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DECEMBER 2016



DELRAY

NEWSPAPER

Miracle League's holiday wish: boundless playground

By: **Marisa Gottesman** Associate Editor

In baseball it's been said if you build it they will come. Well, Julia Kadel and her husband Jeff did build the Miracle League of Palm Beach County and kids did come to play ball.

Now, Kadel said she is ready to add a boundless play-

ground to Robert P. Miller Park for kids to be able to play on and hang out while waiting for their turn to hit the synthetic rubber turf.

The 11-year-old league is designed to make baseball a sport that everyone can play. The field is wheelchair accessible and the bags are painted on the field. Buddies

team up with players to help them bat and run the bases.

"We cater to kids who sit on the sidelines," Kadel said. "Now, they are sitting on the sidelines. I just want to have a beautiful area that is inclusive."

The current playground at the park is not accessible for kids who use wheelchairs or walkers. **[CONT. PG 2]**

Richard Jones Architecture to design historic restoration for iconic Masonic Temple



Proposed rendering for Masonic Temple designed by Richard Jones Architecture.

Staff Report

Delray Beach Architect Richard Jones has been chosen to design the historic restoration/ adaptive re-use of the 1920's Era Masonic Temple at 44 East Atlantic Avenue. The site sits directly across the street from Old School Square and was owned by the Masons up until the mid-90s. During the 40's and 50's the first level was home to the Delray Beach Post Office.

Richard Jones, who recently won a Historic Preservation Award from the State of Florida for his restoration and re-use of the Sam Ogren Chevrolet Dealership/21 Drops building is very excited. "I have a personal connection to this project," Jones said. "It's been my office for the last 10 years." Jones discussed the plan for a meticulous restoration of both interior and exterior will be

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Richard Jones Architecture to design historic restoration for iconic Masonic Temple



[FROM PG 1] based on the mid-20's original architectural plans and old photographs that he found in a safe within the building. All original building materials on the inside and outside will be preserved and repurposed. The downtown building with the great location, had fallen in disrepair over the years and portions sit empty, previous downstairs tenants included a vape shop.

"This will certainly make a clean, safe, and well utilized corner," said Todd Herbst, Partner with Big Time Restaurants, who also operates City Oyster and Rocco's Tacos in the downtown. Herbst will bring his Bossi concept to Downtown Delray as Osteria Bossi. He promises a warm comfortable interior along with fresh foods and home baked breads.

The 2-story restaurant will have a new feature window and stair that will showcase the buildings historic interior while leading patrons to a second-floor outdoor dining area overlooking Old School Square. The project faces a 3-month zoning approval process before building permits can be issued. Jones, who will need to relocate his architectural practice after 10 years overlooking Old School Square is optimistic, "Change is good, he said, I plan to stay in the building right up to the start of construction." ■

Delray commissioners split in selecting interim commissioner

Staff report

Delray Beach commissioners were deadlocked when selecting a fifth commissioner to serve with them.

Commissioners were scheduled to fill the seat vacated by Commissioner Al Jacquet, but after several rounds of voting they were unable to agree.

It came down to candidates Dr. Josh Smith and Yvonne Odom.

Mayor Cary Glickstein and Commissioner Jordana Jarjura supported Odom while Commissioners Shelly Petrolia and Mitch Katz supported Smith.

Glickstein said he supported Odom because she is always at commission meetings and involved in the city.

Katz said he supported Smith because of his ties to Atlantic High as a retired educator. He also pointed out that Glickstein supported Smith in a previous run for the commission.



Glickstein said he didn't support Smith for the vacant seat because he hasn't seen Smith in the chambers since the election.

Katz said he wouldn't support Odom because during a one-on-one meeting Odom said she supported some of Jacquet's decisions that Katz didn't agree with.

Because commissioners couldn't agree, they will discuss the appointment again on Dec. 6.

If they can't agree, a special election will be triggered. ■

Atlantic High seniors push for park gym

Staff report

Two Atlantic Community High school seniors want to add a park gym to Barwick Park.

It started as a school project for Talia Vessal and Christelle Singh, who are seniors enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Career Program with a concentration in the Drafting and Engineering Program.

The girls said most students volunteer with Habitat for Humanity to fulfill their required project for the program, but they wanted to challenge themselves.

"We decided we wanted to do something different," Singh said. "We decided to build an outdoor workout park."

They both said they have seen the parks in other cities and thought it would be an asset to Delray.

"We thought building a workout park will bring the community together," Vessal said.

They said they chose Barwick Park because it is close to their school and located near a lot of family residences that would benefit from having a free place to exercise.

What started as blueprints on a piece of paper for their



A proposed rendering of what a park gym would look like. Submitted photo. Rendering done by GameTime.

class assignment has turned into a business venture. They said they have been meeting with businesses and local residents to gain support and funding for the project.

They said they will present to the city this month and request additional funding.

There is currently an online Go Fund Me account to help pay for the project. They are trying to hit \$55,000. To donate, <https://www.gofundme.com/BarwickWorkoutPark> ■

Happy Hour

Happy Hour
Mon-Fri
5:30pm-7:30pm

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