Boca Regional Hospital aims to merge with Baptist Health

By Sallie James

A little more than a year after Boca Raton Regional Hospital celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017, the medical facility once known as the “Miracle on Meadows Road” has announced it will enter discussions to merge with health care giant Baptist Health South Florida. The hospital said in a statement that the decision culminates an initiative that began more than a year ago to elevate the hospital’s position as an academic referral center in South Florida. Baptist is headquartered in Coral Gables.

“We are pleased with the board’s decision to move forward with Baptist,” said Jerry Fedele, president and CEO of Boca Raton Regional Hospital. “While this was a most difficult choice, one that was between two of the finest health care providers in the country, our trustees believe Baptist is the best fit for Boca Regional.”

The proposed merger is a huge marker of change for a community-minded hospital born out of tragedy in

See BAPTIST on page 7

By Rich Pollack

It’s back to the drawing board for Highland Beach commissioners in their quest to find a new town manager following a raucous meeting that included the abrupt resignation of a consultant, a shouting match between a former vice mayor and the current commission and complaints about an ineffective search process.

With the clock ticking and interim Town Manager Bill Thrasher set to leave as early as Aug. 21, the head of the executive search firm hired in June to find candidates for the job abruptly withdrew during the July 30 meeting after facing criticism for not providing a more extensive list of qualified candidates.

The special meeting, scheduled so commissioners could interview three potential candidates for the town’s top administrative position, started with news that one of the candidates had withdrawn, apparently put off by what he perceived as a lack of civility.

That was followed by a fiery exchange between former Vice Mayor Bill Weitz and members of the commission, who complained that Weitz’s stinging criticism of the elected officials during public comments was out of place.

Weitz left the meeting while Police Chief Craig Hartmann

See MELTDOWN on page 17

By Dan Moffett

Jimmy McAndrew says he has been tormented enough by the iguanas surrounding his Ocean Ridge home.

They have defecated on his patio. They have torn up his landscaping. And, worst, “They have scared my 98-year-old mother-in-law out of her wits.”

McAndrew’s frustration boiled over after he hired an animal removal company to set a trap in his backyard. When he went to check it, he found a 4-foot iguana sunning himself atop the cage, as if enjoying the Intracoastal view.

“They are disgusting creatures,” McAndrew said. During an April meeting of the Town

Iguanas are a common sight along the Intracoastal seawalls from Manalapan to Boca Raton. TOP: One suns itself on River Drive in Ocean Ridge. ABOVE: A pack of eight on Sabal Island Drive in Ocean Ridge. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star and photo provided by Jimmy McAndrew

Who should control iguana infestation?

Along the Coast

Town’s debate puts focus on whether fix lies with government

By Dan Moffett

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Who should control iguana infestation?
I’ve watched one tide turn since we started this newspaper almost 10 years ago. Where there once was a reluctance to utter the words “sea level rise” from the dais, the phrase now is part of the municipal vernacular during discussions on building regulations and comprehensive planning.

It’s about time.

Our larger cities have begun to hire sustainability officers, and most of our barrier island municipalities have identified at least one official to participate in regional groups looking for solutions to the rising waters in our backyards. It’s heartening to see this progress.

But planning for the inevitable will take time, so what can we do now? Simple: maintenance.

The first leaks in our current island drainage plans come when we don’t pay attention to our infrastructure. All municipalities between the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway should build infrastructure maintenance into the budget plans they will discuss over the summer. Residents should demand it. Local Realtors should demand it. Coastal businesses should demand it — especially builders.

We all know the value of property in this area. If we don’t act soon, we stand to watch those very attractive values sink as the water rises. Taxpayers expect roads, sea walls, outflow valves, swales and drainage systems to be regularly checked and maintained.

The fact that they often haven’t been is deeply concerning. Discovering that a neighborhood has a problem only when the streets flood is unacceptable.

Now is the time to budget for maintenance and repairs. Fix the existing problems. Enforce the building codes that are already on the books. Make sure that new construction doesn’t have a negative effect on existing drainage systems. And plan for the future.

I don’t think you’ll hear any complaints from the taxpayers.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

Pay now for protection against rising seas

BY RICH POLLACK

Lifting children who use a helping hand is in Rich Mascolo’s DNA.

The son of two successful educators who recognized the potential in every child, and uncle who worked as teachers, Mascolo strayed from the “family business” and found success in advertising and marketing in New York. Still, Mascolo, who lives in Ocean Ridge, couldn’t fully escape the calling that runs in the family bloodline.

Mascolo, who is on the board of the YMCA of South Palm Beach County, learned that a decade-long program that sends more than 80 children served by the Caridad Center — the largest free clinic in Florida — to the Y’s summer camp for free was nearly a fiscal disaster. A major funder pulled out unexpectedly, leaving a gap of more than $25,000.

“Suddenly a significant number of kids were uncovered,” Mascolo said. Determined to ensure all the children got to camp, Mascolo reached out to friends, family and associates to ask for contributions.

In the end, enough money was raised to avoid disrupting the 10-week Caridad YMCA camp at the Boynton branch.

“I just told the story,” Mascolo said. An important part of that story is that a few years ago, half of the children who had come to the camp had gone on to college.

“I was so taken with how successful the program was,” Mascolo said.

Children from the Caridad Center who attend the camp, many from families living below or near the federal poverty line, get the typical summer camp experience plus tips for healthy living and exposure to an academic element that includes math, science and the arts.

Mascolo, who says most of the contributions were in the $1,000 or $2,000 range, raised the bulk of the needed money in less than two months.

“It happened quickly because the cause is human, tangible and compelling… and our pals have big hearts,” he said.

Mascolo’s devotion to the program for Caridad Center camp is the key to his success, says Barry Davis, executive director of the Y’s Boynton branch.

“You could see the passion and how much the program meant to him,” Davis said. People just came up to him and said, ‘How can I help?’

Mascolo, 63, and his wife, Bebe, became members of the YMCA in 2007, when they were still part-time residents, and saw firsthand the impact it had on the community.

“We got to know the Y,” he said. “We got a close-up look at what they were doing and we were knocked out.”

Mascolo said he and Bebe had no idea that the YMCA was a nonprofit organization and they didn’t know that it’s the Y’s policy never to turn anyone away who can’t afford to join.

“Once we understood that, we got involved,” he said. First stop for Mascolo was the YMCA of South Palm Beach County’s marketing committee, where he set about trying to get the word out about all the YMCA does.

“What I wanted to do is help them uncover the obvious,” he said.

By 2015, Mascolo was drafted to serve on the Y’s board of trustees. For Davis at the Boynton branch, Mascolo is a go-to guy, who is always looking for ways to help the organization.

“When you think of a cheerleader or an advocate, that’s Rich,” Davis said. “No matter what challenges we face, Rich is always a positive force.”

Mascolo points to a common denominator between what his parents and aunt and uncle dedicated their work to and what the Y sets out to achieve.

“They tried to build bridges for kids they thought would fall through the cracks and who don’t have advantages or access to resources,” he said. “The Y is about building bridges and filling gaps.”

His father became a superintendent of schools pioneering an alternative school program, while his uncle created an innovative program and was recognized as “Teacher of the Year” by Bill Clinton. His aunt was a reading specialist who developed creative techniques for her students, while his mother was an elementary school teacher, beloved by her students.

“All of them recognized the potential of every child,” he said.

Mascolo says the Y has a similar vision. “When I see the kids in the Caridad YMCA camp having the greatest day of their lives, I think about the kindness of all the people I reached out to,” he said.
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INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
New Publix grocery to celebrate grand opening on Aug. 16

By Dan Moffett

When a Publix Super Market held its grand opening in Spotsylvania County, Va., last month, shoppers started lining up before 2:30 a.m. to be there when the electric doors parted at 7.

It’s unlikely Manalapan will match that level of consumer fervor. But make no mistake, in their own way, Manalapan residents are about as excited as those in Spotsylvania to get their new Publix.

After three years of polite yet persistent wrangling between town and corporation, Publix is set to open its supermarket at the town and corporation, Publix supermarket at Manalapan’s Plaza del Mar on Aug. 16.

“We’re very, very happy with what’s going on here,” said Mayor Keith Waters. “They’ve done a remarkable job. They’ve been very cooperative with the community in addressing our needs.”

Those needs included architectural features not typically seen in nearly all the other 1,188 Publix stores.

It took the town and the company more than 10 months to agree on a sign design. There will be no iconic green and white Publix trademark atop the front doors — but rather, a tasteful, understated backlit marquee.

Dozens of 25-foot areca palm trees line the backside of the plaza to hide delivery trucks and a water tank needed to boost water pressure. The store’s exterior color palette is a tranquil, beige shade of beige. The company’s proposal for a free-standing liquor store next to the supermarket was pronounced dead on arrival by town commissioners.

In floorspace, the new supermarket is about 28,000 square feet, roughly that of the Publix in downtown Lake Worth but 25 percent smaller than the one at CityPlace in West Palm Beach.

The doors of the new store will open at 7 a.m. Aug. 16, said Nicole Maristany Krauss, the company’s media and community relations manager. “Customers will receive an insulated Publix reusable goodie bag from the Publix Pharmacy and enjoy tastings in all departments,” she said.

The Publix is the centerpiece in a $10 million renovation of the 30-year-old Plaza del Mar. Kitson & Partners, the plaza landlords, said the overhaul actually will shrink total retail space from about 103,000 square feet to 83,000 square feet. The sweeping overhaul includes new pavement, landscaping, signage and LED lighting.

The plaza has languished in recent years, town officials say, and the Great Recession that began in 2007 took a toll. Occupancy fell below 70 percent at times.

“It was tired,” said Vice Mayor Peter Isaac, who commended Kitson for giving the mall the makeover it needed. Publix has chosen Wade Rinderknecht, who currently manages the CityPlace store, to take over as manager in Manalapan.

“I’ve always just loved being around people,” Rinderknecht said. “I’m looking forward to being part of the community here and serving the residents.”

Will the Manalapan store offer the town’s upscale consumers anything beyond the offerings of a typical Publix? Rinderknecht isn’t saying.

“We have some things in mind,” he said. “We’ll see.”

In other business, the Town Commission tentatively approved a substantial increase in the tax rate for the next fiscal year to cover the cost of expanding the Police Department.

During their meeting on July 14, commissioners unanimously signed off on raising the rate to $3.03 per $1,000 of taxable property value, up roughly 8 percent from the current $2.795.

With a 10 percent increase in property values during the last year, Manalapan expects to bring in enough revenue to help pay for a police and security expansion that could cost more than $500,000.

The town wants to add four uniformed officers to expand the force to 15, increase police salaries and benefits, and add to its network of surveillance and license plate recognition cameras.

Final hearings on the 2019 budget are scheduled for Sept. 18 and Sept. 25, both beginning at 5:01 p.m. 

Letter to the Editor

Free press more vital than ever

We read your column in the July issue of The Coastal Star (“With anger everywhere, violence not a surprise”) and were saddened, but not surprised, to learn of the challenges you and your staff face in the execution of your duties at the paper.

We are from the Annapolis area and we mourn the senseless loss of the five dedicated staff members at the Capital Gazette.

In the unfortunate era in which we now live, a free press is more vital than ever.

We wanted to let you and your team know how much we appreciate and value the work that you do. We support you without question.

Matt Gaffney and Ned Keomol
Delray Beach
City rejects assisted living facility, cites parking, EMS concerns

By Mary Hladky

In a surprising defeat for a well-regarded Boca Raton-based developer, City Council members on July 23 rejected its plan to build a luxury adult living facility in the downtown.

Council members, sitting as Community Redevelopment Agency commissioners, rejected the Concierge by a 3-1 vote, with only Deputy Mayor Jeremy Rodgers in support of the nine-story project that would have included 53 independent living, 37 assisted living and 20 memory care units.

Plans for the $75 million facility had the support of city staff and the urban design consultant and had been unanimously approved by the Community Appearance Board and by a 5-2 vote of the Planning and Zoning Board.

But council members torpedoed the Concierge over concerns that the facility would overburden the city’s fire-rescue services and lacked adequate parking.

“I am very concerned about the fire-rescue issue and the added burden it will have on our fire-rescue system,” council member Monica Mayotte said. Council member Andrea O’Rourke said the council needs to address how to pay for fire-rescue costs before it approves any more adult living facilities.

City staff highlighted those costs, saying adult living facilities have 15 times as many calls for service per bed as does a typical multifamily development. The annual cost of a rescue unit, including the vehicle, equipment and staff, is about $2 million.

Fire Chief Tom Wood said his department is on the verge of not meeting time standards for responding to emergency calls and is asking for an additional rescue unit.

“We are in desperate need of additional EMS services as we speak now,” Wood said.

City code requires the facility to have 127 parking spaces, but only 88 would have been provided. City staff concluded that was not a problem since many of the facility’s residents would not have cars.

But council members repeatedly asked if the 88 spaces would be enough for residents, staff and visitors. The Concierge’s representatives pushed back against both criticisms. The American Seniors Housing Association, a nonprofit trade organization, found that senior housing facilities have less need for ambulance services since medical staff are on duty 24 hours a day who can resolve many issues without needing to call an ambulance, said attorney Ele Zachariades.

The Concierge would have had nurses on duty round the clock, representatives said. On the issue of parking, Ignacio Diaz, co-owner of developer Group P6, said only about 25 percent of independent living residents would need parking.

Many would have used the Concierge’s shuttle service to get around town.

“We believe [the Concierge] is greatly overparked,” he said.

The city’s rejection of the Concierge raises the possibility of yet another lawsuit against the city. Developer Crocker Partners sued the city in May after the City Council delayed adopting ordinances that would have allowed it to proceed with plans to redevelop Midtown near the Town Center mall.

The city’s action was unexpected for several reasons. Group P6 is known for strictly adhering to the city’s rules, and its previous luxury condo projects downtown sailed to easy approval.

And the City Council approved two other senior living projects last year even though staff had raised the issue of the cost of ambulance services.

In unanimously approving a 193-unit luxury assisted living facility at 375 E. Royal Palm Road proposed by Boca Raton-based Penn-Florida Cos., council members agreed with the developer that such a facility is badly needed and would be a welcome addition to the downtown.

At the time, Wood said Penn-Florida’s facility alone wouldn’t create a need for a new rescue unit, but 10 such facilities would.

Council members said the city needed to develop a policy or rules that would make all adult living facilities bear some of the cost of increased city services.

City staffers said at the July 23 meeting that they hadn’t worked on that yet.

The cost issue is not clear-cut. Even if adult living facilities do create a need for more rescue services, they don’t generate a need for more schools, and it’s unlikely police would be called to quell disturbances. Elderly people living in a home may call 911 when they fall, but senior living facilities have nurses and other staff on hand to help them.

Adult living facilities traditionally have been located in suburban areas, but now are popping up in downtowns because today’s retirees want to be near shopping, restaurants and cultural venues. Downtown adult living facilities are an extension of the urban renaissance that has attracted empty nesters and young professionals.

**CORRECTION**
A story in the July edition about small business owners in downtown Boca Raton said Glenn Gromann’s recommendations for streamlining the city’s project review process included allowing site plans to be reviewed and approved by city staff and the city manager. That recommendation was to allow city staff and the city manager to approve amendments to site plans.

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Offices in Boca Raton and Delray Beach
Along the Coast

Cities see ebb in overdose deaths

By Jane Smith

The Delray Beach mayor measures the drop in overdoses by the sound of sirens.

"We no longer hear the sirens blaring from rescue vehicles racing to the next overdose," said Mayor Shelly Petrolia. "It used to happen several times a day. … I always worried whether that person would make it."

She also sees fewer addicts wandering on city streets wheeling suitcases behind them, indicating they were kicked out of sober homes.

At the peak of the opioid epidemic in Delray Beach, police responded to 96 overdoses in October 2018. Eleven were fatal.

Since that time, South County coastal cities and the county have worked together to rid the area of rogue operators. The state attorney received state money in July 2016 to start a Sober Homes Task Force. More than 50 people have been arrested on patient brokering, marketing abuse and insurance fraud charges.

Delray Beach had eight fatal overdoses in the first six months of 2018 compared with 37 deaths in the same period in 2017. Boynton Beach recorded 20 deaths this year and 33 fatal overdoses in the same period last year.

Delray Beach also has a social worker on its police force. Ariana Ciancio visits overdose treatment or tickets back to their home cities.

Its police force. Ariana Ciancio visits overdose treatment or tickets back to their home cities.

Boynton Beach Mayor Stephen Grant credits that ordinance for making "a huge difference."

Sober homes will have to be certified by the Florida Association of Recovery Residences to open in both cities.

Delray Beach city commissioners will take up their first exception case on Aug. 21. The city has a distance requirement for group homes to prevent clustering.

At the July 16 Planning and Zoning Board meeting, Stepping Stones’ application to open was denied because the Osceola neighborhood the recovery residence is in already has three others within 660 feet.

Stepping Stones was operating when the distance ordinance was passed and only recently came to the city’s attention. City staff recommended approval and the PBZ board denied it. Several neighbors spoke against it.

The commission has the ultimate say.

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Along the Coast

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The commission has the ultimate say.

Work on new I-95 interchange at Atlantic set to begin this month

By Jane Smith

To meet growing traffic demands, the state will do a $5.2 million construction project at the Atlantic Avenue interchange about 10 miles west of Delray Beach.

The project is set to begin Aug. 15 and is expected to last slightly longer than one year, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

FDOT will take place mainly along a 1-mile stretch of Atlantic Avenue from the E-4 Canal, just west of Congress Avenue, to Northwest South 10th Avenue. FDOT owns Atlantic Avenue in this area.

FDOT predicts the average annual daily traffic to increase from 47,000 vehicles in 2016 to 59,800 in 2040, growing at an annual rate of 1.39 percent. The department will showcase its plan at a public meeting between 4 and 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at the city’s Environmental Services building, 434 S. Swinton Ave.

While the state talks about traffic capacity and safety of drivers, Delray Beach city commissioners are focused on a multimodal transportation plan that includes walkers and bicyclists.

FDOT representatives said they first met with Delray Beach residents in July 2014. They also heard from Human Powered Delray, a nonprofit group dedicated to bike and pedestrian safety.

The department listened to the group’s suggestions, but FDOT did not incorporate most of them into the redesign because of cost constraints and lack of space, said Guillermo Canedo, FDOT spokesman.

Bill Bathurst, a new commissioner who was designated as the FDOT point person at the July 10 commission meeting, said, “We are getting a little bit more of what we wanted. I’m still concerned that it’s dangerous for bicyclists and bike riders who live east of the interstate and walk west on Atlantic.”

When his son was in high school and wrestled on the Atlantic High School team, Bathurst picked up his son and teammates daily after practice and drove them home, east of I-95. The high school sits on Atlantic Avenue, west of Congress.

The Palm Beach County School District usually does not provide bus service to students living within 2 miles of the school. But for Atlantic High students who live east of I-95, the district makes an exception and provides bus transportation, according to Shane Searchwell, general manager of transportation services.

Bathurst is trying to set

FDOT changes will allow traf- fic to more easily flow from westbound Atlantic Avenue to the I-95 on-ramps.

ABOVE: The northbound on-ramp has an exclusive safety lane at the start with a border that prevents vehicles from crossing shows a travel lane from westbound Atlantic that goes under the I-95 overpass. The maroon line indicates a sidewalk, and the adjacent yellow represents a bicycle lane. Graphic provided up a meeting with FDOT representatives and various community leaders before the construction work starts.

FDOT will upgrade the Interstate 95 on-ramps to be “segregated, exclusive safety lanes” from westbound Atlantic, Canedo said. The lanes, also called turbo lanes, will be separated from the other travel lanes by a 4-inch raised concrete barrier that has 5-foot plastic batons on top, he said, to prevent vehicles from crossing over at the last minute.

“The angle of the southbound on-ramp will be changed to improve pedestrian safety,” Canedo said.

East of the interstate on the north side of Atlantic, walkers will have a 6-foot-wide sidewalk and bike riders will get a dedicated 7-foot lane. West of the interstate, bike riders will share the lane with vehicles from the southbound I-95 off-ramp west to Congress Avenue.

Pedestrians and bike riders must cross over the turbo lanes twice when traveling westbound on Atlantic. Eastbound walkers and cyclists also must cross over the angling traffic getting onto the southbound on-ramp and on the other side of the interstate, traffic lanes for vehicles whizzing the northbound interstate.
BAPTIST
Continued from page 1

1967. The horrific poisoning deaths of two young children and the absence of a local medical center became the impetus for its construction. The town had about 10,000 residents and a group of volunteers with a mission.

“The goal always is to be better,” said Joan Wargo, 88, who has logged more than 35,000 volunteer hours there over the past 50 years. “We have an expansion planned we have been working on for over a year. We are planning on building a new tower. I just hope people will understand…how much more progressive it’s going to be for the residents of Boca Raton. I think it’s great.”

“I would not say it’s an end of an era. I say it’s the beginning of another one. We are not ending Boca Raton Regional Hospital by any means.”

In a May 2017 interview, Fedele spoke of the hospital’s close link to the community and its residents.

“We are really the sweet spot of medicine. We are big enough to provide the best care but small enough to still have that community atmosphere,” Fedele told The Coastal Star.

Today, this hospital has grown into a regional treatment complex with about 2,800 employees, 1,200 volunteers and approximately 800 doctors on staff. The Debbie-Rand Memorial Service League has provided more than $31 million to the hospital since the League’s formation in 1962.

The proposed merger would place the 400-bed Boca Raton Regional Hospital in partnership with the neighboring 600-bed Bethesda Hospital East in Boynton Beach — once a rival of sorts.

Baptist Health South Florida

Baptist Health South Florida is among the largest healthcare organizations in South Florida, with 10 hospitals, more than 40 physician practices and 50 outpatient and urgent care facilities. The organization also has approximately 11,500 employees and more than 3,000 affiliated physicians.

Fedele, who had planned to retire in 2018, has agreed to stay on through August 2019 to assist with the transition. Fedele has served as CEO of Boca Raton Regional Hospital for the past 10 years.

Baptist Health South Florida said in a statement that “Boca Raton Regional Hospital aligns strategically with our organization and our plans to improve access to quality health care in our region. We share not-for-profit values of exceptional quality and service for our patients, high physician and employee engagement and a commitment to the communities we serve. We look forward to continuing to work with Boca Raton Regional Hospital to improve access to quality health care in our region.”

In May, Boca Regional officials, looking to form a partnership, narrowed down talks to two potential partners, Miami-based Baptist Health and Cleveland Clinic.

The hospital is growing, and a $260 million program will transform the main building and add a parking garage and power plants.

Wargo can’t wait to see the results. “I am anxious to get to work,” she said. “Let’s go!”

Officials hope to complete the merger by the end of the year. ∞

The Coastal Star

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Judge sets hearing Sept. 11 to review Haynie dismissal motion

By Mary Hladky and Emily J. Minor

The state’s case against suspended Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie took a small step forward July 26 when the judge set an Oct. 26 hearing to again review pretrial progress.

Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Glenn Kelley also set aside 30 minutes on Sept. 11 to consider a request from Haynie’s attorney, Bruce Zimet, to dismiss all seven charges against her.

Haynie, 62, was arrested April 24 on charges that she failed to disclose income she and her husband, Neil, received from James Batmasian, the city’s largest downtown commercial landowner whose city projects she favored in several City Council votes. She has not resigned as mayor, although Gov. Rick Scott suspended her April 27.

She faces four felony and three misdemeanor charges, including official misconduct, perjury in an official proceeding, misuse of public office, corrupt misuse of public office and failure to disclose voting conflict.

Earlier in July — responding to Zimet’s motion to dismiss all charges against Haynie because of what he argues are flaws in the charging document — Assistant State Attorney Brian Fernandes tweaked the wording in the state’s allegations, which he then said should have cleared up matters.

Fernandes, who declined to comment, said during the brief hearing that he hopes the court can set a trial date in October.

After the hearing, Zimet said he’s still not happy with the state’s charges. He said the felony perjury charge doesn’t say what “alleged statement” Haynie is accused of making.

Zimet said, “That’s why we’ve filed the motion” to dismiss.

At the core of the state’s case are allegations that Haynie, a longtime city servant who has lived in Boca Raton for decades, collected hundreds of thousands of dollars since 2014, including some from business associates and agreements with Batmasian, which Haynie failed to disclose in forms required by the state.

During the hearing, prosecutors said they cast four favorable votes on Batmasian projects.

Haynie also has pleaded not guilty to the charges and has waived her right to a speedy trial.

In the motion to dismiss the charges, Zimet contended the state made mistakes in the charges against Haynie.

The most consequential issue is a state anti-corruption law that was amended by the Florida Legislature in 2016 to make it easier for prosecutors to prove corruption. The law initially said the state had to establish that a public official acted with “corrupt intent.” The amended law changed that to “knowingly and intentionally,” a lesser standard of proof.

But in two of the felony official misconduct charges against Haynie, prosecutors said she acted “knowingly and intentionally” even though her alleged crimes occurred before that language went into effect.

Therefore, Haynie was charged with a “nonexistent crime,” the motion to dismiss states.

The third felony official misconduct count did not lay out how she violated the law, while the felony perjury count does not say what false statement Haynie is accused of making.

The three misdemeanor charges do not say Haynie’s alleged actions were “willful,” and so do not allege a criminal offense, the motion states.

In response, the state amended its charging document in July, conceding Zimet’s motion to dismiss the charges that prevented Zimet from preparing the wrong standard in the first two official misconduct charges.

It said the new wording made the charges more specific and get those charges dismissed.

The state also changed the misdemeanor charges to state that Haynie acted “willfully.” But the state also contended that there were no other deficiencies in the charges that prevented Zimet from proving an adequate defense for Haynie.

Zimet responded with a second motion to dismiss arguing that the state had not fixed all the flaws in its charging document.

The charges are so vague that it is not clear what the actual allegations are against Haynie and how she benefited from her allegedly illegal actions, the motion states.

“In most simplistic terms, it is impossible for a defendant to properly defend themselves if the State fails to properly identify the actual criminal activity the State alleges that a defendant has committed,” it states.

District adds three months for canal-side planning

By Steve Plunkett

The Lake Worth Drainage District has given homeowners along three canals in southwest Boca Raton a three-month reprieve from clearing canal banks while district and city officials search for a way to leave some vegetation alone.

“This postponement will allow the district and city the opportunity to work together and consider options for necessary canal rehabilitation on these canals prior to final action by the district’s board of supervisors on Oct. 17, 2018,” the board announced after its July 11 meeting.

The loudest outcry has come from residents along Southwest Seventh Street on the shore of Sabal Palm Lake, who have planted trees and shrubs, installed fences and built docks that they thought were their backyards.

But this year the drainage district told them the shore is actually the bank of its L-49 canal with a right of way or easements extending in some cases more than 50 feet from the water’s edge.

The district is in the midst of a years-long program to clear vegetation along the 500 miles of canals it maintains to prevent trees and bushes from toppling in a hurricane and blocking drainage.

Mayor Scott Singer asked the district to hold off work on the L-48, L-49 and L-50 canals so city and district officials can explore more global solutions.

At an open house the district convened July 10 for homeowners, district officials said they would clear the banks as we can,” said Tony Las Casas, the district’s assistant director of facilities and maintenance.

City staff will evaluate options “that may include a higher level of maintenance provided by the city and/or negotiated agreements with homeowners to allow certain types of approved landscaping that do not interfere with LWDD access,” Boca Raton said in a news release.

The district asked Boca Raton residents along the affected canals to “take proactive measures for hurricane preparedness and sustainable tree maintenance by pruning trees away from drainage canals and refraining from planting trees or vegetation on drainage or utility easements and public rights of way.”

Boca Raton
Proposed property tax almost a penny below the rollback rate

By Steve Plunkett

Gulf Stream will lower its property tax rate to just below the rollback rate for the second time in two years.

At their July 13 meeting, town commissioners set the tentative tax rate for the 2018-19 budget year at $4.05 per $1,000 of taxable value, down from $4.36 in the current year and 0.99 cents under the rollback rate — the rate that would produce the same revenue as the previous year, using current assessments.

The first public hearing on property taxes and the town’s budget will be at 5:01 p.m. Sept. 14.

Town Manager Greg Dunham’s proposed $5.58 million budget includes $531,383 for the first year of Gulf Stream’s 10-year capital improvement plan. The money will be spent on designing and getting permits for rebuilding roads and improving drainage in the worst part of town, the northern core area. Construction, which has an estimated price of $3.7 million, would follow in 2020.

The northern core includes Bermuda Lane from Sea Road to the south end, Gulf Stream Road from Sea Road to Banyan Road, Old School Road from Gulf Stream Road to the cul-de-sac, Oleander Way from Banyan to the north end, Polo Drive from Old School to Banyan, Wright Way from Old School to the cul-de-sac, Sea Road from Ocean Boulevard to Gulf Stream Road, North County Road from Ocean to Sea Road, and Banyan from Ocean to the cul-de-sac. Projects in Place Au Soleil, the southern core, the water main on State Road A1A, and work in Hidden Harbour and Pelican Lane would come in later years.

Dunham also said he and town accountant Rebecca Tew expected to add at least $1 million to Gulf Stream’s reserves, pushing the total cushion to $4.8 million or more. The reserves dropped to $752,858 in the 2013 budget year as the town wrestled with requests and lawsuits over public records.

The tax rate topped out in fiscal 2016 at $5 per $1,000 as commissioners rebuilt the reserves.

Dunham also recommended that Gulf Stream pay 80 percent of health insurance premiums for the families of town employees. The Police Department recently lost a promising job applicant to Highland Beach, which pays the entire family premium, he said.

“Towns and cities really compete for the labor force,” Dunham said.

Gulf Stream pays all the health premiums for its 20 employees but nothing for family coverage. Only two employees pay extra to cover their dependents, Dunham said, an amount that in one case equals half of each paycheck.

The additional benefit would cost Gulf Stream $246,000 a year, Dunham said.

Commissioners noted that the town already gives employees a $3,000 flex benefit to offset health deductibles and co-pays and decided to discuss the idea further.

“I think there should be some give-and-take” between the flex benefit and family coverage, Commissioner Joan Orthwein said.

Dunham also said he will promote Tew from town accountant to chief finance officer. Tew started working for Gulf Stream in 2014. At the commission meeting the Government Finance Officers Association gave her its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for her work on the 2017-2018 budget.
Delray Beach

Commission agrees to lower tax rate slightly

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach commissioners agreed to lower the tax rate slightly, keeping a promise to their residents to reduce the tax rate each year for 10 years.

The commission action July 10 capped the total tax rate at $6.97 per $1,000 of property value for the next financial year, which starts Oct. 1. It would be the sixth consecutive year that Delray Beach is lowering its tax rate, "I want to keep the promise to our taxpayers," said Mayor Shelly Petrolia. "I am challenging the city manager to find flexibility in the low-hanging fruit of outstanding parking tickets and from our reserves."

Delray Beach has a lush reserve account of more than $34 million as of June. That amount represents about 28.9 percent of this year’s operating budget. The commission wants to set aside 25 percent, or $29.6 million, for hurricane-related expenses and other emergencies.

Florida does not have a law requiring municipalities to set aside a certain percentage for reserves, said Kurt Wenner, research vice president at Florida TaxWatch. "Most local governments have their own internal policies on reserves," he said. Florida TaxWatch is a nonprofit organization that researches and analyzes state and local government taxation issues.

Nearby Boynton Beach has a lower reserve goal of 10 percent set aside for emergencies, according to information presented in mid-July at its budget workshop. Boca Raton also has a 10 percent goal. When the current financial year started, Boca Raton had about 34 percent of its operating budget, or $53 million, in reserves.

In Delray Beach, City Manager Mark Lavuzier said the lower rate would not allow the city to continue to increase the size of its public safety staff, which was reduced during the Recession. Another five police officers and eight fire-rescue employees are needed, he said. Deputy Vice Mayor Shirley Johnson was the lone no vote on the reduced tax rate. She wants to see more police on the streets. Lavuzier also said the city’s rollback rate is $6.55 per $1,000 property value. The rollback rate is the rate that would generate the same tax revenue as the prior year with allowances for new construction.

Even though the tax rate will be slightly lower, city property owners will pay about 3.2 percent more in property taxes. In addition, Lavuzier talked about the looming budget amendment, where voters statewide will be asked in November whether they want another $25,000 reduction on top of their homestead exemption of $23,000 in property value.

If that passes, the city’s property tax collection would be reduced by $1.3 million, he said. Lavuzier gave each commissioner a thick budget book to read before the Aug. 14 meeting when they will hear presentations by departments. He also planned to hold three budget town halls in August for residents. The dates and places were: Veterans Park on Aug. 2, Delray Beach Municipal Golf Course on Aug. 6 and Pompey Park Community Center on Aug. 8, all at 6 p.m.

The city’s proposed tax rate has two components. The operating tax rate is $6.76 per $1,000 value and the debt service rate is 21 cents per $1,000 value. The total tax rate for the current year is $7.09 per $1,000 value with an operating rate of $6.86 per $1,000 value and debt service rate of 23 cents per $1,000 value.

Lavuzier had wanted to keep the next budget year’s operating tax rate the same as this year’s. The tax rates had to be set by the end of July in order for the county property appraiser to mail notices in mid-August to every property owner. The notices cover assessed values and proposed tax rates.

The rates can be lowered but not raised during the city’s budget hearings in September.
Along the Coast

Aug. 28 primaries will set party choices for District 89 race

By Steve Plunkett

Four of the five candidates hoping to become the next District 89 state representative in November will first duke it out in the Aug. 28 Democratic and Republican primaries.

On the GOP side, barrier island resident and Delray Beach accountant Mike Caruso faces Boca Raton lawyer Matt Spritz. Registered Democrats in District 89, which leans Republican and stretches along the coast from Boca Raton to Singer Island, will choose either Ocean Ridge Mayor Jim Bonfiglio, a lawyer, or Boca Raton real estate agent Ryan Rossi, a former high school teacher.

Bonfiglio, 64, who promises to make life on the barrier island “easier, safer and better,” has spent $35,485 on his campaign. He also lent his campaign $210,000. His donors include Ocean Ridge Mayor Ken Kaelkel ($1,000), numerous other lawyers and law firms and the Palm Beach Classroom Teachers Association political action committee ($500).

Rossi, 33, a Florida Atlantic University graduate who taught government and economics at Pope John Paul II High School in Boca Raton, teaches government at Atlantic High School in Boca Raton and is a member of the Delray Beach Police Advisory Board and the West Atlantic Redevelopment Coalition Board and also president of the Villas of Ocean Crest homeowners association and Atlantic Grove condominium association.

As of July 20 he had $66,770 in contributions and loaned his campaign $20,000. Among the contributors are Cafè Luna Rosa restaurant owner Francis Marincolina ($2,000), Palm Beach Kennel Club ($1,000), Florida Limousine Association ($1,000) and the nonprofit Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association ($1,000), Sunshine State Conservatives ($1,000), former Manalapan Mayor David Cheifetz ($1,000), Florida Bankers Association ($1,000) and Gulf Stream resident George Elmore ($250).

State Rep. Bill Hager, who first won the District 89 seat in 2012, cannot run because of term limits. The primary winners will also face a countywide “general” election in November.

The next edition of The Coastal Star will be distributed the weekend of Sept. 1.
Three candidates compete to be mayor

A special election for mayor of Boca Raton will be held Aug. 28. The qualifying candidates are Scott Singer, Al Zucaro and Bernard Korn, who will vie to complete Susan Haynie’s term, which ends in March 2020. Haynie was suspended from office in late April by Gov. Rick Scott and faces criminal charges of official misconduct and perjury. With official misconduct and corrupt misuse of her office, Singer, at the time deputy mayor, took over as mayor when Haynie was suspended. Singer was compelled to resign his Council Seat A in mid-May to run for mayor. That seat is also up for grabs in this special election. The winners of both seats will be eligible to run again for two consecutive three-year terms. Boca Raton’s mayor is paid $38,000 a year. — Steven J. Smith

Three candidates compete to be mayor

Boca Raton

It takes lots of money to run for office

By Steve Plunkett

Early campaign finance reports and recent elections show that deep pockets run to for the Boca Raton City Council.

It’s not lost on widow lobbyist Renee Coy, a consultant, running for Seat A, lent herself $25,000 to seed her campaign, finance reports show. Rivals Tamara McKee, an attorney, lent her campaign $23,000 while Andy Thompson, a lawyer, chipped in $20,000 toward his race.

Seat A opened up May 22 when the City Council passed a resolution to hold a special election Aug. 28. Two weeks before, council members passed a resolution to hold an election the same day to replace Mayor Susan Haynie, who was suspended in April after she was charged with official misconduct and perjury.

In the campaign to replace Haynie, Scott Singer lent his campaign just $15. He opened his campaign account back in October, when Haynie was expected to resign as mayor to run for the County Commission and leave an opening in the March 2019 election.

Lawyer Al Zucaro, who publishes the BocaWatch online blog and lost to Haynie in March 2017, is running again and initially gave himself $3,500.

And real estate broker Bernard Korn, who filed an official declaration of domicile listing a Boca Raton address in April, gave his campaign $2,602.72.

The totals for all candidates could change substantially between now and Election Day. In 2017 Zucaro gave his campaign $15,000 to start out and then $47,750 in the closing days of the race. He repaid himself $82,81, finance records show.

Similarly, March 2018 candidate and eventual council winner Monica Mayotte gave her campaign $25,000 and repaid herself $1,019.26.

More campaign finance reports were due Aug. 3, Aug. 17 and Aug. 24. City Clerk Susan Saxon said.

Names of the candidates will appear on the ballot in an order chosen at random, not by alphabet. Zucaro will head the list, followed by Singer and Korn. For seat A, Thomson will be on top, then Council and McKee. K

Mayoral contributions

Bernard Korn is not taking contributions and is self-financing his campaign. He lent his campaign $2,602.72.

Scott Singer’s war chest minus a $15 self-loan totaled $110,469. He started taking donations in October and has cash on hand from contributions from Douglas Mummaw ($5,000), law firm Dunay, Miskel and Backman ($1,000), land-use lawyer Bonnie Miskel ($1,000), developer Compson Associates ($1,000), law firm GrayRobinson’s PAC ($2,000), lawyer Mitchell Kirsh ($500), Wally Car Wash ($1,000), Andre Welky ($500), Planning and Zoning Board member Larry Snowden ($250), former county GOP Chairman Sid Dinerstein ($250), architect Derek Vander Ploeg ($500), Vander Ploeg’s firm ($500), Library Advisory Board member Betty Grinnan ($100), city activist Judith Kaye ($350), former Deputy Mayor Constance Smith ($25), Danbury Management Corp. ($1,000), philanthropist Christine Lynn ($500), 155 E. Boca Raton Road LLC ($1,000), Marine Advisory Board Chairwoman Constance Smith ($500), Rapoport’s Restaurant Group ($250), Geo Group ($1,000), former City Council member Al Travisos ($325), former state Sen. Elynn Mornoff ($250), Downtown Advisory Board member Peg Anderson ($100), Kaufman Lynn Construction ($1,000), law firm Greenspoon Marder ($1,000), County Commissioners Steven Abrams ($200) and Hal Valeche ($250), city firefighters union PAC ($500), Stiles Corp. ($500), Chamber of Commerce ($1,000), Piccol Gold Class Entertainment LLC ($1,000), Planning and Zoning Board Vice Chairman Richard Coffin ($250), Kolter Payments LLC ($750) and Hyatt Place Boca Raton ($750).

Al Zucaro, who entered the race in late May, has $15,629 not counting a $1,000 contribution from his law firm and a self-loan of $5,000. His funds came from city activist John Gore ($250), Mummmaw ($250), frequent BocaWatch contributors Katie Barr ($500) and Jack McWalter ($200), Beautification Advisory Board chairwoman Jo-Ann Presten and Wildflower activist Nancy Hendy ($1,000), former council candidate Kim Do ($500) and former council member Cormac Conahan ($200).

Source: Campaign finance reports through June 30

Candidate forums

Who: Candidates for mayor and City Council Seat A
When: 7 p.m. Aug. 9 (all candidates), Municipal Building, 6500 Congress Ave., hosted by the Federation of Boca Raton Homeowner Associations
Where: 6 p.m. Aug. 17 (all candidates), Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., hosted by The Boca Raton Tribune
6 p.m. Aug. 24 (mayoral candidates), Community Center, hosted by The Boca Raton Tribune
Boca Raton

Three vie for Council Seat A

A special election for Seat A on the Boca Raton City Council will take place Aug. 28. The qualifying candidates are Kathy Cottrell, Tamara McKee and Andy Thomson. Scott Singer was forced to resign the seat in mid-May to run for mayor. According to City Clerk Susan Saxton, because this is a special election to fill a vacant seat, the initial term for Seat A is through only March 2020. The winner can then run for two more consecutive terms. The salary for council members is $28,000.

— Steven J. Smith

Kathy Cottrell
Personal: 60; B.S. in news editing and reporting from the University of Florida; master’s degree in public policy and administration, Cal State University at Long Beach; master’s degree in organizational psychology and a PhD in organizational psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology; Boca Raton resident for 30 years; married, no children.

Professional: Over the past 15 years, she has served as a senior organization development consultant with Fortune 500 companies Tenet Healthcare Corporation, Raytheon Company and Walt Disney World.

Political experience: None.

Positions on issues: Advocates for responsible growth, ensuring school safety and addressing school overcrowding, infrastructure, traffic congestion.

Quote: “I’ve been very involved in my community on various boards and panels and have actively participated in City Council meetings for the past several years. I have also been a lifelong volunteer in various capacities. There are hundreds of issues the council has to address. In addition to my interest in our city’s growth, infrastructure and traffic issues as well as the concerns I have for school safety and overcrowding, I want to say that these things residents are speaking to me about when I’m having conversations with them. I think I am the most qualified for this position, based on my background and experience, having worked with large companies my entire life.”

Tamara McKee
Personal: 48; Bachelor’s degree in history, cum laude, Florida International University; Boca Raton resident for 20 years; divorced, four children.

Professional: Spent the last 35 years as an actor, producer and branding professional. Clients include Netflix, JetBlue and Procter & Gamble.

Political experience: None.

Positions on issues: Wants to bring improved transparency to city leadership; advocates for smart growth, multi-pronged traffic solutions and sustainability, especially as to how it relates to flooding in town.

Quote: “Boca Raton is a city with a world-class brain and a small-town heart. When I am a City Council member I will serve to protect our quality of life, be fiscally lean and restore trust in our city leadership. I am a proven leader on a city and state level, working on behalf of elders, consumers and residents. I’m the candidate who has served our city for the past 20 years in our schools and nonprofits. I have more experience than any other candidates combined. I have a 100 percent attendance record in my eight years of public board service. I get things done.”

Andy Thomson
Personal: 35; B.S. in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech, J.D. from University of Miami; Boca Raton resident for two years; married, three children.

Professional: Business litigation lawyer with Bartiz and Colman.

Political experience: No political offices held, but has served as a board member for the Palm Beach County Transportation Planning Agency since 2016. Was also vice-chair for Boca Raton’s Education Task Force as well as a board member of the Boca Raton Community Advisory Panel.

Positions on issues: Wants to alleviate traffic congestion in Boca Raton and overcrowding in the schools; wants to make sure first responders have all the necessary resources and training; favors preservation of beaches and parks; endorses keeping taxes low.

Quote: “I am a big believer that elected officials are elected to represent all of their constituents — not just their neighbors and friends, but everyone. It’s my pledge to represent all 90,000 people in Boca. I believe strongly that we are one city with one voice. That’s how I plan to govern.”

Council contributions

Kathy Cottrell’s total minus a $25,000 self-loan was $14,708 as of June 30. Her contributors include Library Advisory Board member Betty Grinnan ($100), Wildflower activist Nancy Hendrey ($500), philanthropist and candidate Al Zucaro’s spouse, Yvonne Boice ($200), Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member Dennis Frisch ($100), Beautification Advisory Board chairwoman Jo-An Landon ($50), Riviera Civic Association President Kevin Meaney ($59) and frequent BocaWatch contributors Katie Barr ($200) and Jack McWalter ($250). Cottrell is endorsed by City Council member and former BocaWatch editor Andrea O’Rourke and she introduced Zucaro at his inaugural campaign fundraiser.

Tamara McKee’s war chest minus a $23,000 self-loan was $7,600. She has donations from McWalter ($50), architect Derek Vander Ploeg ($250), ex-husband and former Boca Raton High School Principal Geoff McKee ($50) and two-time council candidate and lawyer Frank Chapman ($1,000), whose complaints led to the criminal charges against then-Mayor Susan Haynie.

Andy Thomson has $31,593 in contributions not counting a $20,000 self-loan. Donors include Vander Ploeg ($500), law firm Dunay, Miskel and Backman ($1,000), former City Council member Al Travasos ($225), Marine Advisory Board Chairman Gene Foleen ($300), city activist Judith Kaye ($250), lawyer and School Board member Frank Barbieri ($500), Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District Chairman Robert Rollins ($100), architect Douglas Mumaw ($220), Downtown Advisory Board member Peg Anderson ($100), Habitat for Humanity President Randy Nobles ($50), the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce’s political action committee ($1,000) and former Mayor Susan Wheelchel’s son, John Jr. ($500).

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Jim Bonfiglio, Democrat, for FL House of Representatives, District 89
Tennis

Anderson aims for U.S. Open title after run to Wimbledon final

By Steve Pike

Kevin Anderson has been on the doorstep of winning two of the past four professional tennis Grand Slam events — the 2017 U.S. Open and the 2018 Wimbledon Championships. But each time the door slammed shut.

Anderson, a 32-year-old resident of Gulf Stream, finished second to Rafael Nadal in New York and to Novak Djokovic last month at Wimbledon.

Back in Gulf Stream with his wife, Kelsey, following his Wimbledon run, Anderson discussed his plans to finally knock down the door.

He beat top seed Roger Federer in a five-set quarterfinal and outlasted John Isner in a historic six-hour, 36-minute semifinal, which ended 26-24 in the fifth set.

“I think my game is definitely there,” said Anderson, who planned to return to the court for the summer hard-court season at the Rogers Cup starting Aug. 3 in Toronto. “I’m on the right path and as I keep learning how to handle these big moments, I think I will become more comfortable as well. I am going to keep looking forward — winning one of the Slams is a huge goal of mine.”

Anderson’s Wimbledon run moved him to No. 5 in the ATP world rankings — the highest of his 11-year pro career and the highest of any South African-born player since Kevin Curren rose to No. 5 in 1985. Eric Sturgess and Cliff Drysdale were ranked No. 4 during their careers, but that was before the official ATP world rankings.

“Achieving a top-five ranking has been a big milestone for me,” said Anderson, who has dual U.S. and South African citizenship. “It makes me the highest ranked South African man in the open era of tennis, which means a great deal. I have a huge amount of respect and have always looked up to Wayne Ferreira, Johan Kriek and Kevin Curren, who were some of the best players in South African history. I’m honored to be in such great company in terms of my ranking and tennis achievements.”

Anderson’s defeat of Federer, in which Anderson was down two sets and faced a match point before winning 13-11 in the fifth, set up the semifinal vs. Isner. Each man was near exhaustion before Anderson became the first South African to reach a Wimbledon men’s final in 97 years.

Following the match, the second-longest in Wimbledon history, Anderson, Isner and three-time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe were among those who called for a change in the rules to prevent such long final sets. Isner also played the longest match, a 70-68 victory over Nicolas Mahut in 2010 in 11 hours, five minutes over three days.

Does Anderson believe Wimbledon will seriously consider their remarks?

“I think in some aspects, yes, because it happened in the semifinals as opposed to the first round,” Anderson said. “On the other hand, John’s previous marathon match lasted almost twice as long as this one and they didn’t consider a rule change.

“Obviously it’s been spoken about, but at the end of the day there’s a lot of history with playing the long fifth set. On the plus side, my match was something that will definitely go down in the history books.”

With the U.S. Open set to start Aug. 27, Anderson is primed for more history.

“My results at Wimbledon this year were further confirmation that my game is good enough to compete at the best level,” Anderson said. “I’ve had that belief already, but now it has come down to believing and performing against the best players on the biggest stages in the world.”
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Chris Warren

Chris Warren practices with dance partner Loreta Kriksciukaityte, owner of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Boca Raton. Warren will be one of eight contestants in the annual fundraising event benefiting the George Snow Scholarship Fund. Photo provided

One of the eight contestants in Boca’s Ballroom Battle has two daughters enrolled at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Rachel is 20, and Grace is 19. The contestant’s 14-year-old son, Christopher, attends St. Andrew’s School.

Higher education comes at a high price, and that is one of the reasons Chris Warren, dad to all three, agreed to participate in the George Snow Scholarship Fund benefit.

“It’s a great cause,” said Warren, a founding partner of Lawless, Edwards & Warren Wealth Management. “I’m able to provide an education for my children, my parents provided an education for me, and if I can help some other kids get to school, wow, that’s awesome.”

Warren, a graduate of Michigan State University, does not like the spotlight. He would rather let his actions speak to who he is and what he is about — a financial planner helping clients reach their goals and discovering what is important to them.

“I said no last year, and Tim came back,” said Warren, referring to the nonprofit’s president, Tim Snow. “Saying no again would be me just chickening out.

So in the spotlight he will be during the Dancing With the Stars-style fundraiser, set for Sept. 14 at the Boca Raton Resort and Club.

He will cut the rug with seven other contestants — Samir Changela, Nancy Dockerty, Matthew Maschler, Cristina Mata, Jamie Rosemurgy, Tracy Tilson and Joseph Veccia — in the quest for the coveted Mirror Ball trophy.


If You Go What: Boca’s Ballroom Battle When: 6-10 p.m. Sept. 14 Where: Boca Raton Resort and Club, 501 E. Camino Real

into the wealth-management space 29 years ago. Along with my partners, I have built a successful business providing great service and value to our clients/friends.

What advice do you have for young adults selecting a career today?

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“I do like to dance, but it’s not like I’ve done anything like this before,” Warren said. “I feel like I have two left feet.”

“What is the 55-year-old’s game plan?”

“I’m going to try to have my routine down cold, but you know, prayer — practice and prayer,” said Warren, who bikes, runs, swims and practices yoga. “The physical part of this is not the issue — it’s more the repetition of learning my routine and then making it look good.”

— Amy Woods

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

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IGUANAS

Continued from page 1

Commission, he pleaded for help.

"Very simply said, we need an efficient, effective and inexpensive way to eliminate this non-native reptile," he told commissioners. "There is an epidemic of iguanas in the town."

McAndrew is one of dozens of residents who have pleaded with the town’s administration for anti-iguana assistance.

Ocean Ridge commissioners are listening and are considering a plan to hire an iguana contractor. Only a few South Florida communities have dared to take on the reptiles directly, so expectations are measured. "You can use the word ‘eradication’ because all accounts they can’t be eradicated," said Town Manager Jamie Titcomb. "But they can be controlled.

Beyond Ocean Ridge, concerns about iguanas are rising with their population. The reptiles relieve themselves on Manalapan’s boat docks, stop traffic on A1A in Gulf Stream and stalk power walkers in South Palm Beach.

According to the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the first known sighting of a feral iguana in Florida occurred in Miami-Dade County in 1966. But the species was flourishing throughout Central America and the Caribbean several centuries before.

Exactly when the critters migrated as far north as Palm Beach County is a matter of some dispute. Most wildlife officials believe it probably was the late 1990s.

Today, iguanas range at least as far north as Pasco County on the West Coast and St. Lucie County in the East. There is not even a guesstimate as to how many are here. The state has collected data on them but hasn’t tried to count them.

The collective opinion among the experts is that iguanas are here to stay and it’s up to the residents to go to solve constituents’ problems. For example, if you scare one sufficiently with a blast from a water hose, it will remember the horror and is unlikely to return to your yard again.

Some killed by the cold

Every species has its pros and cons," says Carol Lyn Farrish, a public information coordinator with the state commission. "They’re fully established now. The only real predator is another iguana, or a person."

There is one other serious threat to iguana expansion: cold weather.

During the winter of 2009, an extended cold snap killed untold thousands, sending frozen lizards falling out of trees like autumn leaves. But temperatures have to fall into the 30s for days, and that hasn’t happened since.

Two decades ago, state officials and animal advocates were OK with disposing of iguanas by trapping and freezing them. But then research suggested that dying in a freezer was a painful death and animal ethicists protested.

Today, veterinary and wildlife organizations agree the accepted method for killing them is with blunt force trauma to the head. It could be a blow to the brain with a shovel, or a shot with pellet gun, or penetration with a captive bolt livestock pistol.

The preliminary plan in Ocean Ridge is to hire a contractor who will use pellet guns and trapping to at least put a dent in the population. Two contractors, Iguana Control Inc. of Fort Lauderdale and Wildlife Removal Services of Boca Raton, have submitted bids for the work.

Debate on what to do

The rapid growth of iguana populations across the state is putting local leaders in a conflicted place, testing the boundary of how far government should be expected to go to solve constituents’ problems.

In Ocean Ridge, commissioners have debated whether iguana control should be the town’s responsibility or that of individual residents and homeowners.

Commissioner Steve Coz said during a June budget workshop that he worried the commission the problem is "unfounded. Iguanas are herbivores. They’re a health hazard."

They’re bring salmonella bacteria when they poop. They poop all over your deck, you can’t use your lawn. They’re more than just a nuisance. They’re a health hazard." (Wildlife officials dispute that assertion, saying it’s no worse than pet feces.)

Commissioner Kristine de Hasselt said if the town does nothing it runs the risk of costing homeowners down the road. "Eventually it’s going to be a property value issue."

Mayor James Bonfiglio has proposed setting aside $16,000 to hire a contractor for a six-month period to remove iguanas from the town’s public areas and then evaluate the progress or lack of it.

A majority of commissioners agreed — but with reservations. "You’re not going to get rid of them overall," Vice Mayor Don MaGruder said.

Titcomb drew a parallel between the iguanas of Ocean Ridge and the pythons of the Everglades.

"They’re not anybody’s problem," he said, "until they were a problem that had grown exponentially."*
Downtown post office will stay where it is

By Steve Plunkett

The city’s downtown post office is staying put, postal officials announced July 5.

The U.S. Postal Service told Boca Raton in February that it had been unable to get a new long-term lease on the facility at 170 NE Second St. James and Marta Batmasian bought the site, which has housed the post office for decades, in 2013.

“The Postal Service and the landlord have since been able to come to a long-term agreement to stay at the current location,” Tom Samra, the agency’s vice president of facilities, wrote Mayor Scott Singer.

Postal spokeswoman Enola Rice confirmed July 31 the new lease had been signed.

Terms of the agreement were not announced, but Samra said his agency has canceled its proposal to relocate the facility.

“This is the final decision of the Postal Service with respect to this matter,” Samra wrote.

Singer called it “a great outcome,” ending months of concern for city officials and downtown businesses and residents. “I’m glad the Postal Service listened,” he said.

Residents crowded a room in the Community Center Annex on March 29 to plead with postal officials not to relocate the downtown office, saying it was part of the city’s history. The lease was set to end July 13.

Damian Salazar, a USPS real estate specialist, said at that meeting the agency wanted a lease for at least 10 years with three five-year renewals.

James and Marta Batmasian bought the site, which was the first he had heard about the Postal Service wanting a longer lease and offered on the spot to redo a four-year lease he and his wife negotiated in September.

In his letter, Samra noted that his agency receives no tax dollars to support its work.

“Be self-sustaining, the Postal Service must make decisions that ensure it provides adequate and affordable postal services in a manner that is as efficient and economical as possible,” he wrote.

City residents will see fractional decreases in property tax rates but will pay slightly higher tax bills if tentative rates win final approval.

City Manager Leif Ahnell advised City Council members to set the tentative property tax rate for both the operating budget and debt service at $3.6787 per $1,000 of taxable value, down from the current $3.6788 per $1,000.

“Taking direction from our goal-setting session in the spring, we are not recommending this year an increase in the tax rate for next year,” Ahnell said at the council’s July 24 meeting.

But the rate, if approved, will be advertised as a 4.83 percent increase in taxes — the operating millage is going from a rollback rate of $3.3093 to $3.4699. That increase is offset by a drop in debt service from 22.45 cents per $1,000 to 20.97 cents.

Homeowners will also pay $10 more for fire protection if Ahnell’s recommendation to raise the fire fee to $135 from $125 is approved. The first public hearing on the tax rate will be 6 p.m. Sept. 13 at City Hall.

Boca Raton’s tax base rose 6.32 percent this year, to $23.9 billion. Meanwhile, the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District is contemplating keeping its tax rate steady at 91.47 cents per $1,000 of taxable value.

The district’s first public hearing on its budget will be 6 p.m. Sept. 6 at Sugar Sand Park.

In other City Council business, Ahnell said there was no room on the November ballot for a proposal to change residency requirements for council and mayoral candidates.

“We’ll bring it back to you in the fall for your consideration,” Ahnell said.

Northwestern candidates.

By Steve Plunkett

Barry Feldman, no relation to the mayor, served as town manager of West Hartford, Conn., for more than 20 years before serving as chief operating officer at the University of Connecticut for seven years.

Two other finalists selected by the search firm were eliminated by a commission vote, while the third, Ryan Fabbri — the former town administrator in Pawleys Island, S.C. — withdrew the day before the scheduled interviews.

Baezinger said his firm has withdrawn from agreements only twice before during its 20 years in business and it has negotiated to get paid for the phases of the process it has completed. Baezinger said the firm completed three of five phases outlined in the agreement.

The withdrawal of the search firm and the decision not to meet with Bradford and Feldman, who came prepared for interviews, left commissioners sprawling.

The day after Baezinger’s withdrawal, commissioners agreed to each provide Thrasher with the names of two candidates, either from the list the search firm provided or elsewhere.

Thrasher will contact each to see if they’re interested in the position and the town’s Police Department will do a preliminary background check. Candidates will then be invited for an interview.

Both Bradford and Feldman said they are still interested in the job. The two were among five finalists the search firm recommended from an initial list of more than 70.

Bradford served as town manager in Palm Beach for three years and was the village manager of Tequesta.

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Along the Coast

Sargassum surge viewed as disaster in Caribbean

By Cheryl Blackberby

A natural disaster has hit the Caribbean. Barbados has declared a national emergency, and the sprawling St. James Club resort in Antigua has been forced to temporarily close its doors and direct guests elsewhere. Marine experts are looking at damaged coral reefs and sea turtle mortalities.

And Puerto Rico has another emergency on top of last year’s catastrophic hurricane damage.

In a region with its share of hurricanes, active volcanoes and earthquakes, the Caribbean has a new problem, one never seen before — sargassum. The seaweed is being dumped by ocean waves on some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and it’s arriving faster than it can be removed. It’s clogging waterways, shading coral reefs and killing marine mammals that drown underneath its thick mats stretching for miles.

And this is happening in a region that generally has very little seaweed.

Sargassum has always been in Florida, the Bahamas and other islands. But scientists are alarmed at research that shows the seaweed piling up on shores since 2011 is not the same plant as that in the past, which arrived at predictable times of the year from the Sargasso Sea. This new species is coming from the southern tropical Atlantic east of Brazil and is quickly spreading on ocean currents that are deviating from normal patterns.

The Caribbean islands worst hit are Barbados, Guadeloupe, Antigua and Martinique.

Mexico’s Riviera Maya is also seeing massive amounts of seaweed.

Residents, hotel employees and military personnel are being called on to clean the beaches by rake and wheelbarrow to preserve sea turtle nests and areas’ famous white sand.

Beyond the beaches, the bigger picture is even worse: Satellite imagery shows the seaweed growing and spreading over a swath of ocean from Brazil to West Africa and north to Florida, a new and troubling phenomenon.

“We saw it for the first time in 2011. It was really bad in 2014 and 2015. This year is the worst, with no end in sight,” Dr. Hazel Oxenford, professor of fisheries and marine ecology at the University of the West Indies in Barbados, said in late July.

“It’s essentially a natural disaster with long-term effects on fisheries, coral reefs and sea grasses. We’re looking at some significant problems,” she said.

Marine scientists were surprised by this seaweed, which hadn’t been seen in the Caribbean in the past. Researchers at first assumed it had drifted south from the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic, where the warm-ocean seaweed is generally found. But satellite imagery and ocean current data showed an unusual stretch of sargassum off the coast of Brazil.

Dr. Jim Gower, a remote-sensing expert with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Institute of Ocean Sciences, tracked the sargassum and by 2013 he had reached a conclusion: Satellite observations showed the seaweed event of the summer of 2011 “had its origin north of the mouth of the Amazon in an area not previously associated with sargassum growth. … By July it had spread to the coast of Africa in the east and to the Lesser Antilles and the Caribbean in the west,” he said in a report published in The Journal of Remote Sensing Letters.

Dr. James Franks, a fisheries biologist, and his colleagues at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory came to the same conclusion about why a once seaweed-free part of the ocean is now filled with seaweed.

Tracking the seaweed mass-blooming events back in time showed its path from the tropical Atlantic east of Brazil.

“Invariably, in all of those instances, it tracked back to the tropical region (Brazil). None of it ever tracked northward into the Sargasso Sea,” Franks told Science Magazine in June 2018.

In the Caribbean, islanders were stunned and bewildered by the piles of sargassum as much as 6 feet high dumped on their beaches. They hoped it was a one-time event, but that wasn’t the case.

Sargassum, which is essential for sea turtle hatchlings that ride the ocean currents on the nutrient-rich mats in the first few years of their lives, is now a danger to turtle hatchlings on land, where the seaweed smothers nests and poses obstacles on their beach path to the ocean.

“The Barbados government declared an emergency and is using military personnel to help. Removing it requires a tremendous amount of manpower. They are using appropriate methods, not machinery but rakes, to preserve turtle nests and sand,” Oxenford said.

In the ocean, turtles and marine mammals can’t surface to breathe as that in the past, which arrived at predictable times of the year from the Sargasso Sea, but from Brazil tropical region (Brazil). None of

higher nutrient levels, and pollution from deforestation and industrial development,” Oxenford said.

Some of the suggestions:

• Leave or bury the sargassum on the beach.
• Use rakes and wheelbarrows to gather and transport the sargassum, being careful not to disturb sea turtle nests.
• Incorporate sargassum into landscaping after it’s cleaned of sea salt. It provides a nutrient-rich source of compost, fertilizer and weed control.
• Eat it. After it is thoroughly cleaned, it can be cooked in lemon juice and coconut milk: “The most popular preparation is a quick fry, followed by simmering in water, soy sauce and other ingredients.”

Dealing with sargassum

The Antigua Hotels and Tourist Association and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association have released a guide for residents and hotels dealing with the sargassum crisis.

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South Palm Beach

Elevation issues may limit Town Hall renovation

By Dan Moffett

South Palm Beach council members considered some ambitious plans to renovate or replace Town Hall during the last year — but it may be that their options are more limited than first thought.

Town Manager Mo Thornton says an architect hired to review the condition of the aging building is concerned it may not have sufficient elevation to comply with today's flood plain standards. If the structure is sitting too low, in other words, renovation might not be feasible.

The only option would be to demolish and replace it.

"We're waiting to get the results of an elevation survey," Thornton said. "Then we'll know for sure whether the building is renovate-able or not."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has revised elevation building standards to improve resistance to storm surge and flooding. If the Town Hall doesn't meet the standard, renovation could require raising the entire structure to comply with building codes and insurance requirements.

"That would be too costly to do," Thornton said.

The council hired North Palm Beach architect John Bellamy in June to review previous proposals for the building. Thornton gave Bellamy high marks after working with him in his last job as manager of Atlantis. She said she expects to have a report from Bellamy before September.

"I'm confident he can tell us what's possible and what it will take to get it done," she said. The Town Hall was constructed 42 years ago originally as a public safety building and has undergone multiple repairs and additions. Last year the council unanimously rejected as too costly and extravagant a $6 million proposal from another architect to replace the hall with a five-story building.

In other business:

• Town Clerk Marv DeJesus resigned in July to take a position as deputy city clerk in West Palm Beach.

• DeJesus came to South Palm Beach in January 2016 from Palm Springs, where she served eight years as assistant deputy clerk. In 2017, DeJesus was named president of the Palm Beach County Municipal Clerks Association.

• Thornton said the town has begun advertising for a new clerk and is looking for candidates with financial backgrounds. The job pays about $55,000 per year. The town also is continuing its search for a new police chief and has received several dozen responses from qualified applicants, Thornton said.

• After months of debate, the council unanimously agreed on how much to fine violators of a new ordinance that prohibits dogs on the beach. Police will give first offenders a written warning, and then all subsequent offenses will draw fines of $100 each.

• Mayor Bonnie Fischer had his defense attorney, Marc Shiner, enter a not guilty plea for him in his statement. "I look forward to this case being heard," Fischer said.

• Mayor Ronnie Fischer had objected to a previous proposal that would have fined repeat offenders as much as $250 for each violation. "I think that is just too high," she said.

• The council’s next regular meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 21. The meeting was postponed to accommodate vacations and ensure a quorum.

Ocean Ridge

Lucibella says August trial will show his innocence and police officer guilt

By Steve Plunkett

As his trial date nears on felony charges stemming from a 2016 shooting incident at his house, onetime Vice Mayor Richard Lucibella proclaimed his innocence and renewed his attacks on how Ocean Ridge police treated him.

"I look forward to a public airing of the facts, including the fact that I was not intoxicated, never fired a weapon and never assaulted either of the two able-bodied officers who broke three of my ribs AFTER slamming me, face-first, into the pavement," Lucibella said in a written statement to The Coastal Star.

He and his defense attorney, Marc Shiner, went to court July 20 to renew Lucibella’s demand for a speedy trial, which they originally filed in March. The case was docketed for a calendar call Aug. 20.

"OK, so a demand for speedy trial was filed, this case is already set for trial, I believe it’s set within the window," said Circuit Judge Daliah Weiss, who left the Aug. 20 court date as set.

Lucibella is charged with battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest with violence, both felonies, and firing a weapon while under the influence of alcohol, a misdemeanor. He has pleaded not guilty.

After the hearing, Shiner said he refilled the demand for speedy trial to ensure that Weiss knew the timeline of the case. Judges at a calendar call hear the cases of people who are in jail first, then move to the oldest cases, he explained.

He said the trial might not begin for a week or two after the calendar call. "Nothing’s certain in the courthouse," Shiner said.

Lucibella was arrested Oct. 22, 2016, after Ocean Ridge police went to his oceanfront home to answer neighbors’ reports of hearing gunfire. They confiscated a 40-caliber handgun and found five spent shell casings on the backyard patio.

He and a police supervisor, Lt. Steven Wohlfiel, were both on the patio and "obviously intoxicated," the officers said. Both men denied firing the gun. Officers later determined the seized gun was Wohlfiel’s.

Lucibella resigned his vice mayor and town commissioner positions Dec. 7, 2016.

His trial was first scheduled for April 2017 but was postponed to July 2017, then October, then this April and now August after Shiner and Assistant State Attorney Dannie Grundt needed more time to question witnesses and then Shiner hurt his leg. Weiss is the third judge on the case, following routine reassignments of Judges Charles Burton and Meen Sasser.

"These charges were leveled, and then doubled, in an effort to hide the abuses of power by these officers and their Chief," Lucibella said in his statement. "I look forward to demonstrating that the Chief of Police involved himself in this investigation after admitting he’d been drinking so heavily that night, his wife had to drive him to the police station.

"The State Attorney’s Office declined to comment on Lucibella’s remarks," Chief Hal Hutchins said Lucibella’s statements mostly repeated claims he and Shiner have made all along.

"They’re entitled to say whatever they like," Hutchins said. "We should let the criminal justice system do its job."

Early on, the chief said he had some wine with dinner that Friday night and had his wife drive to avoid even a suggestion of DUI.

Nobah Plunket, one of the arresting officers, is privately suing Lucibella over injuries he says were a result of the incident. ★
Obituary

Highland Beach

Town sets new rules to avert construction-activity disruptions

By Rich Pollack

For years, residents living on several of Highland Beach's side streets have been complaining about noise, debris and traffic problems — all the result of new construction in their communities. Efforts to resolve some of these issues are underway following the adoption by the Town Commission of a tough new construction ordinance and a "construction site management" handbook.

"Residents will now be able to go about their daily lives without having to worry about whether or not they'll be able to exit their driveways," said Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman, a resident of the Bel Lido neighborhood, where most of the complaints originate. "They'll be able to live in their homes and enjoy peace and quiet."

The new ordinance, combined with the handbook, prohibits work on construction sites on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays and prohibits work on those sites after 5 p.m. Previously, work was permitted on Saturdays and until 6 p.m.

In addition, the ordinance — which applies to the entire town — prohibits workers at new construction sites from arriving earlier than 30 minutes before 8 a.m., when work is allowed to resume, and from leaving after 5 p.m., when work must end for the day.

Efforts to ensure residents on side streets and on the quiet, tree-lined Quainity Drive — are not disturbed are also included in the new ordinance, which prohibits "noise that tends to annoy the community."

"Loud music — in fact, any music — is also prohibited."

"It shall be unlawful for the contractor or the contractor's employees or agents to build, construct, alter or maintain any part of a construction site," according to the ordinance.

One of the biggest complaints from Bel Lido residents was teams tied access to their homes due to parking of construction vehicles and workers' own vehicles.

Bell Lido resident Mayde Weiner told commissioners that years ago parking was controlled on the street, but over time vehicles began crowding the streets, making it difficult for residents to get in and out of the community and even block garbage trucks from getting through.

"We went from strict controls to a complete free-for-all," she said. "Under the new ordinance, all vehicles associated with construction must be parked on the site or at an alternate location. The ordinance also spells out the types of permits that will be approved by the building department and Police Department. To be fair, the commission agreed to provide a six-week grace period before implementing the ordinance on existing sites."

The construction management plan, which addresses many of the same issues as the ordinance, will apply only to projects permitted after its adoption. Also, it requires companies with projects valued at more than $10,000 to post a damage bond.

Violations of the ordinance or the rules spelled out in the handbook could result in fines, while violations of the handbook rules could also result in a stop-work order or a revocation of building permits.

Commissioner Giselle Barer agreed that effective code enforcement would be needed to ensure companies follow the new rules.

"We don't have a code enforcement officer," Commissioner Rhoda Zelniker said.

The outside firm that provided building and code enforcement services, SAFEBuilt, has been under fire by commissioners and recently gave its 90-day termination notice to Delray Beach building department and is conducting searches for several positions, including a code enforcement officer.

"The town will have to come up with an action plan to make sure the town will continue to look at disruption caused by construction."

Slight tax rate boost considered; options being explored

By Rich Pollack

Devinder 'Dave' Maraj

By Rich Pollack

HIGHLAND BEACH — In the world of high-level professional sports car racing, few were as well respected — and feared by his competitors — as Devinder "Dave" Maraj.

The founder and driving force behind the highly regarded Champion Racing, and the owner of Champion Porsche in Pompano Beach, Mr. Maraj guided his race team to victory from the mid 1990s to the late 2000s in some of the most competitive and challenging races in the world, including the 24 Hours of Le Mans. That win, in France in 2005, marked the last time an American team won the grueling endurance race.

So when word of Mr. Maraj's sudden death late last month began circulating among those in the auto world, disbelief set in and then quickly turned to shock and grief.

"Dave's professionalism and demand for excellence was in a league by itself," said Scott Atherton, president of the International Motorsports Association and someone who knew Mr. Maraj well professionally.

"He was the benchmark example of a team owner and competitor." Mr. Maraj, 65, who lived in Highland Beach, was discovered in the water near the Boca Raton Resort and Club on Sunday, July 22, after friends reported that he had been missing since Saturday.

Although Mr. Maraj — originally from Trinidad — had folded the Racing under the Audi Sport North America name, won two more times.

"Dave's team was always the one to beat on the global scale," Atherton said. "Champion was the one everyone measured against."

"Very dear to me, Mr. Maraj was known as a no-nonsense kind of owner, both with the team and the dealerships," said Elyse Riessa, the managing partner of the dealership.

"As I got into budget workshop meetings, we will be studying it on a line-by-line basis and making necessary changes to make sure we get back to the rate we're currently at," said Commissioner Cesar Delgado.

"Commissioners are hoping to find some savings in what they pay Delray Beach Fire Rescue to staff their fire station and provide fire and emergency medical services. Delray Beach recently sent Highland Beach information that the estimated cost for next year's service would be about $4.2 million, up from $3.9 million."

"Other factors affecting the tax rate include plans to hire a full-time environmental consultant for an estimated $100,000, adding a part-time accounting clerk, and reclassifying a part-time maintenance worker to full-time.

Should the commission choose to keep the tax rate the same as this fiscal year, it would mark the first time in four years the operating tax rate has not increased."

"I want this to be a relationship we're all comfortable with," said Commissioner Elyse Riessa. "As we go into budget workshop meetings, we will be studying it on a line-by-line basis and making necessary changes to make sure we get back to the rate we're currently at," said Commissioner Cesar Delgado. "We can't go on like this every year," Commissioner Rhoda Zelniker said. Vice Mayor Allys Africano Nila said she discovered that similarly sized Lighthouse Point in Broward County has its own fire department, and she suggested that the commission consider doing a preliminary research into the feasibility of starting a department in Highland Beach. "Obviously, it's feasible for a small town to have its own fire department," she said.

Financial advisory board members, meeting late last month, reviewed the numbers provided by Delray Beach and decided to bring the matter back to commissioners to determine if a task force to do a financial analysis would be preferred.

Under a current interlocal agreement signed two years ago, Delray Beach provides staffing for Highland Beach's fire station as a way to cut the costs of fire-wagon. The vehicles will be purchased from Delray Beach in about eight years for $10.

In return, Highland Beach pays for the staffing and benefits of the fire department employees assigned to the station, which is owned and maintained by the town.

The meeting with Highland Beach commissioners last month, Delray Beach Fire Chief Neal de Jesus pointed out that salaries for the staff at the Highland Beach station increased almost 8 percent while overtime increased nearly 55 percent.

The pay raise, Delray's fire chief said, was the first increase for staff in the city's collective bargaining unit in 12 years.

De Jesus also told Highland Beach commissioners that numbers provided to the town are only an estimate that will be "trued up" by the Board of County Commissioners.

"The estimate is the best we can come up with," he said. The commissioners offered to meet with commissioners individually so he could answer any question.

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Changes in water services included in new Boynton budget

By Jane Smith

Boynton Beach residents and others using city services will have to be patient for the next two years while the city builds out its Town Square complex.

City buildings, including the City Hall, Public Library and Fire Station 1, will be demolished and staff will work out of different locations around town.

The library is closed and will reopen 9 a.m. Aug. 13 in a shared space with the Congregational United Church of Christ at 115 N. Federal Highway. The city’s Community Redevelopment Agency purchased the church building and will work out of different locations around town.

The city recently agreed to hire Jade Communications of Boca Raton for $25,878 to upgrade the Wi-Fi capabilities at the temporary library site.

“People will have to be patient and pay attention where they are going,” said Colin Groff, assistant city manager in charge of Town Square. “We will put out notices wherever we can — social media, in utility bills, signs at the site.”

The city held a plant giveaway at its already closed Civic Center on July 19. The cuttings came from plants around the City Hall, Public Library and Fire Station 1, which also will work out of the South Federal Highway station, he said.

“Wherever we have parking available, we will provide offsite parking,” Groff said. People can still rent out the City Hall complex, is ready,” Groff said. “There won’t be more than 40 parking spaces available until the new garage, part of the City Center complex, is ready,” Groff said. “People can still rent out the second floor for banquets and weddings, but they must provide offsite parking.

City Hall move: September

City Hall staff will move over two weeks in mid-September to Quantum Park, Groff said. City Hall will reopen Sept. 24 at 3300 Quantum Blvd.

The City Commission, CRA meetings and other city advisory board meetings will be held at the City Hall Commission Chambers during August. In September, they will move to the Intracoastal Park Clubhouse at 2240 N. Federal Highway.

Fire Station 1, which also serves Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes, will divide its staff and vehicles between Fire Station 4 on South Federal Highway and Fire Station 5 on High Ridge Road.

“We will be the last to leave,” said Fire Chief Glenn Joseph. The departure time will be in mid-September. One lieutenant and two firefighter/paramedics with a rescue vehicle will work out of the South Federal Highway station, he said.

About 60 big water customers indicated they are interested in having the reuse water to use for irrigation, Groff said. Most of these are on the west side of the Intracoastal, he said.

About 150 people came to a plant giveaway at the City Hall on July 19. The cuttings came from plants around the Civic Center.

“People will have to be patient and pay attention where they are going,” said Colin Groff, assistant city manager in charge of the utilities department.

About 60 big water customers indicated they are interested in having the reuse water to use for irrigation, Groff said. Most of these are on the west side of the Intracoastal, he said.

Two likely clients on the east side of the Intracoastal are golf courses at The Little Club in Gulf Stream and the St. Andrews Club in Boynton Beach.

“Between October and January, we’ll contact them again to make sure they are still interested,” Groff said.

The reuse irrigation pipes would be installed under Federal Highway to coincide with the Florida Department of Transportation’s repaving project, he said at the July 17 budget workshop.

The pipes would then cross under the Intracoastal at the Boynton Beach-owned Jaycee Park.

The two golf courses may have to wait a year to get the reused water.

“We may have to build a pump station on the west side of the Intracoastal to supply condo complexes in Boynton Beach that want to have the reuse water for irrigation,” Groff said.

The four-year project is estimated to cost $8 million, Groff said.

Boynton Beach also is proposing a 2.2 percent rate increase for its water customers in Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes and the County Pocket. That increase also will take effect in October.

Barrier island residents may see changes starting in October after Boynton Beach passes its $91.1 million budget.

Condo residents of four complexes south of Woolbright Road in Ocean Ridge will be part of a $400,000 request to study how their aging septic systems can connect with Boynton Beach’s wastewater system, according to Joe Paterniti, interim utilities director.

Paterniti made his department’s budget presentation July 17 at the Boynton Beach budget workshop.

The force main would go under the Intracoastal Waterway to serve condo communities along State Road A1A, Paterniti said.

The complexes involved are Ocean Ridge Yacht Club, Crown Colony Club, Colonial Ridge Club and Turtle Beach Club.

In addition, Boynton Beach has developed a master plan for its water reuse system, said Colin Groff, assistant city manager who used to be the utilities department director.

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Business Spotlight

Hotel developer Kolter Hospitality to bring headquarters—and jobs—to Delray

Kolter Hospitality, the company developing the new Courtyard by Marriott, will move its headquarters from West Palm Beach to Delray’s Pineapple Grove District next summer. That news, announced by Kolter President Scott Webb after ground was broken for the hotel in July, is expected to bring 50 jobs, along with another 60 needed to run the Courtyard by Marriott, in addition to the 75 to 125 construction workers needed to build the hotel.

The Courtyard by Marriott, at 135 SE Sixth Ave., will be Kolter’s second hotel in town, joining Hyatt Place. It is scheduled to be completed by September 2019.

“We see the value of investing in Delray’s economy and we are once again demonstrating this commitment,” Webb said. “The interesting thing about the hotel business is, we are not competitive with the local economy, but rather more symbiotic in nature. This hotel will put, on average, about 175 people every day out into the community looking to eat and shop, and this, in turn, will create even more jobs for Delray.”

According to Kolter’s website, the hotel will have 150 guestrooms, 2,000 square feet of meeting space, a rooftop pool and parking.

Jeb A. Conrad

Conrad previously was the president of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce in Indiana. Conrad, a graduate of Indiana University School of Business, held leadership roles at Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance and Indianapolis Economic Development. He also worked for Simon Property Group and the Indianapolis Water Co., both based in Indianapolis.

During the second annual Downtown Delray Beach Summer Sidewalk Sale, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 25-26, shops and galleries will offer savings and a chance to win a “Summer Fun Delray Beach” prize package. For details, visit DowntownDelrayBeach.com/SidewalksSale.

As it does each August, the Boca Chamber is facilitating community-building events during Boca Chamber Festival Days 2018. Events pair the chamber’s for-profit members with nonprofit members. Held at various locations in South Palm Beach County, wine tastings, museum visits, cocktail parties, pizza tossing, bowling, and a karaoke contest will raise money and awareness for nonprofit members. To take part, visit bocachamber.com and click on events, then choose community events from the drop-down menu. Navigate to August for a full list.

The Boca Chamber Education Foundation’s Young Entrepreneurs Academy is enrolling students in grades 6-12 through Sept. 14. During the 25-week curriculum, students will work with leaders of industry, community members and educators to develop life skills, generate business ideas, conduct market research, write business plans and launch their own companies. The program culminates with a shark tank-style event where students will pitch their ideas to a panel of investors and ask for funds to support their business ventures. For more information, go to bocachamberchamber.com/ya.

Ranked from nearly 14,000 U.S. real estate sales associates, a handful of local agents made The Thousand list, which is compiled by Real Trends, an online real estate research and consulting firm, done in partnership with The Wall Street Journal.

For full listings of local agents, go to RealTrends.com and ask for funds to support their business ventures. For more information, go to bocachamberchamber.com/ya.

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Paul Saperstein of Re/Max Advantage Plus of Boynton Beach closed 137 sides, and was ranked 198. For volume, David Roberts of Royal Palm Properties, Boca Raton, was ranked 34, with a volume of almost $189 million in closed sales.

Pascal Liguori, an agent with Premier Estate Properties, Delray Beach, was ranked 45, with a closed sales volume of $167.759 million.

For team rankings, the team must have closed 75 sides of a transaction or $30 million in closed sales volume in 2017. Boca Raton’s Premier Estate Properties team, D’Angelo/ Liguori, with Carmen D’Angelo, Gerard Liguori and Joseph Liguori, ranked 241 with a closed sales volume of $126.11 million.

Gail Adams Aaskov, broker of Ocean Ridge Realty, has moved her office to 326 W. Boynton Beach Blvd., Boynton Beach. Her real estate office had been a fixture in Ocean Ridge since 1981. Agents Maria Carrasco, Christiane Francoise, Café Frankie’s will be closed for vacation from 8/1 – 8/13.

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Gail Adams Aaskov, broker of Ocean Ridge Realty, has moved her office to 326 W. Boynton Beach Blvd., Boynton Beach. Her real estate office had been a fixture in Ocean Ridge since 1981. Agents Maria Carrasco, Christiane Francoise, Café Frankie’s will be closed for vacation from 8/1 – 8/13.

AS it does each August, the Boca Chamber is facilitating community-building events during Boca Chamber Festival Days 2018. Events pair the chamber’s for-profit members with nonprofit members. Held at various locations in South Palm Beach County, wine tastings, museum visits, cocktail parties, pizza tossing, bowling, and a karaoke contest will raise money and awareness for nonprofit members. To take part, visit bocachamber.com and click on events, then choose community events from the drop-down menu. Navigate to August for a full list.

The Boca Chamber Education Foundation’s Young Entrepreneurs Academy is enrolling students in grades 6-12 through Sept. 14. During the 25-week curriculum, students will work with leaders of industry, community members and educators to develop life skills, generate business ideas, conduct market research, write business plans and launch their own companies. The program culminates with a shark tank-style event where students will pitch their ideas to a panel of investors and ask for funds to support their business ventures. For more information, go to bocachamberchamber.com/ya.

Ranked from nearly 14,000 U.S. real estate sales associates, a handful of local agents made The Thousand list, which is compiled by Real Trends, an online real estate research and consulting firm, done in partnership with The Wall Street Journal. For individual agents to be ranked, they must have closed 50 sides of a transaction or $20 million in closed sales volume in 2017.

Paul Saperstein of Re/Max Advantage Plus of Boynton Beach closed 137 sides, and was ranked 198. For volume, David Roberts of Royal Palm Properties, Boca Raton, was ranked 34, with a volume of almost $189 million in closed sales.

Pascal Liguori, an agent with Premier Estate Properties, Delray Beach, was ranked 45, with a closed sales volume of $167.759 million.

For team rankings, the team must have closed 75 sides of a transaction or $30 million in closed sales volume in 2017. Boca Raton’s Premier Estate Properties team, D’Angelo/ Liguori, with Carmen D’Angelo, Gerard Liguori and Joseph Liguori, ranked 241 with a closed sales volume of $126.11 million.

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Al Fries, Albert Medina, Denise Medina and Sandy Wolforth and Administrative Assistant Sonia Wexler will continue their real estate work from this new location. Contact them at 276-3220.

Next month, Lang Realty will launch a lifestyle real estate channel, Lang TV to stream worldwide online (at langrealtytv), featuring South Florida agents, real estate, lifestyle activities, interior design and travel. “As marketing platforms continue to evolve, this innovative format is designed to provide our agents with a competitive advantage in connecting with potential home buyers, sellers, other agents and local businesses throughout South Florida,” said Scott Agran, president of Lang Realty. Produced by BYL Network, Lang TV will stream on smart TVs and will broadcast throughout Lang’s 11 offices and online at langrealty.com. For more information, call 998-0100.

More than 300 guests attended the opening of the new Movie Bistro Restaurant and Bar in May. Following complimentary cocktails and appetizers, guests attended a complimentary movie on Cinemark Palace 20 and XD’s Premier level. Movie Bistro, a full-service restaurant at Cinemark Palace 20 and XD, 3200 Airport Road, Boca Raton, offers lunch, dinner, happy hour and dessert, whether diners plan on going to movies or not.

The second annual Culinary Job Fair is set for 2 p.m. Aug. 7 at Benvenuto Restaurant in Boynton Beach. It’s the brainchild of Sherry Johnson of the Secret Garden, a culinary business development center. Sponsored by the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, the city of Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, PNC Bank, Community Action and PBC Career Resource Center, it’s meant to help anyone looking for a job in hospitality. That includes chefs, front- and back-of-house workers, prep cooks, stockers, deli specialists, nutritionists, bartenders and dishwashers.

The list of vendors participating is available online at cccgbbh.org/culinary-job-fair.

Send business news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.
DREAMING OF COASTAL BREEZES?

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Apparently, these millennials didn’t get the memo. Aren’t 30-somethings supposed to be living in basements somewhere — well, rooms in Florida, maybe — tallying college debt, asking for Mom’s meatloaf? Not this group.

Instead, these surfer-dudes-turned-entrepreneurs, who six years ago started the Delray Downtowner, a free electric car taxi service that shuttles riders around downtown and slightly beyond, are all about business models and out-of-state pitches and cash-flow charts.

And, yes. They still surf.

“Everyone’s using us,” says CEO Stephen Murray, who helped launch Delray Downtowner after getting a degree in psychology from the University of Tampa.

“Kids are using us. Babysitters are using us. Parents are using us.”

The company includes (l-r) Stephen Murray, co-founder and CEO; Chairman Bill McCauley, who gave financing and advice; and Mike Monaco, chief technology officer.

See DELRAY on page AT2
Chairman Bill McCauley displays the Downtowneer motto in the company’s Delray Beach office. The company, which includes Mike Monaco (left) and Stephen Murray, has offered rides in the city for six years. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

DELRAY
Continued from page AT1

The brains — and the muscle — behind the business, which Murray explained to Utah, Colorado and other Florida cities, are these high school friends who for years hung out surfing behind Bill McCauley’s Delray Beach oceanfront home.

“They grew up here,” says McCauley, who ran a Boca Raton hedge fund company for 17 years. “They were all like my sons. They kept their surfboards at my house.”

So, when the guys went off to college and came back all educated, McCauley made them an offer. “I’m happy to help you and mentor you,” he told them. “If you come up with a good idea.”

Next thing McCauley knew, bam. Electric vehicles it was. McCauley’s son, Morgan, part of that initial surf club, opted for another career route.

Let’s say it’s hot and your feet hurt and you’re headed for another career route.

“We have a manager, a bunch of cars and a bunch of drivers,” McCauley says. “They might have room for snow skis. In Delray, they have to be room for beach coolers.”

Stephanie Immelman, executive director of the Delray Beach Marketing Cooperative, says the ride system boosts Delray’s already groovy image.

“I love them,” she says. “We’ve worked with them from the very beginning and they’re a massive help to us.”

Immelman says she uses the Downtowneer to show off her city. “So when we have 10 people from the U.K. who are tour operators and are here looking, they’ve never let us down,” she said. “We can rely on them on a moment’s notice.”

Murray, 31, says a lot of people warned him against starting a business with a batch of good friends. But he said it’s one of the company’s greatest attributes.

“There’s kind of a general feeling that you don’t do business with your friends, but I’ve found it to be quite the opposite,” Murray said. “If you’re good enough friends with someone, that brings it to a heightened level of honesty. We’re like brothers, and we’re having a lot of fun.”

Himmelreich LaTour

Food Bank names board members, officers

The newest members of the Palm Beach County Food Bank’s board are Shelly Himmelreich, Shandra Stringer and the Rev. Glyn T. Coburn.

Officers for the 2018-19 season are Chairwoman Marti LaTour, Vice Chairman and Secretary Mark Busse and Treasurer Bill Kramer.

LaTour said she is pleased to lead the board and congratulated the newly elected members.

“We have an important mission to alleviate hunger in Palm Beach County,” she said. “Working with a dedicated board and staff, we will continue the high level of service provided by the agency, as well as to fulfill other areas of unmet needs related to hunger in Palm Beach County.”

Homebound seniors receive emergency kits

Volunteers from Florida Power & Light Co. joined forces with Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches and Eastpointe Country Club to provide hurricane emergency kits to 250 homebound seniors.

The kits contain three days’ worth of food and one gallon of water.

“These hurricane emergency kits are particularly important to our clients since homebound seniors are often isolated, and without adequate food supplies in the aftermath of a storm,” said Pamela Calzadilla, president and CEO of Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches.

“Thanks to the support of our partners, we were able to ensure there is food in each of our clients’ homes in the event of an emergency.”

Pat Thomas has been named host chairwoman, with Nikki Stelzer as event chairwoman, of the Junior League of Boca Raton’s Woman Volunteer of the Year Luncheon set for Nov. 16 at the Boca Raton Resort and Club.

Thomas has a long story with the league and was named Woman Volunteer of the Year in 1999. This year’s luncheon marks the event’s 31st anniversary.

“Our Woman Volunteer of the Year Luncheon spotlights not only the Junior League of Boca but the entire nonprofit community,” league President Renata Sans de Negri said. “It is remarkable to see the difference we are making as female volunteers in the community.”

Pat Thomas, Nikki Stelzer and Junior League President Renata Sans de Negri are planning the Nov. 16 event. Photo provided

Fashion show benefits Achievement Centers

Local and national sponsors came together for the 10th-annual Proper Affair fashion show and raised more than $52,000 for the Delray Beach-based Achievement Centers for Children & Families.

The event featured a silent auction, complimentary cocktails and hors d’oeuvres and special performances by the center’s dance troupe and drumline. Proceeds support programs that help hundreds of boys and girls ages 1-18 and their families.

Quantum Foundation invests in county’s health

The board of trustees of the Quantum Foundation has approved eight new grants totaling more than $800,000 to Palm Beach County nonprofits.

The grants come on the heels of eight additional grants totaling $1.6 million awarded earlier in the year.

The foundation’s mission is to fund initiatives that improve the overall health of the community. In its two decades of grantmaking, it has distributed more than $125 million to hundreds of local organizations.

The recent recipients were: Center for Child Counseling; The Lord’s Place; Florida Atlantic University; Palm Beach State College; Achievement Centers for Children & Families; Geiststream Goodwill Industries; Children’s Bereavement Center; YMCA of South Palm Beach County; The Spot (Vita Nova Village); South Florida Science Center and Aquarium; Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County; Community Health Center of West Palm Beach; Susan G. Komen South Florida; Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches; Holy Ground Shelter for Homeless; and 211.

Dollars 4 Tic Scholars’ program raises $5,400

Comedy, magic and mind reading by illusionist Gary Goodman comprised a trifecta of entertainment during Triple Threat!, the annual scholarship fundraiser for Dollars 4 Tic Scholars.

Dollars 4 Tic Scholars is a nonprofit dedicated to supporting college students and summer campers who have Tourette syndrome. The event took place at the South County Civic Center in Delray Beach and included an educational component called Tourette Syndrome Mythbusters, plus dinner, raffles, video messages from scholarship recipients and a silent auction. More than $5,400 was raised.

“I love being able to come up with fun events, such as our choice of Gary Goodman, to not only entertain but to raise awareness of Tourette syndrome in a fun way,” Dollars 4 Tic Scholars co-founder Kelsey Diamantis said.

FAU launches program for student activism

Florida Atlantic University’s Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters launched a program for high school students titled “The Barb relaunch program with a platform to develop the skills and knowledge needed to initiate, execute and sustain a social movement.”

“Students will earn six college credits through weekend workshops during the 2018-19 school year. There also is a $1,000 stipend for students who successfully complete both semesters. The goal of the program is to provide future leaders with a platform to develop the skills and knowledge needed to initiate, execute and sustain a social movement.

“We have all been inspired by what youth leaders are doing to make our world a better place,” said Michael Horwells, dean of the College of Arts and Letters. “We want to support the work being done by facilitating students’ growth in community engagement and social-change efforts.”

Send news and notes to Amy Woods at amywoods@belpointh.net

Philanthropy Notes

Junior League of Boca Ratong names coordinators for volunteer luncheon

The Coastal Star
August 2018

AT1 Philanthropy Notes

AT2 Philanthropy Notes
Women Build
Delray Beach — May 10-12

More than 125 women teamed up to raise $208,000 for the Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County’s initiative. Many of the volunteers went above and beyond their personal fundraising goals of $1,000 to underwrite the cost of construction materials for the home being built for the partner family. Those who raised the most money were recognized with gifts at the Pink Hammer Awards Reception. Mary Sol Gonzalez, the top fundraiser with more than $20,000, received a pair of pink sapphire-and-diamond earrings. TOP: Terry Fedele is part of the crew painting the exterior. INSET: (l-r) Bonnie Kaye, Kari Oeltjen and Alisa Cohen are part of the team. Photos provided by Carlos Aristizabal

Make-A-Wish
Boca Beach Club, Boca Raton — July 21

Naomi Hied, 8, of Homestead, was granted her wish at the Boca Beach Club by Make-A-Wish Southern Florida to meet and swim with mermaids. Naomi has been in and out of hospitals because of a blood disorder. Friends and family joined in the festivities. ABOVE: Mermaids Caroline Simmel (left) and Kaelyn Tharp join Naomi in the pool. Photo provided

Literacy Coalition reception
Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach, Boynton Beach — June 20

The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, celebrating the fifth anniversary of its Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus in Boynton Beach, welcomed donors to the 12,000-square-foot building. The center has enabled the coalition to expand education, training and outreach programs for children and adults and bring leaders together to share resources, exchange ideas and support literacy initiatives. We are grateful to the many supporters who helped make the dream of a permanent home for literacy in Palm Beach County become a reality, coalition CEO Kristin Calder said. ABOVE: (l-r) Bettina Young, Brenda Medore, Ann Hammer, Laurie Gildan, Gale Howden, Bernadette O’Grady, Margaret Blume, Maggie Dickenson and Calder. Photo provided
George Patti is on the move — literally. Bouncing between M.E.A.T. Boca Raton and the one in the Keys, he now has a third spot in Boca Raton he’s working on feverishly to pull together before September. “Rent,” he explained of the rush, “there’s a monthly rent.”

The new Union 27, representing a union of cultures, and 27 for Florida’s spot on the statehood chart — is the Boca Raton location in the former 13 American Table on Palmetto Park Road. “A lot of people on the street are already asking about it,” he said. “It’s been a year coming. There are all these high-rises going up around us. There’s got to be an extra 20,000 people here. I don’t know where they’ll park, but you really don’t have to walk more than a 2-mile radius here. You’ve got everything right here.”

Patti is executive chef and the “head equity” in the new partnered restaurant, which has been gutted and completely redone.

He describes the cuisine on the new menu as seasonal and artisanal: “We’ll try to do as much as possible from the area, but we know the limits of what’s available realistically.”

He has a menu worked up — subject to change — that includes starters of shrimp with jalapeño cream and grits with mango plantains and a roasted gulf oyster with blue crab, olives, kale and macaroni.

Entrées are a whole fried fish — yellowtail or hogfish, or pan-seared snapper with mango-daiquiri pepper. A filet of beef is Coffee rub for steaks and the menu has chicken, pork, vegan and a few vegetarian options as well. Patti mentioned sprouts and cauliflower with a sprinkle of maple sugar, toasted in a lemon aïoli with fried capers.

He said he doesn’t want anything “out there” on the menu, a description that must be deciphered by a server.

“I did all that. Diners want approachable foods today,” he said. “Simple and seasonal.”

Working with him as general manager is Krystal Kinney. She comes from the Deerfield Beach restaurant scene at the boutique Royal Blues Hotel.

Patti hopes to open in late August or possibly early September. “September is a good time to open, shake things out and get ready for the season,” he said. Union 27 will be at 451 E. Palmetto Park Road.

A host of Boca restaurants are gearing up for September, marking the 2018 Boca Restaurant Month, now in its second year.

Final participants weren’t in as of press time, but several have signed on as repeat or new Union 27 participants.

Uncle Tai’s has signed on as repeat or new Union 27 participants for a toast to Howard and to commemorate the final meal. We both thanked Tai and Howard Tai, not just for a lot of great food but a lot of great memories,” Abrams said.

The former restaurant serving Hunan Chinese food meant a lot to the community — many of whom have ties to New York. Uncle Tai’s came on the scene in the late 1980s offering the experience of a New York Chinese restaurant just as Boca was gaining a reputation for better restaurants. Uncle Tai’s opened near Max’s Grille, the area at the time already on the upswing.

“With our outdoor bar, we get to share great food and fun, in, sharing items to have a good time,” Rapoport said.

Other restaurants in the works for the guy who never stops, Rapoport laughs. “I’d never say no, but I just want to focus on what we’re doing and improve it. I can’t believe Max’s Grille has been there 27 years!”

It’s a keeper, he thinks.

In brief: You can still get in on Delray Restaurant Week, which runs through Aug. 7. A number of restaurants in the downtown area are participating in the dine-out plan. Go to www.downwondelraybeach.com/restaurantweek.

MIA Kitchen and Bar in west Delray has closed. Owners Blake and Anna Malatesta said the restaurant had run its course. “The restaurant market has gotten older, and they’re not being replaced by younger diners. I’m not sure what they want,” he said. The property may or may not become another restaurant.

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Aria-filled summer nights await in West Palm Beach

By Dale King
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

Summers are usually fairly quiet for the Palm Beach Opera, much less hectic than the regular season that will launch in December with a rising-stars concert followed by three mainstage productions of works by Verdi, Mozart and Johann Strauss II.

But this summer, the company is making its presence felt with a new series called Summer Opera Nights in an unusual venue: the Elizabeth Warehouse District.

As part of our ongoing commitment to engage our community and reach our younger audiences, particularly in our off-season, we’re introducing this series to share the experience of live opera in a relaxed, accessible environment,” said Managing Director David Walker.

The first show of three took place July 27. It starred baritone Neil Nelson and included operatic selections as well as games, refreshments and the camaraderie of other opera-friendly folks.

Similar events, also featuring Nelson, will be held Aug. 24 and Sept. 28, both Fridays, and at the same boutique venue.

The four-hour window will allow time for music and games by alternating the two genres.

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In the upcoming season, Nelson will sing the role of Porgy during appearances with the South Florida Symphony at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale and at the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami.

In addition to appearing with Palm Beach Opera, Nelson has been falsely accused.

It’s not much easier to talk about race today than it was in 1960 when Harper Lee’s acclaimed novel To Kill a Mockingbird was published — let alone in 1930s rural Alabama, where the story is set.

But conversations must be had.

Play's themes resonate with young actors at Maltz

By Janis Fontaine
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

It’s not much easier to talk about race today than it was in 1960 when Harper Lee’s acclaimed novel To Kill a Mockingbird was published — let alone in 1930s rural Alabama, where the story is set.

But conversations must be had.

To jump-start those dialogues, a group of young professionals at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre are producing the play based on Lee’s book as their summer production.

Called the Youth Artists’ Chair, the free summer mentorship program matches teens and young adults, ages 12 to 28, with industry professionals for one-on-one training at the state’s largest regional theater. Some also are enrolled in the theater’s two-year Professional Training Program, a combination of arts education and stage experience that prepares young adults for a career in theater.

These young thespians are juggling rehearsals with extra academics, family commitments, and part-time jobs, but some gathered on a cloudy Wednesday afternoon for a roundtable discussion about To Kill a Mockingbird’s major elements: Life during the Great Depression and the treatment of blacks in the Jim Crow South.

“Race in the time period,” said Frances Weisler, 21, of Jupiter, who is directing the show.

The story is simple enough: In 1932 in Maycomb, a small, worn-out (fictional) town in Alabama, a white attorney and widowed father of two young children is drawn into the middle of a racial feud when the court assigns him to defend a black man accused of raping a white woman. The mild-mannered father/lawyer (Atticus Finch), a staunch believer in justice, makes a valiant stand against racism when he argues in court that Tom Robinson was falsely accused.

The story has become a minor classic of American literature, in part because of its film version, which was released at Christmas in 1962 and subsequently won three Academy Awards, including best actor for Gregory Peck, who played the principled Finch.

It routinely makes best-of-cinema lists, including at the American Film Institute, where it tops the list of great courtroom dramas.

The Maltz players hope the performance will inspire people to have conversations about race — whether around the dinner table, at bridge club, or after church. They believe now is a time ripe for change.

Alexander Goodwin-Elam, 14, of Jupiter, who plays Jem, Finch’s young son, is one thoughtful young man playing another.

He says today’s youths are more racially enlightened than earlier generations.

“We as youths see differently. We’re more evolved,” he said. “The youths are calling out the older generation.”

One purpose of art is to open doors for discussions, and To Kill a Mockingbird specifically provides the impetus for a discussion about race.

“We in the theater always say we need to have the uncomfortable conversations,” said co-producer Madeline Gilbert, 20, of Jupiter.

But conversations about race certainly make people uncomfortable, “so no one is having these conversations,” said Léandre Thivierge, 16, of West Palm Beach, who portrays patriarch Atticus Finch.

Léandre has given the demanding role some thought. He said the way society talks about race is still “closeted” — people have some thought. He said the way society talks about race is still “closeted” — people have

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we’re starting to come out of the closet now.”

So what kind of conversations should we be having?

“We should have every kind of conversation. Every single notion, idea or thought should be discussed freely and openly,” co-producer Jonathan Aviv, 28, wrote in an email.

“I feel like it’s a difficult issue because we don’t talk about it,” Gilbert said. “Even if we don’t agree, we need to listen to each other. The most important part is that it needs to be a true conversation, meaning that we listen to the people around us and try to understand where the other person is coming from. You don’t have to agree to listen. The only way to have a more accepting and compassionate world is to listen and educate.”

The production offers its members a lesson in cooperation. They’re also learning that there is value in the diversity of the team — that you don’t want 10 people just like you — and to embrace, not denigrate our people just like you — and to look like. I think we should not discriminate against other people because of what they look like. I think we should have conversations about all races being equal.”

“Léandre said society has made steps forward, but “the progress is largely illusion.”

Aviv says to take a step back: “The troubles we cause ourselves and the divisions we create are illusions.”

Director Weissler says the group has been given a privilege to tell this story, but people have to listen. She looks forward to the day when people truly get the message. “I feel like it’s a difficult task to convince people truly get the message, but people have to listen. She looks forward to the day when people truly get the message.”

The role of Tom Robinson, unjustly accused of the rape of Mayella Ewell, is played by 21-year-old Jawan Hayes of Jupiter.

“In the 1930s, it was very hard for a black African-American, male or female, to be a free citizen if they were accused of something they didn’t do. Tom Robinson was a great man and model citizen and didn’t deserve to die,” Hayes wrote in an email. His character is a personification of Atticus Finch’s mockingbird — a harmless creature that does only good.

But racism isn’t just classifying people based on ethnicity; it’s also believing that there is an inherent superiority of one race over another.

“We need to just stop judging people as a whole,” said Jem’s portrayer, Goodwin-Elam. “I don’t want to have my looks define me.”

The youngest cast member, Melanie McDonald, a 12-year-old who plays Scout, Finch’s daughter, said, “We should not classify people based on ethnicity; it’s also believing that there is an inherent superiority of one race over another.

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“If that were true, we wouldn’t need to do the play anymore,” she said.

If You Go
To Kill a Mockingbird plays at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 11 at Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road. Tickets: 525 adults, 520 children. Info: jupitertheatre.org or 575-2223.

To Kill a Mockingbird
Cast and Crew

• Jawan Hayes (Tom Robinson), 21
• Léandre Thivierge (Atticus Finch), 16
• Alexander Goodwin-Elam (Jem), 14
• Melanie McDonald (Scout), 12
• Luca Riley (Dill), 13
• Brianna Alvarez (Calpurnia), 15
• David Williams (Rev. Sykes), 19
• Savannah Sebastian (Ms. Maudie), 15
• Jessica Woodard (Mr. Stephens), 23
• Summer Dingle (Mrs. Dubose), 16
• Molly Dolan (Clerk, understudy), 13
• Spencer Landis (Bob Ewell), 18
• Adriana Mucia (Mayella Ewell), 19
• David Gaztambide (Heck Tate), 17
• Sebastian Rodriguez (Boo Radley/Mr. Gilmer), 12
• Anthony Capizzi (Link Deas), 19
• Austin Adams (Mr. Cunningham), 21
• Nicholas Russel (Judge Taylor), 14
• Frances Weissler (director), 20
• Jaynie Curzi (assistant director), 13
• Jonathan Aviv (co-producer), 28
• Madeline Gilbert (co-producer), 19
• Brielle Cohen (dramaturg), 16
• Maura Wilson (scenic designer)
• Ryan Carroll (lighting), 16
• Kerstin Brown (costumes), 20
• Allegra Mullenburg (costume design assistant), 15
• Mia Rubín (sound), 13
• Sydney Geller (props), 15
• Colin Graulich (assistant props), 20
• Gabriella Smith (stage manager), 14
• Maya Arias (assistant stage manager), 12
• Mitchell Hockenson (assistant stage manager), 16
• Sophia Gonzalez (marketing director), 18
**OPERA**

Continued from page 5

sung with Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Berkshire Opera, Orlando Opera, The New York Harlem Opera Theater and the Tataert State Opera Theater in Kazan, Russia.

The opera singer said he is “glad to be part of” the summer series. “I appreciate the chance to bring my music and my background to this audience,” Nelson said.

Nelson said he also enjoys performing close to home during the warm weather. A resident of Rownd City with his wife, two daughters and a dog, the opera star is normally on the road during most of the year, traveling to shows internationally and nationally.

Palm Beach Opera officials said that the Summer Nights programs are divided up so visitors can enjoy the games as well as music by Nelson, accompanied by pianist Anna Fateneva.

“Through diverse programs like Summer Opera Nights, we strive to create interest in the art form, bring new people to the opera and leave a lasting impact on Palm Beach County,” said Walker. “Palm Beach Opera is dedicated to producing live opera at an international standard of excellence, and to enriching the life of the communities it serves with a diverse offering of educational programs.”

Walker said August and September programs will feature different opera-based trivia games along with live music and refreshments, though specifics have not been worked out yet. Children can also get temporary tattoos and take part in interactive craft stations.

The opera company isn’t the only cultural organization to set foot in the artistic quarter being developed just south of downtown West Palm Beach. The Norton Museum of Art, closed until early 2019 for completion of a $10 million renovation, has set up programs in the Grandview Public Market, situated in the heart of the reviving urban mecca. A popular food hall was opened at that venue in February when Grandview joined the complex’s Elizabeth Avenue Station artisan retail shops.

“Summer Opera Nights is a great opportunity to visit West Palm Beach’s up-and-coming Warehouse District and experience opera in a casual setting,” Walker said, adding that a food truck will be on site.

The programs this year are being sponsored by Olive and Michael Schaeffer, loyal Palm Beach Opera subscribers and patrons. They have been attending performances and events, and working as members of the Hospitality Committee, for the past four seasons. The Schaeffers live year-round in West Palm Beach.

If You Go

Palma Beach Opera will host “Summer Opera Nights” at Elizabeth Avenue Station, West Palm Beach, from 6 to 10 p.m. Aug. 8 and Sept. 26.

Tickets: $10 adults, $5 students. Includes one entry to a raffle; drink; members of Palm Beach Opera Young Friends receive a second drink for free.

Info: pbopera.org or 833-7888.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Cultural Council, partner create new stimulus plan**

LAKE WORTH — The Cultural Council of Palm Beach County and the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland have launched a year-long training and consultation program for 10 cultural nonprofits in Palm Beach County.

Called the Palm Beach County Cultural Accelerator, the program will focus on 10 institutions preparing to undertake major fundraising efforts: Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, Boca Ballet Theatre, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Center for Creative Education, Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Loxahatchee River History Center, Marcus A. Smith Jupiter Theatre, South Florida Science Center and Aquarium and the Young Singers of the Palm Beach Opera.

A mix of in-person training and one-on-one consultation will be used to implement their efforts while maintaining organizational stability. The free program is underwritten and, I feel The Donald M. Epstein Cultural Leadership Fund and Suzanne L. Niedland.

Plumosa pupil receives gift of cello, lessons

BOCA RATON — Ten-year-old Aidan Lucero, a cello student at Plumosa School of the Arts in Delray Beach, has received a Carlo Lamberti Sonata cello in a three-quarter size, along with free, monthly private instruction from Manuel Capote, music education and community outreach coordinator at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton. The Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition, in partnership with SHAR Music and Plumosa, surprised Aidan with the donation during a special presentation in June at the Nat King Cole Generation Hope Summer Strings program at Lynn’s Weld Performing Arts Center.

Originally from Hollywood, Aidan has been a student at Plumosa’s first music center, six years and six months, and began studying the cello in third grade. This fall, he will attend Bak Middle School of the Arts with the goal of attending the Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach.

**FGO director Danis bound for California**

DORAL — Susan T. Danis, general director of Florida Grand Opera for the past six years, is leaving the company Oct. 12 to become CEO of the La Jolla Music Society and The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center in San Diego.

Outreach director Justin Moxley, who has been an employee of the company, will serve as interim general director.

“I did not take the decision lightly,” Danis said. “I am very proud of the opera we created and the impact FGO has had in the community.”

**Reviews**

Here are edited reviews of current performances. For the full reviews, please visit palmbeachartsreviewer.com.

**Woody Guthrie’s American Song**

Palm Beach Dramaworks, through Aug. 19

Woodrow Wilson Guthrie, champion of the underclass and the union movement, was a genuine political activist who was never comfortable with that label. He wrote simple, nonsensical songs that celebrated this nation, but as the Great Depression consumed the country and exposed economic inequities, his tunes took on a tone of angry protest and confrontation.

The journey to his political awakening is well captured in Woody Guthrie’s American Song, an occasional biographical revue check-full of folk tunes, familiar and not.

The show, originally conceived and adapted by Peter Pepper, has been kicking around since 1988 and was first produced locally by Florida Stage in 1994.

With its themes of haves and have-nots, the Palm Beach Dramaworks revival certainly seems to speak directly and pointedly to the Trump era. But it is appealing even to the apolitical, because of the extraordinary musicianship and vocal skills of the five-member cast and three-member backup band, which is accomplished on a variety of instruments, from guitars to banjos, mandolins to fiddles, and the occasional harmonica and bass.

Tying the musical numbers together is a sketchy narrative of Guthrie’s life, as his roots in Oklahoma, his migration westward in search of the illusory promise of prosperity in California, then back across the country to his final years as a troubadour in New York. The men in the cast share the character’s mantle, telling his history in first person. Jeff Raab talks about Guthrie in his formative years, then gives way to Steve Powell, who takes us on Guthrie’s boxcar journey beyond the Dust Bowl, but not escaping poverty. The third narrator is Don Noble as Guthrie in his latter years, up to his death from Huntington’s disease in 1967.

If the women do not exactly represent Guthrie’s political awakening is well captured in Woody Guthrie’s American Song, an occasional biographical revue check-full of folk tunes, familiar and not. Guthrie’s musical output from a bygone era still lives with vitality today. — **Hap Ersin**

**Eating Animals** (opened July 27, Lake Worth Playhouse)

Based on Jonathan Safran Foer’s 2009 best-seller about factory farming, this activist doc is check-a-block with sobering facts and righteous indignation. With its themes of haves and have-nots, the Palm Beach Dramaworks revival certainly seems to speak directly and pointedly to the Trump era.

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But the discovery of this production may be The Lubbell Brothers — Joshua, Michael and Tom — local triplets who infuse the band with astonishing, though low-key, virtuosity.

Directing the production is Bruce Linser, who molds the ensemble into evocative stage pictures, settling instead for a jam session in that Bowery bar. But when the songs themselves have so much drama, little theatrical construct is needed. And when the audience is cajoled into singing and clapping along, it’s further proof that Guthrie’s musical output from a bygone era still lives with vitality today. — **Hap Ersin**

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Boyon Beach community playhouse in new home

By April W. Klimey

It's been two months since the Renovation House moved from the Madsen Center, its home for six years. Despite seasons of sold-out performances and robust community applause, the playhouse has yet to find new digs.

The Madsen Center is one of the city-owned buildings being demolished to make way for Town Square, a project that will include, among other things, a combined City Hall and library building, a parking garage, and the new home for the Schoolhouse Children's Museum.

But will the move from Madsen mean curtains for the playhouse?

"If someone doesn't step up, we won't be around much longer," said Peter Pagliaro, who founded the theater company 26 years ago in West Palm Beach.

A Aptly called "Staged Left Theatre," the name change came a few years ago when those in the theater community found a permanent home in Boynton Beach.

Today, Pagliaro is sorely disappointed. He says the theater company left West Palm Beach on the promise that Boynton Beach would give it a place in their downtown development of "that was supposed to be like CityPlace" after tearing down its whole three-block center city. That hasn't happened.

A scene from the Boynton Beach Playhouse's production of Clifhanger. The theater needs new headquarters after the Madsen Center closed to make way for Town Square. Photo provided

"Peter was surprised by the lack of support," says Bob Geller, an actor who was in Murder at the Howard Johnson's, the theater company's last show in March. "Peter spoke to the government officials, but the interest level just didn't seem to be there." Pagliaro echoes that sentiment.

"We went in front of the City Commission," he said. "They had no idea what it meant to have a performing arts theater. We are a draw for the Walters and other businesses."

But a lack of appreciation of the arts is not the only issue. "The real cause of the theater's homelessness may center on requirements — and the theater's financial model."

The playhouse occupies 3,000 square feet to function, and it keeps its set up for the entire run of a show, usually several weeks. This set requirement just couldn't be accommodated by a number of potential venues.

"The old high school, which is being renovated and will be part of the new Town Square, will be used for classes and entertainment, and perhaps eventually functions connected to the hotel that the city hopes will be built downtown."

"City buildings are multipurpose buildings," said Colin Groff, assistant city manager of Boynton Beach. "Groff was the main negotiator in the search for a new home. However, discussions with the Woman's Club also crumbled because of the duration of weeks that the company needed to keep up its sets."

The second factor is finances. The playhouse was paying $1 a year for the Madsen Center and is now looking for another venue with only nominal rent. The virtue of this model was that it kept ticket prices low — about half that of other community theaters where tickets start at $40, while Equity theaters such as The Wick in Boca Raton charge $75 per ticket or more.

"Our mission is keeping our shows affordable for all," said Pagliaro. "Our tickets run from $18 to $25 a show, so everyone can attend our shows." All actors volunteer their time.

In addition to its five-week summer season, the playhouse has traditionally produced a children's theater performance in the summer, which adults could attend for free, while kids paid only $3.

But the city's focus is elsewhere. "The city needs tax revenue," said actor Geller, who is an accountant by day. "And the developers participating in the Beach for downtown development focus on every penny and their immediate return on investment."

Profits have never been a goal of the playhouse financial model, nor has it attracted a large amount of government arts funding.

"The playhouse did apply for grant money, according to Pagliaro, when it saw this situation developing. "We went to get it you have a lot of cash on hand, and the playhouse didn't have that," he said. "We had to think that we've operated for 26 years without that."

The playhouse may also be suffering from lack of visibility among wealthy patrons, even though its patrons have come from around the county. "When you look at the demographics, a large portion of the audience has been retirees on a fixed income," Groff said. "So Peter has been caught between a rock and a hard place."

Finally, there is the Boynton Beach development boom. It has benefited the city but perhaps negatively impacted the playhouse, Groff says. Many older buildings that might have been available for a nominal fee have been demolished to make way for new residential or multi-use complexes such as Village at East Ocean, Ocean One, 500 Ocean and Riviera Plaza.

"We would love to have a theater in Boynton Beach," Groff said. "But to keep it affordable, it's a real challenge."

"So we will keep looking," Pagliaro said. "We just haven't found anything yet."
Religion Notes

St. Joseph's Episcopal plans session on centering prayer

The Rev. Wendy Tobias, associate priest at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Boynton Beach, will present an Introduction to Centering Prayer Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 18.

"We may think of prayer as thought, things going on in our heads, but this is only one expression," Tobias explains. "In centering prayer we rest in the presence of God beyond thoughts, words and emotions. In this prayer method, we cultivate a deeper relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship."

Centering prayer is more meditative than active prayer. Its goal is to quiet the mind so God's voice can be heard, according to Tobias. Rather than asking for what we want, the prayer asks what God wants for and from us. "Our only intention in centering prayer is to consent to God's presence and action within us," Tobias said.

The workshop will offer time for conversation and lunch. Bring your own bag lunch. Drinks and fruit will be provided. Cost $10 suggested donation. St. Joe's is at 3300 S. Seacrest Blvd. Call 732-3060 or visit stjosephunplugged.org.

Advent Lutheran offers opportunities for growth

Advent Lutheran Church is accepting reservations for a Women’s Sea Side Retreat Sept. 28-30. The retreat will be held at Hilton at the Deerfield Beach Resort and Spa. Registration is open through Aug. 26 after church services and online at www.adventboca.org. Also registering at Advent Lutheran is Rev. Andy Hagen's Irish Adventure 2019. Travel with the pastor and his wife, Susan, on a trip to Ireland from April 25 to May 4. The trip includes visits to Belfast, Dublin and the Dingle Peninsula. Kiss the Blarney stone, see the Book of Kells, sip Guinness, dine in a castle and play golf. For details, visit adventboca.org.

St. Vincent programs registering now

St. Vincent Ferrer is offering two multiple-week programs beginning in August, as well as a one-night marriage seminar. For more information about programs at St. Vincent, call 655-8566 or visit stvincentatboca.org.

A 14-week Grief Share support group begins Aug. 4 and meets from 10 a.m. to noon each Saturday in the conference room. The group will offer companionship and comfort to those grieving the death of a loved one. Call 921-5693 or visit stvincentferrer.com/griefshare.

St. Mark Parish Picnic

The annual St. Mark Parish Family Picnic takes place 1-4 p.m. Aug. 12, after the noon Mass. Tickets are $15. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. A cash bar, music and activities are planned. Tickets are on sale in the parish office and will be for sale after Mass Aug. 4 and 5. For more information, call 734-9330.

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at janisfontaine@outlook.com.

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 4
Saturday - 8/4 - Catholic Grandparents Meet December 17320 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. All welcome. 1st Sat 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. 209-1649; dioceseb.org

AUGUST 5-11
Monday - 8/5 - Men's 400 M Meet at Mark Catholic Church, 641 S Mark Pl, Boynton Beach. Follows 1 1/2 mil Mass. Every Fri. 7:30-9:30; tmukboynton.com

Wednesday - 8/7 - 50/100/400/1500 M at American Legion Post 139 Beach, 33 Granada St. Every Mon. 6:15-11:30 a.m. Free. 276-6318; firstdaytona.com

Wednesday - 8/7 - Centering Prayer at St. Gregorian's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Pocket dinner, topic discussion. Targeted to young parents with children age 2-13, group fee, dismissal available. 3rd Sat 6-8 p.m. Free. 395-8285; stgregory Episcopal.org

Saturday - 8/11 - An Introduction to Centering Prayer at St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church, 3100 S. Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks provided. 10 a.m-4 pm. $10 suggested donation. 732-3060; stjosephunplugged.org

AUGUST 19-25
Tuesday - 8/20 - Faith on Fire. Introduction to the Bible at St. Vincent Ferrer Killarney Hall, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Pre 1 Course. 1 of Faith on Fire series; 6 classes per course. 8/20 & 27 & 9/10, 7 1/2 & 10/7, 5-9 p.m. 100% donation free. 510-9280; textbook each course. Register: 276-6872; stvincentferrer.com

AUG. 26-SEPT. 1
Friday - 8/26 - The Empowered Marriage at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 404 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Faith-based marriage workshop presented by Jeanine Manvera. LMHC, NCC. 6:30-9:30 p.m. $25/couple suggested donation. RSVP: 702-6277; energylifeafterlife.com

APPLY AT THE JOB APPLICATION CENTER ANYTIME DURING STAFF OPERATING HOURS.

The COASTAL STAR

Religion AT9

August 2018
More folks finding out strolls at Morikami can lift spirits

For more information about the Stroll for Well-Being program, call 495-0233 or visit www.morikami.org/for-well-being/. Sign-up details for the fall (October-December) and winter (January-March) are at www.morikami.org/adult/special-programs/stroll-for-well-being. Sign-up details for the fall (October-December) and winter (January-March) sessions were posted there in July.

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Lona O’Connor has a lifelong interest in health and healthy living. Send column ideas to Lona13@bellsouth.net.
Clinical trial uses engineered polio virus to treat brain tumors

Researchers at Boca Raton Regional Hospital's Marcus Neuroscience Institute are investigating the effectiveness of using an engineered polio virus, PVRiPO, in the treatment of patients with aggressive brain tumors. “When induced at the tumor site, it directly kills tumor cells and elicits inflammatory events that engage the immune system,” said Dr. Frank Vintis, the Neuroscience Institute’s director of neuro-oncology and sub-investigator for the study.

In the past, therapy for patients with brain tumors was impeded by the blood-brain barrier, which blocks chemotherapy agents from reaching tumor sites. Breaching that barrier through neurosurgical technique is a turning point.

“The use of micro catheters under MRI guidance and using a technique called convection-enhanced delivery, we can now bypass the blood-brain barrier and deliver the therapeutic agent, such as PVRiPO, to the tumor site,” said Dr. Frank Vintis, director of the institute and principal investigator for the trial there.

The procedure is minimally invasive and usually requires a one- to two-day hospitalization. Cancer patients interested in participating in the trials can contact Boca Raton Regional Hospital’s Clinical Research Center at 954-4800 or the Marcus Neuroscience Institute Research Office at 954-574.

Dr. John Roberts was appointed to the medical staff of the Eugene M. & Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute and BocaCare Physician Network at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. A board-certified thoracic surgeon, he earned his medical degree with honors from Yale University and his master’s of business degree at Auburn University.

His postgraduate training included an internship and residency program in surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, and he completed an additional residency in cardiothoracic surgery at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston. Roberts served as the chief of general thoracic surgery at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He was also an instructor of surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital and an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Vanderbilt School of Medicine.

Roberts was selected by his peers to the “Best Doctors in America” list from 2003 through 2018.
Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 4
Saturday - 8/4 - Zumba Class
at Delray Medical Center, 22455 Boca Rio Rd, Boca Raton. Every Thu 4-5 pm. Registration: 393-8938; strmbokymon@bhinc.org

Thursday - 8/4 - Chair Yoga
at Palm Beach Community College, 7205 N Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. Every Thu 6-7 pm. Registration: 688-8889; spaltpalmbeach.com

AUGUST 5
Monday - 8/5 - Parent Training Workshop: Parental Training and Incorporating Your Child Into Community Forums - 2022-2023 Calendar Season
at Faulk Center for Counseling, 22455 Boca Rdo Rd, Boca Raton. Every M 10-11 am. Registration: 483-5300; faulkcounselor@sunrise.org

Friday - 8/5 - Yoga Class
at Boca Raton Community Center, 11435 Park Access Rd, Boca Raton. Every Fri 9-10 am. Registration: 477-8727; myboca.us

Tuesday - 8/6 - Women’s Issues Support Group
at United Methodist Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Tue 10-11 am. Registration: 483-5300; faulkcounselor@sunrise.org

Wednesday - 8/6 - Yoga Class
at Boca Raton Community Center, 11435 Park Access Rd, Boca Raton. Every W 6-7 pm. Registration: 477-8727; myboca.us

Friday - 8/6 - Life Issues: A Support Group for Widows: Support and Discussion Group at Faulk Center for Counseling, 22455 Boca Rdo Rd, Boca Raton. Every W 6-7 pm. Registration: 483-5300; faulkcounselor@sunrise.org

Thursday - 8/6 - Women’s Issues Support Group
at United Methodist Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Thu 6:30-7:30 pm. Registration: 483-5300; faulkcounselor@sunrise.org

AUGUST 7
Saturday - 8/7 - Support Group
at Delray Medical Center, 22455 Boca Rio Rd, Boca Raton. Joint program w/Ruth & Norma Ranes Jewish Family Services. Age 18. Every F 9 pm-10 pm. Registration: 393-2022; rfnjfs.org

Monday - 8/7 - Breastfeeding Support Group at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, 800 Meadows Rd. Every Mon 10:30-11:30 am. Registration: 295-6455; breastfeed.org

Friday - 8/7 - Buggly Stroll Program
at Catherine Strong Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Fort Lauderdale. At sunrise. Registration: 225-9515; bugglystroll.com

AUGUST 8
Monday - 8/8 - Food Addicts Anonymous
at Bethesda Regional Hospital, 800 Meadows Rd. Every Mon 10:30-11:30 am. Registration: 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com

Tuesday - 8/8 - Women’s Issues Support Group
at United Methodist Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Tue 10-11 am. Registration: 483-5300; faulkcounselor@sunrise.org

AUGUST 9
Tuesday - 8/9 - Soul Searching at Mark Church Mennonite Community Church, 1000 S. Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Bring floor mat or optional hand weights. Every W 6:30-7:30 pm & Thu 8:30-9:30 am. Free. Registration: 734-9938; strmbokymon@bhinc.org

Thursday - 8/9 - Chair Yoga Class
at Palm Beach Community College, 7205 N Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. Every Thu 6-7 pm. Registration: 688-8889; spaltpalmbeach.com

AUGUST 11
Saturday - 8/11 - Super Siblings Class
at Bethesda Heart Hospital, 2015 S Seaboard St, Boynton Beach. Learn about new resources for families with multiple children. Decorate a onesie, celebrate with a birthday cupcake. Age 2-4; must be accompanied by an adult. Every Thu 6:30-8:30 pm. Additional siblings $5/each. Registration: 369-2229; publicrelations@bhinc.org

Tuesday - 8/11 - Prescription & Respond Preliminary Prental Class at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2015 S Seaboard St, Boynton Beach. Learn about the benefits of safe practices, what to do in the event of an emergency. Every T 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 369-2229; publicrelations@bhinc.org

AUGUST 12
Sunday - 8/12 - Childbirth Express: A Day for Men & Learning at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2015 S Seaboard St, Boynton Beach. Across from McDonald’s
Email: DrTim@TimWellness.com
Website: www.TimWellness.com

For further information about facilities and programs, please visit the Health Calendar online at delraylibrary.org.
Launch for kayakers with disabilities

Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, Boynton Beach — July 13

Boynton Beach showed off its latest effort to help people with disabilities with its EZ Kayak Launch at Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park on the Intracoastal Waterway. The EZ Kayak Launch, which provides a lift in and out of the water, cost $58,870 to purchase and install. Boynton Beach received $28,500 through a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Recreational Trails grant. The balance was paid through the city’s Park Impact Fund. ABOVE: Wayne Carrels, Parks and Recreation crew leader, demonstrates how to use the launch. Photo provided.

Outdoor Calendar

Launch for kayakers with disabilities

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

**AUGUST 4**
Saturday - 8/4 - Boardwalk Tours at Green Cay National Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Discount-guided tour of wetlands. All ages. Times vary; call for details. Free. 966-7000; pbcnature.com

**AUGUST 4 - 8/8**
Sunrise: 6:30 am; Sunset: 7:30 pm; Moonrise: 11:56 pm. 60% sky cover.

**AUGUST 5 - 8/5**
- 8/5 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Lighthouse Day, 9 am-noon, 11 am-3 pm, throughout Palm Beach County. All ages, free. 718-9644; lighthouse.gov

**AUGUST 5**
- 8/5 - Boardwalk Tours at Green Cay National Center, 6301 Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
- 8/5 - Sea Turtle Talk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 2 pm. Free. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
- 8/5 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Lionfish Derby & Festival presented by Whole Foods Market at Loggerhead MarineLife Center, 14200 Hwy A1A, Indialantic. All ages; $50 entry fee. 733-0192; loxahatcheefriends.com/events.shtml

**AUGUST 6**
- 8/6 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Loggerhead Derby & Festival presented by Whole Foods Market at Loggerhead MarineLife Center, 14200 Hwy A1A, Indialantic. All ages; $50 entry fee. 733-0192; loxahatcheefriends.com/events.shtml

**AUGUST 7 - 8/11**
- 8/7 - Boynton Beach Fishing Club at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 8/7-8 - Guided Nature Walk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided walk along the Ashley Trail. 1-hour walking tour w/a naturalist. Age 9+. 9-9 am. Reservations required: 966-7000; pbcnature.com
- 8/8 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Lighthouse Day, 9 am-noon, 11 am-3 pm, throughout Palm Beach County. All ages, free. 718-9644; lighthouse.gov
- 8/9 - 8/13 - Outdoor Calendar  AT13
- 8/9 - Lantana Beach Cleanup at 100 N Ocean Blvd, Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Explore grasses and flats of 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. No flip-flops or sandals. Old Sneakers or water shoes only. Age 10 to adult; children must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 2 pm 8/22. 3 pm. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**AUGUST 12 - 8/18**
- 8/12 - 8/18 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Lighthouse Day, 9 am-noon, 11 am-3 pm, throughout Palm Beach County. All ages, free. 718-9644; lighthouse.gov
- 8/15 - 8/19 - Intracoastal Adventures: Stand-Up Paddleboarding at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ecosystems. Age 6-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult: 9-11 am. $20/ member; 30/non-member. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**AUGUST 19 - 8/19**
Saturday - 8/19 - Intracoastal Adventures: Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ecosystems. Age 6-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult: 9-11 am. $20/ member; 30/non-member. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**AUGUST 26 - SEPT. 1**
Sunday - 8/26 - Intracoastal Adventures: Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ecosystems. Age 6-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult: 9-11 am. $20/ member; 30/non-member. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

On Vacation

The Coastal Star fishing and boating columnist Willie Howard is taking the month off. His column will resume in September.

Willie Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Reach him at twillie@bellsouth.net.
Samaritans365 clubs teach children to be kind, giving.

By Janis Fontaine

The adage “Children learn what they live” is at the core of the Boca Raton-based nonprofit Samaritans365, a group that introduces kids to community service.

“I wanted my children to live in a community where people are kind,” said founder Laura Reiss. Instead of simply wishing and hoping, she decided to help build it.

The mother of three young daughters, then 4, 5, and 7, was asked to join the PTA at Sunrise Park Elementary, the school her girls had attended. She agreed, with the condition she could start a free, after-school club that would bring in volunteers from local philanthropic groups to teach the kids about helping others and supporting the No. 1 tenet: Kindness matters.

The ultimate goal? A new generation of kind-minded humans would be more likely to “inspire others to do what they were doing: To be Samaritans365 kind.”

There were 35 kids in that first club.

“The children were thirsty for it,” Reiss said. “The transformation reached beyond those kids, to their parents, the teachers and staff—and the other students at the school.”

To Reiss, the kindness contagion proved the “communicable nature” of kindness.

The program works like this: Ambassadors are trained to lead and help clubs. They arrange for speakers to come in and talk to kids about programs on which they’re working. The kids who are inspired to volunteer, is the club itself.

As the organization has grown, so have the financial demands, Reiss said. And of all the challenges, money is the one that always makes managing an organization difficult.

“As we grow, I thought love and kindness and plenty of volunteers would sustain us,” Reiss said.

The problem, she says, is that people prefer to financially support the fun and pretty stuff: the parties and the highly visible activities. But paying for background checks, building insurance and acquiring a smoothie truck can cost thousands to outfit a new club.

“This is not incidental or the fun stuff,” Reiss said. “It is essential to the club.”

Children in Samaritans365 help local charities and encourage kindness.

Photo provided

For more information, visit www.samaritans365.org.

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Photo provided

For more information, visit www.samaritans365.org.
Auxiliary Athletic Classes at Pompom Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Deerfield Beach. Karate & karate of other combat martial arts. Age 4-12. Every Thu/Fri 7-8 pm. Fee: $150/student; $125/session; 2/session same student $235/session. Register: 245-7367, registerbyeverday.com

Friday - 8/27-9/16 - Free Karate at Explorium, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Discuss karate techniques, do check/checkmate

Monday - 8/20 - 7/9 - Sensory Art for Tots at Boca Raton Children's Museum, 21618 St. Andrews Blvd, Boca Raton. Join us for a closer look at the many habitats found in our home state. Florida! Learn how they are adapted to survive and thrive in the many environments found in our home state. Age 2-5. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 393-7968; myboca.us/957/Library

Saturday - 8/25 - 9/1 - 8/22 - Group Swim Lessons at Deerfield Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 7+. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 266-0768; delraylibrary.org

Sunday - 8/19 - Back to School Bash at First United Methodist Church of Boca Raton, 2800 N Ocean Dr. 4-6 pm. Free. RSVP: 393-7852; firstumcboarat.org

Thursday - 8/26 - 9/2 - 9/9 - Unicorn Academy at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. meet the unicorn at each class; children create their own rainbow unicorn. Age 4-6. Every Thu 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 245-7822, schoolhousemuseum.org

Saturday - 8/25 - 9/1 - 8/22 - Group Swim Lessons at Deerfield Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 7+. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 266-0768; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 8/4 - 8/11 - Field Trip to Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 11435 Park Access Rd, Boca Raton. Meet live animals that could be found right here in Florida! Children ages 4-6. 9:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 245-7822, schoolhousemuseum.org

August 26-27

Sunday - 8/26 - Religious Education Registration at St. Vincent Ferrer Recreational Conference Area, 51 George Bush Blvd, Deerfield Beach. Grades 9-12. F 5:30-7 pm. Free; students under 9th, 8th Grade & Kindergarten $25/student, $30/family. Registration: 274-0170; stvincentferrer.org

Monday - 8/27 - GEMS Club: Digging for GEAMS at South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4000 Driftwood Park Dr, West Palm Beach. Empower young girls to explore STEM fields. Grades 5-8. 5:30-7:30 pm. 8th grade, $25/10; 9th-12th grade students, free. Registration: 774-1518; gemsclubflorida.org
Paws Up for Pets

Veterinarian’s house calls relieve stress on pets, owners

I

s there a veterinarian in the house? That question is asked by more and more pet owners for a variety of reasons. And it is why Dr. Steve Teisch left a steady gig as a veterinarian in a clinic to make house calls full-time to dogs, cats, birds, lizards, pot-bellied pigs and, yes, even a couple of camels in Palm Beach County.

“I started part-time making house calls about 10 years ago for additional income,” says Teisch, who operates All About Town Pet House Calls. “Now, it is beyond full-time and I need to hire another veterinarian.”

Each morning, Teisch and Chris Griffin, his head veterinary technician, hop in Teisch’s blue Mini Cooper and go to houses, apartments, condos and even assisted living areas to treat pets on their home turf.

He represents a new breed of veterinarians in Palm Beach County and across the nation who recognize the need to provide care for far too many pets that never get a paw inside a veterinary clinic.

Especially frightened felines. “We see a number of cats whose owners can’t get their cats into carriers or the car to take them to a veterinary clinic,” Teisch says. “And we make house call visits for some dogs who get car sick every time they get into a car. We see all age groups from all socioeconomic levels. The more people hear about house call veterinary care, the more people want it.”

Elizabeth Ackerly of Ocean Ridge first met Teisch years ago at a dance class. In between dance steps, she discovered he was a house call veterinarian. “My cat, Lily, hates to go in the car, so having Dr. Steve come to my home is just the best,” says Ackerly, a retired commercial airline pilot. “He was just here a few days ago to treat Lily for an allergy. He comes in wheeling a big toolbox full of instruments and medications and then places a towel on the dining room table and does his examination on Lily.”

Ackerly guesses Lily is about 15 or 16 years old. Lily may not rush up to greet Teisch when he arrives, but she maintains her composure during examinations and treatments.

“Most animals do not like going to the vet, and many people do not want to have their pets go through the trauma of the car ride, the lobby and the exam room,” says Ackerly. “Dr. Steve has a very good tableside manner with Lily. He is very sweet to her, scratches her ears and makes her feel loved during the house call visit.”

One of Teisch’s clients is Pippin, the resident cat that roams inside The Coastal Star office. “I just was there at the newspaper office to give Pippi her annual visit and she is all healthy,” Teisch says. “She is a good kitty and a real news queen.”

Teisch maximizes space in his car to bring his veterinary supplies, including a portable X-ray machine. Tapping into the client’s home Wi-Fi, he can retrieve the pet’s cloud-stored medical records quickly on his laptop. He is in the process of obtaining an ultrasound machine and plans to perform therapeutic laser treatments in homes. On rare occasions, he will perform spays and neuters and other surgical procedures in an office he rents in Lantana. What he won’t do is swap his Mini Cooper for a mobile veterinary van.

“The veterinary clinic on wheels concept is not what we do,” he says. “We make house calls. We are not interested in driving up in a van, parking it in a person’s driveway and bringing the pet into the van for examinations or treatments. We feel it is much more comfortable for the pet as well as the owner to treat inside the comfortable, familiar setting inside the home.”

In-home dentistry is growing in popularity among his clients. Depending on the size of the pet, Teisch sedates them and performs the dental procedure on kitchen islands, dining room tables or the floor. Once the teeth are cleaned and, if necessary, a tooth or two is extracted, he wakes up the pet slowly and safely with a reversible sedation medication.

He recently cleaned the teeth of a 10-year-old Mini Cooper named Pixie who had receding gums and a deep dental pocket that needed to be treated. Within 20 minutes of waking up after the procedure, Pixie was relaxed and ready for a nap.

Another major reason people seek house call veterinary care is for euthanasia. Also, owners with multiple pets don’t relish the idea of booking multiple trips to the veterinary clinic. “The multiple pet household — that’s where a house call practice really shines,” says Teisch. “Instead of making multiple trips to the vet office, I come to you and take care of all the pets in one appointment.”

The majority of pets he treats are cats and dogs, but he provides medical care for a number of pot-bellied pigs as well as rabbits, lizards, birds and snakes. A recent house call request came from a person who owns a pair of camels.

“Fortunately, I have some knowledge of camels, as one of my professors at Colorado State had llamas and I got to work with him,” says Teisch, whose service covers Palm Beach County and northern Broward. “Camele is similar to llamas. The two camels I am caring for here are good-natured.”

To learn more about Teisch, visit www.allabouttownhousecalls.com.

Arden Moore, founder of FourPodsLogdog.com, is an animal behavior consultant, editor, author, professional speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She hosts the Oh Behave! show on PetLifeRadio. Learn more by visiting www.ardemoore.com.
**Philanthropy Notes**

**Feet From Stardom**

8/4 - Black Movie Experience (BMX):
1st meeting free. 213-6581; 954-486-2426; mydelraybeach.com
SE 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Proceeds go sandowayhouse.org
2:45 pm. Free w/$5 admission. 274-7263; 8/4 - Coral Reef Shark, Alligator &
501auctions.com/bbh
10 am-12:30 pm. Register: 208-9000;
friendly event; assemble care packages for
Conference Way S, Boca Raton. Family-
Croquet Club, 700 Florida Mango Rd,
8/4 - Croquet Lessons
Sat 10 am-noon. $29/resident; $35/non-
resident. 742-6221; boynton-beach.org
7852; myboca.us/957/Library
Held again 9/1. 10 am-noon. Free. 393-
Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults.

**August 5-11**

Saturday - 8/5 - Soda Tea Ceremony
Beginners Class at Hanooka Museum and
Japanese Gardens Soshin-cho
Teaourse, 4000 Monikami Rd Park, Del
Beach. Study the traditional art of Soda,
The Way of Tea. Tea Ceremony Workshop required for those who need to have
a Tea Ceremony Class but wish to start studying Soda. 2 sessions/month (8/5 &
19); individual appointments begin at
10am. 150 people; limited space. Registration:
447-9233 x207; monikami.org
8/5 - Bridge Duplicate at Rutherford
Community Center, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca
Sandstormers 6-8 pm; 305, 610 F.L. duplicate
game for the experienced player. Light
lunch served. Partners available for singles-
Every Sun 10 am-12:30 pm at the
door. Reservations or partners: 338-
2995; mybca.com
8/5 - Europe Tea Dance at Goldcoast
Brewery, 3320 Airport Rd #1, Boca
Raton. Sanctioned A.C.B.L. duplicate bridge
game. Age 18 & up. Every
Saturday - 8/4 - Pickleball
at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray
Beach. Tennis skill/practice. Age 18 & up.
Every W 3-5 pm. 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach.

**Community Calendar**

Note: Events are current as of 7/22. Please check with the organizers for further details.

**AUGUST 4**

Saturday - 8/6 - Picnic at Delray
Beach Tennis Center, 210 W Atlantic Ave.
8-8:30 am - 9 pm; Sat 7:30 am-6 pm. 530-
residents only. Public 8:30 am-6 pm. Free.
243-7356; mydelraybeach.org
8/4 - Break the Cycle at Fayette,
2561 Cypress Tree Rd, Delray Beach.
10 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration:
243-7356; mydelraybeach.org
8/4 - Socrates Café at Downtown
Public Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Use our
Local history section to do your own
coloring sheets or bring your own. Every
W 3-5 pm. 3618 S Ocean Blvd. 7 pm. Agenda:
mydelraybeach.org
8/7 - Boca Raton Noon Toastmasters
at Train Depot, 753 S Dixie Hwy. Improve
public speaking, leadership abilities.
Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 243-7350;
myboca.us
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**Boca Raton Noon Toastmasters**
- First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd.
- Second & fourth Tuesdays at Boca Raton City Hall, 201 W Palmetto
Activities, music, food, entertainment. 6-10 pm.
- Monday Night Raffles
- Second Tuesday at Boca Raton City Hall, 50 NW 1st Ave. Every T 7-743, 12pm.
- 1st Monday at First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd.
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**August 2018**

**THE COASTAL STAR**

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**August 2018**

**The COASTAL STAR**

**Community Calendar**

**Thursday - 8/17 & 8/18**

**Taste of Boca Beach**

8:15 pm, west side of Hillsboro Inlet, north of the Seagate Hotel Reef Ballroom, 1000 E Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Multiple vendors. Free admission. 450-6961; theseagateresort.com

**Saturday - 8/18**

**Treefete**

8-11 pm, Mizner Park, 9th St & N Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 9 pm doors open; 9:30 pm show. $25. 484-9621; funkybiscuit.com

**Sunday - 8/19**

**Art Fair**

8 am-5 pm, Civic Plaza, Mizner Park, Boca Raton. Free admission; $1 for Physically Challenged. 487-2000; artfairofbocaraton.com

**Monday - 8/20**

**Open Mic Night**

8-11 pm, Capital Grille, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm door; includes all food and drinks. 391-7371; capitalgrilleboca.com

**Tuesday - 8/21**

**Art Walk**

7-9 pm, Mizner Park, Boca Raton. Free admission. 487-2000; artfairofbocaraton.com

**Wednesday - 8/22**

**Auction of Local Art**

10 am-12:30 pm, Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. 20% of profits benefit center for the Arts. 450-6961; delraylibrary.org

**Thursday - 8/23**

**Red, White & Blue: Summer Chefs Series**

5-9 pm, at West Palm Beach Convention Center. Adults 21 & over only. 5 pm doors open; 9 pm show. $45-$70. 465-3946; funkybiscuit.com

**Friday - 8/24**

**Outre Theatre Company at The Irishmen Pub**

8 pm. 954-667-5860; theirishmenpub.com

**Saturday - 8/25**

**New Moon Dance**

7-10 pm, The Center Stage Performing Arts Center, 5400 Nw Boca Blvd, Boca Raton. Adults 21 & over only. 5 pm doors open; 9 pm show. $20-$40. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com

**Sunday - 8/26**

**Ping Pong Classic**

11 am-5 pm, the Front Porch, 947 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Free admission. 898-4518; thefrontporch.org

**Monday - 8/27**

**Big Fall Kickoff at the Delray Beach Public Library**

8-10 pm, 10346 N. Dixie Hwy, Delray Beach. Instructor Elizabeth Sims. Registration: 395-9622; ymcaspbc.org/activities

**Tuesday - 8/28**

**Class: Password Protection**

6:30-8:30 pm, Boca Raton Resort & Club, 501 E Camino Real. Benefits Twin Palms Center for the Arts. 450-6357; artsgarage.org
Jack Elkins sells the best of Manalapan & Hypoluxo Island

319/322 N Atlantic Drive  Hypoluxo Island

This gorgeous home is marked at the meeting point of the two smaller bays giving a 360° view of the Intracoastal shoreline. Built in 2006, the residence follows a French Colonial style with Dutch influences and a layout filled with symmetry, repetition of architectural elements and the concept of Machte. The remarkable floor plan guides you throughout the home from one ambiance to another. Private pathways lead to the two guest houses on the main property, totaling a 150’ x 405’ lot. Across the street lies an additional guest house boasting 2 beds, 2 baths on a 100’ x 320’ waterfront lot, $19,900,000

1555 S Ocean Boulevard  Manalapan

Modern Mediterranean masterpiece perched above the Intracoastal waterway and Atlantic Ocean. An 8 bedroom, 9.2 bath three-level home with balconies to take in the panoramic water views. A new private dock will accommodate up to a 75’ boat plus a second boat. $17,000,000

1405 Lands End Road  Point Manalapan

The centerpiece provides both 5 bedrooms and 5.5 baths. The open concept chef’s custom kitchens and family room make entertaining easy. Take the elevator upstairs to your enormous master suite and large balcony overlooking the pool and Intracoastal. $6,950,000

409 N Atlantic Drive  Hypoluxo Island

Transcend the sweeping entry staircase to the main living area of this custom designed and built contemporary 6 bedroom, 6 bath waterfront estate. Entertain with ease indoors or out with private guest suites, a heated lap pool, poolside cabana and private dock. $4,995,000

125 Park Lane East  Hypoluxo

Enjoy waterfront living at its finest! This private direct Intracoastal 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has over 105’ of Intracoastal water frontage allowing you to enjoy water views from almost every room. The spacious and open split floor plan is perfect for hosting family or friends. $4,950,000

Jack Elkins & Bunny Hiatt
561-373-2198
jelkins@FiteGroup.com