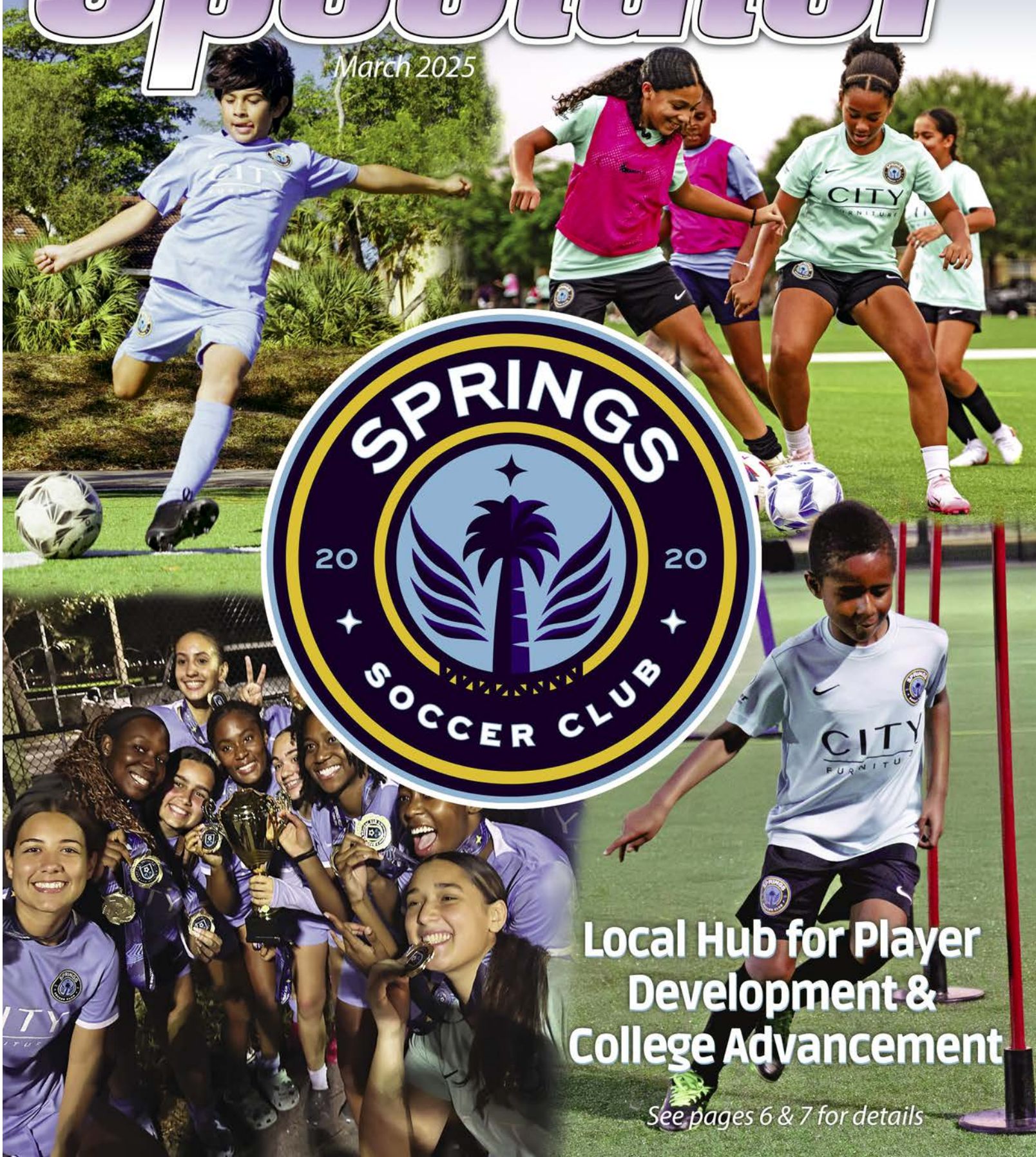


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See pages 6 & 7 for details

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On the cover:

Broward Health Coral Springs Cardiology Team.

See Page 3.

It's All About

Twenty Three and YOU!

Happy Anniversary Spectator Readers! We are so happy to focus on friends and neighbors who are making inspiring, positive differences for everyone. Please read through and note the amazing folks that make our corner of Broward so fantastic. Get ready for a fabulous summer by enrolling your kids in a local athletic league, or take them "Back in Time" to the Florida Renaissance Festival (see inside BACK COVER).

See the articles about the Sutherland Family, Buzzards Lacrosse, Relay for Life, and Dr. Howard Gelb, all focused on enriching the community around us... and sharing gifts with the everyone. Whether we are on the giving or receiving end of help in times of adversity, we are constantly modeling examples. Our kids are always watching!

We are so thrilled to celebrate our corner of Paradise with the amazing families who call it home. Enjoy March by offering love and service to friends and neighbors in our community.

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Community!

23 Years: From Handwritten Signs to Our Shared Journey

By Shellie Miller-Farrugia

Back in the days of B.I. (Before Internet), finding out when sign-ups for local sports leagues were happening involved a lot of guesswork. You'd spot a random sign at an intersection, or maybe hear about it through word-of-mouth—sometimes, the only info you had was a cardboard post stuck in the dirt at the corner of your street.

If you've heard this story before, bear with me. It's worth revisiting, because it all started when I saw one of those old signs five days after the deadline—and that moment changed our lives... and, as it turns out, the lives of many others.

The Spectator was born right after 9/11. Our first issue hit mailboxes in March 2002, with the simple goal of shining a spotlight on local athletes and the sports that brought us together. But from those early days, something remarkable happened. Our focus expanded, and so did our vision. Over the years, The Spectator grew into a monthly celebration of you—the people who make our communities so special. Yes, we still cover local sports and the exciting games, but now, we're all about getting to know our neighbors in a more personal way—whether they're hitting the field, organizing community events, or working hard to make a difference in our neighborhoods.

The beauty of The Spectator has always been that it's your magazine. We're simply the storytellers, but it's your stories that make each issue so meaningful. We've watched your families grow—just like ours. What began as a side project by two busy professionals raising four kids while caring for an aging parent has become a full-time passion. And while our kids have grown, moved away, built their own careers, and started families, we continue to be inspired by your stories. We share your triumphs, your challenges, and even the heartrending moments that bring us all together as a community.

In those early years, we could never have predicted how much the world—and our cities—would change. We've also witnessed the rapid growth of Coral Springs and Parkland. There was a time when University Drive didn't extend past Wiles Road, and the Coral Springs charter school was still a shopping mall. Back then, both cities were truly "small towns"—tight-knit, simple, and full of heart. We were a family-oriented community where everyone knew each other by name, and a smile or wave in passing felt like an unspoken bond.

Now, 23 years later, everything has changed. The city halls are larger, and both cities have become hubs of entertainment, community, and civic pride. Our first responders have become more than just heroes—they've become friends. The local government has remained accessible, and the residents' voices continue to shape how both cities grow. We've watched you push through growing pains together—and we've been right here with you, reporting on your accomplishments, celebrating your milestones, and sometimes even comforting you during tough times.

No matter how much change we've seen, one thing has remained constant: the sense of community that has defined our cities from the beginning. In this world that moves faster and faster, it's a comfort to know that, at the heart of it all, Coral Springs and Parkland are still places where neighbors support one another, where local businesses thrive, and where families continue to create memories that will last a lifetime. That's what keeps us going—because at the end of the day, it's all about **you**.



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Springs Soccer Club Grows as a Local Hub for Player Development and College Advancement

By Ashley Ferraro

Springs Soccer Club is making significant strides in both player development and competitive success. Under the leadership of Executive Director Laurie Thomas and Director of Methodology Roger Thomas, the organization continues to expand, with a strong focus on national-level competition and college recruitment opportunities.

The club has already made a name for itself in the Elite Club National League (ECNL) on the boys' side, competing at a regional level. Now, the goal is to advance its boys' teams to the national level while also pushing its girls' teams from the National Premier League (NPL) State League into regional play.

Beyond competitive success, Springs Soccer Club places a strong emphasis on preparing players for collegiate soccer. The club has implemented a monthly college seminar series, where players and their families hear directly from college coaches about the recruitment process and academic requirements. Past speakers have included representatives from Saint Louis University, Bowdoin College, and upcoming guests from Georgetown.

Additionally, the club is preparing for its College ID Camp in April, where coaches from over a dozen colleges will scout talent and provide valuable exposure for aspiring collegiate athletes. Open to both Springs Soccer Club members and players from surrounding communities, the camp offers a unique opportunity for participants to showcase their skills. The boys' camp is set for the week of March 23rd, followed by the girls' camp the week of March 29th.

Springs Soccer Club has made strengthening its girls' program a top priority, focusing on player development from the early years through the college recruitment process.

Laurie, a World Cup-experienced coach, has recently led the U-13 girls to tournament victories while maintaining a

top-three league position. Jordan, the director of older girls' teams, has further advanced the program by organizing showcase trips to Disney and North Carolina, where players compete in front of college scouts. Several players have already received college commitments, reinforcing the club's mission to develop talent for the next level.

In addition to league play, Springs Soccer Club has made a name for itself with large-scale tournaments. The Springs Cup, held in December, has expanded to nearly 340 teams, including participants all the way from Ohio to the Caribbean. The tournament utilizes 11 parks across Coral Springs, with additional venues in Davie and Weston to accommodate the event's growth.

Additionally, a new Spring Cup tournament in May will focus on second and third-tier teams, ensuring competitive opportunities at all levels.

"We've been fortunate to have incredible support from the city," Roger emphasized. "The Parks and Rec department and city commissioners have been instrumental in providing field space and helping us continue to grow."

Springs Soccer Club recently honored the city with club shirts at a commission meeting to show their appreciation.

With 42 competitive teams, growing national recognition, and a clear development pipeline from youth to college, Springs Soccer Club is positioning itself as a powerhouse in South Florida soccer. Notably, 78% of Springs Soccer Club's players are Coral Springs residents, demonstrating the club's deep local roots and commitment to developing hometown talent.

To register for the upcoming College ID Camp or get involved in another forthcoming program, visit www.springsoccerclub.com. See ad on opposite page





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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

SPRINGS SOCCER CLUB

SPRING SOCCER 2025

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SpringsSoccerClub.com

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- 6pm-7pm

ADP



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FREE PLAYER ID. CLINICS

U11 - U18



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GIRLS

U11-U18

Boys born
2014
through
2007

APRIL 6

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Clinic for players
interested in joining next
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LOCATION:
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33071

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Girls born
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through
2007

APRIL 2 & 9

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U13-U18: 7:30-8:45PM

GIRLS NPL ID CLINIC

NPL Identification Clinic for
players interested in joining
next season's team.

LOCATION:
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CORAL SPRINGS, FL. 33076

THESE CLINICS ARE FOR PLAYERS NOT CURRENTLY REGISTERED WITH SPRING SOCCER CLUB WHO WANT TO BE EVALUATED FOR NEXT SEASON'S ECNL-RL / NPL

- Facebook: SpringsSoccerClub
- Twitter: Springs_SC
- Instagram: springsoccerclub
- Location: Springs Soccer Club Coral Springs, FL

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REGISTER: SPRINGSSOCCERCLUB.COM

Meet The

Sutherland Family



Khaleel and Erica Sharp-Sutherland enjoy living and working in the beautiful city of Coral Springs together with their active children, Khaleel Jr, 15, Khloe, 10, and Kha'laya, 7.

Mrs. Sharp-Sutherland has been a 1st grade teacher for 12 years at the Renaissance Charter School at Coral Springs.

Khaleel is a professional photographer and Employment specialist for Individuals with barriers.

All of their children are excited to pursue their favorite sports, where they have made many friends and enjoy maintaining their physical fitness.

Khaleel Jr. is on the Varsity school soccer team with Coral Springs Charter School and also plays travel soccer with Springs Soccer Club

Khloe also enjoys competing with the Springs Soccer Club.

Kha'laya is passionate about honing her skills and performing Gymnastics and playing Softball.

Dad is very involved in athletics and coaching, spending his spare time sharing his passion and expertise. He has an impressive background, having coached and helped lead his college team to a CAAA Championship, which was crucial in saving his scholarship. Erica tells us, "Both of us were once athletes, and my husband played college football, so sports have always been a significant part of our lives."

When it comes to time off of the fields, Khaleel tells us, "We cherish experiencing new things as a family, whether it's traveling to new places or trying out different activities. We're passionate about sports, especially soccer, and we love a bit of friendly competition. Eating out and exploring new restaurants is also something we enjoy."

The Sutherlands would love for other families to know that they really enjoy helping others and spending time together. They also enjoy visiting their loved ones up north, dancing, and playing board games together. They value togetherness and making the most out of every moment.

In the 9th grade at Coral Springs Charter School, Khaleel Jr says that Geography is his favorite subject. His two younger siblings both attend Renaissance charter school at Coral Springs, where Khloe prefers PE in the fifth grade. 1st grader, Kha'laya, isn't shy about her three preferences; Science, PE, and recess.

Truly enamored with their community, Erica says, "I love living in Coral Springs for several reasons. The sense of fellowship here is incredible, especially evident when we experienced our house fire. The community came together to support us in ways we never expected, showing the true spirit of neighborliness."

Khaleel agrees and adds, "The city itself is beautiful, with clean, green spaces that make it a pleasure to live here. Everything is conveniently close, from family-friendly eateries to excellent schools, making daily life both easy and enjoyable. Coral Springs truly offers a wonderful environment for families to thrive."



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Relay For Life of North Broward to Raise Funds to Help End Cancer As We Know It

The annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of North Broward, held on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the Coral Springs Sportsplex, will unite the community to celebrate survivors and remember those lost to the disease.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay For Life of Parkland of North Broward (formerly called Relay For Life of Parkland, Coral Springs, Margate and Coconut Creek) invites the communities to join the movement to honor and remember loved ones and fight back for lifesaving change on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the Coral Springs Sportsplex.

This year, as ACS commemorates 40 Years of Impact with Relay For Life, we celebrate the extraordinary journey that began with Dr. Gordy Klatt's vision in 1985. His 24-hour marathon around a Tacoma track sparked a global movement, uniting communities to fight back against cancer. Over the decades, Relay For Life has transformed into a worldwide symbol of hope, remembrance, and collective determination, raising funds and awareness to support the American Cancer Society's mission. Since 1985, Relay For Life has raised \$6.8 billion to help save lives from cancer.

Relay For Life is a community of survivors, caregivers, local citizens, volunteers, and participants who believe that the future can be free from cancer and own the power to make that change. It continues to be the largest peer-to-peer fundraising event, with 2.5 million participants globally uniting to save lives from cancer.

"Relay For Life is more than just a walk. It is a volunteered movement that unites communities to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and raise funds to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families," said Event Lead and cancer survivor Chris Fletcher.

The American Cancer Society's mission is to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

"During our Relay event on April 5th at the Coral Springs Sportsplex, we're planning on honoring the Survivors, Thrivers still in their fight, and the Caregivers who provide so much help, love, and hope for those fighting" explains Chris, who fought Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2019.

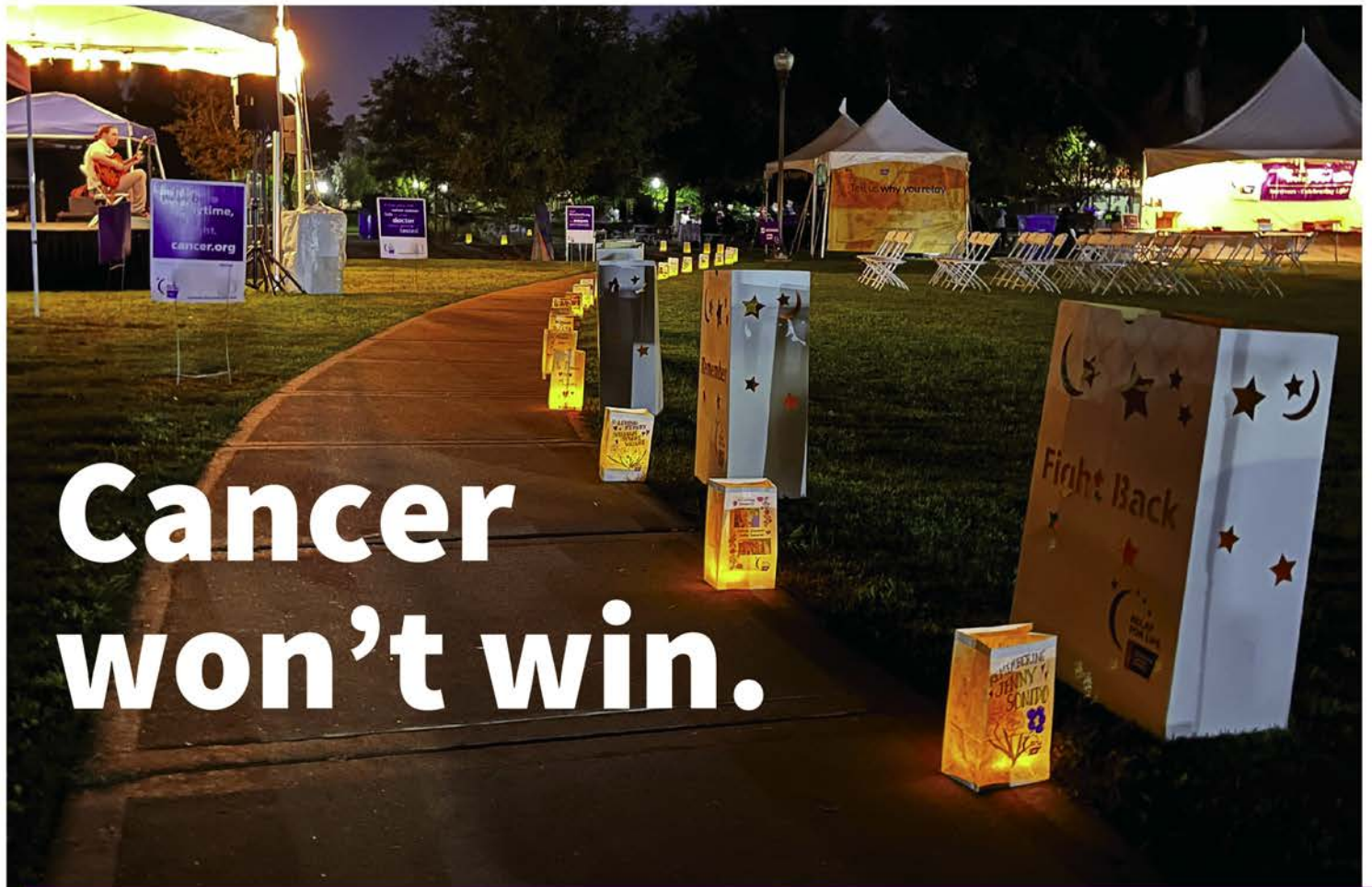
"We have a Game Night theme this year: 'Leveling Up For 40 Years – Game Over, Cancer'" said Entertainment Lead Megan Mila. "More than 50 teams and more than 1,000 participants will join together to raise funds and awareness to free the world from the pain and suffering of cancer. Our goal is to host over 100 cancer survivors and their caregivers at the event. The opening ceremony will include a special Survivors Lap. Survivors, Thrivers and their Caregivers will also enjoy a complimentary dinner. After sunset, we light Luminaria bags to remember those we have lost, to celebrate cancer survivors, and to show those affected by cancer that they are not alone."



Dollars raised each year by Relay participants across the country help support the American Cancer Society's mission in countless ways, including funding and conducting breakthrough research, providing education and advocating for the needs of cancer patients and their families, and providing essential services throughout their cancer journey.

"It's never been easier to raise money for Relay For Life and help fund the future. Every dollar raised fuels the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission. This year, all proceeds raised at our Relay Kids Zone will go directly to Pediatric Cancer Research initiatives. The fight against cancer needs you now more than ever," said Survivor Program Chair Amanda Fletcher.

To learn more about Relay For Life and form a team or register as an individual or cancer survivor, visit Relayforlife.org/parklandfl.



Cancer won't win.

Relay For Life of North Broward

April 5th, 2025

4pm to 9pm

Coral Springs Sportsplex

2800 Sportsplex Dr., Coral Springs FL



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Join us for the 2025 Relay For Life of North Broward, incorporating Parkland, Coral Springs, Margate, and Coconut Creek. Everyone is welcome!

1.800.227.2345

RelayForLife.org/ParklandFL

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The Athlete's Elbow Part 1

By Dr. Howard Gelb

Elbow injuries are common in overhand and throwing sports. Injuries often include golfer's elbow or medial epicondylitis, tennis elbow or lateral epicondylitis and little league elbow or medial apophysitis. Epicondylitis is a microscopic tearing of the tendon of the wrist flexors or extensors at their origin on the sides of the elbow. Medial epicondylitis is characterized by pain on the inner aspect of the elbow while lateral epicondylitis is characterized by pain on the outer elbow. Both types of epicondylitis are caused by overuse, excessive training, improper technique or playing with equipment that is not sized properly. The treatment of tennis or golfer's elbow involves: 1) rest from the offending activity and 2) appropriate stretches and strengthening of the associated muscles of the forearm and wrist. Cortisone injection can be useful for cases that have not responded to the rehab program. However, multiple injections over a short period of time are not indicated due to the side effects of the cortisone. Rehabilitation is the mainstay of treatment for 80% of patients. If a patient fails the above treatment, MRI may be useful to evaluate the extent of the tendon injury. Surgery for lateral epicondylitis can be done open or arthroscopically, and involves the debridement of the tendinosis (damaged tendon). Medial epicondylitis is an open procedure due to the proximity of the ulnar nerve. A relatively new but promising treatment for epicondylitis is PRP (platelet rich plasma injections). PRP shows better long term results than cortisone and actually helps heal the tendon by providing growth factors to the torn tendon. Read next month for Part 2, a closer look at little league elbow.

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Soccer

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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

Seminole Nation

Father-Daughter Program for fathers and daughters ages 5-10 serving the northern quarter of Broward County, Florida. For more info, please visit big5@seminolenation.org or email big5@seminolenation.org See article on page 18.

SOFLO Dad's Group

Your space to recharge, recalibrate, and rise. This group focuses on YOU: your mental health, your physical strength, and your overall well-being. It's a space to bond with other fathers who understand the challenges and victories of fatherhood and are just as committed to becoming the best version of themselves. For more info call 954-876-1378 or visit www.sofloninja.com See ad on page 14.

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



Joey, who had a brain tumor, and his family with Dean Hertzler, MD.

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Parkland Connections

Parkland Little League

For more info., call (954) 604-2442 or visit www.parklandll.com.

Basketball

PARKLAND REC BASKETBALL
www.parklandbasketball.com or call the hotline (954) 227-0989.

Tackle Football & Cheerleading

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 Cheer contact: 786-236-0948 or cheer@parklandrangers.com.
 See ad on opposite page.

Flag Football

PARKLAND FLAG FOOTBALL
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 See ad below.

Lacrosse

PARKLAND REDHAWKS
 For more info go to www.parklandlacrosse.com

BUZZARDS MEN'S LACROSSE CLUB
 For more info contact Mike at 954-540-8970

Soccer

PARKLAND REC SOCCER
 For more info, visit www.parklandsoccer.net

PARKLAND TRAVEL SOCCER CLUB
 For more info, see www.parklandtravelsoccer.com or emailinfo@parklandtravelsoccer.com.

Private Schools & Camp

NORTH BROWARD PREPARATORY SCHOOL
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SOFLO NINJA ACADEMY CAMP
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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. 10559 Trails End (located inside Pine Trails Park) For more info please call 954-757-4105.

Special Needs

PARKLAND BUDDY SPORTS
 Find out about league offerings and activities. www.ParklandBuddySports.com See page 19.

CHALLENGER BASEBALL LEAGUE
 Open to all special needs kids and their families at no cost. For more info, call (954) 345-9329.

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

Adult Softball

For more info. contact Parkland Parks & Rec. Manager Bruno Battel at 954-757-4103

Scouting

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

SOFLO Dad's Group

Your space to recharge, recalibrate, and rise. This group focuses on YOU: your mental health, your physical strength, and your overall well-being. It's a space to bond with other fathers who understand the challenges and victories of fatherhood and are just as committed to becoming the best version of themselves. For more info call 954-876-1378 or visit www.softloninja.com See ad on page 14.

Important Numbers

Leisure Services	(954)757-4105
Field Conditions	(954)757-4110
Park Ranger	(954)575-1007
Youth, Teen, & Senior Programs	(954)757-4129
City Hall	(954)753-5040
Tennis	(954)757-1910
P-REC	(954)757-4105



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Buzzards Lacrosse...

Where Passion for the Game Never Fades

By Ashley Ferraro, Photo credit TKS Solutions

For nearly two decades, Buzzards Lacrosse has been a hub for adults looking to stay active, sharpen their skills, and connect with neighbors who share a passion for the game. As the only program of its kind in South Florida, Buzzards provides a unique opportunity for players to enjoy casual, pickup-style lacrosse in a welcoming environment.

The organization began informally at Pine Trails Park, where a group of youth lacrosse coaches started playing casual games alongside their kids. The interest grew to the point where adult players began forming their own games, and the Buzzards became an established club. Since then, the group has expanded, drawing in players from across South Florida, including some who travel from as far north as Port St. Lucie and as far south as Miami.

Each Sunday morning from 9 to 11 a.m., the Buzzards host open runs, which are pick-up lacrosse games held at various locations such as Mullins Park, Coral Springs Sportsplex, and Wellington High School. These sessions are open to players of all experience levels, with no set teams or referees. Participants form teams on the spot and play without the structure of a formal league. The relaxed nature of these sessions allows for a mix of ages and abilities, with some attendees in their 60s or 70s.

While Sunday morning sessions remain the focus for many, Buzzards Lacrosse also provides opportunities for competitive play. The club fields a Masters Division team (ages 35 and older) in the Florida Lacrosse League (FLL), where they compete against other adult lacrosse clubs in the state. In 2024, the Buzzards won the Florida Lacrosse League Masters State Championship and will attempt to defend their title at the 2025 championship on March 9 in Orlando.

Many Buzzards players also take part in tournaments outside of Florida, competing in events in Lake Placid, Vail, Ocean City, and even as far as Hawaii. Players often join teams based on availability, age, and skill level, making it possible for them to stay involved in lacrosse throughout the year.

Buzzards Lacrosse operates with the goal of providing an accessible and inclusive space for players at all levels. "This has been a joy of mine since I was nine years old," says longtime Buzzards manager Mike MacLeod. "Some people love boating or fishing—lacrosse is our happy place. Sunday morning lacrosse is where it all comes together. We want to promote the game across South Florida and give everyone an opportunity to play, regardless of experience. Even if you're brand new, you're welcome. You could be playing with a former professional player one minute and a high school senior the next."

Players interested in joining the Sunday morning open runs are encouraged to attend and participate. A \$5 donation per player helps cover field permit costs, but there are no tryouts or formal registration requirements.

To stay updated on game locations and other club activities, please join the Buzzards Lacrosse Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/buzzardslax.





“Building Bonds: The Power of Tribe and Tradition in Fatherhood”

By Randle Ferrari

Normally I wouldn't even consider taking four kids under the age of 8 camping, nor would I ever suggest it to anyone. My wife is a doula though, and her client was past due. I was planning on just taking the older 3 to Fisheating Creek. It's a close campout. Relaxing, low-key, we do a nature walk; it's not a big nation event. Just a couple of tribes. Besides, I've known the Cherokees now for 3 years. I knew of worse comes to worst, these 9 other guys at the campout in our tribe would be there for us, and it was not some huge group.

Maybe I was a little nervous, but it was amazing. I've been taking the other girls camping for their whole lives. It is a tradition I value greatly, and luckily the other tribe was on cooking duty. Our third girl has been camping specifically with this group for almost a year already. It is amazing how her confidence has grown so fast; and the trust and bonds I've grown with these 9 other dads in our tribe over these few years.

We do a lot together. Our tribe does a monthly dinner. Recently we even had Cooking With Enid come to the house to do a lesson on the patio and a bonfire out back instead of a nearby restaurant. It's nice to get local dads with their kids together. We all immediately have some common denominators, some common ground: our kids, the challenges of parenting, and the importance of

spending time outdoors. So great to get the kids outside, off screen time, hanging out with their friends.

Not doing it alone. Building community is so important. As a dad of four, I can't pretend that it's always easy. It's these moments—building relationships with other dads—that make the experience even better. The kids get to play, build friendships, and learn new things, all while we connect and support each other.

My eldest daughter has been on over a dozen campouts with our tribe, and she loves every minute of it. The camping trips, cook-offs, and dinners have become highlights in her life. It seems like the younger 3 love it just as much. I'm glad too because it is not easy to wean a baby from nursing. Very appreciative of my backup, I could not have wished for a better crew to count on. Having a strong support system of fellow dads who understand and are there to help makes it so much easier. It's not just about camping trips—it's about building a community that you can count on and knowing your kids are surrounded by positive influences.

If you're a dad with children aged 5-10, in Broward or Palm Beach counties , please check out www.seminolenation.org or email big5@seminolenation.org. The experiences, the support, and the memories you'll create will make all the difference for you and your kids.





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Introducing Coral Springs' First Female City Manager: Catherine Givens

Meet the former Investment Performance Manager, Public Servant, and Soccer Mom who now leads the City with Everything Under the Sun

Catherine Givens is a fourth-generation Coral Springs resident who once managed major financial equity investments in India, England, Poland, and more – until she felt a calling to return home to her roots in 2016.

Shifting to public service nearly a decade ago, Givens has now worked her way into a new leadership role – serving as the first female City Manager for the City of Coral Springs.

“I have always had a servant’s heart and a desire to do transformative and lasting work,” Givens said. “My goal is to pair my passion for community with my global worldview to lead the city where I grew up and where generations of my family have called home.”

After starting her career as a global performance analyst and manager at Franklin Templeton Investments, Givens has worked for the City of Coral Springs for the past 10 years, first taking a role as Director of Budget and Strategy before earning a promotion to Assistant City Manager, and, most recently as Deputy City Manager.

Givens has a proven track record of success with the city. In 2024, she led the city’s visioning process which asked residents to share which city focus areas they would like to see prioritized over the next 10 years.

“A vision is why we exist and where we are going,” Givens said. “Through the visioning process, we listened to multiple generations of residents and business leaders to learn what they want to see in their hometown.”

Givens says that both her short-and long-term priorities are guided by feedback from residents and businesses along with the Commission-led strategic planning process. Among her primary priorities are advocating for

greater sustainability practices, improving city aesthetics, supporting economic growth, maintaining premier public safety and streamlining fiscal spending.

Looking ahead, Givens plans to maintain Coral Springs’ reputation as a family-friendly community and an active, healthy community. As a parent, Givens has a deep passion for education and already laid the foundation for school success by creating framework in 2023 to better facilitate relationships between city schools, city government, and other key stakeholders.

Givens holds a bachelor’s degree in finance and a Master of Business Administration in Global Entrepreneurship and Finance from Florida State University. She is also a proud Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School graduate. She credits much of her success to quality education, at tremendous support system, engaging extracurricular activities such as Eagle

Regiment Marching and Concert Band, and hopes to afford the same opportunities to Coral Springs students.

As far as the gravity of the job, Givens has full support from her parents, who live down the street, her husband, Michael, who is also a public servant and military veteran, and her 15-year-old son T.D. who, an avid soccer player who frequents Coral Springs parks.

When asked by City Commission in her interview why she should be chosen for the role, without hesitation, Givens boldly stated, “I’m ready.”

More information about Catherine Givens can be found at www.coralssprings.gov





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