

ISLAND FIRM SOLD

Boca company acquires Mirsky Realty Group

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EQUESTRIAN EXPERTISE

Polo-themed art found at gallery

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A FINE SPOT

Family found The Villas to be the 'perfect' location

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Palm Beach Daily News

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Cases low but town still cautious



A jogger passes the Christofle store Tuesday on a deserted Worth Avenue. All of the stores on Worth Avenue are temporarily closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. [JOSEPH FORZANO/PALMBEACHDAILYNEWS.COM]

Officials are happy but say numbers are likely higher than reported

By Adriana Delgado
Daily News Staff Writer

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Palm Beach has remained unchanged for the past two weeks. But do those numbers mean it's safe for the town to start thinking about re-opening and are they accurate?

The reality is cases are likely to be much higher than those figures, according to Palm Beach Fire-Rescue Chief Darrel Donatto.

"The number of cases we report are the numbers of cases identified by testing and reported to the state's Health Department," Donatto said. "But there is no doubt that there are more cases in the town than those reported."

Palm Beach has 16 confirmed cases with two deaths, according to an update posted on the town's website, and this number has not increased since the week of April 8. But Donatto told the Daily News that this number does not reflect asymptomatic cases of residents who may have had the illness and were never aware of it, or

people who tested positive but listed a different primary address than Palm Beach.

"The official number of cases are a relative gauge, but it shows all the good work being done by residents in following guidelines. That is certainly helping to keep the numbers lower."

State cases rose 1.8 percent since Wednesday morning to 28,832, the lowest gain since state health officials began tracking cases in mid-March. Palm Beach County has 2,468 confirmed cases, a 2.7 percent one-day increase.

See CASES, A2

Restraint urged on elective surgeries

Health care executive says hospitals need time, so prohibition should remain until May 9

By Jane Musgrave
Daily News Staff Writer

Despite the financial and human costs of continuing to bar elective surgeries, a member of the governor's task force says the prohibition should remain in place until May 9 to give hospitals time to prepare to make sure patients and staff are safe from the deadly coronavirus.

Noting that there could be a second wave of COVID-19 cases if Gov. Ron DeSantis eases restrictions in hopes of jump-starting the state's stalled economy, the president of Tampa General Hospital urged restraint.

See SURGERIES, A2

In step with the times



Lisa Johnston of West Palm Beach walks Wednesday along the Lake Trail in front of the closed Flagler Museum. "I walk the Lake Trail all the time," Johnston said. "It's beautiful here." [JOSEPH FORZANO/PALMBEACHDAILYNEWS.COM]

Artists sing with one voice while miles apart

Cultural groups join together for virtual production

By Jan Sjostrom
Daily News Staff Writer

It's not often that superstars such as The Beatles' Ringo Starr, The Band's Robbie Robertson and crooner Barry Manilow play a role in a local production.

But their influence was key to the creation of a video that engaged the talents of four Palm Beach County cultural groups and nearly two dozen artists.

Faced with coronavirus social distancing barriers, Palm Beach Symphony, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Palm Beach Opera and Ballet Palm Beach collaborated remotely on the video of Manilow's tune "One Voice."

The video has racked up more than 3,800 views on the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County's YouTube channel (youtube.com/user/pbcccutube) since it was posted on Monday. Manilow gave those numbers a boost when he shared the symphony's Facebook post, then

posted the video himself on Tuesday with the comment "Thank you Palm Beach."

The three-minute video opens with the pure soprano of young Brenna Epstein from the Maltz's Conservatory of Performing Arts singing "just one voice, singing in the darkness..."

As the song progresses, she is joined by the faces, voices and music of the symphony's instrumentalists, graduates of the opera's young artists program and a tutu-clad Lily Ojea Loveland from Ballet Palm Beach dancing to the music

in her living room.

"We're all at times at a loss for how to deal with this," said Dave Lawrence, the council's president and chief executive officer. "The arts give us an opportunity to come together in an emotional way to show solidarity and strength through performance."

The video is the brainchild of symphony CEO David McClymont, who was casting about for ideas for how to keep the symphony in the minds of music lovers during the long coronavirus shutdown.

"Relevance is critical for

all brands in any business," he said. "You have to sustain the impact you make with your product or service so that when things become a little brighter we will be at the front of everyone's mind so we can accelerate the transition back to whatever the new norms are."

Simply posting a video of a symphony performance didn't excite him.

"I wanted to figure out how to take it to another level," he said.

See ARTISTS, A3

YOUR FAMILY DECORATOR

Gallery exhibits the sporting life



Carleton Varney

Palm Beach means polo — even if the current worldwide health crisis put a stop to the sport of princes this season in Wellington.

It was a sign of these difficult times when we learned last month that the International Polo Club Palm Beach had cancelled the rest of its season in cooperation with the U.S. Polo Association. It was understandable: The health and safety of the players, their families, the team organizations, the event organizers and the spectators must come first.

When I heard the news, I thought about how polo is part of many Palm Beachers' DNA. I've learned a lot about the sport and its deep roots in Palm Beach County from my friend Jeanne Chisholm, an iconic figure on the Wellington equestrian scene.

Her Chisholm Gallery at 13532 Fountain View Blvd. in Wellington is a great source for polo and equestrian art, among its varied collections. Luckily for

us in these stay-at-home days, her website — ChisholmGallery.com — is open for business so that we may peruse the work of artists who capture the thrill of the action on the field.

I've been in many homes where owners celebrate the sport with polo-themed art, from paintings to etchings to sculptures. Such art, I think, looks best in rooms decorated with colors and textures that go with the sporting look. If you're interested in planning a polo-sporting room in your home — perhaps in the family room or library — here is a look that's always in style.

For walls, go for paneling. I would prefer a light pecan wood or a light shiny-finished pine with lots of grain showing. The room should have a fireplace, preferably one fitted for gas — there's no dusting up the room with a wood fire. And where are we to get logs in Palm Beach, anyway?

Make sure you install pin-point lights in the ceiling if you have lots of horsey art to display. Or you prefer a more traditional ambiance, choose brass or chrome picture lights.

For carpeting, choose a sisal, either in its natural color or a deep hue like navy blue, tropical green or rich merlot.

The room should have a comfortable sofa, perhaps

covered in a houndstooth fabric with a cream background and the pattern in navy, garnet or palm-tree green. Club chairs that swivel can be covered in a solid linen that matches the color in the houndstooth pattern.

For lamps, turn a pair of leather riding boots into lamps. It's easy to do, for I have done it on more than one occasion. Shades can be a natural raffia.

Place the lamps on brass-and-glass end tables. For a coffee table, I'd select an old Hermes trunk, a perfect place to display the current issue of Sporting Life.

Then hang the walls with sporting art, and be sure to choose something special for the place of honor above the fireplace. Jeanne Chisholm can be a great help in helping you choose what is what.

When everything opens back up, here's a must-see the next time you're out west: Tour the Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame at 9011 Lake Worth Road on the corner of Lyons Road.

And as for watching polo? You can bet I'm looking forward to it, once the ponies ride again in Wellington, whenever that may be.

Palm Beacher Carleton Varney is president of Dorothy Draper & Co. Visit CarletonVarney.com or email him at cvarney@dorothydraper.com.

HOFHEINZ

From Page A8

Mirsky, a West Palm Beach native, has been part of the island's real estate scene since 1990. Her company marked its 30th anniversary in 2017.

"I am thrilled to be joined with a company sharing the same ideals and integrity," Mirsky told the Daily News.

Lang Realty, she added, "prides itself on the business culture of serving, not selling," she said. "It maintains the boutique feel and personal touch, which I have always had for my agents and clients."

She also mentioned Lang's "investments over the years in technological innovations" to strengthen the company's internet marketing.

The sale closed last month. Lang President Scott Agran said the

acquisition of Mirsky's company was part of his firm's strategic growth plan.

"Coming at the heels of opening our second sales office in Boynton Beach, this acquisition positions Lang Realty for continued growth for our operations in the northern region of the county," Agran said in the statement.

In 2011, Mirsky sold her Palm Beach office, then on Royal Poinciana Plaza, to the mammoth Miami-based **Keyes Co.** but continued to operate Mirsky Realty Group's Palm Beach Gardens office as a separate firm.

Mirsky re-opened Mirsky Realty in Palm Beach in 2012 after parting ways with Keyes, which today operates in Palm Beach as **Illustrated Properties.**

The Mirsky office acquired by Lang Realty in Palm Beach Gardens is in Suite 107 at 4580 Donald Ross Road. Lang is planning to move its existing

Palm Beach Gardens office there, the company said. Lang also is considering options for moving its Manalapan office to the former Mirsky site on Sunrise Avenue, the company said.

Independent Palm Beach agencies that have joined larger companies over the past several years include Hall Real Estate and Jeffrey Ray & Associates, which became part of the **Compass** network in 2019.

In 2018, New England-based **William Raveis Real Estate** entered the Palm Beach market through a joint venture with The Fite Group, which today is **William Raveis South Florida.** And in 2016, **Brown Harris Stevens** closed an "asset purchase" of Barrett Wells Property Group.

Last year, Manalapan-based Scott Gordon Realty was acquired by **Douglas Elliman Real Estate.**

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BEYOND THE HEDGES

Lang Realty buys Mirsky, gets office on island



Darrell Hofheinz

Boca Raton-based **Lang Realty**, long an independent mainstay in South Palm Beach County real estate, has entered the Palm Beach market with the acquisition of **Mirsky Realty Group**, the longtime agency founded by **Norma Mirsky**, a former president of the **Palm Beach Board of Realtors**.



Mirsky

Terms of the deal were not disclosed. It included the acquisition of Mirsky's offices at 220 Sunrise Ave. as well as an office in Palm Beach Gardens. Broker Mirsky remains at Lang Realty as part of its management group, according to a statement released on behalf of Lang.



Agran

The office on Sunrise marks the first Palm Beach location for Lang Realty, which was founded in 1989 and bills itself as the largest independently owned real estate company based in Palm Beach County.

The acquisition is the latest deal in which an independent agency in Palm Beach has become part of a larger company with deeper resources, including more in-depth technology.

Fifty Mirsky agents made the transfer to the new company. With the acquisition, Lang Realty has about 414 sales agents in 13 offices ranging from Boca to Port St. Lucie, according to the company.

See **HOFHEINZ, A5**

ON THE MARKET



In the living room of No. 2B at The Villas at 425 Worth Ave., furniture is arranged to capture views of the cove that fronts the Everglades Golf Course. The three-bedroom cooperative unit is priced at \$4.195 million. [PHOTOS BY EDOUARD ZAK PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY LINDA R. OLSSON INC.]

Co-op at The Villas 'a serene, lovely place'



All of the apartment's public rooms view the water on the opposite side of Worth Avenue.

By **Christine Davis**
Special to the Daily News

When her late parents decided to move south in 1977, Tory Gadd Eardensohn recalls, they did so after selling the famous Sugarbush ski resort they founded in Vermont, exchanging the snowy slopes of Vermont for Palm Beach's sunny seashore.

Eardensohn and her sister were school-aged when the late Sara Gadd and her late husband, Damon, settled in a

place they had visited many times.

"Our parents had been down here before and had a lot of friends in the area. They loved Palm Beach and were very happy here," Eardensohn said. "They were at Breakers Row for a while, and they owned Via del Lago, the old Dodge (family) estate at 760 S. County Road.

"Megan and I spent a lot of our summers and all of our vacations down here."

See **MARKET, A6**

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