Boca Raton

Diane Hoffman presented more than 200 signatures to the P&Z board opposing the expansion of the property. Photo by Jerry Lower

Petitioners fail to sway P&Z Board
By Mary Thurwachter

A plan to expand and redevelop a building on East Palmetto Park Road narrowly won approval from the Planning and Zoning Board after dozens of merchants and neighbors voiced opposition.

The plan, presented during an Aug. 18 meeting at City Hall, calls for a 777-square-foot addition to the building at 831 E. Palmetto Park Road.

Armen Batmasian of Investments Limited, owner of the property, said the building and the shopping center are outdated, and the company has been struggling to find tenants.

Approval of the plan, the residents said, would bring a 7-Eleven convenience store to the store space, when the

See 7-Eleven on page 6

County seeks grant to increase public access to waterway
By Steve Plunkett

The county plans to convert an overgrown spoil island in Lake Wyman into a seagrass restaurant for manatees and a picnic site for humans, if enough money can be found.

Bob Robbins, deputy director of the county’s Environmental Resources Management Department, said his staff is “right now in a competitive grant mode” to win $2.1 million from the Florida Inland Navigation District, the taxing body that maintains the Intracoastal Waterway and owns the spoil island.

The project would also need $419,000 in matching money from the county and $419,000 from the city, the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District or some other local source, Robbins said.

The county must have state and federal permits in hand to meet FIND’s Sept. 27 application deadline.

“We’ve been moving as quickly as we can to try and qualify for funding,” Robbins told the Boca Raton City Council at its July 25 workshop.

County Commissioner Steven Abrams said residents had asked him to find a way to clean up Lake Wyman Park and neighboring Rutherford Park on the west side of the Intracoastal.

“It was a mess,” Abrams said. “The canoe trails had clogged up, the exotics were taking over, the mangroves were deteriorating. It was even a focal point for some criminal activity.”

The project would remove 11 acres

See WYMAN on page 6
Editorial

Your newspaper is celebrating its first birthday

Let us be the first to extend birthday wishes to Boca Raton philanthropist Countess Henrietta de Hoernle, who turns 99 later this month.

The countess has been doing good in Boca Raton since she and her husband moved here in the 1980s and will be honored by friends and fans at Mizner Park Amphitheater on Sept. 24, when a large statue of the couple will be unveiled with names of the buildings they have endowed over the years engraved on the granite base.

Here at The Coastal Star, we’re marking a birthday, too. It’s been exactly one year since the Boca/Highland Beach edition of The Coastal Star launched.

If you’ve had a chance to see our core edition, you’ll see that while some of our features are shared, most of the stories in your newspaper are unique and geared toward folks like you who live in eastern Boca Raton and Highland Beach.

We have our own Coastal Star of the Month. We have our own Meet Your Neighbor. Both of these features give you (and us) a chance to get to know some of our neighbors.

Our seasoned and award-winning journalists continue to cover what matters most to you, from local government to the environment to schools to special events.

It’s been a good year and it just keeps getting better. It’s been especially good to get to meet so many of you. We look forward to more of that.

In the meantime, we remain committed to providing local news, information and advertising to you, our coastal neighbors in Boca Raton and Highland Beach.

— Mary Thurwachter, managing editor

LETTERS: The Coastal Star welcomes letters-to-the-editor about issues of interest in the community. These are subject to editing and must include your address, name and phone number. Preferred length is 200 words or less. Mail to 5011 N. Ocean Blvd. #2, Ocean Ridge, FL 33435 or email them to editor@thecoastalstar.com.

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Artist Yaacov Heller created a painting of Jackie Evancho singing with the Boca Raton Symphonia at Festival of the Arts Boca. The Symphonia will use the painting as a fundraiser, selling it to a donor it hopes will license giclée prints that can be sold. Photo by Tim Stepien

Artistic donations for good causes

By Paula Detwiller

When 10-year-old singing sensation Jackie Evancho performed with the Boca Raton Symphonia at Festival of the Arts Boca in March, internationally renowned local artist Yaakov Heller was not there.

“I had tickets and was looking forward to going,” Heller, a Boca Raton resident, says. “I’m a big fan of Jackie’s. But I had twin grandsons being born in Israel, so I flew to Tel Aviv to see them and had to miss the performance.”

He plans fundraisers for HomeSafe, a nonprofit that provides care and treatment for abused, neglected and abandoned children in Palm Beach County.

And lately he’s been promoting and co-sponsoring Wednesday night “Jazz, Bossa and Blues” performances held at the top of the Boca Raton Bridge Hotel.

Heller’s artistic talents emerged at a young age. His family ran a hardware store in his native Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He would tinker in the back room, making animal sculptures with scraps of glass, pipe and metal.

“One day I came home from kindergarten with a small clay elephant. My parents said, ‘Take this back to whoever you stole it from.’ I said, ‘No, I made this.’” His parents enrolled him in an after-school program at the Cleveland Museum School of Art.

Following high school and a stint in the U.S. Navy, Heller joined his family in Florida and became a high-end Miami Beach hairstylist, sculpting hair instead of clay. In 1972 he moved to Israel, where his eldest sister was raising her family on a kibbutz. Heller set up a workshop in Jerusalem and began to sculpt figures and scenes from the Bible.

Of Heller’s proudest works is a sculpture of David and Goliath commissioned by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin and given to President Gerald Ford during a White House visit in 1974. “David and Goliath was an analogy for the state of Israel,” he says. “A small country surrounded by great oppressors.”

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Clarification

By tasting samples of Delray Beach’s water gathered from Gulf Stream Town Hall [Whose water tastes best?, August 2011] we may have implied that all of Delray Beach’s water would taste the same regardless of where the sample was gathered. A more comprehensive sampling may have been to gather water from the city halls in Delray Beach and Boynton Beach as well from the coastal towns.

The Coastal Star article described a purely subjective taste test and in no way suggested that any municipal water was unsafe to drink.

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9/11 a time for reflection, reminder of need for Real ID

September is a transitional month for Americans. We celebrate Labor Day, enjoy the start of autumn, and football season begins. In Florida, September is also viewed with caution as it’s the peak month of hurricane season.

For all of us, the events that occurred on 9/11 10 years ago gave September an entirely different meaning.

Most people remember exactly where they were the moment we learned that American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center. America had been attacked by terrorists, who had boarded and hijacked planes and turned them into weapons of mass destruction.

The terrorists were able to operate openly and escape detection in part because they secured legal state driver’s licenses and ID cards. A driver license not only grants driving privileges, it also serves as an identification to access a variety of banking, retail, transportation and community services and benefits. It presumes legitimacy of the holder.

Thirteen of the 19 9/11 terrorists secured Florida driver licenses and IDs. Eight of these terrorists had lived in Delray Beach and Boynton Beach and three in Hollywood.

Before 9/11, many people viewed the issuing of driver’s licenses or state ID cards as a clerical task — if they thought about it at all. Some saw this as a simple “administrative” function.

Now we know better. Post-9/11, driver licenses and ID card issuing has become part of our national security system. Constitutional tax collectors are now part of that “security system” because the Florida Legislature transferred these services to us in 2010.

The federal Real ID Act requires that every person prove his or her identity to receive a state driver license or ID card. That requires every adult to visit a service center with specific and original documents. The Department of Homeland Security requires proof of birth, Social Security and residence.

You have until 2014 (50 or younger) or 2017 (50 or older) to comply. After 2017, possession of a Real ID will be required to board a commercial flight or enter a federal building.

The Real ID security process has resulted in a dramatic increase in people coming to our offices. We have longer lines and wait times. The increase is temporary, though, because a person only has to become Real ID compliant once. We expect the crowds to diminish after 2017, because users will be able to renew online.

Our staff works hard to process residents’ Real ID driver license or ID card as quickly as possible. Readers can help by taking the time to prepare and by bringing the correct documents. Our website, at www.taxcollectorpbc.com, has a listing of the documents.

Terrorists murdered 2,977 innocent Americans on 9/11. The death toll didn’t stop there. America was soon at war. More than 6,000 members of our armed services have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11. My prayers are with the surviving families and friends. As Americans we feel their loss and hope to see the safe return of our troops serving abroad in the very near future.

Anne M. Gannon, Palm Beach County tax collector

Highland Beach

Police chief’s rescue wins him lifesaving award

Highland Beach Police Chief Craig Hartmann was presented a framed Lifesaving Award at the Town Commission’s regular meeting in August for helping to save a resident from jumping from a 10-story building in June.

Hartmann “personally took charge” of a difficult situation, “one that if not handled correctly could have disastrous consequences,” Assistant Delray Beach Fire Chief Russ Accardi said. The Delray Beach department provides Highland Beach with fire-rescue services.

Hartmann said that fire rescue officials and other police officers were involved in the incident.

“That was very nice, unexpected of you. [I’m] very appreciative, very humbled by that award,” Hartmann told the Delray Beach Fire fire officials.

Hartmann became Highland Beach’s police chief in January 2008 after more than 26 years with the Delray Beach Police Department, where he rose from rookie to deputy chief.

He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy with a bachelor’s degree in organizational resource management from Palm Beach Atlantic University and a master’s in educational leadership from Florida Atlantic University.

— Steve Plunkett
Club manager’s quick-step a winner at Ballroom Battle

A community the size of Boca West couldn’t get by without a ballroom, but if club manager Jay DiPietro is on the dance floor, he’s probably scurrying somewhere. Not much time for dancing.

Still, when summoned to compete in the Fourth Annual Boca’s Ballroom Battle to benefit the George Snow Scholarship Fund, Jay was on his toes.

Before an SRO crowd of 763 including 14 tables of supporters at the Boca Raton Resort & Club Aug. 19, Jay’s cat quick-step was judged best among the four male dancers. The $36,000 he raised was tops, too!

When tapped as a contestant earlier in the year, veteran community activist Pat Thomas declared she was “in it to win it.” Well, her cha cha wasn’t the best dance — that honor went to rhumba-ing financial manager and Junior League President Jackie Reeves — but the $49,000 she raised was tops overall.

As usual, the judges were assisted by a real pro — from TV’s Dancing With the Stars. This year it was the glamorous Chelsie Hightower.

The event raised a record $211,000 for the fund. Entering its 30th year, it has awarded nearly $5 million in college scholarships to 1,236 students.

A few weeks earlier, another standing-room-only crowded packed Mizner Park Amphitheater. The occasion was the first-ever tour concert for Selena Gomez, the hottest topic in female popdom. Rising to the elevated stage by hydraulic lift, the just-turned-19 Gomez opened with A Year Without Rain.

Late she sang a medley by A Year Without Rain with another pop princess who turned-19 Gomez opened in a Bob Mackie-ish Vegas showgirl costume that would have made Cher proud and later switched to a shredded fabric skirt and the mic with them.

Oh yeah, and backstage through all this … boyfriend Justin Bieber and his bud, singer Sean Kingston. They show up in some of the online videos, which include a nice pre-show, hand-holding pep talk by Gomez. However, no one connected with the tour or the amphitheater would confirm Internet reports that Bieber “narrowly missing being trampled by a crowd of screaming teenage girls” who forced him to rush him backstage and to flee to a waiting car.

Next up at the amphitheater on Sept. 10, catch Chick Corea with Return to Forever. Rejoining keyboard wiz Corea are original RTF members Lenny White on drums and Stanley Clarke on bass, plus violinist Jean-Luc Ponty and guitarist Frank Gambale. Opening the show is Dweezil Zappa’s Grammy-winning Zappa Plays Zappa, a celebration of his father’s music.

Heading west, season tickets at a 25 percent discount are going fast for the “Live at Lynn” series at Lynn University’s Wold Performing Arts Center, which opens Oct. 15 and 16 with Clint Holmes, and follows Nov. 12 and 13 with The Capitol Steps.

Also on the bill this season are Bravo Amici, Jan. 21 and 22. Five Guys Named Joe, Feb. 11 and 12, Jack Jones, Feb. 25 and 26, Florida Grand Opera Young Artists, March 17 and 18, The Beatlemaniacs, March 31 and April 1 and David Osborne.
**April 10. (www.lynnxtix.com).**

At the other end of Mizner Park, the long-vacant second floor of the building formerly occupied by the International Museum of Cartoon Art is taking a dramatic turn two times.

Revived as the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center, the fully equipped studio theater will be occupied by two groups: Caldwell 2@Mizner, a spinoff of Caldwell Theatre Co., and Parade Productions, a new venture headed by Kim St. Leon. Caldwell 2 held a reception and preview Aug. 19; now it’s up to artistic coordinator Kenneth Kay to assemble a lineup. (www.caldwelltheatre.com).

Parade, on the other hand, will debut Jan. 26 with local theater will be occupied by the fully equipped studio next to the stage.

Yaacov Heller’s statue of Boca Raton’s philanthropists Count and Countess de Hoernle died in 1998. The artwork will remain at the amphitheatre through Oct. 31. For more info, go to www.ggp.com.

Unfortunately, business didn’t go and better the second time around for Old Town Tavern. Located a block north of Palmetto Park Road on Dixie, the former steakhouse was revived last spring as a family-friendly sports bar. In a move unusual in South Florida’s whacky restaurant market, the management had the decency to send out an email announcing it would close Aug. 3.

**Chris Evert/Reynold James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic**

In Delray Beach. Not to worry, she’s lined up plenty of other stars. Thus far the list includes a healthy list of TV and film stars including Elisabeth Shue (Oscar nominee for Leaving Las Vegas), Christian Slater (“Oz” in TV’s Breaking Bad), Scott Foley (Grey’s Anatomy, Cougar Town), Jeffrey Donovan (Burn Notice) and NBC’s Hoda Kotb, who’ll no doubt grab some cuddle time with new boyfriend, Boca Raton attorney Jay Blumenkopf. The 22nd annual event is set for Nov. 11-13, with the celebrity gala on Nov. 12 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. More at www.chisevert.org.

Taking civic duty to a new level, Office holders worthy of election should be able to take a few shots, but can they pour a decent one? On Sept. 21 the mayors of south county’s big three — Boynton’s Jose Rodriguez, Delray’s Woodyde McDuffie and Boca’s Susan Wheelchel — will test their skills as guest bartenders at Bru’s Room in Delray. The first “Mayors Throwdown for the Arts,” a benefit for Delray’s Phlomosa School of the Arts, goes from 5 to 7 p.m. Tips and a percentage of the take will go toward a bus to transport students for field trips and performances.

**Thom Smith can be reached at thomsmith@ymail.com.**

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Golf course sale suggested, but not likely

The existing boardwalk areas of the parks would be expanded to provide more access to picnic areas and the mangrove groves. Photo by Jerry Lower

Boca Raton

By Margie Plunkett

Boca Raton leaders looking for an alternative to driving revenue up in another tight budget year have raised the possibility of selling a city golf course.

The idea came up at a recent council meeting, during which city members struggled with coming up with increasing revenues without raising taxes — or dipping further into the city’s rainy day fund.

“I feel strongly about looking at alternate ways of raising money,” said council member Constance Scott, pushing to get an appraisal of the property and to look at alternatives for the property. She also suggested the property could raise cash, but the city manager, residents and fellow lawmakers offered cautions against considering selling budget coffers with one-time income generators, such as sale of the city-owned golf course.

The city-owned and operated greens are Boca Raton Municipal Championships/Executive Golf Courses at 8111 Golf Course Blvd, which is on the north side of Glades and west of the turnpike, and Red Reef Park Executive Course at 122 N. Ocean Blvd.

While selling a property can provide needed revenue, City Manager Leif Ahnell said the danger in relying on a one-time gain: There may not be future options for replacing that income stream or the expenses that have since grown.

Mayor Susan Wheelchel didn’t think it likely a property would sell fast enough to generate revenue for the budget that has to be approved by September. “I’m not interested in talking about the golf course,” she said during the same meeting. “You’re not going to sell it in time for this tax year. Let’s live with what’s in front of us rather than pie in the sky — something that can be done quickly.”

Resident Lenore Wachtel argued city councilors hold on to its course, listing a host of reasons it’s not time to sell. Golf courses enhance Boca Raton’s prestige and are important to corporations with a presence here or that might want to move here. Hard assets like property are more attractive than soft assets, like the dollar, right now, Wachtel said.

Besides providing enjoyment for residents, the golf course produces income, has paid off its municipal bonds and it has reserves, she said.

With the economy still lackluster, the course “is suffering, but what about it? We tried to sell a couple of years ago. ‘I don’t think anyone at the market, it wouldn’t be attractive.”

One website indicated the 55-acre Boca Raton Executive County Club course that was for sale. The course, which is east of I-95, has been closed since it was damaged by a hurricane years ago. A fire ravaged the country club back in December.

WYMANN: Continued from page 1

of exotic vegetation, mostly Australian pine and Brazilian pepper, from FIND’s island and two smaller spoil islands created in the 1930s as the Intracoastal was dredged.

Then approximately 72,000 cubic yards of spoil material would be excavated to create mangrove and seagrass habitat and maritime hammock. The excavated earth would be spread over Lake Wyman Park to elevate ball fields and reduce flooding.

The FIND island will be scooped out to create a 3.3-acre seagrass basin for manatees to munch on. A dock on the island’s east side will provide six slips for day boaters. Upland areas will have picnic tables and a crushed-rock road for emergency and maintenance vehicles.

About one mile of the canoe trail system would be restored to increase tidal flushing among mangroves and make the trail passable at low tide.

The existing boardwalk would be extended to reach the picnic areas, two beach areas and an observation platform near the shore opposite Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Robbins tried to allay residents’ concerns that the seagrass would draw manatees too close to boat motors at the day slips.

“Sofar we haven’t had any negative interactions between boats and manatees at other projects — Ocean Ridge, Juno Beach, some others like it,” he said at an Aug. 16 informational meeting.

The navigation district has seagrass beds at Ocean Ridge and Juno Beach to mitigate possible damage to seagrass during routine dredging of the Intracoastal. The Lake Wyman project would become its south county sanctuary.

7-ELEVEN: Continued from page 1

shopping area already has two convenience stores and doesn’t want or need a third.

The vote to approve was 4-3, with Grace Johnson, member Grace Johnson and said he liked the idea of money...
Boca Raton

By Angie Francalancia

Average taxpayers in Boca Raton would pay about $52 more to the city in the budget year that begins Oct. 1 under a plan presented by City Manager Leif Ahnell that combines increased property taxes and higher fire-service fees.

In a budget workshop in late August, Ahnell outlined how a property tax rate of $3.51 per $1,000 of taxable value plus an additional $20 for $3.51 per $1,000 of taxable value plus an additional $20 for fire service would fill the hole in Boca Raton’s $120 million operating budget. In addition to cutting expenses and raising taxes, Boca Raton would use $1 million from its reserves to fill a gap between dollars and expenses that started out as a $7 million shortfall.

The budget includes $3.1 million in increased expenses, mostly for public safety salaries and pension benefits, but city officials also cut nearly $2.7 million for a net increase in spending of about $85,000.

While Councilman Anthony Mahess objected to increasing the fire-service fee — a move he describes as circumventing the fire-service tax rate — other council members said they believe the fees are a fairer way of ensuring everyone pays equally for the service.

The owner of a home with a taxable value of $300,000 would pay to the city $1,053 in taxes — $32 more than last year if property values remained the same — and an $80 fire service fee, up $20 from last year’s $60 fee.

Overall, property values dropped about 2.2 percent, meaning some people’s taxes might be lower. But owners of homesteaded properties capped by Florida’s Save Our Homes Act would continue to pay increases in taxes if the property’s capped value is lower than its appraised value.

City officials believe the higher tax rate, coupled with cuts in spending will bring the budget more closely in line for the future, Assistant City Manager Mike Woika said. “Next year we expect kind of another break-even year. If you look at property values now, we’re still seeing some drops. We’re looking at another flat, slightly down year before things start to go in the other direction. So these proposed adjustments get us through the flat years,” Woika said.

Boca Raton saw new increases to the property tax rate — $385,000. The budget amounts to $2.7 million from the budget, including reducing what was spent last year for property insurance, liability insurance, workers’ comp insurance and facilities maintenance costs.

The budget amounts to the fifth straight year of cuts, and a 23 percent reduction in expenses since 2008, Ahnell said. “Cutting these amounts of money are having significant affects on services,” he said. “If we cut anymore, it will affect services. “This should not be a surprise to anybody. There is no money for anything new,” he said.

Boca Raton will hold public hearings on the budget on Sept. 12 and 26.

—— Staff report

New tanks take shape at Gumbo Limbo

Work continues on the sea tank project at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, which will mean four new saltwater tanks — two shallow and two deep.

The tanks will have side-viewing windows and have a hard roof with fans and lights, says Stefanie Ouellette, nature center manager. The deep tanks will have a secondary viewing gallery.

Partly funded by a $1 million put aside by the Boca Raton Beach and Park District, the tank project is expected to be finished in February. Brang Construction of Boca Raton is doing the work.

Friends of Gumbo Limbo, the nature center’s fundraising arm, has committed to raising $300,000 to provide replica habitats, native residents and interactive displays for the new tanks.

To date, $145,000 has been raised.

In the meantime, Gumbo Limbo continues with its regular business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday), programs and tours.

The old turtle tanks have been moved off-site to house FAU research animals and Gumbo Limbo animals that can’t be released. Turtle walks and hatchling releases continue as scheduled.

—— Staff report

Workers from Brang Construction build new tanks at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Photo by Mary Thurwachter

Don’t let the year get away without ownership at 4001 North Ocean, the first new oceanfront condominium to rise on the coast of Gulf Stream in over three decades.

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Boca Raton

Open house to mark 85th birthday of Addison building

The Boca Raton Historical Society and the Addison will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the historic Mizner Development Corp. administration building, now home to the Addison restaurant.

The event will feature complimentary cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, live entertainment and tours of the historic Mizner-designed building.

Famed Palm Beach architect Addison Mizner brought the little farming town of Boca Raton to national attention in 1925 with his Boca Raton development project. All of the Florida-boom era projects boasted an administration building to house its offices and task force. Mizner designed the headquarters for his Mizner Development Corp. based on El Greco’s house in Toledo, Spain, for a location at Camino Real and Dixie Highway.

Completed in 1926, the “Ad Building” boasted an alfresco restaurant in the courtyard, where Mizner was known to “do lunch.”

Today the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, one of the few Mizner-designed public buildings still standing and an icon of the city’s glamorous boom-time heritage.

The open house will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 21 at the Addison, 2 E. Camino Real. Cost is $10 per guest and proceeds will benefit the Boca Raton Historical Society and Museum. RSVP to the Addison at 372-0568.

— Staff report

The planning committee for the Addison’s 85th birthday poses in front of the historic structure at 2 East Camino Real, Boca Raton. From left: Patrick Duffy, Addison executive chef; Chasity Nairro, Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce; Susan Gillis, Boca Raton Historical Society; Helene Parsons, the Addison; Mary Csar, Boca Raton Historical Society; Cindy Knecht, the Addison; Cody Tomczyk. Photo provided

Highland Beach

Town clerk, not taxpayers, to pay her legal fees

By Steve Plunkett

Taxpayers will not pick up the $6,000 legal bill Town Clerk Beverly Brown incurred fighting a one-month suspension for sending offensive emails at work on her official computer.

“I decided it wouldn’t be appropriate,” Town Attorney Tom Slinye said following the Town Commission’s Aug. 30 workshop. The issue was not discussed at the meeting.

Slinye reasoned Highland Beach should not pay Brown’s legal fees, Brown said, because she admitted sending the emails, a violation of town policy.

Former Town Manager Dale Sugerman told Brown in January he planned to suspend her for a month without pay after she mistakenly emailed him jokes about Canadians not being politically correct. Sugerman investigated and found more jokes, some “sexually-oriented or defamatory,” that Brown had forwarded at work, including one alluding to President Obama and using the N-word.

But before he could suspend her, Sugerman was suspended — with pay — until his contract expired June 30. Town commissioners hired Kathleen Weiser, a former assistant Charlotte County manager, as his replacement.

Former Commissioner John Sorrelli, who while in office made the formal motions to suspend Sugerman and not extend his contract, led the charge in asking Highland Beach to pay Brown’s attorney fees, which nearly equal her $6,200-a-month salary.

“She should be reimbursed. It was not her fault; she had nothing to do with it. Let’s bring this town back to the peace we had in town before,” Sorrelli said at the commission’s Aug. 2 meeting.

Continued on the next page

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BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL

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Continued from page 8

His appeal was echoed in quick succession by former Mayor Harold Hagelmann, onetime commission candidate Joe Yucht and former Vice Mayor Joseph Asselta.

Commissioners balked at immediately approving the request.

Acting Finance Director Cale Curtis assured them the current budget had enough money set aside, but they asked Slaney to investigate whether Highland Beach’s insurance policy would cover the bill.

An independent hearing officer reviewed the case in April and sided with Brown’s lawyer and Slaney, saying the proposed suspension without pay was “draconian.”

“I felt he was processing the punishment,” said hearing officer Kenneth Stern, a recently retired Palm Beach County circuit judge, who decided a written reprimand was more than adequate.

Brown’s attorney told Stern tensions between the clerk and Sugetman started months before the Canadian jokes were emailed.

Mayor Jim Newill broke a 2-2 vote in January to discuss Suggestman’s planned punishment of Brown, then lost a reelection bid in March in part because of his handling of the case. Newill’s wife, a breast cancer survivor, was helping Brown, who had been diagnosed with the same disease.

Besides paying Sugetman’s $12,000-a-month salary and letting him continue to use a leased Nissan SUV, the town paid Weiner $6,000 a month as interim town manager, Stern $375 an hour to arbitrate the case, and a West Palm Beach labor attorney $400 an hour to review its contract with Sugetman.

By Liz Best

Even if you don’t consider yourself a seamstress, the first thing you feel when you walk into Lori Wyllie’s sewing shop is a sense of happiness.

The walls are lined with vibrant bolts of fabric, finely colored buttons, spools of thread and other sewing notions. A bulletin board is plastered with pictures of smiling children wearing their latest creations from Wyllie’s summer sewing camp.

The second thing you notice is Wyllie herself, a 56-year-old mother of one who opened Sew Much Fun & More on Federal Highway in Boca Raton last November.

Wyllie has been sewing since she was a child and her joy in being the owner and teacher in her own boutique is written all over her smiling face.

But Wyllie didn’t grow up parlaying her love of sewing into a business opportunity until she retired from a nearly 20-year corporate career. And she seems to know how to get people into her shop — and how to keep them coming back.

Not only does she sell fabric and notions, she also has an inventory of high-end Brother sewing machines for sale and offers group and private lessons for budding seamstresses of pretty much any age.

Her summer sewing camp, Project Runway, attracted girls ranging in age from 8 to 14. Her individual classes and adult group lessons are popular with people who are looking to revamp their wardrobes with something of their own creation that costs only a fraction of department store prices.

“I mean, you can spend $35 on fabric and make your own or you can go to Macy’s and spend $100 on a dress,” said Wyllie, who lives in Boca Raton with her husband, Mark.

She saw a resurgence of interest in sewing over the past few years, which she says is based on a pretty simple string of events.

Many female Baby Boomers, after choosing the briefcase and office job over domestic activities, are now staring at an empty nest and have the time and money to pay for classes to learn the basics of sewing.

Wyllie also says the lousy economy has more people taking inventory of clothes they already have and looking for ways to revamp them.

Wyllie feels lucky to have learned the beauty of mastering her own wardrobe at an early age.

Her first sewing memory was when she was 2 years old. Her grandmother had a now-classic Singer sewing machine and Wyllie played on the machine’s treadle — while her grandmother was using it.

She obviously found that annoying, so one day she pulled me up into her lap and started showing me how to use it,” said Wyllie.

Wyllie’s light-bulb moment came in second grade when her mother gave her an ultimatum: “She said, ‘You can either have your sister’s — or I’ll get you some fabric and teach you how to sew.’”

Wyllie chose the make-your-own-classic wide and by the time she was 12, had graduated from simple projects like skirts to a sophisticated pink suit.

When she launched her summer camp for kids, Wyllie offered theme classes such as Be Do Re Use Week (bring in dad’s old shirt and turn it into a cute dress), Look Ma No Pattern Week (work with ideas rather than patterns) and Pay It Ahead Week (make items to donate to charity).

And her group and individual lessons attract people of all ages — kids, Baby Boomers and grandmothers.

Advertising executive Barbara Giannattasio of Boca Raton is one of the Baby Boomers who takes adult group lessons on Saturday mornings.

So far, Giannattasio, who had never sewed a stitch before last January, has made two blouses, a skirt and is working on a dress made from an organic cotton blend fabric she found in Wyllie’s shop.

She says Wyllie is the perfect teacher, with the patience of Job and an encyclopedic knowledge of her craft.

“She knows everything.”

In Coasting Along, our writers stop to reflect on life along the shore.

Boutique proves it’s sew true — sewing is fun!

Lori Wyllie (center), owner of Sew Much Fun & More, a sewing store in Boca Raton, is pictured with some of her more youthful sewing students (back row, from left): Kaitlyn Blane, 13, Deerfield Beach; Minami Guido, 12, Boca Raton; Megan McGuire, 14, Boca Raton; Brittany English, 20, FAU student (assistant); front row, from left: Kayla Belalonte-Young, 11, Boca Raton; Bicca Lopatukhin, 9, Boca Raton; and Victoria Fusco, 12, Boca Raton. Photos by Tim Stepien
HURRICANE SEASON
A-Z

Any way you look at it, it spells trouble!

Coastal Star Staff

A is for the African coast. We have it to thank for the birth of our Caribbean storms. Also Alka-Seltzer. Plop, plop, fiz, fiz, oh what a relief it is when hurricane warnings get downgraded to tropical storm, or when a hurricane misses you all together like Irene did.

B is for barometric pressure. Watch the pressure drop as the storm approaches, hoping that your roof will hold up so you won’t need any blue tarps. Also for batteries, of which no post-storm home can have too many.

C is for cone of destruction or cone of terror. Some forecasters may call it the “cone of probability,” but we know better. C is also for coastal. You’ll want to have some on hand when the power goes out and ATMs are rendered useless.

D is for debris — like that very large oak tree branch that falls on your house. Also for the disaster supply kit (water, food, flashlights, batteries, first aid kit, etc.) that you should have by now!

E is for evacuate, what barrier island residents should do when a hurricane warning is issued.

F is for feeder bands like those that marched through Boca from Irene. Those bursts of wind and rain are notorious for knocking out power; and for flashlights, which you’re gonna need when the power goes out during the next big storm.

G is for generator. How we hate those smelly, noisy and expensive machines, but put up with them all just to keep the refrigerator running. Also for gas lines at the filling station.

H is for happy dance, which you’ll be doing when the power finally comes back on. Also for Home Depot, where you’ll be standing in line for cash, plywood or shutters, if they still have them in stock. And then there’s hurricane hunters, those brave folks who fly right into storms to check them out.

I is for the Irene, that frightening Cat 3 that skirted us in late August in favor of a trip to New York. We’re glad she remained stand-offs! Also for ice. Stock up!

J is for Jim Cantore (right), the guy you hope isn’t sent by the Weather Channel to cover your storm. It’s always devastating when he’s around.

K is for kitchen, where your fridge and freezer are just waiting to go out. (Clean ‘em out now!)

L is for love you’ll try desperately to remember you have for your family after being stuck in a shuttered-up home for 12 hours while the storm passes over.

M is for misery index. It’s bound to soar if, and after, a storm strikes.

N is for that wonderful neighbor who runs a loooolongmmm extension cord from his kitchen to your bedroom — and suddenly you have TV, a fan and a reading lamp. Also for next-of-kin, which the police ask for when you tell them you plan to weather the onrushing storm in your barrier-island home.

O is for overwhelmed. Hard to escape feeling this way, although a plan will help. Look under R for a remedy.

P is for power outages and prayer. If you have the first one, you’ll be using the second one to get your power back.

Q is for questioning what family heirlooms to pack in the car before evacuating the barrier island. Also, for the eerie quiet when the hurricane’s eye passes over your neighborhood.

R is for reservations. Make them as soon as you can and preferably at a fine hotel where you can ride out the storm in style.

S is for surfing safety. Rip currents abound as hurricanes loom and surfers need to exercise extra caution while hanging 10. Also for shingle, the kind that flies off the roof and is capable of decapitating delicate daisies and then boomeranging back for more. Also: shelters, where you’ll need to go if you can’t prevail on family, friends or a nice hotel.

T is for Tapcons, those pesky little concrete screw anchors often needed to secure hurricane shutters. That is, if Home Depot doesn’t run out of them.

U is for the uncertainty of waiting and watching and watching TV as the storm approaches. Will it veer north or south? Will it fizzle out before it arrives? Or will we get hammered head-on? Who knows? Also: For “uh-oh,” which you’ll be saying every time you listen to the weather forecasters predicting, “This will be the Big One!”

V is for vodka, large swallows of which can help you endure the pelting rain and howling winds.

W is for watch and warning. Do you know the difference? A hurricane watch indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 48 hours. A hurricane warning indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 36 hours.

X is for X-ing out the days on the calendar until hurricane season is over. The season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

Y is for the yelling we will all try not to do because it’s so darn hot after the storm passes and we have no electricity.

Z is for the ZZZZZZs we’ll be missing staying up to watch the Weather Channel.

What’s in a name?

New definitions of tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings, as of 2010: Hurricane Watch: An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

Hurricane Warning: An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected within the specified coastal area. Because preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, a hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. A tropical storm has maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph.
Hurricane Irene

Along the Coast
Equinox can exaggerate tidal flooding this fall

By Tim O’Meilia

The autumnal equinox arrives Sept. 23 and that means higher than usual spring tides could threaten to slosh down coastal streets this fall.

“Uh? Spring tides in the fall?”

“It all has to do with the Earth, the sun and the moon lining up during the full moon and the new moon. And it has to do with the equinox,” said National Weather Service meteorologist Dave Ross in mysteriously vague terms.

And twice-monthly spring tides have nothing to do with the seasons. The strongest tides — usually 20 percent higher than normal — occur during the new moon when the gravitational pull of the sun and moon are aligned on one side of the Earth.

Add a pinch of help from the equinox, when the sun crosses the Earth’s equator, and the spring tides that follow are usually the strongest of the year.

Along the Coast

Add a pinch of help from the equinox, when the sun crosses the Earth’s equator, and the spring tides that follow are usually the strongest of the year.

The Boynton Inlet will have tides 3.8 feet higher than mean low water Sept. 27-28 and 3.9 feet higher Oct. 27, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts.

Along the Intracoastal Waterway near Highland Beach, tides will rise 3.7 feet higher Sept. 27-28 and 3.9 feet Oct. 27. At Lake Boca, near the Boca Inlet, the September highest tides are 3.5 feet Sept 27-28 and 3.6 feet Oct. 27.

But the biggest difference will be along the Intracoastal Waterway in Ocean Ridge. The Sept. 27-28 tide will reach 4 feet higher and 4.1 feet Oct. 27.

The high tides of autumn sometimes have caused street flooding, but many coastal towns have updated their drainage systems in recent years. Ocean Ridge, for example, installed $4 million in improvements near Woolbright Road several years ago and another project is under way at the end of Coconut Lane to ease flooding problems.

Occasionally silt buildup on the ocean side of the Ocean Avenue bridge will flood the street, as it did several months ago.

“Our main concern is not storm surge because of the coastal ridge. Our concern is flow into the inlet that will hit us from behind,” said Ocean Ridge Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi.

The same is true for Highland Beach, where flooding from the Intracoastal is more worrisome than ocean tides.

Two years ago, Manalapan cured its frequent flooding problem along State Road A1A near the Ritz-Carlton and the Plaza del Mar with a state-financed drainage program that installed new drainage and raised the road 18 inches.

“It happens every year,” said meteorologist Ross. “We have the spring tides and the equinox to enhance them even more.”

High waves splash along the pumping plant at the Boynton Inlet as Hurricane Irene passed over the Bahamas. A few hours after this photo was taken, a wave knocked over eight stormwatchers and officials closed the jetty. Photo by Jerry Lower

TOP: Irene turned into a spectator event at the boardwalk at Palmetto Park Road in Boca Raton. BELOW: Surfers and nature put on a two-day show of energy. Photos by Tim Stepien
Paws Up for Pets

Pooch Prom ups the ante on doggie dating

Raise your hands if you’ve ever experienced a dog of a date. Yes, we all wish to forget them. But it’s 2011 and now the hot trend is to stage a date night with your dog. Often, these events feature a “paws for a good cause” theme to raise money and awareness.

Earlier this summer, I boldly created a national pet holiday — see nationaldogpartyday.com — and hosted simultaneous parties in New York City and San Diego. I instructed attendees in advance that this was “not your mother’s typical yappy hour,” but rather, a party with a purpose. And during the three hours, your date would be your dog.

I’m happy to report that people revered in the rare opportunity to live in the moment and well-mannered dogs got to partake in games and healthy treats.

We raised money for two worthy pet charities and plan to expand to four locations in 2012, including one in South Florida.

Cheryl Crowley, a lifelong pet lover, is taking this dog date concept a creative step further. On Sept. 24, she will host the inaugural Pooch Prom at Downtown at the Gardens in Palm Beach Gardens. A pack of clothing-clad canines will strut the runway in their finest attires with two being crowned Prom King and Prom Queen, based on a vote by a panel of celebrity judges.

Imagine a beagle in a tuxedo or a Yorkie in a frilly gown,” says Crowley, president of ImMEDIAcy Public Relations, based in North Palm Beach. “Well, that’s what you may actually see on Sept. 24.

Don’t let distance stop any of you living in south Palm Beach County. It’s an easy ride up I-95 and you will have your cool dog as your co-pilot.

In fact, the soiree is limited to 50 well-mannered, well-groomed, party-seeking dogs, and Crowley says the word is spreading fast that this is one of the social events of the season.

Cost is $45 for one dog and human “chaperone,” or $85 for one dog and two human “chaperones,” with the ticket price including food and libations, a band, live auction and door prizes. And the opportunity to witness the historic crowning of Pooch Prom queen and king would be a memory maker that is simply, well, priceless.

Learn more by visiting www.poochprom.org or by contacting Crowley at 561-776-7659.

The beneficiary of this tail-waggers-in-tuxedos event is the programs of the Drug Abuse Treatment Association, a nonprofit group that delivers effective programs for children, teens and their families coping with substance abuse and/ or juvenile delinquency in five counties: Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee.

Learn more by visiting www.drugabusetreatment.org or by calling 561-743-1034.

The always-clever Crowley also found a way to come up with a canine acronym for DATA that aptly fits this inaugural event: “Dogs are totally awesome. A key member on the event committee is Christine DiRocco of Lake Worth, who works at the pet-welcoming Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan. Happy to report that the pre-planning activity inspired her to adopt a sweet-eyed Cavalier King Charles spaniel pup named Mia.

"Yep, I confess. I’m one of those crazy pet owners now,” says DiRocco with a laugh. “Mia is only 3½ months old and loves to cuddle. She is a bit young and still getting her puppy vaccinations, so she won’t be at this year’s prom, but I predict she will be a runaway winner next year.”

OK, the canine challenge has been made. But barking out optimistic predictions is one of the many side benefits of being paired with a pet. Medical studies conclude that dogs, cats and other pets do a lot for their owners.

Medical studies conclude that dogs, cats and other pets do a lot for their owners. The always-clever Crowley agrees. “My mom bought a dog three months before I was born and I have never been without a dog or a cat or both during my entire life. To me, pets make you a happier, more passionate person.”

Since I got Mia, I am happier and I look forward to going home and scooping her up in my arms and loving her,” says DiRocco. “Mia has been made. But barking out optimistic predictions is one of the many side benefits of being paired with a pet. Medical studies conclude that dogs, cats and other pets do a lot for their owners.

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Musical series parked at Arts Garage

To walk in on the office of the manager in downtown Delray Beach these days is to see the familiar signs of creative chaos that bespeak an ensemble in progress: heaps of papers, clusters of wires, takeout coffee cups.

In its short lifespan, the arts organization outgrowth of the Creative City Collaborative has made vigorous use of its space in the city parking garage building, 180 N. First St., most notably with a twice-monthly jazz concert series that has drawn some of the best-known South Florida jazz performers to the Garage, and to what Executive Director Alyona Ushe calls a "phenomenal" response. That series is pretty well sketched out through the end of the year — rising Boca Raton vocalist Chloe Dolandis will star in the Garage's New Year's Eve celebration — but late last month the group added Classical Explosion, a series of chamber music concerts done in tandem with the South Florida Symphony, currently the Key West Symphony. It's all part of the growth of the Garage, Ushe (pronounced Aish) says. "The idea for the Arts Garage has always been interdisciplinary. The classical component has always been a part of our programming," said the Russian-born Ushe, who came to the Garage from the New Orleans Opera. "We started the jazz to experiment, and then we didn't want to take too much on when we first opened our doors. We wanted to focus on getting the jazz off the ground. But while we were doing that, we were thinking about what else we could bring to the table."

In addition to the South Florida Symphony, which is scheduled to perform three concerts at Old School Square's Crest Theatre (Dec. 4, Jan. 29 and March 11), the Garage will be working with Jon Robertson, who leads the Lynn University Conservatory of Music, and the Palm Beach Opera, whose members will perform a season-preview concert in December. This past month, musicians from the South Florida Symphony will perform the String Quintet in C (1745) of Franz Schubert, as well as the C major Quintet of Luigi Boccherini, on a concert set for Sunday, Sept. 11. Janis Ian, an Emmy-winning composer now resident in Delray Beach, offers his Buddha Sky music exposition on Sept. 17, and on Sept. 18, singers Edwin Cahill and Julia Kogan present an evening of songs by Kurt Weill, spanning the German composer's output from Weimar to Broadway and Hollywood.

That's in addition to the ongoing Jazz Project, which brings vocalist Nicole Yarling to the Garage on Sept. 10 and singer Debbie Orta on Sept. 24. Ushe says the ultimate goal of the organization is nothing less than artistic freedom. "The mission … is to create a venue where artists really want to experiment and blossom," she said. "I don't want to do strange things for the sake of doing strange things, but if there's logic and meaning and passion involved, absolutely!"

For tickets, visit artsgarage.eventbright.com; for more information about Arts Garage, visit www.delraybeacharts.org or call 245-0180.

The actress Karen Stephens, who last month played Lorraine Hansberry in a Women's Theatre Project mounting of Ann Davidson's Chittering Heights, returns to her Carbonell-nominated performance in Sarah Jones' Bridge and Tunnel at the Boca Raton Theater Guild this month.

Bridge and Tunnel, which was first produced by Meryl Streep and won a special Tony in 2006, is a tour de force of acting and accent chops in which Stephens plays 14 characters from New York City's outer boroughs who have gathered in a Queens theater basement for a poetry jam. The characters include a Chinese woman whose lesbian daughter is having a relationship crisis, an aging Jewish grandmother, a Jordonian woman obsessed with The Beatles, and a wheelchair-bound Mexican man.

Jones' play is about the immigrant experience, and about the least heard voices in the national conversation. Stephens won warm reviews for her performance of the piece in December 2009 at the Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota, and in October 2010 at the Women's Theatre Project, which performs in Fort Lauderdale. The Theatre Guild shows are set for Sept. 9-11 at the Willow Theatre in Boca Raton's Sugar Sand Park. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11. Tickets are $15; call 347-3948. Visit www.brtg.org.

Art notes: The Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach will be closed from Sept. 12 to Sept. 30 while workers reinstall galleries. Museum officials said the rehanging will give visitors "a more engaging experience" with its collections. The first new exhibit, debuting Nov. 3, will be American artist Dave Cole's installation Flags of the World. Three new exhibits open at the Boca Raton Museum of Art this month, including portraits from the museum's collection (Sept. 6-May 13), and work by the Colombian conceptual artist Federico Uribe (Sept. 21-Dec. 4). Also opening Sept. 21 is Outsider Visions: Self-Taught Southern Artists of the 20th Century, a collection of 75 works by creators such as Mose Tolliver (aka Mose T) and the remarkable Howard Finster. The show closes, fittingly enough, on Jan. 8, the birthday of another self-taught Southerner, Elvis Presley.

You Go Girl, by Missionary Mary Proctor, is one of the works that will be in the Boca Raton Museum of Art's Outsider Visions: Self-Taught Southern Artists of the 20th Century.
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Alyce Erickson

You know how some people simply sparkle? They light up a room just by walking in? Alyce Erickson is one of those. And, if you’re one of the fortunate folks to visit her home in Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, you can’t help but feel the love. A Puccini aria fills the house and the sweetest little tan poodle scampers to greet you. Her name? Miss Puccini.

It’s no secret a music lover lives here.

Erickson says she doesn’t play an instrument herself. “I play at the piano,” she says. “My gift is listening.” She does much more than listen, though. She works arduously to open doors for young musicians by organizing concerts and competitions at the Lynn Conservatory of Music. “These kids are so talented,” she says. “Each one is a walking genius.”

The mother of two sons, a daughter-in-law she considers her daughter, and one “adorable” grandson, Erickson has immersed herself in Boca Raton since she arrived in 1984. Her finely honed organizational skills have served her well.

“I got involved with the Boca Raton Museum of Art right away,” she says. “I was bored stiff boating, playing tennis and shopping. I needed a project.”

She walked in to the Museum of Art, then located on Palmetto Park Road, and offered to organize a fundraising ball at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. “They said ‘you’ll never get it there,’” but I knew I would, and I did.” In fact, she reserved the luxurious hotel for the next year’s ball at the same time. Although she didn’t know anyone in town then, she persuaded the art museum to let her pick her own committee made up of presidents of every organization in town.

It was called “The Presidents Ball” and it was a huge success.

“Of course, there was payback,” she says. Over the years, she’s volunteered to help all those organizations.

Her other involvements include Lynn University, National Society of Arts and Letters, Boca Raton Children’s Museum, American Red Cross, Florida Symphonic Pops and Florida Atlantic University. Two years ago, she was awarded the Junior League of Boca Raton Woman Volunteer of the Year Award, and this year she received a star on the Boca Raton Historical Society’s Walk of Recognition. The Walk of Recognition (at Royal Palm Place) honors people who have demonstrated a significant long-term commitment to serving in the interest of Boca Raton and have enriched the lives of citizens. That’s Alyce Erickson all right.

—Mary Thunvachter

Q. Where did you grow up and what’s your educational background?
A. I was born in North Carolina, went to school in West Virginia, moved to Florida in 1982. I have a medical degree in nursing. My husband and I retired to Florida after we sold our cable TV business.

Q. What are your hobbies?
A. Miss Puccini, Lynn

University Conservatory of Music, National Society of Arts and Letters, volunteerism, music art, photography and bridge.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in Boca Raton?
A. We had friends here and had been coming down on vacations.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club/ Boca Raton?
A. Friends and family and the young talent, the culture — opera in [West] Palm Beach, music at the Conservatory of Music, theater and ballet.

Q. Why is volunteer work so important to you?
A. I believe we are here to serve. I think God puts us where we’re supposed to be to get things done. My gift is organization.

Q. If someone made a movie of your life, who would you like to play you and why?
A. Meryl Streep. She played the violin in Music of the Heart. I don’t play violin, but I love music.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?
A. The Four Seasons by Vivaldi, Pachelbel’s Canon in D, the Christmas classics like O Holy Night and Ave Maria; harp music, opera and so much more.

Q. What’s your favorite childhood memory?
A. Getting together with the family around the table on Christmas morning. I love Christmas. It’s my favorite season.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A. Yes, two: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, (the Golden Rule); and “I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul,” from Invictus, by William Ernest Henley.

Q. Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?
A. Ruth McGoldrick, the lady who ran the Debbie-Rand Thrift Shop for all these years, and her sister, Sally Crow, who was in every organization in this town.

Alyce Erickson, with her poodle Miss Puccini, lives in a home at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, from which she can organize fundraisers for such organizations as Lynn University and the National Society of Arts, among others. Photo by Tim Stepien

Alyce Erickson, with her poodle Miss Puccini, lives in a home at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, from which she can organize fundraisers for such organizations as Lynn University and the National Society of Arts, among others. Photo by Tim Stepien

Email us at news@thecoastalstar.com to nominate an interesting person to be a Coastal Star or to be profiled in our Meet Your Neighbor feature.
SEPTEMBER 3 - Dance or Acting Classes offered at Showtime Children’s Performing Arts School. Please call 393-7807 or visit www.sugarsandpark.org.

SEPTEMBER 4-10 - Yoga Workout at the Beach - Held every Saturday at Red Reef Park, 1223 S. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Yoga workouts are led by experienced instructors. The workout focuses on improving flexibility, balance, and core strength. The class is held every Saturday and Sunday at Red Reef Park, Boca Raton. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

SEPTEMBER 5 - 25th Annual Labor Day Police Charity Golf Tournament - Held at the Boca Raton Police Foundation, 141 Via Naranjas, Suite 45B, Boca Raton. This event raises funds for local charities and supports community outreach programs. The tournament is open to the public, and participants can register online at www.BocaPD.com. Registration deadline is September 1.

SEPTEMBER 5 - Jewish Community Event Called “Seder at the Beach” - Held at the Boca Raton Community Center, 2001 S. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. This event is open to the public and features a Seder meal and a discussion of the Passover story. Registration is required and can be completed online at www.bocalibrary.org. Cost is $15 per person, and reservations are due by September 1.

SEPTEMBER 7 - “An Evening with the Stars” - Held at the Mizner Park Amphitheater, 1201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. This event features a variety of musical performers, including local and national artists. Advance ticket sales are recommended, and tickets can be purchased online at www.miznerpark.com. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the show begins at 8 pm.

SEPTEMBER 9 - “Art of the Natural World” - Held at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 201 S. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. This exhibit features a collection of works created by local artists, showcasing the beauty of nature. The exhibit is open to the public and is free of charge. Hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm.

SEPTEMBER 10 - “Learning Through Music” - Held at the Boca Raton Music School, 455 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. This program is open to children of all ages and focuses on developing musical skills through interactive classes. Registration is required, and parents must accompany their children. Registration deadline is September 1.

SEPTEMBER 11 - “Get Moving” - Held at the Boca Raton Community Center, 2001 S. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. This event is a free fitness fair that features a variety of exercise classes, including yoga, Pilates, and aerobics. All are welcome to participate, and no registration is required. Hours are 9 am to 1 pm.

SEPTEMBER 12 - “A Night at the Museum” - Held at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 201 S. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. This event features a guided tour of the museum’s permanent collection, followed by a free movie screening. The event is open to the public and is free of charge. Hours are 7 pm to 9 pm.
**Mural Monumental Meetings**

9/8 - Highland Beach - First Thursday of each month at Highland Beach Town Hall, 300 S.E. 17th Ave, 7:00 pm. Agenda available at www.highlandbeach-fl.gov/Agendas. Budget hearings are at 7:01 pm and 9:42.

9/13 & 9/27 - Boca Raton - Second & Fourth Thursday of each month at Boca Raton Civic Center, 201 NE 5th Avenue, Park room, 6:00 pm. Agenda available at www.bocafl.gov/city/brac03agendas.htm. Budget hearings are at 6:09 pm and 9/26.

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**City of Boca Raton**

9/9 - Eye to the Skies with the 16-inch Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope at the Children's Science Explorium, 100 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This informal evening of stargazing provides an opportunity for anyone, including adults who have never registered, to view the night sky.
Parishioners unite in prayer at St. Joseph Episcopal Church. Photo by Lauren Lorici

Pastor reaches out at St. Joseph, finds responsive community

The story of St. Joseph Episcopal Church’s pastor of nearly 11 years, the Rev. Martin Zlatic, is a tapestry of life and work at the Boynton Beach church’s innovative, youth-driven expansion is one that warms the cockles of the heart.

It all started coming together when “Pastor Marty,” as he affectionately is known, was asked for help out in the corporate world, traveling the planet for Motorola Inc. His experiences undoubtedly could fill a book. For our purposes, it is difficult to see that he says, the Episcopal Church of the Reformation Commons is now here, there used to be 5,000 Motorola employees in Boynton. Now there’s zero.

The former Catholic priest and his wife, Dee — now Children’s Minister at St. Joseph’s — found an Episcopal home in Jacksonville where they married. Answering his hankering to return to the priest’s shool, he says, “I became a worker priest — one who, in addition to his priestly duties, had a secular job — between Motorola and St. Andrews Church in Lake Worth, before being tapped as Vicar in 2003.

He was blessed with a congregation whose charisms, or special virtues, led to opening up to youths and to young adults who want a worship experience that is not the traditional form of worship that might not be the thing. So we were able to hire Charles miley, who was just coming off of Beckley School of Music, and who had a background doing contemporary music in a traditional Episcopal setting, which is a very unique combination,” Zlatic said. “And Charles came and we call the ‘unplugged’ service. After settling on the Sunday 11:45 a.m. time niche for the less formal, Episcopal twist on ‘Rock Church,’ there’s been continuous growth.

“Unplugged” is the second largest of the four Sunday services. But having established the service, its time frame and its musician “who has since forged relationships with local worship leader, to put together this incredible group who come together to help to lead the music, we didn’t have a place to put him,” said Zlatic. For five years literally what was a storage closet has served as the rehearsal room. Underlining the urgency of prioritizing a planned expansion was that the church’s traditional choir also is outgrowing its practice room. Moreover, weekend attendance of around 350 makes St. Joseph’s a medium-to-large congregation, difficult for one person to manage alone. Recognizing “unplugged” as when the need is, that’s where the church is concentrating. The Diocese of Southeast Florida’s enlightened investment of a $150,000 total matching grant over three years has put together this incredible, youth-driven expansion is one that warms the cockles of the heart.

The Rev. Martin Zlatic, St. Joseph’s pastor of nearly 11 years, is the man at the wheel.

For 50 people who formally applied, the best fit was Wendy (Wuan) Tobias. “Her family has been in Boynton forever,” Zlatic said, “and she also happens to be someone who was part of this church.” After working at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the past three years, she’s due on board in October, “hopefully coinciding almost with the launch of the new building, so it’s all going to come together sort of at the same time. So that’s exciting,” he said.

Soon after, the South Palm Beach Deanery of the diocese, of which Zlatic is the dean, will host for the first time in St. Joseph’s history the annual convention of the 83-congregation, Key West-to-Jensen Beach, Glades-to-the-coast diocese.

“The church is the heart of a diocese. It’s a diocese of the heart, it’s a diocese of the soul, it’s a diocese of the mind,” he said. “And it’s a diocese of people and a diocese of the stomach, and a diocese of the mind,” Zlatic added.

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“One of the great parts of this church is that it’s a church where people can come from all corners of the diocese, and they come to this church,” Zlatic said. “And it’s a church that people want to pray for even more. St. Joseph’s is honoring the past and present, yet developing an innovative ministry for the future. It’s a success story of a family and youth-oriented church, and of the adaptability required to truly make that service happen.”

C.B. Hanif is a writer and inter-religious affairs consultant. Reach his at www.interfaith21.com

September 2011

The COASTAL STAR

Community Calendar/Religion 17

SEP. 25-OC. 1

Tues. 9/20 - Doss Street Road Open Turpenay at Monument Green/16th St., north of 16th St. 4 p.m. 757-8000. Free event.


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In this two-story Lighthouse Point home, three canals converge to give an expansive vista of water. Imagine watching the day go from sunrise to sunset over the waterways.

In addition there is dockage (106 feet) to accommodate your yacht and there are no fixed bridges to the ocean.

The heated, freeform pool, spa and open patio all overlook the dock; and beyond, the water. A built-in grill on the patio makes it convenient to cook and then serve, al fresco, in the covered lanai.

The home is an example of high-end luxury and offers 8,484 square feet of living area. Although large, this residence is deeply comfortable with open, naturally lighted rooms, most of which overlook the water.

There are five bedrooms, seven full baths and one half-bath, a den, a family room and a Florida room.

The kitchen is inviting with a mahogany island centrally located for important prep work. It also features light wood cabinetry (some glassed-in), built in gas cooktop and spectacular granite countertops as well as top shelf appliances. Next to the gourmet kitchen is an eye-popping breakfast nook built into the cupola space, with a hand-painted vaulted ceiling.

The estate is awash in exquisite finishing touches and solid craftsmanship. Its quality design coupled with a superior location make it of distinctive value. Furnishings also available. $4,995,000.

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