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See article on pages 12-13.

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It's All About

Welcome to June!

Now that Summer is hot on our heels, many of us are excited to get started on our vacations/work breaks, and have some fun! Because the Spectator is made possible by local businesses, we ask you to please patronize your favorite local stores, service companies, insurance agents, doctors, realty companies, and more!! Our neighborhood businesses are flourishing, and they deserve your support!

Another group of people who deserve a GIANT SHOUT OUT are DADS/FATHERS/PADRES/POPS! We're so grateful for his guidance. This issue celebrates that important guy.

You may be tired of hearing it, but PLEASE make sure your household is "Hurricane Prepared." We've got a checklist for necessities on page 8. PLEASE take it seriously!

Finally, we pray for every family touched by the Spectator, and every home in between. God Bless our Soldiers,

Shellie & Scott

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Publisher & Managing Editor

Shellie Miller - Farrugia

Creative Director

Scott Farrugia

Photography

Scott Farrugia

Web, Social Media & email Marketing

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Contributing Writers

Randle Ferrari
Shellie Miller-Farrugia
Ashley Ferraro
Dr. Brandon C. Maisel
Dr. Ravin Sajani
Dr. Michelle Snyder

Advertising Sales

Office
(954) 753-4300

Scott Farrugia
(954) 684-6590

e-mail:

spectatormagsales@gmail.com



Facebook.com/MySpectator
MySpectatorOnline.com

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On the cover:

Michael Longo, founder of Icon Realty
See Pages 12-13.

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Community!

Fatherhood's True Investment

In Coral Springs and Parkland, where opportunity abounds and ambition thrives, Father's Day is more than a moment to unwrap gifts or share a meal ... it's a chance to reflect on presence, purpose, and the legacy built in everyday moments.

Our neighborhoods are filled with excellence. From elite sports programs and top-tier schools to a near endless list of extracurriculars, our children are surrounded by opportunities to grow, achieve, and shine. Yet, let's not forget, the most essential ingredient in their development remains something no program or tutor can provide: the steady, loving involvement of Dad.

It's no secret that many families rely on dual incomes. Work is demanding, and for many fathers, success may be measured in hours billed, deals closed, or titles earned. But while professional accomplishments are admirable, it begs the question; at what cost?

Children don't measure love in paychecks or promotions. They measure it in bedtime stories, sideline cheers, and quiet conversations after a hard day. They thrive when they know their Daddy isn't just a provider, but a guide, protector, and counselor. No one can replace that presence—not a coach, not a teacher, and not even the most dedicated friend.

Being a great dad doesn't require perfection. It doesn't mean being at every game or never missing a recital. It asks for you to be attuned, make time, and choose connection even when schedules are packed. It means knowing that the moments that shape your children's confidence, values, and sense of self are often the smallest ones—shared over dinner, in the car, or during a walk to the mailbox.

And those moments add up. Over time, they build a foundation of trust, safety, and love that no outside achievement can substitute. Even when life feels chaotic, the calm and presence of a father can anchor an entire household.

Serving as a family pillar, a strong, engaged father has a ripple effect, influencing siblings, grandparents, and entire support networks. He models emotional strength, patience, and flexibility. He demonstrates that love isn't just said—it's shown, again and again, through presence and attention.

This Father's Day, let's focus our attention on more than just fatherhood. Let's celebrate father presence. Let's remember that the best investment dads can make isn't in stocks or properties—it's in time, trust, and the lives of the children who look to them for direction and love.

To the fathers of Coral Springs and Parkland: You matter to EVERYONE! We appreciate all you do and, despite your daily professional grind, the work you do at home is undoubtedly the most powerful work of all.

Happy Father's Day!



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Meet The

Richard Family



For the Richard family, weekends often mean ballfields, family time, and a strong sense of community. Whether coaching, cheering, or just spending time outdoors, Ryan and Michelle have built a life full of activity, love, and local pride.

Ryan, a Mechanical Engineer and Director of Operations for SEES Inc., moved to Coral Springs in 1989. Michelle is a busy professional, and owns Michelle Richard Photography. Together, they have raised their two sons—Dominic, 14, and Duke, 12, in their Coral Springs community since 2011.

Both boys attend Ramblewood Middle School and are deeply involved in sports. Dominic, an 8th grader, just completed his final season with the school's baseball team and will head to St. Thomas Aquinas in the fall. He also plays volleyball and flag football, and his favorite subject is World History. Duke, in 6th grade, enjoys math and is equally busy with baseball and just wrapped up a flag football season.

The family's weekends revolve around sports, especially Coral Springs American Little League, where Ryan has coached for over six years and serves as a board member. Ryan advises, "Never allow the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." Michelle supports both the school and league, helping whenever she can. "We're usually on a baseball field most weekends," she says, "but we make time for fishing, family trips, and Ryan's car projects."

When they're not at a game, the family enjoys working on Ryan's vintage Mustang, fishing, or taking spontaneous trips. "I love teaching the boys about cars," Ryan shares. "It's a great way to bond and pass down practical skills."

Michelle's photography business keeps her busy, capturing family moments and local events across Coral Springs. "It's been rewarding to run a business in the same community where we're raising our family," she says.

The Richards share their lives with three beloved pets— their horse, Buster, Codie, a Boxer, and Charlee, their German Shepherd. "It's a full house," Michelle laughs, "but full of life."

Over the years, Ryan has enjoyed watching Coral Springs evolve. "The city has grown in all the right ways," he says. "There are more family-friendly activities, new restaurants, and a great city league sports program. We're especially thankful for the Coral Springs Police Department and the safety they provide."

With Father's Day around the corner, Ryan is looking forward to one simple gift: "Sleeping in, then spending the day with my family."

For the Richards, life is all about balance—between sports and school, work and play, and time spent together. Their journey is a testament to staying grounded while embracing every opportunity to grow, connect, and enjoy the ride.



Michelle Richard
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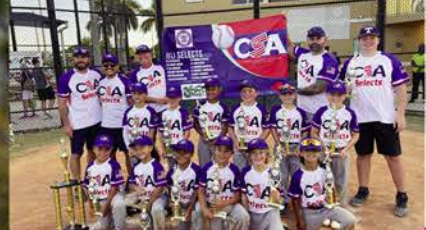
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Celebrating 54 Years of Baseball



Coral Springs American Little League Prepares for Fall Season

By Ashley Ferraro

Coral Springs American Little League (CSALL) has been a part of the city's history since 1971. As the oldest officially recognized baseball league in Coral Springs, it continues to offer youth players structured, skill-building opportunities in a community-oriented setting. Each season brings new players, returning families, and a full calendar of practices and games held at Mullins Park.

Registration for the 2025 Fall Ball season opens July 1. The league will again welcome players ages 4 to 16, with a notable change that went into effect this past season: under a new Little League rule, players ages 4, 5, and 6 can now register with any local league, regardless of residential boundaries. CSALL is continuing to adopt this policy for the fall season, allowing families from neighboring cities to participate in its youngest divisions.

"We saw about a 10 percent increase in the four, five, and six-year-old group this spring," said League President Tony Juliano. "It's a good way to get more of those younger kids into the league."

This past spring season saw close to 300 enrollments. With regular-season play complete, CSALL is now in the All-Star phase, with teams competing in district tournaments across several age groups.

Notably, CSALL's 8U team had competed in the District 10 Select Tournament—an achievement that reflects the league's strong foundation in player development and teamwork.

In addition to the core divisions, CSALL has continued running its middle school division through

the Intermediate League. The program has been operating in collaboration with Little League International as part of a potential charter pilot and remains popular with older players seeking more advanced competition. It serves as a natural next step for players who have aged out of the younger divisions but want to continue playing within a structured and challenging environment.

While baseball remains the focus, CSALL also emphasizes character, community, and growth off the field. Parents and community members regularly volunteer their time as coaches, umpires, and team coordinators, ensuring each season runs smoothly. High school students can also volunteer and earn service hours by helping out with various league activities.

Reflecting on the spring season, Juliano shared, "This was one of our strongest seasons in recent memory. The league ran smoothly, and the feedback from families has been very positive. We had a lot of new parents get involved, and it's always great to see the community come together to support the kids."

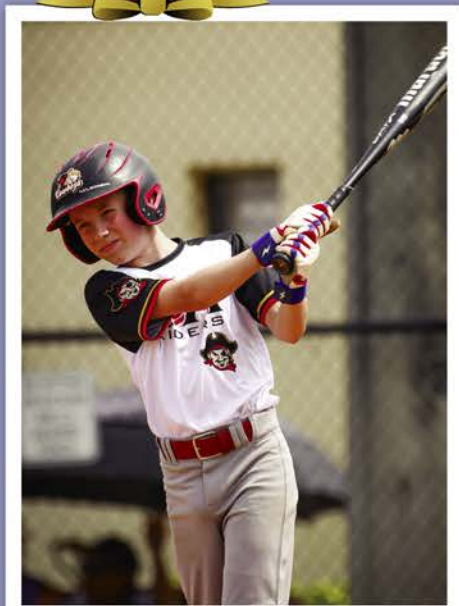
With the fall 2025 season approaching, families are encouraged to mark their calendars for the upcoming registration. Players aged 4 to 6 are not subject to boundary restrictions, while players age 7 and older must live within the CSALL boundary or meet eligibility through Coral Springs public schools or a City of Coral Springs Sports Card.

Registration for Fall Ball opens July 1. For more information or to sign up, visit www.csall.com. See ad on opposite page.





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Reinventing Real Estate with Michael Longo

Michael Longo is no stranger to bold ideas or to turning them into massive success stories. A Coral Springs native with deep roots in the South Florida community, Longo began his real estate career in 2013 with Remax. But even in those early years, he carried a vision far beyond the traditional path.

“I always wanted to create something that would make people stop and take notice,” Longo says. “Not just a company but a brand that made it clear we were passionate about excellence, not just in real estate, but in everything we do.”

That vision came to life in 2017 when he launched Blue Realty. Longo didn’t just want to build another brokerage—he wanted to build a movement. The breakthrough idea? Wrapping a fleet of cars in a bold, unmistakable shade of blue that would instantly stand out on the roads, in driveways, and at open houses.

“It was simple but effective,” he says. “People started recognizing us everywhere—grocery store parking lots, school pick-up lines, even on the highway. The cars became mobile bill-

boards, and it created an incredible buzz.”

What started as a clever branding move quickly evolved into a powerful marketing engine. The blue cars became a symbol of professionalism, unity, and market presence, and they helped recruit top-tier agents who were excited to be part of something fresh and high-energy. Within two years, Blue Realty grew from a handful of close friends to over 50 realtors, becoming one of the most dominant real estate agencies in South Florida.

But, like any great story, Longo’s journey took an unexpected turn. “Recently, I was forced to start over,” he shares. “It’s a long story, but I still own nearly half of Blue Realty and have launched a luxury brand I’m extremely proud of: Icon Realty.”

With a new black-and-gold color scheme and 15 wrapped vehicles already hitting the streets, Icon Realty is more than a comeback—it’s a reinvention. Over 40 agents from Blue Realty have joined Longo in this new venture, and the team is currently undertaking a \$250,000 office buildout at their new flagship location in “The Walk” at 2808 University Drive in Coral Springs. A second



office is also open in Fort Lauderdale managed by seasoned real estate expert, Madison Gianchetta.

“Our goal isn’t just to sell luxury homes—it’s to set a new standard for what luxury real estate should feel like,” Longo says.

Now, Michael Longo is bringing his vision and energy to television. He’s set to star in a brand-new TV show titled *Boss of Real Estate*, which will be airing soon on two major networks. The show will spotlight Longo’s journey, his bold approach to business, and the high-stakes world of luxury real estate. “It’s going to be a behind-the-scenes look at what it really takes to build an empire and the hustle that comes with it,” he says.

While his business accomplishments are impressive, it’s clear that Michael Longo is equally proud of the life he’s built outside the office. Having just celebrated his 40th birthday, Longo is a devoted husband and father. He recently married the love of his life, Ashley, and the couple lives in Parkland with their four beautiful children.

“I’m a very involved father,” he says with a

smile. “My faith is a big part of my life. We go to Church by the Glades, and I try to lead my family with the same integrity and work ethic I bring into my business.”

From humble beginnings to building two of the most talked-about real estate brands in Florida—and now stepping into the national spotlight—Michael Longo’s story is one of vision, resilience, and unstoppable momentum. And if the past is any indication, the best is yet to come.



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See ad & article on pages 10-11.

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L to R: Stanley Szybinski, MD; Stephen Plachta, MD; Michael Dressing, MD; Eric Eisner, MD; Matthew Fazekas, MD; Michael Jofe, MD; Neal Mc Nerney, MD; Randolph Cohen, MD; Stephen Storer, MD; Jeremy Frank, MD



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see ad & article on pages 18-19

Private Schools & Camp

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Parkland P-Rec

PICKLEBALL
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Special Needs

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Adult Softball

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

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By Dr. Ravin Sajnani, MD

Hello Coral Springs and Parkland! My name is Ravin Sajnani, and I'm an Ophthalmologist practicing in Coral Springs. In this monthly piece, I'd like to share some interesting and useful tidbits about our eyes - how they work and how we can take care of them.

This month we'll focus on diabetes and the eyes. As many of us know, Diabetes Mellitus (typically just referred to as diabetes) is a medical condition in which blood sugar can run high. Over time, high blood sugar can damage the small blood vessels of the body. Three common complications that can happen when the small blood vessels get damaged are diabetic nephropathy (affecting the kidneys), diabetic neuropathy (affecting nerves), and diabetic retinopathy (affecting the retina - the back of the eye where our eyes' nerves are). Diabetic retinopathy typically starts silently, and often one can experience no symptoms until the condition has advanced significantly. At its worst, diabetic retinopathy can cause macular edema (fluid in the retina), death of regions of the retina, and retinal detachments.

The best way to prevent diabetic retinopathy is to make sure your blood sugar is well controlled. This can be accomplished by working closely with your primary care provider who can advise you on healthy diet and exercise habits. Beyond this, since diabetic retinopathy often starts without symptoms, it is important for everyone diagnosed with diabetes to have a dilated eye exam at least once a year. This way, the retinopathy can be caught and, if necessary, treated earlier.



Normal retina with no retinopathy
Source: University of Iowa



Severe diabetic retinopathy
Source: AAO



Diabetic retinal detachment
Source: AAO

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Father's Day...

Leading with Heart for a Stronger Parkland

By Randle Ferrari

Father's Day is more than a celebration—it's a call to lead with love, humility, and purpose. As a father to four daughters, with a fifth on the way, I've learned that fatherhood is about guiding with heart, and letting the lessons of home ripple into our Parkland community. From a group of North Broward Prep dads grilling at Okeechobee Steakhouse to tending our backyard mango trees or sharing stories by a campfire, these moments shape lives. Research underscores the impact: involved fathers lower their children's risks of incarceration, teenage pregnancy, and becoming school drop-outs. Yet, men face silent struggles—suicide rates are four times higher than women's—reminding us of the vital need for connection and community.

In our Parkland backyard, my daughters have grown up planting seeds, harvesting vegetables and fruits, and selling them to neighbors. These experiences teach them the rhythms of nature, the value of hard work, and the joy of community. They've cultivated not just crops but a deep-rooted love for Parkland and its people, learning that nurturing the land and relationships go hand in hand.

Six years ago, I lost my father, a man whose love touched countless lives. Soon after, I met Spike, someone he mentored. My dad was Spike's first boss, and I saw my father's spirit in him—same phrases, same spark. We became close friends, even crossing paths by chance during a Thanksgiving vacation with our families. Tragically, three years ago, Spike took his own life. I wish he'd had the support I've found through the Indian Princesses, a vibrant group of Parkland dads who camp, laugh, and tackle life's challenges together. This community, rich with diverse perspectives, has been a lifeline, creating cherished memories with our children and reminding us that every step, even a stumble, leads toward a brighter future.

Father's Day is about steering the raft—staying steady, learning from those who came before, and honoring their light. My great-grandfather Clarence, a WW2 veteran who parachuted on D-Day, was one such guide. He took me to see Saving Private Ryan—a bold choice for a young kid—and his lessons of courage and service endure, though he passed when I was 12. As a Shriners potentate, he sold the most raffle tickets for charity, showing me the power of giving back. The Indian Princesses echoes this truth: collaboration builds something greater than the sum of its parts. Whether we're camping, grilling, or sharing stories, we forge bonds that strengthen Parkland and make giving to something bigger than ourselves deeply meaningful.

I dream of a thriving, eco-friendly Parkland where families connect and flourish. Let's replace astroturf with native plants to nurture our environment. I invite you to join the Indian Princesses—men, let's grow as fathers; women, encourage the fathers in your lives to connect. My wife, daughters, and I—expecting our fifth child—are grateful for this community that lifts us all. Together, we can make Parkland a beacon of health, connection, and sustainability.

This Father's Day, we honor those who paved the way—my dad, Clarence, Spike. Their wisdom inspires us to lead with heart, build community, and shape a future where every family thrives. Let's keep the love flowing and the campfires burning. Join me in making Parkland greener, stronger, and more united. Happy Father's Day—let's build a town we're proud to call home.

Sticky Fingers? Trigger Finger may be the Culprit!

By Dr. Brandon C. Maisel

Trigger finger is a common medical condition seen in orthopedic offices across the country. Over time, one or multiple fingers may become "sticky," no longer opening and closing smoothly. Trigger finger is most seen in those over the age of 50 and/or are diagnosed with diabetes. Additionally, individuals who are manual laborers and perform repetitive movements with their hands are prone to trigger finger.

In medical terms, trigger finger is caused by stenosing tenosynovitis of the A1 pulley system in the hand. As Dr. Maisel describes it, "The rope that allows you to bend your fingers has a knot in it and is getting caught on another piece of tissue." Symptoms include clicking, catching and pain at the base of the fingers. Unfortunately, trigger finger may slowly progress over time and can become physically locked in a flexed position. Thankfully, at Gelb Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic center we offer many treatment options.

During your visit, you will undergo a thorough evaluation of your hand and fingers. Occasionally, you may be suffering from other conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, calcific tenosynovitis or carpal tunnel syndrome that will be evaluated during the office visit. An x-ray of the hand will be taken and reviewed with you at the bedside. If you are indeed suffering from trigger finger, a comprehensive plan will be developed. Treatment options include occupational therapy, finger splinting, prescribed anti-inflammatory medication, ultra-sound guided A1 pulley cortisone injection and even percutaneous release of the A1 pulley as well under ultrasound guidance. To elaborate further, percutaneous release of the A1 pulley is an office-based procedure that will free up space for the flexor tendon to glide smoothly and no longer get "caught" on another piece of tissue. Since local anesthesia will be used, you may drive yourself home after the procedure!

As you can see there are many treatment options that can ultimately resolve your trigger finger issues. Call for an appointment today to discuss treatment options for your hard-working hands!

BRANDON C. MAISEL, D.O.

Board certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Dr. Maisel has a particular interest in treating acute and chronic musculoskeletal injuries including bone, joint, ligament, muscle, and tendon injuries. To further assist him in treatment and diagnosis, he utilizes musculoskeletal sonography and performs ultrasound-guided injections. Injections/aspiration include however, not limited to:

• Platelet rich plasma • Viscosupplementation • Various joints including hip, knee, and shoulder corticosteroid injections • Trigger Finger • Morton's Neuroma • Baker's Cyst • Ganglion Cyst

Howard J. Gelb, MD, PA
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Dr. Maisel trained at one of the top sports medicine programs in the country. His expertise using ultrasound guided injections, professionalism, and commitment to providing the best quality care makes him a great addition to our team.

-Dr. Howard J. Gelb



Pediatrician-Approved Ways to Keep Kids Safe This Summer

By Michelle Snyder, DO - Sawgrass Pediatrics

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, summer becomes a season full of adventure for children—whether it's running through sprinklers, biking around the neighborhood, or enjoying a day at the pool. While these activities bring joy and lasting memories, they also come with risks. Here are some important tips to keep in mind.

1. Hydration

Staying hydrated is essential for kids, especially during our Florida hot summer months when children are more active and lose fluids quickly through sweat. Make sure your child drinks plenty of water throughout the day—even before they feel thirsty. Pack a refillable water bottle whenever you're on the go or a frozen water bottle for a cool drink during activities. Signs of dehydration can include dry mouth, fatigue, dizziness, and fewer wet diapers or bathroom trips, so keep an eye out and remind kids to take regular water breaks.

2. Burn Prevention

Summer fun can sometimes come with hidden burn risks. Fireworks, even small sparklers, can cause serious injuries and should always be handled by adults. Hot sidewalks, sand, and pool surfaces can burn bare feet quickly—so encourage kids to wear shoes or sandals when walking outside. Remind them to test surfaces with their hand before sitting or playing, and always keep an eye on younger children around grills, fire pits, and other hot objects. A little caution goes a long way in preventing painful burns.

3. Water Safety

Water naturally draws kids in, making it crucial to stay extra alert whenever they're near it—even in shallow areas. To keep your child safe, consider these key tips: start swim lessons early and monitor their progress and ensure no one swims alone. Young children should remain an arms length distant from a reliable adult while learning to swim. Don't forget to stay aware of weather changes and steer clear of rip currents while visiting the beach.



4. Sun Protection

While the summer sun can feel great, it can also cause harmful sunburns—especially in children, who are more vulnerable to UV damage. Protect their skin with UPF 50 clothing, hats, and sunglasses, and apply broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with at least SPF 30 to exposed areas. Reapply every two hours, and after swimming or sweating.

5. Head injury/ Trauma Prevention

Wearing a helmet during activities such as riding a bicycle, skateboard or electric scooter can prevent head and brain injuries in children. Golf cart-related injuries occur at double the rate in children as they do in adults, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. To prevent injuries, children should wear seat belts in golf carts, helmets on bicycles, skateboards, electric scooters and all terrain vehicles and the driver must be legally licensed and not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

With a few simple precautions, you can help your child enjoy all summer has to offer while staying healthy and protected. As a pediatrician, I encourage families to stay informed, stay prepared, and most of all, stay present. Here's to a safe, active, and joy-filled summer

Michelle Snyder, DO

A pediatrician who is passionate about childhood development and preventative care. She empowers parents and children to understand and optimize their own health. Michelle joined Sawgrass Pediatrics in 2022.

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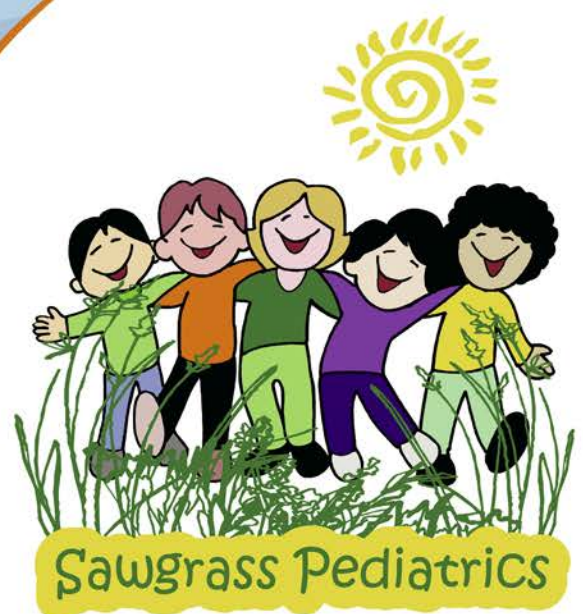
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