Boyon Inlet targeted for change, but caveats loom

By Thomas R. Collins

Since it was built in 1927, the Boynton Inlet has seen regular nips and tucks and tweaks, with changes to its jetties and a system installed for shifting sand to the sand-needy south end. Time for an all-out overhaul, some local officials say, arguing that the inlet is unsafe for boaties and should be widened and deepened. Oh, no, you don’t, say others, warning that they don’t have enough information about potential flooding or harm to reefs. Engineers working for the Boynton Inlet Committee have drawn up five proposals for inlet changes and the committee is scheduled to start ranking them at its Dec. 12 meeting. But the plans also bring worries about hurricane storm surge. And any major changes couldn’t happen until the A1A bridge over the inlet is replaced — a project that isn’t even on the table. Officials with Boynton Beach, which has hired engineering firm Applied Technology & Management to analyze the options, hope that at least some changes can be made. The firm produced an 83-page report using a grant from the South Florida Water Management District. “It takes a seasoned seaman or seawoman to get through there,” Boynton Beach City Manager Kurt Bressner said. The inlet is criticized not only for being narrow — about 60 feet narrower than the Boca Inlet, according to ATM — but also because the jetties on either side limit visibility as boaters try to make their way into the Atlantic. Even worse, shoals to the east of the inlet create shallow waters that promote waves that have capsized even professional boat captain’s vessels. “This one is particularly notable for safety issues,” ATM engineer Michael Jenkins said. But if the inlet were widened by 200 feet — the most ambitious of the options — an extra two feet of storm surge would flood Ocean Ridge, Manalapan and Hypoluxo Island in 27 yence.

Ocean Ridge

Town Hall hailed as success

By Ron Hayes

When residents gathered for their annual Light The Lights celebration Dec. 5, those long strings of twinkling white bulbs didn’t brighten only the holiday season. They also shone on a beautiful new Town Hall and a new chapter in the community’s history. The $4 million building is three times larger than its predecessor, equipped with state-of-the-art communications and capable of withstanding a 160-mph hurricane. It’s been built to last a long time — and it’s been a long time coming. “We were speaking of the need for a new building when I first started as a dispatcher back in 1981,” remembers Town Clerk Karen Hancsak, “so I’m ecstatic it’s happened during my tenure here. And it is beautiful.”

At 11,000 square feet, the new complex is a mansion compared to the first Town Hall, a 10-by-10-foot concrete box at the east end of the Ocean Avenue bridge. “The original foundation is still standing back in the mangroves,” says former mayor and town historian Gail Aaskov. “If the police wanted to go to the bathroom, they had to walk across the bridge.”

The Town Hall Hancsak began working in 1980 was built in 1962. “And these past few years, the storms really took a toll on it structurally,” says Mayor Ken Kaleel. “Wilma, Frances and Jeanne — we got hit by all three, plus we had asbestos problems and mold and air quality issues. It was falling down, and this one is going to stay up.”

For its design, the Town Commission turned to a resident and former mayor, architect Digby Bridges, who turned to South Africa for inspiration. “The style is called Cape Dutch,” Bridges explained one November morning, as landscapers scurried to finish planting in time for the grand opening. Developed in the 18th century during the Dutch Colonial presence around Capetown, the style is characterized by large, ornately curved gables. Cape Dutch homes are traditionally painted either white with green shutters or yellow with blue, and adorned with pagodas on top.
Editor's note
Thanks for reading us, and stay in touch.

A special “Thank You” to all of the readers and advertisers who made our first edition such a success. We were thrilled by the emails and phone calls we received. Keep ‘em coming! Our hope is that you’ll help make The Coastal Star your community newspaper by contributing letters, creative works, announcements, calendar items and nominations for our next “Coastal Star.” Between editions we invite you to drop by our Web site (www.thecoastalstar.com) and join one of our town groups. They are a good place to meet and discuss issues of the day. You’ll find news and discussion areas and photos from all around the island. Once again, thank you for helping to make The Coastal Star such a success, and please stay in touch.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

Correction
In the November edition we mistakenly stated the sponsorship of the Delray Beach Halloween Parade. To set the record straight, the Kiwanis Club of Delray Beach has been the only sponsor of the annual Halloween Parade in downtown Delray Beach for more than 60 years. This year was the largest event yet. The Kiwanis Club handed out more than 400 blue ribbons for costumed children and more than 680 ice cream treats at Veterans Park following the parade.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

World AIDS Day

By Antigone Barton

The first day of this month marked World AIDS Day, a reminder that an epidemic noticed 27 years ago with the deaths of eight men now afflicts an estimated 33 million people around the globe.

It also is a time to remember the epidemic in our community, where more than 7,100 residents live with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS.

From the beginning, Palm Beach County has occupied a prominent place on the map of the AIDS epidemic, with high rates of infection in the county and awareness of the disease.

But the county also has distinguished itself in its community response to those numbers, with grass-roots groups of patients, health workers, volunteers and charitable donors working together to improve care and awareness of the disease.

They have set a model for other communities with their efforts and, all the more impressively, they have done so without the guidance of a national effort.

Such strategies have been shown what its resources can accomplish. It has much to benefit from — and offer — a national effort.

Lantana resident Antigone Barton writes about the HIV/AIDS epidemic on her blog, Journal of the Plague Years at: http://plagueyears.wordpress.com. Her Palm Beach Post series of stories on AIDS in the Caribbean was funded by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. Recently awarded a Knight Health Journalism Fellowship, she will spend next year in Zambia working with local media on its coverage of health issues.

Local Voices

By Antigone Barton

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Coastal Star
She’s always helping others

Delray Beach resident Kari Shipley can always be found doing something for others. Whether making a special dinner for a friend who is going through chemotherapy, or finding volunteers for myriad local events, she can always be counted on for much-needed help.

In addition to being the “family manager” of the never-quiet Shipley household, Kari is involved with several not-for-profit organizations in the community.

The Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach, The Achievement Center for Children & Families, Bethesda Memorial Hospital, and First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach are just a few organizations that can thank Kari for her extraordinary dedication and commitment of time. Through her committee work, she has helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars that find their way to needy children and families in the Delray Beach area.

Looking forward to my next copy

My neighbor mailed me a copy of The Coastal Star and it is quite wonderful. The photography and use of color plus the quality of the paper—it’s all good. I will look forward to my next copy. Good luck.

Los DeCew
Briny Breezes

A terrific publication
I think The Coastal Star is terrific. I read it from cover to cover—it was informative, professional, well-written and perfectly suited to its market area in terms of content and style. Congratulations for doing such a stellar job—I can’t wait for the next one!

Marie Speed
Ocean Ridge

First edition a success
Congratulations on your first issue. The Coastal Star is well-written, thoughtful and timely. The photos are especially well done. The publisher, editor and many writers have evidently worked hard to make this first edition a success. I look forward to next month’s paper. I am also very impressed with your Web site at www.thecoastalstar.com. You folks certainly know what you are doing.

Chris O’Hare
Gulf Stream

Thank you for making us part of the first edition
Two pieces of good news: The election is over and your first edition is brilliant! I have received so many calls and comments about the overall quality and content of the paper. I will take it to as many people as I know to try to get advertising for you for future editions. I wish you continued success and I thank you again for making Cleopatra and me such an integral part of your first edition.

Pam Goodman
Gulf Stream

Congrats on a soap-saving publication
I would like to commend you on an excellent first edition of your newspaper. Great quality in all respects—print, photos, paper thickness and extremely well-written articles of concern to all of us in this area. I also find that I don’t have to wash my hands after reading it, as I always have to after reading the Sun-Sentinel and Palm Beach Post—so I save on soap! Keep up the good work!

John Parry
Ocean Ridge

Hopes for an everlasting publication
Joanne and I just read your first Coastal Star. So much was covered. What a huge effort and terrific accomplishment. Plus, this seems like the very first attempt to truly join these 10 miles of nice coastal communities together. Hope this is the beginning of an everlasting publication.

Ira and Joanne Friedman
Briny Breezes

A proposal to slow boat traffic
I’d like to propose a recommendation for slowing boat traffic in the Boynton Beach area. Consider an 8 mph limit on boats over 20 feet in the narrow and highly developed section of the Intracoastal Waterway from south of the Boynton Inlet to the bridge at George Bush Boulevard. This would:

• Reduce damage to moored boats
• Reduce erosion damage to banks and seawalls
• Provide manatee safety
• Provide safety of smaller boats underway

Tom Byrne
Briny Breezes

Coastal Star

Kari Shipley at home in coastal Delray Beach
Kari Shipley was nominated by Stephanie Shipley to be a Coastal Star. “She is an amazing daughter, sister, wife, mother and volunteer, and I am very lucky to have her not only as a stepmother, but also as a friend.”

Kari Shipley at home in coastal Delray Beach

December 6, 2008
The COASTAL STAR
News 3
Historians of the ‘Halls’ have tales to tell

By Ron Hayes

Sometimes there are towns before there are town halls. Ocean Ridge was incorporated — as Boynton Beach — in 1931. But its first Town Hall wasn’t built until 1937.

As Gail Adams Aaskov recalls in The History of Ocean Ridge, the first town meeting was held on May 16, 1931, in a private home — one of 12 in the town at the time.

And when Ocean Ridge finally built its own Town Hall in 1937, the building was only 10-by-10 feet — but it served the purpose until 1962.

The town of Gulf Stream was incorporated in 1925, but Town Clerk Rita Taylor can’t find a record of a town meeting before 1950. Until then, government met in private homes or the golf club on the beach.

“Our first Town Hall was nothing but a little bathhouse,” says Mayor Bill Koch. “When a bunch of people came to meetings, they had to sit outside and talk through the screen door or the window.”

Whether the bathhouse was, in fact, an actual bathhouse is unclear, for the plane crash.” And that wasn’t their fault, of course. On July 22, a twin-engine plane crashed into the nearly completed building. The pilot wasn’t seriously injured, but the landing gear cracked the main gable and sliced through the roof of what is now a sunny front room set aside for the town’s first library.

“We call the library the hangar because that’s where the wheel was hanging down,” Kaleel says. He can speak lightly now, but the accident did $130,000 in damage and delayed the project six weeks. Staffers, who moved out of the temporary doublewide trailers and into the new building in early October, are still struggling to find words grand enough to praise it.

“The police are walking around in shock,” says Chief Ed Hillery of his 14-person force. “You have to remember, when we moved from the old building into the doublewide, that was an upgrade.”

Now the Police Department stretches down a long hall at the rear of the building, and includes a fully equipped exercise room donated by the town’s Police Support Group.”

“Once the room was a converted cell,” laughs Hancsak, the town clerk.

Now the town staff has a real copy room, a break room and small meeting rooms.

And the two holding cells are at the opposite end of the building from the commission chambers.

“The old jail was like Barney Fife,” quips Mayor Kaleel. “Over the years, there were times when we’d have somebody in jail, and we’d be trying to conduct a town meeting, and you could hear a bit of a ruckus through the walls.”

In the lobby, a 35-foot skylight pours sunlight on the reception desk.

A restaurant called the Seacape was an early Briny Breezes meeting place.

The original Ocean Ridge Town Hall sat at the east end of the Ocean Avenue bridge. Employees had to cross the bridge to use a restroom.

The new Ocean Ridge Town Hall is a Cape Dutch-style building designed by local architect Digby Bridges. Photo by Jerry Lower.
Neighbors await resolution of Boynton club’s future

By Antigone Barton

TimeLine

1989 — Boynton Beach commissioners vote to reduce buffer between strip clubs and residential areas from 1,500 to 1,000 square feet.
March 2006 — Boynton Beach commissioners decide not to pursue banning alcohol or other restrictions at "adult entertainment venues."
September 2007 — Platinum Gold owner Norman Goddard arrested with seven others at club after a monthlong investigation uncovered prostitution and drug dealing.
March 2008 — Police return to Platinum Gold when Goddard is hurt in a 2 a.m. fight at the club over payment for lap dances.
April — Police again are called to the bar after men armed with paintball guns fire on dancers there.
May — Place Au Soleil residents attend Boynton Beach City Commission meeting and applaud when commissioners agree to buy the club's liquor and cabaret licenses for $1.2 million. Club is closed.
September — Goddard gets probation after drug-selling and prostitution charges are reduced to operating a public nuisance where controlled substances are illegally kept and sold.
Oct. 28 — Boynton Beach commissioners decide not to buy the building.
Oct. 29 — Place Au Soleil residents see sign announcing "Mr. G's" coming soon.

This is a two-prong thing," Commissioner Muriel Anderson said. The question of who might own the building that has served as a strip club under several previous owners was just one part of the problem. The other question, she added, was this: "Is Boynton Beach going to change their zoning?"

While Boynton officials have said they want no more "adult entertainment" venues in their city, McDonald said, Mr. G’s is not a trolley stop. "It is in fact a strip club," McDonald said. "We don’t know how the owner identifies it, the product right now involves stripping."

Boynton Beach Mayor Jerry Taylor in turn, maintains that a restriction tied to terms under which the city bought Platinum Gold’s liquor and cabaret license ensures a strip club will not occupy that spot again.

And in late November, he still had heard nothing of a deal for Mr. G’s to buy the spot.

A call to Mr. G’s for this story was not returned.

In any case, Taylor said, with control over the liquor license, which the city has about six months more to sell, the city has say over what business moves there.

Place Au Soleil residents aren’t so sure. Even if Mr. G’s doesn't seal the deal for Mr. G’s to buy the place, they pointed out.

"They spent $1.2 million and they’re back where they were six months ago," Spadafora said. "We did everything we could do, but it’s not our city.

Right now is the perfect time to take a close, hard look at your bank. Are they strong enough? Are they stable enough? Are they in it for the long haul?

At Mercantile Bank, we believe that the closer you look, the better we look. We are safe, secure, well capitalized and a committed community partner, worthy of your trust and confidence.

We invite you stop by and take a close look at Mercantile Bank where we are ready and willing to do whatever it takes to help you succeed.
Ridge residents Madison Duke and Brittney Marshall did just that on a recent afternoon. What better way to encourage drivers to stop at a family yard sale than with an old-fashioned lemonade stand? Ocean Dune Deck Café, have stood has housed a souvenir and three buildings — a marine walkways at Lantana’s opportunity.” Mayor Dave Stewart replied. “Are we spending “Are we spending this money to save the buildings?” he asked. “We’re spending the money to save the beach,” Mayor Dave Stewart replied. “The buildings provide the opportunity.” Since rain and rough seas collapsed dunes and walkways at Lantana’s public beach in September, three buildings — a marine safety center, a pavilion that has housed a souvenir and beach goods store, and the Dune Deck Café, have stood perched atop a fragile ledge, vulnerable to the next strong storm. It is that threat that allows the town to bypass restrictions that could prevent a wall from ever being built, and build one immediately, Town Manager Michael Bornstein told council members in late October. If anything happens to the buildings before the wall is built, the emergency justification disappears. And with seawalls on either side of the town’s 750-foot stretch of shoreline, engineers have said the town needs a wall to protect its remaining beach. Thus the rush. That impetus is part of a complicated equation of clashing interests that council members said is pushing them to act quickly while still voicing concerns that the wall they will get in the process falls short of what they want. The wall presented by engineer Hugh Verkerk at November’s second Town Council meeting would stand about 20 feet in front of the threatened buildings, be about 12½ feet high — roughly the height of the Dune Deck’s lower level — and 600 feet long. It will be built to last about 50 years, the planned life span of other neighboring seawalls — which, built in the middle of the last century, stand rusting in front of mansions and condominiums from Manalapan to South Palm Beach. Council members asked if the town could get a wall with a longer projected life span. Perhaps, Verkerk said, but such a wall might not be built in time to save the buildings that stay standing. Almost all the material being made now is going to New Orleans, he explained. Council members also questioned the length of the planned wall, which will stand before the buildings but fall short of covering the last 150 feet of public beach. The emergency permit would allow them to erect a wall as much as 250 feet to meet an adjoining wall — but state permittees have not accepted the barrier of blocks standing before the neighboring Imperial House in South Palm Beach as an adjoining wall, Verkerk said. Vice Mayor Elizabeth Tennyson said that this will mean leaving the remaining dune between the beach and the town’s park unprotected. “The buildings, on a scale of one to 10, are a one for me. The park is a 10,” she said. “I don’t want to build half a wall.” Trying to get permission to build a longer wall could take more time than the town can risk, however, Verkerk said. Once plans are finalized, construction of the wall can be completed within three weeks, Verkerk said. The entire project, with ramps and steps, should take about three months, he said. The work will require special equipment to push the wall material into the bed of compacted, rock-hard sand below the beach, he said, to avoid drilling or hammering that could damage the neighboring Ritz Carlton and Imperial House. An emergency meeting will be scheduled this month to finalize plans, Bornstein said.

Manalapan
Road will be worth wait — but wait we will
By Antigone Barton

Christmas will come late for those who only want an end to the roadwork and construction that have brought A1A traffic to a halt in clouds of dust in front of the Ritz-Carlton during the past month.
Construction will continue through December, with now hoped-for completions by the beginning of January, Town Manager Greg Dunham said.

Motorists were not the only ones feeling the delays last month, when road work in front of the Ritz-Carlton also held up work on the hotel and resort’s new Eau spa.
During the first two weeks of November, road workers turned over trucks delivering building materials for the spa because the pavement was too uneven to hold the weight.
With building there slowed for a week, the spa is now set to wrap up construction by the first week of January, Dunham said. With an additional two months to equip the spa and train staff, a grand opening of the Eau Spa is planned in March, according to Dunham.

In the meantime, work to raise A1A a foot and a half between Town Hall and Chillingworth Curve filled that half-mile stretch of coastal road with heavy machines and dump trucks, all but guaranteeing a dusty wait for anyone trying to get from one end to the other.
“Even three minutes seems like 15 when you’re sitting there,” said Dunham, who advises drivers to heed the signs before the bridges in Ocean Ridge and Lantana, and take Dixie Highway instead of A1A.
The road elevation work also is now planned for completion by the beginning of January, Dunham said, adding, however, “a number of things can happen on a construction site.”
The deadline for completion and penalties to the contractor begin is Jan. 29.
“Not only is this an end to the roadwork and construction that have brought A1A traffic to a halt, but it will also be the end to the roadwork and construction that have brought A1A traffic to a halt,” said Dunham.

Hypoluxo Island

Lantana rushes to build seawall

By Antigone Barton

A precarious structure in front of a condominium to the north, a rush to build when supplies are scarce, and a drift-resisting bed of cement-like sand are among the challenges this town faces in building a wall to save its beach, an engineer told council members at the end of November.

Noting these challenges, and a million-dollar price tag for the wall, which is to be built under a permit granted to protect buildings fronting the beach, a resident had a question at a recent Town Council meeting.

“Are we spending this money to save the buildings?” he asked.

“We’re spending the money to save the beach,” Mayor Dave Stewart replied. “The buildings provide the opportunity.”

Since rain and rough seas collapsed dunes and walkways at Lantana’s public beach in September, three buildings — a marine safety center, a pavilion that has housed a souvenir and beach goods store, and the Dune Deck Café, have stood perched atop a fragile ledge, vulnerable to the next storm.

It is that threat that allows the town to bypass restrictions that could prevent a wall from ever being built, and build one immediately, Town Manager Michael Bornstein told council members in late October. If anything happens to the buildings before the wall is built, the emergency justification disappears.

And with seawalls on either side of the town’s 750-foot stretch of shoreline, engineers have said the town needs a wall to protect its remaining beach.

Thus the rush.

That impetus is part of a complicated equation of clashing interests that council members said is pushing them to act quickly while still voicing concerns that the wall they will get in the process falls short of what they want.

The wall presented by engineer Hugh Verkerk at November’s second Town Council meeting would stand about 20 feet in front of the threatened buildings, be about 12½ feet high — roughly the height of the Dune Deck’s lower level — and 600 feet long. It will be built to last about 50 years, the planned life span of other neighboring seawalls — which, built in the middle of the last century, stand rusting in front of mansions and condominiums from Manalapan to South Palm Beach.

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An emergency meeting will be scheduled this month to finalize plans, Bornstein said.

Fun way to spend a sunny day
What better way to encourage drivers to stop at a family yard sale than with an old-fashioned lemonade stand? Ocean Ridge residents Madison Duke and Britteny Marshall did just that on a recent afternoon. Photo by Jerry Lower
A deadly hatching season so far along Ocean Ridge, Delray Beach

By Antigone Barton

The best beaches for people can be the most treacherous terrain for newly hatched turtles searching for the sea, environmental analysts say. That is one explanation for preliminary data showing that 1,784 sea turtles hatched in Ocean Ridge this year—higher than average numbers do not suggest that towns fronted by high-rise buildings necessarily present a more turtle-friendly environment. Singer Island, with its nearly unbroken line of hotels and apartment towers, has consistently seen the highest numbers of disoriented hatchlings in the county, according to de Mayo. That is likely due in part to higher numbers of tourists, less familiar with the need to keep light off the beach during turtle season, she said. She adds that though environmental officials can enforce rules to keep lighting off the beach only from March 1 to Oct. 31, nests continue to hatch into November. She suggests residents keep an eye out for unattended nests and adjust lighting appropriately. Final numbers on hatching disorientation are expected later this month.

Sea Turtles

Why? Among other reasons: no towering condos to block the disorienting glow lighting the way; no neighboring areas, as hatchlings navigate the comparably wider beaches of this town, where a road and tree line separates mostly single-family homes from the shoreline.

That is not, however, the entire story, as local turtle counters continue to tally the losses and successes of the season that officially ended Oct. 31.

Ocean Ridge’s total represents a 46 percent increase in disoriented hatchlings from the year before, according to the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resource Management. Delray Beach also saw a steep rise, with 542 lost hatchlings. Those came from 19 nests in which disorientations were recorded, county environmental analyst Carly de Mayo said.

Two of those were attributed to a light from a home near the southern end of the beach, said John Fleteneyer, who has recorded sea turtle counts in Delray Beach for the last 25 years. No single cause could be identified for the others, which were attributed to ambient sky glow, he said.

Topped in the last two years by Boca Raton and Singer Island only, Ocean Ridge has consistently counted more disoriented turtles than most other county towns for which data were available. Neither Gulf Stream nor Briny Breezes has given data on hatching disorientation in the last two years, but it is not clear if that is because there were no disorientations or because they weren’t counted, de Mayo said. A number of factors influence the differences sea turtle data collectors see year-to-year and town-to-town, and weighing the influence of each can be tricky, she said.

More rain this year likely washed away more hatching tracks before they could be counted in some towns. At the same time, responsibilities of turtle counters can vary from town to town. Those responsibilities, including completing a count of nestings and hatchings quickly enough to allow beach cleaners time to rake the beach, can make getting a full count of disorientations difficult, she said. At the same time, Jean Higgins, an environmental analyst for the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission, said that data on disoriented hatchlings are becoming more accurate, with improved training and greater awareness of the challenges that beach renourishment projects and development present to newly hatched turtles.

Of course, though, Higgins said, is the impact of “sky glow” on mother turtles’ decisions not to nest on a beach or discontinuation that could leave her exhausted and vulnerable even after she returns to the water.

And, of course, Ocean Ridge’s higher than average numbers do not suggest that towns fronted by high-rise buildings necessarily present a more turtle-friendly environment. Singer Island, with its nearly unbroken line of hotels and apartment towers, has consistently seen the highest numbers of disoriented hatchlings in the county, according to de Mayo. That is likely due in part to higher numbers of tourists, less familiar with the need to keep light off the beach during turtle season, she said. She adds that though environmental officials can enforce rules to keep lighting off the beach only from March 1 to Oct. 31, nests continue to hatch into November. She suggests residents keep an eye out for unattended nests and adjust lighting appropriately. Final numbers on hatching disorientation are expected later this month.

Delray Beach Briefs

Mayor not seeking re-election

Mayor Rita Ellis announced that she will not be seeking re-election in March, citing another round of reconstructive surgery to heal her right foot injured in a city event in April. Ellis was elected to the commission in 2005 and won the mayoral seat in 2007. “This has been a most humbling experience that I will cherish as long as I live,” she said.

Vista Del Mar discussion date set

Commissioners, with Gary Eliopoulos abstaining, unanimously agreed to discuss at the Dec. 9 commission meeting whether to settle the fate of the Vista Del Mar hotel project following a set a date for a final vote.

The hotel’s developer and Ocean Properties, which owns Boston’s on the Beach next door to the planned hotel, have requested at least four postponements in recent months, including one on Dec. 2 that delayed the vote to Jan. 6.

“Let the point we’re going to have to hear this,” Commissioner Mackenson Bernard said before the board adjourned to the Dec. 9 discussion.

Delray Marriott expansion

The Delray Beach Marriott is expanding its 271-room hotel with 36 additional suites in two new buildings, as well as adding space for shops and a new kitchen for banquets, and expanding its restaurant space and pool deck.

City commissioners on Nov. 3 approved three development waivers associated with the ramp of the hotel on State Road A1A and East Atlantic Avenue. Two of the waivers allowed for visibility to be reduced for the exit and entrance ramp to the hotel parking garage. “I think this is a huge mistake,” said Kevin Warner said at the meeting, citing concerns of cyclists, pedestrians and drivers trying to cross in front of the garage. “It’s just unsafe.”

Nine cabana suites will be part of a new two-story addition, a plan that required a third waiver because the building won’t meet minimum 25-foot-high standards for that area. Another 27 suites will be built in a new four-story building that will front Atlantic Avenue. The four-story addition also will include shops.

Commissioners unanimously approved the waivers, with Commissioner Gary Eliopoulos abstaining because he is the project’s architect.

Delray Yacht Club to reopen

Commissioners agreed on Nov. 18 to allow the Delray Beach Yacht Club to reopen. Closed in February 2006, the club’s location on MacParlane Drive east of the Intracoastal Waterway has been eyed for redevelopment, which has since stalled.

McKinney agrees to move tree house

The six-year saga over the tree house on the property of the historic Fontaine Fox home on North Ocean Boulevard might finally be over.

Property owner and mansion builder Frank McKinney said he will move the tree house out of the Fox home’s sightline after city commissioners on Nov. 3 unanimously agreed the tree house didn’t conform to city rules that prohibit a historic structure in 1929. McKinney built the 220-square-foot tree house in 2001, place it out of the way of the Fox home on North Ocean Boulevard might finally be over.

Property owner and mansion builder Frank McKinney said he will move the tree house out of the Fox home’s sightline after city commissioners on Nov. 3 unanimously agreed the tree house didn’t conform to city rules.

“We are going to concede the request to move the tree house,” McKinney said, and place it out of the way of the 1926 Cape Cod-style cottage built for cartoon artist Fox by architect John Volk.

The city deemed the Fox home a historic structure in 1989. McKinney built the 220-square-foot tree house in 2001, before it received necessary approvals. Eventually, a 2002 tie vote by the City Commission resulted in a lawsuit by McKinney against the city.

The tree house violates city rules that prohibit a historic structure from being blocked. McKinney said he could present renderings of the tree house’s new location as soon as this month before the city’s Historic Preservation Board.

— Hector Vonin
Kiteboarding in Delray Beach

12/1 - Best of the Best Kiteboarding Competition will be held on the city beach just north of Anchor Park in Delray Beach. 8am - 4pm. The event continues from 9 am - 2:30 pm, 243-3737 or www.bestkiteboarding.com. Photo by Tom Warne

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Share your information and education and perpetuate sailing as a cultural and artistic form. The group meets at the Bayview Beach City Library, 742-6190.

12/11 - Novel Book Discussion Group discusses Block & White by Walt Shapiro at the Bayview Beach City Library. 742-6190.

12/11 - Manalapan Library Lecture Series presents author G. Claude Luttrell on The Birth of South Florida. 713 Turner Moore Library, 1330 Lands End Road, Manalapan. 6 pm. 588-7577.

Friday 12/11 - Golf SwingTown Sittance Meeting is held on the Second Friday of the month at the Golf SwingTown Hall, 100 Sea Shore Meeting begins at 9 am. Agenda is available in the chair's office prior to the meeting.

12/12 - Dr. Duboisitle (Bilingual) family's musical fantasy will be shown as part of the Friday Night Flicks series at Old School Square. Ride the holiday Carousels and see the 100-foot tree. Bring your own, but not your pets. All shows begin at 7 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

Saturday 12/12 - Artists in the Park. Delray Art League outdoor shows at Veterans Park, 802 First St., Delray Beach. Holiday artists display their works and will sell them 10 am - 4 pm. Shows continue on 12/19, 12/26.

12/12 - Ride and Remember Trolley Tour takes riders on a 90-minute narrated tour of Delray Beach's historic districts. The Great Books Foundation, 266-9490, and the Bayview Beach City Library Historical Society sponsored the air-conditioned trolley. The tour begins and ends at the Courthouse on 1st Ave. 81 St. Departures are at 10 am. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. 251-4409 or 266-0194. 

Thursday 12/18 - Basics of Digital Photography is offered by Michael Romans in Delray Beach City Library at 4 pm. 266-9490.

Friday 12/18 - Briny Breezes Town Commission Meeting is normally held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd., Briny Breezes. Agenda is available online by 4 pm on the Tuesday before the meeting.

Tuesday 12/16 - Focus on Women Networking Luncheon presented by the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce is held at the Bayview Beach Marriott, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Meeting is offered as a one-day weekend program. Call us at 266-0194. www.oldschool.org.

Wednesday 12/16 - November Meeting is normally held the 4th Thursday of each month at 1 pm. Meetings are held at Manalapan Town Hall, 1501 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. NOTE: Meeting moved because of the Christmas holiday. Meeting time is now 1 pm. Agendas are available prior at www.manalapan.org.

12/16 - Young Adult Book Discussion presents the Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing by M.T. Anderson with discussion by Young Adult Librarian Lisa Krunert will be held at the Delray Beach City Library. 4 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

12/16 - Caredot Artery Blockages is presented by George Mueller, M.D., Genauerbroch Library. Information session by Bethesda Memorial Hospital's Community Lecture Series. 4:30 pm. Clayton Conference Center, 731-2723 or publrelations@bethesdahealthcare.com.

12/16 - Delray Beach City Commission holds its monthly meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 W. N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Agenda is available prior at www.mydelraybeach.com.

Wednesday 12/17 - Because of Wim-Dixie will be shown as part of the Bayview Beach Library's Featuring Florida Movies on Thursday, November 19, 2015. Free. 722-6390.

December 14 – 20
Sunday 12/14 — Lamanza Prenatal Class at Bethesda Memorial Hospital for expectant mothers and fathers is presented by George Mueller, M.D. Tickets: General: $375; Table of 10: $3,750. 805-266-9490.

Monday 12/15 — Secrets Behind Florida’s Monuments and Memorials is presented by Roberta Sanders at the Delray Beach City Library. 4 pm. Free. 266-9490 or 266-0194.

Tuesday 12/16 - Seeing and Thinking workshop with Ralph Papa, fine artist and instructor at the Bayview Beach City Library. 266-9490. Call to reserve a place.

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315-4409, ext. 220.

Tuesday 12/22 - The Boynton Beach Public Library “Creative Arts” series is inspired to create. Free. 6-8 pm. 742-6026.

Tuesday 12/22 — Hypoluxo Island Lecture Series by George Mueller, M.D., titled “The Art of Vascular Intervention.” 2 pm. 243-7922, Ext. 1, or 266-0194.

Monday 12/14 — Lamanza Prenatal Class at Bethesda Memorial Hospital for expectant mothers and fathers is presented by George Mueller, M.D. Tickets: General: $375; Table of 10: $3,750. 805-266-9490.

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**Celebrations**

**In the swim of things**

Gulf Stream School student Timmy Lynch created this artwork while in Grade 3. 10-year-old Timmy is now in Grade 4. He lives in the Village of Golf with his parents Tom and Hillary Lynch. Art instructor Holly Pemberton submitted Timmy’s work.

Do you have artwork or creative writing to share? Please submit your work to editor@thecoastalstar.com.

**Brock-Pardew**

Melissa Anne Brock and Scott James Pardew were married Aug. 2 at the Delray Beach Marriott. The bride is the daughter of Diane Elizabeth Staples of Mears, Mich., and Barry Robert Brock of Virginia Beach, Va. The groom is the son of Charles Scott James and Michelle Wang Pardew of Ocean Ridge. The bride, a graduate of Virginia Tech, is attending graduate school at Florida Atlantic University. The groom is a business graduate of Virginia Tech. They are both employed at Raider Rooter in Boynton Beach. The couple will reside in Boynton Beach.

**Awards and Recognition**

The Palm Beach chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals hosted the luncheon and awards presentation at the Kravis Center on Nov. 12. Gulf Stream resident Robert Ganger, president of both the Delray Beach Historical Society and Florida Coalition for Preservation, was selected as an honoree for his time, effort and dedication to philanthropic causes.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has awarded Dr. Susan Brannen of Briny Breezes the 2008 Rolland J. Van Hattum Award for Contribution in the Schools. She was awarded a $1,000 prize and $500 for her school district. Brannen is the Audiology Chair at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES, Spencerport, N.Y.

**Key West Literary Seminar**

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Writers include Barry Unsworth, Andrea Barrett, Marilynne Robinson, Madison Smartt Bell, Alan Cheuse, Achebe Mute, Russell Banks and many more.

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DECEMBER 28 — JANUARY 3

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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Valentin Fodor

Valentin Fodor was born in Arad, Romania, in 1954. He graduated college in 1978 with a degree in mechanical engineering and then worked in tool and molding design until 1984, when he was granted political asylum in the United States.

He has been married to his wife, Georgette, for 28 years. They have two children: Andreea, a 2006 graduate of the University of Florida, now living in New York, and Alex, a junior majoring in finance at UF.

Valentin moved to South Florida in 1985, and since 1992 has run a successful stone manufacturing and installation business in Pompano Beach.

He has been a resident of Ocean Ridge for the past five years.

Q: How did you get into your business?
A: I started in 1986 with a partnership. I saw a demand for tile and stone installation and took advantage of it.

Q: What advice do you have for a young person planning a career today?
A: Work hard, fall in love with your work and you’ll be successful.

Q: What has been the highlight of your professional career?
A: My first high-rise building I completed in downtown Miami on the Miami River.

Q: Why did you choose to live in Ocean Ridge?
A: I fell in love with the town back when we did tile and stone work in Ocean Harbour Estates. I also have a passion for the water, especially fishing.

Q: What is your favorite part about living in Ocean Ridge?
A: I enjoy the laid-back atmosphere, quietness and safety that the town offers.

Q: If your life story were made into a movie, who would you want to play you?
A: Anthony Hopkins, my favorite actor.

Q: What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?
A: Smooth jazz and music of the ’70s.

Q: What book are you reading now?
A: Shoot Him If He Runs, by Stuart Woods.

Q: Who or what makes you laugh?
A: I enjoy good jokes, Saturday Night Live and movies with my friends and family.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A: Yes. “Quality is remembered long after the price is forgotten.” — Gucci family slogan, originally attributed to Sir Henry Royce, founder of Rolls-Royce.

— Gucci family slogan, originally attributed to Sir Henry Royce, founder of Rolls-Royce.

Ocean Ridge

Garden Club eyes fallow land for planting dune-friendly foliage

By Antigone Barton

The scruffy oceanfront patch of land near the town’s southern border stands as proof that one governing entity’s trash can be another’s treasure.

Left fallow by current owner Palm Beach County, the spot could serve as the model of a well-tended dune, according to town officials who in their October meeting voted to ask the county for the land.

The request came after the Ocean Ridge Garden Club would like to do a native planting on county-owned property opposite 5004 Old Ocean Blvd. Photo by Jerry Lower

Inspired by his desire to give back to the community, Valentin Fodor donated all the materials, manufacturing, engraving and installation of the new 1,050-pound Spanish limestone sign in front of Ocean Ridge Town Hall. The stone is Crema Europa. The lettering is in black absolute granite from India and the top molding is manufactured from natural coral stone from the Dominican Republic. Photo by Jerry Lower

That lie within town borders to those towns, according to Ross Hering, who heads the county’s Property and Real Estate Management division. “You have to look at each piece,” Hering said. “Does it make sense for the municipality to manage it, or does it serve a broader function for the county?”

The county got the land that it owns but

Ocean Ridge Town Hall

6450 NO. OCEAN BLVD.

The Ocean Ridge Garden Club would like to do a native planting on county-owned property opposite 5004 Old Ocean Blvd. Photo by Jerry Lower

opposite 5004 Old Ocean Blvd. in 2002, when a property owner facing a code enforcement action over a too-tall Australian pine deeded the parcel to the county to use as part of its Shoreline Protection Plan.

Usually land falls into county hands from tax-debt foreclosures and usually from areas farther west, Hering said. “More depressed areas yield more properties,” he said.

While dunes facing the ocean provide the perfect spot to do landscaping,” Commissioner Betty Bingham said.

“Basicaly, the dune should run itself,” she said. The county’s response could take a month or more, Bingham projected.

“Often they’re going to use it for purposes that are consistent with restoration of the dune, that’s a county-wide interest,” Hering said. “We support those interests.”

He could not yet comment on the specific request, he said.

At the same time the town requested two strips of land on either side of the entrance to the Ridge Harbour Estates neighborhood. That land fell into county hands as a result of a tax foreclosure against a developer.

Not currently maintained by the county, the spot would be “a perfect spot to do landscaping,” Commissioner Terry Brown said.

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190’ direct waterfront 5 BR, 5 1/2 bth move in condition. Comes w/ most beautiful 360 degree views you will ever see. New dock, 14k lb. boatlift. Reduced for quick sale. $2.45M

NEW ESTATE HOME IN SOUTH END
One of the finest built 4,488 SF British Colonial homes to come on the market in many years located in the Orchid Estates section! Just 1 home to Intracoastal. Lush pool area. $2.05M

LAKE BLOCK EL CID
Expertly renovated in 2005 w/ 2nd floor addition this forever home/home/loca- tion has everything 5 BR, 4.5 bth plus study, wood floors, gourmet kitchen. $1,995M

THIS PROPERTY $10M+ IN PB
Jenson Beach. Enjoy magnificent Ocean & Intracoastal views & sunsets from ev- ery room featuring over 8000SF, impact windows, Boat slip, 48R, 5 bth, marble & wood floors, etc. $1.5M

SOUTH OF SOUTHERN WPB
Elegance & charm capture this 2 story British Colonial style home newly reno- vated 4,100 SF+, 4BR + study, hardwood flrs, impact windows & French doors , pool & guest cottage. $1.049M

BEST WATER BUY IN OCEAN RIDGE
True Florida style home filled with charm & character featuring 2,300 SF+/+ nested on a interior point lot with 190’ of Water Frontage. Priced for quick sale. $1.595M

26 N. HARBOUR DR - OCEAN RIDGE
Recently built custom Key West Style 4BR + study home with all the extras including high ceilings, impact glass, customer gourmet kitchen, marble floors & salt water pool. $1.25M

225 RUGBY DRIVE
4BR, 2.5 bth 2,476 SF+/+ stunning 2 story completely renovated Mediterranean home in historic Prospect Park priced right for today’s market. Lush landscaping & pool. $875K

WORTH A LOOK IN OCEAN RIDGE
Turnkey Ocean Block 3BR + study beach house completely renovated including custom gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, new roof, new Trane A/C, & impact windows. $849K

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This 3BR Penthouse directly over- looking the ocean featured in one of the true luxury buildings on S. Ocean in Palm Beach is a value you must check out. $1.25M

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Outstanding opportunity to renovate 1 of the few properties still under $600K in Ocean Ridge. Deeded Beach access on great lot w/ water views. $599K

2007/2008 SALES
308 Cococunut Row, Palm Beach SOLD
2860 Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach SOLD
2550 Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach SOLD
2373 S. Flagler, West Palm Beach (3Cd) SOLD
1200 Flagler, West Palm Beach SOLD
1650 Presidential Way, West Palm Beach SOLD
2002 Notre Dame, Lake Worth SOLD
12 Ridge Blvd., Ocean Ridge SOLD
2098 Cove Lane, Westton SOLD
4603 Water Oak, Palm Beach Gardens SOLD
8014 Flagler Court, West Palm Beach SOLD
6718 Duxal, West Palm Beach SOLD
105 Via Excelsar, PBI (PENDING)
5132 Isabella Dr, Palm Beach Gardens SOLD

2007/2008 SALES
4318 Lake Tahoe, West Palm Beach SOLD
1948 Stratford Way, West Palm Beach SOLD
400 Ocean Ave, Palm Beach (Luxury Rental)
Bella Strani, Ft. St. Lucie (Land Parcel) SOLD
155 Glenbrook, Atlantis SOLD
262 Alta Meadows, Delray SOLD
1670 Lands End, Manalapan SOLD
883 Country Club, WPB SOLD
801 S. Olive, WPB SOLD
801 S. Flagler, WPB SOLD
5132 Isabella, Jupiter SOLD
6710 Ocean Ave, Ocean Ridge SOLD
225 Rugby, WPB SOLD
18 Ridge, Ocean Ridge (PENDING)

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**Holiday Events Calendar**

**DECEMBER 6**

**Saturday - 12/6 – Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup & Toy Drive:** Held at Oceanfront Park, 4451 Ocean Blvd, in Ocean Ridge. Meet at the pavilion in the lower parking lot. Bags, gloves and refreshments provided. Unwrapped toys will be collected to benefit the Community Care Counseling in Boynton Beach. 10:30 am. Free. Call 540-0714 or 542-2052.

**12/6 – Casden United Methodist Church Holiday Bazaar:** Is held at the church, 3427 NE 4th Ave., Fort Lauderdale. On sale until noon and 4-7 pm. 9 am-1 pm. $5 for students. 954-864-7322 or www.downtowndelray.org.

**12/6 – Boynton Beach Holiday Choral:** The community chorus, under new director Eric Keiper, offers two British works — John Rutter’s Gloria and Britten’s A Ceremony of Carols — plus songs of the Christmas season. 3 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Boynton Beach. Tickets: $5 for students. 904-864-7322 or www.downtowndelray.org.

**12/6 – 3rd Annual Old Fashion Christmas Shopping:** At the Sandoway House Nature Center, 142 S Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Features vendors, raffles, and refreshments. 6-9 pm. Call 274-7263 or www.sandowayhouse.org.

**DECEMBER 7 – 13**

**Sunday, Dec. 7 – Pet Pictures:** will be taken from 1-2 pm at The Man Who Invented Christmas with Susan and Paul Sandow at 5050 S. Ocean Ave, West Palm Beach. The family event includes a viewing of Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory along with a recording artist Shawn Thomas, and Glen Arfsten from Prosperty Farms Road recording artist Eric Keiper, offers two British works — John Rutter’s Gloria and Britten’s A Ceremony of Carols — plus songs of the Christmas season. 3 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Boynton Beach. Tickets: $5 for students. 904-864-7322 or www.downtowndelray.org.

**Sunday, Dec. 7 – The Man Who Invented Christmas & Tree Lighting:** Christmas at Whithall presents a special lecture by the ex-Divor. An evening of holiday songs at Old School Square. 7:30 pm, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Jupiter. $45. Call 541-2069 or 561-741-2069.

**Sunday, Dec. 7 – NDI of The Nutcracker:** Is held by New Hope First Community Church, 2945 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. Tickets: $10 general, $7 for members. Present with New Hope’s Joyful Noise Choir. Other artists include: skirted Soldiers from Church of the Palms, composer and arranger Jeff Steifer, Christian recording artist Shawn Thomas, and Glen Arfsten from Prosperity Farms Road Presbyterian Church. 7:30 pm. $10. All proceeds benefit the Lord’s Place of Palm Beach County. To receive seats call 432-6009 or visit www.newhopefl.org.

**Sunday, Dec. 7 – Tree Lighting:** The Boca Raton Dance Academy presents an annual holiday program, consisting of Act I of Nutcracker and other dances. At Spanish River High School, 701 S. Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Tickets: $30, $25, $10. Call 732-9501.

**Monday, Dec. 8 – Perry Stokes & Friends:** Will join the chorus of the Philharmonic and director Albert-George Schmitt in an afternoon of holiday music for families in the Park Vista Clubhouse at the Boca Raton Resort and Club. 3-5 pm. $25. Proceeds benefit Lynn’s conservation scholarship fund. 237-900 or www.fmyedu.org. 12/7-12/8 – A Singing Christmas Tree:** The completely over-the-top tree is held at the Ocean Park Community Church, 1000 NW 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Features with the Charter School vocal ensemble. 4 pm. 954-322-8525, Ext. 606.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9 – Santa’s Calling:** At the Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW First Ave, Delray Beach. Event continues on 12/14 and 12/19. Call Danielle Beardsley at 274-7277.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9 – New Garden Park:** Is held at the Golden Beach Community Center, 130 NW 11th Ave, Fort Lauderdale. Recital presented by the Charter School vocal ensemble. 4 pm. 954-988-1008.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9 – The Nutcracker:** George Balanchine’s reading of the Tchaikovsky ballet in a performance by the Miami City Ballet at 7:30 pm Friday and 7:30 pm Saturday and Sunday. Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 100 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Tickets: $19-$55, $46-422-0222 (BWP) or www.miamicityballet.com.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10 – The Four Freshmen:** Join the chorus of the Philharmonic and director Albert-George Schmitt in an afternoon of holiday music for families in the Park Vista Clubhouse at the Boca Raton Resort and Club. 3-5 pm. $25. Proceeds benefit Lynn’s conservation scholarship fund. 237-900 or www.fmyedu.org. 12/7-12/8 – A Singing Christmas Tree:** The completely over-the-top tree is held at the Ocean Park Community Church, 1000 NW 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Features with the Charter School vocal ensemble. 4 pm. 954-322-8525, Ext. 606.

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It’s time to sing Messiah.

It’s December, and that means one thing for choral groups and church choirs across the nation: It’s time to sing Messiah. George Frederic Handel’s oratorio – which was written for Easter, not Christmas – premiered in Dublin in April 1742, and it’s been a popular repertory piece ever since, mostly as a seasonal presentation of the so-called “Christmas portion,” which makes up about half of the complete work. If you need your Hallelujah Chorus fix, there are several performances heretofore where you can get it.

Just bear in mind the sartorial request from the first presenters of the oratorio back in that long-ago Irish spring: Ladies, leave your hoops at home. And gentlemen, no swords.

FAU sings:
The university’s choral ensembles under director Patricia Fleitas kick off the holidays with Messiah, in a performance beginning at 7:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 7, at FAU’s University Theatre in Boca Raton. $15. 800-564-9536, or www.fau.edu.

Seraphic Fire: The standout Miami-based chamber choir that has begun appearing at the Harbert Himmel Theater this season presents its version of the oratorio at the Knight Concert Hall in Miami’s Arsht Center. This year, the choir will be joined by its partner ensemble, the Firebird Chamber Orchestra, all directed by Patrick Dupre Quigley. The concert begins at 8 pm Friday, Dec. 19. 305-513-9082 or 866-949-6722. Visit www.seraphicfire.org, or call 305-476-0260.

Singing along: The Masterworks Chorus of the Palm Beaches presents its annual sing-along version of Messiah at the Royal Poinciana Chapel in Palm Beach at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Director Jack Jones will lead the chorus, soloists, and a full orchestra. $30, $10 for students K-12. 445-9656, or www.masterworkschorusofthepalmbeaches.com.

And some selections: If you would like just a brief taste of Messiah, First Presbyterian Church in Delray Beach might have the answer. Music director Don Cannarozzi plans four selections from the oratorio during its 9 am and 11 am services Sunday, Dec. 14. Rejoice Greatly; O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion; But Who May Abide; and of course, Hallelujah. There is no admission cost. The church is at 33 Gleason St. in Delray Beach. Call 276-6338.
The holidays are practically here, and it’s madness and mayhem in the malls. But who says you have to fight the crowds to find the perfect gift? We hunted high and low in our own neighborhood for holiday treasures. We dug deep around the coastal communities to find a dozen gifts from 12 delightful shops that will make your loved one (or your teacher or your neighbor) think you survived the crowds to buy that perfect present.

You don’t have to tell folks you didn’t break a sweat shopping this year. Stroll around, relax, enjoy, then come home and have a cup of eggnog. Let this be our little secret. Shhhhh!

— Scott Simmons

1. Victoria and Richard MacKenzie-Childs
   Glass Menagerie necklace
   Where: Snappy Turtle, 1100 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Phone: 276-8088. On the Web: www.snappy-turtle.com
   How much: $96
   Why it’s a treasure: Shopping for the holidays can be a bear, so I focus on the fun in my finds. I love the way the sunlight flits through these little beaded glass lions and tigers and bears — oh my! And they are presented in a box that makes them look like the little bon-bons that they are. Picture these with something sunny and oh so Lilly. Or even atop a lovely pink sweater. Do it up right and buy the matching bracelet ($60).

2. Tropical-themed ties
   Where: Mercer-Wenzel, 401 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach
   Phone: 278-2885
   How much: $32
   Why they’re a treasure: Yes, we’re in Florida, where life is casual, and you almost never wear a tie. But when you do need to don one of the silk nooses, it might as well be fun. These silk ties deliver, with images of alligators, flamingoos and sailboats. Feeling formal? Mercer-Wenzel has bowties as well.

3. Elegant shell-crusted candlesticks
   Where: Beachcomber Art, 112 S. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach.
   Phone: 315-5717
   How much: $350
   Why they’re a treasure: Nothing says Florida and beach and sea like shells. And nobody practices the art of coquillage, or shell art, quite like Ocean Ridge’s own Debbie Brookes. She has created shell-crusted objects in every price range (from $6 votives to mirrors and chandeliers priced in the thousands), and her Boynton Beach shop/studio is a wonder. But we love these tall candlesticks, which would lend a rococo grace note to just about any room. Picture them on a table or a mantel. You can almost hear the ocean. You certainly can see it.
4. Fabulous beachy nightlights
Where: Fancy Flamingo, Ocean Plaza, 640 E. Ocean Ave., Suite 20, Boynton Beach. Phone: 735-8848
How much: $16
Why they’re a treasure: These handmade wooden seaside cottage nightlights are produced by an artist in Colorado who combines the right amount of wit and whimsy. They’re priced to be the perfect stocking stuffer, or gift for that favorite teacher. The shop also has a line of complementary ornaments by the same artist. We think it’s cool that she has personalized some of them with signs pointing to Two Georges, the Banana Boat and Hurricane Alley. Darn. Now they’ve made us hungry.

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6. Ed Hardy Hollywood watches for kids
Where: Next Generation Children’s Clothing, 1202 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Phone: 279-8833
How much: $45
Why they’re a treasure: I remember my first watch. I was 8 or 9. I felt like a big boy with that $10 Timex from the drugstore. Watches have come a long way since then. But you still can make the youngster in your life feel like a big boy or girl with one of these fun cartoony timepieces, covered with all manner of fantasy images. Indulge your inner kid and buy one for yourself.

7. Stephen Bonanno Palm Beach Sandals
Where: Gulfstream Pharmacy, 4998 N. Ocean Blvd., Briny Breezes. Phone: 276-4800
How much: $89 and up
Why they’re a treasure: For about a hundred dollars, you can win a toehold with greatness — seriously. Just stroll about in the colorful sandals Jackie O. wore from the early ’60s on. The handmade leather footwear Benny and Eva Bonanno and Mr. Luigi designed for the first lady is handcrafted in Stuart and is available in more than 5,000 color combinations. They are available in children’s sizes 8-15 and adult sizes 4-14. That’s like a walk through history, no matter how you size it.

8. Handmade fairy figures
Where: Andi’s Scentique, Courtyard Shops, 1206 E. Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach. Phone: 330-7133
How much: Around $20
Why they’re a treasure: Everyone needs a little fantasy, so why not make it a little fairy. These fairy figures and mermaids, made by a local artist, are perfect for hanging on a Christmas tree, in a window or in some unexpected place, where they can work their magic. It’s an aromatherapy experience, as well. The shop also has a line of essential oils for men and women.

9. Cashmere cardigan jacket
Where: The Cashmere Shop, Plaza del Mar, 236 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. Phone: 588-7171
How much: $750
Why it’s a treasure: This knit sweater jacket is the ultimate in luxury for that special lady in your life. Picture her wrapped in cashmere, so lightweight and yet so warm. I like the lines of this piece. It would look great on anyone, regardless of size or figure. The heavy toffee-colored horn buttons trim it out nicely. The jackets come in sizes ranging from small to extra large, and are available in a range of colors.

Photography by Tim Stepien
More Coastal Treasures, Page 16
SIMPLE SOLUTIONS TO TREAT THAT INEVITABLE STAIN THAT COMES WITH HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

A lot of time is devoted to planning for holiday entertaining, so why not go the extra step to anticipate the inevitable “OOPS!” by having an emergency stain kit with the following essential “stain busters:”

- White vinegar
- Baking soda
- Unprinted white paper towels
- Clear dish-washing detergent solution
- A laundry presoak solution
- A dry powdered carpet cleaner (e.g. Carpet One’s Capture)
- A dry, non-oil, non-caustic cleaning solvent
- Non-bleaching clothing spot remover

Remember to act quickly because many stains become more difficult to remove once they are set!

Happy Holidays from Barnard’s Carpet One

11. A tea-themed gift basket

How much: $11 and up
Why it’s a treasure: These baskets, filled with teas, cookies, vintage knickknacks, candles, incense and such, are nostalgia-steeped one-of-a-kind delights. Choose one that’s already made up, or ask the shop’s owner to create something just for you. In addition to the variety of teas, the shop also has a great selection of painted hats, shell frames, original artwork and candles.

12. Tantalizing truffles
Where: Le Petit Pain Bakery, 123 S. Third St., Lantana. Phone: 582-5844

How much: $1.25 apiece; $32 a pound (about 26 pieces)

Why they’re a treasure: Nobody knows the truffles I’ve seen. But everybody knows the satisfaction of handmade chocolates. And this French bakery can do no wrong. A box of these truffles, available in such flavors as amaretto, pistachio, whisky, rum, vodka, cognac, orange and limoncello, would make a perfect hostess gift. But I prefer to think of them as the ultimate treat after a long day of shopping. Bon appetit!

Scott Simmons is a freelance editor and writer living in Lake Worth. His column, Look What We Found, appears in The Palm Beach Post. E-mail him at scottsfla@gmail.com.
**Seasonal sweetness**

Jan’s favorite holiday cookies – styled for the shore

By Jan Norris

It’s cookie season — and the jars must be filled. The child in all of us loves cookies; they’re an integral part of the holidays. Holiday cookies almost require the help of a youngster — it will make memories for both baker and child. It doesn’t have to be complicated; kids just want to do the good parts — decorating and eating.

Tweaking a refrigerated sugar-cookie dough to boost its flavor makes a fast, fool-proof dough for young cooks. For the adults — ahh, that’s a different matter. It’s all about the flavor.

Orange-scented snowballs offer a twist on an old favorite — our recipe is from Robin Davis, food editor at the Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch. Add toasted coconut for an even more tropical punch (recipe at www.thecoastalstar.com). The big chewy molasses manatees are a traditional 19th-century cookie called Joe Froggers (recipe at www.thecoastalstar.com) and use a technique unique to this cookie: dissolving baking soda in the molasses and letting it rise.

Praline cookies are a toffee-flavored twist on a classic. Perfect with an espresso after dinner. You could gild this lily by drizzling some chocolate on top, but who wants to complicate the holidays? There’s no need to overcomplicate.

**Easy-to-make Chai Tea cookies go swimmingly for the holidays. Photos by Tim Stepien**

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**Recipes for orange-scented snowballs and Joe Froggers**

**Chai’ refrigerator cut-outs**

1 roll refrigerator sugar-cookie dough
2 tablespoons powdered chocolate chai — see note

On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough roughly. Sprinkle evenly with the chai, and cover with a sheet of waxed paper. Roll slightly to embed the dough. Remove paper. Fold the dough onto itself in thirds, then in half. Roll the dough again, to a quarter-inch thickness and cut into desired shapes. Bake on a parchment paper-lined pan for easy removal, at 350 degrees until very lightly browned.

Do not overbake — these cookies burn easily.

Cool completely on a rack before decorating. Kids can get busy in a hurry with store-bought icing, sprinkles, jimmies and other little candies.

**Notes:** Chai is spiced tea; the powdered, sweetened variety (it's one of the best quality you can buy.) Do not double the recipe. These cookies are a traditional 19th-century cookie called Joe Froggers.

**Maida Heatter’s Chocolate Whoppers**

These are so rich and chocolatey, they would likely be banned in some states if there really were food police. I adapted this recipe from several that are adapted from Heatter’s lengthy recipe. The ingredients are all here — only the method has been condensed.

6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped into chunks
2 ounces unsweetened chocolate chopped into chunks
6 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon plus 2 teaspoons instant espresso powder
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3/4 cup sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
2 cups coarsely chopped toasted walnuts, pecans or a combination of both
1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
1 large egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 325. Lightly grease 2 baking sheets and set aside. (I use a Silpat baking mat.) Melt together the 6 ounces of semisweet and 2 ounces of unsweetened chocolate with the butter in a double boiler over low heat until just melted. Stir to blend. Cream eggs, espresso powder and vanilla in large bowl of electric mixer. Add sugar and mix until thick and creamy. Sift flour, baking powder, and salt in a separate bowl and whisk to mix. Set aside.

Add the chocolate mixture to the egg mixture and blend until well combined. Add flour mixture and stir only until the dry ingredients are moist. Do NOT beat. Fold in the nuts and 6 ounces of chocolate chips. (Note: the batter will be very moist — almost the consistency of a cake batter.) Scoop the batter with a 1/4 cup (2 oz.) ice cream scoop or by the heaping tablespoon, and drop onto the prepared baking sheets about 3 inches apart. (Note: Bake immediately after mixing, before the chocolate begins to cool and harden.)

Bake 10 to 12 minutes, turning the baking sheets once during cooking times. The cookies will still be very gooey inside and soft, but do not overcook or the cooled cookies will be dry.

Cool 10 minutes on the baking sheets before gently removing the whoopers to a baking rack to cool completely.

Makes 18-22 large cookies.

**Notes:** Do not double the recipe. These have the best texture as large cookies. The dough doesn’t freeze. Use the best quality chocolate you can buy.

Jan Norris is the former Food Editor of The Palm Beach Post. She now freelances and writes her food blog at www.JanNorris.com.
Headliners

Mark Russell- PBCC-Dec. 12 • FAU-Dec. 13
Roger Williams- PBCC-Jan. 16 • FAU-Jan. 17
A Tribute to Rosemary Clooney & Mel Torme-
Debbie Boone & Steve March Torme- PBCC-Feb 13 • FAU-Feb. 14
Barbara Cook- PBCC-March 13 • FAU-March 14
Performance prices* from $35 to $55

Gold Coast Opera
Conductor and Artistic Director, Thomas Cavendish
Full Orchestra and Chorus
Direct from Europe with English Subtitles
Aida- PBCC-Jan. 19 • FAU-Jan. 21
La Boheme- PBCC-Feb. 16 • FAU-Feb. 18
Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci- PBCC-March 16 • FAU-March 18
Performance prices* from $40 to $55

Florida Sunshine Pops Orchestra
60 piece Orchestra with World Famous Conductor and Arrange, Richard Hayman
Tribute to Mario Lanza and Frank Sinatra- Sal Viviano & Kip Wilborn
FAU-Dec. 7 • PBCC-Dec. 8 & 10
Fascinating Gershwin “Rhapsody in Blue”- Copeland Davis,
Teri Hansen & Norm Lewis-FAU-Jan. 11 • PBCC-Jan. 12 & 14
Pavarotti Tribute- Kip Wilborn, Olivia Corra &
Victor Ryan Robertson-FAU-Feb. 8 • PBCC-Feb. 9 & 11
Rodgers and Hammerstein Celebration- Christiane Noll, William Michals
and Aaron Lazar-FAU-March 29 • PBCC-March 30 & April 1
Performance prices* from $35 to $55

International Ballets
Cinderella- Russian National Ballet Theatre-FAU-Feb. 26
Giselle- Moiseev Russian Classical Ballet with Full Orchestra
-FAU-March 26 • PBCC-March 27
Performance prices* from $35 to $45

*Prices may vary depending on venue and additional fees may apply

For FAU Tickets Call: 800.564.9539
For PBCC Tickets Call: 561.278.7677
For more information visit: www.SunsetET.com
All Performances begin at 8 p.m.
Arts Calendar

Greg's list: The Coastal Star Arts Calendar

(Note: Events are listed by day, from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Please check with the presenting agency for any changes.
Ticket prices are single rates. Most of the presenting organizations offer subscription plans.)

ART EXHIBITS


Miami City Ballet: The final performance of Edward Villella’s company: The New York-bred troupe that celebrates the heritage of Chinese classical dance and music. 8 p.m., at the Society for the Four Arts auditorium. 561-462-0222 or www.divineperformingarts.org.


Goya’s list: The Coastal Star Arts Calendar

(See the above list for details.)

Tues, Dec. 9

Diwali: The exciting young Chinese pianist presents an evening of music by Maurice Ravel, including Miroirs, the Passacaglia for a Dead Prince, and that of Grieg’s "Folksongs in the North." 7:30 p.m., in the Anteroom at 501 S.W. 2nd Ave. 561-462-0222 or www.divineperformingarts.org.

Sun, Dec. 14

Goldstein-Klein-Peter Trio: Ex all-Beethoven program featuring three of the piano’s master tunes: the early, artistic Trio in B-flat (Op. 2) and the majestic Archduke in C minor (Op. 15). 3 p.m., Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach. 561-575-5161 or www.sofa.org. For more information, please call 561-575-5161 or visit www.sofa.org.

Wed, Dec. 17

The Florida Symphony: The orchestra opens its 50th season with a tribute to birthday boy Ludwig van Beethoven, born 240 years ago today. The Golden-Klein: Peter trio-joins conductor Ray Robinson and the orchestra for Beethoven’s Triple Concerto on a program that also features the Carmen Overture and the Sixth Symphony (Paganini). 8 p.m., at the Society for the Arts auditorium. 561-462-0222 or 561-725-7226.

Wed, Dec. 17

The Florida Symphony: Seizing cellist Alisa Weilerstein solo with the newly minted Florida Symphony in the greats of all cellos concertos, the Dvorak. Also on the program for the Concert Association of Florida’s orchestra and director Joseph Kalichstein are the First Symphony of Sibelius and Verdi’s Overture to his opera La Forza del Destino. 8 p.m., Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. 561-305-4900 or 561-462-0222 or www.browardcenter.org.

Mon, Dec. 29

The Romeros: The family’s business-guitar quartet is in program of month Latin music. Kris Center. 8 p.m. 561-575-8749 or www.kriscenter.org.

Fri, Dec. 4 & Sat., Dec. 5

Mark Russell: The patsy-playing political satirist, who is probably working hard even now on coming up with rhymes for “Obama,” in an evening of Washington mockery at two shows. 8 p.m. Depuy Theatre, Stuart. 772-221-2307 or www.depuytheatre.com. For more information, please call 772-221-2307 or visit www.depuytheatre.com.
Yiddish opera rebirth a awakening

By Greg Stepanich

Nine days into the bright new year of 1908, Avenu Goldfadn, “the Yiddish Shakespeare, died in New York.

A vast crowd on the Lower East Side turned out for his funeral two days later, but Goldfadn’s achievement were already being superseded by a new generation of theatermen. It was a downbeat postscript to a pioneering life in which he had mounted, back in 1876, the first-ever professional Yiddish-language play, earning posterity’s recognition as the father of Yiddish theater.

Goldfadn’s work is drawing more attention in this centenary year of his death, and Aaron Kula is helping to mark that milestone with a new realization of one of the playwright’s most celebrated works.

Kula, head of music collections and performance at the Florida Atlantic University Libraries, has unearthed Goldfadn’s 1880 operetta, Shulamith, from a primitive piano-vocal score in the library collections, and will present a freshly orchestrated concert version of the work Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Friedberg Auditorium on the FAU campus in Boca Raton.

Bringing the operetta (pronounced Shoo-LAM-it) back to life has been a labor of several years for Kula, who initially put the score aside after coming across it in one of the collection of material he examines daily during the course of his work.

“Because I came to it not knowing anything about it, I played it exactly as it’s written. I never changed a thing, and the first year I said, ‘I guess some of the melodies are pretty,’ but I didn’t realize what a good work it could be.”

He then set about orchestrating them for his Klezmer Company Orchestra, the university’s in-residence at the FAU Libraries.

Sunday’s performance will be a 90-minute concert of music from the 1880’s operetta — a show that Goldfadn, in his capacity as folksonk, the cantorial music of the synagogue — and that the music on the page could only hint at what Shulamith must have really sounded like.

Reconstructing the operetta for a performance required taking a leap of scholarly faith from the printed score, which is written in a very basic style so and endings for others. He had

Kula said Shulamith was presented at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Barry and Florence Friedberg Auditorium on the campus of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Tickets are $25 for the public, $20 for FAU faculty and students. For more information, call 795-3185 or visit www.palmbeachdramaworks.org.

South: British playwright Anthony Shaffer’s popular 1970 play in which a group of stratagem-toting flatmates devise a murder plot in order to pay for the release of their imprisoned friend. The London premiere was at the New Theatre, Haymarket, on Oct. 29, 1970. It ran for 38 performances. For more information, call 492-4326 or visit www.jupitertheatre.com.


It was a Waspy Good Time: Broadway’s Hot Tickets of 1999: A 50th-anniversary review of the biggest songs of the 1959-50 Broadway season, including songs from Don Juan, Fanny, Sweeney Todd, among others, at the Kravis Center, 2 pm and 7 pm Sunday; 8 pm Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; tickets: 832-8462 (Kravis.org).

Open Fri, Dec. 19

The Chariot: One of the surreal creations of the theater of the absurd, written in 1952 by Eugene Ionesco, about an old couple setting under, half-price. 272-1281 or www.palmbeachpops.org.

Through Sun, Dec. 21

Through Jan. 19. 2 pm and 8 pm Saturdays; 8 pm Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Call the society at 575-2223, Ext. 0 or visit www.jupitertheatre.com.
Russell ‘R.C.’ Croft

By Ron Hayes

Russell “R.C.” Croft, who led the Delray Beach Police Department for more than 30 years, died Nov. 14 in High Springs after a brief illness. He was 93. “He drove until three weeks before his death,” said his son, Kenneth. “He was out of good stock.”

Mr. Croft also was out of pioneer stock. His uncle, Will Croft, was appointed the town’s first marshal in 1911 and became its first police chief when the separate towns of Delray Beach and Delray were incorporated in 1927. His father, Lucius Leroy Croft, was a mayor and councilman.

A brother, Victor, was his fire chief.

Known to all as “R.C.,” Mr. Croft was born in McAlpin, Fla. He moved to Delray Beach in 1936 after his marriage, became the chief of police in 1941 and served until his retirement in 1972. He moved to High Springs in the early 1990s.

Donald C. Michael, who retired in 1976 as the city’s chief of detectives, was the ninth man on the force when Chief Croft hired him in 1954. “They served together for 18 years, until Mr. Croft’s retirement.” He was a good man, and I enjoyed working for him,” said Michael. “He had a hunting camp out in the Corbett Wildlife preserve and we’d go hunting deer and hogs together. I never had any difficulty with him because I knew he was the boss and I respected him.”

Mr. Croft was the police chief in the spring of 1956, when the burgeoning civil rights movement came to Delray Beach.

On May 20, about 35 black residents arrived at the municipal beach to stage a Sunday “wade-in” protesting segregation. With nearly 100 white citizens standing by and protesters arriving, Chief Croft ordered the beach closed to both blacks and whites to avoid violence. A week later, blacks again descended on the beach, whites followed, and Croft’s officers confiscated guns, hatchets, machetes and other weapons.

By the early 1960s, however, the beach had been integrated. “He was a very caring man and the finest father anybody could ever have,” his son said. “He brought me up the old-school way: If I got out of line, he took care of it — and I didn’t get out of line too often.”

In addition to his son, Mr. Croft is survived by a daughter, Bettye Goskowski, of Fort White; a brother, George, of Winder, Ga.; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. His wife, Mayme, and a son, Dennis, preceded him in death.

A funeral service was held Nov. 19 in High Springs, followed by a Masonic graveside service at Fort White Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Masonic Home of Florida, 3201 First St. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704.

By Ron Hayes

Albert C. Ebert

Albert C. Ebert’s family have long told the story of his very first business venture. With the Great Depression still gripping America, the 3-year-old entrepreneur used to dig up clumps of grass from the neighbors’ lawns in his native Chicago, transport them to the next block in his wagon, and sell them.

A resident of Manalapan for 23 years, Mr. Ebert died Nov. 20. He was 76, and a man whose early knack for business only grew with time. “He was a sharp businessman,” recalled his sister-in-law, Linda Rawls, of Boynton Beach.

“He bought his first property when he was 13.” At 18, Mr. Ebert opened his first real estate office, which employed more than 40 representatives. Over the next 50 years, Albert C. Ebert & Associates became well-known in major commercial property development in downtown Chicago, buying, building, remodeling and selling more than a thousand properties in the city’s Lakeview, Northwest and Loop areas.

“But he always found time to have a good time,” Rawls said. “He had an incredible joy in life. He loved to have fun, and when you were around him, you had fun, too.”

Mr. Ebert also is remembered for his many social and philanthropic interests. Locally, he served on the board of governors of Palm Beach Opera and of Club Colette, a Palm Beach social club.

He was also a Grand Benefactor of Leaders In Furthering Education (LIFE), a sister organization of the Los Pope Life Foundation.

In Chicago, Mr. Ebert was an “Old Guard” member of the Chicago Yacht Club, as well as a sustaining member of the Los Angeles Opera and a benefactor of the Thalians Mental Health Clinic at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles.

Mr. Ebert is survived by his wife of 40 years, Terry L.; another sister-in-law, Chris Armstrong, of Toronto; five nieces, and many great-nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to any charity.

More obituaries, Page 22

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Delray Beach

Pioneers’ beach gift is dedicated

By Ron Hayes

The land was worthless, after all. No roads, no houses, impractical for farming. Plagued by mosquitoes and cut off from the mainland. Nothing but sand and bugs. And so, in 1899, three women donated a mile of beachfront property to the public. Maybe they were civic minded. Maybe they just wanted to rid themselves of some desolate dunes. But on Oct. 29, about 75 people gathered on South Ocean Boulevard across from Bay Street to dedicate a marker honoring Sarah Gleason, Belle C. Dimick Reese and Ella M. Dimick Potter. Their worthless land is the Delray Municipal Beach now, and priceless.

“It’s worth about $300 million at current value,” estimated Robert Ganger, president of the Delray Beach Historical Society, which also honored a much more recent gift to the city that day.

From his home, Robert Neff, a visitor since the 1920s and a resident for more than 35 years, can see the coquina-and-bronze marker he and his family donated to honor those other, long-gone philanthropists.

“Mr. Neff’s gift allows us to tell the story of how, for over a hundred years, people have been able to enjoy this beach uninterrupted,” Ganger said. And it’s quite a story.

In 1895, Sarah Gleason and her husband’s business partner, William H. Hunt, sold a parcel of land to William S. Linton for about $10 an acre. A U.S. congressman from Michigan, Linton was hoping to develop a town called Linton.

When Linton defaulted, the property reverted to Mrs. Gleason, along with Reese and Potter, the heirs of her husband’s partner, Hunt. And three years later, the women deeded it to the town.

“I choose to believe that our pioneer families knew that someday the beach would be a magnet for future generations to enjoy,” Ganger told the gathering.

When the town received the ladies’ gift, the only building in sight was the Orange Grove House of Refuge, north of Atlantic Avenue. In May 1876, Capt. Hannibal Dillingham Pierce became its first keeper, and at the recent ceremony, his great-great grandson, Harvey Oyer III, praised the benefactresses as pioneer royalty.

“There really are not bigger names in the history of our area than Gleason, Hunt, Dimick and Potter,” said Oyer, chairman of the board of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. “These were the folks who, with little support or means, built the infrastructure and the communities we take for granted today.”

Sarah Gleason was the wife of William Gleason, a carpetbagger as colorful as he was corrupt. Moving to Florida after the Civil War, Gleason was appointed lieutenant governor in 1868, then tried to overthrow Gov. Harrison Reed by instigating bogus impeachment proceedings. When the state Supreme Court ruled against him, Gleason was removed from office, settled below what is now Miami and started buying property from modern-day Brevard County south. He was so unpopular, Oyer said, that much of the land was held in his wife’s name.

When Gleason’s partner, William Hunt, died in 1882, followed by his only surviving child in 1892, his interest in the beach was passed to his heirs. Belle Dimick Reese was the daughter of Cap Dimick, the first mayor of Palm Beach and the founder of its first bank, a state senator and the man who built the middle bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway in West Palm Beach.

Their first cousin was Ella Dimick Potter, who married George Potter, a mayor of West Palm Beach and the co-founder, with George Lainhart, of the Lainhart & Potter Lumber Co., still in business today.

“Delray Beach is a role model for progressive and inclusive growth and economic development, while simultaneously weaving its history into its future,” Oyer told the crowd, demonstrating the same long-term vision that Mrs. Gleason, Mrs. Reese and Mrs. Potter demonstrated some 109 years ago.

Michael ‘Mickey’ Metras

Obituaries

“He saved us all a lot of money and was just a wonderful guy.”

In Massachusetts, where he was the owner of the Metras Insurance Agency for 17 years, Mr. Metras was a member of the local Elks Lodge and the Knights of Columbus. He was very active in local politics and brought his experience to his local homeowners association.

“He was a political genius,” said Barbara Tuck, also a neighbor and friend. “When we were on the other side of things, which we were many times, Mickey would say, ‘This will win, that won’t.’ I loved him with all my heart, and he’s very missed.”

Mr. Metras is survived by his wife of 29 years, Debra A.; five daughters, Katherine, Debra, Sheri, Kimberly and Laura; two grandchildren, Kaila and Ricky Ferrierra; and his mother, Nora Metras.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hospice of Palm Beach County, 5300 East Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33407.
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How green is my island?

By Mary Kate Leming

What’s not to love about fresh baked goods, homegrown fruits and veggies, and fresh-cut flowers? And what could be better than strolling outdoors, on a sunny winter Saturday or a sunny day. The first weekend of the move, there seemed to be fewer vendors and customers, but the all-favorite positives are still there. You can’t slide into the market with your morning walk or run. The day we discovered it, the light acoustic duo of Jim Kolvalcik on flute and Vinnie Monaco on keyboard was excellent and provided a perfect backdrop for a Saturday morning stroll. Oceanside Farmer’s Market, Saturdays, 8 am-1 pm. The Schoolhouse Children’s Museum, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach.

How’s not to love about local Green Markets? Here’s a quick guide.

A weekend tour through our three nearby Green Markets showed each with its own personality and array of unique products. Here’s a quick guide.

Enjoy!

Oceanside Farmer’s Market
Saturday, 8 am-1 pm
Lake Worth Beach (A1A and Lake Avenue)
547-3000

Phyllis Casey
Luxury Florida Realty Inc.

FREE ESTIMATES
www.tritonassoc.com

Things We Love: Organics rule at this market in the parking lot: everything from all-natural breads to Costa Rican shade-grown coffee. Most of the plants and vegetables come from Loxahatchee farms, and the organizers brag about a list of additional vendors coming in the near future. There are promises of Heirloom tomatoes and goat cheese pies. Yum.

Things We Don’t Love: There’s no shade at this location, so on a warm day go early, before the pavement begins to heat up. There was at least one pet treat vendor, but there’s nothing in the immediate vicinity to keep kids occupied. Still, parking is plentiful and the booths are stroller friendly.

Special Treats: The conch salad from the Sisters in the Pot booth is the best in the area. Get some to go.

Ocean Avenue Green Market
Saturday, 8 am-1 pm
The Schoolhouse Children’s Museum
129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach
753-8598

Things We Love: Most of the vendors at this market participate in the Community Caring Center’s GreenMarket Café Co-op. This unique business incubator helps individuals develop a business from their culinary skills. As a result, plan on being at this Green Market for lunch. There’s everything from spicy Caribbean chicken to crab cakes to pulled pork sandwiches — all of it mingling to provide a wonderful aroma while you stroll the craft tents. Other positives are the proximity to the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum playground, and the shaded venue.

Things We Don’t Love: Although there is at least one booth with organic vegetables grown off of Boynton, there’s really not much produce here. And, parking may be hard to find — until you learn to steer behind the Civic Center or park in the library lot.

Special Treats: The day we discovered it, the light acoustic duo of Jim Kolvalcik on flute and Vinnie Monaco on keyboard was excellent and provided a perfect backdrop for a Saturday morning stroll.

Delray Beach GreenMarket in the Parking lot
Saturdays, 8 am-1 pm
East of Old School Square in the Pineapple Grove Arts District

276-7511

Things We Love: Like Lake Worth to the north, there are plenty of vegetables at this market, and most of the produce is grown locally. Other favorites include fresh pasta by the pound, homemade all-natural guacamole and Hungarian cinnamon rolls.

There’s good space for maneuvering baby strollers, and the adjacent lawn of Old School Square provides some running space for restless young ones. There seemed to be plenty of parking available on the street and in nearby public parking lots — even with this particular parking lot now taken for booths. With the downtown location, many customers continue through on foot at the end of their morning walk or run.

Things We Don’t Love: The move away from the market’s previous home in Worthing Park along Atlantic Avenue (and now the parking lot one block north), opened up space between vendors, but stole some of the charm.

There are a couple of trees in the area, but the parking lot can get pretty toasty on a sunny day. The first weekend of the move, there seemed to be fewer vendors and customers, but the all-favorites were still there doing a brisk business.

Special Treats: Cut flowers. Don’t head home from your morning of Green Market shopping without stopping into the Amazing Creations booth and picking up a $7 bouquet of fresh roses mixed with seasonal blooms. They will keep your Green Market stroll memories lingering until the next sunny Saturday rolls around.

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Put away that flatiron, ladies — hair is making waves this winter in South Florida. “A lot of people want curly again,” says Tamie Scelza, hair stylist at Classic Trends Salon in Delray Beach. “We went through a straight phase, and now we’re going back.” In the coming season, loose and natural are the buzzwords for special-event elegance. Updos and half-updos continue to be popular, but think casual, not tightly pulled and pinned back.

“For the holiday season, hair should be very organic, soft and free,” says Jani Wagner, hair stylist at The Big Kiss Color Studio in Delray Beach. For those not blessed with ringlets, Wagner uses a curling rod — rather than a curling iron — to achieve different-sized curls. Local stylists also rave about old-Hollywood glamour for a must-do ‘do. Kristina Lake of Glam Salon in Delray Beach has been incorporating antique buttons and broaches to clients’ crowning glories: “things their grandmothers wore ... they’re digging through their treasure boxes,” she says. “Most people are getting into an old-school flair,” Lake adds. “They’re using older accessories in their hair; they’re wanting to be more real.”

Flowers are another whimsical touch. Wagner suggests an orchid, sunflower or other bloom tucked into a side-swept ponytail. And a single braid off to one side, with the rest of the hair left to flow naturally, is a twist. “We’re doing a lot of that and people love it.” Wagner says. Other trends include:

- Shimmer, waves and jewel tones
- By Tiffini Theisen
- Put away that flatiron, ladies — hair is making waves this winter in South Florida. “A lot of people want curly again,” says Tamie Scelza, hair stylist at Classic Trends Salon in Delray Beach. “We went through a straight phase, and now we’re going back.” In the coming season, loose and natural are the buzzwords for special-event elegance. Updos and half-updos continue to be popular, but think casual, not tightly pulled and pinned back.

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- Shorter styles, bangs and Victoria Beckham-inspired graduated bobs. On the “over it” list: high-maintenance highlights and expensive extensions and hairpieces, stylists say.

- For color, deep chocolate and espresso tones are in for fall and winter, especially with jewel-tone highlights, says Amanda Lewis, technical director of One Aveda Salon in Delray Beach. “It’s a very rich, deep look.”

- Nails reflect jewel tones

- Nail colors also reflect a shift to jewel tones, with dark reds and burgundys gracing fingers and toes. “People who normally wear lighter colors are being brave and asking for darker,” says Laura Phengdalith, a nail technician at Paradise Salon & Spa in Delray Beach. Nails are also going shorter and squarer, and chip-prone French manicures are fading from the scene. Lake thinks the current trend away from excess reflects today’s economic realities, but that doesn’t have to come at the cost of style. “Sometimes, when you take away all the extras,” Lake says, “you can find what’s beautiful underneath.”

- IN:
  - Deep red or burgundy nails, especially for toes
  - Deep jewel-tone highlights for hair
  - Super-shiny, healthy hair
  - Loose waves
  - Old-Hollywood glamour
  - Casual updos and half-updos
  - Natural colors and textures
  - Brazilian hair straightening (for die-hard curl foes)

- OUT:
  - French manicures
  - Black nail polish
  - Hair flat-ironed into submission
  - Hair extensions and hairpieces
  - Super-light blonde highlights
  - French twists
  - Tightly pulled-back hair

Photo by Lauren Andrews
Health

Minding diet now makes it easier to enjoy the holidays

By Rochelle E.B. Gilken

There are many Christmas traditions. Decorating the tree. Caroling. Giving gifts. Getting love handles. That last one is the gift that keeps on giving. It doesn’t get wrapped and placed under the tree, but it is part of the season that comes with the feasts, eggnog, fruitcake and parties.

After the tinsel is packed away, those extra pounds never make their way to the attic. They stay.

The National Institutes of Health found that the average American gains a pound every day during the holidays. Over time it adds up. Plus, that one pound often feels like five or 10 — and some people end up keeping another five pounds or more on their waistline that prevents them from being active.

There are ways to indulge in the festivities without paying for it the rest of the year. You simply have to start paying for it now.

“We know you’ll be eating more and drinking more, so now is the time you need to button down and be smart about what and how much you are eating,” said Robert Hutsko, an exercise physiologist and owner of Palm Beach Physique in Hypoluxo. “He says getting into shape in advance of the holidays not only leaves more wiggle room to gain weight, but also provides an incentive to stay on course.

“If you work really hard and like how you’re feeling and how your clothes are looking on you, you’re not going to want to overindulge yourself,” said Hutsko. “Among Hutsko’s tips:

Do a little extra cardio to offset additional calories. Look at yourself in the mirror and remember what you want to look like.

Drink water. Don’t skip workouts, even if they’re shorter than usual.

Most people have less free time during the holidays and cut out their exercise routine. But they still manage to watch an hour or two of television a day. Exercise while you watch.

Plan your meals in advance, including your indulgences. Allow yourself certain sweets, but remember: You can’t have all of them.

In the end, it’s better to lose the weight now. Because New Year’s Day will be coming along. While everyone else is making resolutions to lose weight, you’ll already be a few pounds lighter.

Wine

Tips for holiday bubbly

By Bob Leone

As we enter the holidays, many of you will be hosting parties, and will inevitably want to serve some kind of sparkling wine, either to start a meal or simply to celebrate the holiday season.

This is the time of year when many will consider reaching for the best they can buy. However, in these economically troubled times, a bargain can be just as enticing.

We are blessed with a wealth of choices, and all you need is the willingness to try something new and ask a few questions when you shop.

Bubbly comes from all over the world: France, Italy, Spain and the U.S., as well as New Zealand and Australia. And it comes in all price ranges.

One favorite sparkler is Billecart-Salmon Brut Champagne ($40). It’s one of the last of the real “family-owned” Champagne houses in France, and is very high quality. It’s not a cheap wine, but it is well priced.

Italy provides us with the delicate Prosecco. Always a bargain and always tasty, this wine is especially good at a holiday brunch or breakfast.

Zardetto and Mionetto ($11-$13) are brands to look for.

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With a new harvest and new wines coming to market each year, there is always something to learn. And so to friends old and new, I say: Ciao, mi amici.
House of the Month

Each month, The Coastal Star features a home for sale in our community. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers, and provides readers with a peek inside one of our very special homes.

The house was designed for entertaining as well as livability as evidenced by a double height (24-foot) window and conversation oriented furnishings in the formal living room.

A tree-lined tropical esplanade leads to the decorative circular drive of this direct waterfront residence. On almost an acre with wide, expansive east water views, this home was built in 2000 and has three spacious upstairs bedroom suites with walk-in closets, plus a magnificent master suite complete with sitting area, wet bar, a whirlpool spa, separate shower and bidet with a full eastern width-of-house terrace allowing panoramic Intracoastal and ocean views.

A library/study is downstairs where there is also an additional bath and a half. For wine lovers and serious chefs, there is a wine room with refrigerator and a 23-foot-by-21-foot connoisseur kitchen with a six-burner gas stove and separate cook island.

Life at this waterfront home revolves around outdoor recreation. The entertainment area consists of open pool and spa, a covered patio with a built-in state-of-the-art barbecue and refrigeration. There is a four car attached garage.

This masterpiece home has a gas fireplace, impact resistant glass throughout, video surveillance, automatic lighting and an on-site generator.

Living area under air is 5,377 square feet and total square footage is 7,462.

This home is listed for $4,395,000.

For more information, contact Liana J. Verkaden, listing agent with Hampton Real Estate Group Inc. 561-309-1975 or verkaden@bellsouth.net

As you come into the entry foyer, you will be treated to a spectacular groin-vaulted ceiling. Sweeping interior drama continues throughout the residence with 12-foot volume ceilings.

A stunning Mediterranean-style estate on the Intracoastal

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This .67-acre estate is extraordinary, situated on the Intracoastal Waterway with prime eastern exposure in the Hypoluxo Island area.
The COASTAL STAR     News
December 6, 2008

INLET:
Continued from page 1
in-a-hundred-years storm, according to ATM's report. And that doesn't factor in rainfall or other effects, such as a storm hitting the coast at a particularly damaging angle.

But Jenkins noted that 7 feet of surge would already hit — flooding the barrier islands and leaving Hypoluxo Island totally underwater — in such a storm. The effect on structures from the extra surge hasn't been evaluated.

Manalapan Town Manager Greg Dunham said the conversation should have stopped with the finding that so much more storm surge would hit the islands.

"It goes without saying, this one is the most important criteria for the town of Manalapan and the results are not good," he said.

Ocean Ridge Commissioner Geoff Pugh said there are too many questions to even begin ranking the proposals: Might the extra water flowing into the lagoon flood the barrier islands during a storm? With pollution in the lagoon flowing out into the ocean through a bigger channel, what might be the effect on nearby reefs?

"Is it going to flood or not, and is it going to kill my reefs or not?" Pugh said. "Yes or no?"

Pugh brought his concerns to fellow Ocean Ridge commissioners, who at their December meeting agreed that they could not rank the options without better understanding the consequences.

"They are trying to force us into a situation where it is almost a fait accompli that something is going to happen," Ocean Ridge Mayor Ken Kaleel said, before Ocean Ridge commissioners voted unanimously to recommend no action until more information is available.

"The cost and difficulty of effecting such a change would so dominate the decision-making and cost estimates that it really needs to be elevated to near the top of the issues during any further discussion about changing the inlet," wrote Cliff Truitt, director of engineering for Coastal Tech, a firm working for Manalapan.

With the bridge there, nothing could be done to widen the inlet, which engineers say would improve water quality by flushing the lagoon. Bressner said he hopes that some smaller improvements that don't require replacing the bridge — changes to that dicy shoal area, for example, and signs letting boaters know about dangerous conditions — can be made for relatively little, but can make the inlet somewhat safer.

Jenkins said it's worth it to start planning, even if everything can't be worked out at one time.

"If you look at all the constraints up front," he said, "you will quickly come to the conclusion that nothing can be done."

INLET:

How wide and how deep?
Options for changing the Boynton Inlet (estimated costs):
- Alternative 1: Same width but 5 feet deeper. $2.2 million.
- Alternative 2: Same width but 10 feet deeper. $3.1 million.
- Alternative 3: 50 feet wider and 10 feet deeper. $8.9 million.
- Alternative 4: 200 feet wider but depth kept the same. $11.4 million.
- Alternative 5: 200 feet wider and 10 feet deeper. $21.8 million.
- Alternative 6: Dredging of Ebb Shoal to 8ft. $3 million.


Continued from page 1