

# IN YOUR COMMUNITY



**IN FOCUS: LAKE WORTH**  
MONDAY



**JUPITER**  
TUESDAY



**WELLINGTON**  
WEDNESDAY



**BOYNTON BEACH**  
THURSDAY



**PALM BEACH GARDENS**  
FRIDAY



**WEST PALM BEACH**  
SATURDAY

**WEST PALM BEACH**

**Clematis Street closure begins today**

The 300 block of Clematis Street, between South Olive Avenue and South Dixie Highway, will be closed to road traffic effective today in order to begin work on the Clematis Streetscape project. This portion of Clematis is expected to reopen in October barring any project delays.

The project is expected to make design improvements to Clematis that will improve the experience for local merchants, residents and visitors.

The 300 block is the first phase of the multiphase project and will take place during the summer months for minimal impact with an estimated completion in October. Pedestrian traffic will remain unaffected and businesses will remain open during the project.

— ADRIANA DELGADO

**Financial workshop at cafe in CityPlace**

A Spend Smarter Workshop by Capital One Café takes place today from 4 to 5 p.m. The course is intended to help consumers gain a better understanding of spending. Free and open to the public, participants will learn about their spending tendencies, ways to hack spending, and ultimately ensure that spending is enjoyable. For more information, please visit [www.cityplace.com/events/spend-smarter-workshop](http://www.cityplace.com/events/spend-smarter-workshop).

— TONY DORIS

**ROYAL PALM BEACH**

**Movies for a buck a cool summer deal**

Looking for a way to get your young ones out of the heat this summer?

Check out the \$1 summer family movie series at the Regal Royal Palm Beach Stadium 18, 1003 State Road 7.

Admission to each movie is just a buck, with two movies showing at 10 a.m. for two days each week beginning Tuesday and ending Aug. 15, according to the Regal Cinemas website.

Each ticket purchased helps raise money for the Will Rogers Institute, an organization founded in memory of actor Will Rogers.

Here is the June lineup. Note that both movies play on both days.

**Tuesday and Wednesday:** “The Iron Giant,” “Curious George”

**June 12-13:** “Despicable Me,” “Ice Age: Collision Course”

**June 19-20:** “Storks,” “Mr. Peabody & Sherman”

**June 26-27:** “Despicable Me 2,” “How to Train Your Dragon 2”

**BOYNTON BEACH**

**Police identify victim killed by car Saturday**

A pedestrian killed in a Saturday night crash has been identified as 79-year-old Eliamene Jean Baptiste.

Jean Baptiste, of Boynton Beach, was jaywalking on Old Boynton Road at about 8:30 p.m. near Knuth Road in Boynton Beach, when she was struck by a Toyota Tacoma driven by Michael Romero, 41, of Crestview in the Panhandle, city police said.

Romero told investigators that he saw the woman on the side of the road in the distance so he looked to switch lanes, according to the report. He said that when he looked forward again, Jean Baptiste was in the middle of his lane and he could not avoid hitting her. Police are asking anyone who witnessed the crash to call the traffic homicide investigator at 561-732-8116.

— MCKENNA ROSS

**PORT ST. LUCIE**

**Runaway sought; may be endangered**

Police are asking for the public's help in finding a runaway. Schnaica Rimpel, 15, was last seen wearing blue jeans and a gray shirt. Authorities were told that she made threats to possibly harm herself and could be headed to Miami Gardens.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Port St. Lucie Police Department at 772-871-5001 or 911.

— STAFF REPORT

**IN FOCUS: LAKE WORTH**

## Couple gives \$250K to arts council

The Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, based in downtown Lake Worth, got a nice gift recently from philanthropists Donald Ephraim and his wife, Maxine Marks.

They donated \$250,000 to the council to support the nonprofit's mission to grow the arts and cultural sector.

“We love the arts,” Ephraim said in a statement. “We want to see these organizations survive, prosper and develop in Palm Beach County. Our county has some of the finest arts and culture programs in the nation.”

The council said the money will fund planning, advocacy, community relations and a capacity-building program over the next five years that includes training for cultural organizations. Part of the gift will also be used to name the north gallery at the council's headquarters in Lake Worth and for general operating support.

Board Chairman Nathan Slack told The Palm Beach Post that Ephraim and Marks care about the community and its future.

“I've known Don for a while as being a board member, but his step up in leadership was really humbling, and that we have people in the community who care that much,” he said.

“The money is for a program we've hired somebody from the outside to help with, and it's to offer a number of the institutions in the county the ability to take



Maxine Marks and Don Ephraim “love the arts,” Ephraim said in announcing he and his wife's \$250,000 donation. JACK PHOTO

what they have already done and to learn more about becoming more sustainable.”

Ephraim, Slack added, isn't a member who just mails it in by writing a check without being involved. “He gets involved personally and taken a lot of leadership,” Slack said. “He puts his money where his mouth is and also puts his time where his money is.”

The council is still searching for a new CEO after Rena Blades left in January to travel and work in consulting.

Slack said the council should have a new CEO in about a month. “We're nearing a finality here,” he said. “The search committee spent a lot of time in the last few weeks to try to get to a conclusion.”

Palm Beach County has one of the largest cultural sectors in the nation, boasting 200 arts, sciences and historic preservation organizations that generate \$633 million in economic impact and 14,000 jobs for the

county. The sector is also growing in order to keep pace with the population and tourism growth in Florida, with over 25 major facility expansions or renovations valued at almost \$450 million planned over the next decade.

With state grants declining and other public funding sources limited, the cultural sector is fragile, especially compared to institutions in cities such as Chicago, Boston and New York that have grown endowments and other cash reserves over 150 years.

“We are fortunate that through the Cultural Council we can help enhance arts enjoyment for our visitors and residents, as well as our own,” Ephraim said.

**CONTACT US:**  
Have a Lake Worth issue you'd like The Post to tackle?  
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## LONG-VACANT SITE SHOULD BE LEASED IN A FEW WEEKS

**By Kevin D. Thompson**  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

LAKE WORTH — The site at 614 Lake Ave. should be leased in the next few weeks.

“We have a lot of interest,” said Chris Fleming, a senior broker at Strategic Realty Services.

“We'll end up with a deal in June. I'm going to Costa Rica in another week, so hopefully, we'll sign before that, but it'll probably be mid-June.”

New owners Bruce and Robert Oresky bought the site for \$200,000 from Jay Burry in November 2016, according to the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's website.

The brothers recently put a new roof on the property and also repaired the air conditioning. Fleming has said the owners plan to spend about \$50,000 on site work.



The site at 614 Lake Ave., vacant for more than 20 years, should be leased soon, a Realtor said. KEVIN D. THOMPSON / THE PALM BEACH POST

The site has been vacant for more than 20 years.

“We have a ton of activity,” Fleming said. “But there are a ton of challenges to it.”

Fleming has said the site has a corporate client as a lessor, but he declined to name the

company.

614 Lake Ave. has been many things over the years, including Captain O'Grady's and Rosie's Key West Grille.

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### THINGS TO DO

**1. Lake Worth Sidewalk Sale:** Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. downtown Lake Worth. Vendors can call 561-398-8340 for information.

**2. It Gets Better:** Compass and the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts have announced that the project will be coming to Palm Beach County next week. It will be a week full of activities designed to engage youth and community members in conversation about anti-bullying, self-image and acceptance. The week will culminate in a musical theater performance of “it gets better” at the Kravis

on June 16. For more information, visit <https://compassglcc.com/youth-program/it-gets-better/>. To purchase tickets for the performance, check out [www.kravis.org](http://www.kravis.org).

**3. Lake Worth Has Talent:** Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Lake Worth Playhouse. The annual event is offering a \$1,000 first-place prize for 16 and under and for 17 and older; a \$500 second-place prize for 16 and under and for 17 and older; and a \$250 third-place prize chosen by the audience. Tickets are on sale at the box office or [www.LakeWorthPlayhouse.org](http://www.LakeWorthPlayhouse.org).

### GOOD TO KNOW

Lake Worth phone numbers

**PBSO (non-emergency):**  
561-688-3000

**FIRE:** 561-547-7852 ext. 3

**WATER UTILITIES:**  
561-586-1710

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT:**  
561-586-1647

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**  
561-586-1652

**GARBAGE PICKUP:** 561-533-7344

**STREET REPAIRS:** 561-533-7346

**PARKS:** 561-533-7363

**SCHOOL POLICE**



Frank Kitzerow



Lawrence Leon



Leonard Mitchell



Vanessa Snow

## 6 finalists named for school cops chief job

Current boss Leon, Jupiter's Kitzerow among the hopefuls.

**By Sonja Isger**  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

The national search to fill the new, broader job of Palm Beach County Schools Police chief has been narrowed to six candidates, all but two of whom are local and only one of whom is truly an outsider who has never worked in the county.

The most prominent name on the list released by the school district Friday is Jupiter Police Chief Frank Kitzerow, who has been the town's chief since 2005 and whose policing career stretches all the way back to 1979, when he began policing in Fairfax County, Va.

Boynton Beach Police Assistant Chief Vanessa Snow and Riviera Beach acting Assistant Chief Leonard Mitchell, who was a top-five finalist in the last search for a school police chief in 2012, and the current chief Lawrence Leon, who landed the job in 2012, round out the locals.

The second in command of school safety in the Metro Nashville School District Department of School Safety and Security, Maj. Jason Overbay, also made the cut.

Overbay, Snow and Mitchell each worked as school police officers in Palm Beach County, for six, 11 and 24 years, respectively, on local campuses.

Before Leon was named chief in 2012, he too worked as a school police officer in the county for 14 years. He left in 2005 to run school police in Sarasota County.

The one true outsider in the running is Kelli Smith, police chief at Northern Arizona University for the past year. Smith headed to Arizona after retiring from the University of Central Florida Police Department as a major with 19 years there.

Schools Superintendent Donald Fennoy announced in March that he planned to restructure the police chief's position and conduct a national search to fill it. Chief Leon was invited to apply, as his current position would be eliminated.

In the wake of the Parkland shooting and subsequent legislation to post officers on every school campus, the district is facing the challenge of increasing its force by 75 officers — a 50 percent leap in size.

Fennoy told the school board that retooling the job and opening it up to a national search was necessary with such rapid exponential growth looming. Interviews are set for June 14 and the board is expected to make its choice June 20.

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