



The museum building anchors Old School Square, now the cultural hub of Delray Beach. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

## Delray Beach

### City's cultural center grew from long shot to long history

By Rich Pollack

For three and a half years, Frances Bourque and a small but tireless group worked on an enormous undertaking — which many at the time thought might never get done. Aiming to convert a 1913

elementary school and a 1925 high school into a cultural arts center, they held innovative fundraisers and made numerous trips to Tallahassee to persuade state officials to send down a bucketful of grant money, all the while rallying local support.

After months of restoration, renovations and construction, on one night in March 1990, the doors to the Cornell Museum of Art and History — the first building in what would evolve into Delray Beach's landmark Old School Square

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## Gulf Stream

### RICO suit alleges conspiracy, extortion

By Dan Moffett

In their federal racketeering lawsuit against Martin O'Boyle and Christopher O'Hare, attorneys for the town of Gulf Stream allege the two men have conspired to use the state's public records laws as weapons to extort legal fees from hundreds of municipalities and contractors across the state.

Beyond Gulf Stream, the RICO complaint cites similar records assaults by O'Boyle in places far removed from South Florida, one of them in another small, affluent seaside community more than a thousand miles way.

In 2007, during a dispute with the borough of Longport in his native New Jersey, O'Boyle filed so many demands for public records that "the clerk went to the emergency room because of the stress she attributed to the flood of (Open Public Records Act) requests," the suit says.

Gulf Stream officials know all about that kind of stress. Town Clerk Rita Taylor says she has been working seven days a week for the last two years to keep up with workload generated by O'Boyle and O'Hare.

Town Manager William Thrasher says these days he devotes virtually all his time to lawsuits and records requests. "There's no end in sight. My job description has been altered forever," Thrasher said. "When you look back, you get discouraged."

The 49-page class-action civil

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## Along the Coast

### WHEN 'THE MONSTER' CAME OVER THE BRIDGE

After three decades, a death warrant may be near for Palm Beach County's most notorious killer. We look back at the case that still haunts our memories.

By Randy Schultz



This portrait of Karen Slattery, who was murdered in coastal Delray Beach at age 14, hangs at the Karen Slattery Education Research Center for Child Development at Florida Atlantic University.

She last spoke with her mother at 10 that Saturday night. The sisters she was babysitting, ages 7 and 2, were asleep. She told her mother that no one else was in the house. Karen Slattery knew that no visitors were allowed when she babysat.

But there was someone else in the white house on that Delray Beach cul-de-sac. Harbor Drive offered lots of foliage for cover, especially late on that March evening 31 years ago when dark of the moon was approaching. He had been in the house earlier and left, unnoticed, waiting until the children went to sleep.

To pass the time, he had pedaled his bicycle south to a bar on A1A called The Gipper. He drank some beer and smoked some marijuana. Still, he had made sure

to assess the house that first time and, in his way, to assess the 14-year-old freshman at Pope John Paul High School.

After he came back, he struck — perhaps as Karen Slattery was hanging up the phone.

Shortly after midnight, the parents came home to find their floors covered with blood. As March 24 became March 25, Delray Beach started to learn that evil could cross the Intracoastal Waterway.

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## Inside

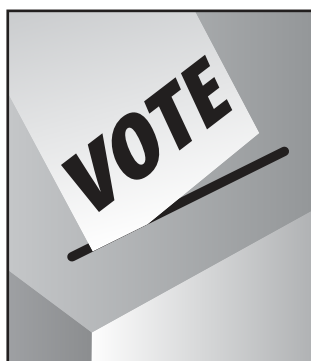
### Law firm picks Boca

After seeking space in Boynton and Delray, Kanner & Pitaluga is taking 45,000 square feet. **Page 27**



### Homes on tour

Delray Beach houses showcase the art of design during annual event. **Page H1**



### Local elections coverage

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## The ArtsPaper

### Festival of the Arts BOCA

There will be Beethoven's Ninth and more. **Page AT11**