By Mary Hladky

Nearly two years after withdrawing plans for redeveloping Royal Palm Place, Investments Limited is back with new plans for two portions of the 14-acre site that would dramatically change the look of the longtime shopping and dining destination.

The largest owner of commercial properties in downtown Boca Raton plans two buildings. If the city approves, the first one out of the ground will front Federal Highway between Southeast Second and Third streets. It will include 69 luxury rental units, 11,156 square feet of retail and restaurants, and parking for 301 cars, with

See ROYAL PALM on page 16

Council requests more changes for Mizner 200

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton City Council members have demanded yet another redesign of the proposed Mizner 200 luxury condominium, giving developer Elad National Properties one month to complete the task before they reconsider the project Aug. 21.

Council members, sitting as Community Redevelopment Agency commissioners at a July meeting, said they were not pleased with the latest redesign of Mizner 200 that they had approved in May, and that any modifications would have to be completed by Aug. 21.

They said they would consider the project Aug. 21. Council members said they would consider the project Aug. 21.

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Editor's Note
Arts journalism fills important niche

Recent estimates suggest that as many as one out of three local arts journalism jobs in America have disappeared over the past decade. In South Florida, I’d suggest that proportion is even higher.

Yes, there are a few local blogs and websites that still write about the movies they like (or hated), but how often do you see a knowledgeable discussion about a local art exhibit, dance performance or even a theater review? Not often, by any fraud.

I hadn’t thought much about this recently until the unexpected death of local arts writer Skip Shepherd. You may not recognize his name, but if you’ve read a theater, music or film review in a local publication these past 20 years, I suspect at least some of them were written by Skip.

He believed so firmly in the importance of local arts criticism that he often worked for free — something I believe no one would ask him to do. He knew that arts journalism helped the reader understand the context of a work of art.

This newspaper is proud to support art criticism with the insightful work of some of the area’s best arts writers. We do this under the editorial leadership of Greg Stepanich in The ArtsSection, published online (www.pbartspaper.com) and in the pages of The Coastal Star each month.

Without an informed guide to help understand what may have influenced an artist’s creation, or presentation, we miss a chance to discover new perspectives, sample new forms of expression and connect with creativity. We miss a chance to discuss these things with our friends after the show and roll them around in our brains as we take our morning walks or just sit and watch the ocean.

We are better people for exploring art. Our communities and towns are more vital and vibrant — and economically resilient — when filled with art. And we need arts journalism to help us better understand ourselves and our communities.

The Coastal Star is a for-profit publication, so I am not asking for donations. But I am asking you to support the venues and art organizations that advertise with this newspaper, and let the ones who don’t know how important art journalism is to you. Ask them to support month-to-month arts sections with their advertising dollars. It is critical to keeping local arts journalism alive.

Mary Kate Leming, Editor

Correction
A July story on South County population growth erroneously stated the number of new homes built in Manalapan in recent years. The number of new and rebuilt homes is approximately 15.

The next edition of The Coastal Star will be distributed the weekend of Sept. 2.
By 2040, as many as 350 more parking spots would have to be added to as many as 150 by 2020, and that number will grow around Mizner Park needs parking.

A study confirmed the need for more downtown parking for moving in to new downtown restaurants and more people opening of several downtown restaurants and more people coming downtown, not being able to park and leaving,” he said. “That is not what we want to happen.”

As quickly as we can, we will reach out to interested parties and talk to them about our ideas,” said Elad attorney Bonnie Minkel. Within days of the meeting, architects for Mizner 200 and architects hired by project critics were working to make design changes acceptable to all by the first week of August to meet a city deadline to place the project on the Aug. 21 agenda. The changes will be presented to two city consultants for their review before going to the City Council.

The strongest criticism has come from Townsend Place unit owners, who complain Mizner 200 will block their eastern views and sunlight, reducing their property values. “The residents of Townsend Place are against this project in its present form,” said Townsend Place president Craig Sherman. “We are not against development.” Investments Limited, a prominent city developer which is planning a makeover of its Royal Palm Place shopping and dining destination on the west side of Southeast Mizner Boulevard, joined them. The views from Royal Palm Place, whose residential component would compete with Mizner 200, also would be partially blocked and its representatives contend the condo project does not comply with the city’s architectural guidelines. Architects Doug Mumma, who has designed several downtown projects, and Derek Vander Ploeg, who is on the downtown Boca Raton Advisory Committee, and former Boca Raton CRA executive director Jorge Camejo support Investment Limited’s objections.

The meeting was punctuated by the spectacle of Mizner 200 attorney Robert Sweetapple employing a little-used procedure that allowed him to cross-examine some of those who spoke against the project. Sweetapple questioned other attorneys in sometimes testy exchanges. “I felt I got to witness law and order, Boca Raton edition tonight,” quipped Deputy Mayor Jeremy Rodgers, referencing the TV show. Sweetapple’s intent, in part, appeared to be to show that some opponents had not been recruited to the cause by Investments Limited, which had paid at least one of the opponents to review the project.

Elad has struggled for three years to get approval to begin construction. The tide began turning in its favor this year when two city consultants reviewed plans for Mizner 200 and determined it complies with the city ordinance that governs downtown development.

In May, the Community Appearance Board and Planning and Zoning Board voted in favor of it. City staff also has recommended that the City Council approve it. At nine stories, Mizner 200 meets the building height limit for that part of downtown. It also meets the city’s requirements for setbacks, parking and open space. It incorporates a reinterpretation of design elements that appear in architect Addision Mizner’s signature buildings.

The building has supporters, including a number of downtown residents who would love to see the old Mizner on the Green rental units replaced with a more visually appealing project.

The City Council has been lobbed intensely on the project. At the start of the meeting, Weinroth and Haynie held up thick binders filled with emails they have received.

Regardless of whether the council gives the project the go-ahead or nixes it, a court battle is likely to follow. Elad’s legal team now includes Sweetapple, a well-known litigator. Bocabeautiful, a citizens group that opposes the project, and two residents of Townsend Place also have hired attorneys.

Study confirms need for more downtown parking

By Mary Hladky

Efforts to build a downtown parking garage are bolstered by a new study that finds Boca Raton needs more public parking.

The peak demand area around Mizner Park needs 108 more parking spaces, and that number will grow to as many as 150 by 2020, according to the study by Kimley-Horn and Associates. By 2040, as many as 350 more will be needed.

Kimley-Horn collected parking data March 30-April 1 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Demand around Mizner Park was strongest from 2 to 9 p.m. on all three days. The 1,275 existing spaces downtown, stretching from Camino Real to Northeast Mizner Boulevard, are enough to meet demand since they are only 70 percent used, the study found.

The problem is that those public spaces are not all located near where many people want to shop and dine, Kimley-Horn’s Chris Heggen told the City Council on July 24. So while vacant spaces are available, many people don’t want to park and walk several blocks to their destinations. Council member Scott Singer said he was concerned about reports that people unable to find public parking downtown go instead to other cities. Heggen said he too has heard those stories, but the study could not measure if that is happening.

“We have all heard anecdotal stories of people coming downtown, not being able to park and leaving,” he said. “That is not what we want to happen.”

Asked if ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft will reduce the need for downtown public parking, Heggen said that hasn’t happened yet. Even if ride sharing increases in the future, that doesn’t eliminate the need for more parking near-term. Heggen suggested that a new downtown parking garage be built in a way that it can be converted to another use if the need for parking decreases.

The council is still mulling where to build a garage. While members initially considered city-owned land behind the downtown library north of City Hall, they now are leaning more toward a location on Dixie Highway.

Concerns about crossing Dixie Highway and the FEG railroad tracks will dissuade many people from parking on the city-owned property, Heggen said. That problem could be alleviated by a good shuttle service, he said. Kimley-Horn will conduct another study later this year so the city will have more robust data that take into account the opening of several downtown restaurants and more people moving in to new downtown residential units. Options Kimley-Horn outlined to move up the press and future parking shortages include:

• Acquiring 1.25 to 3.5 acres for a surface parking lot somewhere between Dixie Highway and Mizner Boulevard.

• Acquiring a 1- to 2-acre parcel for a parking garage in the same area. The garage would cost $6.6 million to $10 million to build, not including land acquisition.

• Using existing parking lots near downtown during off-peak times and providing shuttles to and from downtown.

• Providing parking in the proposed new city government campus and using shuttles.
A new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility will soon be opening its doors at the Boca Raton Airport — just not as soon as expected.

Members of the Boca Raton Airport Authority hoped to see the facility working this month, but issues with weather and personnel caused unanticipated delays.

Now, airport officials hope to have the 47,000-square-foot center up and running in October.

One reason for the delays, airport Executive Director Clara Bennett said, was turnover in contractor West Construction’s field supervisors during the construction process.

“We now have a good project manager in place who is trying to make up lost time and minimize delay,” Bennett said.

Airport tenants, including owners of corporate jets and a company that offers private charters, are eager to see the center open, but “most are just glad to see the work being done and they’re happy knowing that the center is coming,” she said.

The new $4.3 million station will make it easier for air passengers coming from outside the country planning to land at the Boca Raton Airport Executive Director Jack Fox wants to be here more often,” he said.

One authority owner sees the advantages of its convenient location compared to other facilities.

The airport developed a fee structure that will enable it to pay for the service in approximately five to six years.

“Our ultimate goal is to break even,” said airport Deputy Director Scott Kohut.

Under the proposed schedule, propeller planes will pay anywhere from $50 to $150 per aircraft, depending on the type of engine and the number of passengers.

For jets, the range is anywhere from $225 to $425, based on the aircraft’s weight.

Bennett thinks many users will be more than happy to pay to use the facility because of its convenient location and likely reduced wait times compared to other facilities.

To help pilots and aircraft owners see the advantages, once a month, one authority member has proposed offering a 50 percent discount at the station for the first three months.

“When they use it, they may want to be here more often,” board member Jack Fox said during recent Airport Authority meeting.

Bennett said that’s a good idea, but she is checking the feasibility of making it permanent.

Workers tend to the outside and driveway of the new Customs Office in late July. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

The COASTAL STAR News 5

By Rich Pollack

Boca Airport

Customs office opening delayed until October

from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., considered the busiest times for international travelers at the airport.

While Customs centers at Palm Beach International and Fort Lauderdale Executive airports are funded by taxpayers with no costs to arriving travelers, Boca Raton Airport’s center will be a user-fee center, with travelers paying for the service.

The Airport Authority will pay the Customs and Border Protection Service to operate the center and will cover a variety of costs, including the salaries of assigned officers.

To recoup the estimated annual operational costs of $244,000 for the first year and about $200,000 every year afterward, the airport developed a fee structure that will enable it to pay for the service in approximately five to six years.

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Commission picks tax rate 1 cent under rollback

By Steve Plunkett

Buoyed by its recent settlement of all public records litigation by resident Chris O’Hare, the town plans to cut its legal budget for the coming fiscal year by 30 percent.

Gulf Stream will set aside $400,000 for outside legal expenses, down from an expected $571,000, Town Manager Greg Dunham said.

Cash reserves will top $2.6 million on Oct. 1, he said, continuing a recovery after the battle over public records requests drained the fund four years ago to $752,000. That led Dunham to recommend a property tax rate of $4.36 per $1,000, more than a penny under the rollback rate (the number that would generate the same revenue as in the current year). Town commissioners unanimously agreed. Dunham’s budget “looks reasoned and appropriate,” Mayor Scott Morgan said.

A week later, commissioners awarded a $224,900 contract to build the 696-square-foot west addition to Town Hall. Republic Construction Corp. of Delray Beach submitted the winning bid and said the work would be finished in six months.

Highlights of Dunham’s budget included $20,000 for a proposed second phase of a barrier island fire study, $235,000 for paving and striping roads, another $235,000 to upgrade storm drains and $210,000 for smart water meters.

Town employees will receive 3 percent raises. Dunham also wants $30,000 for a long-range capital improvements plan.

Commissioners will discuss the budget again Aug. 11.

O’Boyle, town hit dead end on settlement talks

By Steve Plunkett

The legal battle between Gulf Stream and town resident Martin O’Boyle dragged on in July as O’Boyle conducted a 90-minute deposition in Gulf Stream so he would not have to travel to O’Boyle’s office in Deerfield Beach.

“I went over to his house thinking I’d be out in 15 minutes,” Ganger said.

Instead, the session lasted 1½ hours, with O’Boyle shooting questions rapid-fire, said Ganger, adding that he really knows nothing about the case.

The burst of legal activity comes after O’Boyle urged town commissioners in April to settle all litigation. He took out a full-page ad in The Coastal Star in March saying the same thing.

O’Boyle and Sufrin have tangled before. In 2008 and 2009 in Longport, N.J., where O’Boyle also has a home, he sued a former planning and zoning board member and two other residents.

Sufrin, who represented all three defendants, suggested to Longport’s municipal attorney that they cooperate in the defense. Sufrin prepared a joint strategy memorandum and a collection of documents on CDs and sent them to the municipal attorney.

O’Boyle filed a public records request; Sufrin argued that the documents were attorney work product and not subject to public records law.

The New Jersey State Bar Association and the New Jersey Supreme Court agreed. “Here, the plaintiff-petitioner has requested access to items that, on their face and in the most obvious, explicit fashion, fit squarely within the applicable case law and court rules that bar release,” the bar association said.

In Gulf Stream, O’Boyle and O’Hare filed more than 2,000 requests for public records and dozens of lawsuits starting in late 2013. The town said they filed wide-ranging requests in hopes that Gulf Stream could not respond in a timely way and thus generate litigation and demands for attorney’s fees.
Boca Raton

Neighbors shoot down consultant’s initial ideas for Ocean Strand

By Steve Plunkett

The verdict for the latest proposal to develop Ocean Strand: Too much.

“My impression is we’re trying to be too many things to too many people,” said Steve Engel, vice chairman of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District, after seeing a consultant’s concept for the vacant beachfront parcel.

“It’s got to be very passive. It cannot be intense,” District Commissioner Craig Ehrnst said.

The reactions came as Kona Gray, consultant and planning consultant EDSA Inc., presented a plan July 17 for the nearly 15-acre parcel that included docks, a lookout pavilion, restrooms, trails, a playground, a drop-off area for the beach and educational treehouses.

Ocean Strand “is really a place that sort of lends itself toward something eco-friendly, very natural,” Gray said. “That connection to the environment is very rare. A lot of people are missing that right now.”

Gray said the concept his firm developed was just an idea and he wanted commissioners and members of the public to suggest improvements. At a meeting at the downtown library the week before, people said the proposed development seemed too intense at the Intracoastal Waterway and too close to single-family homes to the north. They also wanted only nonmotorized vessels at the dock, botanical gardens and somewhere to eat, Gray said.

EDSA is in the midst of developing a comprehensive plan for Boca Raton’s beachfront parks. In May Gray suggested a restaurant at Ocean Strand like Guanabanas in Jupiter, which once was interested in building a sister site at the city’s Wildflower property.

“That is not necessary here. We could do something way scaled down, that’s just offering some hot dogs, hamburgers or something more healthy so that when you come and you have your kids and you want to stay a little bit longer, you don’t have to leave,” Gray said.

The crowd in the commission chamber, mostly neighbors from just north and south of the site, would have none of it.

“We definitely don’t want to have any restaurants,” said Andrea Stekloff, who lives in Boca Towers directly south. “We don’t want the noise from the band like Guanabanas, we don’t need any smelly food cooking, any rowdy bars, any boat docking and valet parking and music until 2 a.m.”

Stekloff said the Intracoastal side of Red Reef Park could be the model. “You have one little gazebo, one little grill so one little family, whoever gets there first, gets it, and you don’t have 5 million people cooking,” she said.

Commissioner Erin Wright agreed. “I would prefer actually no restaurant or food. I don’t think it’s necessary,” Wright said. “Love all the walking trails and back-to-nature type of things.”

Sharon Picker, also a Boca Towers resident, compared the parcel to the world’s rainforests. “If you just put pathways to walk and a couple of other things and make it accessible to the public to just see its awesomeness and its natural state, that might be enough,” Picker said.

Gray said because the proposal is only at the conceptual level, his colleagues didn’t really anticipate a hard number of parking spaces at the site. “From what we’re hearing, we shouldn’t have more than 10 spaces,” he said.

Engel also said Ocean Strand does not need a playground. “I want to see something where the development is limited, where the accent is really on the flora and fauna … almost a nature preserve, and make it congruent with what’s going on at Gumbo Limbo so that one almost is an extension of the other,” Engel said.

Commission Chairman Robert Rollins said any talk of developing Ocean Strand starts with a concept. “You have to have some design in order to move forward, and the conversations that we’ve had here tonight I think will be invaluable when it comes down to our discussion at this commission what we wish to do with our park,” Rollins said. “I can almost assure you, it’ll be a very passive park. As someone said, [Gray’s proposal is] a little too busy.”

District commissioners agreed to give the city $50,000 to start developing a master plan for Gumbo Limbo. The city wants an additional $200,000 in the coming budget year to complete the plan. EDSA and another consultant, Cambridge 7 Associates, will do the work.

Proponents of a park for the beachfront parcel are happy to see plans being offered, but some critics think this plan proposes too many options. Rendering provided by the City of Boca Raton

Park district commissioners assail city’s funding request, set preliminary tax rate

By Steve Plunkett

The short era of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District’s rubber-stamping the city’s proposed parks budget appears to be over.

Craig Ehrnst, one of the district’s new commissioners, led the backlash. The city wants $16.9 million in the coming year to operate and maintain district parks and Boca Raton’s Red Reef Park and Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, up from $15.6 million it requested the previous year.

“We can’t give them a blank check,” said Ehrnst, who is corporate treasurer at 3Y, of architecture Inc. and ran for a district seat last year in part on a pledge to boost cooperation between the district and the city. “That, to me, is an unrealistic budget, and it’s also to me not a very good stewardship of taxpayer money.”

Ehrnst complained that some items that would lower the budget request were missing, such as the installation next April of artificial turf at Patch Reef Park, which should lower maintenance costs. He also said Mickey Gomez, the city’s recreational services director, should be at the district meeting to explain the budget request.

Commission Chairman Robert Rollins said Gomez usually attends the district’s budget discussions. “I have to tell you, it gets pretty hot at these meetings, because there’s not always agreement with the budget,” Rollins said.

Gomez was on vacation and missed the district’s subsequent meeting July 26. That did not deter Ehrnst, who noted the city’s operating budget was $13 million in fiscal 2014, $13.4 million in 2015 and $14.6 million in 2016.

Engel called the $16.9 million request “unrealistic” and suggested giving the city $16 million.

Last year the approved amount was $16.3 million but they never spent it. “They’re not even close to spending it,” he said. “So $16 million gives them enough, assumes they spend the same as they did this year and gives them another $400,000 plus increase for inflation, whatever it is.”

Rollins embraced Ehrnst’s approach. “I like it better than trying to go through it each individual park,” he said. “I think there’s still some fluff in there.”

Rollins emphasized he has no complaints about how city workers do their jobs.

The parks are in as good a condition as I’ve ever seen them with the number that we’re paying them to do this project,” he said. “I’ve never been happier.”

Commissioners decided to set a tentative rate for property taxes of 91.47 cents per $1,000 of taxable value. They will have more budget discussions on Aug. 9, 14 and 30. Public hearings will take place in September.

Last year, in the heat of the election season, commissioners approved the city’s budget request in full with little comment. In earlier years they insisted that Gomez postpone some purchases and hold the line on other items.
Highland Beach

Walkway makeover recommended
By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach’s aging 3-mile walking path could become safer, more attractive and even more durable if town commissioners — and then voters — approve a recommendation from an ad hoc committee of residents.

“Our goal is to have a walkway that will last for many years, that is safe, and that will be aesthetically appealing without great cost to the taxpayers of Highland Beach,” said Mayor Carl Feldman, who chairs the committee.

Later this month Feldman and other committee members are likely to bring a proposal for $1.5 million to $1.7 million of improvements to the town’s popular walking path on the west side of State Road A1A.

A large portion of the budget would go toward tearing up the existing asphalt sidewalk and replacing it with decorative aggregate concrete embedded with crushed oyster shell.

“It’s more of a premium, but this committee decided it wanted something special — and it will be,” Feldman said.

The proposal likely will include creating signage and landscaping at the north and south ends of town, as well as improvements to some swale areas to eliminate dangerous drop-offs from the sidewalk.

The proposal also includes placing lighted pedestrian crosswalk signs at all eight of the town’s crosswalks. The Florida Department of Transportation will need to approve the plan for the entire project.

Feldman is proposing the town use an estimated $200,000 a year it will receive from the recently approved countywide 1-cent sales tax increase to cover the cost of the project.

License tag scanners installed
Highland Beach – July 13

Universal Electric of Florida employee Barry Bowman installs a permanent license plate recognition camera along A1A in Highland Beach. The scanners are an important way for the police to find motor vehicles and catch up with people who have expired licenses or active warrants.

Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Town starting with same tax rate, but could still lower it
By Rich Pollack

As town property values rise to a record high, Highland Beach residents are likely to see their tax rate drop for the third consecutive year.

Town commissioners late last month set a maximum operating tax rate for the 2017-2018 fiscal year of $3.25 per $1,000 of assessed property value, the same rate as the current fiscal year.

Commissioners, however, gave every indication they would lower the rate before determining a final number by the end of September.

“This year, property values in Highland Beach reached slightly more than $2.4 billion, exceeding a record $2.3 billion set in 2007, according to the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office.

During a special commission meeting last month, in which the public got its first glimpse of the proposed $13.8 million budget, Mayor Carl Feldman hinted that commissioners might consider dropping the tax rate to as low as $3.08 per $1,000 of assessed value.

That rate, the rollback rate, would generate approximately the same amount of tax revenue as the current tax rate, plus an additional $180,000 brought in from new construction.

“If we go down to our rollback rate we can keep the town running smoothly,” Feldman said.

Included in the tentative budget is a transfer of about $2.5 million from the town’s reserve funds for capital improvements, with the bulk of that money expected to pay for a proposed renovation to the town’s 3-mile walking path.

Voters in a March referendum must first approve the spending for the improvements due to the town’s spending cap, which requires voter approval of any expenditure over $350,000.

Feldman has proposed using an expected $200,000 per year from Palm Beach County’s 1-cent sales tax increase to replenish the reserves over 10 years.

Other highlights of the proposed budget include a 5 percent salary increase for town employees based on performance and the addition of one police officer.

During their meeting, commissioners praised town staff for coming up with a reasonable budget, with Vice Mayor Bill Weitz pointing out the town has reduced its tax rates while many others have opted for increases.

“We’ve been very astute in coming up with reasonable budgets while maintaining quality services,” he said.

The town has scheduled public hearings on the proposed budget for 5:01 p.m. Sept. 7 and Sept. 19.
By Steve Plunkett

A volunteer group led by a barrier island resident is mounting a last-ditch effort to stop construction of a four-story duplex on the beach between Spanish River Park and Ocean Strand — the second project planned in the area.

Boca Save Our Beaches opposes the 14,270-square-foot project planned for the east side of A1A at 2600 N. Ocean Blvd. The proposal is hurtling toward a City Council showdown perhaps as soon as October.

In late July, group founder Jessica Gray opened an online fundraising campaign with a goal of $5,000.

“Once our beaches are gone, we cannot get them back,” she wrote on the GoFundMe.com website.

Gray’s group also collects PayPal donations via a link on www.bocasob.com, its main webpage. So far the group has about $4,000, she said.

The group equally opposes a 10,432-square-foot house proposed for a parcel two lots south, at 2500 N. Ocean Blvd. That project sparked Gray to form Boca Save Our Beaches in December 2015, right after the City Council granted a zoning variance allowing the single-family mansion to be built on a parcel less than 100 feet wide. Gray and other furious residents complained that the structure would change the face of the beach, disorient nesting sea turtles and set a precedent for more development.

The proposed duplex site is wide enough not to need a zoning variance, but both sites will need the council to grant a variance for building seaward of Florida’s restrictive Coastal Construction Control Line. The state issued 2500 N. Ocean a “notice to proceed” in October, ruling that the project would not “weaken, damage or destroy the integrity of the beach and dune system.”

The state issued 2500 N. Ocean’s proposed duplex site, which would be a four-bedroom, five full-bath, single-family mansion to be built on a parcel less than 100 feet wide. Gray and other furious residents complained that the structure would change the face of the beach, disorient nesting sea turtles and set a precedent for more development.

The state issued 2500 N. Ocean a “notice to proceed” in October, ruling that the project would not “weaken, damage or destroy the integrity of the beach and dune system.”

By Sallie James

Property taxes will hold the line, rules the city council, despite the proposed tax rate for 2017-2018.

However, residents could be asked to pay $125 for the city’s first Fire Services fee, up from the current $105.

City Manager Leif Ahnell proposed a tax rate of $3.6788 per $1,000 of assessed property value at the July 25 council meeting. The rate is slightly lower than last year’s rate of $3.678.

Under the proposed tax rate, the owner of a $300,000 single-family home would pay about $1,013 in municipal property taxes, slightly less than a year ago.

Council member Robert Weinroth expressed concern about the proposed increase in the fire fee.

“I’m just concerned with the trajectory of this fee,” he said. “I think we increased it by $20 last year and this would be another $20 increase. Where are we headed with this kind of fee going forward?”

Ahnell said the fire fee hikes are due to increased costs and planned Fire Rescue Services Department expansion, a dynamic that could continue to be a factor in coming years.

“I’m not going to sit here and tell you it’s not going to go up in the future,” Ahnell said. Residents will have a chance to ask questions about the budget at 6 p.m. Sept. 11 during a public budget hearing at City Hall, 201 W. Palmetto Park Road.

LEFT: The ultra-modern four-story duplex could feature wide open glass exposure on the beach side. ABOVE: The side facing A1A would have access to the four-car garage. Renderings provided
Manalapan
Town plans to add marine police unit to monitor sandbar partying

By Dan Moffett

Complaints from residents along the Intracoastal Waterway south of Peanut Island in northern Palm Beach County have increased in recent months as growing numbers of weekend boaters congregate on the sandbars around Bird Island.

Town police have a hard time reinining the loud music, underage drinking and rancorous behavior that offshore partying can too often bring.

"That could change soon," said Town Manager Linda Stumpf. "The town intends to hire two part-time officers certified for maritime duties and equip them with a 21-foot flat boat."

"They will only patrol the Intracoastal and won't go into the ocean," Stumpf said. "It should cost about $60,000 for the two part-time officers and another $20,000 for maintenance and operating costs for the boat."

That boat is the best part of the plan for taxpayers. A resident with an interest in quiet and quiet has offered to cover the $20,000 to $30,000 cost of purchasing one for the town.

Stumpf said the marine unit will follow a model successful in controlling illegal parties at Peanut Island in northern Palm Beach County. Officers don't have the authority to disperse the gatherings but can check IDs, watch for safety violations and keep the noise down.

"They will have sound meters and will be monitoring the decibel levels to enforce our noise ordinance," she said. "Having a police presence out there should make a difference."

Stumpf said the town is negotiating with county police to form an agreement that could allow Boynton residents as far north as Peanut Island in northern Palm Beach County to have the authority to disperse the parties.

"I don't know what that cost will be," she said. "I've told [Hypoluxo officials] that this is a business issue and it's not the town's intent to lose any money in a business."

Boynton Beach officials have told Hypoluxo they will cover at least some of the buyout expenses to help make the transition as painless as possible.

Manalapan Mayor Keith Waters thinks Hypoluxo will regret leaving, "I think they will find over time that this was not the decision they meant it to be," he said.

• The commission approved maintaining the current tax rate of $2.79 per $1,000 of taxable property value for the 2017-18 fiscal year, roughly 5 percent above the projected rollback rate that would keep total tax revenues flat.

TOP: Police hope a new marine patrol will control rowdy behavior and trespassing onto residents' docks. ABOVE: Summer weekends often see dozens of boats moored in the shallow waters to the north of Bird Island at the Boynton Inlet. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

Boynton Beach
City cuts ribbon on upgraded water treatment plant

By Dave Brousseau

A July 27 ribbon-cutting event showcased Boynton Beach’s $30 million utilities project — complete with LED lights for the adjacent water tower — under budget and on time.

Boynton Beach Mayor Steven Grant was pleased with the upgraded facility at the East Water Treatment Plant, at 124 E. Woolbright Road.

"Meeting budget is always what you want to hear in government and [having] money," Grant said. "The project includes the largest and most modern magnetic ion exchange plant in the world for pretreatment of water, according to the city."

The MIEIX pretreatment plant shifts Boynton residents from west to Military Trail to taste clean, fresh water.

Boynton Beach also provides water to the coastal towns of Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes, residents in the County Pocket and St. Andrew's Club.

The water is pumped from the city’s western well field via a new pipeline. Pumping raw water from the west protects the eastern well field from saltwater intrusion. A resin plant that pretreats the 16 million gallons of raw water was built with an improved design, minimal footprint and reduced costs.

The improvements will meet Boynton Beach’s water requirements for the next 20 years and for bigger population levels east of Interstate 95.

A new 3 million-gallon potable water storage tank was also constructed. The completed project increased the east plant’s capacity from 19.2 million gallons to 24 million gallons per day.

"We’ve been working on the project six to seven years, trying to work out the best way to do this and at the same time save our water resources," said Michael Low, manager of technical services at Boynton Beach Utilities.

The project also will include public art on Edward F. Harnsberg Arbor Memorial Park at Woolbright Road and Seacrest Boulevard, titled ‘Water, You and I.’ Once it’s completed, a grand opening event will be held for the public.

Newly installed LED lights bathe the Boynton Beach water tower (seen here from Briny Breezes) in a variety of colors. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

Dogs on the beach in Oceanfront Park?

By Jane Smith

Commissioner Joe Casello thinks the time has come for Boynton Beach to allow dogs on its beach.

"We’ve taken our dog up to the Jupiter beach and he really loves it," Casello said. "There’s nothing close by."

His family has a Cairn terrier, Charlie.

The closest dog beach is about 13 miles away in Boca Raton’s Spanish River Park. There, at Back Beach, dogs are limited to Friday through Sunday on early mornings and late afternoons. A permit is required for each dog, and Boca Raton residents receive a reduced rate.

At Jupiter Beach, about 30 miles north of Boynton Beach, no permits are required for the 2.5-mile length of the beach. Friends of Jupiter Beach runs the dog beach and its website reads, "Well-behaved dogs and their conscientious owners are welcome."

Boynton Beach city commissioners agreed Aug. 1 to have the city manager talk to Ocean Ridge staff.

"To be a good neighbor," Casello said.

Ocean Ridge police patrol Oceanfront Park, so their input is needed, he said.

Mayor Steven Grant said he supported the idea, suggesting something similar to what Jacksonville Beach has: limited hours outside of the beach’s most popular time of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Casello said many details have to be worked out, including hours, which section of the beach, whether passes will be sold to raise money for dog waste containers, whether dogs can be off-leash and other such issues.

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Eyes across the sea for sand

Sea oats and dunes placed to keep the ocean at bay are no longer up to the job. Seaside towns are looking at options and they aren't good. Inland sand is expensive to mine and transport. Man-made remedies for capturing sand, such as groins, cause myriad problems. The last resort is buying foreign sand, and South Florida is looking at six miles east to the glorious white-sand banks of the Bahamas. The latest idea from elected officials and perhaps the only option left is buying sand from the Bahamas and transporting it barge across the Gulf Stream to South Florida. But buying foreign sand is illegal. Two bills in the U.S. Congress hope to change that. The Sand Acquisition, Nourishment and Development Act, introduced by Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach with fellow members of the Florida congressional delegation, and a companion bill in the Senate introduced by Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio would repeal a law that does not allow communities to buy sand from the Bahamas and other foreign countries to replenish shorelines. Bahamian sand could alleviate the high price of trucking sand in for towns like Miami-Dade and Broward that have depleted their usable sand offshore. Frankel said, and would mitigate potential legal battles over domestic sand sources between northern counties, which have relatively more offshore sand, and southern Florida counties. Most South Florida coastal towns have endorsed the bills. The stakes are high. "Replenishing our shorelines protects our jobs, our environment and our property," said Frankel. "Pumping sand to lift the sea level ankles with foreign sand," said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Weston. "The current law hurts Florida residents and the real estate market. It is also expensive even though it is generally superior in quality to offshore sand," she added.

"The granules of offshore sand are a better match for turtles and more like what's there," said Jennifer Bistyg, coastal program manager for the city of Boca Raton, says the city has depleted the offshore "borrow area" that has been dredged in the past. "We are now doing a geotechnical searching for more offshore sand, and we have identified new sources," Bistyg said. "We hope to have sand for 20 years." The lack of offshore sand in the future, she said, is a "definite concern."
South Palm Beach renourishment plans

LEGEND:
- Existing hardbottom
- Proposed beach fill
- Proposed groin
- Proposed dune fill
- Extent of renourishment

LEFT: Plans call for installation of nine groins along the coast of South Palm Beach and Palm Beach as part of a renourishment project between the Lake Worth Pier and the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa in Manalapan. The groins are proposed to help protect the nearshore hardbottom (shown in purple), a form of reef important to marine life. Manalapan fears the groins would prevent sand from drifting south.

SOURCE: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Manalapan vows to fight South Palm Beach sand retention

By Dan Moffett

Manalapan is stepping up efforts to block a proposed beach stabilization project that would install concrete groins to capture sand in South Palm Beach.

On July 18, Manalapan Mayor Keith Waters and Town Manager Linda Stumpf met with Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams to outline the town’s opposition to the project.

Waters told Abrams what he’s been telling his residents: The town is prepared to do “whatever it takes” to prevent the installation of groins that will “steal” sand from Manalapan.

The project, which county environmental managers hope to begin in November 2018, is going through a complicated permitting phase now that requires approvals from federal and state agencies. Waters said the town intends to intervene in that process and argue against granting the permits.

After the meeting, Abrams sent an email to Rob Robbins, director of the county’s Environmental Resources Management department, which oversees the project. Abrams’ remarks reflect the conflicted positions officials find themselves in as neighbors turn against neighbors in disputes over sand for their beaches.

“I am in the middle of this as the district commissioner for both them and South Palm Beach, as well as my responsibility to our applications are not yet complete and we have at least many months to go before they will be complete,” Robbins wrote in an email. “What I’m trying to convey is that the town should not feel rushed to intervene.”

Robbins said, “We hate to see the town spend money defending themselves from the county.”

Manalapan’s opposition is based largely on what the county and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers don’t know about what the groins’ impact would be on the beaches south of South Palm Beach.

The fear is the concrete devices would greatly disrupt the natural north-to-south flow of sand, capturing so much that there’s not enough left to replenish the beaches in Manalapan and its southern neighbors. Waters points to Broward County, where Hillsboro Beach is dealing with severe erosion and is suing northern neighbor Deerfield for using groins to trap sand.

Stumpf says South Palm Beach has concern about the sand transfer station at the Boynton Beach Inlet, technically known as the Lake Worth Inlet. The man-made entry to the Intracoastal Waterway interrupts the natural flow of sand south.

The purpose of the transfer station is to mechanically pick up sand from the north side of the inlet and pump it to Ocean Ridge on the south side.

“If we don’t get sand in Manalapan,” Stumpf says, “then we don’t have anything to transfer to Ocean Ridge.”

Manalapan officials warn of a cascading effect in which sand flow dies at the inlet, starving beaches not only in Ocean Ridge, but in Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream and Delray Beach.

Army engineers have offered little to allay this concern. In June 2016, the Corps released a 481-page Environmental Impact Study, detailing the plan and examining its potential effects. Manalapan was mentioned only 27 times, with nearly all of the references historical or perfunctory.

“We’re willing to pay for our own study to show the damage this project could do,” Stumpf said.

Sand usually drifts to the south

ABOVE LEFT: Beach sand naturally follows the predominant tidal action ‘littoral drift’ south along our coast. Physical barriers like groins and inlet jetties slow that drift, depriving the neighbors to the south. Manalapan is required by a judge’s ruling to allow the county to pump sand across the Boynton Beach Inlet to prevent sand starvation in Ocean Ridge. Ocean Ridge also benefited from a 2015 renourishment project to widen the beach on the southern side of the inlet.

ABOVE RIGHT: The town of Hillsboro Beach is suing the city of Deerfield Beach over the installation of groins along the Deerfield coast that are slowing the littoral drift and holding the sand captive. Google Earth photos
Along the Coast

New FEMA flood-zone maps praised as more precise

By Mary Hladky

Four years after the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced it was making the first changes to Palm Beach County flood maps in a kind of this spaced coverage, it has released maps that are slated to go into effect on Oct. 5.

Property owners can now see if their flood zone designations have changed. All flood zone designations that touch a property are indicated. If owners are in doubt about whether individual properties are in high-risk flood zones, homeowners in unincorporated areas also can call the county at 561-233-5306, while those in cities and towns can call their local governments.

FEMA provides flood zone information on its Flood Map Service Center at http://msf.fema.gov/portal.

The new maps are important because they show whether property owners must have flood insurance. Homeowners with federally backed mortgages, and some with private lenders, are required to buy flood insurance if they live in high-risk zones that are labeled with letters starting with A or V.

But even if a homeowner has paid off the mortgage, or lives outside the high-risk zones, flood insurance is often advisable because homeowner policies typically do not cover damage caused by flooding. The cost of flood policies varies according to the level of flood risk.

The county’s flood insurance rate maps were last revised in the early 1980s. When FEMA issued new maps in 2013, protest quickly followed.

County and city officials said the maps were based on outdated and faulty information, resulting in possibly tens of thousands of properties erroneously being included in high-risk flood zones.

The problems were greatest in the central and western communities, including Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, Loxahatchee and The Acreage. But most, if not all, cities and towns found errors.

The county and many cities appealed, and FEMA agreed to allow local officials to submit data so corrections could be made.

FEMA returned with revised maps in 2014 that dropped about a third of the parcels that had been added to high-risk flood zones in the 2013 maps. More revisions followed.

Meanwhile, the county and cities joined forces to make the maps more accurate. The county used LiDAR, or light detection and ranging, which uses laser pulses to get accurate ground elevation data, and shared it with the cities. Some cities hired consultants to help them improve the maps.

“Kudos to the county for doing that,” said South Palm Beach Town Manager Bob Vitro. “I was able to rely on that data to amend the maps that were presented to us.”

The latest FEMA maps, issued on April 5, incorporate the data the county and cities have submitted since 2013. This time around, local officials are generally satisfied with what they see.

“The work of improvement,” said Doug Wise, the county’s floodplain administrator, who concentrated his efforts on the unincorporated areas in the central part of the county. “The new flood zones in the central area are very good, he said.

“The risks are much more accurate,” Wise said. Before the map revisions, there were thousands of property owners paying for flood insurance when they remained minimal risk of flooding.

But Wise said the county and cities did not seek flood map changes to save people from paying for flood insurance. The goal, he said, was to accurately reflect risk. He encourages property owners to seek flood insurance even if their properties are removed from a high-risk flood zone, since flooding can occur anywhere for a host of reasons, including unusually heavy rainfall. Those remaining flood insurance premiums will lower rates, he said.

Neither FEMA nor the county knows how many properties were added to high-risk flood zones in the new maps and how many were removed, or where those with changed risk status are located.

Scientists, including Boynton Beach and Delray Beach, are crunching the numbers, but did not have data as of late July.

City or town councils must approve the new maps before October, but no obstacles are foreseen.

Towns took closer look

A very general overview of maps of Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach indicates that properties adjacent to coastal Waterway remain in high-risk flood zones, while many located farther inland have been taken out. But the changes are scattered across the cities.

Boca Raton was among cities that hired consultants to help it update the maps.

“We believe the new maps to be about 95 percent accurate and FEMA did accept the changes,” Keith Carney, senior zoning officer, said in an email. The changes were substantial, he said, and would result in a decrease of millions of dollars spent on flood insurance premiums by many of the properties that weren’t in flood zones before now.

Boca Raton’s old maps included 5,656 buildings in high-risk flood areas. The 2013 maps that the city challenged increased that to 6,736 buildings. After FEMA accepted the city’s changes, the number was reduced to 3,350 buildings, and that remains substantially unchanged in the latest maps.

In Boynton Beach, many of the properties removed from high-risk flood zones are located inland, and include the large Leisureville community west of Interstate 95 and properties along the east and west sides of I-95, said Shane Kettendorf, the city’s building official and floodplain manager.

Delray Beach Mayor Cary Ginsberg said in an email that the city found most of the changes in the 2013 maps to be acceptable. The city did appeal, but did work with FEMA to make some “minor adjustments” that included removed some properties from high-risk flood zones.

Vitas said the FEMA maps included parts of Lantana in South Palm Beach County. He and the town engineer made corrections, and FEMA accepted them. Properties on high elevation along the dune that were not included in flood zones in the old maps remain outside flood zones in the new maps.

“The objective was not to tell people you don’t have to buy flood insurance,” he said. “Our job was to make sure … the new maps were accurate.”

For Delray Beach, the status quo prevails. The entire town was and remains in a high-risk flood zone.

The new maps “haven’t changed anything,” said Mayor Keith Waters. “We have always been in a floodplain.”

Rates rise an issue

The map approval process is taking place as Congress is struggling to meet a Sept. 30 deadline to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program. Allowing it to lapse could disrupt home sales in flood-prone areas across the country.

Congress wants to overhaul the program, but is divided on how to do so.

City and town officials content that the program has the unintended effect of encouraging people to repair or rebuild damaged homes in areas that repeatedly flood, rather than move to higher ground.

A series of storms since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 has left the program $25 billion in debt. Raising rates to reflect a higher likelihood of flooding would improve the program’s finances, but big premium increases are certain to cause an outcry.

A 2014 law required gradual rate increases as a result of strong pushback against earlier legislation that would have sharply raised rates. This year, premiums nationwide increased by an average of about 6 percent to about 878%, according to FEMA, which administers the flood insurance program.

Florida is the nation’s top flood insurance market. Of 5 million policies in force, more than 1.7 million are in the Sunshine State, Palm Beach County’s largest policyholders, including nearly 15,000 in Boca Raton, more than 9,000 in Boynton Beach and more than 8,000 in Delray Beach.

More flooding at sea level

The FEMA maps do not take into account sea level rise, an increasing problem in South Florida. It’s a critical issue in Miami Beach, where the city is spending as much as $500 million on pumps to keep streets dry and on elevating roads.

The problem is far less severe in Palm Beach County, but that will change, although not as quickly as in Monroe, Miami-Dade and Broward.

A series of storms since 2010 to address the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Compact created by Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties in 2010 to address the impact of climate change.

“Now that we are having more and more nuisance flooding and the king tides are great pushbacks that need to be dealt with,” said Nancy Schneider, who chaired the Delray Beach task force and is executive director for the nonprofit Institute for Sustainable Communities.
Glickstein
by Jane Smith

Beleaguered by increasing overdoses in the city and receiving little help from state and federal agencies, Delray Beach leaders plan to sue big drug makers. They want to offset the financial drain on their public safety budget of responding to overdoses. In the first six months of 2017, drug overdoses rose 36.4 percent to 412 when compared with the same period in 2016, according to the Delray Beach Police Department. Fatal overdoses rose by 27.6 percent to 37 in the same period, the data showed. "Our city, and indeed our state and country, is dealing with an unprecedented crisis of people addicted to heroin and synthetic opioids," Mayor Cary Glickstein said at the mid-July commission meeting. "No pathogen, virus, city in Florida to take such a lawsuit."

Delray Beach
By Jane Smith

City leaders going after drug crisis related to opioid

The tide is turning in Lantana, where the tax rate has remained at $3.24 per $1,000 of taxable value for 10 years. At its July 10 meeting, the Town Council set the proposed rate for 2017- 2018 at $3.50.

The lone dissenter in a 4-1 vote to raise the rate was Mayor Dave Stewart, a staunch defender of keeping the rate the same. Stewart said Lantana would be the only one of 39 municipalities in Palm Beach County to raise its tax rate and he didn’t want to be any part of it. He said raising the rate would only bring in that much more money.

But Vice Mayor Lynn Moorhouse, who consistently proposed raising taxes in the past, led the charge to increase the rate.

"By leaving the tax rate flat we’re deteriorating," Moorhouse said, adding that he agreed with the number of Commerce President Dave Arm, who said there was nothing wrong with raising the rate.

"It’s time to consider raising revenues to meet the needs of the residents," Arm said at the meeting. He said more police officers and code enforcement officers are needed.

Ed Shropshire, the new council member said, "We need to get more support for our police and code enforcement officers because our town is looking terrible. I’ve been here since 1979 and it ain’t the seaside village it was."

Shropshire said he would prefer the tax rate be raised to $4 per $1,000 of taxable value but voted with others for the $3.50 rate. He said Lantana is one of the lowest tax rates in the county, but Stewart said that wasn’t true.

Stewart said the town’s rate added to the fire rescue rate brought the total to "between $6-$7, our effective rate."

Stewart said he would rather take money from reserves for necessary one-time purchases.

Raising the rate to $3.50 is about a 15 percent increase over the rollback rate of $3.04, the mayor said.

Priorities for the money collected by the tax increase, council members agreed, are for code enforcement, enhancing employee salaries and additional police.

Lantana will have public budget hearings at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 11 and Sept. 25. The proposed rate cannot be raised from $3.50 but could be lowered.

Budget highlights
Anticipated property tax revenues for 2018 are $2,941,319, up $187,834 from 2017’s $2,753,485.

Property taxes are projected to account for 26.6 percent of the anticipated revenues in 2018 compared to 24.3 percent this year.

Lantana received notification from the Palm Beach County property appraiser of a 7.4 percent increase in the value of taxable property within the town, bringing the total to $995.7 million. Based on new property values, each $1 in the tax rate generates revenues of approximately $904,924.

Projected general fund revenues for Lantana also include $560,000 from the 1-cent sales tax increase (although that money can be used only for infrastructure projects as roads, bridges and drainage, and amenities such as parks), $568,000 from grants, plus a $100,000 transfer from the reserve fund.

Workers compensation insurance and general liability, property and casualty insurance is expected to go up about 10 percent, and health insurance is anticipated to go up about 5 percent.

One of the biggest expenditure increases will be from pension costs for police officers, which jumped about $1 million from the 2016 rate, said David Paesano, a Lantana resident and former police officer who works for the state of Ohio.

The claims of negligence and deceptive marketing seem "like milquetoast when people are dying," Delray Beach Vice Mayor Jim Chard said.

"We don’t have the ability to go after them criminally; we have the ability to go after them civilly."

Lantana
By Mary Th wuracher

Despite mayor’s objection, property taxes set to go up

By Mary Th wuracher

New bistro destined for Ocean Avenue

By Mary Th wuracher

There’s a new restaurant on the horizon for Ocean Avenue. While all the details haven’t been revealed, Lantana Town Council members learned at their July 24 meeting that the eatery will fill the space once occupied by Paesano Ristorante at 210 E. Ocean Ave.

Because Paesano closed in 2016 and the property has been vacant for a year, the town zoning rules required a review and approval of a new special exception for the property to be used as a restaurant.

That approval was granted after Morris Costigan, a Lantana resident and restaurant owner, made his pitch for leasing the restaurant from its owner, the Small Corporation of Palm Beach. "I’ve been in the restaurant business for 24 years," said Costigan, who with his wife, Rachel, owns O’Shea’s Irish Pub on Clematis Street in West Palm Beach. He said he stumbled upon the property on Super Bowl Sunday when he was looking for a bite to eat on Ocean Avenue.

While he did not reveal the restaurant’s name, Costigan said it would be a European-American bistro, “not a bar, not beverage focused. Our price structure would be medium to low.”

But with a representative of the Small Corporation, said the property, on the cottage/ commercial stretching of Ocean Avenue, had housed restaurants since 1981 and has 43 parking spaces. Valet parking will be provided for the new restaurant.

Carlson said he knew the area was plagued with parking problems, but added that “whether the restaurant was open or closed, you’re going to have an outside counsel on a contingency basis.”

In other news, the town approved an increased contingent agreement for solid waste and recyclables collection. For single-family homes, the increase will amount to 40 cents a month. The charge for condo units would go up 18 cents a month.
During the winter holiday, objects in Sanborn Square displays, exhibits and similar expressive installations, would ban the practice of unattended, allowing private individuals or religious groups to set up seasonal displays such as a menorah, they can expect a lawsuit from me and the Freedom From Religion Foundation, whose attorneys Smith erected the pentagram display. That is not a bluff, not a threat, but that is equal rights for all,” Smith said. “The Supreme Court has been clear if you allow someone erects a display that doesn’t mesh with what most people think is acceptable, it becomes problematic when someone erects a display that is what happened with his pentagram display. "It is not my place to decide what the city wants, but I intend to put up the satanic display for years to come as long as other religious displays are allowed. That is a strict adherence to the separation of the church and the state," he said. "That is my ultimate goal. But if they have a city-owned Nativity scene and menorah, they can expect a lawsuit from me and the Freedom From Religion Foundation, whose attorneys have indicated they will fight."
Delray Beach/Boynton Beach

New group home regulations passed
By Jane Smith

Two large coastal cities in southern Palm Beach County passed group homes regulations in mid-July.

The new rules, designed to rein in rogue operators of sober homes while preserving the single-family character of neighborhoods, are a response to what are termed “group homes” for people with disabilities. A sober home provides housing for recovering drug addicts and alcoholics. When they live together and maintain a sober lifestyle, they are protected by federal anti-discrimination and fair housing laws.

The new group home rules went into effect after the Delray Beach and Boynton Beach city commissions passed them unanimously on July 18.

“We’re looking at federal regulations and need to maintain neutral standards,” said Mike Rumpf, Boynton Beach city planning and zoning director. “The courts are sensitive to actions taken not based on facts but on community concerns.”

As a result, Boynton Beach no longer has a distance requirement between new group homes. In June, Commissioner Joe Casello had asked for a greater distance than the 300 feet Rumpf had proposed.

“There is no justification to enforce the distance between the homes,” said James Chero, Boynton Beach city attorney. Delray Beach used a planning consultant from the Chicago area to help craft its group homes ordinance. With information supplied by city staff, Daniel Lauber said the city has at least 183 sober homes, far too many for a city of its size.

Lauber, who wrote the group homes ordinance for Prescott, Ariz., recommended a 660-foot radius between new group homes. That distance requirement is part of the new group homes ordinance in Delray Beach.

In both cities, new group homes must be certified or licensed. In Delray Beach, existing group homes have until April 1 to become certified or licensed.

Boynton Beach will require its existing group homes to become certified by Oct. 1, 2018.

For sober homes, that means certification by the Florida Association of Recovery Residences, a regulatory body based in Boca Raton.

The association’s president, John Lehman, spoke at the Boynton Beach City Commission meeting. Lehman said only 14 recovery residences were certified in Boynton Beach, but city officials estimate they have at least 50.

We have a grievance form on our website where you can report a problem with a FARR-certified home or one without certification,” Lehman said. The certification is required by the state for recovery residences that receive clients from state-licensed treatment centers.

Neil Timmons, who runs two FARR-certified residences in Boynton Beach, said, “If the places are run well and staff supervises the clients, you should not have any problems.”

Both cities also have parking requirements that mirror ones for single-family and multifamily neighborhoods.

Boynton Beach recently upgraded its nuisance ordinance to include a 24/7 hotline for residents to call and complain about noise, parking problems, etc. City staff would investigate and, if warranted, the property owner would be contacted. The number is 732-8116.

“If nothing is done, then it would go to the magistrate for review,” Boynton Beach Mayor Steven Grant said. “Measurables are calls to the non-emergency number.”

Residents will play a significant role in telling the city what is happening in the neighborhoods, Chero said.

“It doesn’t happen overnight,” he said. “But over time, it should work.”

Briny Breezes

Briny weighs description for town manager’s job
By Don Moffett

Briny Breezes Town Council members have a reasonably good idea of what they’re looking for in a town manager.

But salary and benefits limitations may make hiring the right person difficult.

A volunteer committee made its report to the council on July 20, recommending the duties and qualifications for the new town manager position. Town Attorney John Skrandel told council members to consider that their requirements for candidates have to fall in line with what the town is able to offer in compensation.

“You can create the position however you want to create it,” Skrandel said. “But in reality, anyone who’s willing to take this job and has the experience and education, they’re going to want a contract that essentially provides them with a specific amount of pay, a specific amount of work over a specific period of time.”

Skrandel said most of the qualified and experienced candidates are also likely to want some protection against unreasonable termination.

“That’s going to be another thing the town is going to have to look at — what it’s willing to offer, not just salary but other benefits,” said Skrandel. “Keep that in mind.”

The council hopes to hire a part-time manager, the first in the town’s history, for $50,000 a year.

Nearly all full-time managers in small towns along the Palm Beach County coast are paid at least $100,000 a year, with full retirement and health benefits, paid vacations and often car allowances. Council President Sue Thaler has been doing the administrative work of a manager on a volunteer basis for the last several years but says she can’t continue putting in roughly 20 hours a week to keep the town running.

“Every other municipality in the county has a manager,” said Alderman Bobby Jerovaty. “The world is changing. We need this.”

The council voted to accept the committee’s report and do more research on how best to create the new position. Council members said they plan to continue the discussion at their Aug. 24 meeting.

In other business:
• The council unanimously approved setting the tax rate for the 2017-18 fiscal year at $30 per $1,000 of taxable value, the statutory maximum and the same since 2009.

According to the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office, Briny has recovered its valuation from the South Florida real estate crash 10 years ago, with $45 million in total taxable property value, up 8.6 percent over last year.

Public hearings on the budget are scheduled beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 24 and Sept. 28.

• Boynton Beach Police Lt. Chris Yannuzzi says state Department of Transportation officials have set tentative dates for closing the Ocean Avenue bridge 24 hours because of construction work. The round-the-clock closures are slated for Aug. 13-15 and Aug. 20-22.

LETTERS: The Coastal Star welcomes letters to the editor about issues of interest in the community. These are subject to editing and must include your name, address and phone number. Preferred length is 200-500 words. Send email to editor@thecoastalstar.com.
Dorothy Kellington has helped the library grow from a small part of Town Hall into ‘the crown jewel of Highland Beach.’ She has volunteered since 1998 and for the past six years has been co-president of the Friends group. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Dorothy Kellington’s life has been a constant love of reading and making a big salary. She says, “I love books,” she says. “There’s always books around. If I’m without a book, I’m in trouble.”

That love of reading played an important role in her decision to become an educator. Prior to coming to South Florida, Kellington spent 29 years working in the New York City school district. She spent 14 years in the classroom teaching elementary-school children in Queens before running a gifted program. She later became a trainer working with new or struggling educators, to help them improve their teaching skills. While she was working in the school system she met her husband, who was a facilities manager within the district. The two enjoyed a love of horse racing, frequently visiting tracks, and eventually they joined a group that owned thoroughbred race horses. One of their most successful Florida horses, King Cogat, ran in the Breeders’ Cup Mile. He started out as the favorite in that race, but was kicked and finished out of the money. He had previously won several races, including his first races as a 2-year-old in Saratoga.

Although they’re still horse racing fans, the Kellingtons no longer own horses. Dorothy spends much of her time helping out at the library, which is in walking distance from their home in the Highland Beach Club, and volunteering for the Palm Beach County chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

She began volunteering in that organization’s office and helping with fundraising efforts in 2002 after learning that one of her grandchildren was diagnosed with the disease. About the same time, she was asked to join the board of the Friends of the Highland Beach Town Library. Then six years ago, she was asked to serve as co-president of the organization, a job she now shares with another longtime Friends member, Karen Brown.

The group underwrites the cost of one monthly cultural program — a concert or a presentation — during the season. The group, which has about 300 members, also pays for receptions at art openings in town. The Friends also hope to launch a monthly health and wellness seminar at the library this season, Kellington said.

For Kellington, who can still be seen checking in books or returning them to the shelves on her volunteer days, the library has become almost like a second home where she can interact with people and get to know them. It also provides an opportunity for her to share all the library has to offer with residents. “This library is the crown jewel of Highland Beach,” she said.

— Rich Pollack

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?
A. Queens, N.Y. I went to New York City public schools, Queens College of the City University of New York. It made me appreciate the public school system.

Q. What professions have you worked in? What professional accomplishments are you most proud of?
A. Teaching, etc., while working for the New York City School Board. Hopefully, I made some beginner teachers better able to do a good job.

Q. What advice do you have for a young person selecting a career today?
A. Do something you love and believe in, not just to make a big salary.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in Highland Beach?
A. We wanted to be near the water.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Highland Beach?
A. It’s coastal but quiet.

Q. What book are you reading now?
A. House of Spies, by Daniel Silva.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?
A. Broadway show music, Chicago, The Beach Boys.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A. The Golden Rule, which can morph into “don’t get mad, get even” for me.

Q. Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?
A. My third-grade teacher Mrs. La Marca, who gave me my love of reading and made me want to share it.

Q. If your life story were made into a movie, who would you want to play you?
A. Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

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Boynton Beach

CRA works out subsidy, timeline with Ocean One

By Jane Smith

Boynton Beach commissioners, sitting as the city’s Community Redevelopment Agency board in early July, unanimously approved a subsidy worth about $4.1 million to the developer of Ocean One.

The first phase of the project will be an eight-story complex with 211 apartments on Federal Highway, just south of Boynton Beach Boulevard. The subsidy will be spread over eight years.

As a part of the subsidy approval, the developer will build 8,765 square feet of retail space on the ground floor, create 50 public parking spaces, make a diligent effort to hire city residents and contractors, hold a job fair and use green-building standards.

It took nearly two years to get to this agreement.

“It’s a large development,” said Bonnie Miskel, the developer’s attorney. “It took us that amount of time to usher through the process.”

The second phase of the project, with at least 100 hotel rooms, will come back this month for its taxpayer dollar request of about $2.8 million.

The board members wanted the hotel to be built first, but the developer asked for this to be included in the second phase. An additional 50 public parking spaces will be included.

For both phases, developer Davis Camalier is asking for additional money: 75 percent of the difference in the project’s assessed value in the first seven years after it is built and 50 percent in the last year. He paid $9 million for his 3-acre property in 2005.

The agency’s advisory board had recommended capping that taxpayer dollar amount in case the property values soar, but the cap was not part of the agreement. Instead, Mayor Steven Grant, who also is the agency chairman, asked that the agency hold back the entire taxpayer subsidy if the retail space is not filled in the first phase. He did not want to have another Casa Costa, with a mostly vacant ground-floor retail space fronting Federal Highway. Casa Costa is adjacent to the Ocean One property.

“That would be the tail wagging the dog,” Miskel said in July. “We don’t have control over the market. The developer is motivated to fill the space for the apartment tenants.”

Board member Christina Romelus said holding the developer to a performance standard is not unfair, “You are talking about taxpayer dollars.” Miskel and agency board members compromised: No requirements of filling the retail space in the first year, 20 percent in years two and three, and then 50 percent in years four, five and six after the complex is built. If the retail space is not filled according to this plan, the agency can withhold 10 percent of the taxpayer subsidy.

“But that’s only for the first [retail] tenants,” Miskel said.

The CRA also agreed to sell a half-acre parcel, appraised at $480,000 in December 2015, for $10. City commissioners must approve the sale because it is below market value. As part of negotiations, the Ocean One developer agreed to turn the agency-owned land into a public plaza. 🌺
South Palm Beach

Big numbers but big uncertainties for projects in town budget

By Dan Moffett

South Palm Beach taxpayers will see some eye-popping numbers when they look at their town’s proposed budget for 2017-18.

But the large figures come with back-stories that help put them in perspective.

Yes, the town has listed $6 million on its budget for rebuilding the aging Town Hall. And there’s also $1.5 million for a beach stabilization project.

For a town that runs on a total budget of just under $10 million, these would be huge expenditures. But the price tags for both projects are deceiving.

The $6 million for a new Town Hall is a ballpark estimate on what it would take to reconstruct the building from the ground up. The Town Council is waiting on an architect’s final report to decide what to do. Council members could choose to replace the building, renovate some of it at a much lower cost or forget the whole idea and live with the existing structure.

“It may be that nothing happens at all,” says Vice Mayor Robert Gottlieb.

If the council does choose replacement, the roughly $6 million would come from a bond referendum that voters would have to approve — a prospect that likely is many months away.

Then there’s the $1.5 million for beach stabilization. The town actually has been setting aside that money for years but now is moving it into a spending account for possible action. The hope is the project to install groins along the shoreline could begin in November 2018.

But that isn’t a certainty either. The plan still needs to obtain permits from a variety of overseeing federal and state agencies — and also faces possible legal challenges from neighboring communities, among them Manalapan.

The numbers that are solid and reliable in the proposed budget tell an encouraging story for the town.

South Palm Beach expects $9.8 million in revenues and $9.5 million in expenditures, creating a surplus of close to $300,000.

Property values have gone up again this year, rising about 6.5 percent and adding $20 million to the town’s taxable value.

South Palm Beach was one of the slowest communities in the county to recover property value from the recession but has finally caught up to where it was a decade ago with $305 million on the tax rolls.

The future looks bright, too, with construction beginning on the 3550 South Ocean project on the old Palm Beach Oceanfront Inn site. Once built and sold, probably two years from now, the 30 luxury condominiums there could raise the town’s taxable value by at least 25 percent.

More good news: Town Manager Bob Vitas says the penny sales tax increase that county voters approved in November “is tracking on target” and bringing in a steady stream of revenue to the town for infrastructure improvements — about $83,500 a year.

During a budget workshop on July 11, council members gave preliminary approval to maintaining the town’s current tax rate of $4.13 per $1,000 of assessed value, or roughly 6 percent above the rollback rate of $3.87 that would keep tax revenues flat. ✯
Dr. Samuel S. Stephenson III

OBITUARY

BOCA RATON — Dr. Samuel S. Stephenson III, who picked up his wife and two small children in 1968 to move to Florida and help lead a fairly new college called Florida Atlantic University, died June 21 in hospice care. He was 93.

Born in Manhattan in New York on April 18, 1924, Dr. Stephenson would go on to fall in love with both engineering and teaching. He first attended Manhattan College and then the Stevens Institute of Technology in nearby Hoboken, N.J.

Eventually, he earned a doctorate of engineering from New York University and taught for many years at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island.

In 1965 while walking along the street in New York City, he would reunite with the woman who would become his wife, Jeanne Godfrey Stephenson. The two met years earlier during their families' annual summer beach vacations in Madison, Conn.

“And that was that,” said their daughter, Karlen Stephenson. “They were 6 years old when they met.”

The couple eloped in Manhattan in April 1966. They were both in their 40s at the time, and neither had been married before, their daughter said.

Two years later, they uprooted their young family and moved to Florida when a colleague invited Dr. Stephenson to join the leadership faculty at FAU.

The couple bought one of the first lots in Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club. Mrs. Stephenson wanted their new home away from the water, because of their young children, and near the guard gate, because her husband often traveled, said their son, Sam Stephenson of Boca Raton.

In Boca Raton, Dr. Stephenson quickly immersed himself in scholastic and community circles. A boater at heart, he served for 20 years with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 36, teaching boating and sailing for many years.

“He loved that,” Sam Stephenson said. “He loved teaching, and his students loved him.”

In 2004, he retired from FAU as a professor emeritus after 35 years. Through those years, he was a business and IT consultant to many major corporations, including PepsiCo Inc., said his children.

Always laid back and looking at life with a positive attitude, Dr. Stephenson was strucken with aggressive cancer three times in his life, first with carotid cancer at the age of 18. He was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer in 1986. Again, he survived.

Dr. Stephenson was diagnosed with bladder cancer in his early 80s. He lived cancer free until it returned and eventually contributed to his death, his daughter said.

“I honestly think the reason he was able to live so long was that he didn’t worry about things,” she said. “He was so laid back.”

He was also thoughtful, even bringing the bank drive-thru tellers chocolates at Christmas time, she said.

And he served on the board of directors of the Habilitation Center for the Handicapped in Boca Raton for more than 10 years.

“He always found the good in whatever was,” said his son. Dr. Stephenson was buried July 1 at Boca Raton Cemetery alongside his wife, who died March 6, 2006. In addition to his children, he is survived by a daughter-in-law, Kirsten, and his six grandchildren.

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Hypoluxo Island
Custom open floor plan and island. Transitional architecture. 3BR/2BA home with pool and metal roof. 2,999,000. Jennifer Spinaagle 561-301-5533

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Stunning views from this rarely available direct ocean 2BR/2BA unit. Covered parking. $499,000. Vera Kiter 561-317-7131

3456 S. Ocean Blvd., #304
This renovated 2BR/2BA unit features spectacular ocean views and impact sliders. Covered parking. $378,000. Vera Kiter 561-317-7131

3575 S. Ocean Blvd., #1010
Completely redesigned and updated 2BR/2BA unit with great water views from all major rooms. Washer & dryer. $299,500. Jennifer Spinaagle 561-301-5533

3460 S. Ocean Blvd., #316
Price reduced on this 2BR/2BA condo. This getaway has an oversized balcony with good Ocean and city views. $299,000. Vera Kiter 561-317-7131

3589 S. Ocean Blvd., #314
Upgraded corner unit in Mayfair Lake. Hurricane windows throughout. Lovely water views from balcony. $249,900. Lisa Galasso 561-389-0874

5463 Cresthaven Blvd., Unit B
Beautifully remodeled 2BR/2BA villa with screened in patio in Cresthaven Villas. Close distance to beach. $379,500. Craig Smith 561-386-1450, Angela Smith 561-685-4317

100 Lake Meryl Drive, #208
Large and open 2BR/2BA corner unit with screened in balcony. Active 55+ community with 2 club houses, $72,000. Lena Ingraham 561-889-4128

2880 Lake Osborne Drive, #110
King size 1BR/1BA first floor unit located near Lake Osborne. Hurricane shutters throughout. $46,900. Austin Belkis 561-506-4470

Brown Harris Stevens of Lake Worth
619 Lake Avenue, Lake Worth, FL 33460 561-582-2200
Owen’s death sentences and present his case to a new jury for sentencing.

Driscoll said he is not asking for jurors to overturn the two guilty verdicts; instead he wants to focus on the jury recommendations that his client be put to death.

“We are asking for a jury trial on the penalty phase,” Driscoll said.

Jurors convicted Owen, one of Palm Beach County’s most notorious Death Row inmates, of fatally stabbing Delray Beach babysitter Karen Slattery, 14, and a few months later, of beating Boca Raton single mother Georgianna Driscoll to death with a hammer while her children slept in another room.

In both cases, juries voted 10-2 in favor of the death penalty for Owen.

In January 2016, however, in Hurst v. Florida, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Florida’s death sentence process was unconstitutional because it allowed a judge to be the final finder of facts in determining the sentence, rather than a jury.

In a subsequent ruling, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that all death penalty jury recommendations must be unanimous.

The Florida Supreme Court later determined that some cases after June 24, 2002, in which a death penalty verdict was not unanimous might be eligible for relief. That was the day the U.S. Supreme Court predicted Arizona’s death penalty unconstitutional in Ring v. Arizona on grounds similar to those in the Hurst case.

Owen’s situation is complicated because, although his death sentence in the Driscoll case became final in 1992, it was not final in the Slattery case until December 2002 because he had been granted a retrial.

In making his case to Kelley, Driscoll argued the 2002 date is arbitrary. He contended that seeking a reversal of the death penalty should be open to all Death Row inmates who qualify regardless of when the punishment was handed down.

In response, attorneys representing Florida claimed the 2002 date should be binding because until that point there was no reason to believe the state’s death penalty was unconstitutional.

Attorneys have until Sept. 15 to submit additional information to Kelley before the judge makes a ruling.

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The nearly 2-acre parcel is on the edge of the County Pocket, across the street from Briny Breezes. The owners bought it for $3.2 million in 2006 and are asking $6.895 million. Google Map

Oceanfront parcel again on market

The former Dog Beach property is on the market — again.

This time, it carries a $6.895 million price tag for one of the last remaining vacant parcels of oceanfront land in southern Palm Beach County.

Nearby property owners in Briny Breezes and the County Pocket likely saw the for-sale sign go up in mid-June. The nearly 2-acre site features 171 feet of oceanfront land. The property is zoned for eight units to the acre, but a postcard offering for the land said 36 units might be possible.

The owner received that information from the county, said broker Steven Presson of The Corcoran Group’s Palm Beach office.

“The broker got ahead of himself. That high figure is the ultimate the property would get with all of the variances,” said owner David Rinker. “The neighbors would never go for that.”

The property zoning allows eight units to the acre, but Rinker said 14 are more likely to fit.

“We have had the property for a number of years,” he said. Rinker and partners bought the land for $3.2 million in March 2006 and planned to develop it, then the recession hit.

“I’m not crazy about it, but I knew the land would not sit empty forever,” said Mike Smollen, who lives in the pocket. “Oceanfront land is valuable.”

He said his area could see some improvements if that parcel were developed. “Maybe we would get sewers and paved roads,” he said.

James Arena, a Briny Breezes resident who has a real estate brokerage in Boynton Beach, predicted it would be a long approval process for the developer. That company may end up putting up “a big wall that is 8 feet tall around the project, which would affect the drainage in the area.”

He would like to see a park there “with space for golf-cart parking because so many residents have street-legal golf carts.” He suggests the county and Briny Breezes buy the 2 acres.

“It’s a big-time crapshoot for a developer to buy it before Briny sells,” Arena said.

Pocket resident Marie Chapman said, “Having it developed will help our area. But if it is not done properly, it would put us under water. We have lots of drainage problems.”

Homeowners on Winthrop Lane in the pocket see water reaching their doors after a heavy rain, said Don Brown, who lives on Streamaire Lane in the pocket.

The developer “will see a lot of resistance from neighbors if they try to put 5 pounds into a small bag,” said Brown, who also owns the Southdale Properties real estate firm in Lake Worth.

“The property serves as a retention pond for the County Pocket,” Brown said. “But a property owner should not have to do that [solve the area’s drainage problems].”

Real estate broker Presson said he was receiving three or four calls a day about the property.

“Activity is definitely there from builder-developers,” he said. “Where else in Palm Beach County can you find 2 acres on the ocean for sale?”

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Duane Owen’s lawyers attempt to get him off Death Row

By Rich Pollack

Attorneys for convicted double-murderer Duane Owen hope a Palm Beach County judge will grant their client a chance to get off Death Row.

They hope to persuade a new jury to reconsider two death sentences.

Owen received the verdicts in June took place more than three decades ago.

In what amounts to a complicated legal maneuver, based in part on a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, attorney James Driscoll asked Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Glenn Kelley to set aside Owen’s death sentences and present his case to a new jury for sentencing.

Driscoll said he is not asking for jurors to overturn the two guilty verdicts; instead he wants to focus on the jury recommendations that his client be put to death.

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South Palm Beach

Town manager, attorney plead for action on contracts

By Dan Moffett

The manager and attorney for South Palm Beach are pleading with the Town Council to renew their contracts and end months of delays, false starts and postponed negotiations.

Town Attorney Brad Biggs and the council started talking about working out a new arrangement in early 2016. Council members said they wanted to evaluate his performance and redefine his job description. But that hasn’t happened.

“Basically, I just have a letter with the town saying I’m willing to provide legal services,” Biggs said. “There isn’t really a contract.”

Town Manager Bob Vitas was supposed to have a review completed in October as required by the town charter. The review was postponed that and hasn’t revisited it.

“It’s put me in an awkward spot,” Vitas said. “I shouldn’t be treated that way.”

Both Biggs and Vitas allow that the last year has been about as challenging as any in the council’s history — with the deaths of two highly regarded councilmen, Woody Gorbach and Joe Flagello, illness and big projects such as beach stabilization and Town Hall renovation to consider.

Mayor Bonnie Fischer had to cancel the July town meeting for lack of a quorum because Vice Mayor Robert Gottlieb was out of state, Councilwomen Stella Jordan was ill, and the seat left open by Flagello’s death hasn’t been filled yet.

As if that hasn’t been turmoil enough, the town is still fighting its way through a ransomware attack in June that paralyzed the administration’s computer systems and corrupted its website.

Vitas said the town’s technical support contractor has been able to undo much of the damage, and no ransom was paid. But still, some documents are lost probably forever, employees are frustrated and so are residents who try to go online to keep up with the town’s business.

“It’s been a very difficult year for the town,” Fischer has said more than once.

The mayor said some promising candidates have expressed interest in the empty council seat and she hopes to fill it soon. Fischer said the council also intends to resolve matters with Vitas and Biggs.

“I can’t believe that we’ve waited since May of last year” to deal with the town attorney’s agreement, Vitas said. “But I realize a lot of things have been out of our control.”

Biggs, who has been South Palm Beach’s attorney for seven years, is charging the town $170 per hour, and $195 per hour for litigation services. He has offered to change to a retainer arrangement and work some days out of Town Hall to improve his accessibility to officials.

“I really would like some action,” Biggs said.

Vitas, who was hired in October 2015 and earns $103,000 a year, told the council he deserves a new contract that includes a merit raise, car allowance and benefit contributions — perks that his predecessors have received.

“I want to be treated equitably with past managers,” he told the council. “I’m not going to beg. … I gave you the results. I’ve showed you the proof is in the pudding.”

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Along the Coast

Breezes. The owners bought it for $3.2 million in 2006 and are asking $6.895 million.

The nearly 2-acre parcel is on the edge of the County Pocket, across the street from Briny Breezes. The owners bought it for $3.2 million in 2006 and are asking $6.895 million.
Single-family home prices rise 7.9 percent

A

ccording to the real estate market reports for May, the 4.9 months’ supply of inventory for single-family homes in Palm Beach County is the same as last year. The median sales price has increased 7.9 percent to $383,000.

Year-over-year increases in home sales showed a 45.1 percent increase in the homes sold between $400,000 and $499,999, 19.8 percent increase in homes over $1 million and 18.6 percent increase in homes between $400,000 and $599,999.

Additionally, there was a 4.3 percent year-over-year increase in closed sales to 1,768 with a 14.3 percent increase in cash sales.

Statistics for May reflect double-digit increases in closed sales above $300,000, which contributed to the rise in our median sale price,” said Jeffrey Levine, president-elect of the Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches.

Douglas Elliman released its second-quarter 2017 South Florida market reports in July, as written by consultant Jonathan Miller, president and CEO of Miller Samuel Inc.

Highlights that Miller noted in Boca Raton and Highland Beach: “Median sales prices for both property types moved higher; condo sales surged as inventory edged higher, while single-family sales declined and inventory fell sharply; the pace of the market moved a lot faster than the same period last year.”

Compared to the same period a year ago, for luxury condominium sales (with an entry threshold that began at $1.175 million), median sales price declined 9.5 percent to $1,547,500. Days on the market were 118, up from 109 days.

Listing inventory increased 62.6 percent to 374. For luxury single-family homes (with an entry threshold that began at $1.175 million), median sales price declined 9.1 percent to $1,995,000. Days on the market were 165, down from 188. Listing inventory fell 15.6 percent to 353.

Highlights that Miller noted in Delray Beach: “Median price by property type moved higher as did the number of sales; east of Federal Highway, prices showed stability as the houses were smaller this year in square footage; the luxury condo market was up, showing more sales than last year.”

For luxury condominiums (with an entry threshold that began at $458,465), the median sales price slipped 1 percent to $640,000. Days on the market were 116, up from 73. For luxury single-family homes in Delray Beach (with an entry threshold that began at $1,070,000), median sales price declined 9.7 percent to $1,547,500. Days on the market were 118, up from 116.

Miller said it’s important to note that across the area, “the higher-end past couple of years, noticeably improved from where they were a few years back.”

In the Hypoluxo Island to Highland Beach barrier island area, sales were down significantly for condos, co-ops and single-family homes, marking the fifth consecutive quarter of declines, according to Corcoran’s quarterly report.

Also, “there were six fewer sales of single-family homes compared to last year, resulting in a decline in sales of 15 percent. Last year saw four sales over $15 million, including one sale for $40 million, while this year had zero sales over $15 million.”

The Boca Real Estate Investment Club’s “Back to School, Real Estate Investing 101” at 7 p.m. Aug. 10 will teach investing basics for new real estate investors. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at 2600 N. Military Trail, Suite 150, Boca Raton. The cost is $10 and free for attendees who present college ID. For information, call 391-7325 or visit www.bocarealestateclub.com.

The Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches’ Young Professionals Network hosts its fifth annual White Attire Fundraiser from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 11 at a multimillion-dollar estate listed for sale in Boca Raton’s Woodfield Country Club.

The event is open to agents and affiliate members of the Palm Beach association as well as the Greater Fort Lauderdale Realtors. Proceeds will benefit the Realtors Helping Realtors Pay It Forward Foundation, which provides financial assistance to agents and their families in times of need, and Rebuilding Together, a division of the Solid Waste Authority that rehabilitates the homes of low-income homeowners. All My Sons Moving & Storage and Cornerstone Home Lending are sponsors.

Ligouri Roberts

Despite the slowdown in Palm Beach County mansion sales in 2016, six county agents reported sales of $100 million or more, according to the annual RealTREND/Wall Street journal ranking.

Agents included Pascal Ligouri of Premier Estate Properties in Delray Beach, who ranked 20th nationally in sales volume with deals that totaled $224.8 million last year, up from his $82.1 million total in 2015. Ranked 30th on the list is David Roberts of Royal Palm Properties, Boca Raton, with a sales volume of $186.6 million.

Throughout June, the Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches’ Community Outreach Committee collected 1,000 jars of peanut butter and jelly, which it donated as part of the spread the Love campaign to benefit the Lake Park Food Pantry and Club 100 for local families and children in need of assistance this summer. Club 100 and its 30 pantry volunteers feed more than 400 families monthly and provide clothing and other essential household items.

The Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce’s July 7 Ambassadors Social, hosted by Crane’s Beach House Boutique Hotel & Luxury Villas, was attended by Chamber ambassadors and their guests. The ambassadors, a group of 30 volunteers, welcome and mentor new members and...
The Realtors Association’s Spread the Love food drive brought together (l-r) Harry Drier, Lake Park Food Pantry; Jana Torvia, the association’s Central/South Community Outreach chair; and Jack Porata, vice chair. Photo provided

attend new-member ribbon cuttings. “The annual social is an opportunity for us to get to relax and celebrate all our efforts. It’s also a way for our leadership team to thank every member for the work each does in behalf of the chamber,” said ambassador Chairman Rich Pollack.

At the 2017 Golden Bell Education Foundation Fundraiser, more than 250 people gathered at Pulsen Grill in Boca Raton to celebrate Golden Bell’s 26th anniversary as well as the sixth anniversary of the Inner Circle Executive Club. The June event raised $5,500 that benefited the public school system in Boca Raton and local educational programs.

The Boca Chamber’s Golden Bell Education Foundation announced that $85,000 was granted to Boca Raton public schools and scholarship programs for the 2017-18 academic year. Also, applications for the 2017-18 Young Entrepreneurs Academy are now open for middle and high school students in the Boca Raton area. Contact Christie Workman for information on the program at cworkman@bocachamber.com.

The Boca Chamber and JM Lexus present “Wine & All That Jazz,” the Boca Chamber Festival Days signature event, from 7 to 10 p.m. Aug. 26 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. The event will offer more than 100 wines as well as food from some of Boca’s restaurants.

Boca Chamber Festival Days was designed to connect nonprofit members in Boca Raton with the for-profit community. It runs throughout August and features 22 total events.

A portion of the proceeds from “Wine & All That Jazz” will go to support the efforts of the Golden Bell Education Foundation. To register, visit the Chamber’s website: www.bocachamber.com/events.

The Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce hosts guest speaker Felicia Combs, meteorologist on WPTV, at its networking event starting at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 9. The price is $25 for admission purchased online in advance or, if available, $35 when purchased at the door. The event will be at Benvenuto, 1730 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. To RSVP, visit www.choytonbeach.org or call 732-9501.

After 23 years on South Federal Highway in Delray Beach, Bill Hood & Sons Art & Antique Auctions has moved to a bigger location at 2885 S. Congress Ave., units A and B, Delray Beach. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, the auction house is accepting consignments and holding its monthly auctions at its new facility.

Carolyn Hood, owner partner with her son, Christian Hood, and a third partner, Dan Perry, explains that after all those years, they had “totally outgrown” their location. Also, she said, “Our warehouse had been separate from our business location. It is a dream come true to now have the warehouse and our gallery under the same roof.”

An official grand opening, with a two-day auction, is scheduled for Aug. 15 and 16. A tag sale will also be held on a Saturday following the auction. To find out when, call 278-8986 or email info@hoodauction.com.

Dash Travel, an agency established in 1959, has moved to 280 NE Second Ave., Cottage 2, Delray Beach. Very Delray Beach vintage in feeling, Dash Travel is now headquartered in a renovated cottage with a wood interior, efficiency kitchen and designer bath. It is surrounded by tropical landscaping and has ample free parking.

“We are delighted to stay in downtown Delray, while upgrading our headquarters for the discerning traveler,” said owner Jeff Dash. “More than ever, with the internet overload of information, Dash Travel serves to streamline options and offers valued advice and resources so that travel need not be chaotic, messy or confusing.”

For information, visit www.DashTravelandCruises.com or drop by its new location. The phone number remains the same: 498-8439.

Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa was included in July’s Travel + Leisure magazine’s annual “World’s Best” list as one of the 10 best resort hotels in Florida. Based on the magazine’s survey of readers, hotels were rated on their facilities, location, service, food and overall value.

Members of Liberty Property Trust’s South Florida office spent June 16 at the Palm Beach County Food Bank, organizing and packing food for families as part of the 14th annual Bill Rouse Day of Caring. The company’s offices in the United States and United Kingdom closed for a day of service in memory of founder Willard G. Rouse III.

For its fourth event this summer, the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County hosts a free panel discussion on “Fake News (Alternative Facts or Just Not True)” from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 12 at the Palm Beach Post Auditorium, 2751 S. Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach. Speakers include Howard Goodman, editorial writer at The Palm Beach Post; panel moderator Joyce Reingold, former publisher of the Palm Beach Daily News; Brett Sandala, founder of Ocean Drive Social, a brand consulting firm specializing in social media marketing and online branding; and Brian Williams, former managing editor of the National Enquirer.

This presentation is underwritten by Lytal, Reiter, Smith, Ivey & Fronrath. People interested in attending are encouraged to register in advance at www.lwvpbc.org.

Send business news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com
The COASTAL STAR
August 2017

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SOLD

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THE GREAT ECLIPSE

Get ready for the show: We may see a good part of the first total solar eclipse visible in the lower 48 states since 1979

Look up on Aug. 21, because one of the coolest celestial events will take place. It’s the next total solar eclipse, an event when the moon completely covers the sun.

This isn’t a rare phenomenon. As a matter of fact, according to www.space.com, approximately once every 18 months (on average) a total solar eclipse is visible from someplace on the Earth’s surface. What makes this one a big deal is that it’s the first one that is visible in the contiguous 48 United States since Feb. 26, 1979.

Here’s what will happen: The moon’s shadow will create a 70-mile-wide path diagonally across more than a dozen states, starting in Oregon and ending in South Carolina — otherwise known as the path of totality. The total eclipse will begin in Oregon at 9:05 a.m. Pacific time on Aug. 21 and then it will cross through Oregon and head into Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina. Then, it will start in its final destination, South Carolina, at 2:48 p.m. Eastern time.

Not everybody will be able to see the total eclipse though, which the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) says lasts only a few minutes. Unless you are directly on this path, you’re out of luck to see it, but don’t put your chairs away just yet. There is good news for those who aren’t residing or vacationing on this track.

You will still be able to see a partial solar eclipse in any other area — this is when the moon covers only

See ECLIPSE on page H4
LES JARDINS – BOCA RATON | $1,895,000
Barbara Hill 561-706-3237

ADDISON RESERVE – SARMENTO | $1,795,000
Beautiful 5 bed, 5.2 bath, fabulous lake views, cathedral ceilings, built-in office, spacious open living area, all bedrooms en suite – light and bright. Oversized loft bonus room. Home has sports membership but can be upgraded to golf.
Francine Borress 561-573-2301

CAMELOT ON THE ATLANTIC | $5,300,000
DIRECT INTRACOASTAL 80 ft of expansive water, phenomenal views. Exquisitely furnished. Located in Highland Beach it is perfectly situated on an oversized lot with a sprawling patio area, pool, spa, oversized loggia & summer kitchen for entertaining.
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ADDISON RESERVE – SARMENTO | $3,495,000
Waterfront Pearl! Sparkling views of the Intracoastal. One of Delray’s exclusive addresses. Major renovation 2016. 100ft on water with 80' dock. 5 bedrooms and 5 baths with a Master Suite on both floors. Pool 30’x15’, Loggia 36’x20’.
Michael Mullin 561-441-0635

DELRAY ISLE | $3,495,000
Waterfront Pearl! Sparkling views of the Intracoastal. One of Delray’s exclusive addresses. Major renovation 2016. 100ft on water with 80’ dock. 5 bedrooms and 5 baths with a Master Suite on both floors. Pool 30’x15’, Loggia 36’x20’.
Michael Mullin 561-441-0635

DELRAY DUNES – BOYNTON BEACH | $1,249,000
Overlooks the 16th fairway with 20 ft ceilings and an open floor plan. Marble floors, crown molding, plantation shutters, upgraded kitchen with an island, great for entertaining. Large lanai and open pool area with marble pavers overlooking golf course.
Warren Heeg 561-441-1599

BOCA BATH & TENNIS | $1,150,000
Exceptionally designed home, totally renovated. Contemporary kitchen, beautiful flooring, stylish lighting fixtures, all new bathrooms, fireplace, split bedrooms, vaulted ceilings throughout and new landscaping. Spacious master with his & her walk-in closets.
Barbara Hill 561-706-3237

HYPOLUXO ISLAND | $1,150,000
Waterfront lot, .32 Acre with private dock featuring lift plus a floating dock. 4 bed, 3 bath home, beautiful gourmet eat-in kitchen, covered lanai, heated pool and spa. Walk to ocean, beach, shopping/dining on Ocean Ave and Ocean Blvd.
Diane Duffy 561-767-0860

BALLANTRAЕ CONDO | $2,150,000
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www.BuyandSellGulfstream.com
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The COASTAL STAR
August 2017

ECLIPSE

Continued from page H1
part of the sun.
In Palm Beach County, we are hundreds of miles from the path of totality (the farther away from the path of totality, the less the moon will cover the sun), but we can still see 81 percent of the sun being obscured. The first glimpse will come at 1:25 p.m. The full 81 percent will be at 2:57 p.m. But be warns: Weather forecasters say there's only a 50 percent chance of clear skies in this neck of the woods.

Eclipse road trip
If you want to travel to one of the cities on the trajectory to see the eclipse, you'll have to act quickly, because hotel rooms are booking up fast. In Madras, Oregon, you can see the event from Round Butte Overlook Park. Or you can participate in one of the many eclipse festivals around the country in the cities on the pathway. These include the Wyoming Eclipse Festival in Casper; the Capital Eclipse Celebration in Jefferson City, Missouri; and the Music City Solar Eclipse in Nashville, Tennessee. There will be a countywide celebration in Rabun County, Georgia, while Columbia, South Carolina, has an entire weekend celebration planned.

So bright, wear shades
If you are making plans to see the event, make sure you protect your eyes before the festivities begin, because looking directly at the sun can severely damage them. Special glasses for eclipse watchers are available free at some local libraries, many of which will have special eclipse programs as well. NASA explains that as the moon moves in front of the sun, several bright points of light shine around the moon's edges that are called Bailey's beads. These beads diminish over time until only one is left, but only when that spot completely disappears can you safely look at the sun with a naked eye. With a partial eclipse as in Palm Beach County, you need to protect the entire time.

Watching the eclipse with regular sunglasses won't cut it. Instead, you need to use special ISO 12312-2 compliant eclipse glasses to protect your eyes. We can be found through local museums, libraries or astronomy clubs.

You also can look through a special filter, such as a No. 14 welder's glass, which has a thin layer of aluminum, chromium or silver on its surface that reduces ultraviolet, visible and infrared energy. It's a big buildup to a short event, but it can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see a total solar eclipse. Have the children join you and make it a family event. It's the perfect time to marvel at what the universe can do.


5 fun, safety-first tips for watching children

The excitement for the total eclipse on Aug. 21 is building, and it's the perfect time to teach your child about the moon and stars and stargazing. There is plenty of time left to prepare them for the big event:

1. Read about an eclipse.
There are plenty of books on the subject, from The Big Eclipse paperback (Orbit Oregon, 2016) by Nancy Costello to Looking Up! The Science of Stargazing (Science of Fun Stuff, 2017) by Joe Rao and Mark, B. Berggren. Read about what eclipses are so your children will understand what's happening. You can also find solar activity sheets online that you can do together. Local libraries and the Children's Science Explorium in Boca Raton will have free programs as well.

2. Make sure they are comfortable.
Waiting for the eclipse can make a child restless, so be sure to have plenty of snacks and drinks on hand and a blanket to lie on. The eclipse takes place in the summer heat so be sure to use sunscreen.

3. Know the safety rules.
Never view an eclipse by looking directly at it — wear the proper eclipse safety glasses. Also, refrain from using binoculars or a telescope unless you've purchased a solar shield, which will provide eye protection.

On the big day, don't just give your children filters and not supervise them. Children need to be watched to make sure they use the filters correctly to protect their eyes.

5. Throw an eclipse-viewing party.
The eclipse is a perfect time to introduce your children to a love of science, so why not throw a small neighborhood gathering to make it all the more special? Serve eclipse-themed foods, such as Moon Pies, Sun Chips and Starburst candies. For a solar eclipse activity, NASA offers a slew of fun printouts on its website (eclipse2017.nasa.gov/downloadables), including bookmarks, posters, an activity guide and 3-D printable pinhole projectors.

To ensure your eyes survive the eclipse make sure to wear ISO 12312-2 compliant sunglasses.

Local eclipse events
Eclipse viewing glasses will be available in the Children's Room at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave, 8/14-21 while supplies last. 266-0194, delteylibrary.org

8/21 — Solar Eclipse activities at the South Florida Science Center, 4801 Dreeher Trail North, West Palm Beach, include make your own solar viewing devices, solar viewing on the science trail (weather permitting), solar eclipse corona art contest and make-and-take solar eclipse craft. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free with museum admission: $15 for adults, $11 for children and $13 for seniors. 832-1988; sfsciencecenter.org

8/21 — Great American Total Solar Eclipse, Eclipse and Celebration at Boynton Beach City Library, 5081 S. Seacrest Blvd. Learn the path of the eclipse, receive a free pair of eclipse viewing sunglasses, watch the eclipse. All ages. 1-2 p.m. The eclipse will start about 1:25. After the eclipse, create an edible lunar science treat. Grades K-12. Free. 742-6380; boyntonlibrary.org

8/21 — Eclipse viewing at Boca Raton Public Library's Spanish River branch (Lakeside patio), 1501 NW Spanish River Blvd. Free solar eclipse glasses are available for event participants on a first-come, first-serve basis. All ages. 1-4 p.m. Free. 393-7852; myboca.us/957/Library

8/21 — Eclipse drop-in event at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Science demos, make-and-take projects and free special glasses for viewing the eclipse. A 16-inch telescope will be fitted with a solar lens for viewing. In the event of rain, a live stream of coverage elsewhere will be available. 2-4:30 p.m. Free. 347-3912; scienceexplorium.org

8/21 — Open Dome and Sidewalk Astronomy Event for the Solar Eclipse at Florida Atlantic University Observatory, 777 Glades Road, Bldg: 43, Room: 434, Boca Raton. Telescopes available for safe solar viewing; free solar viewing glasses. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Free. 297-7827; cescos.fau.edu/observatory/observatory.html

— Mary Thurowatcher

Eye protection during the eclipse
When you watch the eclipse it is important to wear solar filters as eye protection until the eclipse reaches totality. That won't happen in Palm Beach County, so keep your protection on. During a total eclipse, view- ers may remove filters. As the moon moves past the sun to a partial eclipse, wear eye protection again.

According to NASA, four manufacturers have certified solar filters to meet international standards: Rainbow Symphony, American Paper Optics, Thousand Oaks Optical and TSE 17. An alternative to solar filters: NASA suggests using pinhole projection to safely view a partial eclipse without filters. To do this, "cross the outerfield, slightly open your lids excited about science, so why not throw a small neighborhood gathering to make it all the more special? Serve eclipse-themed foods, such as Moon Pies, Sun Chips and Starburst candies. For a solar eclipse activity, NASA offers a slew of fun printouts on its website (eclipse2017.nasa.gov/downloadables), including bookmarks, posters, an activity guide and 3-D printable pinhole projectors.

— Lisa Iannacci, CTW Features

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HOW A SOLAR ECLIPSE WORKS
A total eclipse happens when the moon’s shadow covers the earth. In the totality zone, direct sunlight will turn the landscape, which is why totality is so special. A partial eclipse occurs when the moon’s shadow only covers part of the earth, and is why those around the path of totality will see a partial eclipse, which will last around 2 minutes, 40 seconds.

Smooth Solar Eclipse

NASA suggests using pinhole glasses. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Free. 347-3912; scienceexplorium.org

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— Lisa Iannacci, CTW Features
Women join forces to mend hearts and support others with cardiac problems

When Nancy Edelman completed her training at the Mayo Clinic as a WomenHeart volunteer two years ago, she was bursting with enthusiasm and newfound knowledge — and the desire to share it. “In the past, no one ever paid attention to women, never considered them for testing for heart disease,” said Edelman, of Boca Raton. “It made you feel that only men had heart problems. Women have more heart disease than men, and more women die from heart disease than from cancer.”

Edelman and her neighbor, Rhoda Kitzes, head the Boca Raton chapter of WomenHeart, a support and education group for women with heart disease, whose concerns can be different from those of men.

Mended Hearts, a second Boca Raton group with a similar mission, has both women and men as members. Some women attended at both groups. And both groups are confidential, to encourage frank discussions.

WomenHeart meetings contain a healthy dose of practical concerns — diet and exercise, meditation, chair yoga and more — along with a regular visit from an expert to talk about heart disease research and news.

Edelman and Kitzes share a cardiologist, Seth Baum of Boca Raton, who emphasizes preventive care. This approach was well-suited to Edelman’s needs. “Both my parents had cardiac problems, and [Baum] did find things that had to be addressed,” she said.

Edelman had atrial fibrillation, hypertension and high cholesterol, all of which Baum got under control, she says. “Then he told me about WomenHeart,” said Edelman. “I consider myself very fortunate. I wanted to give back now that I’m retired, and I thought this could be a perfect way. Why not help women, who have the same predicament? Women want to hear from it at their own level.”

Baum asked Kitzes to start the group at Boca Raton Regional Hospital and Baum took her to training in Washington, D.C., at WomenHeart’s headquarters. She was inspired by what she learned and the people she met.

“There were women who were waiting for hearts, one woman had a heart pump and there were a lot of younger women with different types of heart disease,” said Kitzes.

Edelman trained the following year and together with Boca Raton Regional, they took the word about the group, which has grown to more than 20 women. They are selecting others to train to lead meetings and do outreach work in the community. Two more are scheduled for training this year.

“We’re very excited that we’re grown as much as we have,” said Kitzes. “The hospital has been very helpful.”

Outreach essential

Kitzes and Edelman regularly visit cardiac rehabilitation facilities to introduce their group to women who are about to return home, often a difficult physical and emotional transition. They also meet with cardiac nurses and other medical professionals.

“I tell them it’s very important that they come to a meeting when they finish rehab,” said Kitzes. “We don’t want them to go home not knowing what to do and having no support. We can help them through the next phase.”

“People can walk out of a doctor’s office thinking they’re not going to live another week,” said Edelman. “Then they come to a meeting and they see someone and think, ‘Look how good she looks, and she has the same thing I have. It’s good to talk to people who are concerned about them. It puts them at ease to see so many people like themselves, and they’re in good shape.’

“The benefit of working in a support group bounces back to the group’s leaders. “It’s a good feeling to be able to help people that way,” said Edelman. “We get to meet lovely people and we concentrate on the woman as she is living with the disease.”

Awareness raised

WomenHeart was founded in 1999 by three women who had heart attacks. Not living near each other, they formed a tiny support network, then began reaching out to other women around the country.

“At that time, misdiagnosis was a major problem for women,” said Kitzes. “They would go to the hospital with chest pain and be sent home. Three days later, they were having open heart surgery. ‘We’ve worked on that, and now doctors are much more aware that thousands of women are at risk for heart disease. And we can still do more to get the word out to doctors and women and to provide peer support.’

The national WomenHeart group is active in supporting scientific research into women’s specific medical concerns as well as lobbying in Congress.

“We are different from men in body makeup,” said Kitzes. “They’ve got to change the way research is done, said Edelman. “Our spokespeople have done a wonderful thing, they are fighting for us.”

They also met with women who are about to return to rehabilitation facilities to “manage to be as active as I can,” said Kitzes. “The WomenHeart group has been helpful. We talk about things and everybody helps each other.”

Kitzes acknowledges that a support group may not be to everyone’s taste.

“There are women who say, I really don’t want to talk about my heart disease, I just want to go on with my life, and they don’t come back to meetings. You have to want to be part of the bonding. ‘We talk about everything, the obstacles we face, the depression in our lives, how to relate to your family. Very often, children or spouses get overprotective, and of course you don’t want to burden them. There are a lot of nuances in the family setup.’

Joining a support group can be just the prescription for moving on to the next stage of life, said Edelman.

“People shouldn’t live in fear,” she said. “The doctors tell you you’ll be fine but you like to hear it from a layman. You can relate to it in a more personal way.”

WomenHeart meets October through May at 1:45 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Christine E. Lynn Women’s Health & Wellness Institute, 690 Meadows Road in Boca Raton.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 12. Contact Kitzes at 235-5515, Edelman at 289-8975 or Robin Mautino, program director at the Lynn Women’s Institute, at 955-5348 or email WH-BocaRaton@womenheart.org.

For virtual support groups and health education materials, visit WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women With Heart Disease at www.womenheart.org.

Mended Hearts, a national organization of heart patients, meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month in the Drummond rehabilitation classroom at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. For information, visit www.mendedhearts.org.

For information about Mended Little Hearts, an organization for families of children with heart disease, visit www.mendedlittlehearts.org.

Lona O’Connor has a lifelong interest in health and healthy living. Send column ideas to Lona13@bellsouth.net.
Grant enablers FAU researchers to focus on dementia prevention

It is possible to prevent some cases of dementia if factors that increase the risk are mitigated. Some studies have confirmed that behavioral changes can help mitigate one of these risk factors. For example, a study published last year in the journal *Neurology* found that people who engaged in physical activities, such as walking, had a lower risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease than those who did not engage in such activities. The study also found that people who engaged in mental activities, such as reading and playing puzzles, had a lower risk of developing the disease than those who did not engage in such activities.

The study was conducted by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, who followed 1,000 people aged 65 and over for an average of 10 years. The researchers found that those who engaged in physical and mental activities had a lower risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease than those who did not engage in such activities.

The researchers suggested that these findings could be used to help prevent Alzheimer’s disease. They noted that early detection and intervention could help reduce the risk of developing the disease. They also suggested that more research is needed to understand the underlying mechanisms of how physical and mental activities can help prevent Alzheimer’s disease.

Another study published in *The Lancet* found that physical activity can help reduce the risk of cognitive decline. The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Oxford, who followed 1,400 people aged 65 and over for an average of 5 years. The researchers found that those who engaged in physical activity had a lower risk of cognitive decline than those who did not engage in such activities.

The researchers suggested that these findings could be used to help prevent cognitive decline. They noted that early detection and intervention could help reduce the risk of cognitive decline. They also suggested that more research is needed to understand the underlying mechanisms of how physical activity can help prevent cognitive decline.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has launched a new research initiative to study the prevention of Alzheimer’s disease. The initiative, called the Alzheimer’s Disease Prevention Program (ADPP), is funded by the NIH’s National Institute on Aging (NIA) and will focus on developing preventive strategies for Alzheimer’s disease.

The ADPP will support research projects that explore new approaches for preventing Alzheimer’s disease. The initiative will support research on potential targets for prevention, such as the brain’s own immune system, and will support research on potential preventive interventions, such as lifestyle changes and drugs.

The ADPP will also support research on the potential for early detection of Alzheimer’s disease. The initiative will support research on potential biomarkers for Alzheimer’s disease, such as changes in the brain’s structure or function, and will support research on potential diagnostic tools for Alzheimer’s disease, such as blood tests or imaging scans.

The ADPP will also support research on the potential for personalized prevention of Alzheimer’s disease. The initiative will support research on how to tailor prevention strategies to individual needs and will support research on how to optimize prevention strategies for different populations, such as older adults or people with certain medical conditions.

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RibDent Dental Center celebrated its new patient tower, which consists of 96 private patient rooms, a helipad, a parking garage, registration services, cardiovascular clinic, expanded laboratory and advanced imaging technology. RibDent Dental Center is at 3352 Linton Blvd, Delray Beach. ABOVE: Celebrating the first phase of the $8 million expansion and renovation, are Dr. Anthony Dardano, Rib Dent patient care services and chief nursing officer, Tenet Healthcare; Eric Evans, Tenet’s president of hospital operations; Mark Bryan, CEO, Rib Dent Dental Center (with scissors); Marsha Powers, CEO of Tenet’s Southern Region; Frank Miraglia, Tenet’s chief executive officer and CEO and Dr. Octavio Diaz, Tenet’s chief medical officer. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

How to order a photo or digital copy of a photo;

1. Go to newspaper.com and enter "The Coastal Star" in the search bar. The search results will include an image of the newspaper. Click on the image to go to the newspaper’s homepage.
2. Once on the newspaper’s homepage, use the search bar to search for the term "RibDent Dental Center.
3. Click on the search result that shows an image or article related to RibDent Dental Center.
4. On the article or image page, look for the "Buy Photo" button. Click on it.
5. Follow the instructions to purchase the photo or digital copy of the photo.

Note: Events are current as of 7/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.
How to beat the heat for your dog’s health

Welcome to the dog days of summer. Hot, humid days in Palm Beach County can put your dog at risk for heat stroke, especially on afternoon walks.

That’s why I’m an advocate of the dog paddle — swimming — a safer alternative to walks, runs or hikes when the heat is on.

As a master certified pet first-aid/CPR instructor with Pet First Aid 4U, I make it my mission to educate pet parents on the heat dangers to dogs. The early signs: heavy panting, bright red gums and sweaty paws. If your dog is leaving wet paw marks on a sidewalk during a walk on a dry day, he is overheated.

The immediate relief option is to dip his paws in cool water — but never use ice cold water, because the temperature extreme can trigger shock. Always bring a bottle of water because in a pinch, you can make a spare doggy poop bag into a water bowl to dip in each of your dog’s paws. Ah, instant heat relief!

The safe exercise option is hot, dog is swimming in a safe body of water. That can include the dog-welcoming beaches along the Atlantic Ocean, lakes, ponds — or even a tub. Avoid rivers with strong currents or keep your dog on a long line.

Never let your dog swim in small ponds constructed to drain water from housing developments, because they harbor harmful parasites. And do not let your dog swim in ponds at golf courses, as they host harmful chemicals to dogs. Use praise and treats to build up your dog’s introduction to water activities. Start with fun walks along the shore and allow your dog’s paws to get wet. Never toss a dog into a pool or body of water.

Pair up the water activity with your dog’s favorite floatable toy. Encourage him to enter the water to fetch the toy. These toys need to float and be easy to grab. Teach your dog how to safely enter and exit pools. Start in the shallow end and work your way up. Teach him using treats and praise that this is his safe zone and to use the steps to exit the pool.

Be your dog’s lifeguard. Always supervise your dog whenever he is in the water. Install a doggy-proof gate around your pool if you have young children, as your dog may认证 his access when you are not around.

End the water activity before your dog becomes tired. Some dogs are such pleasers and are not around.

Water safety tips

Size up your dog. Not every dog is a four-legged Michael Phelps capable of swimming with confidence. Dogs less apt to swim well include breeds with short legs and long backs (corgis and dachshunds), big-chested breeds (bulldogs) and breeds with short snouts (pugs). Dab on the sunblock. To prevent sunburn, select dog-safe, waterproof, quick-drying and non-greasy sunscreen. Apply on your dog’s nose, tip, ears, abdomen and legs. Chemicals in sunscreens made for people contain harmful chemicals to dogs. Do not make a spare doggy poop bag into a water bowl to dip in each of your dog’s paws. Ah, instant heat relief!

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Putting people in pews is priest's mission at Boynton Beach church

The Rev. Wendy Tobias says St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church is trying to offer something for everyone. Photo provided

Four services to meet your needs

St. Joseph’s offers four services, hoping that one will be just what you’re looking for:

The reflective, healing service: This is an intimate service with piano and guitar music, prayerful candles and anointing, and Communion passed from person to person around the altar. At 5 p.m. Saturday.

The traditional, Rite I, service: This is a quiet, traditional service with prayer, Communion and without music. Coffee hour and fellowship available after the service in the Parish Hall. At 7:45 a.m. Sunday.

The family service: This is the largest gathering. Children, pre-K to fifth grade, are invited to participate in Christian education (Sunday school) as younger children get care in the nursery. Music director and organist David Clyle Morse and the adult parish choir perform weekly. The children’s choir performs on the fourth Sunday of every month from September to May. At 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

The Unplugged service: A relaxed, joyful, come-as-you-are service; the casual clothes and prayer and music have for people who want to unplug from stiff traditions yet long for spiritual growth and depth in their lives. At 11:45 a.m. Sunday. At St. Joseph's, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boynton Beach. 7:32-3060; www.stjoesweb.org.

Our Isabella

“Women are equal in the church and the church is a good partner in acceptance. Unplugged is her favorite service because it’s not all sitting and listening and it’s not so long that Luke, er, Darsh Vader, gets bored. And if he does make a bit of a racket, people are fine with that. The easy-listening music matches the church’s easygoing, laid-back atmosphere. ‘We're more open,’ Tobias said. ‘Women are equal in the church and we accept all of the LGBTQ community.’

Tobias knows there are people who have been turned off by church and have no idea offering something for everyone. A gathering place. A place to rekindle camaraderie. And a place to celebrate the God within,” Tobias said. “A place to focus on God’s plan is essential. Tobias said. “The love and joy that is felt at the service is a powerful spark plug for the weekwork.”

Research, including a 2016 study at Harvard University's School of Public Health, showed that people who attend church services regularly are happier and healthier than those who don’t.

Churchgoers are less likely to suffer from depression. They have more success stopping negative behaviors like smoking. And they live longer. But why?

The scientists thought the benefits may come from a strong social network, but women who belonged to other groups that met for similar purposes (like book clubs and volunteer work) did not show the same benefit to the degree that churchgoers did.

Tobias doesn’t want you to just show up or to follow blindly, as a place to hang out, as a safe place to embrace — unless that invades your personal space, of course. If there is one message that Tobias says rings true and louder than the rest, it’s this: “You are beloved by God. You don’t have to earn it. And you cannot do anything to stop it.”

So, you might as well show up and sing along.

James E. Smith, senior pastor at Boynton Beach United Methodist Church, writes about people of faith, their congregations, and the church's role in the community. Contact her at jsmith@bocabeachchabad.org or jsmith@bcuwhr.Users.net.

August 13-19

8/16 - Lunch and Learn with Boca Beach United Methodist Church

8/17 - English Boot Camp at Chabad of East Boca Raton, 1201 NE 1st Ave. Monthly course for women from Rush Chabad Society 250-60-4142; rchabadofeastboca.org

8/18 - Women’s Bible Study Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray, 33 Glisson St. Every Fri 8:15-9:45 am. 394-7103; stgregorysepiscopal.org

8/19 - Prayer Circle at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church Youth House, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages. Every Fri 9:45-11 am. 395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

8/20 - Women’s Bible Study Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray, 33 Glisson St. Every Fri 8:15-9:45 am. 394-7103; stgregorysepiscopal.org

8/21 - Cornering Prayer at St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 9:30-10 am, 395-8103; stgregorysepiscopal.org

8/23 - Bible Study at First United Methodist Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boynton Beach. Every 5th Mon 7-8:30 pm. RSVP 732-3060, stmarkboynton.com

Religion Calendar

August 13-19

Note: Events are current as of 7/28. Please check said they wanted. They hired a
planned every detail down to
service overall.

The church’s leaders noticed
around the market research,”
says they will. The younger folks
said they like.

The family, Rite II, service
with prayer, Communion and without music. Coffee
hour and fellowship available after the service in the Parish
Hall. At 7:45 a.m. Sunday.

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Courses help dormant divers refresh scuba skills

Even if you live near the ocean in South Florida and you’re a certified scuba diver, diving might not be something you do regularly. I was certified in the late 1970s — but truth be known, I haven't logged that many dives, especially in recent years. I wanted to start diving again this summer. But it had been three years since I’d strapped on a scuba, so I decided to take an in-the-pool refresher course offered by the Boynton Beach Dive Center. My pool class cost $99. The dive center also offers a pool refresher class plus two open-water dives for $199.

To begin my training, I lugged my tank and dive gear up the steps to the pool deck at Pompey Park Recreation Center in Delray Beach, where I met instructor Bill Utterback and other students on a hot July afternoon. I managed to remember how to assemble my tank, buoyancy compensator and regulator. Once our gear was ready, we filled our buoyancy control devices, or BCDs, high-tech swim bladders that can be inflated using air pressure from the tank. We set our tanks and inflates using air pressure from swim bladders that can be fastened the clips, we worked our way into our masks, snorkels and fins. Utterback showed us an easy way to slip on fins by crossing a foot over a knee to slip on one, then the other.

After entering the pool, we worked our way into our BCD packs, fastened the clips, snugged the shoulder straps and added anti-fog solution to our masks. We released air from our BCDs and sank below the surface to practice a skill at the heart of scuba diving — buoyancy control. As instructed, we adjusted the amount of air in our BCDs until we each rose slowly from the bottom when we took a breath, then sank when we exhaled. Our group practiced several essential skills in the pool, including recovering a lost regulator (the mouthpiece from which a diver draws air), equalizing the pressure in our ears, clearing flooded masks, removing and putting on tank packs underwater and two methods for towing an incapacitated diver through the water.

Utterback taught me a trick. I had forgotten or never learned — how to breathe from a free-flowing regulator, or a scuba mouthpiece spewing out air instead of delivering it on demand as it should. Toward the end of the refresher class, I went to the deep end of the pool with Utterback to practice sharing air with another diver, hovering below the surface during a safety stop and an emergency ascent to the surface. After the pool class ended, I felt more confident with my re-learned skills and ready to dive in the ocean.

Keeping dive skills fresh is important not only for safety but for the enjoyment of the dive — both for the diver and for those diving around him or her. Capt. Tony Coulter of Boca Raton, who operates the dive boat Diversity, said it’s painfully obvious when divers show up who haven’t been diving for a while. Their gear might not fit properly, or they often have trouble controlling their buoyancy.

Coulter, who has been working in the dive charter business since the late 1970s, said divers who want to get back in the water after a hiatus should at least hire a dive master to accompany them on a dive to refresh their skills. The dive training organization PADI offers its divers the online Reactivate program ($99.95) that uses video scenarios to refresh divers’ knowledge. Divers who complete the online course can add an in-the-water refresher course and receive a replacement certification card with a reactivated date. PADI says reactivation is not required to maintain a certification card but is recommended for those who haven't been diving in a while.

Lake Worth Fishing Tournament winners Pat Gregorchik, of Lantana, was fishing with his son Ian and brother Mike in the June 24 Lake Worth Fishing Tournament. Pat and his wife Linda are members of the Lake Worth Fishing Club and they both have been fishing for many years. They generally go out once a month, usually on the first of the month. They have a boat named "Bait Me" that they use for small-boat fishing. They have caught a variety of fish, including snapper, grouper, and tarpon. They enjoy the challenge of catching these fish in the ocean and the excitement of catching a big fish while out on the water.

Surfrider Foundation campaign
Surfer and technology entrepreneur Jeff Max is leading a campaign to help the Surfrider Foundation raise $100,000 by Labor Day. In a short video on Spotfund (www.spotfund/surfrider) Max lists threats to the health of the oceans, including global warming, overfishing, plastic pollution and oil drilling. Donations to Surfrider can be made through the Spotfund site. As of mid July, Max's campaign had raised slightly more than $5,000. Founded in 1984, the Surfrider Foundation organizes networks of everyday citizens to promote the preservation and enjoyment of the world's oceans and beaches. The San Clemente, Calif.-based nonprofit has 84 chapters, including one in Palm Beach County.

Florida reef survey
NOAA and partners are conducting a survey to better assess the economic importance
Boating security zones near Mar-a-Lago
The Coast Guard is considering whether to make permanent three boating security zones put in place when President Donald Trump visits Mar-a-Lago, his Palm Beach estate.
The Coast Guard accepted public comments on the plan through July 20. After responding to each comment, the Coast Guard will publish the final rule in the Federal Register.

The Mar-a-Lago boating security zones used since early 2017 are:

**Zone 1**: A section of the Lake Worth Lagoon immediately west of Mar-a-Lago extending about halfway across the waterway, from the southern tip of Everglades Island to 1,000 yards south of Southern Boulevard. Entry by boat is prohibited.

**Zone 2**: The western side of the lagoon west of Zone 1. Boaters moving through this zone must maintain a steady speed and not stop (unless they must wait for the drawbridge).

**Zone 3**: Extends 3,000 yards off the beach from Banyan Road south to Ocean View Road.

As in Zone 2, boaters mowing through this ocean zone should maintain a steady speed and avoid stopping.

If the boating security zone regulations become permanent, they would apply when Trump, the first lady or anyone else protected by the Secret Service visits Mar-a-Lago.

To read comments on the proposed security zones, go to www.regulations.gov. Search for the document labeled “USCG-2017-0016.”

**Next events**

**Aug. 5**: Basic boating safety class offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Fee $35 for adults or $20 ages 12 to 19. Register at the door. Bring lunch. Call 391-3600 or email foo.pe@uscg.org.

**Aug. 5**: Full moon wahoo tournament, the last of three tournaments, at West Palm Beach Yacht Club. Ian Gregorieck caught the wahoo on a spinning rod holding a cedar plug in 350 feet of water north of Boynton Inlet. Photo provided/Leonard Bryant Photography.

**Aug. 5**: Full moon wahoo tournament, the last of three summer wahoo fishing tournaments organized by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. Entry fee $60 per team. Each team must have at least one West Palm Beach Fishing Club member. Call 382-6780 or visit www.wpbmacha.org.

**Aug. 12**: Mark Herrott Memorial Fishing Tournament for kingfish, dolphin and wahoo. Captain’s meeting’s 5 p.m. Aug. 10 at Hurricane Bar & Lounge, 640 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Entry fee $225 per boat. Call 9027-8920 or visit www.floridareef.org.

**Aug. 12**: Palm Beach County Lionfish Derby. Final registration and captain’s meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 11 at Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach. Lionfish collection Aug. 12, followed by scoring and awards Aug. 13. Entry fee $120 per team. Contact REEF at 305-852-0030 or www.reef.org.

**Aug. 26**: Fish for Disabled YDs KDW tournament for kingfish, dolphin and wahoo. Captain’s meeting 5 p.m. Aug. 24 at Lakeside Anchor Inn in Lantana. Weigh-in at Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. Park in Boynton Beach. Entry fee $225 through Aug. 23 or $250 at captain’s meeting. Details at www.disabilitybait.com.

**Aug. 26**: Boating safety class offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the classroom building next to the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 2010 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. Contact REEF at 305-852-0030 or www.reef.org.

For more boating and fishing news, visit PalmBeachPost.com.

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**Outdoors Calendar**

Note: Events are current as of 7/30. Please check with organizers for any changes.

**AUGUST 5**

**Saturday** - 8/5 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean-up at 7 a.m., 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at pavilion in lower parking lot, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Held Aug. 9, 12, 23, 26, 30, 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., sand sifters clean up the beach. Call 848-3343 for additional info. www.oceanridgefl.com

**Saturday** - 8/5 - Gumbo Limbo’s 36th Annual Summer Beach Clean-up. Meet at Gumbo Limbo Visitor Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Fee $225 per team. Each team must be accompanied by an adult. Entry fee $225 per team. Call 9027-8920 or visit www.gumbolimbo.org.

**Saturday** - 8/5 - Boardwalk Tours of the Marsh at 8 a.m., 2018 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Explore grasses and flats of the West Palm Beach Lagoon immediately north of Zone 2. Youth $6, adult $10, ages 3-10 $6. Reservations: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org.

**Saturday** - 8/5 - Boynton Beach Fishing Club 10th Annual Fishing Tournament. See listing above.

**Saturday** - 8/5 - US Coast Guard Auxiliary About Clean Up

**Saturday** - 8/5 - Memorial Fishing Tournament at Boynton Beach. Lionfish collection Aug. 12, followed by scoring and awards Aug. 13. Entry fee $120 per team. Contact REEF at 305-852-0030 or www.reef.org.

**Saturday** - 8/5 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12 noon - 3 p.m. Free. 544-6665; gumbolimbo.org

**Saturday** - 8/5 - Boardwalk Tours at Green Cay Nature Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boca Raton. Fee, refreshments, 1-hour walking tour w/a naturalist. Age 9+. 9 a.m. Free: 544-8615; placentia@boynton.com

**Saturday** - 8/5 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 9-10:30 am. 367-7031; innegals.org

**AUGUST 7**

**Saturday** - 8/7 - Birds & Breakfast at Green Cay Nature Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach. 6:30 p.m. doors open/refreshments, 7 p.m. program. Free. 818-7754; audubon.org/everglades

**Saturday** - 8/7 - A Walk On The Ashley Trail at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided walk along 1/4 mile natural trail winds through the butterfly garden, coastal hammock, mangroves to a sandy beach by the Intracoastal. All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Every W 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. 544-6665; gumbolimbo.org

**Saturday** - 8/7 - Seining the Lagoon at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Explore parasites and fish venting in the Intracoastal Waterway behind Gumbo Limbo. Hand-held dip nets and large seine nets allow participants to catch and release a variety of fish, shrimp, crabs, marine life. Wear clothes that can get wet. Flip-flops or sandals. Old sneakers or water shoes only. Age 10 to adult; children must be accompanied by an adult. 10-10:30 am. 37 member, $15 non-member. Reservations/pre-payment required: 544-6665; gumbolimbo.org

**AUGUST 20-26**

**Tuesday** - 8/22 - Boynton Beach Fishing Club 10th Annual Fishing Tournament. Entry fee $60 per team. Each team must be accompanied by an adult. Entry fee $120 per team. Call 9027-8920 or visit www.gumbolimbo.org.

**Wednesday** - 8/23 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about beach treasures and more! 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. $30 per team. Call 9027-8920 or visit www.gumbolimbo.org.

**Saturday** - 8/26 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 9-10:30 am. 367-7031; innegals.org

**Sunday** - 8/26 - Caravan to Red Reef Park, 1400 N State Road, Boynton Beach. Lionfish collection Aug. 26, followed by scoring and awards Aug. 27. Entry fee $225 through Aug. 23 or $250 at captain’s meeting. Details at www.disabilitybait.com.

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**Willy Howard** is a boating and fishing enthusiast and licensed boat captain. Reach him at tiowillie@bellsouth.net.
Fun back-to-school events mark summer’s end

By Janis Fontaine

In just a few weeks, another summer vacation comes to a close for nearly 200,000 kids in Palm Beach County. Before school begins, take advantage of one of the events planned to make the transition easier.

Here’s a primer:

The sixth annual Back to School Bash at Sugar Sand Park Community Center is a final day of play for your kids ages 3 and older. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 12, the park will host water play with a 60-foot slide, a bubbles bonanza and a make-and-take craft. Giveaways and music are planned for this free outdoor event. A special area with smaller attractions is available for kids 5 and younger.

BYO sunscreen, bug spray, bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a change of dry clothes. Food and bottled water, towels, hats and a
dtreats will be located throughout the mall with health- and education-related information. Get the information and the supplies you need tax-free. Call 653-5628.

At the Y

The inaugural Big Fall Kickoff event at the Peter Blum Family YMCA takes place after school starts for many kids, but it’s still fun.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 26, the Y will host indoor activities such as a program scavenger hunt, demonstrations of fall programs like karate, dance and basketball, plus pool activities and water slides. Outdoors, a live band and DJ will provide musical entertainment designed to get kids moving, and a bounce houses, water activities, food

and treats will be available. Sign up for one of the programs at the kickoff event at a discount.

The Peter Blum Family YMCA is at 6631 Palmetto Circle S., Boca Raton. RSVP for the Kickoff at 395-9622. For more details, visit www.ymcaofpbc.org/peter-blum/

At Garden of the Sahaba

The Garden of the Sahaba Academy will host a Back to School Fun Day from 2 to 7 p.m. Aug. 19 at the school, 3480 NW Fifth Ave., Boca Raton. Hosted by the PTO, the event will feature ponies, carnival games, train rides, a bounce house, face painting, giveaways, a high school boys basketball tournament and more.

For more information, visit www.pto.assahaba.org.

Brunch fundraiser

The Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce will host a Back to School Brunch from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 24 at Lakeside Terrace, 7780 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Proceeds benefit the Caregiving Youth Project, a program of the American Association of Caregiving Youth that supports children who care for ill, disabled or injured family members.

This fundraiser is part of the Boca Raton Festival Days. Tickets are $50 in advance or $60 at the door. To RSVP, call Gerry at 391-7401.

Health reminder

The Palm Beach County School District reminds parents that keeping students healthy is important and students are required to be up to date on their vaccinations. Proof of immunization must be submitted on a Certificate of Immunization form DH680 prior to admittance and/or attendance in school.

A religious exemption (DH681) may be obtained only from the Palm Beach County Health Department.

In addition, health immunizations, a school entry health exam is required for all students new to the district and for first time pre-K and kindergarten seventh-grade students unless an exemption is on file.

All health exemptions must be submitted on the appropriate school district form. Physical exams must be on Form DH3040. Certificates of immunization must be accepted if it meets the same assessment requirements in Form DH3304.

For information on the immunizations that are required for all Palm Beach County students from pre-K through 12th grade, visit www.palmbeachschools.org/safeschools/schoolhealth entryrequirements/.

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August 2017
Biwy Michelle Piasceki

When Curt Burrows, 23, faces the daunting prospect of being a twirler, he knows he needs to do one thing — calm his overwhelming sense of nervousness. “The biggest fear is dropping the baton,” the Boynton Beach resident said.

From Aug. 2 to 11, Burrows and 15 other members of the South Florida Dynamics are taking part in the Grand Prix International Competition and the World Baton Twirling Federation’s International Cup contest in Porec, Croatia.

Team members, aged 13 to 25, traveled to Europe with their coach, Jean Chwalik, to compete for the Dynamics.

The Dynamics, based in Delray Beach, frequently participate in local events such as the holiday parade. They have performed on the Triumph and Imagination cruise ships and have entertained at Disney World, Universal Studios, a Miami Dolphins football game, an Orlando Magic baseball game, a Miami Heat basketball gala, the Macy’s at Universal parade, FAU football games and the Citrus Bowl Parade.

Even though the group has competed internationally before, this is the first time the group was the first chosen to represent the United States at the International Cup. The high prices competition.

The team traditionally has competed one level below elite — the highest level — but now is up against top-ranking teams from countries around the world.

For Carly Finkel, 22, the Grand Prix is a big deal because it has no restrictions on twirks. Team members can make their moves as fancy and as complicated as they want to get.

They spent their last days of practice before the event perfecting those maneuvers, which combine gymnastics with twirl. “This is a little bit of pressure because we want to get it right,” said Finkel, of Boynton Beach.

Chwalik, who has coached twirl for 60 years, said the team could move from advanced to elite if it does well. The competition is tough because the Japanese teams scored a perfect 100 from every judge during the last International Cup.

“They were the only ones to do that,” she said.

No matter what the team accomplishes during the prestigious competition, Chwalik said it’s been amazing to watch the hard work.

“I am proud of what they’ve become as a team and as young, responsible individuals,” Chwalik said.

Staying focused to reach their goal was the key, Burrows, who won a gold medal for twirling three batons at the 2015 International Cup.

He said it’s all about concentration and preparation. “If you drop (the baton), you just got to pick it up and pretend it didn’t happen. Don’t let it affect the rest of the routine and just put on a show.”
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This Hypoluxo Island house has an open plan that showcases its island transitional architecture. The two-story house has three bedrooms and four baths in 3,120 square feet. It boasts large rooms, volume ceilings downstairs, courtyard front entry, a lovely L-shaped pool, formal dining room, huge master suite with wrap-around balconies, interior plantation shutters and a metal roof system. It's a close walk to shopping and dining and is near the beach. It's offered at $999,000 by Jennifer P. Spitznagel of Brown Harris Stevens of Lake Worth.

The house’s dining room has ample room to entertain.

Information available at 582-2200 (office), 301-5535 (cell) or email jspitznagel@bhsusa.com.

A Hypoluxo Island haven

The patio has an L-shaped pool and room for barbecues. The huge upstairs master suite has wrap-around balconies. The open plan showcases the building’s island transitional style with metal roofs.

ABOVE: The open-concept kitchen offers high-end finishes and plenty of prep space.
LEFT: The large living room opens onto the patio and pool, inviting the outdoors in.
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You’re bound to be drawn to this Worth Avenue antiquarian bookstore

By Ron Hayes

“I was a unique child,” Matthew Raptis remembers. “My parents did not allow me to have video games, so I read books and played outside.”

Reading gave Raptis a love of books. Books gave him a love of history. History gave him a passion for the Civil War. And together they gave him a career.

“In 1989, when I was about 10, I bought a first edition of Ulysses S. Grant’s memoirs,” he explains. “They’re not that rare. You could get a copy for about $50.”

See BOOKS on page AT12
The Department of Music at the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters received a $50,000 donation to continue funding the Georgia Dieter Dennis Vocal Scholarship Fund. This year marks the sixth that the college received the donation, which awards scholarships to students who graduate from a Florida high school and enroll in vocal studies at FAU. Elias Porras and Ron Schagrin presented the gift. ‘Students in the arts have extra financial challenges when, in addition to general college expenses, they must also incur costs related to their field of study, including equipment costs and lab fees,’ said Patti Fletas, director of vocal studies at FAU. ‘Also, with performance and ensemble rehearsals, students’ available hours to work are greatly reduced, making the possibility of scholarship funding a defining factor in their college choice.’ ABOVE: Elias Porras, Michael Horserud, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Schagrin and Fletas. Photo provided

International HOSA Leadership Conference
Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando – June 24

At the 40th conference, Lake Worth resident Sophie Paris Ginsburg competed — after earning a first place at the state competition and second place at the regional competition — and earned a gold medal in the category Medical Interviewing Skills, Ginsburg said. ‘I was honored and humbled and happy to bring it home to share with my school and community.’ Photo provided

Grant awards
Woman’s Club of Delray Beach – June 6

The more than 100-year-old club awarded grants to seven local nonprofits. The grants, plus money contributed by the club for leadership, scholarship and training programs and the Thanksgiving feeding effort, total $10,000. ‘We’re very proud to be supporting organizations that are doing great work in Delray Beach,’ club co-president Trish Jacobson said. ‘All of the nonprofits receiving grants are having a positive impact in our community.’ Added club co-president Joann Haros, ‘Our club traces its roots back to Delray Beach’s early years and has been supporting community efforts ever since. We’re pleased to be able to continue the tradition by providing grants to these many organizations in Delray Beach.’ ABOVE: Blaise Maris and Vince Farfaglia of the South Florida Collegiate Baseball League, one grant recipient, kneel with (l-r) Lauren Fournier, Patti Alexander, Michele Harrington, Jacobson, Haros, Kae Jonsons, Adrian Rackauskas and Leanne Griffin. Photo provided

Donation presentation
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton – June 21

The Coastal Star is a monthly newspaper with two editions serving Manalapan, Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream and coastal Delray Beach; and news tips to gstepanich@pbartspaper.com. www.thecoastalstar.com ©2008-2017
Rotary Club Downtown Boca Raton has announced the committee, honorees and sponsors for this year’s Boca Raton Mayor’s Ball, a red-carpet, black-tie dinner dance set for Oct. 14 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club.

The third annual affair lauds elected officials who exemplify Rotary International’s motto, “Service Above Self.” Money raised will go toward the health and wellness needs of Boca Raton nonprofits.

“The Mayor’s Ball is an annual beacon of city pride,” club President Penny Morey said. “The best part of the evening is seeing personal and professional reconnections made and relationships renewed and strengthened as, together, we celebrate Boca at its best.”

Milagro Center receives dual grants from local donors
Delray Beach residents Harvey and Virginia Kimmel provided a grant that will help sustain the musical-instrument instruction program at the Milagro Center along with a matching grant that will strengthen the organization’s ability to provide arts and education programs to at-risk children.

“Milagro Center has been fulfilling a critical need in the local Delray Beach community for many years,” Harvey Kimmel said. “They are filling the gap, offering structured after-school programs, not a baby-sitting service. We are so impressed with their leadership and programs and deeply moved by the impact they are having on these children and their families.”

Milagro Center President and CEO Barbara Stark said the matching grant, designated for operations, will lead to additional donations.

“We are so grateful for the Kimmels’ commitment,” Stark said. “We now call upon the community to fulfill the matching gift. It will go a long way in ensuring the long-term success of children who start life at risk of academic failure.”

Even the smallest gift can help provide a brighter and better future.

Class of ‘17 Snow scholars hear from experts
More than 80 college-bound students benefited from the George Snow Scholarship Fund’s scholar-orientation program.

The Class of ‘17 heard from local experts and current scholars and alumni on a variety of topics, including study skills and time management, the importance of exercise and nutrition and campus safety and the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

“The transition from high school to college can be challenging,” said Tim Snow, president of the fund. “We decided to do this orientation so that our students can learn the best way to adjust and get the most out of their college careers.”

Submit your news, event or listing to Amy Woods at flamywoods@bellsouth.net

Boca Raton Mayor’s Ball committee members (l-r, seated) Gwen Herb, Dyana Kenney, Marilyn Wilson, Constance Scott, Penny Morey, Kim Champion, Bonnie Halperin, Arlene Herson; (standing) Michael Walstrom, Marleen Forkas, Gloria Wank, David Freudenberg, Carole Boucard, Jon Kaye, Michelle McLean-Bailey, Lewis Fogel, Alan Kaye, Kari Oeltjen, Jonathan Whitney, Linda Petrakis, Dr. Allen Konis, Dr. Ron Rubin and Deborah Freudenberg. Photo provided by Gina Fontana

Boca Raton Mayor’s Ball set for Oct. 14 at Resort & Club
Resort's president hopes to rock Boca's Ballroom Battle

John Tolbert has crossed hundreds of ballroom floors during his hotel management career, but the president and managing director of the Boca Raton Resort & Club is the first to admit he is far more comfortable dancing unnoticed among thousands of revelers at a rock concert. That could change, however, as Tolbert hopes to trip the light fantastic at Boca’s Ballroom Battle, the local fundraising equivalent to Dancing With the Stars.

Tolbert joins seven other contestants at the 10th annual event Aug. 18, but even though it’s being held at his hotel, he doubts he’ll be able to claim any home floor advantage.

“If I went to a U2 concert, I could dance fine,” he said, “but when you’re talking about formal dancing, learning the tango and cha-cha, in a ballroom setting … I was not trained in that regard.”

For several weeks, he and the other competitors have been training at Fred Astaire Dance Studio with professional partners, putting together the routines they hope will result in a win.

“That’s the fun part,” Tolbert said. “The teachers are amazing. It’s a lot of work, but it’s a lot of fun. I’ve been trying to go two to three times a week, because I’m starting from zero.

Tolbert’s challenges, of varying talent, are Jim Dunn, vice president and general manager at JM Lexus; Terry Fedele, a registered nurse, retired hospital executive and community volunteer; Lisa Kornstein Kasten, founder and creative director of Scout & Molly’s boutiques; Derek Morrell, of Scout & Molly’s boutiques; and community volunteer; retired hospital executive Fedele, manager at JM Lexus; Tracy Skees, director of business development at Trainerspace; and Elizabeth Murdoch Titcomb, principal and founder of lolite Creative, a multimedia company.

Tolbert took over the reins at the resort in early 2016, but he’s hardly a stranger, having run the marketing department from 1994 to 2002. His career has taken him to Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the nearby Ritz-Carlton in Naples, working for the likes of Wayne Huizenga, the Blackstone Group and Marriott.

Born in England when his father was in the Air Force, he grew up in Maryland in the family farmhouse built in 1780. “It’s really a special place, only 35 minutes outside of Washington and it was a dairy farm,” Tolbert said.

Now, however, he is in unfamiliar territory, but he welcomes the challenge. After last year’s Ballroom Battle, the winners urged him to consider competing.

“It seemed like a great idea last August and now all of a sudden it’s about to happen,” he said. “But the George Snow Scholarship Fund is a great organization, the Boca Ballroom Battle is fun and it’s just a great night.

“My goal is to evolve into a performance that will not embarrass the charity or myself.”

The battle kicks off with cocktails at 6 p.m. Competition begins at 7 followed by an after party — and noncompetitive dancing in the Palm Court.

“We are so excited about the event Aug. 18, but even though it’s being held at his hotel, he doubts he’ll be able to claim any home floor advantage.”

For most of her century, Brownie, the undisputed queen of Palm Beach, brushed off speculation about her age, preferring to say she was “6-1-1.” Recently, she told Barbara Marshall of The Palm Beach Post, “I think it’s quite an accomplishment to survive that long.” And she has definitely survived with style.

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Brownie began renting it. “It seemed like a great idea last August and now all of a sudden it’s about to happen,” he said. “But the George Snow Scholarship Fund is a great organization, the Boca Ballroom Battle is fun and it’s just a great night.

“My goal is to evolve into a performance that will not embarrass the charity or myself.”

The battle kicks off with cocktails at 6 p.m. Competition begins at 7 followed by an after party — and noncompetitive dancing in the Palm Court.

Since 1921, it has closed, the 1.3-acre site on Royal Poinciana Way that includes a long-closed gas station and several small shops will be redeveloped into six two-story buildings with a new restaurant, shops and six luxury condos. But the new complex won’t be ready for a minimum of 30 months or, more likely, three years.

Whether Testa’s will return hasn’t been decided. The Testa family reportedly has received offers to relocate to Wellington and to other spots in Palm Beach, but for now the legendary crab cake sandwiches and strawberry pie are history.

Raise a stein to NoBo, the latest addition to Boynton Beach’s growing craft brewery community. NoBo (short for North Beach) is nestled in the warehouse district just west of I-95 and north of Gateway, within walking distance of local pioneers Due South and Copperpoint.

The June opening was a long time coming for brothers Steve and Tim Dornblaser, who had initially hoped to open in late 2015, first as Lagerhead Brewing, then as Driftwood Ales before they settled on the
distinctive NoBo.

The present menu includes four starters — a blood sausage ale, a hefeweizen, an American IPA 2.0 and a coffee porter. A constantly changing list of seasonals — presently six — includes The Funky Monk, a strong Belgian golden ale, and a sour hefeweizen wit with beets.

Guest taps include Crisp Cider from Broski Ciderworks in Pompano Beach and Mango Wheat from Proof Brewing in Tallahassee.

The Dornblasters will pour any legal size draft, from 5-ounce samplers ($2-$3) to 12- and 16-ounce drafts ($5-$6) and 32- and 64-ounce growlers ($9-$20).

Open every day but Tuesday, NoBo is building a calendar of special events featuring food trucks and a football kickoff party Sept. 2 featuring FSU trucks and a football kickoff blocks away from NoBo, brewed in Boynton. A couple of Kombucha, for example, is water can be fermented.

Among the best. Tickets start at $7-$10.

Cider from Broski Ciderworks includes The Funky Monk, a strong Belgian golden ale, and a coffee porter.

A constantly changing list of IPAs includes 2.0 and a coffee porter.

A hefeweizen, an American staple — a blonde ale, a porter, a strong Belgian golden ale, and a coffee porter. A couple of Kombucha, for example, is water can be fermented.

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A constantly changing list of IPAs includes 2.0 and a coffee porter.

A hefeweizen, an American staple — a blonde ale, a porter, a strong Belgian golden ale, and a coffee porter. A couple of Kombucha, for example, is water can be fermented.

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By Lucy Lazarony

Aesop’s Tables, hand-painted picnic tables on Clematis Street in downtown West Palm Beach, are set to be auctioned off Aug. 31 in support of more than two dozen local charities.

The live auction starts at 7:30 p.m. and is part of Clematis by Night, which runs from 6 to 10 p.m.

The 25, 6-foot tables, which support 25 different local charities and depict characters from the fables of the ancient Greek writer Aesop, have been on display in the waterfront park just east of the Centennial Square Fountain since June 1.

Mary Pinak, community events manager for the city of West Palm Beach Department of Parks and Recreation, wanted to create a community art event with the focus of bringing people together, after a year in which the city has been the site of so many protests.

“We want people to sit down and share meals with people they know and people they meet on-site. We want to encourage interactivity, absolutely,” Pinak says. “Simply sit down and eat together, because we all need to eat.”

The tables are the site of a number of local events such as Trivia Night on Wednesday evenings. “They’re mostly being used in the evenings because it’s pretty hot” during the day, Pinak says.

And underneath all that community gathering is some pretty spectacular art, bright and bold and welcoming.

“Sitting and sharing a meal are not new concepts,” Pinak adds. “But what is new is that we’re creating a space for people to come together, share a meal, and have fun.”

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ArtsPaper
I made that," marveled one coed who was clearly birthed in a click-to-print universe.

For me, it was nostalgic, a trip back to my early teens in Boy Scout Troop No. 8 in New Bedford, Mass., when I earned a printing merit badge by apprenticing to a small commercial printer, a kindly gnomish figure in wire-small cubesheet stock, with the soft edges of a woody font, smiling broadly when the poster came off the frisket.

I bought them for personal interest and purpose. They have one thing in common: they are all aesthetic objects and I bought them for personal satisfaction.

His wry humor, capacity for intimacy and passion for ice cream were as well-known as his passion for books. Said Chris Fritton, who prints and writes The Itinerant Printer: "From what I'm told, he asked for a bowl of chocolate ice cream around 8-9 p.m., then quietly went to bed. I can't think of a better way to go.”

That's where John presides over a variety of programs open to the community, including workshops in letter writing, a form I've returned to (even though I failed Penmanship in grade school) to make my important communications more personal than evanescent email — the 21st century form of disapparing ink. He puts out a newsletter you can subscribe to, through the Jaffe’s website, thus proving he's no Luddite.
Photography

French photos at the Norton: Classic Paris, and some new directions

By Gretel Sarmiento

Those of us who missed this year’s Bastille Day fireworks celebration at the Eiffel Tower had a couple of options: looping Charles Aznavour songs, watching Alain Delon films or seeing Norton Museum’s French Connections.

Nothing wrong with the first two, but the third option can’t be found on YouTube.

The bite-size exhibit is drawn from the museum’s photography collection and consists mostly of black-and-white photographs depicting deserted Parisian streets, cafés and storefronts. A sleeping man on a park bench, an old lady emerging from a balcony, a street bookkeeper, all lovely pictures that risk turning an entire show gloomy, nostalgic and, in this case, predictably Parisian.

If You Go
French Connections: Photography runs through Aug. 15 at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach. Admission is free. Call 832-5196 for more information.

Which is why it was a relief to find among the 15 displayed works, some by contemporary artists Delphine and Elodie, who are collectively known as the Chevaline Sisters. Their pictures of two young male dancers — titled Santa Lazarus and Arouna — feature a curious embossing consisting of astronauts and monsters. The twins equate these peculiar band-stenciled impressions to leaving fingerprints on their photographs.

“The big prize for breaking the mold, however, goes to a modern portrait that takes on Édouard Manet’s Olympia. Commanding in size and wit, Portrait (Futago) (1988-90), by Yasumasa Morimura, is much more extravagant than Manet’s canvas of a black maid offering the gifted bouquet. The title of this 1988 piece makes more sense once we learn Futago translates to twins in Japanese.

Recreating Manet’s composition involved several self-photographs of Morimura playing each role as well as modeling elements of the original painting in clay.

Somewhere between choosing his muse and applying that coat of acrylic paint that gives the work its painterly quality, he decided to take some liberties.

Notice how, unlike Manet’s black cat, this one raises its left paw like a maneki-neko, Japan’s beckoning cat.

Also, the kimono on which his pale body reclines is much more extravagant and showcases traditional Japanese motifs, such as the crane and sakura. Famous for his appropriations, the Japanese artist enjoys bending the notions of sexuality, race, ownership and gender. His is undoubtedly the centerpiece of the show.

I say Aznavour’s “Camarade” and Delon’s La Piscine can wait.

AESOP’S TABLES
Continued from page 7
reflecting a local contemporary artist’s visual interpretation of a story with a moral dating back to the fifth century B.C.

“They’re so vibrant and so colorful and so unique, just like all of us,” Pinak says. “And when they all come together it’s one lovely project.”

West Palm Beach artist Anthony Burks Sr. created tables depicting “The Lion and the Mouse,” whose moral is “A kindness is never wasted,” for the American Cancer Society, and “The Rooster and the Jewel” for Habitat for Humanity.

In “The Rooster and the Jewel,” a hungry rooster in search of food discovers a jewel instead. The moral is “What is treasure to one may be worthless to another.”

Burks, a fine artist who enjoys painting animals, felt right at home with the project. “I love painting animals, so this is perfect for me,” Burks says.

Loxahatchee artist Frank Navarrete also was right in harmony with painting the table “The Dog and the Shadow.”

“I own six dogs and four dogs are rescue,” says Navarrete, whose table will be auctioned off for the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League.

Navarrete, who has a background in graphic design and magazine illustration, describes his art as “very sharp and bold, mostly Pop Art.”

Kaitlyn Seyler, event and marketing coordinator for the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, said the league felt a special kinship with Navarrete because of his love of animals. The nonprofit is thrilled with Navarrete’s art for Aesop’s Tables.

“It’s nice to have somebody believe in our mission as much as we do,” Seyler says. “And our table’s adorable. I’m completely blown away. Everyone who sees it can’t believe how adorable it is. Everybody loves it.”

Charities will benefit from table sales
In addition to Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer Society and Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, the following charities will benefit from the Aesop’s Tables live auction on Aug. 31: Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches Inc., Autism Speaks Children Seen and Heard, Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, Dress for Success Palm Beaches, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County, Legal Aid of Palm Beach County Inc., Life’s Changes Palm Beach County Inc., Little Smiles, Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches, Nonprofits First, Pathfinders Scholarship Fund, Quantum House, Resource Depot, Seagull Services, Sister Cities of Delray Beach Inc., Susan G. Komen South Florida, The Arc of Palm Beach County, The Takeheed Theater Company Inc., United Way of Palm Beach County, Urban Youth Impact.

For more information on the Aesop’s Table auction, please visit www.wpb.org/events or call 822-1515.
Summer sizzled with impressive Polaroids, Shakespeare and music fests

John Reuter, Second Impressions

(through Aug. 5, Palm Beach Photographic Centre, West Palm Beach)

A photographer since the early 1970s, John Reuter famously broke the rules when he began manipulating Polaroid film to achieve large-scale image transfers. The process requires the Polaroid negative be removed early and be placed on wet watercolor paper. Reuter, who joined the Polaroid Corporation in 1978 as a senior photographer and headed the company’s large-format 20X24 studio, joined the ranks of artists pushing the limits of the 20X24 camera and the SX-70 model. His compositions incorporate paint and collage, and are often made up of multiple panels. The result is closer to a fresco painting than an actual photograph.

The guardians and angels on display look like spectrums, ghosts of the past. We can see the softening edges, the pale colors and even the peeling of the paint working toward a goal that we suspect little has to do with delighting the viewer and everything to do with pushing the media.

The pieces, such as At the Dimming, appear more as a painting than a photograph. The oversized head of a woman emerges like an apparition, eyes closed, above a group of three female figures pointing toward a window where a mysterious shoulder and elbow, presumably male, can barely be spotted. Body parts are seen floating, as in a dream, toward a window. The woman, who bears a striking resemblance to Salvador Dalí’s Gala, is left undisturbed.

In Spirits of Père La Chaise VI, from 1989, we find ourselves in the presence of a supreme sort of apocalyptic oracle with the face of a child. The youthfulness conveyed by the rosy cheeks and golden, mane-like hair competes with a sense of decay exuded through the washed-out colors and bare sections stripped of paint. A similar thing happens with decay exuded through the washed-out colors and bare sections stripped of paint.

His compositions incorporate paint and collage, and are often made up of multiple panels. The result is closer to a fresco painting than an actual photograph.

Spirits of Père La Chaise VI

Inspirational... What is it that makes the human eye love looking at a dead body...? Although they seem, ironically, captures what the human eye love looking at a dead body...? Although they seem, Love’s Labour’s Lost (closed July 16), Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival, Jupiter

Having gone through the Bard’s most popular plays in its first 26 years, Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival opts for less familiar territory this summer with an early comedy by its namesake playwright, Love’s Labour’s Lost. In it, the King of Navarre decrees that he and his three close pals will have no contact with women for three years, devoting themselves instead to their studies. Of course, he did not figure on the arrival of the Princess of France and her comely courtiers or the rapid detection of his men in pursuit of romance. As rom-coms go, it practically writes itself.

Festival director-advisor Trent Stephens streamlined the text down to two hours (including a generous 20-minute intermission). Minor characters do disappear, but nothing that a canny editor wouldn’t have done to Old Will originally.

Prominent among the love couples are Berowne (Stephen Hedges) and Rosaline (Kelly Lee Hussey), whose verbal sparring brought to mind Benedick and Beatrice from the later Much Ado About Nothing. Also a standout was Courtney Poston as the French princess, a character based on Shakespeare’s prime patron, Queen Elizabeth I. He experiments with a late tonal shift when she learns of her father’s death and Poston rises in stature, soberly steeling herself to assume the monarchy. Festival audiences accustomed to broad comedy enjoyed Zack Myers as Spanish-language mangler Don Adriano de Armado. He stole each scene he was in with his oversized performance, inspired by Antonio Banderas. — Hap Erstein

Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival (July 9, Crest Theatre, Delray Beach)

The program of its inaugural concert of the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival’s 26th season was opened by the organization’s three founders: flutist Karen Fuller Dixon; clarinetist Michael Forte; and bassoonist Michael Ellert, who performed a Divertimento in B-flat (Op. 12a) by Johann Joachim Kuckotsch.

The Divertimento, published in 1953, has five brief movements that are very light in character. Although at least one commentator has compared Kuckotsch to Hindemith, the composition seems tenuous at best. The most striking quality of the work is its pervasive use of the minor mode. It was an intriguing opener, excellently performed.

The Festival is noted for its adventurous repertoire, and this concert hewed to that tradition. Eugene Ysaye’s Trio de concert, Le Londres, was performed by violinists Mei-Mei Luo and Dina Kostic, and violist Rene Reder. All three players are challenged almost continually by dense textures employing multiple stops. The effect is like hearing an imaginary fourth instrument at times. Over the duration of what seemed like an arch form, the players never allowed the music’s expressive intensity to flag.

Till Eulenspiegel — Einmal ander’rs! is a remarkable instrumental quintet wherein its arranger, Franz Hasenöhrl, performed a masterly piece of legerdemain: conveying both the musical sense and the sonority of the 100-piece orchestra of Richard Strauss’s famous tone poem from the combination of violin, clarinet, French horn, bassoon and double bass. Hasenöhrl condenses Strauss’s 15-minute original to eight minutes through clever tups and tucks of repetitions and transitional material that few listeners would notice. Violinist Luo and bassist Jeffrey Adkins anchored the top and bottom registers of the instrumental sonority. Stan Spiwola was the all-important horn player, assisted by Forte and Ellert.

After intermission came the most familiar of all the works performed, although Johannes Brahms’s Piano Quartet in C minor (Op. 6) is no popular favorite. Begun in the composer’s 20s, when he was besotted with his 16-year-old student Clara Schumann (a relationship that forever remained platonic), it was revised in his 40s and, like his late life revision of the Piano Trio, Op. 8, reflects the elder composer’s discomfort with the musical effusions of his youth.

The ensemble had the advantage of an excellent Steinway D piano, but pianist Milena Sterzina needed more sheer power in addition to accuracy and a good tone, to convey the scope of the first and second movements adequately. However, the teamwork among her, violinist Kostic, violist Reder, and cellist Susan Bergeron was precise and expressive. For its inaugural harm program, the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival served up a true musical feast. — Dennis D. Rooney

Dunkirk (opened July 21)

It is still summer, but the arrival of Christopher Nolan’s Dunkirk already has us thinking about next year’s Academy Awards. At a time when theaters are crowded with superhero epics for teenage fanboys, Nolan gives us a film for adults — a wartime history lesson as well as a textbook example of masterful direction and screenplay.

Without the visceral violence of a Saving Private Ryan — Nolan seems more focused on the apprehension of warfare, rather than the actual combat — Nolan’s Dunkirk is more resonant than Spielberg’s World War II saga. Pointedly, the London-born Nolan opts to tell a very British story, set in 1940, long before the United States ever entered the war. It is a pivotal moment in the war, when some 400,000 Allied troops — British, Belgian and French — are stranded in Northern France, on the beaches of Dunkirk, pinned down by German forces.

Despite some of the more theatrical German, but in the terror-filled eyes of the young British soldiers, we can sense the imminent threat they represent. The heart of Nolan’s screenplay is how he divides the battle into three fronts — land, sea and air — each in its own space and time, yet intercut to approximate simultaneity.

There are the young draftees on land, waiting to be evacuated, personified by teenage Tommy (a Nolan discovery, Fionn Whitehead, whose terror registers expressively on his face). There are the civilian yachtsmen who sail across the Channel, commanded by Sir Christopher (Stephen Dillane). And naval — a wartime history lesson as well as a textbook example of masterful direction and screenplay.

And most cinematically, there are the RAF Spitfire pilots, like the barely recognizable and almost wordless Tom Hardy, locked in dogfights with the Luftwaffe enemy.

The film is virtually bloodless, but death hovers throughout it. There is the howl of the wind, the sheer terror of what the hundreds of stranded men cannot. In a sinking ship or in the cockpit of a submerged aircraft.

Dunkirk is the latest in a long line of films that will know the outcome of the multipronged effort to evacuate the Allied troops at Dunkirk, but that does not make the viewing experience any less affecting. You are either in the car, at the cinema, or in a sinking ship or in the cockpit of a submerged aircraft.

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**Finding Mona Lisa** (through Aug. 13, Actors’ Playhouse, Coral Gables)

The point is made several times: The portrait that has captivated the world for 500 years is also the most famous painting in history, is merely “oil on wood.” But when Leonardo da Vinci applied the techniques of his craft to this canvas, he created an image of La Gioconda, the silk merchant’s wife with the irresistible smile, that continues to fascinate us.

The alchemy of art and the mystique that surrounds this particular painting are explored in *Finding Mona Lisa* by the prolific Michael McKeever. The writer’s interest in the iconography of this painting is now receiving its world premiere at Coral Gables’ Actors’ Playhouse.

A talented and theorical order, we meet an American couple who travel to Paris, so she can view the painting in person, despite the indifference of her husband, who is captivated by the painting-fixated tourist who is his wife. We meet an American couple, the young singer has sung with their bands and their emotive pop styles to sell out crowds. A pop musical in a Broadway musical. Nowhere have followed the career of Sweeney Todd, and the power of his music. Sweeney has been intent on reviving the musical in a Broadway factory set, Brian Hoernle Theatre at Spanish River High School, Boca Raton. Tickets start at $32. Visit www.cultureroom.com.

**Sweeney Todd**

Friday, Aug. 11

**ENGLISH DRAMA**

**Sweeney Todd**

**The Glyn Dryhurst Dixieland Jazz Band**

A two-gig package that enjoyed huge success beginning in the 1990s this tour for a double bill on Black Friday will celebrate the show. The show is directed by the legendary jazz artist Melton Brown and Dee Jay Silver. 7:30 pm, Perfect Vodka Amphitheatre, West Palm Beach. Tickets start at $20. Call 800-937-0010 or visit livenation.com.

**FILM**

**The Australian Pink Floyd Show**

Wednesday, Aug. 16

**JAZZ**

**The Phoenix Pops**

**Carabao**

Saturday, Aug. 5 and Saturday, Aug. 12

**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**Ensemble of Great American Songbook standards.** 8 pm, Boca Steinway Gallery, Boca Raton. $25.

**Boca Raton Museum of Art** (through Aug. 13: Two great women of their bands and their emotive pop styles to sell out crowds. A pop musical in a Broadway musical. Nowhere have followed the career of Sweeney Todd, and the power of his music. Sweeney has been intent on reviving the musical in a Broadway factory set, Brian Hoernle Theatre at Spanish River High School, Boca Raton. Tickets start at $32. Visit www.cultureroom.com.

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BOOKS
Continued from page AT1

Now that first barely rare book has grown into a catalog of about 10,000 titles, and in November 2016, Palm Beach’s Worth Avenue became home to Raptis Rare Books, an antiquarian bookstore where George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln share the shelves with James Bond, Tom Sawyer and the Beatles.

“This is the first venture I’ve not run out of my house,” says Raptis, who grew up near Saratoga, N.Y., and came to Palm Beach from Brattleboro, VT. A rare book dealer for 16 years, he’s sold his wares through online and printed catalogs until now. “I had a couple of clients who live here and I wanted more direct contact with clients,” he says. Now he’s the archivist to an enterprise that seems more museum than retail business. Browse the shelves, ponder the framed photographs on the walls, and prepare to be humbled.

Here’s the first English edition of Michel de Montaigne’s essays, printed in 1603.

There’s Profiles in Courage, signed by John F. Kennedy. Here’s an edition of Alcoholics Anonymous, anonymously signed by Bill Wilson, the organization’s founder.

There’s John Lennon’s In His Own Write, signed by both Lennon and Paul McCartney. On the wall, a very rare 1963 first edition of Rand’s The Fountainhead in the original dust jacket, priced at $70,000. You might assume collectors are looking for items in perfect or near-perfect condition, but sometimes it’s the flaw that adds value. On one wall, Raptis displays a note card from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, dated June 3, 1990.

“Dear Mikhail & Raisa, Welcome to California,” the former U.S. president wrote to the former Russian president and his wife. But he’d misspelled and crossed out the incorrect “Mikhail.” The corrected version is in the presidential library. The discarded copy, signed “Ron,” is available here for $8,200. First editions of Donald Trump’s The Art of the Deal sell for about $1,000. Raptis said. A thousand dollars for a book is not cheap, even a book co-written by the president of the United States.

end of Raptis’ inventory is Adam Smith’s The Wealth of Nations. Of 1,800 copies printed in 1776, only about 200 survive, which explains the $160,000 asking price.

So who buys rare books?

“My customers share a mystique about rare books,” Raptis says. “or they want a book they fell in love with as a child. Yes, prestige may be a factor, a little bit, but for the people I see, there really is an element of passion. I’ve built collections for hedge fund guys who want to own these great books they read at Harvard. I’ve sold The Wealth of Nations a few times.”

In the course of an hour, three potential buyers come through the door, even on this overcast Monday morning in the off-season. One is in search of medical textbooks and books about public health. Another asks for Edith Wharton’s The Age of Innocence. And a young couple seeking a Father’s Day gift want to know if Raptis has the Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant.

He does, the two-volume, 1884 first edition, published by Charles L. Webster & Co., founded by Mark Twain and named after Twain’s niece’s husband.

In a lifetime of failed business ventures, publishing Grant’s memoirs was the only one that made Twain any money. The book was a huge bestseller, and Twain was able to give the late president’s widow a royalty check for $200,000. The copy Raptis shows his young customers (and recently sold for $750) is not the same one he bought all those years ago, as a boy of 10. He won’t part with that, or his copies of One Hundred Years of Solitude or To Kill a Mockingbird, personally autographed to him by Gabriel Garcia Márquez and Harper Lee.

And speaking of Mark Twain, here’s an 1876 first edition of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, and a letter from Twain to Brann Steker, author of Dracula.

How must it feel to get a new rare book or letter for his catalog? Doesn’t Raptis hold it lovingly, turn each page, ponder the binding, contemplate the genius that wrote it, the hands that have held it?

“No,” he says. “I smell it. I love the smell of rare books. That old paper. It fills me with emotion and sentiment.”

Raptis Rare Books, 226 Worth Ave, Palm Beach, is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 508-3479.
Spady House Band
by David Bezmozgis
243-7350; mydelraybeach.com

2:30 pm. Per class $5/resident; $6/non- resident. 243-7260; mydelraybeach.com

Adult Beginner Dance: Tango at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Essential ballroom dance: music. Every M-Th 7-10 pm. Pre-registration required. Free/$10 at door.

Adult Coloring Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NE 2nd Ave. Adults. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 347-0520; delraylibrary.org

Adult Coloring Club at Boynton Beach Library Community Room, 3618 Ocean Blvd. Adults. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 278-8883; spadymuseum.org

Adult Coloring Club at Palm Beach State College W. Palm Beach, 1900 W. Palm Beach Blvd. Adults. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 622-6140; palmbeachstate.edu

Adult Coloring Club at Mizner Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Rotating displays of coloring pages. Every Th 1-3 pm. Free. 278-8883; spadymuseum.org

Adult Coloring Club at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 343-7505; boyntonlibrary.org

Adult Coloring Club at Palm Beach State College W. Palm Beach, 1900 W. Palm Beach Blvd. Adults. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 622-6140; palmbeachstate.edu

Adult Coloring Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1-3 pm. Free. 262-2754; delbury.org

Adult Coloring Club at West Boca Library, 1300 N Military Trail, Boynton Beach. Adults. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 243-7057; boyntonlibrary.org

Adult Coloring Club at North Palm Beach Library, 501 Broad St. Adults. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 565-9850; npbfl.com

Adult Coloring Club at Palm Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Rotating facilities. Every Th 1-4 pm. Free. 243-7260; mydelraybeach.com

Adult Coloring Club at Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 North Olive Road, West Palm Beach. Adults. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 683-7984; mbg.org

Adult Coloring Club at Boynton Beach Library, 200 NE 2nd Ave. Adults. Drop-in. 1-3 pm. Free. 347-0520; delraylibrary.org

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We deliver The Coastal Star to every county, township
and condo in South Palm Beach, Palm Beach, Martin,
Manatee, St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin, Baker,
Gulf Stream, coastal Delray Beach, Highlandland
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Combined, we publish over 17,000 copies of the best local
coverage every month.

AUGUST 13-19
Sunday-8/13 - Tennessee Soul Man
Danny James and the Liss Magnet of Arts
Rage Bar, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7:30-11 pm. 540-2486; artsravedel.com
Monday-8/14 - 4th Annual Boca’s Got Talent
at Andrew Jackson Pub, 425 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Benefits Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6-8 pm. 429-6528; mskbocaraton.org
Tuesday-8/15 - Cooking in the Garden: Creative Culinary Class with Chef Nina of Bean Scene Productions: Convenient, Portion-Based Meals in a Mason Jar: Breakfast at Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm Beach. With Chef Nina of Bean Scene Productions: Convenient, Portion-Based Meals in a Mason Jar: Breakfast at Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm Beach. 6-8 pm. 429-6528; mskbocaraton.org
Friday-8/18 - Kohl’s Cares & More at The Coastal Star
17,000 copies of the best local

18/18 - Ladies Night Out at South Florida Science Center, 4001 Okeechobee Way, West Palm Beach. Cocktails, cosmetics, science demos, food/wine samples, silent auction, giveaways. Men: Age 21 & older. 5-7 pm. 518-9417; sfsc.org
18/18 - Night of Foundations at The Cannon, 6000 NE Rd, Suite 1390. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6-7 pm. 503-0500; personalfoundations.com
18/18 - Ukulele Music Interactive at Arts at Venice Park, 45 NE 2nd St, Delray Beach. All ages. 1st & 3rd Thurs. 6-7 pm. 540-7300; mydelraybeach.com
18/18 - FAU Agricultural & Oceanographic Symposium at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Garfield Rd, Boca Raton. 1st & 3rd Thurs. 6-7 pm. 540-7300; physics.fau.edu/symposium
18/18 - Florida Native Plant Society Chapter Meeting at Atlantic Botanical Gardens, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm Beach. Members in print. 3rd & 5th Thurs. 6-7 pm. palmbeachrepocrates.com
18/18 - Real Estate Round Table at Boca Chamber Beach of Commerce, 480 NE 3rd St. 9-10:30 am. Free. 152, florida-camboc.com
18/18 - Annual Auctions of Book Fundraiser at B&I Contractors, 15 S Ocean Blvd, Deerfield Beach. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5-7 pm. 503-7000; bocausauction.com
18/18 - New Deal Artists Who Became Modern Masters with Joan Lipton, PhD at Society of the Arts of Downtown Education Building. 3 Tour Arts Plaza, Boca Palm Beach. Part of Campus on the Lake lecture series. Includes lunch. 11 am-4 pm. 503-7000; reservations. 954-865-0377; flarts.org
18/18 - Literary Lectures: A.S. Byatt at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NE 2nd Ave. 9-10:30 am. Free. 503-7000; bocaroboca.com
18/18 - Summer Classics Off Our Bookshelves: A Novel of the Lightship Lilibet at SB Lightship Museum on Oceanside, 234 N Ocean Blvd, Deerfield Beach. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5-7 pm. 503-7000; sblightship.org
18/18 - Real Estate Round Table at Boca Chamber Beach of Commerce, 480 NE 3rd St. 9-10:30 am. Free. 152, florida-camboc.com
18/18 - The Ben Recht Show at Arts at Venice Park, 45 NE 2nd St, Delray Beach. 7 pm. 540-4457; artsravedel.com
18/18 - Comprehensive Plan Update Community Workshop at The Fieldhouse at South Florida Science Center, 4001 Okeechobee Way, Delray Beach. 9-noon. Free. 243-7040; mydelraybeach.com
18/18 - Writing The World part of Florida Authors Academy Workshops at Murder on the Beach Bookstore, 273 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 9-noon. Free. Pre-registration required. 227-7790; murderonthebeach.com
18/18 - Taste History Culinary Tours of Historic Delray Beach & Bay Beach conducted by Museum of Lifestyle & Design History. 9 tours through May 2. Bonita Beach, 1701 NE 3rd Ave, Boca Raton. To register, go to delraybeach.com or call 561-351-4620. Under 18 reserves. Required 24-6622; tastehistorytours.com

AUGUST 20-26
Sunday-8/20 - Concept: Mei Mei Lin, Violin and Daphne Sportes-Swope, Piano part of Music at St. Paul’s series at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 3 pm. 540-3555; 605-5077; artsgala.com
Monday-8/21 - Taste History Culinary Tours of Historic Delray Beach & Bay Beach conducted by Museum of Lifestyle & Design History. 9 tours through May 2. Bonita Beach, 1701 NE 3rd Ave, Boca Raton. To register, go to delraybeach.com or call 561-351-4620. Under 18 reserves. Required 24-6622; tastehistorytours.com
Tuesday-8/22 - Red Cross Blood Drive at 273 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 11 am-7 pm. Free. 561-339-5686; redcrossblood.org
Wednesday-8/23 - Singing Out Loud with Jill & Rich Switzer at Harbour Hammock Hotel, 605 S Rosemary Ave, West Palm Beach. 7 pm. 503-0500; student. 464-4809; kerryganz.com
Thursday-8/24 - A High-Rise Would Fill the Former Bank of America Land at Federal Blvd., Lantana. Cocktail attire or German casual. Under 3. 547-9453; palmbeachzoo.org
Friday-8/25 - “The 5th of the 7th” at Delray Beach Central Library, 101 W. swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. 243-7022; oldschoolecture.org
Saturday-8/26 - National Chocolate Popsicle Day at the University of Florida Food Science 
and Human Nutrition Building. 14650 Lyons Rd. Enjoy classic chocolate bars, sips and store. All ages. 1-4 pm. 561-650-5200; jenkinsgarden.ufl.edu
developed by Jill & Rich Switzer at Harbour Hammock Hotel, 605 S Rosemary Ave, West Palm Beach. 7 pm. 503-0500; student. 464-4809; kerryganz.com
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18/18 - “We’ve been living here 17 months...” Dennis L. We will be happy to tailor your advertising campaign
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**August 2017**

**THE COASTAL STAR**

**Community Calendar AT15**

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**seating: 350/repair; $5/student. 276-3900; parking@florida.com**

**8/20 – It’s a Sock Hop with Joey Dale and the Parodists at the Pointkon Club, 371 Yuma Rd, Boca Raton. 6 pm dinner; 8 pm show/ticket/dancing. $110 includes house drink. 972-0000; parking@florida.com**

**8/20 – Salty Sunday Fun Run with Delray Beach Running Club begins and ends at Lantana Brewery, 1701 W Atlantic Ave. 5-6, free entry. 6:30 pm. Free. 270-7622, rundelraybeach.com**

**Monday - 8/21 – Monday Morning Muffins & Mysteries: The Joy by Jo Nesbo at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10-11 am. Free. Phone: 393-9766, bocaratonlibrary.com**

**Wednesday - 8/23 – Intrins to Windows 10 at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Phone: 393-7982, bocaratonlibrary.com**

**Thursday - 8/24 – Making-a-Garden Trough: The Hypertufa Process at Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 NE Military Trl, West Palm Beach. Presented by Todd Johnson. 9 am-noon. $25/student, $225/ non-member. 231-1177, mounts.org**

**Friday - 8/25 – A Special Invitation Exhibition at Blue Moon Mexican Cafe, 577 NW 1st Ave, Boca Raton. Benefits Blue Moon Cares. 6-10 pm. Free. phone: 393-7900, bocaratonlibrary.com**

**August 27-Sept. 2 **

**Sunday - 8/27 – Bagels & Bingo at Temple Sinai, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. 5 pm. Free. 247-0130, temple.sinai.org**

**Tuesday - 8/29 – VIBE: Delray’s Hottest Jam Session at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Bring an instrument and vibe with Delray’s local musicians. 8 pm. $10. 560-6157, artsgarage.com**

**Wednesday - 8/30 – 3rd Annual Lip Sync Battle at Blue Martini, 6001 Glades Rd, Suite C-1580, Boca Raton. Benefits Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. 6-8 pm. $25/admission, $50/at the door. 243-2339, nothinelsegonematter.com**

**Thursday - 8/31 – Summer in Paradise Concert at Flagler Dr. Drew Baldridge in concert. Live music, poolside drinking & food. $60/$80 advanced, $75/student (17 & younger). 547-9453, palmbeachzo.org**

**Friday - 9/1 – Learning a New Signature Cocktail at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Signature cocktail. 7-9 pm. $35/includes $70 gift certificate. 745-9453, oldschoolsquare.org**

**Saturday - 9/2 – Wingman at West Palm Beach Waterfront Great Lawn, 101 N Flagler Dr. Double Down BBQ in concert. Live music & water side dining. Benefits Sister Cites of Delray Beach & other nonprofits. $40/advance, $45/on day. 588-8344; wingmanwpt.com**

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**Monday - 8/28 – Center City Film Series: Hot American Summer at Old School Square Fieldhouse, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Snack & draft beer station. Costumes encouraged. 7 pm doors; 8 pm film. $5-$15; 243-7922, oldschoolsquare.org**

**Tuesday - 8/29 – 11th Annual Bowling for Bread at Stiles of Boca, 3100 Commercial Dr. Benefits Boca Helping Hands. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 2-5 pm. $50-$500; 475-3782; karen@bochelpinghands.com**

**Wednesday - 8/30 – The Economic Basis of the Withering Away of the State at part of Great Books group at Bonetton Beach City Library, 8 S Secret Blvd. 10-11:30 am. Free. 954-360-4835, bonettonbeachlibrary.org**

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**July 21 – Family and Parent Welcome Weekend at Lynn University, 150 N Military Trl, Boca Raton. 8 am-7:30 pm, Lynn.edu/welcomes.**

**Saudi Arabia**

**Saturday – 8/26 – The Ins and Outs of the Agent. Part of Florida Authors Academy Workshop at Murder on the Bookstore, 273 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Teach Midwest Murder no V.S Alexander. 10. Pre-registration required 255-2790-79; murderinsidemidwest.com**

**Sunday – 8/27 – Sizzlin’ Summer Social Series: Margarita Monday at The Pavilion Grille, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 246-9940, delraylibrary.org**

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**Sunday - 9/3 – So Danca Dance Company Fair at Boca Ball Theatre, 7630 NW 66th Ave, Boca Raton. 4 8-10 pm; Sat 4-8 pm; Sun 10 am-3 pm. 5791 9950-9209, collegeanddancefair.com.**

**Saturday - 9/5 – Boca Restaurant Month: Boca Loves New York! at participating restaurants throughout Boca Raton. 1-course meal/signature drink at reduced price. Lunch $12.51-22, dinner $56-140. 395-4433, bocarestaurantmonth.com**

**Saturday - 9/10 – Food Palm Beach at various locations throughout Palm Beach County. Boca Raton Food Bank.**

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