

MOVING ON
Ex-Apple CEO parts with
North End home.
Beyond the Hedges, B1



WRITE THING
Students to be honored for
writing-contest works.
A2



HOME GOODS
Well-equipped home
needs umbrella stands,
clocks. **B1**

Palm Beach Daily News

THE SHINY SHEET®

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Fees for events at public sites eyed

Council committee also proposes charging out-of-town groups more than residents would pay.

By **WILLIAM KELLY**
Daily News Staff Writer

The town is looking to tweak the rules that govern permits for special events at its public parks and beaches. The changes would give preferential treatment to residents while also pumping more money into town coffers.

Proposed amendments recommended by a Town Council committee Wednesday would allow the town to charge an as-yet unspecified use fee for the events and would require a refundable damage deposit whenever warranted.

The two-member panel also recommended establishing resident and nonresident rates so individuals and groups from the town would pay less than those from out of town. Currently, everyone pays the same.

The use fees could be waived for low-impact activities, such as beach baptisms, Deputy Town Manager Jay Boodheshwar said.

The town would continue to require a \$150 administrative fee, which now is the only charge.

The town averages about 20 special event permit applications a year, Boodheshwar said.

He said special events have not caused problems, but the staff expects more demand for the town's public spaces as neighboring West Palm Beach's downtown population continues to grow.

"This defensive move is to give us more protection from damage from overuse," he told the Ordinances, Rules and Standards Committee.

The committee, made up of Chairwoman Julie Araskog and member Lew Crompton, recommended the council adopt the changes after the staff drafts them as amendments to town law.

Under the changes, residents or organizations would be able to reserve public event space up to nine months

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PALM BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS



Photos by Allen Eyestone / Daily News

Lily Guari and Mercedes Cassidy, along with Johnny Cassidy (not pictured), won an award for their nonprofit Blankets of Love at Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce's final breakfast meeting of the season Thursday.

Top businesses, nonprofit honored

By **IAN COHEN**
Daily News Staff Writer



From left, brothers Camilo, Alex and Felipe Celis, of the best new business winner, Celis Produce, express their joy at being recognized, at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting Thursday.

Lori Jayne Monogramming & More received the business of the year award during the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce's final breakfast meeting of the season. Lori Bernstein, founder of the business, accepted the award Thursday at The Breakers.

Other award winners included best new business winner Celis Produce; young professional of the year, Ryan Burke; and nonprofit of the

year, Blankets of Love. In her speech, Bernstein told the crowd about how her business began as an idea in 2004 and eventually became a store on South County Road. "It's been a long journey," Bernstein said.

Bernstein urged the crowd of business owners to do what is best for their customers and not for themselves, and said all Palm Beach businesses should work as a team.

Please see AWARDS, Page A2

Chamber music society explores new venues

Harlem Quartet's five-day stay is geared toward younger audiences.

By **JAN SJOSTROM**
Daily News Arts Editor

If you've attended one of the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach's concerts at The Breakers, you know they're elegant affairs — with cocktails and lavish hors d'oeuvres in the courtyard followed by an hourlong performance in the aptly named Gold Room.

That's a far cry from the venues

the society will introduce with the Harlem Quartet's five-day sojourn. The society's first extended residency will begin with a performance at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Brightline high-speed rail station in West Palm Beach.

With any luck, pop music fans on their way to SunFest and other riders will linger for the show, said Michael Finn, the society's executive and artistic director. "I always like to say a string quartet

can hold its own against any rock band," he said.

The residency also will include a 6 p.m. concert Thursday at the Blind Monk, a wine and beer tapas bar in West Palm Beach. Organized by oboist James Austin Smith, it's part of an initiative dubbed Circle the society hopes to expand on next season.

Please see QUARTET, Page A4

New state law could affect public access to beaches

Yellow rope marks off a rectangular section of the beach behind a building south of the Lake Worth Pier on Tuesday.



Bruce R. Bennett / Daily News

By **KIMBERLY MILLER**
Daily News Staff Writer

A new law governing who can play on private beaches triggered a tidal wave of ire this year from groups fearful it will limit one of Florida's most dearly held rights — public beach access.

Beginning July 1, local governments won't be able to force private beach owners to allow surfers, sunbathers and shell seekers on their parcel of sand with just

a vote. Instead, a municipality that wants to give people the ability to stroll through a private beach will have to seek a judge's approval to enforce a rarely used "customary use" law that refers to the general right of the public to use dry sand areas in Florida for recreation.

While supporters of the change called it a minor legal tweak, opponents fear it could embolden private beach owners

to rope off their sand or restrict passage with no trespassing signs.

Some owners of beachfront property in Palm Beach said they have no problem with the public straying onto their property and don't intend to make any changes because of the new law.

A representative from The Breakers said beach opera-

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INSIDE

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WEATHER

Today will be mostly sunny with a high of 79 degrees. A2

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2 Sections



Residents sponsor writing contest

By IAN COHEN
Daily News Staff Writer

More than 330 students are scheduled to gather at the South Florida Fairgrounds at 11 a.m. Tuesday to be honored for their work in the Do The Write Thing Challenge, Palm Beach County's 15th annual writing contest in which middle school students submitted essays, poems and songs about how violence has affected their lives.

The challenge is part of a nationwide project to help prevent youth violence and spread awareness of

its impact. Ten finalists were chosen from more than 32,000 Palm Beach County students, according to Do The Write Thing Challenge officials.

A male and female finalist will be chosen from among the top 10 to represent the county in Washington, D.C.

The leading residents and sponsors of the Palm Beach County's Do The Write Thing Challenge include founder Pepe Fanjul Jr. and Florida Crystals, Chairman Bill Bone, funder and organizer William Metzger and the William H. Pitt Foundation, including Chairwoman Pauline Pitt and board member Lesly Smith.

The nationwide challenge, which was developed by the National Campaign to Stop Violence, a non-profit organization that aims to reduce youth violence, asked students to address three questions: How has violence affected your life, what are the causes of youth violence and what can you do to reduce youth violence?

During the presentation Tuesday, some of the essays will be interpreted by professional actors.

— icohen@pbdailynews.com

PERMITS

From Page A1

in advance, while those from out of town would be able to reserve up to seven months in advance. Currently, it's the same for all — three months.

But the committee wanted to find a way to give preferential treatment to residents and organizations.

Town Attorney John Randolph advised against prohibiting non-resident organizations and individuals from receiving the permits, saying that would not likely stand up to a legal challenge.

"You can't just say 'residents only' because it's a public park," he said.

The beaches also are public east of the

high-water mark.

But Randolph said that, based on research into what other municipalities do, he thinks the town could charge higher fees for nonresident groups and individuals than it does for those from Palm Beach.

Other changes include a longer time limit for the events — up to five hours instead of three hours, which has not always allowed enough time for equipment setup and take down, Boodheshwar said.

The town will continue to prohibit using public space for commercial purposes or private fundraising but will specify that nonprofit groups can apply for the permits.

If they are raising money for charity, that is regulated by a separate



Allen Eyestone / Daily News file photo

The outdoor yoga classes at Royal Poinciana Plaza would not be affected by the new guidelines, which would apply to public property.

charitable event permit, he said.

The staff also wants discretion to limit, if warranted, the number of special events it approves, primarily at Bradley Park, Phipps

Ocean Park and Memorial Park beside Town Hall, Boodheshwar said. Permit denials could be appealed to the council within 45 days.

— wkelly@pbdailynews.com

AWARDS

From Page A1

"We don't need to compete with each other," she said. "We need to work together."

Other highlights from the meeting included the presentation to Blankets of Love, an organization started by middle school students Lily Guari and Mercedes and Johnny Cassidy, which provides blankets to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

The students began the organization after some of their family members were affected by cancer; they have distributed about 250 blankets. Guari and Mercedes Cassidy attend Rosarian Academy. Johnny Cassidy attends The Greene School.



Lori Bernstein's business, Lori Jayne Monogramming & More, received business of the year award. Bernstein urged the crowd of business owners to do what is best for their customers.

Allen Eyestone / Daily News

"It was not easy to be a child and watch cancer cause such pain to our parents, family and friends," Johnny Cassidy told the crowd.

"We witnessed how providing a blanket could help bring a little warmth, comfort and

love during such a difficult time." The group distributed blankets to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society last week, and have one more distribution this season to the Kids Cancer Foundation in Royal Palm Beach next week, Guari said.

"After witnessing the joy a blanket can bring, we decided that we wanted to bring this joy to not only people close to us," Guari said, "but to as many brave cancer patients as we could."

— icohen@pbdailynews.com



SHINY SHOTS

Sonja Stevens and Karen Swanson attend the YWCA of Palm Beach County Annual Run for the Roses pre-Derby Tea Tuesday at The Chesterfield.

For more Shiny Shots, see PalmBeachDailyNews.com.



Meghan McCarthy / Shiny Shots

PICK OF THE DAY

Musical theater — *Something Rotten!* will continue its run at 8 p.m. at the Kravis Center in Dreyfoos Hall through Sunday. Call 832-7469 for more information.

THE WEATHER

Today will be mostly sunny with a high near 79 and a low around 76, according to the National Weather Service in Miami. Winds will be out of the east between 14 and 17 mph.

The marine forecast calls for seas between 2 and 4 feet, and east-northeast winds between 15 and 20 knots.

Lake Worth Inlet: High tide will be at 12:04 p.m., with low tides at 6:14 a.m. and 6:27 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:39 a.m.

Sunset: 7:54 p.m.

ROAD WATCH

Southern Boulevard — The parking lots on the south side of the Southern Boulevard causeway on Bingham Island will remain closed due to the installation of a temporary construction fence on the south side.

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