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Publishers, Shellie & Scott Farrugia

It's All About

Happy New Year!

We're excited to welcome you to a 2024 that is FULL of new opportunities! We encourage you to begin each day intentionally focused. When you turn to pages 6 & 7, please learn about a beloved and successful Charter School, Summit Academy, that is caring for and educating children in grades k-8.

This last year has been challenging in our community, and throughout the world. It's brought out the best in many of us. Being there for others is an important lesson, and one thing I'm certain of... whether we are on the giving or receiving end of help in times of adversity, we are constantly modeling examples. The kids are always watching!

This year is the 22nd anniversary of this humble publication that arrives in your mailbox every month, and we are so thrilled to celebrate this milestone! Our prayer throughout 2024 is for YOU, dear Reader, Neighbor & Friend. Thank you for your time and support of our advertisers.

God bless you and our troops,

Shellie & Scott

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Community!

Setting Meaningful Resolutions: How to Make the Most of 2024

By Ashley Ferraro

As the new year approaches, many of us find ourselves reflecting on the past and contemplating the future. Social media provides a recap of our 2023 photo memories. The half-dreaded, half-anticipated New Year's resolutions loom above us. What lessons did we learn this year? What do we hope to accomplish next year?

The New Year's resolution is an age-old tradition that receives both criticism and praise. Some argue that resolutions are unrealistic or set people up for failure by creating high expectations. Others point out that societal pressure and comparison can influence people to set resolutions based on what others are doing rather than their own genuine desires.

Additionally, there can be a tendency for resolutions to be vague or generic, leading to a lack of commitment and follow-through. You might even know from experience that these resolutions tend to become abandoned or forgotten within a few weeks. So, how can we set meaningful resolutions and make the most of the new year?

The first step is to reflect on the past year. Take some time to think about your accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned. What aspects of your life do you want to improve? What goals do you want to achieve? By understanding where you've been, you can better determine where you want to go.

When setting resolutions, it's essential to be realistic and specific. Vague goals like "lose weight" or "be happier" are difficult to measure and often lead to frustration. Instead, break down your aspirations into smaller, achievable steps. For example, if your goal is to improve your fitness, consider setting a resolution to exercise three times a week or complete a 5K race by a certain date. These specific goals provide clarity and allow you to track your progress.

Another crucial aspect of setting meaningful resolutions is aligning them with your values and passions, and avoiding setting goals based on what peers or influencers say. Ask yourself, "What truly matters to me?" This could be anything from personal growth and career advancement to relationships and community involvement. When your resolutions align with your core values, they become more motivating and feel less like a chore.

However, it's important to remember that resolutions are not set in stone. Life is unpredictable, and circumstances may change. It's okay to adjust your goals as needed. Be flexible and open to new possibilities. If a particular resolution no longer resonates with you, don't be afraid to let it go and replace it with something that feels more authentic.

To stay motivated throughout the year, it can be helpful to create accountability. Share your resolutions with a friend or family member who can support and encourage you. Consider joining a community of like-minded individuals who share similar goals, or seeking out resources related to your aspirations.

Remember, challenges and setbacks will be inevitable. When faced with obstacles, view them as opportunities for growth and learning. Adjust your approach if needed, and remember that progress is not always linear. Although the new year may feel like the perfect time to set your goals, you should always feel empowered to make a positive change.



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With the population of Florida, including Coral Springs and Parkland, expanding exponentially over the last three years, it's no surprise that a special little gem in the western part of Coral Springs has become a vital place for teaching and expanding young minds from Kindergarten through 8th grade. At or near capacity for certain grades, school Principal Gus Prats tells me that there is a waitlist for certain grade levels. Please reach out for a tour of this impressive school as soon as possible!

The mission of Summit Academy Charter School is to offer a rigorous and high-quality education that focuses on "CLASS," which stands for Character, Leadership, Academics, Service, and Sportsmanship. The school's philosophy is that without these components, students are unable to achieve their maximum learning potential. Their unique vision is believing an education is more than the teaching of the core subjects. A school, well-connected with the home and the community, is a place for students to grow academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

Beginning in 2019 with 170 students, the school has now expanded to 475 students and includes many happy families that have watched their children learn and thrive in this safe, secure environment. Safety has always been a top priority since day one, and the school has its own full-time Guardian, who is certified to oversee school safety by the Broward Sheriff's Office. Mr. Prats makes it a point to tell me that they have had no trouble with any type of school violence during their five years. That is quite a testimony! Mr. Prats says, "It's a smaller school atmosphere... our biggest disciplinary issues are occasional uniform violations. We will never be that 1,000 student place, and we don't want to be. We like that it's more of a family environment."

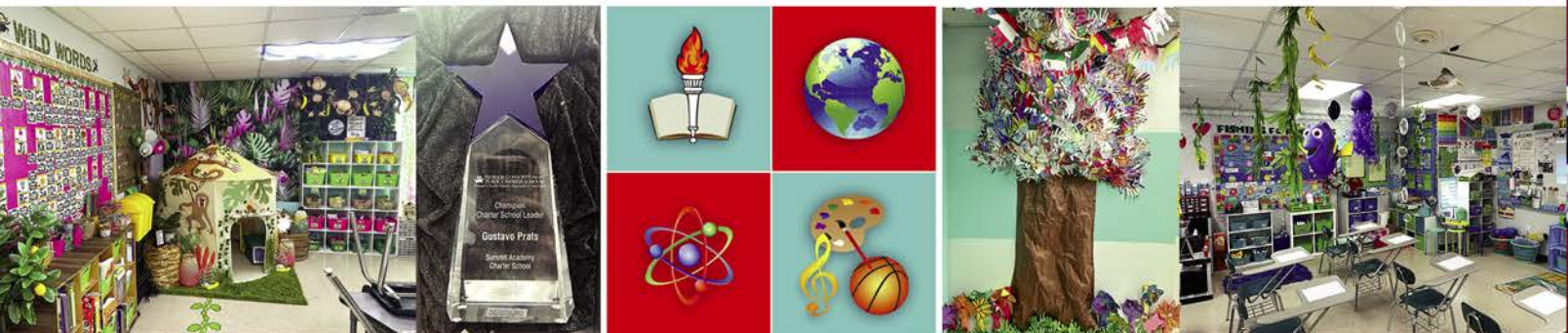
He continues by relating to the families who bring their children to school for the first time. "These kindergarten parents are letting go of their child and it's daunting. They go to these kindergarten round-ups and find out that there are 11 different kindergarten classrooms, and they feel overwhelmed. When they come here, they see that our kindergarten is in four different sections all on the same floor sharing the same bathrooms. It's a lot less intimidating."

Making the school feel more like a family atmosphere is paramount to everyone on staff. The policy is that every person is referred to by their first name, parents are encouraged to be involved, no excessive homework is given, and every teacher on the education team is certified by the state of Florida.

Principal Gus Prats, has been a driving force from day one. His decades of experience in education combined with his compassion and acceptance of others, has made him a respected leader at both Summit Academy Charter School, and throughout the charter school system. Recently, the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools awarded Mr. Prats with The Champion Charter School Leader for 2023.

Because of their tremendous success, and Mr. Prats' effective leadership, Summit Academy Charter School has just been approved to open a second location in the Orlando area. This proves to many that the charter system is highly effective and pleasing to so many families!

At this time, Summit still has spaces available. Make sure to schedule a tour, Open House is held monthly. **Please call for time and dates at 954-603-3303 or visit www.summitacademy.org**



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Meet The

Davidoff Family



Tarravella high school, sweethearts Joe Davidoff and Anna Davidoff have lived in Coral Springs on and off for more than 30 years. Their children are Addelyn, 8 , and Jacob, 3. Anna says, “Though we weren’t born here, we both grew up in Coral Springs. We actually met when we were at Taravella. We moved away for college, came back for a few years, bought a house in Deerfield Beach for a bit, then moved back here again!” Completing the family circle is an 11 year old Carolina Dog/Pit mix named Riley that they rescued from the Humane Society.

Joe is Director of Operations at Weather Guard Industries. Anna is self-employed doing Website and Digital Media Management as well as Property Management.

Addelyn is in cheer recreationally, and cooking club at school. Jacob is in the soccer enrichment program at daycare.

This active family really enjoys staying connected to the friends and neighbors around them. Joe tells us, “We enjoy being part of our school’s community, regularly participating in spirit nights, fundraising, and various other events.” Anna is quick to add, “We love going to any of the many, many playgrounds around Coral Springs and Parkland; As well eating out at restaurants and going to festivals and community events. We also love going to the movies, our recent fave is Paragon - totally underrated theater with super comfy seats!”

Addelyn attends Maplewood Elementary. She’s in the 3rd grade and loves math. Jacob is at Big Blue Marble Academy and loves to spend his day playing.

When asked about what the family loves most about living in our area, Anna tells us, “The small town feel, but with so much to do - everything is around the corner. We love the community of friends we’ve made in our neighborhood and that our kids are growing up playing outside the way we did as kids. It’s been really special to raise our kids the last few years in my childhood home. The familiarity of our neighborhood, having my daughter attend the same elementary school as I did, it’s a full circle moment that makes me happy and grateful.”

And Joe rounds out our interview with one of the most agreeable statements we’ve heard in a while. He says, “We love our Boston sports teams!”



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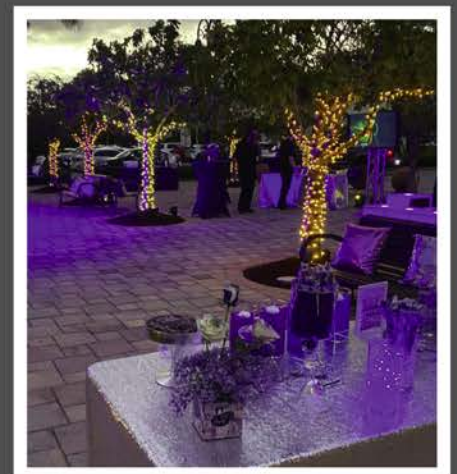
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Mayors' New Year Message



**Parkland Mayor,
Rich Walker**

The start of a new year carries with it promise of good things and new beginnings. But as you turn the page of your calendar, my hope for you is more than just a New Year's resolution that may or may not be forgotten by March.

My wife Catherine and I have five beautiful children and raising them, more than anything else we will ever do, will be our imprint on the world. No matter how long I serve as Mayor or the successes Catherine and I achieve, raising our children will be our legacy. And while from time-to-time I may confuse their names, one thing my kids never let me forget is that they are always listening.

There are plenty of teaching moments when we focus on providing a lesson to our children and we make sure they are listening, but I always find it interesting when one of them repeats something that Catherine or I have said when we didn't know they were listening. And now we realize they're always listening—which means we are always teaching.

Children hear your grumbling under your breath when someone leaves the room. They hear your narrative about the homeless person holding a cardboard sign. Whether it's a driver who accidentally cut you off, a waitress who made a mistake, or a neighbor asking for a favor that you don't want to do, your kids hear it all. They even hear your silence on issues that deserve comment.

This underscores the importance of setting the right example, being kind, being compassionate and understanding, trying to say the right thing, and being the person you want your children to grow up to be. That's a tall order, but that's what we signed on for. It's also likely to be the most rewarding thing parents ever experience. That proud moment when you see your child has developed into an adult, the next generation being an improvement on the last.

But it's vital we remember parenting isn't an ala carte proposition—do as I say not as I do—it's a full-time job because someone is always listening.

I am honored to be able to have this opportunity from Spectator to wish you a Loving and Warm New Year! We have so much to be grateful for in Coral Springs! From our own families to the beauty of our City and Parks. From our Sports programs to our array of restaurants that we get to enjoy. As the Mayor of Coral Springs, I would like to share some things I am grateful for: You, my family, God, our public safety, our Code Enforcement, our volunteers and so much more!

While there are challenges in our lives and our World, we live in an amazing country and community! IN the new year, you will see more progress with our Downtown Redevelopment, many more great City events and a continued commitment to excellence. You may recall that we were the first City in the nation in 2007 to win the coveted Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for performance excellence. We are on the Excellence Journey again this year and kicking off later in January with a Visioning Summit. For more information about this event and others, look at our website at Coralsprings.org/Events or just text me at 954-494-9872.

I would like to share a few ideas I have to achieve fulfillment in the NEW YEAR:

1. Share Grace – with others and yourself – we are all human and imperfect
2. Force Nothing
3. If you are finding yourself stuck in the past, declare your past complete
4. Forgive
5. If you have lost a loved one, allow yourself to grieve
6. KNOW that you are unique
7. Focus on Solutions, not the problems
8. Look for the 5 year old in those you love
9. Be more curious than you are critical



**Coral Springs Mayor,
Scott Brook**

I feel blessed every day to live in our Community. From the bottom of my heart, I hope that 2024 brings you and your families peace, love and joy!

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By Dr. Howard Gelb

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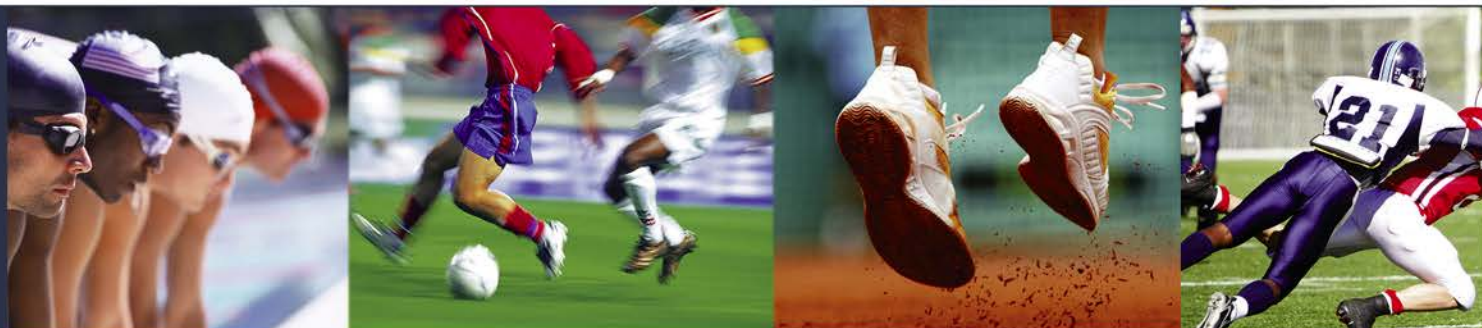
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• 954-345-2121

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10180 Ben Geiger Drive (NW 29 St.) • Coral Springs, 33065 • 954-345-2170

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1300 Coral Springs Drive • Coral Springs, 33071
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For more information see AquaticComplex.com

Private Schools & Camps

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NORTH BROWARD PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Is an accredited, college-preparatory, independent, non-sectarian school serving families of the pre-kindergarten through high school age groups. For more info, call (954) 247-0011 or www.NBPS.org See Page 23.

SUMMIT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
K through 8th grade. A tuition free public charter school. For more info, call (954) 603-3303, www.summitacademy.org. See cover and pages 6-7

Soflo Ninja Academy

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For more info. See SoFloNinja.com or call 954-876-1378. See ad on page 14.

Special Needs

PARKLAND BUDDY SPORTS

Find out about league offerings and activities.
www.ParklandBuddySports.com

CHALLENGER BASEBALL LEAGUE

Open to all special needs kids and their families at no cost. For more info, call (954) 345-9329 or www.challengerbaseballofbroward.com

THE FRIENDSHIP JOURNEY

Provides programs & facilities for children and young adults with special needs, while creating awareness and sensitivity. For more info, contact hello@thefriendshipjourney.org or www.thefriendshipjourney.org

Volleyball

SAND TURTLES VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Beginner sand volleyball training for kids and adults. Call Mark Lewkowicz for more info. (954)345-0500. www.sandturtlesvolleyball.com

Parkland P-Rec

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. Players use solid paddles to hit a whiffle ball over a net. Yearly fee: Residents \$45/Non-residents \$54. P-REC – 10559 Trails End (located inside Pine Trails Park)

Scouting

Scouting offers Year Round Activities for Boys and Girls in K to 12th Grade
Find a local unit at www.beascout.org

i9 Sports - Youth Sports Leagues

Coral Springs Leagues - Saturday & Sunday Options
Soccer - Ages 3 - 12
Flag Football - Ages 4 - 13
Baseball - Ages 3 - 7
Indoor Basketball - Ages 5 - 12

www.i9sports.com
954-227-9955 (M-F, 9am-8pm)

Important Numbers

Aquatic Complex.....	(954)345-2121
City Hall in the Mall	(954)344-1828
Coral Springs Gymnasium	(954)345-2107
Cypress Park Pool	(954)345-2109
Cypress Park Tennis	(954)345-2100
Mullins Park Pool	(954)345-2170
Sportsplex Tennis Center	(954)344-1840
Parks and Recreation	(954)345-2200
Parks Field Conditions	(954)344-1187



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[U18] Sports Medicine at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Orthopedic Center is a multidisciplinary program providing comprehensive pediatric orthopedic, surgical and rehabilitation services to children and young athletes. Our team includes board-certified, fellowship trained pediatric orthopedic surgeons, sports medicine physicians, physical therapists and athletic trainers. We are the official athletic training provider for Broward County Public Schools. We also partner with youth sports organizations, tournaments and schools to provide athletic training services, educational webinars/seminars, coaches clinics and special programs to help prevent and manage injuries. To schedule an injury prevention clinic or request athletic training services please email us at JDCH_outreach@mhs.net.

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- Complex Cervical Spine
- Hip Preservation
- Limb Differences and Lengthening
- Hand and Upper Extremity
- Brachial Plexus Injuries
- Bone and Soft Tissue Tumors
- Orthopedic Care for Cerebral Palsy
- Orthopedic Trauma
- [U18] Sports Medicine
- Concussion Clinic
- Performing Arts and Dance Medicine
- Athletic Training



L to R: Stanley Szybinski, MD; Michael Dressing, MD; Stephen Plachta, MD; Andrew Gupta, MD; Eric Elsner, MD; Matthew Fazekas, MD; Michael Jofe, MD; Neal McNerney, MD; Randolph Cohen, MD; Stephen Storer, MD; Jeremy Frank, MD



To make an appointment, call 954-265-6300 or for more information visit JDCH.com/Orthopedics.

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Unlimited Rides: **\$80**

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Saturday, January 13th

1:00-11:00PM

***Live Music all night**

Sunday, January 14th

12:00-6:00PM



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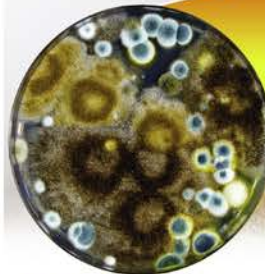
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Local Legacies of Excellence: CSYS and Parkland Soccer Club

By Ashley Ferraro

Soccer is a rapidly growing sport across the country. Our community soccer programs, Coral Springs Youth Soccer and Parkland Soccer Club, are no exception to this exciting trend. However, these admirable programs have humble beginnings.

Coral Springs Youth Soccer

Coral Springs Youth Soccer has been a pillar of the community since its official incorporation in 1976. Founded by Hugh V. Murphy and his wife, Betty, CSYS was a trailblazer in bringing the sport of soccer to the Coral Springs area. At a time when baseball and football dominated, Hugh had a vision to introduce soccer to the community. His determination paid off when a shocking 500 kids showed up, far surpassing the expected 200. Plus, even in those early days, the program created all-girls teams to ensure young girls had the same opportunities to develop their interests and skills as the boys.

Despite the lack of proper facilities, Hugh and his team of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to train coaches, players, and referees. They utilized fields at Mullins Park, Lions Park, and even their own backyards to make their vision a reality. When goal nets were ripped, the women would crochet the weak areas. This team effort built an unbreakable foundation for CSYS for years to come.

Hugh's legacy lives on. Today, the program boasts more than 2000 players and includes multiple generations of players and coaches. The community-based program focuses on skill development and teamwork, creating a supportive environment to learn and love the game of soccer. The city of Coral Springs is preparing to honor Hugh with a commemorative plaque at Mullins Field as the league's 50th anniversary approaches.

Parkland Soccer Club

Similarly, Parkland Soccer Club has come a long way

since its inception 36 years ago. Originally practicing and playing on a cow pasture, the organization has thrived thanks to a strong footing, the community's support, and of course, the growing interest in soccer.

It all started in 1987 with co-founders Pete and Linda Gato, who dedicated their lives to the league. The late couple played a crucial role in transforming Parkland Soccer from a simple pasture into the well-equipped fields at Pine Trails Park.

Today, Parkland Soccer provides a recreational league for boys and girls, offering them an opportunity to develop their skills and form new friendships. Recently, Parkland Soccer has expanded its offerings for young girls by creating U6 and U7 girls divisions, which were historically coed.

Beyond teaching the game, Parkland Soccer focuses on building personal qualities such as self-esteem, physical fitness, respect, and achievement. The program also offers a unique and supportive opportunity for high school students interested in becoming referees.

Getting Involved

The impactful contributions of these organizations are a testament to their rich history and commitment to our community. For new and experienced players alike, both Coral Springs Youth Soccer and Parkland Soccer Club offer valuable opportunities for development on and off the field.

As the current seasons for both leagues come to a close, interested players, volunteer coaches, and referees can look forward to the 2024 fall seasons.

For more information, please visit www.csys.org and www.parklandsoccer.net.





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JP Miller & Sons

Services Shows What Family-Owned & Operated Really Looks Like



By Ashley Ferraro

JP Miller & Sons Services has served the Broward and Palm Beach communities for more than 45 years as South Florida's leader in pest control, termite control, and lawn services. Originally founded by Joseph Miller, JP Miller & Sons Services is family-owned and operated. His two sons, John Miller and James Miller are both licensed and are proud to execute the company's values and carry out the legacy.

This family business didn't happen by accident. John believes that in addition to the high-quality services and stark attention to customer care, what truly sets their company apart is the fact that they're family-oriented first. It's one of their core values, and it's why so many homeowners have put their trust in them. "We have customers whose kids are now our customers," says John.

After being in the pest control business for many years with a license in the landscape division, the Millers saw a growing demand for high-quality synthetic turf. John adds, "We fertilize, treat for weeds, and treat for disease in lawn and on trees. We know there are areas, especially in backyards where grass doesn't grow well."

Eventually, Joseph and his sons decided to add synthetic turf installation to their list of services. The Millers turned to ForeverLawn first for its quality and second for its family-oriented business culture similar to their own. By becoming ForeverLawn dealers, they now provide durable, high-end artificial turf explicitly designed to suit various purposes, including K9 Grass, Playground Grass, DuPont Landscape Turf, Golf Greens, and SportsGrass.

Unlike its competitors, ForeverLawn turf is engineered for longevity. That's why they offer a 15-year product warranty on all their artificial grass. As a company built on integrity, quality, and innovation, their foremost concern is offering customers peace of mind knowing their investment is protected.

In addition to a superior product, customers are guaranteed a flawless installation by Joseph and his family. John goes on to detail the care put into the installation process, "We use rock—as much rock as necessary. Sometimes you'll see people put turf right on top of dirt or use two inches of sand. What happens over time is the sand washes away. Upfront, it's less money because it's less work and material, but it's not made to last for the long run."

His father, Joseph, chimes in, "We don't take shortcuts on installation."

Another value the Miller's see in ForeverLawn is their focus on safety. "ForeverLawn uses safer materials—

we like that because we do that with our chemicals too. If I can use something less toxic than table salt, I will if it works."

On the pest control side, JP Miller & Sons Services offers safe, affordable, and environmentally-friendly solutions. They have all pest control licenses, meaning customers don't need to turn to different companies for different pests. By exercising integrity and honest practices, their mission is to protect customers, their homes, and their pets all year round.

To contact JP Miller & Sons Services, visit www.millerpestcontrol.com or call 954-421-6187.





The Joy of Giving

By Angela R. Lewis

“**To Whom much is given, much is required**” is a quote that often is stated to inspire people to give to those less fortunate than themselves. A well-known pillar of the Coral Springs Community and tireless advocate for the Homeless Assistance Center, Dr. Bessie W. Cristwell is very aware of the current needs during this season of giving. Dr. Cristwell works with the Coral Springs community to collect items for the Broward Partnership a non-profit 501(c) (3) Homeless Assistance Center. Through Dr. Cristwell’s initiative and efforts, this endeavor has gathered support from several areas of north Broward County.

Each year the effort to assist the Broward Partnership Homeless Assistance Center seems to grow as more groups get inspired to act and spread the joy during this holiday season. This year various organizations, schools, sports teams, clubs, neighbors, and selfless individuals made the effort to take a step to ensure the holiday would be a lot more special for those in need. Some schools and organizations have committed to extend their effort beyond the holiday season and assist in this effort for January and February as well.

Dr. Bessie Cristwell and Pattie Wesley, both members of the North Broward County Chapter of The Links Inc., are truly blessed that so many people from their organization have come together yet again in support of donating basic essential items to homeless individuals and families during the holiday season that spans from November to January just when caring and support are needed most.

The collection efforts also began in Mid-November where students from several schools in the Coral Springs/Pompano Beach area were provided with

service hours for making posters, donating, and organizing the collections of gifts and packaging up the donations for distribution and transport to the center. Some of the participating schools and groups are the Coral Glades High School Chapter of the Mentoring Tomorrow’s Leaders (MTL) group and the National Honor Society led by their coordinator Angela R. Lewis with the mentors, JP Taravella High School Key Club participants with advisor Kathy Fitzgerald, Interact Club assisted, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High Elizabeth Arata, Coral Springs Charter Student Government Association with advisor Kelly O’Neil and President Kaitlyn O’Neill along with participants from SGA. Once again, the students will continue their efforts throughout the beginning of the year by bringing donated essential items to the annual MLK: “A Day On, Not a Day Off” program in January for the Homeless Assistance Center. The students have developed empathy and compassion for those who are less fortunate as well as a sense of social responsibility. It also provides the students with an opportunity to learn about the challenges faced by the homeless population and how to share with all members of the community.

Other notable donations from several groups and individuals include Abundant Life Church, Joyce McCollin, Melinda Robbins, and the Coral Springs MLK Committee. These organizations and individuals have made significant donations to the BPHAC. Ms. Isabella Preble from Broward Partnership graciously thanks the students and staff who worked together to donate hundreds of gifts to the Giving Tree. It truly warms our hearts to see the outreach grow to include many new community partners.





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