DECEMBER

CASA COASTER

This publication of the Social & Welcoming Committee does not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors nor managing agent of Casa Costa.

December 1, 2023 | Volume II, Issue Nine | CasaCoaster.com

What's News

Neighborhood

★ Celebrities transform a historic building in into a venue focused on celebrities. **A8**

★ A "wildly popular" annual holiday boat parade comes to the Intracoastal. **A12**

Casa Costa

★ Staffers provide tips for air conditioners and evacuations. **A6**

★ It was a dark and stormy night… **A9**

★ A "by the book" mindset elevated our property manager into her role. **A10**

INSIDE

ELECTION TIME
Meet the candidates. **A2**

YEAR IN REVIEW
Relive the ride. **A4**

EST. 2022
CASA COASTER
Boynton Beach, Fla.
CasaCoaster.com
SOUTH FLORIDA'S #1 POOLSIDE AMUSEMENT

Gather and gratitude: Thanksgiving kicks off busy holiday season of events and decisions



J.T. HARRINGTON

'TIS THE SEASON: As snowbirds arrived into town, the end of November brought high winds but capped a year with no hurricanes affecting Casa Costa. The Social & Welcoming Committee celebrated its Thanksgiving Kickoff on Nov. 19 and finalized preparations for a poolside holiday party on Dec. 7. The association will hold its annual meeting the night before to elect directors to two board seats amidst important financing issues facing voters. A1, A2, A8.

Owners approve special assessment

Follow-up meeting scheduled after procedural snafu canceled votes

Owners overwhelmingly approved a $7 million special assessment that will pay to repair and paint the building exterior.

The board announced the results at a special meeting on Nov. 20, at which owners considered five measures regarding finances, three of which passed. Voters also broadly supported two measures on reserve funding that would lower dues, but the association's attorney pointed out after the meeting that not enough votes were

Please turn to page A11

Giving guide for generous residents

Options abound to spread holiday cheer until December 8

Inspired by John and Belinda Battista's philanthropy work with the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Boynton Beach, the Social & Welcoming Committee "adopted" a family for the holidays. The committee introduced the fundraiser at its Thanksgiving Kickoff event on Nov. 19 by inviting residents to buy gift cards and other items for the single mother and three sons.

The committee also offered its website as a

Please turn to page A11

Meet the Casa Costa candidates

By John Battista

The five candidates for two slots on the board of directors have contrasting styles and visions for Casa Costa's future. I invited each of them for an interview. These summaries are listed in the order in which the candidates sat down with me to chat.



Roberta Mann

Roberta has lived at Casa Costa for nine years with her husband, Donnie. She is originally from Pittsburgh, where she owned and operated her own clothing store for over 25 years. While living in Pittsburgh, she was a member of her HOA board and was an active member of her community. The initial move to Florida was a difficult choice, but she and her husband had family in the area and they fell in love with the south Florida weather. Moving to Casa Costa was not difficult at all. She, Donnie, and Rosie enjoy everything that this area has to offer.

Roberta and I first discussed the reasons why she wants to be on the board. She told me that as a member of the Social & Welcoming Committee and now the chair for many years, she has gotten to know a great many people in the community and residents feel comfortable talking with her about issues or concerns that they see. Roberta feels that she can be a "sounding board" for residents and will bring their concerns to the attention of the board. She believes that open communication is vital to the interest of the community and plans to continue open communication with the residents when she is a board member. She certainly will use her past experience as a board member in Pittsburgh, her leadership on the social committee, and her relationships with residents to continue to move Casa Costa forward. "I want to make bringing this building back to a five-star property my main goal."

When asked about how she would elicit feedback from the community, Roberta was quick to point out that her daily walks with her dog, Rosie, gives her a lot of access to residents in the building. She also talked about the need to have open forums throughout the year. "It's crucial to listen to our neighbors' perspectives and allow them the opportunity to express what matters to them," she emphasized. Roberta also told me that she has seen how negativity and gossip has caused so much discourse in the past and having these forums that included the opportunity for constructive feedback could make a difference by giving residents correct information.



Jake Harrington

Jake has had a fascinating journey that spans across various locations. He was born and raised in Northern California, pursued his education at Duke University in North Carolina, ran a business in New York City, and now resides here with his wife, Candace, and shih tzu Evie. Jake's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish a real estate software company that streamlined paperwork for property managers and real estate investors. Over 18 years, he grew the company's reach before eventually selling it and relocating to Florida. Jake's extensive experience in technology, property management, condo associations and city/state building requirements have made him comfortable in his role on the board.

Jake said he wants to see some projects through till the end as he tends to go "all in" on whatever he does. He thinks of his purchase of a condo here as an investment that needs to be actively managed. He lived here for much of the 558 project and was frustrated like everyone else. He started the *Casa Coaster* to improve communication, which he says should always be a goal. He says he wants more channels to exchange information: "People learn in different ways and are comfortable communicating in different ways."

Jake believes that his diverse experiences have equipped him with the skills necessary to be an effective board member. His involvement with a non-profit homeless foundation taught him that making incremental progress doesn't necessarily require significant financial investment but can yield substantial results. Here, he proposed a simple yet impactful change early this year: modifying the phone system to allow residents to contact the management office directly instead of always being routed to the concierge desk. This small adjustment makes practical sense and eliminates a communication barrier.

"People want progress, but hate change," he told me, acknowledging that he wants to improve on soliciting input from owners on issues large and small.



Bryan Benilous

As we started to talk, Bryan immediately shared his concerns about the problems he has witnessed in the building during his 2 ½ years of living here. Bryan, who came from Montreal, has been living in South Florida for more than four decades. His family ran an Italian restaurant in West Palm Beach until they retired a few years ago. Before moving to Casa Costa with his wife Lorie, his daughter Sarah, who is studying at Florida Atlantic University, and Dutchie, their dog, Bryan lived in Lake Worth Beach.

He has long experience as a product manager in the publishing industry, working for different companies. Now he owns a business that helps libraries across the country digitize their collections.

Bryan explained how his various roles have equipped him with the skills that he would bring to the board. As a product manager, he collaborated with companies to create databases for academic research. He had to coordinate with software engineers, vendors, marketing, sales and other stakeholders to deliver a quality product to his customer. He also pursued a certification as a Project Management Professional to enhance his skills in identifying and resolving project issues and managing vendors. He believes that these skills, along with his experience of running his own business, make him a qualified candidate for the board. He says that his "expertise with vendors and the voice of the customer will be invaluable as we work on our upcoming projects."

Bryan's motivation for seeking a board seat is seeing all of the problems with our building over the years which he believes have degraded the value of our condos. He has many ideas on how things could have been done differently and shared many of them during our discussion.

He wants to develop a five-year strategic plan to restore the building to its original and deserved status: a luxury high-rise building. He thinks that accountability is important in his work and in the people he hires for himself. He added: "We need a strategic vision to define the path forward."



Rod Sarvis

Rod shared the story of how he ended up living in this community. Rod was born on Long Island, but grew up in Maryland, where he went to school. He and his wife Laurie knew each other from junior and high school in Maryland, but they lost touch for 20 years. They reconnected when they both moved to Florida. Rod, Laurie and their dog Harley have been residents of Casa Costa for a decade. He is a third-generation consumer and commercial electronics specialist. His work in this field dealing with vendors, contractors, designers and consumers make him feel that he would be an asset to the board.

Rod's vision is clear and realistic. "As a new board member, my first task is to listen and learn how things work," he said. "Once I learn the processes, then I will be better equipped to see how change can be achieved." Rod knows that he may not have all of the answers right away, but he will work to get to know everything he needs for a successful experience. He has been living in Casa Costa for ten years and has witnessed many changes. He is interested in being part of the leadership team so that he can make this a top-notch building where everyone will feel proud to live.

"Open communication is never a bad thing."

Rod shared one of his observations with me. He mentioned the lighting project in the garage that previous president Eduardo initiated. The project replaced the old lights with new ones and added motion detectors. The project saved money and enhanced the experience for everyone. Rod wants to work on similar projects.

Rod has plans for getting feedback from the community. He would create a special email address to hear from residents. He said, "I would make sure to answer the questions and make everyone feel heard." He also suggested monthly workshops with the board to facilitate communication. These workshops would allow the residents to share their views and get feedback from the board.

"Open communication is never a bad thing," he said. "There needs to be as many avenues as possible between the board, management and the homeowners and my background in technology will assist that greatly."

Susan St. John did not respond to my request for an interview. *CC*

Results will be announced at the annual meeting at 6 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 6, which is the last opportunity for owners to vote.

If you are not signed up to vote electronically, you may complete an E-Consent form available in the management office and in BuildingLink; search for "consent" in the online library.

YEAR IN



CASA COASTER

December 1, 2022 | Volume I, Issue One | CasaCoaster.com ★★★★

What's News

Neighborhood

- ★ **Boat captains** are preparing for an annual holiday parade on the water. A3
- ★ **Boynton Beach** is closing major roads to host a market and parade. A4

Casa Costa

- ★ **Residents gathered** to share homemade food and celebrate the start of Thanksgiving week. A1
- ★ **Building managers** are targeting February to reopen the pool deck completely, following a protracted project to repair the garage. A4

INSIDE

OPINION
Renters here deserve respect, writes Stephanie Finz. A2

LETTERS
Treasurer quizzes on driving, plants. A2

Residents kick off holiday season

While rain pounded outside, guests joined on the third floor and the Casa Costa club room for dessert. A1

Pre-Thanksgiving dinner proves a popular potluck

Over eighty folks helped themselves to the turkey and gravy provided by Casa Costa's attorneys at GD&C of Boca Raton the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Residents brought homemade side dishes and desserts to share. Uncooperative weather forced the festivities indoors but did not dampen the spirits of the residents who enjoyed as many as seven varieties of casserole.

The evening's planners credited Danilo Cajina, the building's head engineer, for last-minute assistance with extra tables and electricity when the dinner was moved indoors.

December party includes live band

Hotwire Communications, the cable television and internet provider to the

employees.

The sold-out event for Casa Costa residents caps a busy

Turf Doctor goes from zero to hero

* * *

The inside story behind the palm stump saga

By J.T. Harrington

Casa Costa's leadership team thought they were getting two for the price of one in late August.

Over half of the fifth-floor pool deck had been closed for months as the project to repair the parking garage dragged on. The time had come to remove four palm trees and roots that were damaging the concrete walls around them, according to the engineers hired to oversee the project.

The Board was encouraged by a related proposal from Turf Doctor, a synthetic grass installer based in Lantana. The bid included replacement of the poolside sandbox with turf – a task that included clearing overgrown plants and a tree – with the gazebo palm job as an added bonus.

"Our thinking was that if they are bringing tree removal experts to the property, they could knock it out at once," said Robert Hall, a board member. "After visiting several times to plan, they said they could do it all in a week."

On Oct. 10, four workers arrived in the early afternoon to begin "sitting, chatting or watching a single worker

Stumped

Please turn to page A3

SPLASHY DEBUT: Some residents were shocked, and at least one was outraged, as the inaugural issue found itself slipped under everyone's door. The paper itself covered a toy drive, previewed a holiday boat parade and the treasurer urged drivers to slow down in the garage. Nonetheless, the controversy forced a special meeting with the board's attorney to consider the fate of the fledgling newspaper.

FRESH START: As the new year rolled around, the paper had been transitioned into the warm bosom of the Social & Welcoming Committee, with two board members assigned to review each issue prior to printing. January doubled in size and included a feature story on the turmoil of Turf Doctor, a company contracted to remove palm trees but botched the job until their operations manager made things right.



MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR: February delivered an exposé of the 90-year-old owner of an Ocean Ridge mansion, a tale involving Michael Jackson, Oprah Winfrey, Frank Sinatra and more than a few wise guys. We also covered that an elevator upgrade is in the works and kicked off a series of pet profiles.

NO FOOLIN': April's issue focused on the 2,200 rental apartments approved within three blocks of Casa Costa.





BONJOUR!: In March, we met Mohamed Kaada, who had recently re-opened the pizza joint downstairs. We investigated whether there have ever been alligators or snakes in Mangrove Pond. Front page photos showed all the action in the garage from awning and railing deliveries to shoring repairs after a collision.

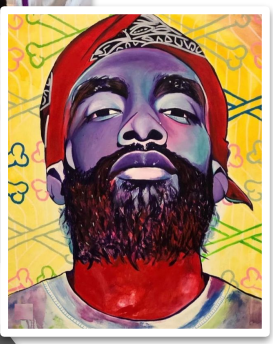


REVIEW

Thanks to our advertising partners, subscribers, contributors and readers for a wild ride.



SIZZLIN': The plus-sized summer edition detailed the early days at Casa Costa (then called Promenade), when buyers camped out for two days to reserve the condo of their dreams. Also: Bonz the barber, chief engineer DIY Dan and the war on lint.







MAY

CASA COASTER

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May 1, 2023 | Volume II, Issue Five | CasaCoaster.com ★★★★

What's News

Neighborhood

★ **Woodrow Hay** won a narrow victory to retain his position for a three-year term as city commissioner for District 2. The election went to a runoff and then a recount, after which officials declared Mr. Hay the victor by four votes.

★ **City commissioners** greenlit Ocean One to our south, expected to break ground in early 2024 and take two years to complete.

Casa Costa

★ **A committee** is asking residents for spare equipment to lend out when the kids are in town. A7

INSIDE

MISTER B'S NEIGHBORHOOD
Will our next neighbors be as good as our latest ones? A6

OPINION
Which type of scooper are you? A2

TOP CHEFS: Over three dozen residents shared an international potluck on Apr. 23.

Board awards elevator deal

Efforts to fix the seven elevators took a big step forward on Apr. 17 when the Board of Directors selected Nouveau Elevator after a competitive bidding process. The 31-year-old firm differentiated itself with its aggressive timeline, pricing and a large warehouse of spare parts, said Board director George Dobrinski, who was among those who reviewed the bids with consultants.

The next step in the modernization process is for the new team to devise a workaround for five busted button panels on the lower floors. The entire project is slated to wrap up next October and costs $2,175,000.

Oceanfront mobile home park endures

* * *

The ups, downs and almosts of Briny Breezes is a classic Florida tale

By Elizabeth Wilson

Just south of Ocean Ridge on A1A is the uniquely Floridian town of Briny Breezes. While the name alone provokes curiosity, consider that on nearly all the oceanfront lots sit mid-century, white mobile homes.

How did a trailer park wind up on the highly desirable and affluent barrier island of the Palm Beaches and how has it managed to stave off development?

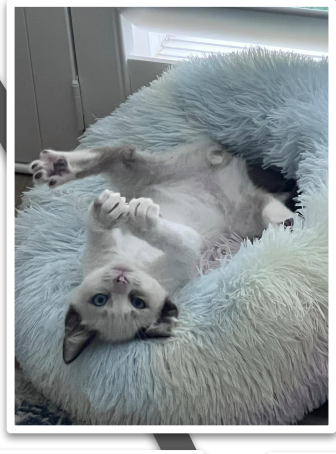
The land where the town developed was a dairy cattle farm owned by a retired Michigan lumberman named Ward Miller. When the Florida land boom hit in the mid 1920s, he subdivided the land and began offering lots for sale. With the earnest money, Mr. Miller carved out canals and paved streets. Then the Great Depression wiped out the buyers, and he went back to farming, adding strawberries to his dairy herd.

Mr. Miller built a house 200 feet off the ocean he called "Briny Breezes" and allowed tourists in travel trailers to park and camp on his land to the west. He offered space for $3 a week, advertising in northern newspapers that attracted a large following of snowbirds. Mr. Miller died in 1937 and his son had assumed park operations.

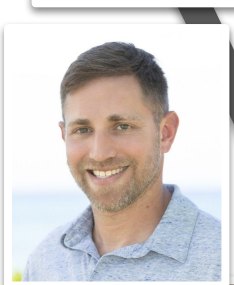
Please turn to page A4

Risky listing

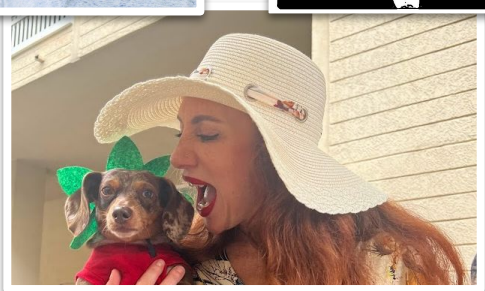
WOULD-BE MILLIONAIRES DOWN THE ROAD: We highlighted Briny Breezes, the quirky mobile home park on A1A that's fielded offers to sell for half a billion dollars. A columnist detailed the six varieties of poop-scoopers and we also spotted a gigantic teddy bear tossed in the cardboard recycling dumpster.



BACK FROM BREAK: In September we covered how malls and condos die in our first typo-free issue. Four residents and a valet saved the life of a kitten named Mustafa. The news included Florida laws on reserves and a nearby sewage leak.







SEASON APPROACHES: In October, among Brian Goldman's alphabet soup of Medicare to the best burger in town to the chocolate shop across the way, nothing was more scrumptious than Roberta Mann's tale of a police ride-along. Last month, we covered the Halloween dog parade and why the city is tearing up the street nearby.

South Florida's
#1 poolside amusement

CASA COASTER
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Add tabs to your A/C to prevent a flood

Dan Cajina, chief engineer, has a tip to keep your air conditioner's drain from gumming up and spilling water: time-released tablets to keep the lines clean and moving.

The dime-sized treatment is cheap. Open up your A/C's front panel with pliers and drop a tab in the condensate tray, which is typically near the front of the unit and about the size of a butter dish. The tray should not have standing water if the system is working properly.



The tabs prevent the build-up of algae and mold, which are health hazards but also clog the drain. Search for "A/C condensate tablets." *CC*

Special needs in an emergency? Get it on record

Marsha Perez keeps a file in the office of residents who need help evacuating the property in an emergency. If you are confined to a bed, have impaired vision or hearing – or otherwise cannot evacuate without assistance – keep the office updated.

Residents must complete a new form annually, or whenever conditions change, said Ms. Perez. The office provides the confidential list to the fire department during an emergency evacuation. *CC*

HAVE A TIP OR QUESTION ABOUT LIVING AT CASA COSTA? CASACOASTERNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Cozy steakhouse relaunches, named best in county

Chef James Muir didn't set out to open a restaurant when he took over the historic Ruth Jones cottage on E. Ocean Ave. He debuted Nicholson Muir Distinguished Meats nearly two years ago as a butcher shop with a few seats in a space smaller than some condominiums at Casa Costa.

When customers clamored for something more, he shut down for six weeks this summer to add fine-dining touches to the menu and white tablecloths to the dining room. Mr. Muir, of Argentina, named the place after his Scottish-born great-grandfather. He calls it a "modern coastal steakhouse." *The Palm Beach Post* named it 2023's Best New Restaurant last month.

In addition to prime Angus and wagyu cuts, the menu includes inventive appetizers and Argentine empanadas. Its lunch menu includes a fantastic reuben sandwich. *CC*



THE PALM BEACH POST

"It's my passion to serve people," the chef said. "The biggest compliment I've received here is when a customer says, 'It doesn't feel like a restaurant. It feels like dinner at your house.'"

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Gather and gratitude: Thanksgiving kicks off holiday season



J.T. HARRINGTON



FEAST MODE: Eighty residents joined a packed third-floor room that the Social & Welcoming Committee transformed into a holiday banquet hall on Nov. 19. John Battista introduced a giving tree for residents to buy gifts for a local family.

'The Iceman is back at it like a jackrabbit'

Local celebrities team up to transform historic Lake Worth Beach Masonic lodge into a multi-story "brewery slash museum"



THE PALM BEACH POST

1000 Lake Ave. is a block from city hall in Lake Worth Beach.

Robert Van Winkle is better known as Vanilla Ice, whose 1990 release was the fastest-selling hip-hop album of all time. Guy Fieri is known for hosting shows on the Food Network, including *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives.*

Both now in their mid-50s and living in South Florida, they are renovating a 98-year old building in downtown Lake Worth Beach. Mr. Van Winkle posted a video on Facebook in sixteen months ago, boasting: "We're about to be like ants on a candy bar – we're going to get it done in six months." City officials recently announced a tentative grand opening next summer.

Plans for the 25,000-square-foot canary yellow building call for a four-level entertainment venue: a brewery with craft beers named after celebrities, a pop culture museum, a basement speakeasy and the city's only rooftop bar. Mr. Fieri is designing the kitchen.

The city acquired the building, which once housed a post office downstairs and Masonic lodge upstairs, for $2 million before selling it to a developer now partnered with Mr. Van Winkle for $850,000 five years ago. The city calls itself a "supporter and contributing partner" to the endeavor.

Mr. Van Winkle says the museum will feature "everything from Muhammed Ali to the movies to Vanilla Ice to *90210*" and says he is paying licensing fees so that participating celebrities will "get a percentage of every beer." CC

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It was a dark and stormy night...

As told by Stephanie Finz

Stanley and I were strolling along the street, enjoying the fresh air. Suddenly, we heard a loud scream. It sounded like someone was in trouble. We followed the noise and found a car parked next to the church.

The scream was coming from under the hood. That night was very rainy – windy and colder than normal – so it seemed that a cat somehow crawled under the hood of the car to escape the elements.

I didn't know how to get it out, so I called Holly Arnold, our pet advisor. She suggested that I call the non-emergency number of the Boynton Beach Police Department. I did that and explained the situation.

By the time I went back to the car, another neighbor, Aimee Jacquot, was there. Soon, the car's owner arrived and opened the hood. My hunch was right: a kitten was lodged under the engine.

Two police cars and a fire truck arrived to assist. They all tried to rescue the kitten for an hour. I ran upstairs to get a can of tuna and a towel, hoping to lure the kitten out and bring it home, giving Stanley as a new friend.

As soon as I arrived back to the car, the cat managed to squeeze out and ran off into the night. Everyone was relieved that the kitten was able to get out from under the engine before it was hurt.

I thanked the cops and firemen for their help. They were very kind and professional. I was amazed by how much they cared about the kitten. Our first responders assist with emergencies of all kinds and I am grateful for their dedication. Happy holidays! *CC*

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Property manager nears three years in a 24/7 job

I had the opportunity to speak with Sugeilis (pronounced sue-HAY-lee) Gutierrez in her office on a busy Friday morning. Sue, as everyone calls her, is Casa Costa's property manager.

Her employer, Castle Group, was first hired by Panther Real Estate Partners to manage the twin towers of the Promenade. Castle's contract was renewed when Related Group took over the property in 2012, renaming it Casa Costa. When Related turned things over to the condominium owners in 2015, the board stuck with Castle.

Sue has worked at Castle for eight years in different office roles: administrative assistant and later bookkeeper at a different property in Boynton Beach, before joining the team here as assistant property manager. In March of 2021, the board asked Sue to assume the top job temporarily when the property manager left. She was quickly made permanent.

Sue's career began in Washington Heights, a neighborhood in northern Manhattan, where she was born to parents from the Dominican Republic. She worked as the intake counselor for a substance abuse facility, working with patients and mental health professionals. She enjoyed the challenge of the job, but says it was emotionally draining. She'd also grown sick of New York winters.

With family already in South Florida, in 2015 the single mother made the move with two young daughters in tow. At a career fair in Palm Beach, she spoke with folks from Castle Group and kicked off a series of interviews and a job offer. Today, Sue lives in Lake Worth Beach with her daughters, Harmonie, 18, and Isabella, 11.

Sue lights up when she talks about her daughters and the time they spend together cooking and going to the beach. This quality time is very important to her and her family.



Mister B's Neighborhood

I asked Sue for her thoughts on her role in the building. Her main goals are the safety and comfort of residents. Casa Costa is a large property with many areas to be managed and monitored. She learned early on that there's a process to everything that happens here. She closely follows the Florida statutes governing condo associations and frequently consults our bylaws and rules. "There's nothing worse than being inconsistent with residents. I check and double-check to make sure everyone is treated fairly." She admits that this detailed "by the book" focus sometimes takes longer than residents want to wait, but she feels the extra effort pays off.

Sue also emphasizes communication in her role. She pens a weekly report to the board with contributions from Adlene and Marsha in the office, plus from Dan, the head engineer. The report summarizes meetings, incidents, maintenance and landscaping matters, legal topics and personnel updates. She communicates with residents whenever there are special projects or unusual events happening.

She says she has an "open door" policy for fellow staff members, who come to her with concerns about work and personal life. She regularly huddles with staff on Mondays and Fridays and meets monthly with her boss. "The position of property manager is a 24/7 job," Sue says, recalling a recent weekend she spent here, first escorting firemen around when the alarm went off and later at dawn with the cops on a security matter.

"Casa Costa is my second home. The majority of residents are understanding and supportive and all of the staff is so appreciative," she said.

I moved from a single-family home, where I'd lived for over 25 years. It has sometimes been a difficult transition for me with all the rules and procedures of condo living. I can't say that I understand or agree with everything that goes on here, but with nearly 400 apartments, everyone will have a different opinion. However, my transition has been made a little easier as I get to know the people that are here to make Casa Costa a better place for all of us to live. Spending time with Sue affirms that she is one of those people working hard to make this the best it can be for all of us. *CC*



LETTER TO THE PUBLISHER

Our ten year perspective

We want to express our gratitude for the work of the board and the management company on the expansive project requiring a special assessment. The details and scope involved are well beyond my understanding. It takes volunteers like members of the board putting in more hours than you will ever admit to the residents. We are thankful for the time you have invested on our behalf. We have been owners here for over ten years and have never been more confident in the board and the on-site personnel in dealing with such a complicated, expensive but critical issue.

I have two observations for residents to consider.

First, I was born and raised in South Florida and Christy in Charleston, S.C. While we all believe we live in paradise, the buildings we call our homes here would call it something much different if they could talk. This is a harsh environment for structures, cars and other items constantly exposed to the weather. Ongoing maintenance is higher than in many areas with more hospitable climates.

Second, the Surfside tragedy in June of 2021 sadly revealed what is so often only apparent after people have died. Real estate is a boom/bust business. Once started, multimillion-dollar projects like Casa Costa, are finished even though the outlook for the project and economy may have darkened considerably during construction. It was no surprise to us the engineer at last month's workshop mentioned substandard materials were initially used considering Casa Costa's timing.

Requirements for funding reserves on capital projects have been far too loose. It is shameful the laws are changing on HOA funding only after so many people lost their lives.

We are paying today for the previous sins of others. That fact doesn't make us happy nor does it make it any less necessary. And it most definitely doesn't silence our appreciation for those working on our behalf.

Paul Ferwerda
Chrissy Ferwerda

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Three measures down, two to go

Continued from page A1

collected to satisfy a new law on reserves.

President Jake Harrington said the board had planned to adjourn the meeting in order to drum up additional votes if necessary, but believed the 207 votes collected were sufficient, based on legal briefings the previous week and conversations during the proceedings. "Owners agreed to invest in the long-term," he said. "It's a shame we need a redo on an issue that has wide support."

Over 74 percent of owners voted in favor of a special assessment and 79.2 percent favored the reserve changes. The board is scheduling another meeting on Dec. 19 with hopes to finalize its 2024 plans. *CC*

Holiday giving guide

Continued from page A1

convenient way for residents to contribute to a building-wide holiday fund for the Casa Costa staff. The board suggests a $150 donation per unit for a holiday bonus. Residents may also mail or drop off checks to the management office before Dec. 8.

Castle Group placed donation boxes in the lobby for an annual toy drive, urging residents to donate new, unwrapped toys for kids aged six to 18. A link on the box leads to a shopping list of requests. Castle collects thousands of toys across its properties, partnering with Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Florida. The last day to donate toys is also Dec. 8.

The city of Boynton Beach donates to Toys for Tots, a program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Organizers set up donation boxes for unwrapped gifts at the Boynton Harbor Marina for the annual holiday boat parade on Dec. 8. Parade watchers can also toss gifts onto the decorated boats as they pass.

The Social & Welcoming Committee asked residents who agreed to buy gifts for the local family to bring them to the Dec. 7 holiday party, which is free to attend but advance tickets are required for dinner. *CC*

COASTER WELCOME WAGON





Chris Burcet moved into the north tower last month. Born and reared in West Palm Beach, he has driven by Casa Costa for years and is now so happy to be part of this community.

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Local events

ANNUAL MEETING
Wed., Dec. 6 | 6 p.m.
Club room

HOLIDAY PARTY
Thurs., Dec. 7 | 7 p.m.
Pool deck | $35
Sponsored by Hotwire Communications

HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE
Fri., Dec. 8 | 6:30 p.m.
Boynton Harbor Marina
Festively decorated boats travel from Lantana to Delray Beach

SPECIAL MEETING
Mon., Dec. 18 | 6 p.m.
Club room

TICKETS: CASACOSTABB.COM

Holiday boats to bring the bling

Locals know the holidays are here when the boats get dressed up.

Hosted annually on the second Friday of December, the holiday boat parade forms near the drawbridge in Lantana and head south to Delray Beach. The Boynton Harbor Marina is the official watch location for the "modest, yet wildly popular" event, organizers say.

The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. and lasts nearly two hours, as costumed captains show off vessels with lights and holiday decorations. City officials are collecting new, unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots and promise a special visit from Santa nearby Two Georges Waterfront Grille. Donors can place toys in bins or toss them onto the decorated boats as they pass by.

"Simply wave a flashlight and a boat will come directly to you," said Mercedes Coppin, a city events manager.

Organizers expect the Ocean Ave. drawbridge to be upright for an extended period, starting at 7:15 p.m.

In addition to the marina, organizers recommend waterfront restaurant viewing spots including Prime Catch, Deck 84 and Del Fuego, in addition to the five city parks along the Intracoastal in Boynton Beach and Delray Beach. CC



BOYNTON BEACH CRA

On Friday, Dec. 8, captains compete for nine prizes for decorated boats.