

From the Desk of Mayor Weinroth

Drowning Prevention

Unfortunately, drowning accidents are far too frequent, and the number one cause is unsupervised water activity. In 2020, over 50 people drowned in avoidable accidents in our county.

It only takes a minute for the unthinkable to occur, so please take some time to review the following information.

- Ensure everyone in your family learns to swim
- Swim in areas supervised by lifeguards
- Always swim with a buddy
- Children should never be unattended near water
- Secure pools with barriers. Many children who drowned in home pools were out of sight for less than five minutes.

The county's Drowning Prevention Coalition provides free and reduced-cost swimming lessons for children ages 2-12 (on a first-come, first-served basis) and water safety seminars for all ages. For more information, call 561-616-7068.

Additionally, the Red Cross offers free online and in-person programs such as CPR and First Aid training and certification. For more information, visit <https://www.redcross.org/>.

Scam Alert

Every year over 3 million individuals fall victim to scams resulting in over \$3 billion in losses. Internet scams are a growing problem, especially since many are very trusting and susceptible to fraudulent activities.

One of the most popular internet scams is phishing. A scammer uses fraudulent emails (containing malware), texts, or copycat websites to get personal information such as bank accounts and social security numbers.

Other popular scams are computer “pop-ups” claiming you have won a sweepstake or lottery, counterfeit prescription drugs advertisements or fake charity donations.

To avoid becoming a victim:

- Use long, unique passwords and always enable multi-factor authentication whenever possible.
- Continually update security features on computers, devices and apps by enabling automatic updating. Attackers look for vulnerabilities in software.

Do not trust cybersecurity information from unknown social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or Twitter

A Must-See: Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, with its unique gardens and collections, is one of Palm Beach County's most treasured cultural attractions.

Be transported to Japan through art exhibits, an authentic tea house, cultural festivals and an incredible .8-mile walk through Japanese-inspired gardens.

The gardens have 25 stops where visitors can see waterfalls, koi fish and other wildlife and an extensive bonsai collection. You'll feel drawn to sit and admire the precise plantings and quietude.

Additionally, The Morikami Collections house more than 7,000 Japanese art objects and artifacts, including a 500-piece collection of tea ceremony items, and more than 200 textile pieces and fine art acquisitions.

For more information, visit <https://morikami.org/>.

Nonprofit Spotlight: Vita Nova

In Palm Beach County alone, there are more than 500 homeless youth. Vita Nova is a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting youth ages 18-25 formerly in foster care and/or experiencing homelessness through housing, education, employment and life skills training.

The Spot, run by the organization, is a drop-in center for disconnected and homeless youth in the community. It features a food pantry, business center and music studio. The mission is to link youth experiencing homelessness to resources necessary to become self-sufficient.

For more information on the organization, volunteer opportunities and upcoming events contact Ashley Berry at (561) 689-0035 or aberry@vitanovainc.org.

History Corner

The first schoolhouse in southeast Florida was built in 1886 about a mile north of today's Flagler Memorial Bridge in Palm Beach.

The first teacher, Hattie Louise Gale, was just 16 years old when she took on her first class of 12 students, aged 6 to 17.

In 1960 the restored 22-by-44-foot building was relocated to Phipps Ocean Park and given the name Little Red Schoolhouse.

If you require assistance, please contact our office at 561-355-2204 or email RWeinroth@pbcgov.org.