Delray Beach
City settles: Caron keeps beachside sober houses
By Tim Pallesen

Delray Beach has given the Caron Foundation approval to operate two high-end sober houses near the ocean, ending a costly lawsuit that city commissioners feared they would lose.

The July 17 settlement came after a federal judge said it was likely that Caron could prove at trial that the city discriminated against recovering alcoholics and drug addicts.

"It is foreboding what's going to happen at trial," Matthew Mandel, the outside attorney hired to defend the lawsuit, told commissioners.

"The judge is trying to send us a message to say how he will rule if there's a trial," Mandel said. "I believe the city has no choice but to settle."

City Attorney Brian Shutt estimated the city would owe at least $950,000 in damages and fees if it lost at trial. Shutt also urged commissioners to settle.

"We have run into an immovable object," Mayor Woodie McDuffie concluded.

"To pursue this further would be fiscally unwise."

"I see millions of dollars in

See CARON on page 13

Along the Coast
Keeping an eye out for the president
Security atop the Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan keeps a lookout (above) as crowds wait for President Obama to pass (below). Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

A political buzz and a (mostly) profitable swarm
By Tim O'Meilia

Four things learned from last month's visit of President Obama and Vice President Biden:
1. Waiting onlookers and reporters like pizza, ice cream and cinnamon-nut French toast.
2. Roped-off parking lots mean no parking meter revenue and no beachfront breakfast crowd.
3. No school buses parked nose-to-tail were harmed during the presidential and vice-presidential visits.
4. You can get from Manalapan to the Palm Beach International Airport in 17 minutes even if the bridge is out — if you've got a Secret Service escort.
President Barack Obama's motorcade didn't buzz up to the Ritz-Carlton's back door until after 9:30 p.m. July 19, giving well-wishers and television news crews hours of milling-around time in the Plaza del Mar shopping center at the corner of Ocean Avenue and State Road A1A.
"It was the best night we've had since we opened," beamed Dean Ismajli, who opened his second Lantana II Pizza two months ago in the Plaza courtyard. The restaurant wrote 227 order tickets that night. Ismajli suspected the Secret Service had been reconnoitering the plaza for several weeks.
"Well-dressed, clean-cut, big," he said, flexing his shoulders and arms. "They won't tell you (who they were) but you could pretty much tell."
Around the corner, the Ice Cream Club didn't have a Rocky Road to

See PRESIDENT on page 10

Summer Arts
Artist sees flourishing gallery off the beaten path
By Mary Jane Fine

DELRAY BEACH — Vincent Cacace envisions the future of Artists Alley as if it were a canvas awaiting his brush. The colors. The shapes. The blocking.
This is how it can be: "I see that as a gallery, at the end," he says, pointing down the alleyway to a vacant building. "And there's a guy who wants to open a café down there, and he'd hang the artists' paintings on his walls."
Cacace foresees bamboo plantings — the purple variety, 70 feet tall — and a butterfly garden where, now, there are only grass and shrubs. And a mural, a stylized wave, on the side of that concrete structure,

Vincent Cacace shows off artwork to Anne Walsh. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

the one festooned with midlew drippings. That little red-and-grey-brick pocket-park, across the way, the one the city built? That'll be a sculpture park.

See DELRAY BEACH on page 14

Trolley takes enthusiasts on art-oriented tour
By Ron Hayes

BOYNTON BEACH — Shortly after 5 p.m. on July 19, a Molly's Trolley carrying about 35 enthusiastic men and women left Cuthill's Backyard restaurant on Northeast Fourth Street and went in search of art. They found it where you'd expect to find art — colorful galleries in a shopping plaza, tiny strip malls along Federal Highway. And then they found it where you'd least expect art — an industrial district off Boynton Beach Boulevard, just west of I-95, just north of Lloyd's

See BOYNTON BEACH on page 14

Hot deals! It's summertime, and the livin' is easy — on the wallet. Check out these bargains at local hotels and restaurants. Page 25

Around Town Big names, big business and lots of burgers. Page 8
Meet Your Neighbor The Morikami's longtime former director has changed his focus, but not his passion for making a difference. Page 34
Editor’s Note

Community and peer support inspiring

Sometimes in the depths of summer it’s difficult to leave the chilled cocoon of the house and drag myself into the office. But as we began to put together this August edition, I was re-energized by the dedicated, ongoing support of our readers, advertisers and peers.

As you read this month’s issue, please take a moment to notice the 65 or so local businesses that support our publishing efforts over the summer months.

Many of these are your neighbors and friends and they know we don’t all head north during hurricane season (even though we might wish we did!). So, please make a point of frequenting their establishments this summer. They know we’re all in this together.

They also know they are supporting an excellent group of local journalists who work hard to bring you the news of your community. How good are they? Just ask the judges of the Florida Press Association.

How hard to bring you the news—supporting an excellent group of journalism students this summer. We wish we did!). So, please make up our outdated subscribers to our journalism. As our calendar has shown that they care about our local journalism. As our calendar editor spent time cleaning up our outdated subscribers list, she mailed out close to 75 renewal notices. In just three weeks, more than 50 re-upped for another year. Impressive.

We work hard all year to earn the loyalty of our readers and advertisers. Please accept this sincere ‘thank you’ especially during these long, hot days of summer.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

For the first time, we entered this contest in the over 15,000 circulation category and were thrilled to accept a first place for Community History. Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley’s fine story telling on the 85th anniversary of the Boca Raton Resort & Club was noted by the judges, as was the package’s design by Scott Simmons. Congratulations to them both and to the 10 other Coastal Star winners who placed in seven other categories.

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They also know they are supporting an excellent group of local journalists who work hard to bring you the news of your community. How good are they? Just ask the judges of the Florida Press Association.

At their July 7 convention in Destin, they granted 11 awards to Coastal Star writers, editors, photographers and designers.

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— Mary Kate Leming, Editor
Police and the beach occupancy staff and commissioners’ time

By Tim O’Meilia

Imagine unmanned drones patrolling the Manalapan shoreline or helium-filled balloons surveilling the beach or infra-red cameras spying north and south after dark along the oceanfront. However fantastic and unlikely — except perhaps with drones — these are some of the solutions town commissioners learned could be used to combat beach-going trespassers.

Town commissioners will consider those and more mundane and practical solutions to combat crowding, unlicensed or sanctioned off-leash dogs, temporary tenting and strand marine and beach patrols, during an Aug. 27 budget workshop.

Commissioners all but vetoed the idea of contracting police services with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office during a July 18 workshop. Although they didn’t take an official vote, five of six commissioners said they would rather stick with their own police force even if it means spending more to protect against beach-going trespassers.

Mayor Basil Diamond said the issue should be reconsidered periodically and noted the town made an unsuccessful effort at joint cooperation on policing with other coastal towns. The sheriff’s office has offered a two-year contract at $1.17 million, compared with the town police cost next year of $1.3 million.

Police Chief Carmen Mattox and Town Manager Linda Stumpf have proposed hiring two part-time police officers for a Friday-Sunday, daytime beach patrol and contracting with Lantana or the sheriff’s office for Saturday and Sunday marine patrol.

In addition, they would restore a police support services position to help with administrative duties and increase police liability insurance to $5 million. The police budget would increase to $1.52 million.

Adding similar marine and beach patrol duties to the sheriff’s contract would raise it to $1.28 million, making the difference about $240,000 annually.

“It’s got to be demonstrated to me there is significant difference in cost,” said Commissioner David Cheifetz. “We’re not going to save much money and we’re not going to get any more coverage. I’m at the point that the PSBO should be taken off the table.”

All but Commissioner Donald Brennan agreed. “The (cost) gap is significant,” he said. “To manage outsourced vendors and patch it together and fill up the gaps is the wrong way to go,” he said. “We ought to continue to pursue a full-service operation.”

Commissioners refused to slam the door on talks with the sheriff’s office, declaring Commissioner John Murphy’s motion to end any negotiations by a 4-3 vote with Diamond casting the deciding ballot.

“The quotes in the sheriff’s office offer aren’t worth the paper it’s written on,” Murphy said.

With the sheriff’s office all but dead, commissioners said they would resume contract negotiations with the police union.

Commissioners spent several minutes examining a photograph of weekend beachgoers north of the sand transfer plant, trying to determine where the mean high water mark fell (which delineates public and private property) and which beachgoers would have to move their blankets.

“The amount of illicit sex — mostly homosexual — taking place in heavy sea grapes is unacceptable,” Brennan said of his encounters with beach lovers who he said dug foxhole-like love nests on his seaside property.

Commissioner Louis De Stefano, a 22-year oceanfront owner, said the solution is not confronting beachgoers. “I don’t say a word to anyone and no one bothers me,” he said.

Mattox said a series of steps has been taken to discourage beachgoers from treading on the property of Manalapan homeowners.

A beach access sign at the Boynton Inlet will be removed and the gate closed after 8 p.m. The roped pathway to the beach will direct beachgoers to the inlet beach and green signs emphasizing Manalapan’s ordinances will be erected.

In other business: Commissioners set a tentative tax rate for next year at $3.35 per $1,000 of taxable property value although all indicated the rate would be reduced before the September budget hearings. The current rate is $2.78. Commissioners said they wanted flexibility to deal with the possibility of increased costs for upgrading the police force. De Stefano opposed the rate.

Commissioners also agreed to place a term limit question on the March 2013 ballot. If approved, commissioner and the mayor would be limited to three consecutive two-year terms in each office or four terms in combination.

Letters to the Editor

Delray budget priorities not well thought out

I have repeatedly asked the mayor and city commissioners in public forums to discuss how they distinguish between essential and non-essential services, and I can’t get an answer. When money is tight, taxpayers deserve to know which budget items are more important than others. Commentator Adam Frankel is the only one of the five elected officials who has engaged in a dialogue with me when I ask these questions.

The mayor bragged at a June City Commission meeting about the hard work he and his fellow commissioners put into “priority-based budgeting.” The document based on this work assigns over 200 spending items to four “quartiles” — or priorities — of relative importance.

Referencing this document at a recent City Commission meeting, I noted how spending for special events downtown, the Teen Center, and free kids’ out-of-school activities are in the higher Priority 1 and Priority 2 categories, and that some spending requests from police chief and the fire chief were at the bottom, in Priority 4.

When I asked why did the mayor and commissioners think these specific Priority 1 and 2 items were more important than what the police and fire chief wanted, guess what they said? Nothing. I believe that public safety is more important to Delray Beach residents than over $200,000 for the Teen Center and over $300,000 for out-of-school activities.

When I made a public records request for any documents from City Hall that identify essential and non-essential services, or used other words to that effect, both the city manager and city attorney said that there are none. What are your views on all this, Mayor McDuffie?

Kevin Warren
Delray Beach

Delray trash contract warrant protest

Cities around the country are experiencing budgetary crunches that show no signs of easing. Delray Beach is no exception, but has an opportunity to save its residents money and increase transparency. Unfortunately, city management and elected officials seem intent on ignoring the differences between what’s important and what isn’t.

Delray Beach has not competitively bid its solid waste contract since 2001, a contract whose said is equal to roughly 10 percent of the city’s general fund budget. Despite the fact that cities in Florida have achieved significant price reductions in newly bid solid waste contracts, the status quo as said City Commission seem posed to approve a “no-bid” multiyear contract extension with Waste Management.

Responding to resident complaints and the city’s own Financial Review Board conclusion that the city has been deficient in contracting oversight of the current contract, the Palm Beach County Inspector General investigated the intended “no- bid” contract and concluded the city should bid the contract, recognizing that not bidding would disregard competitive procurement mandated by state law and the city’s procurement ordinances. The IG’s office further concluded the manager’s explanation to the IG’s investigation was both flawed and nonresponsive.

Yet, here we are with a multiyear “no-bid” extension looming on the commission’s agenda that may not allow public comment.

Saving taxpayer money must be prioritized in these challenging economic times, and fair and honest dealing in government contracts is critical. If City Hall continues down the path of what is perceived by many citizens as back-room dealing, it won’t be just the trash that stinks.

Craig Glickstein
Delray Beach

Craig Glickstein is chairman of Delray Beach’s Planning and Zoning Board. He recently announced his candidacy for mayor.
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Delray Beach

Harden retiring as city manager

Delray Beach City Manager David Harden reflected on Boca Raton when he announced his retirement after 22 years. “I encountered a lot of Boca envy when I came in 1990,” Harden told city commissioners at a July 17 meeting. “People were ashamed to admit that they had a Delray address,” said Harden, the longest-serving city manager in Palm Beach County. Delray won the prestigious All-America City award twice during Harden’s tenure. He said the envy between Boca Raton and Delray Beach has switched. “To see that totally reversed is of great satisfaction to me,” Harden told commissioners. “Now Boca wants to be like Delray.” Harden, who turns 70 in November, listed construction of the tennis center and relocation of Atlantic High School as his two most challenging projects. The city also eliminated flooding problems, built or rebuilt four of its fire stations, expanded parks and landscaped medians under his direction.

Harden said he inherited a sense of hopelessness on the city’s west side in 1990. “While many challenges remain in race relations, I find that residents in those neighborhoods are hopeful for a better future,” he said. Harden will leave his job in January. — Tim Pallesen

Glickstein announces plan to run for mayor

Glickstein Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Cary Glickstein announced his candidacy for mayor in July, seeking a seat that current City Manager David Harden presented his proposal to the city commission July 17, recommending that $1.6 million be taken from the city’s reserves to cover a portion of the revenue shortfall. The city’s current tax rate of $7.19 per $1,000 of assessed value equals a $7,190 city tax bill for the owner of a home valued at $1 million after exemptions. Commissioners have workshops in August to decide whether to cut services, raise fees or take more money from reserves to avoid a tax rate increase. An attempt to cover the $4 million shortfall by approving a new fire service fee failed by a 2-2 vote at a July 31 budget workshop. Mayor Woodie McDuffe and Commissioner Adam Frankel supported an annual $85 fire fee for every homeowner in the city, but commissioners Al Jacquet and Angeleta Gray opposed it. Commissioner Tom Carney was absent. The added revenue from the fire fee would raise $4.6 million and allow the city to lower its current tax rate to $7.09 per $1,000 of taxable property. McDuffe, Frankel and Harden encouraged Jacquet and Gray to say where they think the budget can be cut to avoid a tax increase.

Jacquet suggested cutting some of the city’s costs for special events. Gray asked Harden to explore incentives to encourage some city employees to retire early. But neither savings is expected to have a significant impact.

The city’s tax rate would have to be raised to $7.69 per $1,000 of taxable property if commissioners don’t make the $4 million in cuts.

Commissioners were scheduled to decide on a preliminary tax rate at an Aug. 3 meeting. A first public hearing on the city budget will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 4. Commissioners will set next year’s final tax rate after a second public hearing at 7 p.m. Sept. 20.

City wrestles with revenue shortfall; fire service fee discussed

By Tim Pallesen

Delray Beach commissioners must cut $4 million from a $97 million budget proposal to avoid raising the city’s current property tax rate. City Manager David Harden presented his proposal to the city commission July 17, recommending that $1.6 million be taken from the city’s reserves to cover a portion of the revenue shortfall. The city’s current tax rate of $7.19 per $1,000 of assessed value equals a $7,190 city tax bill for the owner of a home valued at $1 million after exemptions. Commissioners have workshops in August to decide whether to cut opportunities to accelerate a sustained economic recovery for our town... “Like other cities, there are tough choices ahead for our town, but I am ready to step up and lead,” said Glickstein, president of Leonard Properties. Delray Beach’s next election is set for March 13. — Margie Plunkett

Preservation board allows house plan to proceed

The construction of a one-story residence on the Fontaine Fox House property was conditionally granted a certificate of appropriateness by Delray Beach’s Historic Preservation Board in July. The residence at 605 Andrews Ave., which is west of the Fontaine Fox House, was required to have further review of placement of mechanical equipment pads and landscape screening and to provide additional details of a planned wall.

Neighbors questioned the placement of the residence’s generator, but were told that it will be subject to a separate review that is routinely required. The Fontaine Fox House was owned by the famous cartoonist of the same name and designed by his friend, renowned architect John Volk. — Margie Plunkett

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— Margie Plunkett
Commission faces second open seat this summer

By Steve Plunkett

A second unscheduled opening on the Gulf Stream Town Commission may allow the remaining members to add youth as well as experience to the board.

Fred Devitt III sold his North Ocean Boulevard home and resigned his seat last year, just five days after being selected as vice mayor.

On July 13 commissioners split 2-2 over how to fill the vacancy created by longtime Mayor William Koch Jr.’s recent death. Devitt and Garrett Dering supported Mayor Ganger, chairman of the Architectural Review and Planning Board for three-plus years. Mursel “Mert” Ganger and Stanley Anderson and acting Mayor Joan Ortwein wanted 35-year-old Tom Stanley, a lawyer, who joined the architectural board as an alternate last fall. The Town Hall received 10 letters of support for Stanley and four for Ganger. Stanley supporters included Joel Strawn, who is both Stanley’s cousin and the late mayor’s lawyer and friend.

“This town has gotten much younger,” Ortwein said. “The young people have made their statement in these letters, and I’m trying to listen.”

On reading the letters from people who are younger, it really became clear to me that this is one part the commission is lacking,” Anderson said. Devitt and Dering thought otherwise.

“I do think that it’s important for this commission to respect the time and the effort that people have put in on coming to us at this level such as the architectural review commission,” Devitt said. “I think experience makes a lot of difference in serving.”

While the letters backed Stanley, people in the audience were mostly behind Ganger.

“I am not speaking here as a member of the aging community or the old guard, but I think at this juncture in our history it would be appropriate to give the nod to Bob,” resident Tom Murphy said.

“Bob is unbelievably involved in what goes on in this town, and you got the pulse of the people,” said Danny Brannon, consulting engineer for Gulf Stream’s underground utilities project. “I don’t think you could do better than Bob.”

Commissioners voted 3-1 with Devitt dissenting to defer the selection to their Aug. 10 meeting and asked that a letter be sent to residents notifying them of the open seat. Then they named Ortwein mayor and Devitt vice mayor.

Ortwein, Anderson and Devitt regretted Dering for an empty seat last October, saying Dering, who lives in a Ballantrae condominium, would better represent the newly annexed area.

Ganger also is a nine-term president of the Gulf Stream Civic Association and president of the Florida Coalition for Preservation. Devitt was a town commissioner for 15 years. His departure follows former Commissioner Chris Wheeler’s, who sold his house in Hidden Harbour in October. Anderson has her Place Au Soleil home listed for sale.

Tax rate proposed to help rebuild reserves, expand Town Hall

By Steve Plunkett

Gulf Stream town commissioners may decide to raise property taxes up to 7.1 percent for the coming budget year, mostly to rebuild reserves lost last year for the underfunded utilities project.

Commissioners set a maximum rate of $3.10 per $1,000 of taxable value, a rate that can be lowered but not raised in subsequent meetings. A home assessed at $1 million after exemptions last year paid $2,927 in town property taxes. If that home’s value rose the average 1.1 percent of all property in Gulf Stream, it would owe $3,134, or $207 more, this year.

Town Manager William Thrasher first suggested a rate of $3.01 per $1,000, which he said was enough to pay for design work expected in Town Hall and to buy Ford Explorer SUVs to replace aging police cars.

With upsizing in property values, “I do not believe we need to be fearful of our costs,” Thrasher said.

“But we don’t want to make that a little higher than what this is?” Commissioner Garrett Dering asked, urging his colleagues to propose the 7.10 rate. Thrasher said the higher figure would give commissioners about $60,000 extra.

Thrasher’s proposed budget also calls for a 2 percent raise for town employees and new software for police to track calls. Any money left over from the $500,000 earmarked for designing a larger Town Hall would go into reserves, he said.

Thrasher said Town Hall would be expanded on the west side of the building to provide more room. “There’s no place for storage, there’s no place for records. If you walk into any office… you will see that there are plans everywhere,” he said.

Thrasher also budgeted $428,197 to pay for fire and rescue services from Delray Beach, which includes payment since March for serving the unincorporated pocket annexed that month.

This is a combination of catch-up and then also our regular contract including the annexed area,” Thrasher said.

The annexed area will mean about $208,000 in additional tax revenue if the maximum rate is adopted.

Gulf Stream’s tax rate was $3.10 for the 2007 budget year but was held under $3 for the next five budgets, according to Thrasher’s proposal. It hit $4.09 in 1998. It hit $4.09 in 1998.

The proposed 2013 budget includes $144,000 for a study of how Gulf Stream and other coastal towns might share the cost of providing their own fire-rescue service. A consultant would not be hired unless the other towns pitch in. Commissioners will consider the budget again at their Aug. 10 regular meeting, then hold public hearings on the budget at 5:01 p.m. Sept. 14 and 25.

Former Mayor Koch remembered fondly at commission meeting

By Steve Plunkett

Fond recollections and a stirring tribute to the late Mayor William Koch Jr. marked the Gulf Stream Town Commission’s first meeting in the post-Koch era.

Town Attorney John “Skip” Randolph remembered being “a wet behind the ears” lawyer in 1971 and meeting “the somewhat intimidating mayor.”

“It took me a while, but I ultimately learned that Bill Koch’s gruff exterior was just a facade and that his bark was much worse than his bite,” Randolph said. “In truth he was a pussycat.”

Randolph said he had many reasons to enjoy being Gulf Stream’s town attorney but that the primary reason was Koch.

“I will miss the way that Bill Koch could always bring harmony to the town in those rare instances in which there was disagreement,” Randolph continued. “I will miss watching him trim the budget at both ends in an effort to keep the millage rate one of the lowest in Palm Beach County, and I will miss watching the managers squirm as he backed away at their budget.”

Randolph said he was surprised to hear how sick Koch had been in his final months, how Town Clerk Rita Taylor would take documents to his bedside for him to sign and how the mayor would still preside over commission meetings.

“I used to go to him recently how good he looked and how amazed I was that he was able to come to these commission meetings. His response to my question was characteristic. He said, ‘I’m a tough guy.’”

“Mayor Koch, you were a tough guy, or so you would have had us believe,” Randolph said. “But I learned in knowing you for 41 years, whether you would admit it or not, you were a kind and gentle man who had a heart of gold.”

“So here’s to you, Mr. Tough Guy. We miss you. And let all those who are listening hear this: Your little town of Gulf Stream will never be the same without you.”

Taylor read letters of condolence from Boynton Beach Mayor Woodrow Hay, former League of Cities executive director Jamie Ticitomb and current league director Richard Radcliffe.

“We can only pray to have a legacy that comes close to that of Mayor Koch,” Hay wrote. “We are certain that he will be missed for his talents, his contributions to the community at large and his wry sense of humor,” Ticitomb said.

Commissioner Garrett Dering was so moved by Randolph’s remarks that he asked for a copy of the tribute to be hung in the lobby of Town Hall and mailed to every household.

“You’re not going to charge us anything for it, are you?” asked Randolph, invoking one of Koch’s familiar barbs.

In the audience were Koch’s daughter, Claudia Burns, and his wife, Scott, who left after the tributes.

“I know Mayor Koch would want you to get on with the meeting,” Scott Burns said.

In a public hearing over whether to permit Paul Lyons Jr. to add 324 square feet to his residence on Polo Drive, architect Roy Simon began by saying he, too, missed Koch.

“Mayor Koch?” Taylor asked one more time, seeking a yea or nay in the resulting roll call vote. She quickly corrected herself to say, “Mayor Ortwein!”

After so many years it will be a hard habit to break, Taylor said.

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Around Town

Big business, big names and a winning burger

These are the times that try men’s souls... for even real estate Blackstone Group, which owns the Boca Raton Resort & Club, Tilton Hotels and a few other big-ticket properties, is buying Motel 6 for $1.9 billion. (Don’t look for the Boca Resort to be covetted.) And across Lake Boca Raton, at the inlet, is the spanking new One Thousand Ocean, the luxury condo marketed by Blackstone subsidiary LXR. Forty-four of the 52 units have been sold — the most recent in July for $5.15 million, all cash. You can bet they’ll leave the light on for the remaining units.

A mile up the beach on Palmetto Park Road, more big players have come to town. On July 26, the Capponi Group, a Miami-based construction and development company, and Douglas Elliman, the largest residential real estate operation in New York, held a joint ribbon-cutting at their new residential real estate operation by the beach. On Palm Beach Island, more big-ticket properties, is

For $5.15 million, all cash. You can bet they’ll leave the light on for the remaining units.

Down south, Capponi is a household name. For two decades he was the king of South Beach nightlife and social scene. Forget the A-list. For two decades he was the king of South Beach nightlife and social scene. Forget the A-list.

Capponi still enjoys the good life, but now he shares his good fortune — American Red Cross Feed the Children, Kosovo war relief, Caribbean hurricane relief. On the business side, in 2010 he signed on some of the best in the business, such as Boca’s Ken Gross, and founded Capponi Construction, a bold new frontier. While Capponi was going wild in South Beach, Grout was cheering at The Benjamin School in North Palm Beach. She, too, had goals that included a law degree at the University of Miami and an MBA at NYU. Along the way, she clerked for lawyer Roy Black, who defended William Kennedy Smith, and did legal work for a Miami real estate company before signing on with the Vector Group, the New York-based parent of Elliman.

“From there I worked up the ladder,” Grout said.

To say the least, Now 33, Grout went from new hire to president and CEO of Elliman’s Florida operation in four years. Most of the credit, she says, goes to those who work with her. The company’s dominance in New York had helped to ease the move into South Florida, and international interest — “not just from South America" — hasn’t hurt either. “We’re already making $30-40 million deals in Miami,” she said.

The company’s growth and vision are so strong,” she said. “I strongly believe Elliman will be the strongest real estate firm in South Florida. To this end we’re always looking for talented individuals who share our goals.”

Grout’s not all work and no play, although finding talent to top hers will not be easy. In her spare time, she plays classical piano, speaks fluent French and runs. Last November, she finished the New York City Marathon in 4:37:52, not bad for a first-timer.

“I was my first and maybe my last,” she said. “It may take me a few years to get over it.”

And this month, the old cheeringleading memories will come back as she heads for her 15-year class reunion at The Benjamin School.

To that end, a competition by residents, businesses and city officials, Delray Beach beat out five challengers to be the Best of the Road in America in the second annual Best of the Road Competition sponsored by Rand McNally and USA Today. In contention were Corning, N.Y., Santa Claus, Ind., Denton, Texas, Buena Park, Calif., and Geneva-on-the-lake, Ohio, but after diving on the 100-year-old shipwreck just offshore, visiting Old School Square for a performance by homegrown country star Amber Leigh and cruising Atlantic Avenue in a ‘57 Cherry convertible, the judges were convinced.

“We’re so happy for you guys,” judge Anna Haas said in a note to the Delray Beach Marketing Cooperative after the winners were announced. “It was such a hard decision, but we just kept feeling our hearts pulled towards Delray. At the end of the day, it’s not just the activities, it’s the people. You guys deserved the title.”

It’s a pity the judges couldn’t enjoy one of the best deals of the year, the annual Tastemakers of Delray Beach.

For a $30 passport bought at any of the 24 participating restaurants, participants enjoy food and beverage pairings Aug. 9 and 10, plus special Tastemakers promotions at the restaurants through Sept. 30. Take your pick, from Sunny House and 32 East at the west end to Deck 84 and Boehme to the east to Max’s Harvest, Solita and Off The Ave on side streets, this party delights the senses. For details, check out http://bocamag.com/blog/tastemakers-of-delray-beach.

Beach, Barbeque & Books is a crucial fundraiser every year for the Delray Beach Public Library, and especially this year with its centennial only months away. Set for Aug. 18 at the Delray Beach Club, this party for the entire family will be highlighted by a beach volleyball clinic and demonstration featuring Steve Grotowski, fresh from competing in the London Summer Olympics, plus several players affiliated with Incite Brands and other top ranked East Coast professionals. Tickets — including one clinic, all the barbecue you can eat, nonalcoholic beverages, entertainment and swimming — are $50 for adults, $25 for 14 and under, and free for 3 and under. (www.delraylibrary.org or 266-0775)

It’s time for Boca Festival Days, a monthlong program organized by the Chamber of Commerce that pairs businesses and nonprofits to raise a little money for them and to bring a little zing to hot August nights. For a list of events, go to bocaratonchamber.com.

One of the earliest buses is Wine and All That Jazz, returning to the Boca Raton
Resort & Club Saturday, Aug. 4. More than 100 finewine tastings, food fromBогart’s, Blue Martini. Deck 84. Maggiano’s Little Italy, Ocean 234. the Resort & Club. Nipote’s Desserts, RedThe Steakhouse, Rosso Italia and others. $50 or $100 for theVIP treatment that includes acasino (395-4433).It’s always one of thehottest events of the Festival Days— pun intended — and this year’sBoca Ballroom Battle, set for Aug. 17 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, will be noexception... even with not oneWheelch on the dance floor. Boca Mayor Susan Wheelch won the second battle and sonJay prevailed two years ago. But while the family is blessed withgymnastic and dance talents, others are less terpsichorean.

Asked if her husband, John, might consider giving it a shot, the mayor laughed, “only if it has something to do with golf.” The competition nonetheless will be fierce. In the spirit of“Dancing With the Stars,” the eight contestants have been practicing since May at Fred Astaire Studios, includingKristin Calder, who had delivered her child only two month earlier.

Calder, who runs publicrelations for the Bethesda Hospital Foundation, will compete against Darcy McNally from Lynn Cancer Institute, community volunteer Beth Osbourne andphilanthropist Lisa Pechter. Male challengers includeBaron B of Promise HealthCare, JKG Group President Bob Gittlin, South Palm Beach CountyYMCA CEO Richard Pollock andHSBC Bank’s Fernando X. Rodriguez.

The Battle benefits theGeorge Snow Scholarship Fund, which this year awarded $55,000 in scholarships. For tickets — $50 for members, $25 for non-members — call 347-6799.

Since we have our dancing shoes on, we’ll head across theCamino bridge on Aug. 25 to Carmen’s at the Top of The Bridge Hotel for “Dancing in the Park.” So the 4th of July organized byShopping for Soldiers to help injured and ill soldiers, homeless veterans and their families in Palm Beach County.

In addition to the dancing, guests can enjoy hors d’oeuvres, a complimentary drink, chef’s tables, food and coffee. Tickets start at $40 ($45 after Aug. 20) and reserved tables are available. (860-3172)

When it comes to home cooking, it looks like Boca is the place for burgers, anyway. In the firstBoca Burger Battle, held July 14 in Sanborn Square, 20 restaurants from Boca Brokes Pines to Palm Beach Gardens competed. But while the smoke cleared, the 10 participators awarded Boca restaurants first and third in the traditional division and first and second in the alternative group.

The chefs offered akitchenful of ingredients includingknockwurst, turkey sausage, fried eggs, cucumber salad, red wine pear, grilled eggplant, pickled onions, pickled tomatoes, stouts and ales and some potent spirits (Jack Daniels was a sponsor). Setting a high bar in the traditional category was the entry from one of Boca’s newest and totally untraditional restaurants, The Rebel House — a Tuscan-style burger withCharm City Sauce, pickled tomatoes and crispy onions on a toasted sesame bun. Taking a close second was Gimme a Burger, a popular Deerfield Beach joint, with prime Angus stacked with applewood-smoked bacon, pepper jack cheese and fried egg, set on a challah bun; followed by Boca’s Big Joe’s Burgers & Wings with his Big Joe burger — a thick patty with house-made tangy blue cheese and bacon. Winning the alternate division was The English Tap & Beer Garden’s ahi tuna slider with wasabi mayo and seaweed salad on a mini bugature. Taking second was Boca’s 4th Generation Market with an American cheeseburger made with and served alongside an English beer, while Irie Spice, a Fort Lauderdale bistro offered a turkey burger with a cilantro-lime sauce, tropical slow and mango dressing.

Rebel House also took the People’s Choice vote, followed by Super Dave’s Diner and Red’s Backwoods BBQ. In EQ, Organizers were thrilled with the turnout and promise a second burger battle next summer.

Not all news in burger-land is good. After six decades on County Road, Palm Beach’s legendary Hamburger Heaven has closed. Landlord troubles, claimed owner Cynthia Rosa, who promises to reopen somewhere else, possibly Palm Beach Gardens.

Back to the subject of wine, The Little House in Boynton Beach. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star selections; Cafe Boulud, Palm Beach (France, California); Cafe’ E’trope, Palm Beach (California, Bordeaux, Burgundy); Fifth Avenue Grill, Delray Beach (California, Bordeaux); and Marcello’s La Strega, West Palm Beach (Italy, California, France). Constantly rated among the top restaurateurs for food and wine in South Florida is Angelo Elia. His Casa D’Angelo in Fort Lauderdale, with a cellar boasting 20,000 bottles, is on Wine Spectator’s second-tier list for the 12th year. Its Boca Raton sibling, also called Casa D’Angelo, again earned the magazine’s Award of Excellence. His newest baby, D’Angelo Trattoria in Delray, is not yet 2, but Elia is giving it a fatherly nudge with its first premiere wine dinner on Aug. 7. Chef Ricky Pipher will present four courses, highlighted by braised lamb shank and paired with appropriate Italian wines for a mere $50. Obviously, reservations (330-1237) are a must.

At 823 square feet, TheLittle House isn’t the biggest restaurant on the planet, but it’s a big deal in Boynton Beach. Its grand opening is still a couple of weeks away, but in mid-July Chrissy Benoit opened softly to make sure the breakfast burritos, Benedict Benoit, mac and cheese and Indian butter chicken cook up just right and the 20 craft beers flow from the taps at the right temperature.

It’s a far cry from the 1940s and 50s, when it was a small frame cottage a few blocks away and Ruth Jones was raising a load of kids in it. The city’s Community Redevelopment Agency bought the cottage and moved it six blocks to Ocean and Fourth hoping it will give the downtown area new life. The Jones kids are grown and Ruth is still around, so when Benoit opened the doors for business, she was there and spent several hours greeting customers and regaling them with stories about the old days. Definitely a good start.

Thom Smith is a freelance writer. Find him at thomsmith@ymail.com.
the White House cone on the menu, but they did have a “Welcome, President Obama” sign.

Not that the president could see the sign from behind the row of protective school buses lining the plaza parking lot along A1A. Some of the crowd wondered if schoolchildren had been bused in to greet the president.

“We didn’t get the president over here, but we got a lot of other people. It was a fun and exciting event,” said store co-owner Rich Draper.

Wendy Yarbrough of John G’s in the plaza was expecting a presidential customer for breakfast. “The Secret Service were all over the place,” she said.

The staff and locals were ready for their close-up with the POTUS. But world events intervened overnight.

“It’s unfortunate about the horrible tragedy in Colorado,” Yarbrough said, “and we are praying for the victims, but yes, we were disappointed that he couldn’t make it.”

Locals lined up outside the restaurant at 7 a.m. when Yarbrough opened the doors. “But they wouldn’t come inside — they all just hung out on the sidewalk to see him.”

While Vice President Joe Biden spent barely 45 minutes at the hotel, the president’s overnight entourage occupied two floors of the resort and required metal detectors at every elevator.

The visits didn’t ring the cash register for everyone.

With the Lantana beach parking lot next to the Ritz roped off for security concerns, the beachfront Dune Deck did little Friday morning business until the president left at about 9:15 a.m.

“One South Palm Beach onlooker counted 93 motorcycles, trucks and limousines in the president’s motorcade and 63 in Biden’s. The Sheriff’s Office did not respond by press time to a request for the cost.”

“The police came in and bought, so it wasn’t so bad,” said co-owner Costa Panais. “We had to do what we had to do. You’ve got to protect the president,” he said. “It was out of my hands.”

The town of Lantana is taking a different tack. With their metered parking blocked off for security concerns, the beachfront Dune Deck did little Friday morning business until the president left at about 9:15 a.m.

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The town of Lantana is taking a different tack. With their metered parking blocked off for a day and a half, town officials calculated a loss of $4,275 in parking meter income. The Town Council decided to ask the feds for a reimbursement.

“The town can’t afford to lose the money, said Mayor Dave Stewart, since the council faces a $140,000 deficit unless taxes are raised. “That’s money we would have brought in, anticipated revenue,” he said, suggesting the town needs a new $5,000 ATV for beach patrol.

“We can ask for it. I really don’t expect to get it,” the mayor said. “Maybe we’ll get a nice letter back saying sorry for the inconvenience.”

The two visits forced Manalapan and South Palm Beach to call in extra officers, but the overtime was minimal, both police chiefs said. The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office bore the brunt of providing security.

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“It was a very smooth operation,” said Manalapan Police Chief Carmen Mattson. "All the businesses in the plaza cooperated and the Ritz-Carlton cooperated."

South Palm Beach Police Chief Roger Crane said several hundred people lined A1A for a glimpse of the president’s motorcade and all followed instructions to stay on the sidewalk. “No one jumped out in the road to take a picture,” he said.

The Ice Cream Club’s Draper is eager for more campaign visits before the November election. “Whatever brings in the television coverage and gets the plaza and the Ritz talked about,” he said, ever the businessman.

Jan Norris contributed to this story.
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Boynton Beach/Ocean Ridge

Fire Station No. 1 back on the budget chopping block

By Angie Francalancia

Boynton Beach commissioners once again are talking about closing the city’s downtown fire station, which ran on more than half the calls in Ocean Ridge last year, to cut costs.

During budget workshops last month, Commissioner Steven Holzman said the city could almost balance its Fire Department budget by closing Station No. 1, laying off six of the firefighters who now staff it and moving the other three to Station No. 2, near the intersection of Highway near Woolbright Road.

The city has agreed to once again hold a workshop to discuss closing Station 1 located on Boynton Beach Boulevard just east of City Hall. It’s tentatively scheduled to take place in October, after the new budget year begins.

If Boynton Beach laid off six firefighters at Station No. 1, it could save about $435,000 — the amount in contractual raises Boynton Beach has promised firefighters in collective bargaining agreements.

But the move could jeopardize its annual $900,000 contract with Ocean Ridge for fire service, cautioned Lori LaVerriere, Boynton’s interim city manager. While there’s a contract that specifies which station would serve Ocean Ridge residents — according to City Attorney James Chenet — LaVerriere said Ocean Ridge felt it was implied that Station No. 1 would serve them.

Ocean Ridge officials said there would be ramifications to the 12-year contract if the station were to close. Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi, who oversees the contract, said that when the contract was written in 2004 there was no anticipation of closing the station. “There is no contract that covers every contingency. You can only address the issues that are at hand,” he said.

Boynton Beach has contracts with both Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes for fire rescue service.

“We need to take Ocean Ridge out of our decision,” Holzman said at the workshop. While he vows to continue to press the issue, Holzman acknowledged he doesn’t have the support on the council to close the station now.

“I am not in favor of closing Station No. 1,” Vice Mayor Mack Cray said. “These people are paying for keeping it open. If Ocean Ridge still wants to keep that contract, I’m sure we’ll find a way to keep Station No. 1 open.”

Yannuzzi, who coordinates all public safety for the town, has said he’s concerned about response times and has collected data showing the response time for calls.

Late last year, officials from both towns had agreed to explore the possibility of housing Boynton’s Fire Station No. 1 at Ocean Ridge Town Hall. That move would have pleased firefighters because proximity of a fire station for both Ocean Ridge and Boynton Beach’s downtown residents.

But that idea was put on hold earlier this year, Boynton Fire Chief Ray Carter said, because the city go not get acceptable bids on three pieces of property it was looking to sell, which would have financed a larger police station. Boynton is discussing using Station No. 1 to expand its police headquarters. At the July budget workshop, Carter raised issues about cost of renovating Ocean Ridge’s garage.

Ocean Ridge Town Manager Ken Schenck said he’s never seen a cost analysis. “To the best of my knowledge, nobody has looked at numbers for this,” Schenck said. “It never got that far.”

Last year, Boynton fire rescue responded to 55 percent of the Ocean Ridge calls from Station No. 1, nearly 10 percent more often than in 2010, according to data that Boynton supplied to Yannuzzi.

“Even last year during all this conversation about whether it should remain in existence, Station No. I became more necessary to Ocean Ridge,” Yannuzzi said. “Keep in mind that some of those calls would have been to their own beach [located in Ocean Ridge].”

If more calls had to be answered from a station farther away, it could mean delayed service, Yannuzzi has said.

There were 246 calls in total during July, a number that has remained nearly constant for the last four years. The majority of the calls — 134 — were for emergency medical services.

Holzman believes there would be no delay in service, given that half of Ocean Ridge’s calls already come from different stations, primarily Station No. 4.

“Fortunately sure that by closing Station No. 1, we’d still retain enough staff to respond to all calls,” Holzman said as well as Ocean Ridge, I believe we are overstaffed at the present time.”

Ocean Ridge

Inlet police coverage beefed up over 4th of July

By Margie Plunkett

Ocean Ridge had full police coverage in county parks for the July Fourth holiday week, protected by marked and unmarked patrol cars, marine patrols, motorcycle officers and even a helicopter as the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office responded to requests to step up efforts against crime.

“We had no incidents,” said Ocean Ridge Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi, who added, “We greatly appreciated the effort.”

Both Ocean Ridge and Manalapan had asked for more sheriff’s coverage over the holiday.

In June, Yannuzzi wrote a letter to PBSO decrying the rising crime in Ocean Inlet Park after budget cuts had run on more than half the calls in Ocean Ridge last year, to cut costs. The city has scheduled a town meeting for Sept. 25.

Inlet police coverage beefed up over 4th of July

By Tim Palleschi

Ocean Ridge commissioners have proposed an increase in next year’s property tax rate of 9.5 percent.

“In I don’t see any way that we’re not going to use the millage [rate],” Mayor Geoffrey Pugh said before the July budget workshop.

“The increase would add $500 to the $5,750 tax bill for the owner of a home valued at $1 million,” Schenck said.

Town Manager Kenneth Schenck on July 25 proposed an operating budget of $5,239,101 to keep the tax rate unchanged.

But the proposal has a $197,292 revenue shortfall and the town doesn’t know yet what a police contract and employee health insurance will cost.

Commissioner Gail Adams added the motion to approve the higher preliminary tax rate. Pugh and Vice Mayor Lynn Ahern voted with A Askew, saying it could be lowered later, while Commissioners Edward Brookes and Zoanne Hemmings opposed.

The town has scheduled a second budget workshop for 5 p.m. on Aug. 6.

“Let’s start out realistically with what the town can afford,” Brookes cautioned.

Commissioners now must weigh this month whether they can cut services, raise fees or take money from the town’s reserves to cover the shortfall and keep the tax rate stable.

“There’s not much left in here to cut,” Schenck said as he gave commissioners his budget.

They agreed to increase the cost of police coverage by 9.5 percent, emphasizing burglary alarms in single-family homes from $180 to $300 per year, but they rejected a suggestion to find a cheaper attorney and engineer.

Commissioners then added two police patrol cars to the budget, increasing the revenue shortfall by $68,000 more.

They were split on whether to explore if Briny Breezes should pay more for a fire station or a cheaper one.

A few months ago, Boynton Beach and Briny Breezes had negotiated a contract with Ocean Ridge, which the town has not yet agreed to.

Ocean Ridge has negotiated a contract with both Boynton Beach and Briny Breezes for police services in past years. “That’s such a sensitive subject that I don’t want to kill that horse so they go out shopping again,”

Commissioners agreed to ask Boynton Beach to renegotiate the $965,113 that Ocean Ridge currently pays for fire-f上线”search service if it loses its main fire station located closest to the town.

Public hearings on the budget will be at 5 p.m. on Sept. 10 and Sept. 25.

White flyy windy passed

Ocean Ridge Commissioners passed an ordinance in July that requires residents to remove foliage that’s dead or dying due to pests like the white fly. The ordinance gives residents 60 days to try to treat the plants; if plants don’t respond, however, they must be removed.

Increase in tax rate might be needed to close budget gaps

By Margie Plunkett

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Settlement terms for Caron vs. Delray Beach lawsuit
- Caron drops its lawsuit and waives claims for damages and fees.
- The city allows Caron to house eight recovery patients at 740 N. Ocean Blvd. and six patients at 1243 Seaspay Ave.
- Caron may not open any more sober houses in Delray, but it could relocate from the Seaspay address if it wishes.
- Caron will comply with the city’s new transient housing ordinance, which limits bedroom rentals to three times per year.
- Caron as a non-profit will not seek a waiver of property taxes, generating about $50,000 to $100,000 to the city each year.
- No more than four vehicles can be in a Caron house driveway.

Ray Jones, who lives across the street, said the protest hasn’t ended because of the settlement. “We still don’t want a boarding house in our neighborhood,” Jones said. “We are going to continue to fight in any way we can.”

But Cary Glickstein, another opponent, said that there’s nothing more the city can do to legislate against sober houses in single-family neighborhoods. “This can only be summed up as a victory for Caron,” said Glickstein, the chairman of the city’s planning and zoning board and mayoral candidate. “The neighborhood got screwed.”

The issue at trial would have been whether the city violated federal laws that prohibit housing discrimination against recovering alcoholics and addicts. Federal Judge William Dimitrouleas had criticized McDuffie and Glickstein for their public comments in an April order. The judge said Caron already had shown “a substantial likelihood for success at trial in demonstrating that the city has discriminated.”

Coastal residents called for laws to restrict sober houses when they learned in December that the city had approved Caron’s request to house seven patients at its North Ocean Boulevard house. The city then denied Caron’s request to open the Seaspay Avenue sober house and required both houses to have landlord permits.

Commissioners passed a transient housing ordinance in February that lowers the number of times that bedrooms can be rented to three times per year. The city’s previous ordinance had allowed six rentals per year. Caron must comply with that ordinance as a condition of its settlement. The ordinance remains in effect to regulate transient housing in the city. 👍

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Gulf Stream. Located in an ultra private setting this deep water home has it all. Features include a large open living room, gourmet kitchen, wine cellar, covered loggia, pool, and full house generator. Close to GSS. Reduced to sell. Owner Motivated.

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Lantana
Town proposes tax rate remain same

By Mary Thurwachter

Tax rates haven't been raised in Lantana for 11 years and that won't change this year.

Council members set the preliminary tax rate at $3.24 per $1,000 of a home’s assessed value at their July 23 meeting.

“We’ve been through the worst (of the recession),” Mayor Dave Stewart said, expressing confidence in the town manager’s handling of the budget and adding that the town had sufficient reserves.

“This is not a good time to raise taxes on constituents,” council member Tom Deringer said. The town will make adjustments, he said. “We need three police cars, we’ll buy two.”

But council members Cindy Austin and Lynn Moorhouse voted against the proposed rate, arguing that it should be set higher this year.

“Everything else has gone up,” Moorhouse said. “I just don’t think it’s a reasonable end. It’s hard to let everything run down and fix it.”

Employees haven’t had a cost of living raise since 2007, although each received a one-time $1,000 cash payment last year.

Moorhouse said he was concerned about morale.

“When you compare us to other towns, we’re not at the top of the pay list, we’re not even in the middle,” he said.

Austino said the town needed to look very closely at every expense. She said the proposed rate should be set higher, adding that it could always come down.

“If we’re gonna do it (raise taxes), this is the year to do it,” she said. “We can always lower it later, but we need to leave that option open.”

She suggested the town consider not replacing the ATV at the beach, a $5,000 expense. “Do we really need it?” she asked. “Our beach area is very small.”

The council voted to let the decision on whether or not to replace the ATV up to Town Manager Deborah Manzo, who will discuss the matter with lifeguards.

Lantana will have its first public budget hearing at 6 p.m. Sept. 10. A second hearing will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 19. Both will be held in council chambers. 👍
Dream it and they will come: the art aficionados, the collectors, the buyers. Since April’s initial third-Thursday Open Gallery and Studio night, there’s already been modest success: 100 or so people who found their way to this admittedly hidden enclave along the railroad tracks, on the edge of Delray’s Pineapple Grove District. The “street signs” is hand-painted; the studio/galleries occupy space in featureless rows of former garages.

Cacace flips open a page in a binder to her notes. This one shows him standing on an oil-stained concrete floor, the ceiling high above, the walls bare. That once empty space is now his gallery and studio, its walls hung with paintings of human faces and shorelines and poinciana-shaded houses. Nearby are the Vladimir Prodanovich Studio and Jeff Whymann Studio and Ian Levinson’s Cloud House Pottery and the Linda White Gallery, where Rebecca Kline hangs her paintings. (Levinson is fashioning the pineappletailed ceramic totems that will mark the entry to Artists Alley.)

“It’s coming from artists,” says Cacace, who used to rent space on Atlantic Avenue until, as she says, “the rents went up, and the area got younger. It’s more boisterous now, the pace has quickened. It’s less art-hip.”

Certainly, there’s still work to be done here on Artists Alley, and, sometimes, getting permits for one thing or another makes for slow-going. “We got permission to put a mural on that building,” Cacace says, gesturing toward the future wave mural site. “We need permits for sign boards.”

This is an arts area and they (city officials) need to treat us differently. Art needs to be a little free.”

As Cacace and Levinson and Kline and their fellow artists see it, their burgeoning art colony is more than a venture whose time has come; it’s long overdue.

The Pineapple Grove District as an arts destination has been, in Cacace’s words, “spurrting along for 15 years.” He views Artists Alley as “the right thing at the right time. We have a very cohesive group of people who just happened to come together.

No one has to sell Chris Lano on the concept. He’s hooked. “I think it’s a great idea,” says Lano, who lives on Hypoluxo Island and is a longtime fan of Cacace’s work. “I think it’s going to be a Delray needs, and if the city gets behind it, they could create a walking area . . . it’s another way for people to come and do things.” Lano and girlfriend Anne Walsh, who lives in Ocean Ridge, try to attend every Open Studio. They’re just the kinds of visitors Artists Alley seeks to attract.

“We don’t want everyone here,” Cacace says. “We want people who are interested in art here.”

BOYNTON BEACH

Auto and Wendy’s burgers. In row after row of concrete bays built to house heavy equipment and light construction, painters, sculptors and graffiti artists are constructing a creative community. The bays are filled with paintings and macramé, metal sculptures and stone carvings, some in progress, some for sale.

You can’t miss the artists’ bays. The once-gray metal doors are now bright murals, bursts of color in a formerly dangerous neighborhood.

“This is fantastic,” marveled Kim Weiss as she strolled by from bay to bay. “I’ve lived by the beach for about four years, and all I knew was the more local galleries. But here, I could be in Miami or New York and I wouldn’t know the difference. It’s very high-end. Art. It feels very urban here.”

It feels like a secret the trolley tours hope to expose. Dubbed “Breezing Through The Arts,” tours are slated the third Thursday of each month beginning in October. For $20, travelers visit local galleries, enjoy a bit of wine and cheese, and meet the artists. The city’s Community Redevelopment Agency and the Creative Business Alliance, a new consortium of local artists and gallery owners, sponsor the program.

“It’s coming from artists who’ve rooted here with their own galleries,” said Lori Durante, the executive director of the Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History, who led the first tour. “This is a seed they’ve planted, and they’re nurturing their field for an artful harvest.”

Among the galleries highlighted on the inaugural tour were Art-Sea Living, Beachcomber Art, Artful Dreamer’s Studio, Activist Artist A Gallery and Tortoise Treasures. At Beachcomber Art at 112 S. Federal Highway, a singer, balloon sculptor and psychic entertained as visitors perused owner Debbie Brookes’ amazing selection of chandeliers, mirrors and stuffed fish, all covered with seashells.

“This is my play therapy,” Brookes explained. “I am an embellisher in many ways.”

She began by embellishing boxes with shells and selling them to friends in the Ocean Ridge Garden Club, which led her to place them in boutiques. When she saw the markup, Brookes opened her own shop, where a sailfish covered with shells ($5,200) hangs from the ceiling, not far from a shark ($5,500).

Lamps, busts, obelisks and vases, Brookes embellishes them all. She even has a cocktail table covered with oyster shells ($3,200), some with pearls.

“You need the whimsy,” she explained.

The undisputed highlight of the tour, however, was the burgeoning arts district on West Industrial Avenue, where Rolando Chang Barrero is leading the renaissance.

The area’s artistic beginnings came in 1986, when metal sculptor Rick Reuslein moved in. It was then a crime-ridden neighborhood. Three years later, the city pronounced the stretch a “Neighborhood Arts District.”

A Miami native who came to Boynton Beach a year ago, Chang Barrero opened his Activist-Artist A Gallery in one of the bays, then sought others artists willing to pay about $450 a month to move in. Now nine artists are working there, and three have galleries.

“We’re surprised to find that there’s even an arts district in Boynton Beach,” says Chang Barrero. “It’s always been on the down-low, but now, with the upswing and marketing, we’re trying to put Boynton Beach on the map.”

For information about the next Breezing Through The Arts trolley tour on Oct. 18, call 737-2800 or visit www.creativebusinessalliance.com.
South Palm Beach

Confrontation complaint being investigated by PBSO

By Tim O’Meilia

Former South Palm Beach Mayor Martin Millar filed a complaint last month with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, claiming that South Palm Beach Police Chief Roger Crane threatened him in the Plaza del Mar parking lot. A Sheriff’s Office detective has interviewed Millar, Crane and Manalapan Police Chief Carmen Mattox, who witnessed the July 11 incident. A Sheriff’s Office spokesman confirmed that an investigation is ongoing but would not comment further.

Millar said he was leaving a jeweler’s store in the shopping center when he saw Crane and Mattox. He said he asked Crane for the return of property his ex-wife left at the South Palm Beach Police Department. He said that police previously had refused to return the property, which he said included a registered handgun, when he went to the police station. “He called me a punk. He came towards me. I had to retreat,” the former mayor said. Millar said Crane should be arrested for assault.

Crane said he told Millar that he was unaware of Millar’s attempt to retrieve his property until after the incident. He said Millar harangued him over the property and also complained about his photograph being removed from an array of former mayors in the Town Hall. “I might have taken a step toward him but there was no threat,” Crane said. He admitted he called Millar a punk.

Crane said Millar needed the receipt his ex-wife was given when she left the property at the police station to retrieve the gun and other property.

Receipt in hand, Millar picked up his goods several days later, Crane said.

Millar later tried to file a complaint with Manalapan police, since the incident occurred at the shopping center in Manalapan. Mattox said that because he was a witness, he advised Millar to file his complaint with the Sheriff’s Office. Mattox would not comment further on the incident.

Millar was a councilman for four years and mayor for almost two. He resigned in December 2010 after the state ethics commission fined him $3,000 for trying to influence West Palm Beach officers after he was tossed out of a strip club.

Small tax rate increase proposed amid declining values

By Tim O’Meilia

The South Palm Beach Town Council set a tentative tax rate of $4.39 per $1,000 of taxable property value for next year, but promised to try to trim that figure during budget workshops and hearings this month and in September.

The new rate would be a 1.6 percent increase over the current $4.32 rate if it remains unchanged.

The rate would bring in roughly the same amount of property tax as this year.

The town’s property values continued to decline, falling by 1.7 percent — $4.5 million.

“I’m very disappointed we have the rollback rate,” said Councilwoman Stella Jordan. “It may not be a tax increase to the state, but it is to residents because the tax rate increased.

The council set a budget workshop for 8:30 a.m. Aug. 7 and budget hearings for 7 p.m. Sept. 4 and Sept. 19. The council also moved its Sept. 25 council meeting to Sept. 19.

The budget proposed by Town Manager Rex Taylor anticipates no salary increases for town employees.

It includes $38,000 for new video and audio equipment and new audience chairs for the council chambers, $20,000 for building improvements and $15,000 for replacement office equipment.

In other business, Taylor said the town and the police bargaining unit expect a magistrate’s ruling by September following a July hearing. The town and the Police Benevolent Association are at an impasse on the town’s first collective bargaining agreement, prompting the hearing.
Along the Coast
Area removed from inlet-to-inlet plan as environmental study revived

By Tim O’Meilia

It's the old “good news/bad news” cliché. The good news is that the elusive environmental impact study for the perhaps illusory plan to save South Palm Beach’s eroding beach and maintain Lantana’s seawall is being revived.

The bad news is that the project has been removed from the list of beach projects to be included in the new inlet-to-inlet beach management plan being written by state, county and municipal officials to guide future work.

The not-so-bad-after-all news is that the project likely will be placed back on the list once engineers and biologists decide the newest approach to save South Palm Beach condos from falling into the sea.

“We’re going ahead with the environmental impact study with the idea that there will be no structures,” meaning breakwaters or groins, said Dan Bates, deputy director of Palm Beach County’s Department of Environmental Resource Management.

The original 1.3-mile project from southern Palm Beach to Manalapan included a series of off-shore concrete breakwaters and several groins, but the plan stalled after county commissioners rejected a similar plan for Singer Island. Commissioners were concerned about the effects on sea turtle nesting and sea grasses.

South Palm Beach Town Manager Rex Taylor was pleased that the environmental study had been revived, although he blamed county commissioners for the delay.

In June, county commissioners made clear that the environmental study should emphasize solutions that do not include hard structures. The difficulty is that extensive hardbottom off the South Palm Beach shoreline makes a simple sand restoration project nearly impossible to be permitted. Scientists concluded that sand renourishment would result in the hardbottom being covered, destroying the habitat of near-shore marine life. Bates said a scaled-back sand restoration project may be possible, depending on the results of the environmental study.

However, the county already has indicated the area would not be eligible for any more sand dune restoration because the sand is too quickly washed away in the next storm.

The study is being combined with a similar study of Reach 8 in Palm Beach, from the Lake Worth beach to the northern boundary of South Palm Beach. A restoration project there had been previously denied because of similar environmental concerns.

The regional plan would allow a regional approach to beach management resulting in more effective projects and quicker state approvals for individual projects. The proposed plan includes seven projects that have been approved or will be renewed between the Lake Worth and Boynton inlets.

“We can’t include a project that the Corps of Engineers may not approve,” said Danielle Fondren, director of the state Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, referring to the South Palm Beach and Reach 8 projects.

A first draft of the regional plan will be considered at a Sept. 18 meeting in Palm Beach. State organizers hope five municipalities — including Lantana, South Palm Beach and Manalapan — will sign on, as well as Palm Beach County, the primary source of money.

Included is an annual inlet-to-inlet shoreline monitoring program that would be paid for by all five towns, even if they have no projects imminent. Each would be assessed based on its amount of shoreline: a half mile (3.2 percent) for South Palm Beach, 0.2 miles (1.3 percent) for Lantana and 2.7 miles (17.2 percent) for Manalapan.

The town of Palm Beach would pay more than 75 percent of the cost. The annual cost has not been determined.

Lantana Town Manager Deborah Manzo said that signing the agreement will be the council’s decision. She urged that the agreement have an endpoint, such as five years, so partners could decide whether to continue.
Just Reduced

Delray Isle
$3,950,000 - First New Construction with 100 feet on the water with views of the Intracoastal. Top of the line finishes by master builder Cino Gomez. The home was completed in 2011. Located in Old Delray’s finest local, 6 bedrooms, 7 baths, dock.

Intracoastal Estate
$2,350 Million - Great 2 bedroom beach home one lot off the direct Intracoastal. Completely updated. Two blocks to the beach, near Atlantic Avenue.

Ocean Hammock Townhome
$1,895 Million - Just 1/2 block from the beach, this alluring townhouse features a bright corner floor-plan opening to double tiered verandas and private pool patio embraced in verdant foliage. Brazilian cherry floors, crown moldings,

Just Reduced

Ocean Place
$1,200,000 - Stunning ocean views from this end unit townhome. All new impact glass, just installed. The inside of this property has been gutted and being sold As-Is.

Ballantrea
$1,650,000 - Direct ocean first floor southeast corner condo with unbelievable ocean views, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2-car garage.

Casa La Brisa
$1,049 Million - Fabulous corner unit townhome, 2 blocks from beach, 1/2 block to Atlantic Ave. Gated entry into courtyard. Granite kitchen, vaulted ceilings, private balconies, Saturnia floors, heated private pool & summer kitchen.

On the Market

Delray Beach
$749,900 - 3/2.5 townhome on Intracoastal, deeded dock included in sale, 3 large decks, recently updated, 2 blocks to beach and close to Atlantic Ave shops & restaurants. Casually elegant living room with fireplace & fine built-ins.

Delray Dunes Country Club
$750,000 - 3/2.5 deco home on a lot with outstanding lake views. Completely remodeled, new kitchen and baths, marble floors, large covered lanai, fenced backyard with pool and hot tub, marble pavers, summer kitchen, Plants available for expansion of home.

Delray Dunes Country Club
$475,000 - 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, pool home with wide open lake views. Wood floors, crown molding and split floor plan. Open pool area with a fenced yard.

New Listing

Seagrove - Delray Beach
$1,695,000 - 5/4 Charming Bermuda style inspired residence is sited on a beautiful corner lot with governor’s drive, tropical setting with mature trees and plantings. Perfect for gracious entertaining and family living.
Gulf Stream resident Pamela Goodman has dropped out of the State House race for coastal South County because of her husband's health.

"It's a pretty serious illness. I can't stay on the campaign trail," Goodman said after notifying Democratic Party officials. "Family comes first."

Goodman was to oppose Rep. Bill Hager, the Republican incumbent for District 89 in the Nov. 4 general election. Goodman became a candidate after pushing for legislative redistricting as vice president of the Florida League of Women Voters.

District boundaries have been redrawn for fall elections with near equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans. "The campaign had been going great," she said. "Support was just tremendous."

County Democrats will name a candidate to replace Goodman on the Nov. 4 ballot. She said she has interviewed potential candidates at the request of County Democratic Committee Chairman Mark Alan Siegel and promised help in the new party nominee's campaign.

Tom Gustafson, former speaker of the Florida House, was expected to be named by Democrats on July 31 as the replacement for Goodman in the race, said Siegel.

Brown is a former Broward County legislator who now lives in Wellington, will move into District 89, Siegel said.

― Tim Pallesen

Boca Raton

Brown honored for Home Rule advocacy

Deputy Boca Raton Manager George Brown is a "Home Rule Hero" to cities across the county and across the state for helping derail a proposed Florida law on sober houses.

Richard Radcliffe, executive director of the county League of Cities, gave Brown a plaque on behalf of the state league at the City Council's July 10 meeting.

He said he learned how hard Brown works during this year's legislative session. "I would call him 34 and he says, 'Oh, I'm at a health fair,' and I would call him somewhere else and he would say, 'Oh, I'm at the library working on this.' ...He just seemed to do every job in the world," Radcliffe said.

The plaque cites Brown's "outstanding legislative advocacy in 2012 in the fight for municipal home rule." "As most of you know, it [home rule] is a passion of mine," Brown said. "Each city is different. Each city has its own unique character that derives from its home rule actions."

The exercise of home rule powers "has made Boca Raton a beautiful, successful city," and it sustains us as a premier community," Brown said.

Mayor Susan Wheelch said everyone on the dais considered each day a George Brown Day. "We're thrilled to have him here to be with you while you receive this award," she said.

A bill that would have "exempted certain licensed facilities in a way that negated the required adherence to local occupancy standards" died in committee last spring, the state league notes in its legislative final report.

Delray Beach also opposed the sober house bill.

"This was a pretty common goal..." said Siegel. Radcliffe said the state league and even the county league had not taken a stance on the bill until Brown became involved. "I saw it firsthand," Radcliffe said. “The man worked some wonders.”

― Tim Pallesen

Goodman drops out of State House race
Ed Morse

By Mary Thurwaughter

BOCA RATON — Ed Morse, who built one of the most respected automobile dealer groups in the country, died of natural causes on June 29.

Mr. Morse, 91, began his automotive career in 1946. At the time of his death, Morse’s company had 15 locations in Florida. He and his son, Ted, served as co-chairmen.

Mr. Morse was born in 1921 and served as a navigator on a B-25 during World War II. When a pilot was wounded and co-pilot killed in a mission in the South Pacific, Mr. Morse helped fly the train back to the base in New Guinea. That effort earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the country’s highest military honors and one of several military medals he received.

Back from war, Mr. Morse worked as a doorman at a Miami Beach hotel. Along with his father, Alex, he founded Morse Motors, a 20-car fleet rental company, in 1946. After the fleet grew to 20,000 cars, the company merged with National Car Rental and soon, Morse became chief executive officer.

In 1961, he bought his first dealership, Morse Holland Ford. Miami. By 1968, he had built a solid relationship with General Motors and started Ed Morse Chevrolet in Lauderdale and Ed Morse Bayview Cadillac in Fort Lauderdale.

In the 1980s, eight more dealerships were added, followed by 20 more in the 1990s.

Mark Jones of Fort Lauderdale began working with Mr. Morse’s company as an apprentice in 1981.

“I had many opportunities to meet Mr. Morse,” Jones said. “His great sense of humor and a great sense and motto to promote from within has left the organization with many dedicated, long-term employees.”

The Ed Morse Automotive Group has received numerous recognitions over the years, including being recognized as the World’s Largest Automotive Dealer by Automotive Age magazine and Largest Volume Chevrolet, Cadillac and Mazda Dealer by Automotive News.

He supported many charities, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, for which his company has raised more than $1.3 million through the Ed Morse annual Muscle Walk.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; son Ted (Patti) and daughter, Betty Anne (Dave) Dick; grandchildren Teddy Morse (Erica), Catherine Morse Martinez (Chris), Richard Danahy (Lauria), and Brian Danahy (Johle); five great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Nancy Singer (Jack) and Priscilla Ropp.

Services were held on July 6 at the EdU Auditorium. The family requests donations in Mr. Morse’s name be sent to the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Lupus Foundation of America.

Joseph Altier

By Ron Hayes

BOCA RATON — Try to imagine Boca Raton without any jewelry stores.

First, you would have to imagine Boca Raton without Joseph Altier.

Today, the city is home to at least 12 prominent jewelers, but when Altier Jewelers opened in 1960, it was the first.

Mr. Altier died on July 15 with Marjorie, his wife of 58 years, by his side. He was 88.

“My grandfather was the kindest person I’ve ever known,” recalls his grandson, Cutler Altier.

“He was known for giving away bottles of wine. He would just carry all this wine around in his car, and if he got into a conversation with anyone, he’d say, ‘Here, I’ve got something for you,’ and hand them a bottle. He would carry shoes in his car and give them to the homeless. Clothes. Money. He was a one-of-a-kind guy.”

Was Mr. Altier a wine connoisseur?

“No, he just liked to give it away,” his grandson laughed. “He liked his beer. And a handful of peanuts.”

Joseph R. Altier was born on Dec. 16, 1923, in Scranton, Pa., the youngest of 13 children, and educated in its public schools.

He supported many charities, including the George Snow Scholarship Fund, St. Mary’s Home, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Boca Raton, Florida. He and his wife, Carolyn, died of natural causes on June 29.

A funeral Mass was held July 20 at St. John of Arc Catholic Church, followed by interment at Boca Raton Cemetery.

Donations in Mr. Altier’s memory may be made to the George Snow Scholarship Fund, 1806 Dixie Highway, Boca Raton, FL 33432, or to the Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center at Florida Atlantic University.

Gene M. Ehlers

By Liz Best

BOCA RATON — Gene Ehlers will be remembered not only for his professional accomplishments, but also for the way he lived day to day: with elegance, dignity, generosity and an ever-present twinkle in his eye.

“I hope everyone will live the way he did,” his stepdaughter, Jackie Westefield, said. “The world would be a better place. And that twinkle in his eye — it seemed like he knew something the rest of us don’t know.”

Mr. Ehlers, 83, died at his Boca Raton home on July 18.

A native of Reinbeck, Iowa, Mr. Ehlers served in the United States Army before launching a successful business career. He worked in both sales and management positions during World War II. A tank driver with the U.S. Army during World War II, he served in both North Africa and Europe.

After the war, a vocational guidance counselor suggested he would be a good matchmaker. Mr. Altier opened a small watch shop which he developed into Altier Jewelers in Scranton, where it is still owned and operated by nieces and nephews.

The Altiers vacationed in Fort Lauderdale, where friends told him, “There’s a little town just north of us with no jewelry store,” his grandson said.

Altier Jewelers has been a fixture in Boca Raton ever since. In later years, it was operated by Mr. Altier’s son, William, who died in 1993. His grandson now runs the business.

In addition to his wife and grandson, Mr. Altier is survived by two sons, Joseph Jr. of Delray Beach, and Alex of Coral Springs, seven other grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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Boynton Beach

City backs off request to change marina deal

By Angie Francalancia

After three tries to get Palm Beach County to allow Boynton Beach to remove an old building at the city’s marina, the Community Redevelopment Agency has pulled its request.

But that doesn’t mean the building will remain in use, nor does it mean its former tenant, Splashdown Divers, will be back in the old spot.

The city can move forward with renovation plans, including erecting a new, code-compliant building, or help the building’s nonissue, according to CRA Executive Director Vivian Simmons.

County commissioners agreed, though, after the issue no longer was before them, that they wanted to work with Boynton’s CRA, and Commissioner Steven Abrams agreed, though, after the issue again weren’t satisfied.

The CRA thought it had complied with everyone’s wishes earlier in the month, because, at the county’s request, it had helped Simmons find another location within the marina. But when Boynton leaders returned to the CRA on July 10, Commissioner Sue Thaler said she resigned to take a new job.

Whatever we do, it’s not good enough.”

At the CRA’s own meeting that night, the members agreed to pull their request.

“Going back there is only going back to get slapped around a little,” Chef said.

The CRA had sought an amendment to the agreement it signed that prevents material changes to the marina.

As Boynton goes through its budget process, it will decide what steps to take next, said Brooks, including the possibility of erecting its new proposed building on marina property north of the existing building.

Some Boynton officials pushed to have the old building razed immediately, believing the agreement didn’t specifically require Boynton to keep a space for the dive shop.

“I think it’s time to move forward, just tear down the building and move forward with our plans,” Commissioner Bill Orlove said at the CRA meeting, one of his last before he resigned to take a new job.

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Briny Breezes

Town keeps maximum tax rate

By Tim O’Meilla

For the fourth consecutive year Briny Breezes homeowners likely will pay the maximum tax rate allowed by law to — $10 for every $1,000 of taxable property value.

The tentative rate set by town aldermen after two budget workshops and a council meeting in July also means homeowners will pay the same amount of town taxes as this year if their property value remains the same.

Alderman Sue Thaler opposed the maximum rate. “In a town this small, it creates too much of a discrepancy in the taxes paid by those with homestead exemptions and those without,” she said. Alderman Lowen Poock was absent.

Mayor Roger Bennett said the maximum rate was necessary because of the possibility that Briny Breezes Inc., which owns the mobile home park, could withhold money as it did last year over water and sewer legal fees.

“The threat of the board withholding money still exists and we have no other way to make that up,” Bennett said at the July 11 workshop. “If nothing else, it’s for our protection although I don’t think the corporation would do that again.”

The corporation pays 30 percent of the $385,000 cost of fire-rescue and of the $185,000 police contract. “We’re in a fortunate position to have the corporation as our backstop because our property taxes don’t pay all our bills,” he said.

Property values fell 4.1 percent this year in Briny Breezes despite a slight increase last year, according to the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser, resulting in a loss of $4,000 in property taxes for the town. The town figures a $15,000 increase in its share of local sales tax.

The council set a tentative budget for next year of three percent less than the current budget — $599,455 — despite a four percent hike in the cost of fire-rescue service and an anticipated 5 percent increase in water and utility service, all provided through contracts with the city of Boynton Beach.

The council estimated that the cost would be made up by about a $1 per share annual increase to corporation shareholders, who are the homeowners. Shares are based on lot sizes. A typical owner has about 26 shares.

Both the tax rate and the budget must be approved at public hearings set for 5:01 p.m. Sept. 13 and 27.
Lang Realty is pleased to announce our newest office. Now open in the heart of East Delray Beach. From oceanfront estates to downtown condominiums we are here for you.
Realtors’ sales recognized; most trending upward

By Christine Davis

Nine South County Realtors were named on the sixth annual “Top 250” lists of U.S. agents in The Wall Street Journal/REAL Trends Thousand report. Compiled as part of a special advertising section co-sponsored by The Wall Street Journal and Real Trends, the ranking was based on either the total dollar amount of their 2011 “closed transaction volume” or on the number of closed transactions for both Realtors and Realtor teams.

Three area Realtors ranked in the category of Top 250 sales professionals by closed transaction volume. David W. Roberts of Royal Palm Properties in Boca Raton was ranked No. 16 on the list, with a reported transaction volume of $448,960,275. Pascal Liguori of Premier Estate Properties in Delray Beach was ranked No. 49, with a volume of $85,850,000 followed by Scot Karp, of Premier Estate Properties in Boca Raton, who ranked No. 132 with a volume of $51,584,500.

Each was also on the 2011 list. Last year, Roberts ranked No. 36 with $88,542,000; Liguori ranked No. 50 with $72,465,000 and Karp placed No. 234 with $36,992,500.

Roberts, Royal Palm Properties broker/owner, said he’s lived and worked in the Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club for more than 25 years. “I’m established in that community. When it was time to re-price the market, people listened to me because of my longevity.

Interestingly, last year, a lot of my clients came from within the community. People bought additional or adjoining properties, so that helped the market.”

In 2009, Robert was No. 7 on the list with a volume of $122,938,330. “In 2010, I was No. 36. When the banking crisis came to the forefront, people were immobilized and didn’t take action. It took them to 2011 to feel confident again.”

Concerning this year’s volume, Roberts says he’s having a good year and is on track again.

Broker associate Pascal Liguori of Premier Estate Properties in Delray Beach said he’s proud to have maintained his ranking on the list, and has done so for the past four years, consecutively.

“Agents from New York and California tend to dominate the list because their price-per-property is much higher, but the market shows significant improvement from two years ago. The number of closed transactions for single-family residences is up in my area, which includes Delray Beach, Gulf Stream, Ocean Ridge and Manalapan,” he said.

“Also, sale prices are rebounding, days on the market is down and inventory of active listings for sale has gone down from a year ago. June is a benchmark, and I see I’m on track to rank on the list again in 2013.”

Scot Karp, director of the ultra-luxury division of Premier Properties in Boca Raton, attributes his higher placement on the list to the result of the timing of his transactions coming together. “I didn’t predict the market as getting stronger, but it’s starting to stabilize,” he said.

“We did make more transactions in 2011, and, so far, I’m on track for similar production this year. We are seeing that the ease of lifestyle of these condominiums has drawn people.”

One individual Realtor and two Realtor-teams also placed in two of the three additional categories. In Top 250 sales professionals by closed transaction sales, Diane Keane of Coldwell Banker Palm Beach/NRT in Delray Beach, ranked 244 with $125,253 transactions.

In the Top 250 Teams by Closed Transaction Volume category, the Carmen Keane/ Gerard Liguori team of Premier Estate Properties in Boca Raton, ranked No. 63 with a reported transaction volume of $90,512,500, followed by the Mark Nestler/John Poletto team of Nestler Poletto Sotheby’s International Realty in Boca Raton, who ranked No. 124 with a reported transaction volume of $65,385,500.

While Real Trends requests surveys from a wide variety of sources, sales professionals who meet Real Trends’ minimum threshold of business may also request an application. A $25 application fee per person is required upon submission. Data must be verified by an independent source and staff at Real Trends reviews submissions for accuracy.

According to the July 19, 2012, report from the Realtors’ Association of the Palm Beaches, closed single-family home sales increased 65.2 percent, up from 824 in February 2012 to 1,361 in June 2012. The median single-family home in Palm Beach County increased 18.4 percent, up from $190,000 in February to $225,000 in June. The median price of townhomes and condos increased 17.3 percent, up from $75,050 in February to $88,000 in June, and closed sales increased 37.6 percent up from 913 in February to 1,256 in June.

In Delray Beach, June’s year-to-date closed sales were 2.6 percent lower than in June year-to-date 2011. New listings were up 12 percent. Properties were on the market for 142 days and the percentage of the original price received was 86.2 percent, representing a 2 percent increase. The median price is up 34.8 percent, to $120,000. In Boca Raton, closed sales were down 9.8 percent. Properties were on the market for 142 days and the percentage of the original price was 86.4 percent. The median price was up 14.5 percent, to $229,000.
Celebrations

7th Annual Garage/Estate Sale to Benefit Animal Rescue
Seagate Neighborhood, Delray Beach

The ‘volunteer pack’ of people who organized the seventh annual garage, estate and bake sale to benefit Dezzy’s Second Chance Animal Rescue Inc. said they brought in more than $6,000 at this year’s event. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Jellyfish Drift Project
Oceanfront Park, Ocean Ridge

Artist Paul ‘Paulo’ Slater displays art elements during the ‘pre-release’ of the Jellyfish Drift Project at Oceanfront Park in Ocean Ridge. The ‘Jellyfish Drift Project’ is a community-sponsored project by ‘PAULO’ to boost beach cleanup efforts. Slater was unable to release the Jelly Fish Drift artwork in the Gulf Stream as planned. Efforts to find a boat to launch the artwork are still being made. At right is a detail of one of the art pieces. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Boca Burger Battle
Mizner Park, Boca Raton

Chefs and others meet at the Spice & Tea Exchange in Mizner Park to prepare rubs/spices for Boca’s Burger Battle. Pictured are (l-r) Felicia Steinberg, whiskey ambassador for Brown-Forman; Mary Lou Smith, manager of the Spice & Tea Exchange; Chef Christopher Greco of Boca di Beppo; Chef Lee Blakeley, executive chef of the Boca Burger Battle; and Donna Ferguson of the Spice & Tea Exchange. Mary Thurwachter/The Coastal Star

Historic Preservation Proclamation
Delray Beach City Hall

The city of Delray Beach honored longtime historic preservationist Carolyn Patton with a proclamation on July 5. Mayor Nelson S. ‘Woodie’ McDuffie cited her work preserving Cason Cottage and the Franklin House, with special notice of her longtime involvement to preserve the Sandoway House Nature Center on South Ocean Boulevard. Pictured are Patton (center), her husband, Price, and son Price Jr. Photo provided

Scholarship Award
Ocean Ridge

Malena Ohl, a 2012 graduate of The Benjamin School and a resident of Ocean Ridge, has received a $2,000 scholarship from the Financial Service Centers of America, the national trade association representing the financial industry. Criteria for the scholarship include commitment to community service; perseverance in the face of significant obstacles; display of leadership skills in school; academic achievement; and an original essay written specifically for the competition. Malena will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall. Her parents are Lorna and George Ohl of Ocean Ridge. Photo provided

Juneteenth
Crane’s Beach House, Delray Beach

Mark and Susan Reingold were among the more than 100 supporters of the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum who attended the event that raised more than $6,100 to support the museum. Photo provided
Premier Estate Properties

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LET’S MAKE A DEAL

Area restaurants, hotels offer off-season bargains

By Jan Norris

Locals staying through summer are rewarded at area restaurants with no waits, meal deals, drink and wine specials and in some cases, new spots to try. Here are a sampling:

Raffaele Ristorante in Boca Raton’s Royal Palm Place has a three-course prix fixe for $28.50, Sunday through Thursday. Entree choices include a 12-ounce strip steak or housemade ravioli with lobster.

A new happy hour menu, served from 5 to 7 p.m. weekdays, features a number of appetizers and half or full portions of entrees all specially priced. (www.raffaelerestaurant.com)

Dine with the new general manager, Bruce Siegel, and new executive chef, Denise Girard, at the Sandy House in Delray Beach during their summer special “3 for $33” event. Dinner is served at the tables in the tropical Tara gardens overlooking the pool, or in the dining rooms in the historic old house. Favorite specialties from the previous menu such as crab cakes are still available, but new dishes, like lemon pepper seared mahi with a duo of mashed potatoes and seafood Bailey’s Cream soufflé and chocolate chips from The Breakers’ Echo Deck 84 in Delray Beach offers half-off bottles of wine Monday through Thursday.

The Boulud Sud pop-up at Café Boulud offers a $35 four-course menu.

La Stella’s in Boca Raton is participating in a summer wine series. Photos provided
Continued from page 25

linguine have been added. (www.sunnydayhouse.com) Another three-course special is offered at Rosario’s in Royal Palm Place. Italian comfort dishes like eggplant rollatini, saltimbocca and baked clams oreganato are available as entrees on the menu served Sunday through Friday for $24.95. (www.rosarioristorante.com)

Buy one, get two courses free at the summer deal at Ovenella in Boca Raton. Through Nov. 30, from 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, diners can order from 16 entrees, priced from $17 to $26 — salad and dessert are complimentary. Entrees include steak, veal, seafood or pasta. (www.ovenella.com)

A downtown Boca summer wine series, with five from 6 to 7 p.m. each Tuesday, moves among different restaurants. Diners taste three wines paired with three small plates from each menu for $25. Restaurants are Anatolia, Aug. 7; Ovenella, Aug. 14; The Spaniard, Aug. 21; Raphael’s, Aug. 28; Chops Lobster Bar, Sept. 4; Tajitori Sake House, Sept. 11; Saquella Café, Sept. 18; La Stella’s, Sept. 25; and 4th Generation, Oct. 2. Diners can reserve a spot by calling the individual restaurants. (www.downtownboca.org)

Deck 84 in Delray Beach takes half off all bottles of wine Monday through Thursday during the summer and valet parking is complimentary on those days for dinner and lunch. An extended Happy Hour is from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday.

They sing, “When it rains, we pour!” — and happy hour prices apply at both bars anytime it’s raining. (www.deck84.com)

Diners can learn to cook on Friday nights in August at 32 East in Delray Beach. Chef Nick Morfogen teaches students how to create a different dish each week in a small-class format upstairs in the restaurant, followed by a three-course dinner that includes the lesson dish. Classes are $55 (tax and tip not included) and limited to 20 diners; reservations are required in advance. (www.32east.com)

A three-course dinner for two is $55 at Prime in Delray Beach if you dine from 4 to 7 p.m. Some of the restaurant’s signature steak dishes are included on the menu. Signature drinks — including the popular cucumber martini or Arnold Palmer martini — and select glasses of wine are $8 during happy hour, 4-7 p.m. (www.prime delray.com)

A “Culinary Tour of the Mediterranean” is the summer promotion at La Cigale in Delray, where diners can choose from several dishes representing the week’s regional cuisine in a four-course dinner. The meal includes tapanade of chef’s choice, appetizer, main course and dessert — plus a glass of wine — for $30.

The culinary tour prix fixe is served Monday through Friday, along with the regular à la carte menu. (www.lacigale.com)

At the Atlantic Grille in the Seagate Hotel, a three-course dinner for two is $60 and includes a bottle of wine. It’s served Sunday through Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, a three-course meal is $35 with wine extra. The menu changes monthly throughout the summer. Past entrees have included pan-seared corvina with a roasted tomato sauce; deconstructed Mediterranean pita plate with ground lamb, porc and beet; and barbecue chicken with a house-made sauce.

In Palm Beach, Cafe Boulud has created Boulud Sud — a pop-up restaurant within the modern French space in the Four Seasons. At Boulud Sud, a prix-fixe four-course dinner is served for $35. Appetizers such as a plate of falafel, pea hummus, babaganoush and lavosh or an artichoke, fennel, frisée and celery salad are paired with spicy lamb merguez sausage or a chicken tagine or Algerian grilled lamb loin. Classics from Boulud’s traditional menu also are available as a la carte items. For an extra fee, wines can be paired to each course as a sampling menu. (www.cafeboulud.com)

Buccan, also in Palm Beach, offers a Summer 2014 menu of family-style menus, at $26. Post menus have included a New England style clambake, a Southern fried chicken dinner and a wood-roasted paella meal. The menu changes each week. (www.buccanpalmbeach.com)

The Ritz-Carlton’s Temple Orange Sunday Brunch features a fresh squeezed-juice cart and for an additional fee, bottomless bloody Marys, mimosas and Champagne, along with traditional breakfast and brunch items. Cost is $38 for adults; $19 for kids ages 6-12.

From 4-10 p.m. Saturdays, wood-fired flatbreads are featured at the Stir Lobby Lounge for $14. (www.ritzcarlton.com)

The Four Seasons Palm Beach dishes up a summertime Beachfront BBQ menu on the weekends. From 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, the Atlantic Bar & Grill menu changes weekly to include grilled corvina with fresh fruit salad or a barbecued half-chicken with sweet plantain potato salad or barbecue ribs with home-style potato salad, with other fixings. Cost is $20 and craft beers are sold for $5 extra. (www.fourseasons.com/palmbeach/)

Summer specials abound at The Breakers properties. At the Flagler Steakhouse, a two-course lunch menu is $20; a three-course dinner starts at $49.50. Sunday brunch at the Flagler Steakhouse Terrace is $35 for three courses — including the signature stuffed pecan French toast.

Three-course summer special menus are $39.50 at both the Asian cuisine Echo and The Breakers Seafood Bar.

The Italian Restaurant in The Breakers features a three-course, $35 dinner that’s family friendly — kids can dine separately in the Family Entertainment Center.

At Top of the Pops at The Breakers at Phillip’s Point in West Palm Beach, the chef repeats the popular Summer Road Trip special — a culinary tour through U.S. regions. It’s Chicago in August, the Pacific Northwest in September and the Gulf Coast in October. The three-course meal is $39.50. (www.thebreakers.com)

It’s 1913 at Callaro’s in Lake Worth. The former Maranalapan restaurant is offering a three-course menu for $19.13, with 11 entrees to choose from including an 8-ounce strip steak, crab cake and a fried seafood platter. The menu is available for both lunch and dinner. (www.callarosteakhouse.com)

For $39.95, diners can choose the Summer Menu offered Sunday through Thursday at Corner Pazzo in Lake Worth. Six entree choices include chicken Marsala, fettuccine Bolognese, veal Milanese and a fresh fish of the day. (www.coucppazzo.com)

Note: Prices for specials quoted in the story do not include tax and tip.

New eateries, new blood liven up local scene

A smorgasbord of news on the local restaurant front: Chrissy Benoit of Lake Worth’s Havana Hideout opened The Little House on Ocean Avenue in downtown Boynton Beach, serving an eclectic American menu. The historic cottage was moved and renovated with the help of the CRA. Longtime Boca Raton chef John Belleme, formerly of Zemi and Henry’s, is executive chef at the new luxe restaurant and lounge, Stephane’s in Boca Raton. A mix of modern French and American cuisine at moderate prices can be ordered off the iPads provided to diners as a pairing guide. The focus is on sustainable and natural meats and seafoods, matched to wines chosen by the owner, Stephane Lang-Willar. (Stephane’s is at 2006 NW Executive Center Circle; www.stephane’srestaurant.com)

Also new: Boca’s Chops Lobster Bar, in Royal Palm Plaza, sports a rooftop cocktail lounge that opened Aug. 1.
Summer Deals

Take a close-to-home getaway at bargain rates

By Mary Thurwachter

Abhh, summer. The crowds have thinned. The traffic has eased. And many fine resorts, hotels and small inns are luring locals with special packages offering substantial savings.

It’s the ideal time to lay up some of the same Florida fun and pampering that tourists relish during the busy season. Here are some specials to consider:

Boca Raton Resort & Club, a Waldorf Astoria Resort, Boca Raton

The deal: The Boca Bonus Program, offered at the main resort and the Boca Beach Club, is good through Oct. 8, gives guests a chance to add a layer of savings when booking an available package. Any leisure reservation, regardless of rates and/or promotions, qualifies for the Boca Bonus extras that include a complimentary upgrade valued at up to $125, complimentary breakfast for kids 12 and under at Palm Court or Sea Grille, complimentary golf greens fees (cart fees apply), use of the tennis facilities, and cocktails for two.

For information, reservations: To see available packages, go to www.bocaresort.com/Packages.

The Breakers, Palm Beach

The deal: As part of the resort’s Endless Summer promotion, available through Sept. 30, weekday rates start at $229 per night and represent a 45 percent savings over the winter season. A variety of amenities are either free or at significant savings from complimentary incentives such as continental breakfast, kids’ meals, kids’ camp, unlimited tennis and fitness classes; to savings on golf, dining, spa services, rentals.

For information, reservations: Call 1-888-BREAKERS (273-2537) or see www.thebreakers.com.

The Chesterfield, Palm Beach

The deal: The Summer Sizzler, good through Sept. 30, is a two-day, one-night stay special that includes English breakfast for two and a drink in the Leopard Lounge for $145 plus tax.

For information, reservations: Call (800) 243-7871 or see www.chesterfieldpb.com.

The Delray Beach Marriott, Delray Beach

The deal: Florida resident rates start at $127 through September. A spa package, with rooms starting at $309, includes daily breakfast for two, a $25 spa credit, and a room with a partial ocean view.

For information, reservations: Call (877) 389-0169 or see www.marriottdelraybeach.com.

The Colony Hotel & Cabana Club, Delray Beach

The deal: A summer special available online offers queen rooms at $99 per night through November, although this special is not available over Thanksgiving. Guests have access to the Cabana Club and saltwater pool on the beach.

For information, reservations: Call 278-4123 or see www.thecolonyhotelandbeachclub.com.

The Holiday Inn, Highland Beach

The deal: Florida residents rate start at $129 for a poolside room or $159 for an oceanfront room. Both include breakfast for two. The offer continues through Sept. 30. The Sea Florida Like a Native package, good on bookings made by Oct. 1, starts at $129 per night and includes a 25 percent discount for a Loxahatchee Everglades boat tour, breakfast for two, and an upgrade to a poolside room with a private balcony.

For information, reservations: Call 278-6241 or see www.highlandbeachholidayinn.com.

The Brazilian Court Hotel & Beach Club, Palm Beach

The deal: Florida residents can get up to $30 off the daily rate at The Brazilian Court Hotel & Beach Club and complimentary valet parking through Sept. 30. Rates start at $169 a night. A package deal popular with families, 1000 Words, includes a two-night stay starting at $938, a private session with a photographer, a hardbound photo album, a beach picnic by Café Boulud and bike rentals.

For information, reservations: Call 655-7740 or see www.thebraziliancourt.com.

The Omphoy Resort, Palm Beach

The deal: The Omphoy is offering a 20 percent discount off guest rooms and suites and comes with complimentary access to Florida residents booking a stay by Dec. 31.

For information, reservations: Call 540-6440 or see www.omphoy.com.

Sabal Palm House Bed and Breakfast, Lake Worth

The deal: In honor of Lake Worth’s 100th birthday next year, this B&B will give guests a fourth night for $19.13 when they pay for three consecutive nights. Standard rates begin at $99. The offer is good through Nov. 15.

For information, reservations: Call (888) 722-2572 and mention the 100 Centennial Deals or 1913 or see www.sabalpalmhouse.com.

Sundy House, Delray Beach

The deal: You can get a free “Sundy” night when you pay for two. Stay in one or two-bedroom suite or a romantic cottage set in a tropical garden. Standard rates begin at $179. Continental breakfast is included each day.

For information, reservations: Call 272-5678 or see www.sundyhouse.com.

Seagate Hotel, Delray Beach

The deal: Summer rates at the Seagate start at $159 for courtyard accommodations. Teachers can get a 20 percent reduction off room rates and spa treatments.

For information, reservations: Call (888) 334-1814 or see www.theseagatehotel.com.

The Breakers on the Ocean, Delray Beach

The deal: The Breakers on the Ocean of Delray Beach is offering Florida residents a 15 percent discount on their $126 basic summer rate when booking before Oct. 31.

For information, reservations: Call 278-4501 or see www.breakersontheoceanc.com.

Photos provided

Staying close to home can be a bargain.

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Plunge into rowing pays off with awards

By Rich Pollack

When Chase Navellier first began rowing during his freshman year in high school, his knowledge of the sport was fairly limited. “I didn’t know if you rowed [facing] forwards or backwards,” says Chase, 15, of Manalapan.

Although he now rows backward — facing the stern of the boat like the rest of his teammates — Chase’s reputation as a high-school rowing powerhouse is moving forward, and quickly.

With less than two years of rowing experience, the incoming junior at Pine Crest High School in Fort Lauderdale already has a collection of medals that would make many athletes proud.

He and his rowing partner, Ryan Pristo of Fort Lauderdale, also have a few titles — and some bragging rights — to their names.

In April, rowing for their school team, the two took first place in the Florida Scholastic Rowing Association Sculling Championships in Sarasota, rowing in the doubles category for high school juniors and younger.

And last month, they each collected two gold medals in the USRowing Club National Championships in Camden, N.J., one medal as part of a four-man crew and one medal as part of an eight-man crew.

While Chase’s 6-foot and 160-pound frame, and his smarts — he has a 4.5 grade point average in a school packed with overachievers — have helped in his quest for medals, his work ethic and his love of competition are what set him apart.

“Chase is really driven and really committed to being the best at the sport,” says his coach, Steven Casey, also the director of Pine Crest’s rowing program. “He has the makings to be able to do whatever he wants with rowing. He has the drive and the mental capacity.”

Teamed up by Casey while in a summer rowing program, Chase and Ryan are similar in build and personality but a little different in attitude.

“Chase is like a pit bull and Ryan is like a Labrador retriever,” Casey says.

That combination, Ryan says, works well for the two rowing partners.

“He pushes me to be more aggressive and I push him to take it down a notch,” Ryan says. “We really know how to work well together and we both like to win.”

To understand just how competitive Chase is, all you have to do is listen to him talk about the joy he gets from leading other boats through a 1,500-meter course.

“I love the feeling of being able to see the other teams behind you as you cross the finish line,” he says.

In addition to his strong fundamentals and technique, Chase’s dedication and determination help him stand out from the rowing crowd.

“Both Chase and Ryan are willing to do what it takes to excel and they’re both easy to coach,” Casey said.

To get in as much time on the water as they need to learn and develop, both Chase and Ryan make it a point to be at the boathouse when Casey arrives at 6 a.m. For Chase, that means getting up long before the sun rises and being on the road by 5:15 a.m.

That’s not a problem for the young man who has discovered a sport where his potential is unlimited.

“When you get into rowing as much as I have, it becomes a part of your life,” he says.

Both Chase and Ryan see themselves rowing in college, and who knows what the future holds — there may even be a few more medals for the taking at the 2016 summer Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro.
Bethesda Memorial Hospital captures the magic of a newborn’s touch

It’s called the ‘magic hour’: the period just after a child’s birth when it experiences sight, touch, smell and taste for the first time. Ideally, this brand-spanking-new baby will be placed skin-to-skin on its mother’s chest while everyone, except the father, leaves the room.

The bonding begins. Dad gets his chance to bare-skin-snuggle his progeny. Often, happy tears flow. Baby quickly recognizes its parents’ voices and smells, and — according to medical studies — lives are transformed.

The ‘magic hour’ is an important part of Bethesda Memorial Hospital’s new family-centered maternity care program. Instead of whisking the newborn off to the hospital’s nursery after delivery, mother and baby are kept together from the moment of birth. They spend the next 48 hours (72 hours in the case of a Cesarean birth) in a private room, cared for exclusively by a specially trained registered nurse. Fathers are welcome to sleep overnight in the foldout bed, and participate, along with mom, in caring for the baby.

“We’ve taken the warmers out of the nursery and put them at bedside,” says Jane McCarthy, RN, director of Bethesda’s Women and Children Services, who took charge in implementing the new protocol. “Mom can watch baby get a bath, she can receive breastfeeding help if needed, she gets to be present for the doctor’s examination of the baby, and has lots of opportunities to ask questions.”

All of that was comfort and joy to first-time parents Brooke and Matthew Slinger of Palm Beach Gardens, whose daughter, Harper Rose, was born at Bethesda at 10:23 p.m. on July 16.

“We got here Sunday night to be induced, and it was very overwhelming,” says Brooke. “But everybody here has been so great, and the baby has not left us — I think that’s the best part, because I would have been so anxious if they had taken her away.”

Both parents enjoyed the ‘magic hour.’

“Labor was longer than we anticipated,” Matthew says. “It was 13 hours, and pretty hectic with so many hospital personnel checking in on us. But after the birth, it was like the seas parted and everybody went away for about an hour. It was definitely a magic hour … and I’ll never forget it.”

It had been such a long process, it was nice to just relax with Matthew and the baby,” Brooke says. “I knew that was going to be the moment when it became real — you know, ‘Wow, that’s my baby’. And it was really, really incredible.”

Bethesda’s new model of care for mothers and babies is based on the pioneering work of Celeste R. Phillips, RN, a highly respected national advocate of family-centered maternity care based in Santa Cruz, Calif. Phillips’ philosophy is that the childbearing experience belongs to the family, not the caregivers. Since January, she has worked with Bethesda’s nursing staff to help them transition to this new service.

“Gerilyn Lunsford, RN, Bethesda Memorial’s vice president of patient services, helped make Phillips’ intervention possible. She says family-centric care is an idea whose time has come. "When I was born, my father was placed on his bare chest. In my career, I look to change society one family at a time," she says.

Paula Detwiller is a freelance writer and lifelong fitness junkie. Find her at www.pdwrites.com.
Delray church launches fitness ministry

Bikers and runners on Ocean Boulevard generate the most activity early on a Saturday morning. Now a Delray Beach church has launched a physical fitness ministry to be part of the action.

About 35 members of the Avenue Church walked from Veterans Park to the beach on July 14 to kick off Get Fit, a ministry to take care of their bodies.

“We believe in the mind, body, spirit approach,” senior pastor Casey Cleveland explained. “It’s important to take care of our bodies and honor God in all that we do.”

The weekly workouts include swimming, biking, running, walking and cross-fit training to build stronger bodies, stimulate alertness of mind and enhance spiritual values.

Church member Melissa Serafica brought her sons Gavin, 11, and Westyn, 2, to understand the relationship between fitness and religion.

“Our bodies are our temples,” Serafica said. “We want us to be healthy as God intended us to be.”

The Avenue Church worships on Sunday at the Delray Beach Community Center and Old School Square. Cleveland has described his congregation as the young people who stroll Atlantic Avenue on a Friday or Saturday night. Most are in the age range of 21 to 40.

That was the age group on July 14 when fitness pastor John O’Brien led the prayer to begin the new oceanfront ministry. O’Brien said he feared not measuring up to the “fit and attractive people” on Atlantic Avenue before he found Christ.

“God wants us to set us free from that fear,” O’Brien told the congregation as the hardbody workouts began.

Foster parents deserve a night away from the kids on Atlantic Avenue, too.

The orphan-care ministry at the Avenue Church sponsored its first Foster Parent Night Out on July 20.

Church members entertained and fed both foster and adoptive children at the Delray Beach Community Center so the adults could enjoy dinner without them.

The event organizer, Lisa Wamanaker, said the church has recognized that support for foster and adoptive parents in Palm Beach County is a much-needed Christian service.

“Some of the parents said they hadn’t had a date night in three years,” Wamanaker said. Foster parents cannot leave their foster children with a babysitter who doesn’t have proper background clearance.

“We have a small army of committed volunteers from the church,” she said. “Our goal for the evening is to love the kids and give the kids and give the parents a much needed break.”

The congregation also donates diapers, clothing and toiletries to the families.

“This is just one small way of saying thank you to the families who are caring for children who have been removed from their birth families because of abuse, abandonment or neglect,” Wamanaker said.

The former director of a sexual assault and domestic violence clinical services and child advocacy center has joined St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Delray Beach as a volunteer deacon.

The ministry of a deacon is to be a servant to those in need, particularly the poor, weak, sick and lonely.

Clelia Pinza-Garrity was ordained in Nevada, where she directed the Not-to-Abuse Child Advocacy Center in Las Vegas for four years.

She previously was a social worker and chaplain for Hospice of Palm Beach County.

The Rev. William “Chip” Stokes, senior pastor at St. Paul’s, served as Pinza-Garrity’s spiritual director during her training to become a deacon.

It was a privilege to walk with her through her journey,” Stokes said. “She will provide us with much-needed support and energy.”

The Episcopalian church doesn’t pay deacons a salary. But St. Paul’s will allow Pinza-Garrity to supplement her income by operating a private therapy and counseling service from her church office.

Churches often invite classical musicians to perform in their church sanctuaries. It’s a pleasant way to invite strangers to visit your church.

Unity of Delray Beach Church kicked up the tempo with its free Old Time Rock ‘n Roll Concert on July 15.

More than 400 people rocked as 12 local performing groups sang hits from the 1960s through the 1980s. “I love old time rock ‘n roll,” said Unity publicist Brenda Robinson, who persuaded the pastor to switch from more traditional church music. “The music has to do with love, and love is what Unity is all about.”

The music dates back to when Robinson was growing up near Detroit where her friends, Joan and Alex Sliwin, achieved fame as a sister act.


The sisters — now singing together under the stage name Like Honey — reunited with Robinson to perform the first rock ‘n roll concert at Unity in Delray three years ago.

The number of performers and the size of the audience has been growing each year since then.

But most rock ‘n roll musicians hesitate at first when they hear they will perform in a church.

“I tell them to come on down because Unity is a non-denominational church and everyone is welcome,” Alex Sliwin Collins said.

The Islamic Center of Boca Raton will use Ramadan this year to unveil its new 20,000-square-foot mosque, a light green building with a tower and green dome at 3100 NW Fifth Ave.

Muslims have invited Christians and believers of all faiths to celebrate with them over dinner at 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 15-16.

The holy month of Ramadan includes daytime fasting and nighttime prayers. Muslims break their fast at sundown.

Spreading word about the free interfaith meal called an iftar should not be difficult.

The Islamic Center is actively involved with the Delray Beach Interfaith Clergy Association, whose membership also belongs to Jewish, Bahai, Buddhist and Hindu groups.

Tim Pallesen writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Email him at tcpallesen@aol.com.

The COASTAL STAR
August 2012

Finding Faith

D"
**Paws Up for Pets**

**Dogs also ‘speak’ body language and you can learn it, too**

Even though I’m the one with a bachelor’s degree in communication, the stellar communicators in my family are a pair of rescued mutts who answer to the names of Chipper and Cleo. Their “talk” is always clear and consistent — whether they are communicating with me, each other, their canine pals or even their feline housemates, Zeki and Murphy. Often, Chipper and Cleo can convey their message without uttering a single sound. Their messages are delivered by their postures, tail positions, tail movements, eyes, expressions, actions and much more.

For example, when Chipper turns her head and air snaps, then plops down with her rear end heisted in the air, I know that she is ready for a friendly game of tug-of-war. When Cleo starts to pant and jumps in my lap, I know that she needs to be held and petted. When Cleo turns her head and air snaps, it means that she is ready for a friendly game of tug-of-war. When Chipper starts to pant and jumps in my lap, it means that she needs to be held and petted.

**Understanding Your Dog’s Every Attraction**

For the past dozen years, I’ve studied and interpreted communication from dogs of all ages, sizes, breeds and attitudes. I brought it to me to creating “What Dogs Want: A Visual Guide to Understanding Your Dog’s Every Move.”

The book is being distributed worldwide and will be released in the United States in September, but I wanted to give South Floridians a sneak peek into its pages and to award an autographed copy to the 24th person who emails me (Arden@fourleggedlife.com) with the code words “What Dogs Want.”

The book offers a visual guide that decodes 100 postures, expressions, sounds and actions exhibited by dogs. It also identifies some possible underlying medical reasons and provides the best ways to respond.

A sampling:

- Why dogs expose their bellies: Most often, dogs strike this pose to garner love, attention and maybe a little help to scratch a hard-to-reach itch.
- But check the whole canine package first before bending down to offer a belly rub. Beware of dogs who make direct, hard stares and have tense bodies. They are not relaxed dogs waiting for TLC; they are purposely exposing their bellies to lure you closer and to demonstrate dominance by growling or snapping.
- For these dogs, I recommend re-schooling them in the basic cues of “sit” and “watch me” to demonstrate status below you and your family members.
- Why some dogs tilt their heads: Dogs tend to reserve head tilts for the person who is right in front of them, especially if that person says the magic word, treat. But some dogs also tilt their heads to attempt to tune into a strange sound or are suffering from medical issues such as ear infections or infestation of ear mites.
- For dogs that cock their head to Garner attention, add this action in your dog’s repertoire of tricks to delight your friends. But persistent tilting and pawing of the ear may signal an infection that needs veterinary care.
- Why some dogs gut stuffed toys: Despite being pampered in homes, dogs have never lost their hunting instinct. Lacking access to real prey, dogs stalk and “kill” pretend prey — plush toys.
- Terrier, sporting and hunting breeds lead the pack when it comes to gutting toys. In a dog’s haste to gut a toy, he may swallow the squeaker or stuffing, which can cause stomach or small intestinal blockages and require surgery. Take your dog to a vet if he seems to have abdominal pain, drools, acts lethargic or is vomiting. You can make this plush toy last longer by wrapping it in an old T-shirt and tying the ends off. Or introduce your dog to more durable toys, such as hollow, hard rubber ones that you can fill with kibble or smear with peanut butter.

[Image: Understanding Your Dog’s Every Attraction]

**For these dogs, I recommend re-schooling them in the basic cues of “sit” and “watch me” to demonstrate status below you and your family members.**

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Summer Arts

The very first piece of art Tim Wride tried to buy was a drawing by Edward Gorey, which he saw at the old Gotham Book Mart while he was a college student in New York.

Although he ended up not being able to afford the drawing, Wride has had ample time to examine plenty of Gorey’s work as curator of the Norton Museum of Art’s current exhibit, “Elegant Enigmas: The Art of Edward Gorey,” on display through the rest of this month at the West Palm Beach museum.

“His legacy is this really lovely singularity,” Wride said, which was that of a culturally omnivorous bookmaker who preferred that medium to the world of the galleries. “He impacted a huge number of artists and non-artists because of the vehicles of dissemination of his work that he chose.”

Gorey (1925-2000), Chicago-born and Harvard-educated, created a huge body of illustrative work, much of it gently macabre (like his alphabet in which children meet horrible, outrageous deaths (“B is for Basil, assaulted by bears”)).

And while his angular, quirky, detailed pen-and-ink drawings make up much of the world we know as Gorey’s, Wride said the artist considered himself a writer first, perhaps not surprising for someone who was the poet Frank O’Hara’s roommate at Harvard in the late 1940s.

“When he was doing his own books, it was about the words first, and the images after,” said Wride, 57, who is the Norton’s recently appointed photography curator. “Even when he was doing other people’s work, he had to have the whole story first before he could begin to conceive where he was going to go with it.”

The exhibit includes more than 170 artworks by Gorey, including book illustrations, sketches and unpublished drawings, as well as a stage set in which patrons can have their pictures taken and be part of a Gorey drawing.

Wride said he ranks with three other legendary American masters of line drawing who had a significant impact on the culture: Maurice Sendak, Shel Silverstein and Charles Addams.

“Really he is this idiosyncratic, singular voice. I don’t think he even acknowledged anybody outside his own inner drive,” Wride said. “To me, that’s one of the beauties of who he is.”

“Elegant Enigmas” is on display through Sept. 2 at the Norton. Admission is $12, $5 for students; Palm Beach County residents get in on the first Saturday of each month. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, except for Thursday, when the museum is open until 9 p.m. Call 832-5196 or visit www.norton.org for more information.

In addition to the just-ended Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, there is another group busy during the summer with small, chamber-style concerts.

The Symphony of the Americas, which has been performing in one incarnation or another for 25 years, is in the middle of its annual Summerfest series. The Fort Lauderdale-based orchestra brings its summer show to Palm Beach County on Aug. 4, with a concert at the Crest Theatre in Delray Beach.

It will be a string orchestra concert that also features guest flutist Marilyn Mainhart, and it will feature members of the Mission Chamber Orchestra of Rome. The Italian ensemble’s director, Lorenzo Turchi-Floris, has contributed a new piece to the effort called Tarantango, for piano and strings, a work that marries the Italian tarantella with the Argentinean tango.

“He’s a wonderful composer and a wonderful performer, and the work’s phenomenal,” said the symphony’s founder and director, James Brooks-Bruzzone.

The festival, which is in its 21st year, has taken its participants to every country in Central America, to four South American countries, and six countries in Europe, Brooks-Bruzzone said. In Florida, it’s appeared from Vero Beach south to Key West on the east side, and Tarpon Springs down to Naples on the west, and played at the State Department in Washington, D.C., as well as at the Kennedy Center.

“So it’s become quite a national and international festival now. It’s quite large, and once you get involved in it,” he said. Late last month it played eight days in Panama, familiar to Brooks-Bruzzone who grew up in the Canal Zone.

In addition to Turchi-Floris’ piece, the concert will include a Maillart arrangement for flute and strings of the Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso of Saint-Saëns, a staple of the virtuosic violin repertory. The Baroque era will be represented by a concerto grosso (Op. 6, No. 5) of Corelli, and the transitional period of Baroque to Classical by one of the marvelous short symphonies (No. 2 in B-flat, Wq 182/2) of C.P.E. Bach.

“It’s really striking,” he said of the work by the second of Bach’s compositional sons. “It has a major key beginning and then moves and shifts from darkness to sunshine, back and forth. And it’s also really exciting.”

The second half of the program contains, in addition to Tarantango, three movements from the English Suite of Hubert Parry, an arrangement of the second movement of Borodin’s Second String Quartet (which was copped for the 1950s pop hit And This Is My Beloved), and one of the early string symphonies of Felix Mendelssohn (No. 10 in B minor), written when the precocious composer was 14.

The Delray Beach concert begins at 7 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Crest Theatre in Old School Square. Tickets are $25 to $45 (the higher price includes a post-concert reception at D’Angelo Trattoria, at 9 SE Seventh Ave.). Call the box office at 243-7922.
One day was all that was needed for One Year

By Ron Hayes

On your mark ... Get set ... Make a movie!

At exactly 10 p.m. on May 18, the rules appeared on Justin Hearn’s laptop.

His mission, should he choose to accept it, was to create a video in less than 24 hours.

The video could last no longer than four minutes. It had to be based on the theme of “One.” It had to feature a character listening to music. It had to include the number 1 and it had to be uploaded by 10 p.m. on May 19.

In cities all over the world, more than 750 video teams were receiving the same instructions for the “24HourFilmRace,” sponsored by HTC One, the Taiwanese smartphone manufacturer.

On June 27, when the winners were announced from the stage of Miami’s Colony Theater, Hearn’s submission, One Year, was named second runner-up in that city’s division, chosen from 25 titles that qualified for screening.

It wasn’t the Academy Award for Best Picture, but of those 750 entries, it was the only one shot in Highland Beach. “I shot it at my parents’ house, and on the beach there,” says Hearn, 30, of Delray Beach. And he didn’t need 24 hours.

When the instructions appeared on his iPad, Hearn was waiting at the Barnes & Noble booksellers on Glades Road, along with his crew and actors Marc Castellano, Carolina Chang and Adam Goldberg. They tossed around ideas, got a sense of what they might do — and went home.

At 9 the next morning, they gathered at his parents’ house. “We finished by noon,” he recalls, “and I edited from 1 to 4 p.m. I couldn’t find the right sound effect for a fist punch, but for a 24-hour piece, I’m pretty satisfied with it.”

One Year (http://hearnstudios.tumblr.com) is a vaguely surreal, beautifully eerie episode that begins when a young man is awakened by a phone call that seems to imply he has only one year to live.

What it lacks in linear narrative it more than makes up for in dreamlike cinematography. The colors are thin, not quite black and white, but not full color, either.

“I used a process called bleach-bypass,” Hearn explains. “It’s a software for color grading.”

Clearly, this is not a novice filmmaker’s first effort.

Hearn grew up in Boca Raton, earned a degree in computer animation at Florida Atlantic University, attended film school at New York University and has taught film and television production at Atlantic High School in Delray Beach.

He’s the staff videographer at Lynn University, responsible for the school’s website, YouTube and other marketing purposes.

“I have pretty much total control of my documentary experience,” he says. “It was just a fun thing to do,” he says. “I didn’t feel like work, but making a documentary is a lot easier than making an interesting narrative film.”

And there’s been one reward beyond his second runner-up finish: “I got asked to do my first wedding.”

To see Justin’s video, visit: hearnstudios.tumblr.com
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Larry Rosensweig

Larry Rosensweig grew up in Kingston, Pa., near Wilkes-Barre and Scranton, and went to public school. He spent one year of nine small communities. Graduating class from a newly opened Scranton, and went to public school. Mine was the first graduating class at a newly consolidated district comprised of nine small communities. It was largely a working class area with what I thought of at the time as a very diverse population: Poles, Italians, Irish, Jews, etc. Although there were no African-Americans, Asian-Americans, or Latinos, there were significant cultural and religious differences among the mostly second- and third-generation Americans. I learned to appreciate other cultures and to get along with people from different backgrounds than my own.

How is your current job alike or different from positions you have held previously at the Morikami Museum and the Norton Museum of Art?
A. In short, I’ve gone from underemployed in Cambridge, Mass., when I got my Ph.D., to being in the right place at the right time and having a meaningful job with the American Committee for Scholarships and Laboratory Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science. It has been exciting and invigorating to focus my attention on learning new subjects at this point in life while putting to new use many of the skills I learned over the previous 35 years in the museum world.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in Delray Beach?
A. It was a classic case of being in the right place at the right time. I had recently completed my M.A. in Japanese studies at the University of Michigan after living in Japan for two years and majoring as a Harvard undergrad in East Asian languages and civilizations. I was 25, single and underemployed in Cambridge, Mass., when I got wind of what would become the Morikami. How bad could it be for a young person pursuing a career today?
A. Be confident in your abilities but humble in understanding that you have to keep learning and adding new skills as the workplace constantly changes. Most important, do something for which you have real passion.

Q. What advice do you have for a young person pursuing a career today?
A. For inspiration, I listen to the blues or blues-based rock; to relax, jazz or maybe the Grateful Dead.

Q. Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?
A. My wife, Nora, whom I met when she volunteered the first summer the Morikami was open, has been my best and most consistent mentor. She has helped me greatly with planning and organization, as well as with supervisory skills. My maternal grandfather has always been my role model: a successful businessman, family man, and a true philanthropist.

Q. If someone made a movie of your life, who would you like to play you, and why?
A. I’d probably say Humphrey Bogart because he would make me seem both cool and tough. My sons would probably want Paul Rudd to play me because he would make me seem goofy and inept. In the Japanese version, I’d like it to be Toshiro Mifune, the quintessential samurai, but it might more appropriately be Takashi Shimada, the stolid everyman of many Kurosawa films.

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?
A. I grew up in Kingston, Pa., near Wilkes-Barre and Scranton, and went to public school. Mine was the first graduating class from a newly consolidated district comprised of nine small communities. It was largely a working class area with what I thought of at the time as a very diverse

Q. How did you get to Japan many times, the helm for 28 years. He has museum and remained at founding director of the Morikami Museum and longtime association with the Palm Beach County School District. With their two sons grown and out of the house, the couple is enjoying spending more time together. Lately, they’ve been catching up on past seasons of TV shows such as Mad Men and Breaking Bad.

Rosensweig says he and Nora will get back to Japan one of these days. They are particularly interested in seeing how things have changed on the island since last year’s massive earthquake and tsunami. But for now, he’s expanding his knowledge of Israel in connection with his current job.

"At this point in life, it’s exciting to be learning new things," he says. — Paula Detwiller

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Delray Beach? A. Delray Beach is a community that for a long time has understood what “community” means and requires. It has always had a very diverse population: Poles, Italians, Irish, Jews, etc. Although there were no African-Americans, Asian-Americans, or Latinos, there were significant cultural and religious differences among the mostly second- and third-generation Americans. I learned to appreciate other cultures and to get along with people from different backgrounds than my own.

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The Tenets of Shinto, Japan’s Native Religion

The tenets of Shinto, Japan’s native religion, are based on the belief that spirits inhabit the natural world. Some are considered guardian spirits while others are harmful deities, demonstrating the balance between harmonizing and causing them to flourish, reckless behavior. This exhibition comprises paintings, colorful woodblock prints, sculptures, masks, and other objects depicting a host of legendary gods, ghosts, and otherworldly beings. When: noon through 4 p.m. Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Monday. Admission: adults $5, children $5. Museum members get in free and do not need to reserve their tickets. Limited admission to non-members. Online advance ticket sales only: www.morikami.org

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What’s happening at the Morikami

2012 Bon Festival

Ohan, the Bon Festival, signifies a time when the spirits of deceased family members are believed to return to earth for a brief visit to the world of the living. At the Morikami, the three-day event is celebrated in running, and features a street fair, Japanese folk dancing, drum performances, and drumming on Morikami Pond and fountains. Because of last year’s large crowd (almost 9,000 people), the museum has decided to limit admission to this year’s festival. Tickets are only available online, in advance. When: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission: adults $5, children 5 & under free. Museum members get in free and do not need to reserve their tickets. Limited admission to non-members. Online advance ticket sales only: www.morikami.org

Ghost, Goblins, and Gods: The Supernatural in Japanese Art

The Mitsubishi Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Visitors see and do on your own, or a diverse selection of artist-created miniature ghost exhibits. Hours: 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Sat. & Sun., Noon – 5 p.m., adults $15, seniors/citizens, 14/ students with ID, free/children 12 and under. 520 250 0000 or www.museum.com

Art-O-Logs: Louis Nevelson, 3-D Art on the Grass & Drumming

Is presented as part of the ARTful Adventure Sunday series at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Family program features art workshops or live performances by talented artists, musicians or dancers. 2 noon - 3 p.m. $6, $4 seniors, free, children 12 and under. 541 2500

South African Wine, Cuisine, Dancing & Drumming

Is presented at the Colony Hotel, 525 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. 703-1236. Basket Weaving is performed at a part of the August Adventure Sunday series at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Basket weaving and fiber art classes are led by the artist. Basket weaving and fiber art classes are held every Saturday. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 596-3519.

Basket Weaving is performed at a part of the August Adventure Sunday series at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Basket weaving and fiber art classes are led by the artist. Basket weaving and fiber art classes are held every Saturday. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 596-3519.

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8/6 - Body with Style Aerobics
residents, $19/non-residents per class, or 60
and flexibility, improve postural alignment
8/6 - Yoga Sunset at the Beach
Reservations: 338-1542.

by an adult. Held again 3:30-5 pm 8/28. 10-
Raton, then caravan over to Red Reef Park to
Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca

8/6 - Chair Massage
Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th
Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Intermediate and
8/6 - Mah Jongg

8/7 - Beginners Yoga
8/7-8 - Hammock Trails
at the door. 742-6550.

8/8 - Judo Class
8/8 - Concert: Ted Knight's Hot Summer
is held each Thursday at Ellenville Garden
8/8 - Scrabble

8/9 - Five Wishes Workshop

8/9 - Yoga for Kids up to 8 and up
Vizcaya Park, 802 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. Ages 2-4. Held on the front lawn. 10-11
1 & 11 am & 11 am & 11 am and 11 am for ages. 4-5 & 4-5 & 4-5/4-5/4-5/4-5/4-5. 742-6782.

8/9-10 - All Shook Up
- held at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, Delray Beach. Yoga 2-4: Age 4. Helden on the front lawn. 10-3: Age 1 & 11 am & 11 am & 11 am and 11 am for ages. 4-5 & 4-5 & 4-5/4-5/4-5/4-5/4-5. 742-6782.

8/9 - Music, stories,

- Held Thursdays at the "505"
-Hosted by the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Blvd. Moderators offer background material on each week's show and leads discussions questions and conversations. Free. Registration: 954-7772 or www.boromuseum.org

8/10 - Yoga for Kids with Jyoti Yoga
8/10 - Concert: Sienna Benson
at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Enjoyable program
8/10 - Kindermusik Classes

- The League also held its 2012 Woman Volunteer of the Year luncheon kickoff announcing Neuman Marcus as its Fashion Show Sponsor. In its 25th year, the League featured national fashion consultant, author and model, Nina Garcia. Left: Holly Meehan (chair) and Kelly Mehan. Photos by Downtown Photo

4/ - Love to Knit meets
every Wednesday at the Boca Raton Beach Library. 200 S. Ocean Blvd. 1st Floor. $10/session. 5-10 pm. Monday or Wednesday. No class the 4th Thursday of each month.

8/5 - Director for 2012-2013. Leading the board is President Jackie Reeves, a JLBR member since 2001. ABOVE: Bottom L-R: Elizabeth Kelley Grace, Jennifer Barrett, Cristal McMillin, Jackie Reeves, Kristine Kuntz and Kellie Meja. Top L-R: Kirsten Stephenson, Jackie Shatz, Kirsten Stanley, Debbie Abrams, Carolyn North, Melissa Stephenson, Paul Martini, Janet Cooper, Carole Wallach, Andrea Garcia, Alicia Laufer, Dorothy MacDiarmid and Fabiola Hooker. Stepheons, Jackie Reeves, Kirsten Stanley, Debbie Abrams, Carolyn North, Melissa Stephenson, Paul Martini, Janet Cooper, Carole Wallach, Andrea Garcia, Alicia Laufer, Dorothy MacDiarmid and Fabiola Hooker.

8/8 - Five Wishes Workshop

- Held at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 NE Ocean Ave., Boca Raton. Ages 2-4 experience drawing, painting, sculpture, clay and crafting in an innovative environment. Held again 8/20-10-11-12-11:30 am. 4-5-6-7 pm. 742-6929.

8/9 - Five Wishes Workshop

- Held at the Boys & Girls Club of Boca Raton, located at 1700 NE 5th St. in Delray Beach. The national organization services children and youth. For further information visit www.bgcboca.org

- The League also held its 2012 Woman Volunteer of the Year luncheon kickoff announcing Neuman Marcus as its Fashion Show Sponsor. In its 25th year, the League featured national fashion consultant, author and model, Nina Garcia. Left: Holly Meehan (chair) and Kelly Mehan. Photos by Downtown Photo

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Municipal Meetings


6/7 - Highland Beach - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 351 FA, Ocean Blvd. 7:30 pm. Agenda available at www.highlandbeachfl.us.

6/7 & 6/8 - Delray Beach - First & Third Wednesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 801 N. Swinton Ave. 6:30 pm. Agenda available at www.mydelraybeach.com.

6/10 - Gulf Stream - Second Friday at the Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Road 9 am. Agenda available in the office.


6/13 - Boynton Beach - Fourth Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 190 NE1st Ave. 6 pm. Agenda available at www.cityofboyntonbeach.com.

6/14 & 6/21 - Moundville - Fourth and First Mondays at Moundville Town Hall, 600 E. Ocean Blvd. 9:30 am. Agenda available on the website.

8/2 - Boca Raton - Fourth Thursday at Boca Raton City Hall, 201 W. Palmetto Park Rd. 6 pm. Agenda available at www.boca-raton.com.

8/28 - South Palm Beach - Fourth Friday of South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3175 S. Ocean Blvd. 7:30 pm. Agenda available at www.cityofspbh.com.

8/10 - Concert: The 50s Featuring The 50s - Presented at Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Bring a blanket or chair. Food and beverage vendors will be on site. No outside alcoholic beverages. Held rain or shine. 8:30 pm. Free. 395-7263.

8/11 - Kinder Turtles - Held at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Ages 5-6 with an adult. 4:30 pm-5:00 pm. $25/members, $30/non-members. Includes admission and conducts discussions relevant to themes and techniques. 251-1945. www.gumbolimbo.org.


8/16 - On the Ave - Held in downtown Delray Beach. Avenue & west of the railroad tracks, Delray Beach. Held the third Thursday of each month. 6-9 pm Free. 276-1177 or www.cacaceart.com.

8/16 - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Educational Program Series presented by the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service at Lantana Public Library, 4020 Lantana Rd. Learn about legal issues, guiding behaviors and discipline, computers, resources, safety, stress and much more. Held the third Thursday of each month. 1:30 pm. Free. 276-1177 or www.cacaceart.com.


8/16 - Open Studios & Galleries at Artist’s Studio, 707 NE 5th St., Delray Beach. Local artists open their studios and provide information on their work and open houses for artists, art galleries and art studios. Noon-5:00 pm. Free. 276-1589 or e-mail publicartdep@delraybeachfl.gov.

8/16 - American Legion Post 65, 263 NE 5th Ave., Delray Beach. Annual 2nd Saturday Fishing Tournament. $3 per Person or $25 per team. Prizes and raffles. Entry fees from $175-$200 for four anglers, $50/each additional angler; $100 for school supplies: 495-9818.

8/16 - Bahama Casual. 7-9 pm. $25/person or $45/pair. $15 includes refreshments. 7-9 pm. Free. 447-8829.

8/17 - Back to School, Brown Rag Special Clothing Program - Held by 2 People & Co Programs and other local boosters. Donates at 50-75% from Brown Rag as a Boca Raton resale. Fish weight at Veteran’s Park, 900 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton. Bring a blanket or chair. Food and beverage vendors will be on site. No outside alcoholic beverages. Held rain or shine. 8:30 pm. Free. 395-7263.

8/17 - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S. Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda available at www.ci.highland-beach.fl.us.

8/17 - Fourth Thursday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S. Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda available at www.ci.highland-beach.fl.us.

8/17 - Fourth Tuesday at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 NE 3rd St. 1:30 pm. Agenda available at www.brinybreezes.org.

8/17 - Fourth Tuesday at Mon口vill Town Hall, 600 E. Ocean Blvd. 9:30 am. Agenda available on the website.


8/17 - On The Ave - Held in downtown Delray Beach. Avenue & west of the railroad tracks, Delray Beach. Held the third Thursday of each month. 6-9 pm. Free. 276-1177 or www.cacaceart.com.

8/18 - Family Splash Night at Pompom Park. 3991 NW 2nd Drive. $5 per person or $20 per family. No coolers, pets, or outside food and drink. Food available to purchase. 5:30-8:00 pm. Free. 276-1177 or www.cacaceart.com.

8/18 - Quilting Bee - Presented by the Delray Citizens Cooperative Extension Service at Lantana Public Library, 4020 Lantana Rd. Learn about quilting techniques and includes a sampling of three quilts with the background material and conducts discussions relevant to themes and techniques. 1 pm. 55+ member in addition to museum admission. 56/adults, 56/ seniors, 54/students with ID: 302-1900.

8/19 - Irving Berlin Solo Salutes America is presented at The Plaza Theatre, 263 S. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Two performances available. $55-$65. R.S.V.P. 8:00 pm. R.S.V.P. 7:30 pm; Sun, Mon & Wed. 6:30 R.S.V.P. 7:30 pm. Free. 212-5882.

8/20 - The Compleat Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) Presented at the West Palm Beach Civic Center, 800 South Lane Drive and the Stranahan River, West Palm Beach. Join the Palm Beach International Jazz Festival and the West Palm Beach Civic Center for an evening of performing artists are invited for an evening of jazz, blues and rhythm and blues. Held the 3rd Friday of each month. 11:30 pm-1:30 am. Free. 297-STAR.
**MARCH 19-25**

**Sunday - 8/17** | **Open House & Inspectors’ Art Sale at the Boca Raton Museum Art School, 125 SE 2nd Ave.**

The Boca Raton Museum Art School Art Department invites you to visit their school, boy and meet the teachers. 12:30-2:30 pm. Free to all, ages 3 & up.


**Wednesday - 8/20** | **In-Store Demonstration** at the Boca Raton Art Center, 125 S.E. 2nd Ave. Free. Open house and refreshments from 1-2 pm. Registration: 736-8821.

**Friday - 8/22** | **Art: Dance Trends Youth Dance Workshop** at the Boca Raton Civic Center, 200 S.W. 3rd Ave. For ages 7-12 and ages 13-17. 4 pm. $20 non-residents. Registration: 736-8821.

**Saturday - 8/23** | **How It All Began Stories, songs and puppets** are presented as part of “How It All Began” by Esmeralda Santiago at the Afternoon Book Group at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free.

**Sunday - 8/24** | **Adult Tap Dance** is held at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave. 6:30 pm. Registration: 793-2749.

**Tuesday - 8/26** | **Infant & Toddler Rhythms** is held at the Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave. 9-11 am. $48/residents, $60/non-residents. Registration: 793-2749.

**Wednesday - 8/27** | **Adult Piano Fundamentals** is held at the Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave. 10-11:30 am. $20 people. Registration: 793-2749.

**Friday - 8/29** | **Adult Oil & Acrylic Painting** is held at the Boca Raton Civic Center, 200 S.W. 3rd Ave. 6:30-9:30 pm. $70 residents, $85 non-residents. Registration: 793-2749.

**Saturday - 8/30** | **How It All Began Stories, songs and puppets** are presented as part of “How It All Began” by Esmeralda Santiago at the Afternoon Book Group at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free.

**Tuesday - 9/3** | **Singing & Swinging in the Pines** is held at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave. 6:30 pm. Registration: 793-2749.

**Friday - 9/6** | **Zumba** is held at the Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave. 9-11 am. $48/residents, $60/non-residents. Registration: 793-2749.
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.

Newly completed, this showpiece estate, called Villa Lumina, sits between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean in Manalapan.

Terraces and balconies opening off all three luxurious living levels of the seven-bedroom, 13,203-square-foot residence showcase the vistas.

Marble, onyx, Mexican shell-stone and hardwood carry through the rooms. Manalapan residents enjoy deeded privileges at the Palm Beach Ritz-Carlton Hotel’s La Coquille Club.

Stretching from 150 feet on the Atlantic Ocean to 150 feet on the Intracoastal, the property comprises 1.39 tropical acres. Majestic ironwork gates give way to the sprawling motor court, leading to the lower parking area and air-conditioned four-bay garage.

A grand terrace rims the glass-tiled pool with spillover spa. The pool house hosts a lounge area, summer kitchen and bath. A 70-foot dock berths a yacht. Through the beach tunnel, a landscaped viewing area has stairs crossing seagrape-covered dunes to the beach.

Offered at $16.95 million. Call Pascal Ligouri, (866) 502-5441, or email pascal@premierestateproperties.com.

The glass-tiled pool has a spillover spa. The pool house hosts a lounge area, summer kitchen and bath. The 70-foot dock can berth a luxury yacht.

ABOVE: The formal dining room has a molded dome ceiling and ocean-to-Intracoastal views.

LEFT: The master bedroom has built-ins and a balcony.

This home offers 150 feet of both Intracoastal and ocean frontage on 1.39 acres in Manalapan.

The living room has coffered ceilings, walnut plank floors, a limestone fireplace and glass doors to the terrace.

The formal dining room has a molded dome ceiling and ocean-to-Intracoastal views.
1695 LANDS END ROAD
Fantastic views from stunning 9,700 SF waterfront 6BR/6.5BA estate with dock. Gourmet kitchen, impact windows & doors, pool with spa. Web ID 993 $4.49M

25 SPOONBILL ROAD
Renovated 4BR/3.5BA home with Old World finishes. Direct water views with quick Ocean access. Beach Club membership included. Web ID 1228 $2.495M

11 SABAL ISLAND DRIVE
Elegant 4BR/5.5BA Mediterranean estate overlooks wide stretch of Intracoastal. Dock with 35,000 lb lift. Just minutes to Ocean access. Web ID 994 $2.395M

4 LITTLE POND ROAD
Designer renovated single story villa with 2BR/2BA and fine finishes. Rarely do these come on the market. Beach Club membership included. Web ID 1097 $775K

1370 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD
7BR/14.4BA resort-style compound. Unparalleled views plus 300 ft. of Ocean and Intracoastal frontage. State of the art security. Web ID 1117 $18.5M

1555 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD
Intracoastal to Ocean 5BR/6BA Mediterranean estate. 11,800 SF with incredible views, dramatic master suite, media room & deep water dock. Web ID 1110 $10.5M

1675 LANDS END ROAD
Just completed 5BR/5.2BA home on 150’ of wide Intracoastal. Marble & wood floors, elevator, pool, outdoor kitchen plus 30’ boat dock. Web ID 1112 $5.695M

1370 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD
PRICE REDUCED
7BR/14.4BA resort-style compound. Unparalleled views plus 300 ft. of Ocean and Intracoastal frontage. State of the art security. Web ID 1117 $18.5M

1690 LANDS END ROAD
Mediterranean style 5BR/4.5BA waterfront home with 110’ on the Intracoastal. High wood-beamed ceilings, library with fireplace and dock. Web ID 1113 $2.95M

25 SPOONBILL ROAD
PRICE REDUCED
Renovated 4BR/3.5BA home with Old World finishes. Direct water views with quick Ocean access. Beach Club membership included. Web ID 1228 $2.495M

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www.FITESHAVELL.com
561.655.6570
101 N. County Rd., Palm Beach