Caffe Luna Rosa in Delray Beach came up with the spectacular blue beauty — The Coastal Star. Though it’s not served on a bed of sand with seaweed, you’ll feel like you’re breezing along on a sailboat next to beautiful beaches as you sip this luscious concoction. (They’re an exclusive at Caffe Luna Rosa — and cost $9.)

**The Coastal Star**

2 ounces 44 North Huckleberry vodka
1/2 ounce curacao
2 ounces Kennesaw Natural Lemonade
ice cubes
sugar for rimming glass
lemon wheel for garnish

Shake all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice; pour into martini glass rimmed with white sugar. Serve with a lemon wheel or wedge. Makes 1 drink.

Other coastal cocktails, facing page

Huckleberry vodka lends a sweet edge to The Coastal Star, at Caffe Luna Rosa. Photo by Tim Stepien
Try these other coastal cocktails

Tim Bauer of Delray Beach’s Falcon House suggests two coolers packed with a punch. A Cayman Lemonade is actually made with 7-Up — and gin. The Falcon Lemonade is fresh lemonade, and a berry-flavored vodka.

**Cayman Lemonade**

1.5 ounces gin
splash of Triple Sec
splash of peach schnapps
equal parts to fill glass:
cranberry juice
7-Up soda
lemon wheel to garnish

Shake all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice. Serve in a tall cooler glass over ice with a lemon wheel garnish.

**Falcon Lemonade**

2 to 3 lemon wedges
1/2 teaspoon granulated sugar
1.5 ounces Van Gogh North 44 acai-blueberry vodka
splash of club soda
mint sprig to garnish

Muddle the lemons with sugar in the bottom of a cocktail shaker. Add cubed ice and vodka — shake well. Pour over ice in a cooler glass and finish with splash of club soda. Garnish with mint spring.

The Banana Boat, directly on the water, has a number of chill-down drinks. Here’s their mango-flavored bay breeze. There are three simple ingredients — easy enough for any amateur.

**Mango Bay Breeze**

1-1/4 ounces mango schnapps
Equal parts:
Pineapple juice
Cranberry juice
Shake ingredients together with ice in a cocktail shaker. Serve in a rocks glass with cubed ice and a cube of fresh mango or pineapple to garnish. Makes 1 drink.

Martinis are the bar’s top sellers at Callaro’s Prime Steakhouse in Manalapan, — it’s a steakhouse thing. But the bar there features a number of summery drinks that go beyond shaken or stirred — check out the

**Callaro’s Fantasy Island**

Equal measures of:
Crème d’ banana Galliano liqueur
Amaretto Di Saranno liqueur
Bailey’s Irish Cream
Coconut rum

Measure all ingredients into a cocktail shaker, shake with ice and pour over ice in a cocktail glass.

At the Old Key Lime House in Lantana, bar manager Danny Hooker pours a slice of pie in a glass with the Key lime martini. Have crushed graham crackers on hand.

**Key Lime House signature Key lime martini**

1.5 ounces vanilla vodka
1 ounce Keke Beach Key lime liqueur
1 ounce pina colada mix (bottled or homemade)
1 ounce fresh orange juice
splash of fresh lime juice
crushed graham crackers for rimming glass
limes wheels for garnish

Shake all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice; pour into a martini glass rimmed with graham cracker crumbs. Serve with a lime wheel. Makes 1 drink.

Jan Norris is a local food writer. Read her blog at www.jannorris.com or E-mail her at jan@jannorris.com.

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Celebrate the milestones of your life with your friends and neighbors. Submit your announcements to: news@thecoastalstar.com.
It was a fabulous 4th

ABOVE: Manalapan resident Ronald Barsanti decorated his Lands End Road front yard with American flags to help get his neighborhood into the holiday spirit.

RIGHT: The Puglisi family — Lee, Alex, Frankie and Gwen — along with Alexander Valentine and other friends enjoy the Boynton Beach 4th of July fireworks. They were sitting on the seawall of Island Drive in Ocean Ridge with other local residents and their visitors.

Photos by Jerry Lower
TOP & RIGHT: Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams speaks with volunteer organizers of the Sand Sifters after new disposal containers for cigarette butts were put into use at the county’s Gulfstream Park. After he unveiled the new butt collectors, Abrams, a self-proclaimed joker announced, “Now the only butts we want to see on the beach are those in swimming suits.” Photos by Jerry Lower

LEFT: After 18 years of service, Lt. Stefan Katz (r) retired from the Ocean Ridge Police Department. The Ocean Ridge Support Group organized a celebration in his honor. He received a gold badge, firearm and plaque. Katz received his plaque from officer and Support Group President, Gene Rosenberg. Photo provided
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR:

Oblio Wish

Oblio Wish of Manalapan is a slim blond ex-model turned Kundalini yoga teacher who follows this mantra: Look good, feel good and be happy. It works for her. And that’s the feeling that emanates from her yoga studio, tea bar and clothing boutique, Gyrotonic Sat Nam in West Palm Beach.

With impeccable taste — she’s designed clothing for the likes of Stevie Nicks and other entertainers — she includes doing makeup and personal shopping as part of her services. “I have a flair for clothes,” she says. “I know what looks good on people and what they will feel comfortable wearing. That’s my talent. I pick up clients’ mood, and suggest something. ‘Oh, I love that’ is what I hear.”

She admits to being shy and dyslexic, and appreciates being with others who have non-judgmental attitudes. “I like my environment to be relaxed. My clients don’t have to have their nails done perfectly. They don’t have to buy anything, either,” she adds.

However, she believes that you don’t have to wear your husband’s shirt when you work out. “You can look nice,” she says. And she does. “I wear makeup and jewelry because I’m at my studio all day. I don’t want to look like a gym rat.”

Sometimes you will find her in simple black. And when she’s teaching Kundalini, you will see her wearing a turban and dressed in all white.

Currently, she spends two to three hours a day working out, but a healthy lifestyle and outlook on life are nothing new. “I’ve done step (aerobics), and when I lived in Palm Beach, I used to roller skate at 2 a.m. I couldn’t believe that people would go to bed so early,” she said.

“I love to dance and 15 years ago, I became a vegan and got into yoga because I had allergies and wanted to live in a healthier environment.”

When she first started learning yoga, she studied with many famous teachers. At one studio, she heard music and laughter coming from the next room. “I went in and saw they were having fun. They were doing Kundalini and the teacher was Gurmukh (of Golden Bridge Nite Moon, Los Angeles). Gurmukh said, ‘I’ve got to know about you.’”

Kundalini became a way of life and now she finds herself surrounded by practitioners: her gardener, interior designer, doctor and dentist. Born in Cape Cod, she was raised around Bel Air, Calif. She then moved to New York City, where she did commercial modeling for companies including Coca-Cola. That’s where she met her husband, Barry. She moved to Palm Beach 20 years ago. Shortly after moving here, her kids, she said, met her future business partner, Rick Carroll, also of Manalapan, on the beach.

“We have so much fear from childhood. We must disconnect from the past so we can have a future.” Yogi Bhajan

Questions

Q. What have been the highlights of your life so far?
A. Meeting and marrying my husband, Barry. My two children, three stepchildren, and six grandchildren.

Q. Tell us one thing your neighbors may not know about you.
A. I’m a neat freak.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in Manalapan?
A. We found our dream — a house on the ocean. We love the little town flavor.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?
A. Spiritual music. A favorite is Aquarian Age, by Nirinjan Kaur.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A. “We have so much fear from childhood. We must disconnect from the past so we can have a future.” Yogi Bhajan

Q. Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?
A. Gurmukh, who introduced me to Kundalini yoga and Elaine Chaback (of Woodstock, NY) who took me in when I was homeless after I went through the money I made doing commercials. I babysat her children.

Q. What advice do you have for a young person selecting a career today?
A. Follow your heart, find your passion.

Q. If your life story were made into a movie, who would you want to play you?
A. Kate Hudson. I like the way she dresses. She’s spiritual, fun and small like I am. I like the kind of men she likes, too.

Q. Who or what makes you laugh?
A. My husband, Barry. He has an amazing sense of humor. He still gets me after 27 years.
Delray clergy group plans ‘harvest’ dinner

By C.B. Hanif

It’s something that any congregation — or, better yet, group of congregations — can do. This time it’s the Delray Beach Interfaith Clergy Association.

The idea germinated from photocopies of Peace Notes. And the note scribbled across them: “Could we do something like this here? Interfaith Harvest.”

One of the headlines in that spring 2006 issue of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program newsletter read, “Shared Thanksgiving, Montclair Presbyterian Church, Oakland, California.” Beneath a photo (caption: “A spirit of celebration filled the hall”), a single paragraph told the story:

“When Tinka Larsen proposed an Interfaith Harvest Dinner, some thought the idea too ambitious. Her enthusiasm proved contagious and the commitment was made. Over 180 people from Montclair, the Kehilla Community Synagogue, and the Islamic Cultural Center gathered on Nov. 13. Christians, Jews and Muslims planned and cooked together, decorated and cleaned up together. Conversations buzzed around the room as diners exchanged names, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. Prayer and food, story and song were enjoyed. A member of each congregation shared a version of the creation story. A spirit of Thanksgiving was truly present.”

Well, it’s not too early to replicate that idea across America — and anywhere else where people could use an excuse to express gratitude, share food and get to know fellow citizens of this planet.

The Rev. Elizabeth Hill, of the Church of the Palms, UCC, shared those photocopies during the Delray association’s May meeting. She had been part of that Oakland congregation. And since she had written the “could we?” note, she volunteered to help the Interfaith Harvest Dinner happen. Hill served on a similar committee two years ago when the Delray group hosted Jewish, Christian and Muslim women on their The Faith Club book tour promoting mutual understanding.

At her new committee’s first meeting July 2 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, she said everyone she had asked had agreed to help. No date or venue was set. But there was consensus for an open and peaceful atmosphere for learning and sharing, one particularly inviting for youths rather than having them nodding off to adults’ monologues.

The Delray Beach Interfaith Clergy Association is one of many interfaith groups doing good things that we’ll keep telling about.

So do try this at home. And tell us what you’re planning — and when.

Who said Thanksgiving was the only time to show appreciation for life, and for each other?

C.B. Hanif, former news ombudsman for The Palm Beach Post, is a freelance writer, editor, and media and interreligious affairs consultant. He writes or speaks at synagogues, churches and mosques, seeking folks who are making the Golden Rule real, not just an ideal. Reach him at cbhanif@gmail.com or www.Interfaith21.com.

InterFaith21
August 2009

Ocean resident Rosemarie Peterson examines archival quality storage materials as Beach City Library Archivist, Janet DeVeils, shows class attendees tips for handling and preserving their family photographs. The class on photograph preservation will be held again Aug. 18 and Sept. 20. Photo by Mary Kate Leming

Mydelraybeach.com.
Beach City Hall, 100 NW First Ave. Meeting holds its regular meetings on the first & 8/4 - Beach City Library Quilters meet every Thursday from 9-11:30 am at the Boynton Beach Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. Share quilting information and education and perpetuate quilting as a cultural art form. 742-6730.
8/4 - Lunch with Li - The Library - brown-bag program features Navigating the Road/Call Life, based on insights of Barbara Dorgan, Liz Sterley hosting at the Delray Beach Library City, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. Noon-1:30 pm. Free. 255-9490 or www.delraylibrary.org.
8/4 - Dancing at Rick’s Cafe - Boynton Beach Senior Center offers dancing at 1201 S. Federal Highway. Listen and dance to the music of Frank Sinatra, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Gene Krupa and Glenn Miller. Dance room will be set up with food and beverages available for purchase. Registration required: free for residents within the corporate city limits; $5/person for non-residents. 742-6650.
8/4 - Zucchini - Silvers 15th Annual Fishing Tournament is held for teens at Community Center, 1901 N. Seacrest Blvd. All ages are invited to participate. Equipment included. Bring hat, sunscreen, blanked. 10:30-11:30 a.m. $5/resident, $7/non-resident. Please register in advance. 742-6400.
8/4 - Summer Classic Basketball Tournament is presented by the Boynton Beach Police Athletic League at the Hester Community Center, 101 N. Seaside Blvd., Boynton Beach. Tournament features New York City’s All-Around Team. 6:30 pm. 742-4887 or 742-6530.
8/4 - Saturday - 8/8 - Mark Garretson Memorial 15th Annual Fishing Tournament is held for adults and youth. Depart from either the Boynton or Boca Raton Inlet. Weigh in all forms available at Florida Native Bait & Tackle. Barbecue and awards ceremony. Entry forms available at Florida Native Bait & Tackle, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach or through Officer Jeff Messer: 243-3200.
8/4 - Sunday - 8/7 - Join Dr. Stephanie Meyer as she presents an evening to honor ancestors. Exhibition runs until 10/25. Museum hours. $4. Nature Center open Tue-Sat, 10 am-4 pm. 742-6650.
8/4 - Sunday - 8/10 - Architectural Tours: Melbourne & its Architecture, joint event with the Historical Commission of Brevard County. The tour includes a visit to the H. A. Miracle House, the Kakela House and the Charles Moore House. Museum hours. $25. Payment must be made before class begins. 742-6650.
8/4 - Ocean Ridge Community Commission holds its regular meetings on the first & 3rd Tuesdays of each month at Ocean Ridge City Hall, 100 N.W. First Ave. Meeting begins at 6 pm. Agenda available at www.mykeybath.com.
Wednesday - 8/5 - Rhys Bowen and Mary Anna Evans will speak and sign their books, Royal Blood and Fatal Affair at Marder on the Beach Bookstore, 237 NE 5th Ave., Delray Beach. 7 pm. Free. 279-9800 or www.marderbookshop.com.
8/5 - Thursday - 8/6 - Boynton Beach Library Quilters meet every Thursday from 9-11:30 am at the Boynton Beach Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. Share quilting information and education and perpetuate quilting as a cultural art form. 742-6730.
8/5 - Festival of the Arts - The Thing From Another World - commemoration by Assistant Curator Mykal Banta at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.
8/5 - Friday - 8/7 - Blast Off! with free admission to the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. Learn about space travel by examining a model spacecraft and designing your own space vehicle. Create and launch Kika-Seltzer rockets on the love as part of the free family night at the museum. 5-7 pm. 742-6780 or www.schoolhousemuseum.org.
8/5 - Friday - 8/7 - Ocean Reef: A Look at the Life of a Florida Bird (if one is ready to hatch.) 8-10:30 am. Special weekend activities including both nature making for all ages as well as pirate and others’ children’s activities. 7:10 pm. Free. 280-1370, Ext. 17 or www.downtowndelraybeach.com/ summernights.
8/5 - Friday - 8/7 - Pre-K Fun with Food: Make a sandwich for lunch and decorate a birthday cake for a special occasion. 10:30-11:15 am. $2/member per child. 742-6650.
8/5 - Friday - 8/7 - Reads for the Atomic Age: monthly quilting class at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. Class offered the second and fourth Mondays of the month at the Lantern Town Hall, 500 Grey Grouper Rd. Meeting begins at 7 pm. Agenda available at www.lantern.org.
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August 2009

Calendar

21

Other contestants applaud 19-year-old Amanda Shaffer of San Diego after she won the Barbie look-alike contest at Crane’s BeachHouse in Delray Beach. The Barbie show continues through Oct. 25 at Old School Square. Photo by Jerry Lower

August 23 - 29
Sunday - 8/23 - Musix at St. Paul’s presents Dueling Divas of Jazz. Enjoy a scintillating afternoon of jazz and divas at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 188 S. Swinton, Delray Beach. 4 pm. $15 suggested donation. 279-4603.
Monday - 8/24 - Afternoon Book Group - The Commissary by John Burnham Schwartz will be presented at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-9194.
8/24 - Lantana Town Council Meetings are held on the second & fourth Mondays of each month at the Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Circle. Meeting begins at 7 pm. Agenda available at www.lantana.org.
Tuesday - 8/25 - Manalapan Town Commission Meeting is held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. Meetings are held at Manalapan Town Hall, 605 S Ocean Blvd. 1 pm. Agenda available at www.manalapan.org.
8/25 - Young Adult Movie Event - Transformers will be presented at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-9194.
Wednesday - 8/26 - Drop-In Craft Day is held at the Delray Beach City Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. Noon-1:30 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-9194.
8/26 - Pajama Storytime at the Delray Beach City Library, 200 S. Swarent. Ages 0-6 (plus siblings) enjoy silly songs, stories and fun craft in their pajamas. 7-9 pm. Free. 724-6390.
Thursday - 8/27 - Briny Breezes Town Commission Meeting is held at 5:01. The meeting will be held at A1A and Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. A walking tour of Delray Beach’s historic beach district will be part of the agenda. Free. 7-10 pm. 279-1180, ext. 17.
Friday - 8/28 - Dancing in the Street Party held at the 500 block of Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, as part of the Summer Nights on the Avenue. Free. 7-10 pm. 279-1180, Ext. 17.
Saturday - 8/29 - Hooked On Fishing Tournament is presented by Miguel Lopez-Viego, M.D., Medical Director of the Birthright Center for Surgical Weight Reduction, at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, Clayton Conference Center, 215 S. Swarent Blvd., Delray Beach. 6:30 pm. Free. 737-7713, Ext. 6686.
Sunday - 8/30 - Music at St. Paul’s presents Dueling Divas of Jazz. Enjoy a scintillating afternoon of jazz and divas at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 188 S. Swinton, Delray Beach. 4 pm. $15 suggested donation. 279-4603.

August 30 - September 5
Thursday - 9/3 - Lunch with Liz @ the Library known bus program features Achieving Financial Happiness based on insights of Jean Chatzky at the Delray Beach City Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. Noon-1:30 pm. Free. 265-9490.
9/3 - Surgical Weight Reduction Symposium - presented by Miguel Lopez-Viego, M.D., Medical Director of the Birthright Center for Surgical Weight Reduction, at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, Clayton Conference Center, 215 S. Swarent Blvd., Delray Beach. 6:30 pm. Free. 737-7713, Ext. 6686.
Friday - 9/4 - Florida Watercolor Society 37th Juried Exhibition begins at Coral Museum, 51 N. Swarent Ave., Delray Beach. 100 works by award-winning Florida artists presented as part of the Society’s annual conference. Exhibit runs until 11/15. Museum hours. Free/members and children 13 and under, $6/general, $4/seniors and students. 243- 7922 or www.oldschool.org.
9/4 - ‘Last Hurrah of Summer’ Party will be held at A1A and Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. The classic setting for tropical birding.

Trinidad’s species include an impressive 400 birds, 108 mammals, 55 reptiles 25 amphibians and over 617 butterflies.

Individual visits and expertly guided group tours are conducted at the Centre, as well as throughout Trinidad and its sister island of Tobago.

The classic setting for tropical birding.

Represented Exclusively by CALIGO VENTURES
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Key West, FL 33041-6356
800-426-7781
www.caligo.com/asa withstand: email: asawright@caligo.com

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ASA WRIGHT

Nature Center & Lodge, Trinidad

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Briny Breezes Boat Slips
Enjoy easy ocean-access from Boynton Inlet in a private, non-commercial marina.

Slips available:
24 ft. - $2,182/year
30 ft. - $3,055/year
36 ft. - $4,102/year

New boaters - mention this ad and receive 10% discount for the first year.

561-276-7405
PBIA sports many new features — and gum!

By Mary Thurwachter

Later this year, patrons of the Palm Beach International Airport will be able to zip in and out of airport parking lots settling with SunPass, the prepaid system used on Florida's Turnpike and other toll roads.

"We don't have it yet," said Casandra R. Davis, community affairs spokeswoman for the airport. "We don't have a firm date; late 2009 is projected."

But there's always something new at the airport, which had humble beginnings as a field with a windsock in 1929, became Morrison Field in 1936 (through the Depression) and served as a military base during World War II and the Korean War.

In 1966, a five-building terminal was built. Twenty-one years ago, the current terminal made its debut, tripling the size of the previous building and doubling the gates.

So what's new today? A spiffy $64 million long-term parking garage, for one thing. The seven-story garage opened last year and added 3,400 spaces.

Parking rates have gone up, too. As of May 19, daily fees went up a dollar: $7 in park-and-ride, $13 in long-term parking and $17 in short-term parking.

You can buy gum! After a 20-year ban, PBIA sells chewing gum. Paradies Shops, which run the airport's retail shops, estimates that lifting the no-gum ban will bring in an extra $225,000 a year.

You can get pesos for your dollars. A currency exchange, shoe shine and business center have found a home in the terminal.

Stuffed lions and tigers, oh boy! A Kid Zone store and playground have been added. It's all within skipping distance of the putting green, pool tables and foosball game outside Sam Snead's Tavern. So there's a playground for big kids, too!

For those who like to watch the planes take off, there's a new observation area. It's got TVs, desks chairs and free Wi-Fi to occupy your time when there's not much activity on the tarmac.

JetBlue moved from Concourse B to Concourse C. The switch came after the recent completion of three new gates on the east section of Concourse C.

Chili's Too and CNBC News concessions have opened in Concourse C. Chili's has a separate line for to-go orders, so travelers can fly the friendly skies while munching on baby back ribs. Extra ATMs have been installed. Get cash courtesy Fifth Third Bank. Charge! There's a cell phone charging station at CNBC News.

Good good good good vibrations (oom bop bop). Feeling tense? Stress relief is available via massage chairs. You get three minutes of chair massage for a buck.

Surf the Net. Leave your laptop at home? No worries. Internet access is available at 35 cents a minute.

Bathroom break for companions. Folks traveling with a health aid or helpful spouse can make use of the Companion Care restrooms.

Fight germs. Bathrooms are stocked with antibacterial soap.

Still under construction: An $18.1 million control tower is being built near the airport's northern border near the Palm Beach Kennel Club. Air traffic controllers are to move into the 231-foot-tall tower in 2011.

Chili's Too is among the new concessions to open on Concourse C. Photos by Mary Thurwachter

Forget the laptop? Internet access is available for 35 cents a minute.
Cavet Cloyd Snyder

By Ron Hayes

DELRAY BEACH — Cavet Snyder made money selling cold air, then gave it away with a warm heart.

Entering the nascent air-conditioning business just after World War II, Mr. Snyder sold the Stromberg Sheeitmetal Co. of Rockville, Md., in 1987 and established the CCS Charitable Foundation.

"He lost his mother at 3 and his father at 10, so he always gave to children’s charities," recalled his son, Marc Snyder. "Make-A-Wish and Habitat For Humanity, he had a special place in his heart for children who were orphaned or disadvantaged. He was just a very classy and elegant guy.

A snowbird who retired to Delray Beach permanently in 1988, Mr. Snyder died July 9. He was 87 and a resident of the Banana House condominium, where he served as the board’s president from 1989 to 1994 and vice president from 1998 to 2000. He also was an occasional guest lecturer to business students at Palm Beach Community College and a member of the Delray Beach Club.

Cavet Cloyd Snyder was born Sept. 30, 1921, in Warm Springs, Va., and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in engineering.

Mr. Snyder’s wife of 49 years, Peggy Krimming Snyder, died in 1993. In addition to his son, of Manistou, Colo., he is survived by a daughter, Kelly, of Highland, Md.; their spouses, Kelly and Hunter; and four grandchildren, Katie, Cassidy, Annie and Riley.

A memorial service was held July 14 in Delray Beach, with a scattering of ashes planned at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a favorite charity.

Goodwill store for $10 and selling it in an auction for $200,” says Kiggins.

Mark Benjamin Alba was born on Dec. 17, 1955, in Winchester, Mass. A 1977 graduate of Boston College, he had worked for Merrill Lynch of New York before coming to Florida, where he continued to work as a financial trader.

Mr. Alba is survived by two sisters, Beverly Alba and Cynthia Alba, and a brother, Bruce, all of Massachusetts.

A memorial service was held in Winthrop, Mass., with a local memorial on the beach to be announced.

Mark Alba was dubbed ‘The Mayor’ of the County Pocket. He bought a tiki hut in his backyard. Photo provided

James Wilson Clark

By Mary Katherine Stump

OCEAN RIDGE — Ralph Zuckerman, 93, a long-time resident of Crown Colony, died Monday, July 20. He was preceded in death by his wife, Harriet, who passed away in 1986.

He was a member of the Gulf Stream Golf Club, where he served on the board and on the financial committee, as well as The Gulf Stream Bath and Tennis Club and The Little Club. He was an avid bridge and golf player.

Mr. Clark was a resident of Ocean Ridge for more than 25 years, having first moved here with his first wife, Harriet, who passed away in 1986.

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Ralph R. Zuckerman

By Mary Katherine Stump

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Boynton Beach

City considers historic preservation ordinance

The Boynton Beach City Commission has taken the first step toward the possible creation of a historic preservation ordinance.

The commission voted at its July 21 meeting to appoint a committee to look into the issue.

Although commissioners are intrigued by the benefits of such an ordinance, they want more information, including the impact on affected property owners and what rules the ordinance would mandate.

Barbara Ready, chairman of the Boynton Beach Arts Commission and president of Save Old Boynton High, urged commissioners to probe the issue.

"I would encourage you to establish a task force to look into this," Ready told commissioners, adding that she knows a few people who would be eager to join that advisory board.

"This does come with pots of money," she said, although matching grants would be required.

Boynton Beach has several historic properties, including the Boynton Woman’s Club and the 1913 Schoolhouse, which are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Though Delray Beach has a historic preservation ordinance, she noted, "We aren’t Delray Beach, we don’t need to have one as strict as theirs." — Linda Haase
Shark fishing banned from Delray Beach

By Margie Plunkett

Anyone fishing for shark, be on notice: Delray Beach commissioners in July voted to prohibit shark fishing 300 feet from the municipal beach. As part of the ordinance passed July 21, no chumming or baiting — using cut up bait to attract sharks — or the use of lures or rigs for shark fishing is allowed. And any accidental catches are required to be thrown back, the ordinance said.

The commissioners were responding to recent resident concern that shark fishing on the municipal beach may create hazardous conditions for swimmers, according to a memo to commissioners from Terril C. Pyburn, assistant city attorney.

The ordinance passed after a long line of speakers from the public passionately voiced various perspectives on conservation, swimmer safety and the land fishermen's freedom to pursue the sport.

Florida's resident saltwater anglers who fish from shore, or a structure affixed to shore, will need to buy a shortline fishing license as of Aug. 1, unless they have a regular resident saltwater fishing license.

The cost is $7.50, plus administrative and handling fees.

The new license applies only to Florida resident saltwater anglers who fish from shore. Resident anglers may prefer to purchase the regular recreational saltwater license that covers them no matter where they fish for saltwater species in Florida. Florida has always required nonresidents to have a license when fishing from shore, and they will still need to purchase a regular nonresident saltwater fishing license.

The new shoreline saltwater fishing license for residents went on sale July 15. It provides all of the same exemptions as a regular license, including senior citizens, children, disabled people who meet certain qualifications, active-duty military personnel while home on leave, and anglers who fish from a licensed pier. In addition, the shoreline license requirement includes anglers drawing food stamps, temporary cash assistance or Medicaid.

For more information, go to MyFWC.com.

Shoreline anglers must now buy license

Golf

PB Par-3 course under renovation

By Craig Dolch

The Palm Beach Par-3 has long billed itself as "golf on the ocean" — that's even the name of the course's Web site — and soon this statement will be more appropriate.

Thanks to a long-awaited $4.8 million renovation that combines public and private money, Palm Beach Par-3 will have 50 percent more holes on the Atlantic Ocean when it reopens Nov. 1.

Architect and Palm Beach resident Raymond Floyd's plans have expanded the ocean holes from four to six, as well as changing the routing of the course and the direction of all 18 holes.

"These are major changes," said head professional Rick Dytrych, who has been at the club since 1978. "Not only are there more holes on the ocean, but you will now finish on the ocean. Before, most of the holes always ran north-south. But with the different layout of east-west holes, you're going to see the wind play a much greater role out here. I think the golfers are really going to like that.

Palm Beach Par-3 was once rated the best short course in the U.S. by Golf magazine, but the layout has been worn down by thousands of rounds every year and the ocean climate.

Finding the resources to renovate the course likely wasn't going to happen until Floyd, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, stepped in last year and led the effort. Not only did Floyd volunteer his services for free, he helped raise more than $2 million in private donations from Palm Beach residents. The rest of the money came from the town of Palm Beach.

"Without Raymond, this doesn't get done," Dytrych said. "It's as simple as that.

The rest of the money came from Palm Beach residents. The rest of the money came from Palm Beach residents. The rest of the money came from Palm Beach residents. The rest of the money came from Palm Beach residents.

The new course will be more appropriate.

The Palm Beach Par 3 is receiving $4.8 million in renovations. Photo by Jerry Lower

In the end, the preservation of Delray Beach's "jewel" — the beach — won unanimously. "Our Delray beach is our pride and joy," said Vice Mayor Gary Eliopoulos, who favored the ordinance on the basis of public safety. "I think what the ordinance was written for was that we don't want to be attracting sharks to our shore. With the exception of one, most of the Delray residents whose homes tonight were in favor of this ordinance."

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DNA testing unravels the mysteries of your mutt

By Arden Moore

Love your mutt, but perplexed when it comes to pinpointing his breed blend? Sure, you make your best guesses and maybe even solicit the suggestions of others. Now, thanks to a new DNA test, there's a scientific way to sniff out your canine's family tree. Just be prepared to be surprised.

Two years ago, I adopted Cleo, my sweet 12-pound mystery mutt. At the time, she was a scruffy stray, dodging cars in my neighborhood in quest of a home. Looking at her, my dog-loving friends pegged her as a Richon-Maltse-poodle-mutt-terrier mix.

Wrong. A DNA test, specifically called the Wisdom Panel MX Mixed Breed Analysis by Mars Veterinary, revealed Cleo's true — and surprising — ancestry. She is a lot of miniature poodle with a dash of basket hound and a sprinkling of other breeds too dilute to identify.

In other words, Cleo is truly an all-American mutt. Or as Dr. Angela Hughes, DVM, a veterinary geneticist, describes “Cleo’s ancestry has certainly been around the block — and then some.”

Based on the results of Cleo’s blood test, her parents were mutts, but at least one grandparent was a miniature poodle and at least one great-grandparent was mostly basket hound. That probably explains why Cleo sports a wavy, apricot-colored coat, but spends way too much time on walks sniffing trees and lawns.

Why do the test? Because DNA testing determined Cleo is an all-American mutt, with miniature poodle, basket hound and a sprinkling of other breeds in her pedigree. Photo by Arden Moore

There’s a definite association between certain breeds and specific diseases, nutritional needs and temperament tendencies.

For example, basket hounds live by the motto “Have nose, will travel” and can be challenging when it comes to training them off-leash to heed the “come” command. Health-wise, the doe-eyed Cavalier King Charles spaniel has a genetic propensity for developing a heart condition known as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Large breeds like German shepherds are at greater risk for hip dysplasia and fare better when kept at healthy weights and engaged in low-impact exercises like swimming or long walks.

Two methods of collecting canine DNA exist. One involves swabbing inside your dog’s mouth and sending off the cheek-cell sample to a lab. Be aware that this test carries a risk of false results (the sample could mistakenly also contain bacteria or food particles). The second type requires taking your dog to a veterinary clinic for a quick blood draw and then mailing of the test vial.

The blood draw is the far more accurate test because the best possible source of a dog’s DNA is in the blood (white blood cells) and it is least likely to be contaminated,” Hughes explained.

It can take a few weeks for the results to come back to reveal just who your dog really is. “The day the test arrives can be one of surprise (as in my case with Cleo) or affirmation.”

But knowing the best breeds which make up your marvelous mutt takes away some of the guesswork when it comes to providing the best type of veterinary care — and selecting the right training approach — to suit your dog.

Cleo’s “mystery mutt” moniker has now been replaced by a more accurate nickname: “your royal hound-ness.”

Arden Moore, an animal behavior consultant, editor, author and professional speaker, shares her Oceanside, Calif., home with two cats, two dogs and one overworked vacuum cleaner. Tune in to her “On Behave!” show on Pet Life Radio.com and contact her at ardenmoore.com.

Keep pets in mind while plotting storm-evacuation strategy

By Mary Thurwachter

Everyone who lives on a barrier island should have a hurricane evacuation plan and pet plans should include Fido and Fluffy.

There is a shelter in the area that accepts pets, but if a shelter or a friend’s house is not in your plan, and you’re thinking about fleing the storm, consider making a room at a nice pet-friendly hotel like Casa Monica in St. Augustine or the Loews Royal Pacific Resort in Universal Orlando. There are extra fees, of course, but you and your pets can get some pampering, which you’ll undoubtedly appreciate after fleing the storm.

Of course, you could board your four-legged friends. At Colonial Animal Hospital in Boynton Beach, for example, the hospital offers weather storms for about $22 a day and cats for $17 a day. There are other choices for boarding too, including Barkingham Palace in Delray Beach, Camp Canine in Boca Raton, the Delray Beach Veterinary Hospital. Gulf Stream Police Chief Garrett Ward says residents typically make provisions for their pets during storms.

Many pet-friendly hotels have a shelter, too, including Barkingham Palace in Delray Beach, Camp Canine in Boca Raton, the Delray Beach Veterinary Hospital. Gulf Stream Police Chief Garrett Ward says residents typically make provisions for their pets during storms.

Most take them along with them to the homes of friends, family or to a hotel. “It hasn’t been a problem for us,” he said.

Other coastal town police departments agree.

“We just encourage residents to have a plan in place for pets,” says Manalapan Chief Clay Walker. “Most residents are gone during the season, so it isn’t a problem here,” Lt. Chris Yannuzzi of the Ocean Ridge Police Department says.

“We don’t make arrangements for pets, other than to tell residents to make plans — and make them early.”

When you and your best friend leave the island, be sure to pack a leash and collar, a crate, a two-week supply of food and water, vaccination records for your pet and medications. For cats, don’t forget kitty-litter and a container.

To make a reservation for your pet to stay at a shelter, call Animal Care and Control, (561) 233-1266 or see www.pbcgov.com/petsafety/animal. The gymnasium at West Boynton Recreation Center (east of high school), 6000 Northtree Blvd. in Lake Worth (between Hypoluxo Road and Gateway Boulevard off the east side of Old Road) will be available as a pet-friendly shelter. Dogs, cats and birds are accepted, but not reptiles.

The shelter is restricted to county residents residing in a mandatory evacuation zone or in mobile homes. Proof of residency is required. Space is limited and restrictions apply. Owners are required to stay at the shelter. Pets will be housed in an area separate from people; pet owners will be given a schedule to attend to their animals’ needs.

Some nearby pet-friendly hotels: Colony Hotel, Delray Beach, (561) 276-4123; Comfort Inn & Conference Center, West Palm Beach, (561) 689-6100; Courtyard by Marriott, Boynton Beach, (561) 737-4600; Days Inn, Airport North, West Palm Beach, (561) 689-0450; Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, Jupiter, (561) 748-5255; Fairfield Inn & Suites, Boca Raton, (561) 417-8558; LaQuinta Inn and Suites, West Palm Beach, (561) 689-8540; PGA National Resort & Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, (561) 627-2000; Royal Inn, Royal Palm Beach, (561) 793-3000; Grandview Gardens

B&B, West Palm Beach, (561) 837-9023.

Some pet-friendly hotels a little farther away: Casa Monica, St. Augustine, (904) 810-6100; Loews Royal Pacific Resort, Orlando, (407) 503-3000; Grand Bohemian Hotel, Orlando, (866) 663-0024; Hilton Ocala, Ocala, (352) 854-1400; Rita-Carlton, Sarasota, (941) 309-2080.

Mary Thurwachter is a West Palm Beach freelance writer and founder/producer of www.INsideFlorida.com.
Each month, The Coastal Star features a home for sale in our community. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers, and provides readers with a peek inside one of our very special homes.

LEFT: The spacious master retreat has vaulted ceilings, bamboo flooring, French doors straight to patio, huge walk-in closet, separate media room, in its own private wing.

BELOW: The large living room has two-story stone fireplace, and French doors directly out to pool and patio areas.

The kitchen features contemporary styling with stainless appliances and glass tile backsplashes. The custom European wood cabinetry has granite countertops. The island design allows extra bar seating and a second sink. A separate pantry has an extra refrigerator, storage cabinets.

This 4,400-square-foot, four-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home was the recent recipient of a stunning, complete renovation that included an impressive addition. Now, two stories soar with an open, flowing contemporary floor plan, vaulted ceilings and spectacular stone-look tile floors. The master suite sits in its own private wing of the house with the important amenities of a spa-like bath and wonderful closet space. The guest suite sits on the second floor with its own high ceiling and en suite bath. It overlooks the tropical grounds.

The other bedrooms have resilient flooring, private baths and spacious walk-in closets, which makes them perfect for families. A new roof, impact windows and doors were added to upgrade the appeal of a home that’s close to the beach and local shopping.

For the best of outdoor Florida living, the fenced backyard is of great appeal for those with children and pets. There also are a covered cabana, sun deck, patio and full sized swimming pool in addition to the newly extended deep water dock to the Intracoastal Waterway beyond. The home is magnificent for full-scale entertaining or to simply enjoy the pleasures of comfortable, family life.

Offered at $1,799,000 by Jennifer Spritznagel; Manatee Cove Realty, 245 S. Ocean Blvd. Manalapan. Phone 582-2200.
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BEACHSIDE BEAUTY

Recently updated, this light, bright beach cottage is sure to charm. Updated granite/stainless galley kitchen, large Florida room, wainscoting and brand new baths, all on a 10,000 sq. foot lot and steps to deeded beach access on one of Ocean Ridge’s prettiest streets. $550,000

OCEAN RIDGE – FOR SALE OR RENT

A barefoot stroll to the sand from this 1950’s beach cottage east of A1A. 2/1/1 on a 10,000 square foot lot. Enjoy as is or build new; ocean views possible. For sale at $895,000. Available rental – furnished or unfurnished at $2,000/month.

SECRET GARDEN BY THE SEA

This authentic Bermuda home has been meticulously maintained. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, fireplace, vaulted cypress ceilings, covered loggia. Private deeded beach access, 3 homes from the sand. $1,299,000

TURN KEY LUXURY IN OCEAN RIDGE

This ocean block one story 3/3/2 with den and heated pool has been completely updated from the inside out. Situated on a private, oversized corner lot, features include: impact glass throughout, saturnia floors, granite/stainless kitchen, volume ceilings, more. $1,300,000

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

This is THE dream house! 17,000 sq ft lot, 6,000 sq ft of luxury living and relaxing space, 4 bedroom main house, 2 bedroom guest house, 6 car state-of-the-art garage with hydraulic lifts for the car collector, game room, office, gourmet kitchen with true butler’s pantry and wine room. New construction with the style and design everyone desires. $2,950,000

FOXE CHASE — DELRAY BEACH

Located in the prestigious gated community of Foxe Chase this home offers 9,000+ sq ft of living and entertaining spaces. Features include: 6 bedrooms including master suite with his & hers baths, gourmet kitchen, 3 fireplaces, stunning vaulted/beamed ceilings, heated pool & spa, plus 4 car garage, all set on a wooded 1+ acre lot. $2,895,000

TOSCANA SOUTH

Turnkey Luxury in Highland Beach. Absolutely stunning 1th floor, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath designer decorated condo. 180 degree view of Intracoastal to the ocean from 3 balconies. Hardwood floors, office, beautiful moldings & window treatments, ready to move in. $1,595,000

BEST BUY AT THE BEACH

Charming 2/2 beach cottage, east of A1A. 900 sq ft cottage is an absolute doll house, completely updated, high ceilings, bright & light, with tile floors, gas stove, charming gardens on low maintenance lot. $368,000

BEACHSIDE BEAUTY

Recently updated, this, light, bright beach cottage is sure to charm. Updated granite/stainless galley kitchen, large Florida room, wainscoting and brand new baths, all on a 10,000 sq. foot lot and steps to deeded beach access on one of Ocean Ridge’s prettiest streets. $590,000

STEPS TO THE SAND – OCEAN RIDGE

100 feet of deeded beach access steps from your front door. Totally updated 4/3/1 pool home on oversize lot. Two master suites - one on 1st floor, one on 2nd; great updated open kitchen, beautiful modern baths, move right in! $1,350,000

SECRET GARDEN BY THE SEA

East of A1A in Ocean Ridge’s best beachside neighborhood, this home offers 9,000+ sq ft of living and entertaining spaces. Features include: 6 bedrooms including master suite with his & hers baths, gourmet kitchen, 3 fireplaces, stunning vaulted/beamed ceilings, heated pool & spa, plus 4 car garage, all set on a wooded 1+ acre lot. $2,895,000

TOSCA 

Wide water views from every room in this magnificent Key West style home. Surrounded by 258 ft of water, this 8200 sq ft home features 5 bedrooms in the main house, plus a delightful 1 bedroom guest suite with crown’s nest. Protected deepwater dockage, enormous 1st floor master suite with sitting room & his/hers baths, all within walking distance to beach and Atlantic Ave. $4,950,000

TOSCA 

Secret Garden By The Sea

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