

COLIN BAENZIGER & ASSOCIATES
EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

Section 5

Jay Boodheshwar

*Juno Beach Town Manager
Candidate Report*

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Cover Letter and Resume

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October 30, 2024

Mayor and Town Council
Town of Juno Beach
340 Ocean Drive
Juno Beach, Florida 33408

Submitted Via Email: Recruit28@cb-asso.com

Re: Town of Juno Beach Town Manager

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Vice-Mayor Halpern, Vice-Mayor Pro Tem Hosta, and Town Council Members Davis and Rosengarten:

It is with great excitement I submit this letter of interest and attached resume for consideration in your search for the Town of Juno Beach's next Town Manager. Having spent my longest professional stint with the Town of Palm Beach in high-level executive roles, including as Deputy Town Manager, I am very familiar with the Town of Juno Beach and its wonderful reputation as one of Florida's premier coastal communities. After reading the position announcement and the expectations for your next Town Manager, I look forward to making the case for why I may be the best fit for this critically important position.

About 2 ½ years ago, I made the very difficult decision to leave the Town of Palm Beach as its Deputy Town Manager to accept a very challenging position as the City Manager for the City of Naples, Florida. Leading the City of Naples through an extremely critical period has been incredibly rewarding. As outlined in my resume, in this short time I have reorganized departments, stabilized attrition, eliminated high vacancy rates, established a culture of service and accountability known as "The Naples Way", and commenced significant infrastructure projects. I also led the recovery efforts from two of the most destructive hurricanes in the history of Southwest Florida – Hurricanes Ian in 2022 and Milton in 2024. Although I anticipated serving the Naples community for more than 2 ½ years, I could not pass up the opportunity of possibly returning to Palm Beach County to serve as Town Manager for the Town of Juno Beach. I contemplated applying for the position when it was last vacant in 2022 but felt I could not in good conscious leave so soon, with the many challenges that were in front of the City at that time.

My public service career path, education, experience in Palm Beach County, and knowledge of the prestigious Juno Beach community make me a uniquely qualified candidate for this position. In terms of my public service experience, please allow me to begin by summarizing the scope and scale of my current responsibilities as City Manager for the City of Naples. The total FY2025 budget is over \$208,000,000, which is inclusive of CIP appropriations, business enterprise funds, and other funds/reserves. The total FY2025 number of full-time equivalent employees is 548. Incorporated as a municipality in 1923, the City of Naples celebrated its Centennial year in 2023. The City of Naples is a council/ manager form of government, comprised of an elected Mayor and six elected City Council Members to whom the City Manager reports. World-renowned, the City of Naples is both a tourist mecca and a vibrant business, cultural, and residential community with approximately nine miles of pristine white sandy beaches; eighty area championship golf courses; multiple parks; and world-class art, culture, dining, nightlife, and shopping. The City of Naples is a high-end tourism destination and one of the premier cities in America.

Section 5

Prior to arriving in Naples, I served the Town of Palm Beach for 16 ½ years and left not only a physical legacy but a legacy of servant leadership that I am hopeful fostered collaboration, collegiality, and a spirit of service. While in Palm Beach I led fundraising and construction efforts for the world-famous Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course, the Mandel Recreation Center, the historic Town Square and Mizner Fountain in Memorial Park, and the Town Marina and Lake Drive Park, just to highlight a few major projects that required community participation and support. While my public service experience spans nearly 30 years, with 26 years in senior management roles, I have also held volunteer leadership positions for decades with numerous non-profits and professional associations, including as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Town of Palm Beach United Way and as President of the Palm Beach County City Management Association. I currently serve on the Board of Trustees for Oxbridge Academy, an independent day school in West Palm Beach founded by long-time Palm Beach resident William Koch and was a member of the search committee for its current Head of School.

Through my experience in Naples, Palm Beach, and the other communities I have had the honor to serve, my leadership skills, business acumen, political savvy, and communication range have matured to a level a sophisticated community like the Town of Juno Beach will require of its next Town Manager. Earning the trust of an organization that desires a leader dedicated to balancing the efficient delivery of high-quality services with fiscal stewardship is not an easy task, but it's one I've achieved throughout my career and a challenge I accept if I am lucky enough to be selected. Earning the trust and loyalty of my teammates has always been easy for me, as my employee-centric approach to management has created a sense of team, trust, mutual respect, pride, and appreciation. I possess a high degree of emotional intelligence, and I am solutions-oriented and results-driven. I have a coach's mindset and firmly believe I work for the team and bear the responsibility for providing them with inspirational leadership and the necessary resources to produce the results expected by the Mayor, Town Council, and community residents. The traits you seek for this position are the very traits I possess. From being a forward-thinking visionary to an accessible team-builder, I believe I would greatly complement the dedicated professionals at the Town of Juno Beach and quickly earn the trust and respect of the Mayor and Town Council.

As a life-long public servant, I have had the opportunity to serve multiple communities in various capacities, including service in two of the most prestigious zip codes in America. Please see the attached resume, highlighting some of my career achievements. I would be honored to provide a list of references who will be more than happy to speak to you about my transparent leadership style, work ethic, integrity, professionalism, energy, creativity, and dedication to always exceeding expectations. They will also speak to my active listening and critical thinking skills, as well as my innate ability to solve problems (big and small) through collaboration and collegiality.

In closing, I'd like to reiterate that I firmly believe my experiences in two of Florida's top communities have thoroughly prepared me to serve as the next Town Manager for the third top community – The Town of Juno Beach. Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my application. I look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at 561.313.3321 or via email at jboodheshwar@gmail.com.

All the Best,



Jay Boodheshwar

JAY BOODHESHWAR, MPA

Naples, Florida | 561.313.3321 | jboodheshwar@gmail.com

A proven leader, adept in public administration, strategic planning, and team building, I've utilized my skills and experience to transform city operations in Naples, Florida, and beyond. At the City of Naples, I forged strong community relations, leveraging skills in project management and organizational leadership to drive meaningful change to position the city for decades of successful redevelopment and high-quality service delivery to a highly demanding citizenry.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA

City Manager | 2022 - Present

Executive Director – Community Redevelopment Agency | 2022 - Present

<u>Form of Government:</u> Council/Manager	<u>City Population:</u> 19,500/45,000 (peak season)	<u>FY2025 Budget:</u> \$208,682,792	<u>Total FTE:</u> 548
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Departments:

Finance & Procurement	Planning & Zoning	Parks & Recreation
Fire-Rescue	Building Services	Resiliency & Sustainability
Human Resources	Law Enforcement	Water Production Plant
Information Technology	Public Works	Waste Water Treatment Plant

Major Accomplishments in Naples:

- Rebuilt and restructured the City's leadership team, eliminating the 30% vacancy I inherited upon arrival, and established a culture of service known as "The Naples Way".
- Improved employee morale, and reduced attrition and vacancy rates among City staff to the lowest level in over 6 years through enhanced recruitment and retention strategies.
- Appointed new Police and Fire Chiefs to reorganize and modernize our public safety departments to ensure readiness for emerging public safety issues.
- Appointed new Information Technology Director to transform our IT systems, infrastructure, network, cyber-security, project management, and end-user support to a current-generation model.
- Restructured public works and utility enterprises to improve service delivery, cost recovery, and resource allocation (staff, vehicles, equipment, and supplies).
- Developed and launched a multi-week immersive onboarding program for newly elected officials to ensure a high level understanding of City operations, while promoting team building and positive communications with key members of the City staff.
- Led preparedness and recovery from Hurricane Ian, which caused over \$3 billion in damages in the City of Naples, including \$36 million to City property and equipment.
- Led preparedness and recovery from Hurricanes Idalia, Debby, Helene, and Milton, which caused over \$1 billion in cumulative damages in the City of Naples.
- Secured over \$60 million from the Florida Legislature to fund the Gulf of Mexico Stormwater Outfall Pipe Removal & Water Quality Project, Stormwater Lake Restoration Improvements, Naples Bay Red Tide Mitigation, Septic to Sewer Conversion, Stormwater Outfall Check Valve Installation Project, reconstruction of the historic Naples Pier, and Cybersecurity enhancements.
- Completed Climate Adaptation Assessment to determine the vulnerability of public safety buildings, utility infrastructure, transportation facilities, and medical institutions, and launched a multi-decade adaptation plan.
- Secured approval of the Naples Design District Master Plan and commenced construction of a new public parking garage adjacent to the new \$75 million Gulf Shore Playhouse within the City's Community Redevelopment Area.
- Improved community communications by introducing monthly digital newsletters, daily post-Ian updates, weekly Hurricane Preparedness newsletters, a new Contact the City webform, community outreach workshops and meetings, community surveys, and the "Naples Now" video series.

TOWN OF PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Deputy Town Manager | 2015 - 2022

Assistant Town Manager / Director of Recreation and Special Projects | 2010 - 2015

Director of Recreation | 2006 - 2010

<u>Form of Government:</u>	<u>Town Population:</u>	<u>Total FTE:</u>
Council/Manager	9,000/25,000 (peak season)	384

Departments:

Coastal Management	Information Technology	Palm Beach Marina
Finance & Procurement	Law Enforcement	Planning, Zoning & Building
Fire-Rescue	Public Works	Recreation Services
Human Resources	Par 3 Golf Course	Town Clerk

Major Accomplishments in Palm Beach:

- Provided staff leadership in the development of a 5-year Citizens-driven Strategic Plan.
- Provided staff leadership in developing plans to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic, through collaboration with County, State, and Federal agencies.
- Led project team for the \$40 million reconstruction of the Town Marina, completing it on time and under budget.
- Led project team for the construction of the \$14 million Mandel Recreation Center, which was 2/3 funded by \$9.3 of private funding I assisted in securing.
- Led staff effort in preparing for and responding to Hurricane Dorian in 2019 and served as Co-Chair for the Town of Palm Beach United Way Bahamas Relief Fund, in which over \$700,000 was raised and distributed to our Bahamian neighbors.
- Led comprehensive salary and benefits market study to ensure employee compensation practices and policies were adjusted to address significant attrition rates, especially in the public safety departments.
- Worked closely with the Information Technology Director to transform our IT systems, infrastructure, network, security, project management, and end-user support to a current-generation model.
- Led parking services improvement initiative, which included the launch of Park Mobile, the replacement of parking kiosks, the completion of a town-wide on-street inventory GIS map, and the completion of a GIS mapping tool for right-of-way enforcement by field personnel.
- Provided staff leadership in approval of a voter referendum to fund a \$120,000,000 project to underground all overhead utilities, including power, cable, and phone lines.
- Provided staff leadership in response to the ZIKA threat to public health, including the development and deployment of public education and prevention plans, which were lauded by Palm Beach County.
- Provided leadership to ensure preparedness and successful response to Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and represented the Town on various local and national news outlets.
- Secured a \$350,000 State grant for the restoration of the historic Addison Mizner Memorial Park/Fountain.
- Led development efforts for the Town's website in 2013 and re-design in 2017, and implemented the Town's social media program.
- Led major revision of the Town's procurement policies, including the development of project management systems to organize and sequence multi-year capital improvement projects.
- Facilitated the completion of a comprehensive privatization study of recreational facilities, resulting in the re-positioning of business models for long-term success.
- Led a multi-year planning effort for the Town's Centennial, which resulted in numerous season-long activities funded by private donors (over \$1.5 million), culminating with three major community events that attracted thousands of residents to Mar-a-Lago, the Breakers, and the Flagler Museum.
- Worked with former Palm Beach residents and Hall of Fame Golfer, Raymond Floyd and the Par 3 Foundation to raise nearly \$8 million in private funds to renovate the world-famous Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course and build a new clubhouse and restaurant, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.
- Returned Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course to profitability (now grossing \$6 million annually) through management model changes and new marketing priorities.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CITY OF MASSILLON, OHIO

Director of Parks and Recreation | 2000 - 2006

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts | 1998 - 2000

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Youth Services Area Manager | 1996 - 1998

TOWN OF MUNSTER, INDIANA

Recreation Services Supervisor | 1995 - 1996

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Boca Raton, Florida

Master of Public Administration

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Bloomington, Indiana

Graduate Studies in Administration

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowling Green, Ohio

Bachelor of Science in Education

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION (FEMA)

Hurricane Readiness for Coastal Communities Certification

National Incident Management System (ICS100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800 Certifications)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Public Administration | Budget Development & Planning | Fundraising | Project Management | Land Use | Public Speaking | Resiliency & Sustainability | Planning | Contracts Negotiation | Organizational Leadership | Grant Writing | Strategic Planning | Community Engagement | Human Resource Management | Union Negotiation | Team Building | Public Policy | Stakeholder Management | Intergovernmental Relations | All Hazards Emergency Management | Microsoft Office Proficiency

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

International City Management Association | American Association of Municipal Executives | Florida City and County Management Association | Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce | Oxbridge Academy Day School – Board of Trustees | Town of Palm Beach United Way – Past Chairperson

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request

Candidate Introduction

JAY BOODHESHWAR, MPA

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration | Florida Atlantic University | Boca Raton, Florida
Graduate Studies in Administration | Indiana University | Bloomington, Indiana
Bachelor of Science in Education | Bowling Green State University | Bowling Green, Ohio
Hurricane Readiness for Coastal Communities Certification | FEMA
National Incident Management System Certifications (ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, & 800)

EXPERIENCE

City Manager City of Naples, Florida	2022 - Present
Deputy Town Manager Town of Palm Beach, Florida	2015 - 2022
Director of Recreation/Assistant Town Manager Town of Palm Beach, Florida	2010 - 2015
Director of Recreation Town of Palm Beach, Florida	2006 - 2010
Director of Parks and Recreation City of Massillon, Ohio	2000 - 2006
Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation City of East Chicago, Indiana	1998 - 2000
Youth Services Area Manager City of Bloomington, Indiana	1996 - 1998
Recreation Services Supervisor Town of Munster, Indiana	1995 - 1996

BACKGROUND

The City of Naples was incorporated on December 1, 1923. Located on the Gulf of Mexico in SW Florida, Naples is approximately 16 square miles in size. Originally developed as a winter retreat for permanent northern residents, Naples grew from a small fishing camp in the 1920s to its current status as a premier coastal city that continues to attract affluent northern retirees. The city has a permanent population of approximately 19,500, increasing to over 45,000 during the peak winter season. The City is known for its upscale residential neighborhoods, world-class shopping and exceptional dining opportunities. Naples continues to enjoy the results of proper planning. Parks and open spaces are abundant while most roadway medians are wide and well landscaped. Naples is one of the few Florida communities that offer adequate public access to beaches.

Naples is a charter community, managed under a Council/Manager form of government. The legislative and governing body consists of a mayor and 6 council members. Each council member is elected to a four-year staggered term. Naples provides a full range of municipal services, including police, fire-rescue, public works, water and sewer utilities, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, building services, community redevelopment, and general administrative and legal services.

The FY2025 taxable real estate value in the city is over \$38.5 billion. The general fund budget for FY2025 is \$62,569,000 and the total budget is \$208,682,00 for all funds. City residents enjoy one of the lowest millage rates in the state for a full-service community at 1.23 mills. The Town has 548 FTE employees, including 76 sworn police officers and 75 certified firefighters. Two (2)

deputy city managers, eight (8) department directors, one (1) communications and outreach manager, and one (1) administrative manager report directly to me. The three most significant issues currently facing the City of Naples are below:

1. **Resiliency**: Coastal vulnerability to sea-level rise and increased intensity of tropical cyclones is of major concern to the City of Naples. Flooding becomes increasingly worse during high tides, especially during King Tides. A coastal vulnerability assessment was completed to identify and prioritize the areas of primary concern. An action plan has also been developed to outline actions that should be taken in the years to come, including the investment of approximately \$1 billion in new infrastructure to deal with chronic coastal flooding conditions. Significant funding from the State Legislature has already been received for resiliency projects and one of the largest (\$100 million) stormwater management projects in the City's history commenced earlier this summer.
2. **Quality of Life**: Naples has been very concerned about the potential for adverse impacts to its quality of life from rapid development in unincorporated Collier County. Naples is a "donor community" in terms of its percentage of taxes paid to the county per capita and has begun to leverage this fact in influencing land use policies of the County. The County relies on the property valuation of Naples and must understand that thoughtful development is good but anything that could affect the way of life negatively in Naples will adversely affect property values and thus an important revenue stream from the city. Development plans outside of the city limits are closely monitored and responded to if adverse impacts are possible to the city's transportation network, infrastructure, utilities, and public services. A collaborative relationship with County government is critical and I have worked very hard to establish trust and promote better cooperation and communication.
3. **Employee Recruitment and Retention**: The future of work has been a hot topic among human resources professionals in the last 5+ years. The Millennials and Generation Z have different priorities than Generation X and the Baby Boomers, and the City of Naples understands this. Covid-19 revealed the benefits of remote work but also exposed how productivity and accountability can quickly diminish if not properly managed. The younger generations desire flexibility, mobility, and value time off. These are desires that are not compatible with most positions responsible for the delivery of municipal services but must be considered in the recruitment and retention of future employees. Competition for talent is tight in today's market, so public sector employers cannot ignore these desires. I am currently working with our senior leadership team and the city council in Naples to develop a work environment that fosters "people and culture." While pay and benefits must be very competitive to attract the best talent, retention of quality employees must also be a priority. If Juno Beach is not already having the conversations that others are about the future of work, I will ensure the leadership team is engaged to begin developing plans to ensure the Town continues to be served by the best and brightest.

GENERAL, MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE

The similarities between the Town of Juno Beach and the two most recent communities (Naples and Palm Beach) I have served are notable. All three are South Florida coastal communities with rich histories. All three are council/manager governed communities with reputations for thoughtful planning, excellent management and an active citizenry. All three are known for their beauty and safety, and all three have similar challenges related to coastal vulnerability and quality of life impacts from the growth of neighboring communities. The Town of Juno Beach deserves an experienced Manager to continue building upon the great work that has resulted in the exceptional community it is, but it also requires the right person who is ready to seize the moment of a community at an inflection point. Juno Beach's next Manager should appreciate the community's culture, leverage the talent of its citizens, and foster collaboration and collegiality in governance.

At 51 years of age and nearly 30 years of professional experience, I am in the prime of my career. My progressive and diverse experience, coupled with my educational background, has thoroughly prepared me for this opportunity and the thought of the Town of Juno Beach being the next (and hopefully final) chapter in my career is of great excitement. Juno Beach is a perfect fit for me and my desire to return to a smaller community where I can be more closely connected with residents.

Anytime a community experiences a change in leadership, there is a certain level of anticipation and anxiety for staff. Throughout my career, earning the trust of my teammates has been easy for me, as my management style encourages a sense of team, mutual respect, pride, and appreciation. I am a firm believer that success does not happen by chance, it happens by choice, and my employee-centric approach to management will achieve success for the community, while promoting a culture of kindness, respect, integrity, and service among the Town staff. My style can also be described as collaborative and collegial, with a focus on the importance of open and timely communication, the development of staff and motivation through inspiration.

My staff would say that I am an inclusive, thoughtful, and approachable Manager. They would say that I set employees up for success but hold them accountable when they fall short. They would say I lead by example through my strong work ethic, high standards for service delivery and responsiveness to the community, and that I am fun to be around and respectful to everyone.

The current elected officials in Naples would say that I am dedicated and loyal to the residents and our employees. They would say that I am resourceful, savvy, an excellent communicator, in-tune with the community, and can quickly move ideas to action. They would say that I am highly responsive to them (24/7), a thoughtful advisor, and not afraid to speak up when I am concerned about the effects of potential policies under consideration. They would also say that I am a servant leader who is firm, fair and has a strong moral compass.

In addition to the technical skills and experience I would bring to the Town of Juno Beach, the intangibles I possess are critical strengths. They include political savvy, a strong business acumen, fiscal stewardship, and great communication skills, which is so important in helping to bring people

JAY BOODHESHWAR, MPA

together with shared interests, especially in the polarizing times we currently find ourselves in. I possess a high degree of emotional intelligence, and I am solutions oriented, and results driven. I have a coach's mindset and firmly believe I work for my team and bear the responsibility to provide them the resources and coaching to produce the results expected by the community and themselves.

As far as weaknesses are concerned, it's always been difficult for me to find the right balance in fulfilling my passion for public service (work and volunteering), while dedicating enough time for myself and my family. I am impatient with incompetence, can be hard on myself if I fall short, and sometimes take the missteps of my teammates personally. I know that I need to be more introspective and learn to accept certain outcomes without always trying to be Pollyanna.

Goal setting and the measurement thereof is of utmost importance to the success of any organization. I've employed a variety of performance measurement methods throughout my career, including the use of key result measures (KRM) for the annual budget development process and monthly fiscal benchmarking to ensure targets are being met. I also work with my direct reports to establish individual annual goals, which are discussed during monthly one-on-one check-in sessions. The use of customer service satisfaction surveys is also critical to obtaining service delivery feedback for both external (residents) and internal (staff) customers.

There are numerous projects, including the construction of facilities, infrastructure, utility systems, expansion of park systems, and establishment of community wide events that I can point to as major achievements that give me great pride for the impact they've had on the communities they benefited. However, it's the impact I've made on the tens of thousands of residents I've served and the thousands of employees I've served with that I consider my greatest achievement. I strongly believe the greatest legacy one can leave behind is not of a physical nature but one that impacts hearts and minds. I'd like to believe that my approach to public service and my sense of obligation to positively impact everyone I come into contact with has inspired others to do the same, creating a ripple effect that will last a generation.

I've made many mistakes in my career, but all of which I have learned from. One of the biggest mistakes I've made in my career was not making it crystal clear about my desire to be Palm Beach's Town Manager 6 years ago, when the Council was faced with a decision to replace the Manager at that time. My passive demeanor during their deliberations was assumed by some members as not being interested in assuming the top role as they considered appointing me or the Director of Public Safety as the new Town Manager. Ultimately, Council decided to appoint the Director of Public Safety who had 30 years of experience with the Town but requested a re-organization to ensure I assumed a more significant "COO" type of role in the management structure. I've learned that being more assertive when there is something I desire will leave no regrets.

Unfortunately, I have had to terminate numerous employees during my career. As a Manager who prides himself in being employee centric, I take no pride in getting to the point when an employee must be relieved of their duties. Some were easier than others, but each was necessary for the sake of the organization and sometimes for the sake of the individuals being terminated. Many of the

JAY BOODHESHWAR, MPA

separations ended up being voluntary resignations and none resulted in a legal claim due partly to the copious documentation I maintained to protect the organizations involved.

Understanding that every community has its unique history and culture, I expect to face community learning curve in the early stages of my service as Town Manager. Having been fortunate to serve multiple communities in the Midwest and South Florida (in frontline, mid-level, and senior levels of leadership), I've learned how to quickly assimilate, establish relationships, and engage with my teammates to build and maintain effective and high functioning teams. Fortunately, I am very familiar with Juno Beach and have friends and colleagues who are longtime residents, but I know that I will have to work hard to earn the trust of my new teammates, the Mayor and Town Council, residents, and the business community.

One of the most important responsibilities of a Town Manager is to work with the Mayor, Town Council, and leadership team to plan for the future. The founders and early administrations of Juno Beach should be congratulated and celebrated for the paradise that this community is today. Juno Beach is a special place, but it is not immune from the threats faced by other upscale coastal communities. Based on my research it is clear that residents desire strong policies and land use regulations to protect and enhance the natural environment, and to preserve the small-town feel and charm. Residents appear to place a high value on the town's unique "sense of place", natural beauty, and quality of life; and are actively engaged to defend them. Developing action plans that are reflective of the community's vision must be participatory and include elected officials, staff, and residents. This will foster collaboration, buy-in, and satisfaction knowing that the current generation of citizens is protecting the next one. Developing a dashboard to track the progress of projects and initiatives reflective of the vision is critical. It will serve as the "community scorecard" to hold all involved accountable for realizing the community's vision.

I expect the first six months as the new Juno Beach Town Manager to go by in a flash. Along with the obvious things such as quickly familiarizing myself with high priority issues, the budget, current projects, local ordinances, and emerging community issues, immediately engaging with the leadership team and the rest of my new town teammates will be of critical importance. Building trust and respect, establishing shared values, and creating synergy early on will be key to ensuring a cohesive team. I would desire to spend a lot of one-on-one time with the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council members outside of public meetings to build rapport and understand what their priorities and visions are for Juno Beach.

I also expect to embed myself within the community and become engaged with civic organizations, business groups, etc. and to listen, listen, listen! Being in the community and interacting informally will add great value in understanding how Town government is viewed by the community's various constituent groups. Hosting community "town hall" sessions with key members of the leadership team will provide a more formal opportunity for residents to give input and ask questions, which will be valuable to me as the new Town Manager in getting a feel for community priorities.

JAY BOODHESHWAR, MPA

I've always worked very well with the media throughout my career, including local, national, and international outlets. Mutual respect and honesty are keys to maintaining long-term professional relationships. There is absolutely nothing in my background that would create any embarrassment for the Town of Juno Beach. My reputation and integrity are extremely important to me, and I would never engage in anything that could bring shame to my family, my teammates, or the community I served.

It appears that the Town of Juno Beach's social media footprint is limited and could be expanded to improve communication with its residents, businesses and visitors. Studies indicate that two out of every three American adults get their news from social media. As the Town Manager I would encourage and support the strategic expansion of social media use for crisis communication, citizen engagement, building public trust, and of course saving public dollars from the traditional forms of communication. I am very familiar with the various social media platforms and actually started Palm Beach's social media program after convincing Town leadership that we would be remiss if we failed to enter that communication space. Palm Beach now maintains multiple Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts to communicate information to the public of a routine and emergency nature. I did the same in the City of Naples, but also leveraging YouTube as a secondary streaming service for meetings, and also launched a monthly video series "Naples Now". Here's a link to the inaugural show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gJI8-CO-c4>

If I am fortunate enough to become a finalist for the Juno Beach Town Manager position and it becomes known in the community that I currently serve, there will not be any community activists that will contact you with "dirt." I care deeply about the Naples community and its staff and have served them with honor, integrity, loyalty, and professionalism. In fact, I would expect there to be numerous people (including all of the elected officials) who will be very disappointed to learn that I am contemplating a change and will push very hard to try and change my mind.

Our eldest daughter is a political science graduate from Fordham University who now works in private sector communications remotely from West Palm Beach and our youngest daughter is a design and production graduate from Carnegie Mellon University who is a Costume Designer and private school teacher in New York City. Anne and I enjoy the theater, traveling, and spending time together biking and visiting the beach. I am an avid golfer and love saltwater fishing.

SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES I WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MYSELF

- Empathetic, Kind and Funny
- Collaborator and Consensus Builder
- Honest and Trustworthy
- Dedicated and Loyal
- Critical Thinker
- Servant Leader

JAY BOODHESHWAR, MPA

REASON FOR DEPARTING CURRENT POSITION

As mentioned in my letter of interest, when I made the difficult decision to leave the Town of Palm Beach as its Deputy Town Manager 2 ½ years ago to serve as the City Manager for the City of Naples, Anne and I knew that we would eventually come back to the east coast. When and which community were the open questions. I came to Naples because I felt that I could be the change agent needed to lead the city through an extremely critical period. In a relatively short time I have reorganized departments, stabilized attrition, eliminated high vacancy rates, established a culture of service and accountability known as “The Naples Way”, and commenced significant infrastructure projects. I also led the recovery efforts from two of the most destructive hurricanes in the history of Southwest Florida – Hurricanes Ian in 2022 and Milton in 2024. With these experiences now behind me the “when and where” questions have been answered – January 2025, serving the Town of Juno Beach! I passed up this opportunity in 2022 because it was too soon but couldn’t pass up the opportunity again.

As stated above, Juno Beach appears to be at an inflection point in terms of the external growth and traffic pressures affecting its quality of life. It is also at another decision point for its next Town Manager, which is one of the most important decisions elected officials will make during their terms of office. If bestowed the honor to serve, not only will I bring a high degree of experience and professionalism to address the pressing needs of the community, I believe my collaborative and consensus building leadership style would be extremely beneficial to the Town of Juno Beach.

CURRENT SALARY

My current total annualized compensation is \$313,269 (\$297,669 base salary, \$9,600 auto allowance, and \$6,000 housing allowance). I also receive a 401(a) defined contribution retirement (19% employer contribution). Employer paid benefits include full family medical, vision, dental and life insurance (\$300,000), and I receive a City issued mobile phone.

CB&A Background Checks

**Background Check Summary for
JAY BOODHESHWAR**

Criminal Records Checks:

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Collier County, FL	No Records Found
Palm Beach County, FL	Results Pending
State	
Florida	No Records Found

Civil Records Checks:

County	
Collier County, FL	No Records Found
Palm Beach County, FL	No Records Found
Federal	
Florida	Results Pending

Motor Vehicle

Florida	No Records Found
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Credit

Excellent

Personal Bankruptcy

No Records Found

Sex Offender Registry

Not Listed

Education

Confirmed

Employment

Confirmed, except for the City of Naples, FL (2022 – Present)

Social Media

Nothing of Concern Found

**Background Check Summary for
JAY BOODHESHWAR**

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern. Also, some states have limited the reporting to seven years, so any records older than that will not be available in those states. In addition, motor vehicle reports are limited to three to seven years, depending on the state.

**Background Check Summary for
JAY BOODHESHWAR
Personal Disclosure**

Personal Disclosure Questionnaire

Name of Applicant: Jay Boodheshwar

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?
Yes No
2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?
Yes No
3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?
Yes No
4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
6. Have you ever been charged with driving while intoxicated, driving under the influence, operating a vehicle impaired, or a similar offense?
Yes No
7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?
Yes No
8. Please list all your social media accounts (Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn / Twitter, etc.) and your personal web page if you have one.
LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram
9. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?
Yes No
10. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.
N/A

Attested to: 
Signature of Applicant

CB&A Reference Notes

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

Thomas Bradford – Former Town Manager, Palm Beach, FL (561) 346-6061

Mr. Bradford and Mr. Boodheshwar know each other from their various roles working for Palm Beach since 2008. When Mr. Bradford became Town Manager in 2015, he hired Mr. Boodheshwar as Deputy Town Manager. Mr. Bradford retired from his position in 2018.

Mr. Boodheshwar is affable and highly intelligent. He has a fun-loving personality, but is serious about his work. He is skilled at quickly perceiving a course of action when faced with a problem.

One of Mr. Boodheshwar's greatest strengths is his ability to understand many different types of people. He can skillfully read his audience and determine the best tone and terminology to use. He is an articulate and tactful public speaker. It is very rare that any person misunderstands him.

Mr. Boodheshwar is thorough when hiring new personnel. In addition to noting a candidate's general body language and demeanor, he investigates their background and searches for any potential issues. He may even look up the candidate's social media presence to verify that they are a quality person.

Mr. Boodheshwar's financial skills are excellent. When he was Director of Recreation for Palm Beach, the department was an enterprise that operated without the use of tax dollars. They acted like a for-profit center, with many recreational facilities bringing in a profit. The department never went over budget, and had no financial problems under Mr. Boodheshwar's leadership. He attended every budget hearing with every department, and personally oversaw the budget preparation for departments that reported directly to him.

Mr. Boodheshwar seeks innovative solutions to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in his work. He is open-minded about any solution or technology that might improve a process. If he has an innovative idea, he is respectful when introducing it to others who may not agree.

At one time, Palm Beach had a problem with computer malware. The malware locked down large portions of important data, and many departments were affected. Mr. Boodheshwar was the Deputy Town Manager, and the IT department reported to him. He was primarily in charge of the team investigating which data was lost and how to recover it, while keeping the issue from the public eye. He worked quietly with a few key members of staff, including the police and the IT Director. The FBI was notified, and advised staff to pay the ransom to computer hackers to recover the data. The outcome was successful, and nobody outside of the organization ever knew about the issue.

Mr. Boodheshwar is well-liked by members of the public. He is outgoing and quick to make friends. People feel comfortable coming to him with their problems. Other department heads within the Town often seek his counsel and input as well. To manage the stress of his job, Mr. Boodheshwar enjoys spending time outdoors. He plays golf, rides his bicycle along local trails, and participates in CrossFit. He does not allow stress to affect his work in any way.

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

Mr. Boodheshwar is loyal. If a decision is made that he does not agree with, he will support the organization. He may privately disclose his disagreement if appropriate, but he always publicly defends the leadership of the town. Mr. Boodheshwar will be an outstanding City or County Manager. Mr. Bradford highly recommends him for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Jay Boodheshwar:

- Friendly,
- Industrious,
- Intelligent,
- Empathetic,
- Innovative, and
- Fun.

Strengths: Hardworking, timely in his work, respected by superiors and subordinates, and positive attitude.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Maggie Zeidman – Former President, Palm Beach Town Council, FL 561-301-1623

Ms. Zeidman was elected to the Council in 2016. She worked with Mr. Boodheshwar from 2016 to 2022. He is very dedicated to what he does. Whatever needed to be done, Mr. Boodheshwar brought everyone together very quickly. They were in a meeting discussing covid when they got word that Palm Beach County was requesting each city wait until the County decided what the rules around covid were to be. They were concerned that this delay could have a negative impact. The Mayor and Mr. Boodheshwar looked to Ms. Zeidman for her opinion as she is a former nurse with a background in health care. She believed that they should close restaurants and put a hold on all social events until they could see their way clear of the pandemic. Mr. Boodheshwar followed her direction and let the County know that they were going to move forward with their plans. He had the courage to do the right thing, even when it was not politically advantageous.

When the Council reached an impasse and did not know what way to go, Mr. Boodheshwar always had a plan. He was very creative and offered a solution they could all get behind. He works very well with others because he is very cooperative. He is great in communication, both spoken and written. He works well with staff, Council and residents. He is supportive of the staff and a wonderful coach to those who report to him. He stands behind people and tries to get them to where they need to be. If they are not performing well, and do not improve with guidance, he is not afraid to make a change.

Mr. Boodheshwar was hired as the Recreation Director. He led the construction of the golf course, managed their former marina, and was instrumental in building the new marina. The

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

former marina brought in three million dollars and the new one brings in nine million dollars. The increase in revenue from the marina offset their undergrounding project that went on for ten years and cost thirty million dollars more than projected. He would not have progressed through the organization the way he did without the ability to make good decisions.

Chairman of the United Way, Mr. Boodheshwar was very visible in the community. The Chamber of Commerce held an early morning meeting once a month, and he was always in attendance. Mr. Boodheshwar's communication skills are superb. While discussing an issue he is already formulating how to present the information in the best way possible. He excels at drafting succinct messages to relay information. He is also very good with technology. He is efficient and completes much in a very short time. He stays calm in even the most difficult circumstances.

The Town had a revolving door of police and fire employees for a time. They were encouraged to look at the compensation packages. Mr. Boodheshwar led the process to put together summaries of the compensation packages from 2000 on, including pensions, and the cost to the Town. He also showed how far behind they were. The compensation piece was very complex but he had the skill to put it together so the Council could understand where they were. He also helped them understand the impact of a bad decision made in 2010 which caused the revolving door. He was great at statistics and very helpful in general. He did a really great job and gave them a path forward.

Many issues in the Town are controversial. Roadways are small and the island is small, so any development starts a war. However, nothing controversial involved Mr. Boodheshwar in a negative way. It was just the normal order of business in a Town where people have varying viewpoints on what should be done. In these moments, his communication skills are a significant asset. He acknowledges both sides. Even when the Town did not move in their preferred direction, the residents felt heard which is very important.

Ms. Zeidman would hire Mr. Boodheshwar and highly admires him. She gives him a glowing recommendation. He is in high demand and has turned down other job offers. He is principled and he does the right thing. He has real integrity and is a great communicator.

Words or phrases used to describe Jay Boodheshwar:

- Integrity,
- Superb in communication,
- Has a backbone,
- Very creative,
- Can see paths forward and offers creative solutions,
- Very intelligent, and
- Very efficient.

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

Strengths: Courageous, has integrity, efficient, personable, great communicator, intelligent, creative, cooperative.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Jane LeClainche – Former Finance Director, Town of Palm Beach, FL 561-254-4404

Ms. LeClainche has known Mr. Boodheshwar since the early 2000s. She was the Finance Director for the Town of Palm Beach and is now the Chief Financial Officer for the Palm Beach Civic Association.

Mr. Boodheshwar is an exceptional manager. He has a good temperament. He is very friendly but can give criticism in a way that is helpful to employees. He has a good business mind. He successfully ran large-scale business operations for the golf course and the marina. He led the centennial celebration where he created public/private partnerships and worked with community groups to put it together. The celebration was very successful.

They both served on hiring committees, particularly for high level positions. Mr. Boodheshwar's judgment was quite good. Most of the employees he hired are still working for the Town. When making decisions in general, he will talk to others and weigh the pros and cons. He does not make rash decisions, he also does not dilly dally. He makes quick decisions while working with others to be sure he has the information needed. He strives to make the organization run better. He likes to make improvements but not for the sake of change. He showed innovation and always kept the organization running at a high level.

A member of the United Way, and a top official in the organization for many years, Mr. Boodheshwar was active in the community. He has a great reputation, and his name frequently comes up in conversation still today. Everyone who knows him, loves him. He is always quick to respond to questions by phone or email. He is always timely in completing assignments, and generally provides the information early.

The Council wanted all Directors to do cost cutting and revenue producing measures. Mr. Boodheshwar worked with his team to come up with innovative ideas. They did some consolidation, with planned retirements, to be more efficient and cost effective.

Corruption was found in their Public Works department. Mr. Boodheshwar became the acting Director for the department after the Director was removed from the position. Many of the employees were put on leave during the investigation. Mr. Boodheshwar was not involved in the corruption, but he helped with the cleanup. Nothing in his background or conduct would concern a reasonable person.

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

Mr. Boodheshwar wanted to become a City Manager, and their current manager is not going to leave any time soon. Mr. Boodheshwar resigned from Palm Beach to become the City Manager for another community.

Ms. LeClainche would hire Mr. Boodheshwar. Any organization that hires him will be very lucky. He is an asset.

Words or phrases used to describe Jay Boodheshwar:

- Motivated,
- Strong leadership abilities,
- Personable,
- Thoughtful,
- Empathetic,
- Smart, and
- Good common sense.

Strengths: Good communicator, team leader, very skilled, good business sense, excellent at leading projects, great with budgeting, leadership skills set him apart from others.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Bill Bone – Resident, Town of Palm Beach, FL 562-252-2524 / 561-832-9434

Mr. Bone was born in West Palm Beach and has lived in Delray Beach, Palm Beach, and West Palm Beach. He was on the Citizen Advisory Committee for recreation when Mr. Boodheshwar was hired in 2006. Mr. Bone has always held some sort of volunteer leadership position in the Town. They worked together in various capacities until Mr. Boodheshwar resigned in 2022. Over time they have become friends.

They worked closely together when Mr. Boodheshwar was put in charge of the centennial celebration. Mr. Bone was appointed by the Council to help pull off this celebration, which was a multi-million-dollar project. The centennial was a success.

The Palm Beach community tends to have enormous egos. Mr. Boodheshwar was always able to bridge the divide between liberals and conservatives, and the loud and the quiet individuals. He summarizes everyone's thoughts and opinions in a way that is nonabrasive. He does not challenge anyone or make them feel bad. He strives to build unity and consensus.

Mr. Boodheshwar is very smart and can cite statistics off the top of his head. He remembers not only the high-level numbers, but detailed costs of projects and how the financing is structured.

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

Another strength Mr. Boodheshwar has is that when he gives a recommendation that is not selected, he immediately falls in line. If it becomes apparent after the fact that his recommendation was a better choice, he never gloats. He makes it look like everyone was on the same page. The way he manages these situations is beautiful and masterful. He sees his role and is good in that role. He is a true bureaucrat and a team player.

Palm Beach has an incredibly involved community. Mr. Boodheshwar was at every event, even the events that were purely social. He was often asked to be on community panels and committees because of his knowledge. Everyone loved him. He has a charming personality. Palm Beach has a division down religious lines, but it is not a diverse community from a cultural perspective. Mr. Boodheshwar transcended the differences. He was known and admired in the community. Everyone treated him well because he was so skilled in working with others.

In hotly contested matters Mr. Boodheshwar described the facts without bias. He went out of his way to summarize all the opinions, and led the discussion so that individuals could come together to make the decision.

While Mr. Boodheshwar has addressed typical government controversy, he was never involved in any personal controversy. He behaves professionally and would not embarrass an employer.

Mr. Bone holds Mr. Boodheshwar in the highest regard. He is a talented manager with extraordinary skills. Any community would benefit from his leadership.

Words or phrases used to describe Jay Boodheshwar:

- Sunny disposition,
- Thoughtful,
- Smart,
- Even handed,
- Informed,
- Well spoken, and
- Focused.

Strengths: Calm and even demeanor, very smart, very detailed, exceptional memory, cordial, polite, friendly.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Danielle Olson – Former Human Resources Director, Palm Beach, FL (561) 236-8227

Ms. Olson met Mr. Boodheshwar in 2008. He is an excellent person and performed very well in the multiple roles he held in the town. The community of Palm Beach can be demanding, and Mr. Boodheshwar does a great job of collaborating with people of differing opinions and getting them to successfully cooperate with each other.

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

When hiring personnel, Mr. Boodheshwar often introduces creative scenarios during the interview to assess the skills needed for a position. He makes well-informed decisions and is very trusted within the organization.

Mr. Boodheshwar was excellent when interacting with members of his community. He was often out representing Palm Beach at various events. He was friendly and approachable. He was a good judge of character. He could accurately perceive the best way to explain complex topics to his audience based on their level of understanding.

Mr. Boodheshwar was a hands-on manager. He enjoyed implementing plans of action. He and Ms. Olson worked together to create an equity diversity committee. He had a wonderful vision for the project and aimed to accomplish it in a politically correct, thoughtful way.

Mr. Boodheshwar solves many problems daily. He also empowers his staff to solve problems as much as possible. He is skilled at helping his team assess situations before acting, and his goal is to be as respectful as possible when finding a solution.

Mr. Boodheshwar is even-tempered. Unless you know him very well, it is difficult to determine if he is stressed. The public has never seen that side of him, nor have most people within the organization. Mr. Boodheshwar is very competent and possesses many qualities that would make him a great Manager.

Words or phrases used to describe Jay Boodheshwar:

- Professional,
- Integrity,
- Thoughtful,
- Reliable,
- Intelligent, and
- Community oriented.

Strengths: Public speaking, collaboration, and working with a team to develop a plan of action.

Weaknesses: Sometimes is overly optimistic about humanity.

Andrea McCue – City Manager, City of Greenacres, FL (561) 642-2003

Ms. McCue has known Mr. Boodheshwar since 2016. They were both members of the Palm Beach City Manager’s Association. He was the president, and she was the vice president. Ms. McCue knows 39 City Managers, and Mr. Boodheshwar stands out as the most professional and thoughtful of them all. Before he makes a decision, he does research to make sure he has all the information. He is exceptionally well-read and seems to have answers to every question asked of him.

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

As President of the Palm Beach City Manager’s Association, Mr. Boodheshwar was in leadership for city managers during the COVID-19 pandemic. He provided timely and prompt updates from the federal, state, and local levels. With many employees working remotely, he was at the forefront of many calls at both the city and county level. He was thorough in everything he did and followed through on his commitments.

Mr. Boodheshwar was a fantastic communicator. He was thoughtful in his planning when speaking about sensitive issues. He moderated a project on race and diversity. He called and emailed often to discuss issues.

Mr. Boodheshwar makes great hiring decisions. The City of Greenacres hired two employees from Palm Beach that were originally hired by Mr. Boodheshwar, and Ms. McCue is happy with them. They say very positive things about their experience with Mr. Boodheshwar.

One of Mr. Boodheshwar’s greatest strengths is his ability to connect with people. He is well-known in the Palm Beach community. He acquaints himself with tourists, volunteers, and residents alike. He attends many events and is involved in several community clubs. He is an outstanding public speaker.

The Palm Beach City Manager’s Association partners with Florida Atlantic University for students in the public administration program. Mr. Boodheshwar noticed that not as many young people were entering government positions. He organized the Florida Atlantic University Palm Beach County City Manager’s Association Networking Event to promote networking between students and government employees. He coordinated a round table discussion among City Managers and rallied them to volunteer. The event was a phenomenal success and was executed seamlessly.

At one time, a resident who worked for Mr. Boodheshwar’s municipality posted some hateful things on social media. It was brought to Mr. Boodheshwar’s attention and addressed proactively. His leadership was immensely helpful in dealing with the situation.

Ms. McCue thinks very highly of Mr. Boodheshwar. She would hire him if she could, and she would work for him if given the opportunity. He will be a phenomenal manager.

Words or phrases used to describe Jay Boodheshwar:

- Resourceful,
- Innovative,
- Diligent,
- Thorough,
- Kind,
- Outgoing, and
- Motivated.

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

Strengths: Dealing with different types of populations, and interpersonal skills.

Weaknesses: Sometimes gives credit to others and downplays his own efforts.

Michael Ainslie – Resident, Town of Palm Beach, FL 561-373-3340

Mr. Ainslie has been very involved in the Town for many years. Around 2013 an unusual opportunity appeared when a wealthy individual, Mr. Mandel, reached out to Mr. Ainslie to see what projects in the community he could support. Mr. Ainslie reached out to Mr. Boodheshwar and some others, and they all agreed that what was most needed was a new recreation center. Mr. Boodheshwar led the project from the Town perspective and Mr. Ainslie led the private sector portion. The recreation center is 17,000 feet and cost \$14 million. Mr. Mandel contributed 1/3 of the cost, the Town contributed 1/3 of the cost, and Mr. Ainslie created a nonprofit that raised over \$5 million from donors. The center opened in November of 2019 and is an unbelievable facility. It has a viewing pavilion gift shop, and a recreation center. 250 residents signed up for the fitness center in the first six months. One of the challenges they faced were lawsuits by residents because they felt it would increase traffic to the area, which took about a year to resolve. They also had three design changes and went from a two-story building to a one story, so it did not obstruct the view of others in the area.

There is not a better public servant than Mr. Boodheshwar. He is very smart, very plugged into the community, and is concerned about competence and performance in government. He is committed to setting a high standard and his ability for recruiting talent is remarkable. Mr. Boodheshwar was chosen to be the President for United Way, which is a significant honor.

Mr. Boodheshwar absolutely makes good decisions. He is very articulate when presenting material to the Town Council. He is always in the community and holds public meetings almost weekly. He held public meetings for the new marina, the park, and the recreation center.

When it comes to communication Mr. Boodheshwar excels. They spoke several times a week. Mr. Ainslie managed a board of 15 to 18 individuals. Mr. Boodheshwar kept him informed so he could keep the board informed. He is responsive both day and night. He is also very focused. To relieve stress, he plays golf on the weekends and spends time with his family.

Not only did Mr. Boodheshwar have good financial skills, but he also brought the recreation center project in \$300k under budget. They were under pressure to cut costs and keep taxes at a consistently low level. He led the entire team in an almost zero budget effort for the town. He worked closely with the Chief Financial Officer and did very well.

While items in the town were controversial, nothing was caused or created by Mr. Boodheshwar. He was born in Guyana and lived in a tin shack in extreme poverty for the first part of his life. His family moved to Cleveland and lived in the same kind of poverty. He attained a college degree and really pulled himself up by the bootstraps. By working hard and being focused, he

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

moved ahead in this country. He is a remarkable man, who is open about his life story and has shared it with others to inspire and mentor.

Mr. Boodheshwar would be the Town Manager of Palm Beach if politics were not what they were. He is very well liked and many of the residents wanted him to be the next Town Manager. Mr. Ainslie has thought about starting a company and hiring Mr. Boodheshwar. He would also be a phenomenal private sector executive. He is ready to be a municipal manager.

Mr. Boodheshwar is an excellent manager who would work with all segments of the community well. Mr. Ainslie is happy to speak with anyone who would like more information.

Words or phrases used to describe Jay Boodheshwar:

- Leader,
- Team builder,
- Community minded,
- Very thorough,
- Completely competent, and
- High EQ.

Strengths: Vision, building great teams, ability to work with residents, never becomes frustrated, works extremely well with those with a high level of wealth and intelligence.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Skip Randolph – Former Attorney, Town of Palm Beach, FL 561-308-3767

Mr. Randolph was the Town Attorney for Palm Beach for 40+ years. He met Mr. Boodheshwar in 2006. On a scale from 1 to 10, Mr. Randolph rates Mr. Boodheshwar a 10+++.

Mr. Boodheshwar is head and shoulders above others Mr. Randolph has worked with. He and Peter Elwell are the top of the list when it comes to managers in Palm Beach.

Decisions made by Mr. Boodheshwar were very good and on point. He maintained an organization at a high-performance level. He may as well have been the Town Manager as he did most of the work and worked late at night to complete it all.

Mr. Boodheshwar was the president of the local United Way. He also attended chamber and civic association meetings. He was very visible in the community. He was excellent with the public, working with people is one of his greatest strengths.

Reference Notes
Jay Boodheshwar

Building the new recreation center was somewhat controversial but Mr. Boodheshwar worked through the issues to complete the project. He also rates a 10 in his financial skillset. He worked closely with their finance director.

Mr. Boodheshwar completes tasks on time. He has a calm personality and handles everything well without showing any signs of stress. He is also very strong in communication.

Mr. Boodheshwar has not been involved in anything controversial nor would anything from his past concern a reasonable person. Everyone who has worked with him has the same high opinion of him.

Mr. Randolph would hire Mr. Boodheshwar. He is an excellent municipal manager and is one of the best that anyone could hire. Working with him is such a pleasure, especially when you see how he works with people and how they respond to him. He completes things well and so efficiently.

Words or phrases used to describe Jay Boodheshwar:

- Efficient,
- Intelligent,
- Very hard working,
- Diligent,
- Calm in the face of difficulty or stress, and
- Likeable.

Strengths: Ability to complete tasks in an expeditious manner, strong ability to work with the public, intelligence, does his work in the right way. Also, has a great personality and everyone likes to be around him.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Prepared by: Lynelle Klein
Colin Baenziger & Associates

CB&A Internet Research

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://www.nbc-2.com/article/naples-city-council-beach-accesses-hurricanes/62855097>
Nov 8, 2024

Naples City Council approves plan to simplify beach accesses after hurricanes

Author: Alexa Velez

Following recent hurricane damage, Naples City Council is moving forward with a plan to simplify many beach access points for easier restoration after storms. City Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** introduced the item, suggesting the changes would give beach access points a simpler, “Old Florida” look. “Should we consider simplifying some of our beach access points to that old Florida look? Something that’s easy to restore after storms,” **Boodheshwar** said.

The simplified design will limit these beach access points to essential features only: paths to the beach, rules signs, trash cans, bike racks, and minimal concrete. Benches and other features will be removed, and there will be more plants instead of concrete. Bike racks, showers, and a sidewalk along the asphalt may still be added if needed. The access points to be simplified include: 32nd Avenue South, 14th Avenue South, 13th Avenue South, 11th Avenue South, 10th Avenue South, 9th Avenue South, 4th Avenue South, 1st Avenue South, 1st Avenue North, 3rd Avenue North, 4th Avenue North, 7th Avenue North

Councilmember Berne Barton supported these changes, saying, “We can’t go back to the way we were. We can’t have all these concrete pads. We need to pay attention to resiliency and design these beach ends to maintain our beaches properly. In my opinion, this is the right way to go — more foliage, less concrete.” For some of the busier and more well-known beach entries, the council decided to maintain their original look. These accesses include: 33rd Avenue South, 1900 Gulf Shore Boulevard South, 18th Avenue South, Broad Avenue South, 7th Avenue South, 6th Avenue South, 5th Avenue South, 2nd Avenue South, Central Avenue, 2nd Avenue North, 6th Avenue North, Via Miramar, Vedado Way, Horizon Way. Popular spots like Lowdermilk Park, 8th Avenue South, 2100 Gordon Drive and the Naples Pier will stay as they are and are not part of this project. The council also focused on five beach entries heavily damaged by storms, which need both structural and landscaping repairs. These entries will get repairs to sea walls, walkways, and landscaping. They include: North Lake, 3rd Avenue South, 14th Avenue South, 15th Avenue South, 16th Avenue South. At the 14th Avenue South entry, a broken wooden walkway currently has only a piece of caution tape as a warning. Patrick Mortiere, a visitor from California, nearly tripped and said, “There needs to be a lot more notice for something like this, especially here in Florida, where older people may not be as coordinated.”

While most council members agreed with the new plan, Mayor Teresa Heitmann was concerned about removing benches. “I feel very uncomfortable that we’re deciding not to have benches. I’m OK with less concrete, but I think we’re making a huge mistake not having benches,” Heitmann said. The restoration and simplification project was ultimately approved and should be completed by the first half of next year.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://casetext.com/case/myers-v-city-of-naples-7>
October 24, 2024

Myers v. City of Naples

GREGORY B. MYERS, Plaintiff, v. CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA, TERESA HEITMANN, RALF BROOKES, **JAY BOODHESHWAR**, ERICA MARTIN, and NAPLES COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, INC., Defendants.

This matter comes before the Court on pro se plaintiff's Motion to Alter or Amend a Judgment (Doc. #68) filed on October 12, 2024. Defendant Naples Community Hospital, Inc. filed a Response in Opposition (Doc. #69) on October 17, 2024. The Amended Motion to Alter or Amend a Judgment (Doc. #72) filed on October 23, 2024, will be denied.

“Rule 59 applies to motions for reconsideration of matters encompassed in a decision on the merits of a dispute.” *Wright v. Preferred Rsch., Inc.*, 891 F.2d 886, 889 (11th Cir. 1990) (citations omitted). “The only grounds for granting [a Rule 59] motion are newly-discovered evidence or manifest errors of law or fact.” *In re Kellogg*, 197 F.3d 1116, 1119 (11th Cir. 1999) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted). “A Rule 59(e) motion cannot be used to relitigate old matters, raise argument or present evidence that could have been raised prior to the entry of judgment.” *Arthur v. King*, 500 F.3d 1335, 1343 (11th Cir. 2007) (citation omitted and internal quotation marks omitted).

The case was initiated on March 29, 2024, and on July 24, 2024, the Court granted a motion to dismiss finding no subject matter jurisdiction with leave to amend. (Doc. #25.) Plaintiff sought an extension of time to file the amended complaint six times before the Court finally stated that no further extensions would be granted. (Doc. #55.) Plaintiff still filed the Second Amended Complaint one day late, just after midnight, and filed a motion to accept the pleading as timely filed. On September 13, 2024, after consideration of defendant's Objection (Doc. #61), the Court denied the request to accept the untimely Second Amended Complaint and dismissed it without prejudice. (Doc. #62.) Judgment (Doc. #63) was entered dismissing the case without prejudice.

The Court determined that “the untimely filing of the Second Amended Complaint requires the Court to dismiss the case because Mr. Myers has exhibited a disrespect for the Court's deadlines and because the Court no longer had jurisdiction to entertain the amended pleading. The dismissal will be without prejudice.” (Doc. #62 at 4.)

The case was dismissed without prejudice, and nothing prevents plaintiff from filing a new case with a revised complaint.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED:

1. Plaintiff's Motion to Alter or Amend a Judgment (Doc. #68) is DENIED.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://winknews.com/2024/10/15/naples-stormwater-project-reduce-street-flooding/>
October 15, 2024

Naples stormwater project to reduce street flooding

Author: Zoe Warner

After a decade of planning, the Naples Stormwater Beach Outfall Project is finally taking shape, with an expected completion date in 2026. The project aims to improve water quality and reduce flooding in city streets that often experience heavy rainfall. Not only will the project clean up stormwater as it rushes into the Gulf of Mexico, but it will also cut down on beach erosion.

Naples City Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said the exemplary endeavor will have a significant impact on the community. “This is going to impact in a very, very positive way, a pretty significant portion of Gulfshore Boulevard North,” said **Boodheshwar**. “I really see this as a model project for other projects that are going to happen in the city to deal with similar issues.”

According to the City of Naples, the changes will not harm any wildlife in the water.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gulfshore Business
October 2, 2024

Naples City Council awards \$23.4M for pier rebuild
BY Aisling.Swift

The 136-year-old Naples Pier will undergo a seventh transformation after City Council unanimously approved a nearly \$23.46 million construction contract to rebuild the pier after Hurricane Ian destroyed it two years ago. Shoreline Foundation Inc., a Broward County-based marine contractor, was awarded the contract over another bidder on Oct. 2 and will be paid \$23,459,696. There were three bidders, but one withdrew. Council also set aside another \$1.17 million for contingency costs and agreed to amend the budget to cover the costs.

City Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** called the vote a “milestone moment” for Naples and thanked the community for its patience as the city worked through a complicated process that involves local, state and federal approvals, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Army Corps of Engineers. “You’re not going to see work begin tomorrow. In fact, you’re not going to see work begin for at least the next couple of months or so until we get that green light from FEMA—until we get that permit,” **Boodheshwar** told Council before the vote, noting the city now has a full project team. “Today’s action gets us in a position to move immediately, to issue that notice to proceed immediately. ... It’s getting us closer to rebuilding the pier.”

Shoreline joins a team that includes MHK Architecture, marine and environmental consulting firm Terrell Hall & Associates, City Engineer Dan Ohrenstein and Project Manager Bruce Selfon, a former federal government employee who is assisting with the regulatory and permitting processes. The city can’t start razing the pier without jeopardizing FEMA funding because demolition represents the largest part of the reimbursement, about \$7 million to \$14 million. “That’s critical,” **Boodheshwar** said. “We’re moving the ball, we’re getting close and it’s taking a lot of effort to get us there. Mr. Selfon has really helped us with that.”

Selfon, a former city Planning Advisory Board member, is a real estate developer who helped New York City build One World Trade Center after 9/11. He won the city’s prestigious Sam Noe Award in 2020 for his exemplary service. On Sept. 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian caused catastrophic damage to the Naples Pier, causing more than 30 pilings to collapse and half the pier to sink into the Gulf, leaving only 100 feet standing. That portion was reopened in November 2022.

More than 1 million visitors visit the iconic landmark yearly to watch sunsets, fish, socialize, exercise, eat and watch wildlife. The pier, built in 1888 for people traveling by boat to Naples, has been rebuilt six times after hurricanes, including after Hurricane Irma in 2017. A concession stand was added in 1946 and in recent years, Cosmos at the Pier generated about \$100,000 yearly for the city, selling pizza, hot dogs, food, beverages and beach necessities. But the Army Corps of Engineers prohibited Naples from adding a concession stand over water, so the new design moves it near the entry. Council has asked for further design changes, noting tables and chairs would cause people to congregate and lead to a bottleneck at the entry, where there also are

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

homes. “We’re not rebuilding it back similarly, we’re rebuilding this stronger,” **Boodheshwar** said, noting it also will be higher.

Council member Ray Christman wanted the public to understand the city worked hard to find funding and only \$11 million in city money will be used, an already approved bond issue. He noted state Sen Kathleen Passidomo helped the city get a \$5 million state grant, the county Tourist Development Council awarded Naples \$2.2 million in tourist development tax money, and the city will receive \$1.4 million in donations from visitors and residents through the Community Foundation of Collier County—an amount that continues to grow.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Ross v. Heitmann

United States District Court, Middle District of Florida

Sep 23, 2024

2:24-cv-852-SPC-KCD (M.D. Fla. Sep. 23, 2024) Copy Citation

MICHAEL JAMES ROSS, Plaintiff, v. TERESA HEITMANN, TERRY HUTCHINSON, **JAY BOODHESHWAR** and BERNE BARTON, Defendants.

SHERI POLSTER CHAPPELL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Before the Court is Plaintiff Michael Ross' Complaint. (Doc. 1). Because Plaintiff's complaint is insufficient on several fronts, the Court dismisses it without prejudice and with leave to amend. Plaintiff Michael James Ross, filing pro se, brings this action against the Mayor of Naples, Vice Mayor, City Manager, and a Council Member. He claims Defendants have violated the "Summary of the Pollution Prevention Act, Summary of the National Environmental Policy Act, Summary of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Summary of the Food Quality Protection Act, Summary of the Safe Drinking Water Act." (Doc. 1 at 3). He claims that "the Collier County, Florida government has failed the people" with respect to "properly protecting the environment." (*Id.* at 4). Plaintiff demands that politicians "either fix many of the environmental problems or to leave office." (*Id.*). And in several places Plaintiff includes addresses to what appear to be his own websites. But the problem is that the foregoing is not a summary of Plaintiff's claim-it is the entirety of the information contained in his complaint. This is insufficient.

Aside from listing several "summaries," Plaintiff does not cite a single statute or explain how any law provides him with a cause of action. Nor does Plaintiff provide any facts to support a conceivable claim. This is problematic, as a plaintiff must plead enough facts to state a claim that is "plausible on its face." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, [556 U.S. 662, 678](#) (2009) (citation omitted). A claim is plausible when a plaintiff "pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged." *Id.* A plaintiff must provide more than labels and conclusions. *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 554, 555 (2007). A formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not be enough. *Id.* "Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right above the speculative level[.]" *Id.* Plaintiff's factual allegations fall well short of these standards.

ORDERED:

1. The complaint (Doc. 1) is DISMISSED without prejudice.
2. On or before October 7, 2024, Plaintiff must file an amended complaint consistent with this Order. Failure to comply with this Order will result in dismissal of this action without further notice.

[CBA Note: The full case can be found here: <https://casetext.com/case/ross-v-heitmann>]

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Naples Daily News
September 19, 2024

Naples Council gives final thumbs up to \$208.8M budget for next year, with tax increase
Laura Layden

Naples Council has signed off on next year's budget, including a property tax increase. On Wednesday night, city council voted unanimously to approve the budget, without debate or discussion, at a second and final hearing. No one from the public spoke in support, or opposition. In a related action, council adopted a millage rate of 1.23 for the city's general fund. The rate increased to 1.17 mills this year. It had been at 1.15 since 2020, dropping from 1.18 in 2009. One mill equates to \$1 for every \$1,000 worth of a property's assessed, or taxable, value (after adjustments, such as the homestead exemption for primary residents). Vice mayor Terry Hutchison continued to oppose the tax increase. He was the only one to vote against it, just as he did at the first hearing. At past council meetings, he said it's just not the way he's "wired."

Here are some of the highlights of the 2024-25 budget:

- Planned expenditures are \$208.82 million, compared to \$197.19 million this year.
- The increase includes \$6.37 million in personnel expenses and \$6.62 million in operating expenses.
- Capital improvements are funded at \$42.79 million, including investments in water/sewer utility systems and stormwater system upgrades and enhancements, affordable housing, roads, parks and tree restoration.
- There is enough money for another 20 full-time positions.
- The positions include three firefighters, four police officers, a public safety technician, a recreation coordinator and a planning consultant.

The increase in the millage rate will generate more than \$2 million. That's on top of the more than \$3.8 million in additional revenue that will come to the city from higher property values. In 2024, the city's taxable values increased by more than 11% over the year, topping \$38.5 billion. The budget for the general fund includes about \$60.9 million in revenue from all sources and more than \$62.5 million in expenditures, with money used from reserves to cover the shortfall. A balance of more than \$20 million would remain untouched in the fund, unless there's an emergency, or other critical need for it.

In a budget presentation, Gary Young, the city's chief financial officer, once again pointed out that more than 80% of the general fund budget would be spent on improving safety and enhancing the quality of life for residents, as he did at the first hearing. Here's how the numbers break out:

- Police: More than \$20.6 million allocated, or 33% of the budget
- Fire: More than \$16.3 million earmarked, or 26.1% of the budget
- Parks and Recreation: More than \$13.4 million dedicated, or 21.46% of the budget

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

After the vote, Mayor Teresa Heitmann again thanked Young for his hard work in developing and presenting a "fiscally responsible" budget for the community.

City Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** acknowledged it took an enormous amount of time and energy for Young and other staffers to get it done. "This is a very thoughtful, priorities-driven budget," he said. Aligning priorities with expenditures isn't easy, **Boodheshwar** emphasized. He noted the budget will help the city make progress on its resiliency efforts to protect itself from storm surge, flooding and sea level rise, but there's a lot more work to be done. The goal, he said, is to come up with a fair and equitable plan that doesn't rely mostly on residents to fund those efforts. In the years to come, **Boodheshwar** said he'll be seeking money from as many other sources as possible to help pay for critical projects, "so the burden isn't placed on the residents of this community."

In an email, following the swift action, councilman Hutchison said he disagreed with elected officials "taking an easy path of raising taxes on the residents as opposed to doing the more difficult work in identifying savings across the entire city enterprise to pay for the budget." "I lost that battle," he wrote. He added: "Now what? I will try to lead the city council to let the taxpayers decide how much of a tax increase they support in paying for priorities across our community. It's simply the right thing to do!" Even with the increase next year, the city would still have one of the lowest tax rates in the state.

At the same hearing, city council also approved the millage rates and budgets for the operation of the East Naples Bay and Moorings Bay taxing districts, without contention, or objection. The new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://www.naplespress.com/2024/05/31/damaged-naples-pier-beach-ends-are-reminders-of-ian/>
31 May 2024

Damaged Naples Pier, beach ends are reminders of Hurricane Ian

By Tim Aten

A few hours before Hurricane Ian made landfall on the Gulf Coast, Naples City Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** watched shore water flow under a wooden bridge and into the parking lot at a city beachfront park. “So, that was a little scary because I knew that the worst was yet to come,” he said. “I still vividly remember standing on one of the walkover wooden bridges at Lowdermilk Park with the mayor. We were touring the city. We were on the north end, and this is about three hours before high tide. And I knew when high tide was, and I knew it was going to be a king tide. And I witnessed the dune get breached, and I knew we were in trouble.”

The effect of Ian’s storm surge can still be seen 20 months after the severe weather event. The Naples Pier is still damaged and closed. The city of Naples has reopened 37 of the 40 beach accesses and a small section of the pier, but beach access points are still closed and unsafe to use at the Admiralty Point beach walk, Third Avenue South and 16th Avenue South. “All of the beach ends and access points will be permanently restored,” **Boodheshwar** said. “Phase 1 was to make them safe, and Phase 2 will complete the efforts.”

Some residents and visitors don’t understand why it is taking so long to repair the damage.

“That’s one of the things that’s frustrating for the community, and we totally get it,”

Boodheshwar said. “Unless you physically see things happening, there’s an assumption that nothing is happening, and of course, that’s not accurate. There’s a lot of effort going on behind the scenes in terms of design and bidding and permitting. This stuff takes a lot of time, and we have to follow the requirements of FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] so we don’t risk reimbursement. I mean, we have millions of dollars at play here, and there are prescribed steps and timelines that we must follow per the federal government to make sure these projects are designed properly, bid properly, permitted properly, and it’s a frustratingly slow process. But it’s moving, and we are so close, relatively speaking here, to awarding a contract in the coming months for the pier, the beach ends and the outfall project. We’re very close, but it’s going to happen. We’re getting there.”

The reconstruction of the historic fishing pier went out for bid March 5 and will close bids June 13. The rebuilding project is estimated to cost more than \$20 million. “Our first goal was to safely and quickly process access to the beach after the storm,” **Boodheshwar** said. “The permanent work takes time to design and permit. We are nearing the design and permitting of this work and hope to be under construction before the end of the summer.”

The city is working with architects and engineers to redesign and reconstruct the public beach accesses. Upon completion of the design, bids will go out for construction, which will include landscaping, permanent signage, showers, water fountains and hardscape such as lighting, benches, bike racks and walkways. “There are 40 beach access points and we have a handful of

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

beach ends that were structurally damaged to the point where we can't have cars there. And we can't have people accessing the beach at these locations, because we have seawall that has been destroyed, we have asphalt that has been undermined and there are voids underneath the asphalt where we can really have some issues. So, those were the more complicated ones that require permitting," **Boodheshwar** said.

"All that's happening right now. We have consultants on board working, but it takes time. Remember, the entire west coast of Florida suffered similar damage, if not worse, and they're having to go through the same process with the DEP [Florida Department of Environmental Protection], Army Corps, all of the different regulatory agencies to get their projects reviewed and approved so they can go forward. There's a work volume issue that those who have to review and approve our projects have to deal with. So, that's the other reality as well, you know. We have a very large area of western coastal Florida that was impacted by the storm, and they're going through the same thing as we are."

The city is in the bidding and permitting phases of the pier project and hopes to award a contract to begin its reconstruction this summer; likewise with the city's pump stations work and beach outfall project. "We will be finalizing the financing plan in June and hope to award the contract then to commence construction this summer," **Boodheshwar** said. "What I really want to convey to the community is that the city is doing something about these issues that we're facing relative to resiliency, king tides, flooding, storm surge—but it's years in the making. We're working on things that we'll see incrementally happen over the next several years, but these aren't quick and easy things to plan, design and fund. It's going to take a lot of time and effort and money to get these things done."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

GSAC
April 24, 2024

One Hurricane and Two Years Later
By Pam Nicholls

Two years on from his appointment as City Manager, **Jay Boodheshwar** is buoyant with confidence – in his staff, in ‘The Naples Way’ of doing business and in dealing with the climate and development challenges ahead. In May 2022, **Jay Boodheshwar** packed his bags and moved from Palm Beach to Naples to be sworn in as Naples City Manager. His ‘To Do’ list was extensive but addressing staff shortages at City Hall and in Public Safety was his first priority. “I knew I was walking into a situation with high vacancy rates within the overall organization as well as in key areas of leadership,” says **Jay**. Coupled with that, was a shortage in staffing in the police department that had forced the pause of several units in order to allocate resources to essential units. “Having a fully staffed senior leadership situation today and a fully staffed Police Department for the first time in many, many years is something I’m really proud of,” says **Jay**. “It’s very rewarding.”

THE NAPLES WAY

But for him it wasn’t just about filling the seats, it was about who he filled the seats with. Deserving promotions were made from within, with seasoned staff taking on higher levels of responsibility, and new faces were recruited bringing with them creativity, passion and quality. He also made needed changes relative to pay and compensation that made jobs more attractive. “We are competing with other public agencies and the private sector more and more for talent and if we don’t keep up, than the quality of the staffing won’t be there.”

Jay also paid special attention to heightening the culture of service that “we provide to the community and to each other.” He calls it ‘The Naples Way’ of doing business. “I want to make sure that our employees understand their value, are appreciated and acknowledged for their value and those hungry for development are given the opportunities.” He believes retention is key, noting “There’s a cost to turnover, in both dollars and quality of service. The longer the term of the employee, the better they know the community.”

SURGE BALL

Response and recovery to Hurricane Ian was not on **Jay**’s To Do list but he is gratified by what his team was able to do in both the short and long term to get the City and its citizens back to a semblance of normality. It was not **Jay**’s first rodeo. He’d dealt with multiple wind events in Palm Beach but never a surge such as Ian brought. “It was a huge curve ball thrown at all of us but beyond the physical recovery, what was really cool was to see how communities stood together and neighbors cared for each other. My phone was ringing constantly with people asking how they could help the city,” relates **Jay**. “There was a spirit of working together that made me feel really good about this community.” Is he concerned by predictions that the impending hurricane season will be one of the most active on record? “The reality is, it just takes one storm,” he says. “They can predict five, 10 or 20; it’s still the same game plan. You know

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

the risks; you plan for the worst and hope for the best and identify lessons learned. Ian will remind us why it's important to evacuate and get to higher ground.”

Interestingly, **Jay** believes the sense of urgency created by Ian in terms of resiliency and sustainability, two of the major challenges ahead for Naples, is a blessing in disguise. “We are a coastal community, we have increasing tides, we have sunny day flooding and we have an antiquated storm water system that relies on gravity-based pipes. The beach outfall project is just one of many things that need to get done to move water. Our challenge is to prioritize projects and figure out how we are going to fund major infrastructure for the next 10-15 years in the next year or two.”

LOVE NOT WAR

Redevelopment within the city and development in the county and how that affects our quality of life is another significant challenge for the City, says **Jay**. He believes there needs to be more of a collaborative effort made by developers, County and City officials, to prevent any diminishment of the specialness associated with Naples. “Of course we have the tools – codes and regulations – to manage redevelopment and make sure the specialness is not compromised and quality of life is maintained or even improved. What I would like to see, especially from developers, is a recognition of their obligation to do the right thing. To submit plans that have added value for the community; that go above and beyond what's simply required.” “Kudos to anyone who comes to us with proposals that contribute to the specialness of Naples without us having to ask. That will tell us that they get it.”

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

fox4now
January 4, 2024

Naples city manager talks goals for 2024, with public safety being a top priority
After marking 100 years as a city, Naples looked to its next century
By: Bella Line

2023 brought the City of Naples, a centennial celebration like no other, rebuild efforts that continue after Ian and a financial disclosure law the state passed last year that had some on the City Council questioning their job.

Now that we are in 2024, City Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** tells Fox 4 he is looking forward and says the city has exciting things to come. "The list of things that we'd like to accomplish is probably longer than what we're going to be able to do," said **Boodheshwar**. "Resiliency and the environment have been a focus of this community and will really come into light with some of the projects that we're working on."

Boodheshwar says one of his top focuses for 2024 is public safety as the city now has a new Fire Chief, Phillip Pennington, and a new Police Chief, Circo Dominguez. "It's busy in Naples right now, and it's evidenced by the traffic that we're seeing on the roads," said **Boodheshwar**. "One of the things that we want to be very deliberate about this year is developing more proactive plans for dealing with parking, traffic, and communication to the community when there are issues that affect the roadways." He also says they are looking into equipment, like body cameras, to ensure all first responders are well-staffed and prepared for emergencies. "The reality is with body cameras, people are you know, they're going to think twice about misbehaving because there's a record now of your interaction with their officer," said **Boodheshwar**. "It also holds our officers accountable too. I mean, there are procedures and policies that we must follow."

Boodheshwar says the city is also working on updating the Police Department and Fire Department's apps so that citizens can stay up to date as things break.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/local/2023/03/01/report-former-naples-fire-chief-broke-city-fire-policy-with-affair/69954938007/>
March 1, 2023

Report shows former Naples fire chief violated city policy with years-long affair

Author: Kendall Little

Former Naples Fire Chief Pete DiMaria retired in February after an investigation into his affair with another city employee. DiMaria's relationship has been ongoing for more than three years, according to the official investigation report. DiMaria was the interim city manager at the beginning of the affair before being reinstated as fire chief. "Both DiMaria and [redacted] acknowledged that their consensual romantic relationship began while they were both married to and living with their respective spouses," the report states. Naples Daily News received a copy of the investigation report.

Here are our main takeaways:

DiMaria's affair violated several city policies.

The city-hired investigator found that DiMaria violated several city and fire station policies including city employee conduct, ethics, and relationships. Because DiMaria's affair involved another city employee, he needed to disclose the relationship to the city. DiMaria failed to do this until Sept. 9, 2022. DiMaria and his partner in the affair said their relationship did not create a conflict of interest in the workplace. However the investigator disagreed, citing citizen and employee complaints. "Even if DiMaria and [redacted] were able to effectively perform the essential duties of their respective positions, the fact remains that their open displays of romantic affection during the relevant period crossed boundaries," the report states. "Other employees and citizens were uncomfortable and reasonably perceived that the romantic relationship created a conflict of interest." The investigation also states that the relationship created poor optics and DiMaria exercised shaky judgement in pursuing it.

DiMaria's affair violated fire station regulations.

Citizens and city employees saw DiMaria and his partner in DiMaria's city-issued vehicle several times. One citizen even claims he saw the pair engaging in sexual activity in the vehicle, though security camera footage could not prove the allegation. DiMaria and his partner kissed and embraced in the vehicle though, which the investigator found violated a fire station regulation. "Their affectionate interactions in the Chief's vehicle did not serve a Department related purpose," the investigation states. The investigator also deemed DiMaria's actions during the investigation and his affair itself as violations of the fire station's professional standards. After receiving notice of the investigation, City Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** told DiMaria not to discuss the issue. But DiMaria disclosed information about the investigation to several people before they were interviewed.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

DiMaria was on paid leave for almost three months before resigning.

Boodheshwar placed DiMaria on administrative leave on Nov. 28, pending the outcome of the investigation.

DiMaria brought in over \$200,000 annually and was paid for the nearly three months that he was on leave. Part of his annual pay went toward his retirement plan. Because the investigator found that DiMaria violated several city policies, the report states DiMaria could have been fired on reasonable grounds. But he retired on Feb. 10, 2023. Naples Daily News reached out to DiMaria for comment, but did not receive a response by time of publication.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Post, The (FL)
October 5, 2022

Damage estimates rise in Naples to \$1.5 billion

Author/Byline: Laura Layden

Damages to homes, businesses, and other personal property in the city of Naples from Hurricane Ian are now estimated at more than \$1.5 billion. City manager **Jay Boodheshwar** shared the new number Monday afternoon during a community update. "Observable damages" to residential and commercial properties are estimated at \$660 million, he said.

Those damages don't include cars, insides of homes, furnishings, and other personal property, such as boats, which account for the much higher estimate that pushed it well past the billion-dollar mark. Many residents lost the entire contents of their homes from an almost Category 5 storm, evidenced by the number of damaged goods piling up at the curb. "It is devastating," **Boodheshwar** said.

After the latest assessment, city officials determined that five properties are "completely destroyed," he said. Another 680 properties have "major damage," **Boodheshwar** added. "They are not habitable," he said. Building officials are inspecting damaged structures and will post unsafe or no-occupancy notices as warranted, he said.

"The city is pulling together and we are going to get through this," **Boodheshwar** said. The Naples Pier is "structurally compromised," he said, urging residents and visitors to stay away from it. "It is dangerous to be on that pier," **Boodheshwar** said.

While some city parks have reopened, others are still unsafe, including the tennis center across from City Hall, where courts are heavily damaged. Cambier Park is still closed, with 5 feet of water, due to flooding, **Boodheshwar** said. As for the beach ends, they should be avoided because high waters have caused sinkholes on the asphalt, **Boodheshwar** said. The beach itself is dangerous, he said, because of sharp objects that can't be seen from the surface, that could be stepped on, causing serious injury, **Boodheshwar** said. "Our beaches are going to remain closed for a while," he said.

The city is making progress on clean-up.

Debris removal has already begun, to deal with the unbelievable amount of contents coming out of homes and businesses that are starting to create hazards. Pick-ups aren't expected to stop anytime soon, so **Boodheshwar** said there's no need to get everything to the curb right away. "This is going to be a monumental task," he said, which will likely take months.

Full-scale removal operations will begin Wednesday.

For perspective, **Boodheshwar** said, the amount of construction and demolition debris will be enough to fill a football stadium, 40 feet high all the way up to the mezzanine level. That debris includes flooring, carpets, baseboards and furniture, but not landscaping, appliances, and "white

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

goods" he said, which will add to the massive load. White goods could include everything from toys and clothes to comforters and towels. "We're coming back until it's all gone," **Boodheshwar** said. Hazardous waste should not be thrown out at this time, he said, and landscaping should not be mixed with other waste.

City streets have come a long way, with most traffic lights working again. "We are starting to make our medians beautiful again," **Boodheshwar** said. City officials remain concerned about the safety of residents from scavengers -- and criminals. To address that concern, Council adopted a second curfew on Monday for residential areas, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., starting two hours sooner than the citywide curfew.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News: Web Edition Articles (FL)
May 1, 2022

Departing deputy town manager: Thank you to everyone in Palm Beach
Author/Byline: **Jay Boodheshwar**

A little over 16 years ago, my young family and I were welcomed to the Palm Beach community with open arms after deciding it was time to leave Ohio for sunny South Florida in the middle of the 2006 winter.

I fondly remember my first week as the new director of recreation, and the weeks, months, and years that followed. There are so many amazing experiences I've had, wonderful people I've met, and projects I've worked on that have shaped me into the person I am today.

As I finish up my service to the town as deputy town manager, I was compelled to express how much this community has meant to me before starting my next chapter as city manager in Naples, Florida.

Palm Beach is an extremely special community, and I realized this immediately after arriving in 2006. Yes, it is a beautiful, safe, and a storied community; but what truly makes this community special are the people who define Palm Beach. Our residents, businesses, and town staff care deeply about this community and are clearly committed to preserving its specialness. I am honored to have had the privilege of serving this community and hope that my contributions played a small part in this effort over the years.

There are numerous projects and initiatives that I can point to during my time in Palm Beach that gives me great pride for the impact they've had on the quality of life of this community, but I hope that my greatest achievement was the impact I've made on the hearts of the residents I served and the employees I've served with. I am thankful to so many people for the knowledge, support and kindness they've bestowed upon me. The list is very long. I am a better professional and better human being because of this community, and I will never forget that.

All the best Palm Beach. I will miss you.

Jay Boodheshwar

Deputy town manager

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

GSAC
May 12, 2022

Jay Boodheshwar – His First 100 Days

by James Melican, President Emeritus and GSAC Board Member

On May 2, **Jay Boodheshwar** was sworn into office as the new Naples City Manager. He arrives with stellar credentials, having worked most recently for the Town of Palm Beach. Since his arrival there in 2006 he has held positions of increasing responsibility, ultimately becoming Deputy Town Manager in 2015.

He has already identified his most important short-term objectives. Given his extensive background in city government, it should come as no surprise that he has some very definite ideas about what he wants to accomplish in what he describes as his “first one hundred days.” His focus, he says, would be partly internal and partly external. On the first point, he is acutely aware that the team he has inherited has recently lost several high-level people, and that there are significant staff shortages in multiple departments. In addition to addressing that issue on a priority basis, he intends to “evolve the team.” He knows from experience how he wants to select and organize his staff. With regards to staff shortages in the Police Department, he is well aware that ensuring public safety is of paramount concern to the residents of Naples. Having a fully-staffed police force will enable the Department to resume activities, such as regular patrolling, that it was forced to curtail because of personnel shortages.

On the external side, **Jay** said that experience has taught him that one cannot lead a community without knowing that community. Over the next few months he will devote a good deal of time to personally reaching out to all segments of the Greater Naples community. His premise is that the people living here – – both the most vocal and those less so – – are all trying to do what they view as being in the best interests of the City. He describes his personal style as open, collegial and collaborative, and he emphasized that he wants to hear directly from the residents of the City, especially now as he moves up the learning curve. In addition to the major projects going on in the City that he wants to help bring to near-term fruition, he intends to build a relationship with Collier County officials, since so many of the County’s policies directly affect Naples residents.

That sounds like more than enough to fully occupy him over his first 100 days. It was evident from our discussion that, before accepting the position, **Jay** had done his homework and has a good grasp of the immediate challenges he will face. He realizes that he is the fourth person to occupy the City Manager position in the past year (two having served on an interim basis). His desire, however, is to serve Naples and its residents, visitors and businesses for a long time to come and leave a lasting legacy. The GSAC community wishes him a long and successful career here, and assures him that GSAC as an organization will assist him in any way we can.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below. Not included are the sections of the article Mr. **Boodheshwar** is not mentioned.]

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
April 12, 2022

Mayor talks season highlights in address - Civic Association hosts Moore at annual meeting
Author/Byline: Jodie Wagner

Also Tuesday:

Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** was recognized by Moore for his nearly 17 years of service to the Town of Palm Beach. **Boodheshwar**, who joined the town in 2006 as the director of recreation, has been named the manager for the City of Naples. He is expected to remain in Palm Beach until late spring. "This town is a better place for **Jay** having served here for the past 16 1/2 years," Moore said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below. The paragraph about the other 7 candidates has been removed.]

Naples Daily News
April 6, 2022

Naples City Council works out contract with new manager Jay Boodheshwar
Rachel Heimann Mercader

The Naples City Council is hiring a city manager that council members say will be a strong leader and community builder after nearly a year-long search. **Jay Boodheshwar's** contract pays \$270,000 to lead the day-to-day operations of Naples — a role that has lacked stability since former City Manager Charles Chapman suddenly resigned during a council meeting last May. Starting May 1, **Boodheshwar** will oversee approximately 508 full-time employees and a \$156.9 million operating budget for the city of 19,115 people. "He has the character and integrity and organizational skills and personality to bring us together as a community to accomplish the goals of the citizens and the council," Mayor Teresa Heitmann said. "He is definitely going to be a long-term manager for us. He is inspiring."

Born in Guyana, a tiny country on the South American coast, **Boodheshwar** is the first immigrant and person of color to serve as Naples city manager. After settling in Cleveland, Ohio, he earned a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration from Bowling Green State University. He also earned his master's degree in public administration from Florida Atlantic University and has Federal Emergency Management Agency certifications in emergency management with a specialty in the management of tropical storm impacts on coastal communities. The 48-year-old's public service experience in local government spans 27 years, with 22 years in senior management roles. For the past seven years, **Boodheshwar** has worked as a deputy town manager for the town of Palm Beach, a town of about 8,500 residents. In 2020, his annual salary was \$222,496, according to public records. In the cover letter he submitted with his application, he explained that his current responsibilities include managing the town's 2022 general fund budget of \$89 million and the total 2022 budget of approximately \$277.5 million.

New Naples manager gets high marks

The decision to select **Boodheshwar** came on March 23, after the City Council interviewed the three final candidates. It took one day of deliberation for the council to vote 7-0. It was a move at least two council members say was a no-brainer, expressing confidence in **Boodheshwar's** background, skills, and passion to help his community. "We did like all three, as they were very good candidates. But we chose **Jay** because we thought he was the best," said Councilman Ted Blankenship. Blankenship added that **Boodheshwar's** tenacity and experience will be an asset to building stronger relationships with the community. "We're really looking forward to him joining us so that we can move forward with several of the projects and initiatives in the city," he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Naples hires **Jay Boodheshwar**

Boodheshwar will be paid \$270,000, which is more than a \$64,000 increase from the salaries received by former interim city manager Dana Souza and current interim city manager Pete DiMaria. At the time, the advertised salary for the Naples city manager position was between \$200,000 and \$230,000. **Boodheshwar's** contract is similar to Chapman's except **Boodheshwar** will receive a monthly housing allowance and maximum moving reimbursement of \$1,500 and \$12,000, respectively, which is \$500 and \$200 more than Chapman received. He will have access to a city vehicle, which he will be allowed to drive to and from his house unless he decides to use his personal vehicle. In that event he will receive a monthly auto allowance of \$800, according to his contract. **Boodheshwar** will have a city-issued cell phone in lieu of a phone allowance and the city will give him 30 days of personal leave at the start of his employment. After that, he is entitled to 30 days of personal leave each year. That number will increase by one day each year of his employment and will max out at 34 days. He can accrue up to 520 hours of personal leave, which the city would have to pay out if the council fires him. According to **Boodheshwar's** contract, the city also agrees to provide medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and disability insurance plans for himself and his eligible dependents, effective starting in June.

Jay Boodheshwar speaks on new role

Boodheshwar told the Naples Daily News that he intends to move to Naples by the end of April, bringing his wife and three cats. He said Naples and Palm Beach have a lot of similarities in terms of challenges. "Both communities have pressures that they are facing, from development and redevelopment," he said. He added that he is proud of his background and said he hopes that being the first immigrant to take on the Naples city manager role will be seen as "very symbolic." Adding that "it says a lot about the community" in "positive ways."

Outgoing mayor Gail Coniglio accepts a card from deputy town manager **Jay Boodheshwar** during a ceremony honoring her years of service at Memorial Fountain in Palm Beach April 13, 2021. "As a lifelong public servant, I have had the opportunity to serve multiple communities in various capacities, ranging from front-line positions in low-income and blue-collar Midwestern communities to the deputy town manager in one of the most prestigious ZIP codes in America," **Boodheshwar** said. "I am especially excited at the prospect of leading and further developing a diverse team of dedicated public servants, as we look for opportunities for service delivery improvements that will make the community proud."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below.]

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
October 30, 2021

Three town projects honored - Architecture medals given out to rec center, landmarked estate, park

Author/Byline: Darrell Hofheinz

The recreation center, an updated privately owned park near Town Hall and a restored landmarked estate in the Estate Section have earned honors in the ninth annual juried competition sponsored by the Florida chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art.

Addison Mizner Medals were presented to architects and landscape designers during a presentation on Oct. 23 at The Colony. The awards honored projects in Florida and outside the state -- among them several designed by Palm Beach-based firms -- in a wide range of categories.

Architect Stephen Boruff of Stephen Boruff AIA Architects & Planners in West Palm Beach was honored in the civic category for the design of the Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center at 340 Seaview Ave. The Mediterranean-style, 17,000-square-foot center opened in December 2019 and replaced a facility that had stood on the site for more than 30 years. The planning process that led to the final design was the result of many months of effort, Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** told the Daily News this week.

"The building that exists today, which was so deserving of this award, (went through) one of the most public development processes that the town has ever gone through. There was a lot of community input and community meetings that involved both the architecture and what would go on inside the building. I think kudos go out to the community, which was so very involved in this process," **Boodheshwar** said.

He added: "A community building like the rec center is very important from a functional standpoint because of all the programming that goes on in it. But being in Palm Beach, the architectural value is also so important. This award certainly verifies that we hit the mark on the architecture."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
May 30, 2021

No new COVID infections in town - Palm Beach officials credit vaccines and successful protective measures for keeping case numbers low

Author/Byline: Jodie Wagner

A best-in-the-county vaccination rate coupled with successful preventive measures for COVID-19 have dropped the town's weekly infection total to zero. For the first time in about a year, no new coronavirus cases within the town were reported last week, Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said.

The town's weekly COVID-19 update released Wednesday showed a cumulative total of 653 cases, which was unchanged from last week. Palm Beach recorded its first coronavirus case on March 16, 2020.

Boodheshwar credited the town's COVID-19 protective measures, plus its high vaccination rate, for keeping infections low. With nearly 93% of its 9,000 residents inoculated, the town leads the county in the percentage of people age 16 and older who have had at least one shot, according to a report released May 18 by county officials that breaks down vaccination rates through April 30 by ZIP code. "Having no new cases in the town is a testament to the great work this community has done to protect one another," **Boodheshwar** said.

Numbers for the past week also showed a slowdown in the number of cases on the county and state levels, with 888 new cases reported in Palm Beach County -- a 0.6% increase -- and 16,546 new cases reported in Florida -- a 0.7% increase. Additionally, positivity rates continued to trend downward last week, with the seven-day moving average in Palm Beach County dropping to 2.65%. The county's positivity rate has stayed below 5% for the past three weeks, **Boodheshwar** said, which is a key factor in preventing transmission of the virus.

More than 731,379 people in Palm Beach County have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the weekly report. That number includes 1,358 Palm Beach residents who were vaccinated by the town's Fire Rescue department in January and February. Thirteen Palm Beach residents have died of COVID-19 since the pandemic began. As cases and positivity rates continue to decline and vaccinations increase, the town has loosened or lifted most of the coronavirus restrictions it put in place last March at the beginning of the pandemic.

Earlier this month, the town rescinded the curfew it established in December to combat the coronavirus after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an executive order invalidating local COVID emergency orders. The town also has relaxed its mask-wearing requirements following new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Facial coverings no longer are required outside or in town government buildings if individuals are fully vaccinated. However, the town has continued to extend the local state of emergency it enacted in March 2020 after determining that the governor's executive order did not affect it. The town has used its

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Jay Boodheshwar
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emergency powers during the pandemic to close beaches, institute a local mask mandate, enact a curfew and conduct meetings virtually, and it will continue to host virtual meetings for boards and commissions through the end of the month. Beginning in June, boards and commissions with decision-making authority, such as the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Architectural Commission, Code Enforcement Board and Retirement Trustee Board, will return to council chambers in a limited capacity. Virtual meetings will end in September.

While a return to normalcy has been welcomed by residents and businesses, Council President Maggie Zeidman said people need to remain cautious and proactive. Coronavirus variants continue to circulate, she said, and residents might have more exposure to the virus this summer if they travel to places where vaccination rates are not nearly as high as they are in Palm Beach and community spread is more prevalent. "I have concerns about people leaving this small area, where we are very contained," she said. "We do have people coming in and out, but people are vaccinated here, and they're not getting sick. When they go to other areas, they're going to be exposed to many more people who are not vaccinated, and there could be a variant that would emerge. That's the concern, but I think we're doing really well as a country right now."

The town will continue urging individuals and businesses to follow CDC guidelines for mask-wearing and hygiene practices to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission, **Boodheshwar** said.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below.]

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
December 23, 2020

Philanthropy chief comes home
Author/Byline: Cynthia Thuma

Boodheshwar takes on special commitment: Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** has plenty on his plate for the town but also finds time to volunteer for other worthwhile pursuits. He serves as chairman of the Town of Palm Beach United Way, as vice president of the Palm Beach County City Management Association, as a director of the National Alliance for Youth Sports and as a member of the Florida Atlantic University School of Public Administration Alumni Society Board.

Now **Boodheshwar** adds another commitment: as a member of the Oxbridge Academy board of trustees. He and wife Anne are the parents of two Oxbridge alumnae: Haley, a 2015 graduate who went on to attend Fordham University, and Miranda, a 2018 graduate now attending Carnegie Mellon University.

A native of Guyana, **Boodheshwar** emigrated with his parents and siblings in 1979 when he was 6. He grew up in Cleveland, graduated from Bowling Green State University and added a master's degree from Florida Atlantic University.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News: Web Edition Articles (FL)
August 26, 2020

Town of Palm Beach offers car magnets to spread social distance, mask messages

Author/Byline: William Kelly

Palm Beach has found a new way to spread the messages that people must social distance and wear masks to combat the spread of the coronavirus. The town is handing out complimentary Palm Beach-branded car magnets bearing the message "social distance" on top and "wear a mask" on bottom. The 4-by-9-inch magnets were designed by Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** on a white background with Lilly Pulitzer-inspired pink and green letters, a splash of the tropical foliage for which Palm Beach is known, and the town seal. "Car magnets create a constant visibility," **Boodheshwar** said Tuesday. Residents' participation is essential to the plan's success, he said.

Complimentary for residents, they are being given out at the Mandel Recreation Center and in the lobby at Town Hall. The town ordered 1,000 of them at a cost of \$1.50 each, **Boodheshwar** said.

The idea came from Town Manager Kirk Blouin who, along with **Boodheshwar**, is part of Covid-19 working group that meets every two weeks. Carolyn Stone, director of business development and operations; Fire-Rescue Chief Darrel Donatto; Police Chief Nicholas Caristo; and Town Council President Margaret Zeidman also are in the group. "We meet every two weeks and take stock of what is happening relative to the infection growth of the coronavirus and what else we can be doing as a community to make sure that we continue to keep this issue in front of everyone's mind," **Boodheshwar** said. The town sent out an alert that the magnets were available on Friday. "Immediately, we started getting phone calls and emails from people saying 'I want one,'" **Boodheshwar** said.

The car magnets are being displayed on police cruisers, fire-rescue trucks and other town-owned vehicles, Zeidman said. Seasonal residents will be returning to the island from their summer homes this fall, still in vacation mode, and it's important to keep the distancing and mask messages in front of them wherever they go, she said. "Things aren't returning to normal any time soon," Zeidman said. "If they see this on town vehicles and on residents' vehicles it gets everybody on the same page. It says, 'we're all doing this.'"

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Post: Web Edition Articles (FL)
August 15, 2020

Preservation Foundation unveils Phipps Park, Little Red Schoolhouse improvement plan
Author: Adriana Delgado

The Little Red Schoolhouse at Phipps Ocean Park will be getting a makeover soon thanks to a \$140,000 survey and master plan donated by the Palm Beach Preservation Foundation. The phased master plan for the schoolhouse and the park was unveiled by the foundation's executive director, Amanda Skier, at Tuesday's Town Council meeting. The project was met with unanimous approval from council members. "What an amazingly wonderful gift, and I'm sure the rest of the council feels that way," said council member Danielle Moore. The schoolhouse was built in 1886, and was the first one in Dade County. The building was relocated to Phipps Ocean Park in 1960 during an extension of North Lake Way, after functioning as a tool shed on the John S. Phipps property since 1901. The building then sat vacant until 1990, when the Preservation Foundation signed a 99-year lease with the town to use the schoolhouse to operate a living history program.

The plan will be developed along with town staff and with landscape architect Raymond Jungles, who will be responsible for designing a native plan landscape for the park. Skier said Jungles' firm was selected for the project because of his firm's focus on "preserving natural ecosystems and restoring pre-existing ecologies." "This a very powerful way to educate residents and users of the park on native plants, and I think it's going to be a showcase for the green initiative," said council member Bobbie Lindsay. "Our goal for this project is to demonstrate on a large scale how native plants can be used to create a beautiful, environmentally sustainable landscape, and restore habitats for wildlife," Skier said.

The project also will include community engagement sessions and has the support of the Citizens' Association, which will be working with the foundation on the project. Skier said even though the complete master plan will include the entire 18-acre park, the project will be broken into several phases. The first phase will include the Little Red Schoolhouse landscape improvements and eastern streetscape, followed by the dune restoration and western streetscape, the main parking area, and the south and north parking lots. The project also will include some maintenance work on the actual schoolhouse structure, such as exterior painting. The foundation will donate the survey and master plan, and commit to fundraising for the completion of phase 1, with timelines for future phases to be determined at a later date.

Deputy Town manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said the master plan is scheduled to be completed this coming season, and the timetable for the actual improvements will be presented at that time. "The master planning process will include a review of existing conditions and the development of recommended improvements that would be implemented in five phases, over a period of years, with the initial phase focused on the Little Red Schoolhouse, adjacent lands and the entire park's frontage to A1A on the east side of the road," he said. "The town is very excited about the prospect of another public/private partnership with the Preservation Foundation and we are

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

especially excited about a project in the south end of Palm Beach, which will benefit all residents," **Boodheshwar** said. "Phipps Ocean Park was a significant gift to the town from the Phipps family and is deserving of improvements that reflect this important community. We are hopeful the master plan will result in recommendations that are in keeping with the town's commitment to a more sustainable environment, visually appealing, and more resident focused."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
February 25, 2020

More objections raised about marina - Residents express doubt, disapproval over proposals

Author/Byline: Adriana Delgado

Mayhem and disagreements were not on the agenda for Monday's community meeting about the marina upgrade and proposed improvements to Lake Drive Park and South Lake Drive, but chaos ensued anyway.

Town Manager Kirk Blouin, along with Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar**, Director of Business and Operations Carolyn Stone and Director of Public Works Paul Brazil attempted to go through presentations of proposed designs followed by a breakout session, but many residents weren't having it. The discussion quickly turned into a finger-pointing and loud interruptions in the middle of **Boodheshwar's** and Stone's presentations, which described the finalized design features for both the park and the marina and what remains open for alternative designs.

The \$31 million marina upgrade project was approved unanimously by the Town Council at the Feb. 10 meeting, over the objections of some residents. Many residents at Monday's meeting opposed the increase of onsite marina parking, with some arguing that the renderings indicated a loss of green space in favor of asphalt on South Lake Drive. **Boodheshwar** clarified that none of the three concepts designed by planning and engineering firm Kimley-Horn was definitive, and that staff was looking toward residents for feedback precisely to obtain necessary input. "Some of these concepts are only drafts, and not everyone is going to be happy with everything," **Boodheshwar** said. "I realize it's a big change."

Stone said she understood residents' concerns regarding the possibility of losing green space. "Lake Park Marina is a gem to the town. To preserve these open green spaces is important," she said. The upgrades would also include changes from angled parking to parallel parking at South Lake Drive, which would prevent larger vehicles protruding onto the street.

Some residents suggested staff should nix the current design proposals and go back to the drawing board to come up with more acceptable renderings. This opinion was also voiced at the Feb. 10 town council meeting, when Lynn Foster of Brazilian Avenue said it was more important to do things right than start the project now. "This will be a huge cultural change for the neighborhood," Foster told the council. "We want this to be a win-win project."

Halting progress now would throw the project off schedule, causing the town to lose hard-won environmental permits from state and federal agencies, lose a \$3.1 million grant, delay construction and drive up costs, Blouin told the Daily News last month, repeating it again Monday. Another concern is that the new marina, which will have larger slips, will attract megayachts that will block residents' views of the Lake Worth Lagoon, and that the super boats will bring larger crews, which will generate noise and congest Lakeside Park, Lakeside Drive and the

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

neighborhood with more pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The marina generates an annual profit of \$3 million to \$4 million, despite its aging infrastructure and outdated facilities. Town officials say they expect the new marina to generate annual profits of \$9 million or more.

The town plans to keep the number of slips the same, at 84, but expand their size to accommodate the market trend toward bigger yachts. The town is increasing the linear footage of the existing three docks by 40 percent, from 7,305 linear feet to 10,226 linear feet. A new Palm Way Dock near the Royal Park Bridge will add an additional 500 linear feet. Improvements to the park and parking lots will be approved and paid for separately.

Construction is targeted to begin in May and be complete by the end of 2021. Comments from Monday's meeting will be shared with town council in March, and another public meeting is scheduled for March 16 to review the updated improvement options for Lake Drive Park. Also, a pre-construction meeting will be held in April to review the project schedule, which will give residents another opportunity to give feedback.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
February 14, 2020

Town OKs \$31M loan for marina upgrade

Author: William Kelly

The Town Council pressed ahead Tuesday with a \$31 million plan to finance a new marina despite opposition from some residents. Residents said they are concerned the new marina, which will have larger slips, will attract mega-yachts that will block their views of the Lake Worth Lagoon. Even worse, they said, the super boats will bring larger crews, which will generate noise and congest Lakeside Park, Lakeside Drive and the neighborhood with more pedestrian and vehicular traffic. They asked the council to defer approval of a \$31 million bank loan to finance the project, so there would be time to reconsider the design. "This will be a huge cultural change for the neighborhood," said Lynn Foster of Brazilian Avenue. "We want this to be a win-win project. It is more important to do it right than to start it now."

John David Corey, an Australian Avenue resident and member of the Architectural Commission, called the re-build plan a "maxed-out proposal." Deferring approval of the loan would create an opportunity "to continue to work with the neighborhood toward a more balanced approach and still preserve the income stream to the town," he said. But town officials said it's too late for that, and the council voted unanimously in favor of the \$31 million loan, 20-year loan with Centerstate Bank, with a 2.39 percent interest rate. The town has invested more than two years and nearly \$2 million into the project, Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said. "It's been a Herculean effort," he said.

Staff is negotiating with a contractor and expects to bring a construction contract to the Town Council for its approval next month, he said. Halting progress now would throw the project off schedule, causing the town to lose hard-won environmental permits from state and federal agencies, loss of a \$3.1 million grant, and delay construction and drive up costs, Town Manager Kirk Blouin said. "We are under strict timelines," Blouin said. "If we made design changes to the docks, we would have to start all over."

There were opportunities over the past two years to raise concerns or objections, Mayor Gail Coniglio pointed out. The marina project was before the council during eight meetings, and at the Architectural Commission for three reviews, she said. "I believe the town has taken enormous steps to do it correctly," Coniglio said. She said the town has known the docks were overdue for reconstruction for many years. "I've watched this evolve since 2006. It's been on the radar."

Residents said they weren't opposed to modernizing the marina, which hasn't been renovated in at least 20 years. The marina generates an annual profit of \$3 million to \$4 million, despite its aging infrastructure and outdated facilities. Town officials say they expect the new marina to generate annual profits of \$9 million or more. The town plans to keep the number of slips the same, at 84, but expand their size to accommodate the market trend toward bigger yachts. The

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

town is increasing the linear footage of the existing three docks by 40 percent, from 7,305 linear feet to 10,226 linear feet. A new Palm Way Dock near the Royal Park Bridge will add an additional 500 linear feet, according to Blouin.

The stationary docks would be replaced with floating docks. Facilities and security would be upgraded and the sea wall raised by 2 feet to help protect against flooding from the lake. Construction is targeted to begin in May and be complete by the end of 2021. **Boodheshwar** and Councilwoman Margaret Zeidman said the marina already serves "super yachts," which he described as boats 80 feet in length or longer.

Zeidman told neighborhood residents that they knew they were moving next to a marina when they bought property in the neighborhood. "The market has changed," she said. "You are living in an area that has a park and a marina. At some point in time it's going to change. You have to accept that."

Boodheshwar noted that the council has decided not to allow a fuel station, gym, restaurant or other amenities seen at commercial marinas. "It was a balance toward monetizing this facility, to a degree, but also maintaining the community feel of this facility," he said.

The staff is developing a separate plan to upgrade parking and improve the popular park without any loss of green space, Blouin said. The plan will come before the council this spring, and the town is encouraging residents to give their opinions, he said. A "public input" meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24. The total construction cost has been estimated at \$33.6 million. But the town is still negotiating a final price with the contractor. The town has been setting aside some money in a dock replacement fund that also will help cover the remainder of the marina construction cost. Improvements to the park and parking lots will approved and paid for separately.

Some residents who spoke Tuesday advocated moving forward with the project. "It's been a very thoughtful and professional process," said Michael Ainslie, a North County Road resident who is vice chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission. "This project is exemplary."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News: Web Edition Articles (FL)
January 27, 2020

Hurricane Dorian: Palm Beach fund distributes final recovery grant after raising nearly \$690,000

Author: Darrell Hofheinz

Within days of shockingly powerful Hurricane Dorian brutally crushing parts of the Northern Bahamas Sept. 1, town residents were quick to open their hearts and wallets to aid their island neighbors, thankful that the killer storm had spared Palm Beach the direct hit originally forecast. And part of those fundraising efforts included helping put nearly \$690,000 into a fund administered by the Town of Palm Beach United Way for grants to Bahamas-based organizations rebuilding parts of the northeastern Abacos. There, the Category 5 storm caused nearly unimaginable devastation in an area frequented for decades by Palm Beachers who either own vacation property there and who visit regularly by boat and yacht to fish, snorkel and dive. The United Way Bahamas Recovery Fund is now empty, because the organization recently issued its last grant — of \$90,000 — to help build public docks in Hope Town on Elbow Cay, where the storm made its initial landfall. The Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties partnered with the United Way to contribute an additional \$35,000 toward the dock project, according to United Way spokeswoman Aleese Kopf. In total, the United Way distributed \$689,000 to six organizations to help with long-term recovery efforts, Kopf said. The other grants funded projects to rebuild docks, houses, community centers, shelters and water systems in Man-O-War Cay, Treasure Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Coopers Town and the North Abaco district of the Bahamas. The recovery fund will now be closed, Kopf said.

Providing the money for several projects in different areas gratified Palm Beacher Keith Beaty, who owns a house that was damaged near Elbow Cay. Beaty served as co-chairman of the United Way committee that fielded grant applications and approved disbursements. "All of these communities were hit hard by Dorian, and it's important to help each of them rebuild because they all contribute in unique ways to the beauty, charm and vitality of the Abacos," Beaty said in a statement released by the United Way. "I thank the Palm Beach community for stepping up to support the Bahamian people and communities that mean so much to so many of us, and that have such a strong connection to South Florida." Beaty's co-chairman was Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar**. A key to the United Way effort was having people serve on the committee, such as Beaty, who have direct and longtime experience in the Bahamas, **Boodheshwar** said in an interview Monday. The committee members helped solicit grant applications and then vetted the organizations to ensure donations would be used in the most efficient way possible, **Boodheshwar** said. "We took on an important responsibility as the stewards and caretakers of these donor dollars. We wanted to make sure that 100 percent of every penny donated made it into the hands of groups who were going to use it to do what they said they were going to do," **Boodheshwar** said.

The latest grant of \$125,000 will help restore critical ferry transportation to Hope Town and, more generally, Elbow Cay which is accessible only by boat. The money will build a temporary

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

dock and rebuild three public docks, Kopf said. The Bahamian organization Hope Town United applied for the grant, and its chairman, Matt Winslow, stressed the long-term importance of the project. "As the ferries recommence service, there will be an influx of residents, volunteers, skilled labor support and second homeowners who will be coming to Hope Town to begin the rebuilding process," Winslow said in the statement. "They will all be landing at our reconstructed public docks, which is why it's so important for us to rebuild them as soon as possible." He thanked the United Way and the Community Foundation "on behalf of the entire Hope Town community" and said the money "will be hugely helpful in our recovery process."

A \$100,000 matching grant made by Palm Beachers John and Jana Scarpa served as seed money for the United Way fund. Their donation was followed by a \$50,000 matching grant from The Matthew and Tracy Smith Foundation and a \$100,000 matching grant from the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation. From the get-go, the idea was to distribute donations quickly to "credible, trustworthy nonprofits," **Boodheshwar** said. "The intent of putting together this recovery committee was to be reactive in supporting direct efforts on the ground. Our intent was to put this fund out of business as soon as possible." PB United Way sends \$303,000 to aid communities in the Bahamas

In addition to **Boodheshwar** and Beaty, the committee included Mayor Gail Coniglio and Gary Lickle, Bill Paty, Matthew Smith and Cindy Sulzberger. The United Way is planning to create a "report booklet to send to all donors who contributed to the fund, with information on the grant recipients and a list of donor names," Kopf said in an email to the Daily News. Other plans may include a "thank you" event this spring for donors and grant recipients, she added. Palm Beachers J. Ira and Nicki Harris gave seed money of a \$100,000 matching grant to the Community Foundation.

In addition to causing widespread destruction, the hurricane killed at least 70 people in the Bahamas — 60 on Great Abaco and vicinity; and 10 on Grand Bahama island, according to official estimates.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://cbs12.com/news/local/town-of-palm-beach-rescinds-ban-on-plastic-bags-and-polystyrene-containers>
August 20, 2019

Town of Palm Beach rescinds ban on plastic bags and polystyrene containers

Author: Kristen Chapman

Residents can once again buy and use plastic bags in the Town of Palm Beach. On June 2019, the Palm Beach Town Council unanimously voted to ban plastic bags and polystyrene containers throughout the city. However, that changed during a meeting just several months later. In July 2019, the town received a letter from the Florida Retail Federation, stating the ban violates Florida Statute Ch. 403.7033 and Ch. 500.90. The Federation warned Palm Beach that if it moves forward, then it will sue. The councilors at first wanted to fight against the organization, but then learned Coral Gables, a city also fighting to ban plastic bags, lost a case against the state of Florida that same month.

Jay Boodheshwar, the Deputy Town Manager, explained, "That left our council really with no other option at this moment in time." So in August 2019, town councilors voted to rescind the ban on plastic bags and polystyrene containers. Even after the decision, the city says it still plans to fight and push for change. Right now it's planning to create a coalition with other cities like Coral Gables and St. Augustine, who also want to move forward with the ban, to potentially take on the state together to make it happen. "There's unanimous support from our elected officials to try to push for change not only for this community, but all Florida communities," said **Boodheshwar**. For now, since Florida Statute does allow the banning of single-use plastic straws, Palm Beach will enact a ban on those effective at the end of the year.

The Loggerhead Marine Life Center also agrees with these bans. Dr. Charles Manire is a Veterinarian at the center, and he's been working to save turtles for the last 30 years. He says the plastic problem is a bigger issue now than ever before. "30 years ago when I started looking at those turtles we would see plastic occasionally, now we see it every single time," he shared, "The ones that are succumbing to the plastic, at least in our area, are the little tiny ones, the ones that are just hatched out in the first six months. They're eating little tiny shards of plastic. Each one of these tiny vials is a plastic from one single turtle. And that's all it takes to kill them."

While Palm Beach works to enact change on a local level, Loggerhead is also doing its part to help reduce the trash found on its 9 1/2 miles of beaches. In addition to hosting trash cleanups, it announced a new program to partner with local restaurants for a new "Blue Cable Restaurant Program." It aims to work with places like Tommy Bahamas, Hogsnappers and Papa Kwans, to help them reduce their reliance on single-use plastic. "We created the problem and we need to do something to stop the problem," said Dr. Manire.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
April 25, 2019

United Way chairman passes the baton
Organization salutes Jay Boodheshwar at annual meeting
Author: Wendy Rhodes

It was an afternoon of foresight and reflection Tuesday when the Town of Palm Beach United Way celebrated its outgoing chairman **Jay Boodheshwar**, who has reached his three-year term limit. "Getting to better know our volunteers and donors over the last few years has reassured me that our organization has a bright future ahead and we are in great hands," said **Boodheshwar**, who has worked with the organization since 2007.

Boodheshwar, who is the deputy town manager, spoke to an audience of about 80 people at the United Way's annual meeting at The Breakers. It was the same room that, in 2016, he accepted the chairman position and shared details about his personal journey. "Sharing my story publicly for the first time with my parents in this room was one of my great life experiences," he said of talking about migrating from Guyana in 1979 as a "scared little 6-year-old boy."

To commemorate **Boodheshwar**'s last meeting as chairman, board members surprised him with a pencil drawing that depicted him wearing his "Live United" T-shirt in front of a colorful, tiled background. "I feel like Christmas," **Boodheshwar** said, tearing off the crinkly brown paper covering the portrait.

Evan Johnson, a 23-year-old artist with the Arc of Palm Beach County Community Living Program, was commissioned to create the drawing. A United Way partner agency since 1964, Arc provides services, education and advocacy for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Johnson, who has Down syndrome, and **Boodheshwar** held up the framed portrait as the audience applauded and cheered. Later, shaking hands with incoming chairwoman Mary Freitas, **Boodheshwar** said, "It's been my honor and privilege to serve as your chairman these past three years, and now it is time to pass the baton."

Freitas, who has served on the board since 2010, closed out with some final words about her predecessor. "Thank you so much, **Jay**, but don't go anywhere, the bar isn't even open yet," she joked about the reception afterward. "**Jay** is an inspirational leader and a true community advocate," Freitas summed up. "He cares deeply about the work we're doing, the agencies we're supporting and the people we're serving."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News: Web Edition Articles (FL)
April 3, 2019

Palm Beach staff wants to act quickly on proposed plastic straw ban

Author: William Kelly

A town ban on single-use plastic straws may soon become a reality in Palm Beach. Town staff is advising officials to move swiftly because of concern the Florida Legislature may pass a law pre-empting municipality from enacting laws banning or restricting the use of the straws.

The legislature has in the past adopted legislation preventing local governments from banning plastic bags and polystyrene containers. In those cases, municipalities with laws already in effect, such as Miami Beach, were "grandfathered" in.

Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar**, in a March 31 memo to the Town Council's Ordinances, Rules and Standards Committee, said staff hopes that, by acting now, the town would be "grandfathered" if the Legislature blocks local governments from restricting or banning the use of plastic straws, which are harmful to the coastal environment.

The subject is on the agenda for the committee's meeting 9 a.m. Thursday in Town Hall. The committee is made up of council members Lew Crampton and Julie Araskog, who chairs it. The committee's decisions are recommendations to the council, which would approve the ban by ordinance in two votes.

About 500 million straws are used daily in the United States, most for less than 20 minutes, **Boodheshwar** said. Plastics never fully degrade but break down into micro-plastics that are ingested by other animals. "This information has not been lost on those concerned about our marine environment, including many of the town's businesses that already have voluntarily replaced plastic straws with paper ones," **Boodheshwar** wrote.

In 2017, The Breakers stopped using plastic straws, plastic water bottles and polystyrene in all its restaurants. Paper straws have replaced plastic ones not only in the eateries but at resort banquets. Last year, Surfside Diner began offering paper straws instead of plastic ones. The Sailfish Club switched to paper straws a few years ago.

Delray Beach approved a law on Feb. 5 prohibiting the distribution of single-use plastic straws at most of its businesses by next year. Deerfield Beach, Hallandale Beach, Marco Island, Fort Myers Beach and Miami Beach also have passed laws to limit or prohibit their use. If a ban is approved in Palm Beach, Araskog said the town may phase it in to give businesses and consumers time to adjust.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
December 28, 2018

Judge sides with WPB on business district plan
Mayor Coniglio says the town still has major concerns about traffic
Author: Alexandra Seltzer and William Kelly

The controversial Okeechobee Business District planned for downtown West Palm Beach has won a major legal battle. But Mayor Gail Coniglio says the town is keeping its options open. A state judge has sided with West Palm Beach over Palm Beach County and Palm Beach, saying its plan to add downtown office and hotel space would not increase development intensity or density.

The administrative law judge's order, which was issued Wednesday, moves West Palm Beach closer to creating the district that West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio says will bring more Class A office space to downtown and will shift transportation use from driving cars to walking or riding bikes and trolleys. The city still awaits a final order from the state Department of Economic Opportunity, which would give a green light to the Okeechobee Business District plan, but Muoio said she is confident the department also will sign off on the district. The department already preliminarily gave its approval, but a final answer is expected within 45 days.

"We're very happy with the order that the judge issued," Muoio said at a press conference Thursday. "She was very clear about her decision stating that in fact the Okeechobee Business District did not increase density, did not increase traffic potential. She was also very clear that the city did everything (we) needed to do as we applied, as we moved this forward."

Coniglio said the town still has concerns about the project, which would develop just across the town's primary entry point over the middle bridge. "I continue to be concerned about the additional developmental traffic impacts to the town's ingress and egress and the safety concerns combined in that," she said Thursday. Coniglio said her concerns include emergency response vehicles' ability to get across bridges and to hospitals in a timely fashion with this new district. "While I respect the decision of the (judge), it is my hope we can continue to work with our sister cities and the Florida Department of Transportation to mitigate those impacts and, most importantly, continue with the mobility modeling outlined by FDOT," she said.

Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said the town is looking over the judge's decision. "Staff is currently reading through the ALJ's [administrative law judge] recommended order and plan to meet with the county and our legal counsel next week to determine how to move forward," he wrote in an email. "At this point, we do not have a specific plan of action as we need to clearly understand what options are available to the town and county." The West Palm Beach City Commission gave its final approval in August to develop the district but needs the state DEO's permission because it requires a change to the city's comprehensive plan. Palm Beach and county officials wanted West Palm Beach to wait for a traffic study before approving the district. After the city disregarded the calls for a delay, the county and Palm Beach filed

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(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

petitions requesting a hearing before the administrative law judge. The owners of the Esperante office tower in downtown West Palm Beach also filed a similar petition under the corporate name 222 Lakeview LLC. The cases were consolidated and Judge Francine M. Ffolkes' ruling applies to all the parties. The district, which has been in the works for more than 18 months, will encourage office and hotel construction along Okeechobee Boulevard from CityPlace to Flagler Drive, the city says. The district also calls for a 25-story tower in a parcel previously zoned for a five-story structure at Okeechobee and Flagler Drive.

That property, known as the church site, is in front of the Esperante. The Esperante owners objected to the taller building saying the tower would impact their building's views of the Intracoastal Waterway. They also expressed concern about traffic and wanted a study done. But Judge Ffolkes said West Palm Beach is exempt from meeting transportation concurrency requirements and traffic performance standards because of the 1998 adoption of the Transportation Concurrency Exception Area. The TCEA said that in order for desired development and redevelopment to happen downtown, it would be difficult for certain roadways to continue to meet the adopted level of service standards.

Ffolkes credited the city for studies and plans it created, including the Downtown Mobility Plan, the Okeechobee Corridor Study, the Citywide Bicycle Master Plan and the Downtown Parking and Transportation Demand Management Study. "The data and analyses relied on by the City were prepared by recognized professionals using professionally accepted methodologies and sources," Ffolkes wrote. Ffolkes added that the Okeechobee Business District would reduce the allowable development within the Okeechobee Boulevard corridor: "The City proved that the OBD Amendment did not increase development intensity or density. Thus, the City did not need to evaluate the traffic impacts of the OBD." But Ffolkes said the city relied on county-issued traffic data and a state analysis that showed no intersections on "relevant portions" of Okeechobee were failing.

Muoio on Thursday said vacancies in Class A office space in West Palm Beach are low, the space is expensive and in competition with Miami. She said a recent economic development study showed the city is growing jobs by 20 percent.

Owners of the Esperante are clear on their next move. Nat Nason, attorney for 222 Lakeview, said they will appeal. Nason said it's "ludicrous" to think a bicycle study and walkable study could replace a traffic study and that the judge found no intensity increase is "plainly incorrect."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
October 7, 2018

Smart money

What a difference a budget year makes.

Without much fanfare late last month, the Town Council approved an \$82.4 million budget for 2018-19 that is praiseworthy for what it does and doesn't do. What it does is tackle one of the town's biggest problems, the exasperating pension shortfall. What it didn't do is divide the council as in the last budget year, which led to a turnover at the top of Palm Beach government.

First things first. The just-approved 2018-19 budget contains a 5.3 percent increase in property taxes, which will pump \$2.7 million more into town coffers -- a total of \$54.2 million. Though the budget calls for cutting the property tax rate from \$3.20 per \$1,000 of taxable value to \$3.13 per \$1,000 (which is meritorious in itself), revenue will still climb because property values are forecast to increase by an average of 7.75 percent. With the extra funds, the council will smartly bolster payments into the town's retirement fund in an effort to drive down long-term pension costs. The budget calls for pumping \$16.3 million into the pension program, an increase of \$1.4 million over the last budget year, as part of a plan to eliminate a long-term unfunded liability in as few as 10 years.

In July, when the then-proposed budget was first presented to the council, members applauded it, which is in stark contrast to the 2017-18 \$80.5 million budget, which was approved only by a 3-2 vote as some members sought more spending cuts. The council was critical of then-Town Manager Tom Bradford's handling of the budget as well as Mr. Bradford's failure to deliver a pension report that some said was urgently important to its decisions when putting together a budget -- and soon afterward the board voted not to extend his contract.

Town Manager Kirk Blouin, Finance Director Jane Le Clainche and Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** should be praised for their work on the just-approved budget. While Mr. Bradford was a true professional who wanted only the best for the town, it was nice not to see the infighting and rancor this time around. Indeed, what a difference a budget year makes.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
May 13, 2018

Council backs paid parking expansion

Author: William Kelly Daily

The Town Council has told staffers to move ahead with research and plans for expanding paid parking into all of the town's business districts and oceanside blocks of some residential streets. Paid parking will increase parking space turnover, which will be good for customers and businesses, Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said Tuesday. Increasing paid parking also will be lucrative for the town -- bringing in \$800,000 or more a year, he said.

A decision hasn't been made whether to convert the districts from free-but- timed to paid parking. Knowing the conversion would be controversial, Mayor Gail Coniglio and council members are proceeding cautiously. "We should tread lightly and go slowly with this," Councilwoman Margaret Zeidman said. The council told staff members to move ahead with planning. But members said they don't want parking kiosks installed on Worth Avenue or elsewhere. Parking would be paid using a phone -- by calling or by using the Park Mobile phone app. "I hate kiosks; they're so ugly," Zeidman said.

Town Manager Kirk Blouin and **Boodheshwar** suggested a resurrection of centralized valet parking on Worth Avenue for customers who don't want to pay by phone. Council members said that would have to be a private enterprise, although there was discussion about the town subsidizing a valet operation in exchange for preferential treatment of residents. "It's a controversial issue," Blouin said. But "study after study shows increased parking turnover increases profits for business. ... I want to break out of the safety zone and do something new, even with the controversy."

The town will collect about \$1.1 million from metered parking spaces during this budget year, which ends Sept. 30. That's roughly double what it collected 10 years ago, **Boodheshwar** said. There are 621 metered spaces in town. They are on Bradley Place, the middle section of Peruvian Avenue, Lake Drive, South Ocean Boulevard (near Midtown Beach), the Royal Palm Way municipal lot and at Phipps Ocean Park. The rate is \$2 an hour, except near the public beaches, where it is \$5 an hour. Parkers pay by credit card at a multi-space kiosk or by phone using a smartphone app or calling a toll-free phone number. The shopping districts being considered for paid parking have free-but-timed parking. They are Worth Avenue, Phipps Plaza, the Greater South County Road business district and Royal Poinciana Way.

Paid parking also is being considered for the oceanside blocks of some residential streets near the public beaches, **Boodheshwar** said. The streets being considered are Golfview Road and Australian, Brazilian, Chilean and Peruvian avenues. In the Poinciana Way district, paid parking would be expanded onto Sunrise Avenue and into the middle and lakeside blocks of Sunset Avenue. Coniglio said she's concerned that expanding paid parking onto the residential streets will prompt beach visitors to start parking in free spaces on adjacent streets, creating a problem

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there. That's what happened when the council introduced \$5-per-hour rates on South Ocean Boulevard at Midtown Beach, she said. Residents and business owners are opining and the town is hearing from them, **Boodheshwar** said. There are concerns about the aesthetics of kiosks, about the ability of some customers to use a mobile phone parking app, and about whether paid parking would diminish visits from customers. "This is a minefield," Councilwoman Bobbie Lindsay said.

Zeidman said some residents perceive that something is being taken from them, because they would lose free parking when shopping. But she said they also would gain easier access to spaces because of the higher turnover. Residents have complained for years about the shortage of convenient parking spaces on Worth Avenue during the high season.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below.]

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
July 2, 2017

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Town of Palm Beach United Way's two greatest assets -- its donors and its volunteers -- were honored recently at the organization's annual meeting.

The event took place April 26 at The Breakers and also included the presentation of the Nettie Finkle Award and the election of new members and officers.

New officers are **Jay Boodheshwar**, chairman;

The 2016-17 campaign, which raised \$3,493,060 in funding for the United Way's 45 health and human service agencies, closed on Friday.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/story/news/2017/05/16/residents-sue-palm-beach-to/9639976007/>
May 16, 2017

Residents sue Palm Beach to block new recreation center

Aleese Kopf

The Palm Beach recreation center might not get demolished this summer as planned. Three residents filed a lawsuit late Friday alleging the Town Council didn't follow the rules last month when it approved several variances for a new 17,117-square-foot center to replace the existing one. Residents Anne Pepper, Leslie Shaw and Christine Watkins wrote in their request for a judge to review the case that the town didn't demonstrate the required "hardship" for the variances. They also wrote that "in rushing to its approval" the town didn't provide competent, substantial evidence to support granting the variances. "... What the council really did was approve a project they wanted for fear that the potential money available for the project might disappear," the petition states. Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said by email Monday that he cannot comment on pending litigation.

The Morton and Barbara Mandel Family Foundation, the Friends of Recreation and the town each are expected to pay about \$3.7 million for the estimated \$11.1 million project. The foundation originally pledged to spend up to \$5 million through a challenge grant. The friends group is raising private donations. Michael Ainslie, vice chairman of the group, has said that the Mandels "do not want to wait around for years" on the project. Councilwoman Maggie Zeidman said last month that "the time is now" to build the new rec center. "The offer has been made now," she said at the time. "Mr. Mandel is in his mid 90s ... he is not a young man."

Variance approvals

The council voted 3-2 to approve eight variances for the project related to height, side yard setbacks and open space. Town Attorney John Randolph reminded the council members more than once to base their decisions on evidence presented at the hearing. The applicant — the town — had to show the "hardships" in meeting existing zoning rules. Councilwomen Julie Araskog and Bobbie Lindsay voted against the variances. Lindsay said Monday that she wasn't comfortable that the town met all the code criteria for granting variances. One criteria says the variance must be the "minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure." "There was enough doubt in my mind after understanding the instructions and reading the criteria that I felt I couldn't vote yes," Lindsay said Monday. Araskog said Monday that she's been advised by counsel not to speak on the matter because of the pending litigation.

In previous court cases, judges have ruled hardships exist when the applicant can find no reasonable use of the property without a variance. Petitioners argue the town's "self-created hardship is insufficient to support variances. "The town further created its own purported hardship by choosing not to remodel or renovate the existing building..." the suit states. "...despite knowing the dimensions of its own property and the restrictions set forth in the code,

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Jay Boodheshwar
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the town designed a project which it knew could not be built without being in direct conflict with and requiring variances from its own code.” Staff has said renovation could cost the town as much as \$7.5 million.

Attorney Maura Ziska, who presented the variance requests last month to the council, argued that hardships exist because the property is unique in that its in a residential zoning district and shouldn’t be held to the same standards as new home construction. She also said there’s a hardship because the center is surrounded by athletic fields, parking, tennis courts, a basketball court and green space that need to remain in place.

Next steps

Randolph said Monday that he’s working on a response and believes the town properly followed its code for variance approvals. Randolph said he’s not sure how the lawsuit will affect the future of the project. Recreation Director Beth Zickar had said the town planned to break ground this summer. “I don’t know what will happen next,” Randolph said. “That will be determined by the town.”

Randolph said the lawsuit doesn’t mean there’s an “automatic stay” on the project, but the council needs to carefully look at the petition and decide its next move. Randolph said the court will have to decide if it wants to hear the case and then issue an order for petitioners to “show cause.” That can sometimes take months, he said. Once the order is issued, he said the town normally has 20 days to respond. **Boodheshwar** didn’t answer questions regarding how the town plans to proceed with the project.

Similar lawsuit

Pepper, along with former resident William Cooley, also sued the town when it granted variances for the Testa redevelopment project. After several appeals, the Florida 4th District Court of Appeal denied their petition for writ of certiorari last year. But the petition slowed the Testa project for more than a year. It’s now scheduled to begin this summer.

Pepper, a Seaspray Avenue resident, has been a vocal opponent of the new rec center. She has argued that there’s no need for a new building and the town should renovate the existing one. Pepper and the other petitioners say they are property owners in the area who will be “adversely affected” by parking and traffic problems in the area of the rec center at 340 Seaview Ave. Shaw also lives on Seaspray and is a former member of the council and other town boards. He has opposed past island development projects but hasn’t expressed public opposition to the rec center project. Watkins lives at the corner of Cocoanut Row and Seaview Avenue. She also hasn’t been a vocal opponent of the project.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
March 31, 2017

Vote on rec center contract to stand

Author: William Kelly

Mayor Gail Coniglio said it was a "failure to communicate." Town Councilwoman Bobbie Lindsay said a mistake was made. Councilwoman Julie Araskog said, however, that Town Manager Tom Bradford overstepped his authority and acted contrary to a council directive. And the other council members all said at a tense meeting on Thursday that they understood what they were voting on when the council on Feb. 14 unanimously approved a \$33,088 contract for preconstruction work for a new Seaview Park recreation center. However interpreted, Bradford's decision to commit the town to pay one-third of the \$33,088 -- if and when the center gets built -- will stand, even though council members were told by town staff members before voting that Hedrick Brothers Construction would be paid with a "100 percent donation" from the Friends of Recreation fundraising group.

Council President Richard Kleid said Thursday that under Robert's Rules of Order, the opportunity to reconsider the vote has passed. The council could set aside Robert's Rules for a motion to reconsider, he said. But all council members and Coniglio agreed it would be unwise to set that precedent. Araskog had requested the matter be placed on Thursday's agenda after she and the other officials learned, in a March 17 email from Bradford, that he interpreted the town to be responsible for one-third of the \$33,088 contract cost. Bradford explained that under a previously established agreement between the town and the Mandel Foundation, which has agreed to help pay for the new center, each of three parties pay one-third of all costs that fall within the project budget. Bradford said Thursday that, after the Feb. 14 vote, he received a letter from Michael Ainslie, representing Friends of Recreation, asking him to sign a letter acknowledging that the group's donation would be counted toward the project budget, meaning Friends of Recreation would be obligated for one-third of the \$33,088 if the center is built. The town and Mandel would each be responsible for one-third as well. Araskog said she would never have voted to authorize Bradford to sign the contract if she had been told the town was obligated to share in the cost. Araskog said that under the Town Charter, "contracts are to be made according to the guidance of the Town Council." "Tom's email said it was 'the fair thing to do,' not what the council voted," Araskog said. "I don't believe he has this authority ... what was most important was our intention up here, and what was stated to the public." Lindsay said she too voted for the resolution with the understanding that Friends of Recreation was responsible for the \$33,088. "I did not have the understanding of the rest of my colleagues," Lindsay said, referring to Kleid, Danielle Moore and Margaret Zeidman. "I assumed, erroneously I believe now, that it was a donation."

Araskog said Ainslie, Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** and Recreation Director Beth Zickar all assured her at a Feb. 16 meeting that the \$33,088 payment to Hedrick was being covered in full by the Friends of Recreation donation. The town received a check from Friends of Recreation for \$33,088 on Feb. 17; Ainslie said in an interview Thursday that Friends of

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Recreation covered the entire preconstruction contract amount. The council has not made its final vote on the center. If it decides not to build it, Friends of Recreation will absorb the entire \$33,088 expense and the town will have paid nothing, Ainslie said. But if the council decides to build the center, the town, the Mandel Foundation and Friends of Recreation will each be obligated to pay one-third of the total \$11.1 million project cost, including \$33,088 for preconstruction services, Ainslie said. In that case, Friends of Recreation's \$33,088 check will be treated as an advance payment toward its \$3.7 million share, he said. Ainslie said he and **Boodheshwar** explained all of that to Araskog at the Feb. 16 meeting.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
November 27, 2016

Town to mull sales tax revenue
Author: William Kelly

Now that voters have approved a 1-cent increase in the sales tax in Palm Beach County, Palm Beach must decide how to spend an estimated \$500,000 a year in additional revenue over the next decade. One business leader has suggested at least some of the money be spent on beautification -- landscaping public areas and displaying flags and flowering hanging baskets on lampposts. "The eyes of the world will be upon the town and the possible 'Southern White House' of President-elect Donald Trump," Laurel Baker, secretary and executive director of the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, wrote in a letter to the Daily News. "As with the Kennedys, visitors will be drawn to the island to see where history is being made."

Voters in a Nov. 8 referendum agreed to raise the sales tax rate to seven cents per dollar from six. That will generate \$2.7 billion for infrastructure repairs and improvements. The tax hike takes effect Jan. 1 and will end in 10 years unless the \$2.7 billion is raised before then. Palm Beach County schools will get half of the money, the county 30 percent, and its municipalities share in the remaining 20 percent will be based on their respective populations.

Beautification projects such as landscaping would not qualify for the sales tax money because they are not infrastructure, Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said Wednesday. Baker said, however, the infrastructure rule could be met if the money were used to buy and install directional signs and stanchions so flowering baskets could hang from lampposts. She also suggested using the money to contract with a trolley company to provide public transportation in town. One loop could link town business districts with West Palm Beach's convention center and hotels, Baker said. Another might connect the North End with Royal Poinciana Way and Worth Avenue. That would help the town's businesses while enabling residents and visitors to avoid the headaches of traffic and limited parking during peak season months, she said. "If you take away the obstruction and inconveniences, you are providing a better quality of life," Baker said.

Before the referendum, the town submitted to the county a non binding list of possible projects for the tax money: the town wide conversion to underground utility lines; Lake Trail improvements; town wide drainage/ADA compliance/curb and gutter/sidewalk work; town wide street paving; renovation or reconstruction of the Recreation Center and Seaview Park; and reconstruction of the Town Docks.

The Town Council has not made a decision, and **Boodheshwar** said there's room for new ideas to be considered as long as they meet the county's infrastructure criteria. "The list was to give the county a general idea of our priorities," he said. "We are definitely not locked in." The town staff will report to the council on the issue in January, **Boodheshwar** said. Two main issues need to be addressed, he said. One is oversight: The ballot language stated each municipality would be required to establish an oversight committee or rely on the county for that function. The council

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

can appoint itself as the oversight committee, or appoint a new committee, he said. The other issue is revenue. "We want to give an update on what it means for Palm Beach in anticipated revenue and what limitations there are on what the income can and can't be used for,"

Bood-heshwar said. He added, "One thing we're not going to do is invent projects to spend the money. The community has specific needs that need to be addressed."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Post, The (FL)
October 10, 2016

Palm Beach may sue owner of derelict boat. Palm Beach plans to get its \$50,000 back from owner of beached yacht

Author: William Kelly

The Palm Beach Town Council and town staff will discuss possible legal action today to retrieve \$50,000 the town spent removing the derelict vessel, the Time Out, after it was run ashore near the Lake Worth Inlet a month ago. The town divided the 72-foot-yacht into sections and removed the last pieces on Thursday afternoon, just as Hurricane Matthew was approaching the area. The \$200,000 removal cost was covered by a \$150,000 state grant and \$50,000 in town money.

"We will seek council approval to use whatever legal means we have to get reimbursement (of the town's share) from the boat owner," Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said.

The yacht became a sort of maritime spectacle after its owner, Thomas Henry Baker, ran it aground at 2:15 a.m. Sept. 7 after police said he returned from the Bahamas while drinking Long Island iced teas. Baker, 63, of Belle Isle, was charged with one count of boating under the influence. He pleaded not guilty last week.

The council meeting is at 10:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
June 9, 2016

Three town computer drives hit for 2nd time by malware

Author: Aleese Kopf

The town says it is working on ways to better prevent cyberattacks after the second malware intrusion in two weeks. Computer drives were hijacked Monday night and restored by midday Tuesday. Deputy Town Manager **Jay Boodheshwar** said the "ransomware incident" attacked the same three drives that were targeted last month, including the police department's computer-aided dispatch system. The drives get encrypted with a password, essentially holding them hostage unless the town pays for a key. The information technology team restores the drives with backup data that overwrites the malware.

Boodheshwar said the attack was "frustrating," but did not jeopardize public safety and only "minimally affected" daily operations. "It's a time-consuming thing to deal with every time," he said. "We get our files back, but it's a pain. Staff members have to work overnight and come in on a few hours of sleep." **Boodheshwar** said he directed staff to develop an "accelerated plan" to prevent future attacks. "We are looking into additional ways we can further harden our firewall, beyond the protection our network and software (such as Malwarebytes) currently provide," he said.

Malware prevention also will be a top priority for the town's new IT manager. **Boodheshwar** said the town is interviewing candidates. "It's strange for us, because we haven't had to deal with this kind of stuff in the past, but it's not abnormal," he said. "It's surprising to me how common this is across all industries." After the first incident, **Boodheshwar** said cyberattacks are "a reality we're forced to deal with." He said more than 100,000 attacks get blocked each month.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently posted a bulletin warning hospitals, school districts, law enforcement agencies, state and local governments, and businesses that ransomware incidents are on the rise. BBC News also recently published a story about the "alarming" rise in ransomware.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
January 11, 2015

Recreation revenues strong in 2014

Author: Aleese Kopf

The town's recreation department had another lucrative year in 2014, with record earnings at the Par 3 Golf Course and Town Docks. Revenue increased 16.5 percent in the budget year from October 2013 through September 2014, as compared with the previous budget year. Overall, the town's tennis programs and facilities, recreation center, marina and golf course brought in \$5.3 million last year, up from \$4.55 million in 2013. "(It) was a very impressive, successful year for the Recreation Department," said director **Jay --Boodheshwar**, who takes over as deputy town manager Monday. "The Town Docks had the largest-grossing-revenue year ever." With the completion of the new clubhouse, the Par 3 course brought in even more than expected. "We projected \$1.2 million and beat it by \$200,000," he said. "The numbers are just beyond our projections."

Golf course revenue increased the most, jumping 43 percent from \$993,487 to \$1.4 million. Al Fresco Restaurant contributed about half of the \$428,995 increase, **Boodheshwar** said. The new clubhouse also opened last year. The marina brought in \$3.34 million, \$316,000 more than in 2013. **Boodheshwar** credited a higher occupancy rate and more transient boats for the increase. The tennis and recreation center recorded slightly higher revenue totals than the previous year, bringing in \$201,389 and \$338,673, respectively. Tennis revenue increased \$378, which might not sound significant, **Boodheshwar** said. "But it is important to acknowledge that (this) was the first year in three or four years where we weren't seeing a decline in revenue and participation," he said. We're heading back now in the right direction."

Expenses up

Recreation operating expenses increased 10.8 percent, from about \$3 million to \$3.3 million, primarily because a new administrative position was added and one part-time position at the golf course pro shop was reclassified to full-time. The golf course cost the town \$1.1 million; the marina, \$871,000; recreation center, \$600,000; tennis programs \$312,000, and administration, \$416,000. Subtracting expenses, net revenue in 2014 was about \$2 million. About \$885,000 of that is to be transferred to the town's general fund. The rest goes toward operational and other expenses within the recreation department. Participation and business increased at all of the town's recreation departments except the recreation center. Youth, adult and lesson participation increased at the Phipps Ocean Park and Seaview Park tennis facilities. The town sold 154 annual passes compared with 138 in 2013 and held 18 tournaments/special events, one more than the previous year. The Town Docks sold 81 annual and seasonal slips, increasing occupancy from 92 percent in 2013 to 98 percent in 2014. Part-time business also boomed, with more transient boats and transient nights.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

New rec programs set

Par 3 visitors played 34,780 rounds of golf in 2014 and bought 16,473 range buckets, and 2,163 people participated in lessons and clinics. The course hosted 27 tournaments and outings, four more than 2013.

Recreation programs didn't do as well. Youth and adult enrichment and athletic participation decreased from 4,612 to 3,480 and 2,483 to 1,922, respectively. The town offered 14 fewer programs and events than the 244 in 2013. "Participation is overall pretty flat, but you'll see this upcoming year a variety of new programs and a new effort to try to grow the activities at the recreation center," **Boodheshwar** said. "Cancellations of programs or instructors that left at the start of the season affected our numbers."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
January 8, 2015

Recreation head proud of 9 years

Author: Aleese Kopf

Friday is **Jay Boodheshwar's** last day as the town's recreation director. Beginning Monday, he will take over as deputy town manager, a position being vacated by Tom Bradford, when he steps in for departing Town Manager Peter Elwell. Bradford will become town manager on Monday. Friday also will mark **Boodheshwar's** ninth anniversary as a town employee. At his last Recreation Advisory Commission meeting Wednesday, **Boodheshwar** called it a bittersweet moment. "I will miss working with our dedicated and supportive commission members and incredibly talented team of employees, but I'm also grateful for the opportunity to serve the town in a broader role," he said. "As I reflect upon my last nine years with the town, my mind is flooded with many positive and wonderful memories."

Boodheshwar praised the recreation department for many accomplishments during his tenure. "We've done so much as a team," he said. "After years of hard work, I believe that the recreation department has evolved into an organization we should all be very proud of. It's lean, it's efficient, and it's meeting the recreational needs of our community. It's also very well-positioned for many years of success." Perhaps the greatest accomplishment under **Boodheshwar's** guidance was the renovation of the Par 3 Golf Course and addition of a new clubhouse. At the tennis facilities, recreation center and marina, he's helped staff make changes that have led to increased participation and business. The department also has started plans to renovate the Recreation Center and replace the Town Docks.

Members of the recreation commission thanked **Boodheshwar** for his service. "I think all of us are not the least bit surprised that this is happening," said Chairwoman Pamela McIver. "You're an extraordinary person both personally and professionally. We're excited for you." Said Commissioner Stephen Hall: "He's going to leave some huge shoes to fill."

Boodheshwar said the town is searching for his replacement. The position was advertised nationally in November. Applications were due Monday. About 100 people applied, he said. Bradford will form a selection committee that will review résumés, conduct interviews and recommend a candidate. Bradford ultimately will appoint the new director. "We're hoping to have someone named by early March," **Boodheshwar** said.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
February 26, 2014

Town backs delay in flood premium hikes

Author: Aleese Kopf

The town supports a measure the U.S. House of Representatives could consider this week to prevent huge hikes in flood insurance premiums. A version of the bipartisan bill, known as the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, already passed in the Senate. It calls for a four-year delay in implementing certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The act was intended to put the nation's flood insurance program, currently \$24 million in debt, back on sound financial footing by weaning thousands of homeowners off of subsidized rates and by requiring extensive updating of flood maps used to set premiums.

Director of Emergency Management **Jay Boodheshwar** said the town supports a delay in the reform act. "We think it would be definitely helpful for the delay to occur -- really to provide further review, and more opportunity to study the impacts to individual property owners and make sure there's a fair outcome," he said. The delay would help property owners who currently have subsidized policies, **Boodheshwar** said. "As far as impact here, we know that there are individuals who have chosen to self-insure and not be a part of this program and have the ability to do that. But we also know there are a significant amount of people who are in the program and need the program," he said. As of last year, there were 3,000 to 4,000 active subsidized policies in town, said Building Official William Bucklew. **Boodheshwar** did not know how much extra residents would pay but said he's seen rate increases of "thousands of dollars" in other Florida communities.

On Monday, Gov. Rick Scott met with President Obama and urged him to undo the National Flood Insurance Program rate hikes on Florida families. "For too long, Florida has been a donor state to the National Flood Insurance Program by contributing \$16 billion over the last three decades, which is nearly four times the amount Florida homeowners have received back in claims," Scott said in a news release. "Families are being hurt by outrageous increases in their flood insurance rate, all because of a bad bill the president signed into law." Earlier this month, U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, urged Congress to address the "skyrocketing flood insurance rates." "An economic storm is brewing," she said on the House floor. "Our constituents are facing skyrocketing jumps in flood insurance premiums unless we act now " Frankel gave the example of a South Florida couple in a "modest" home currently paying \$2,400 per year in flood insurance who would see an increase to \$12,000 per year.

Florida Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson was one of the lawmakers last month to advance the legislation in the Senate. "We are finally coming to the point at which we can grant homeowners and businesses some relief from the huge, gargantuan -- sometimes tenfold -- increases in flood insurance premiums," he said at the time. The bill would delay rate increases and give the Federal Emergency Management Agency time to study the affordability of policies and re-evaluate the accuracy of new flood maps. **Boodheshwar** said the town provided FEMA a

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

"statement of opposition" to the draft maps last fall and is waiting to see what the second drafts look like. Those maps should be released this spring, he said.

Summary of H.R. 3370, The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act

The legislation does the following:

- Reinstates the grandfathering of properties by repealing Section 207 of the Biggert-Waters Act. This means that all post-Flood Insurance Rate Map properties built to code at the time of construction will have protection from rate spikes due to new mapping. By reinstating the grandfathering of properties, there is no longer a need to delay the rate increases.
- Prevents the Federal Emergency Management Agency from increasing premiums within a single property class beyond 15 percent per year.
- Requires a 5 percent minimum annual increase on pre-FIRM primary residence policies not at full risk.
- Refunds policyholders who purchased pre-FIRM homes after Biggert-Waters was passed on July 6, 2012, and were subsequently charged higher rates.
- Removes the rate increase trigger for properties sold after July 6, 2012, and treats the new property owner as the same as the previous one.
- Applies an annual surcharge of \$25 for primary residences and \$250 for second homes and businesses to all policies. All revenue from these assessments would be placed in a reserve fund, which was established to ensure funds are available for meeting the "expected future obligations" of the fund.
- Funds the affordability study required by the Biggert-Waters Act and mandates its completion in two years.
- Requires FEMA to reimburse policyholders and communities for successful map appeals.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
May 2, 2013

Rec sites bring in \$1.6M profit

Author: Aleese Kopf

After another profitable year, the Recreation Department has only a couple of minor changes proposed for its fiscal year 2013-14 budget. Recreation Director **Jay Boodheshwar** reported revenues just under \$5 million for this year at Wednesday's Recreation Advisory Commission meeting. After subtracting expenses, that's about a \$1.6 million profit for the town's Recreation Enterprise Fund, the report shows. "We continue to be a profit-making entity for the town, especially the marina," **Boodheshwar** said. "We're projecting golf to eventually become a profit-making area as well."

Currently, the town docks bring in the bulk of the revenue. Tennis programs and facilities and the recreation center cost more to operate than the revenue they produce, while the golf course breaks even. But the new Par 3 clubhouse could change that ratio, **Boodheshwar** said. "It's expected with the addition of the new clubhouse, play will increase, which in turn will increase revenue." While fee changes are not needed to increase participation at the golf course, town staff members have recommended lowering nonresident tennis fees to boost play. **Boodheshwar** said staff is recommending rolling back annual adult and family nonresident fees by 15 percent "in an effort to grow participation and to increase level of competition as requested by resident players." An annual adult nonresident pass is currently \$727, about double that of adult residents, and one of the highest rates in the area.

At the docks, staff is recommending a 2 percent increase for most fees. Only the annual and seasonal 50-foot and 60-foot rates will remain at the 2012-13 levels, **Boodheshwar** said. "We need to make it more competitive and the proposed increases will maintain our place in the area market," he said. Palm Beach-proposed rates for 80-foot to 262-foot slips range from \$1.02 to \$1.15 per foot. At Palm Harbor, Old Port Cove and Rybovich North and South, prices range from \$1.28 to \$2.80 per foot, town officials said.

As part of the budget review process, the commission recommended the town look into hiring another staff member to help reduce the workload of current employees, and to focus on marketing and communications. The commission thought an additional staff member could provide a "new view" and bring "fresh ideas" to promoting recreational activities. Member Khooshe Aiken suggested the potential hire could do studies on how to best reach the Palm Beach audience, including writing blogs and using social media sites. **Boodheshwar** said he will have a conversation with staff from each area to figure out strengths and weaknesses, and see whether adding an employee would be appropriate.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
March 26, 2013

Ex-dockmaster withdraws appeal of firing

Author: William Kelly

Former Dockmaster Ken Kooyenga has withdrawn the appeal of his firing, prompting the cancellation of a Monday hearing before the Town Council's Administrative and Personnel Committee. In an email, Kooyenga notified town officials Thursday he would not seek to be reinstated because "that would not be beneficial to my personal health and well being."

Recreation Director **Jay Boodheshwar** fired Kooyenga on Feb. 6 on grounds that he misused his position for personal financial gain. A town investigation found Kooyenga solicited and accepted money from marina customers to help pay his daughter's college tuition, which is a violation of town policy. He also is alleged to have solicited dock customers for work for his private business, Vintage Marine.

Dockmaster since July 2011, Kooyenga was paid an annual salary of \$63,459 to manage an 84-slip marina with a staff of two under the town's Recreation Department. Kooyenga wrote that he was the victim of false accusations and claims that were "unsubstantiated and without merit." He said in an interview last week that he could not afford an attorney and would speak on his own behalf at the hearing. He said he was not optimistic about his chances of getting his job back.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Independent, The (Massillon, OH)
October 1, 2012

Council looking beyond Legends
City's Parks and Recreation board under scrutiny
Author: Matthew Rink

While a mayoral committee is meeting to find solutions to the Legends of Massillon golf course debt, some members of City Council are taking an all-encompassing look at the Parks & Recreation Department and the board that controls it. Second Ward Councilwoman Nancy Halter called on council to address the issue at last week's work session. "We need to address the problem of the parks and rec board - period," Halter said. "We keep hearing discussion of who's in charge, who's not in charge, who can do this and who can do that. We need to take some time and look at this problem. "There has to be a time when council grabs the bull by the horns and works through these problems." In recent years, the problem of the Legends debt has metastasized into one of authority, or lack thereof, and alleged political gamesmanship by the city administration, both past and present. While some Parks & Recreation board members feel they've been stripped of any real control of department finances, city officials believe the same members want to settle personal scores for mistakes made long ago.

Thomas "Moe" Rickett may be central to that dispute. On the board since its inception, Rickett has been an outspoken critic of the golf course and the use of parks levy funds to pay its debt. The golf course was not part of the campaign for a 0.3 percent parks income tax in 1995 - a tax that led to the creation of the present-day, five-member board structure. When Rickett joined fellow board members in 2002 in accepting the duty of running the course, he says he did so under the impression the debt would still be paid out of the city's general fund. But in 2005, then-Director **Jay Boodheshwar** made a handshake agreement with Mayor Frank Cicchinelli, according to Rickett, to take over debt payments. City Council approved the move, but the parks board never had a say, Rickett insists, and **Boodheshwar** was three weeks shy of leaving the city for another job. It's one example, Rickett says, of the board's near impotence in authority over finances and personnel that has existed to this day.

HOT POTATO

At its Sept. 13 meeting, Rickett and member Mark Hickey voted to pass the annual debt on the course - about \$524,045 - back to the general fund. They argue that the department has not been able to properly care for its parks and has been forced to direct revenue from parks income tax to the golf course because of the burdensome debt payments. In response to the debate, Sixth Ward Councilman Ed Lewis IV proposed that the parks board and members of council work over the next month to resolve the issue. That has not yet happened. Instead, Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry has created a committee to work on the problem. When questions arose last week about council's role in the debt talks, some members dismissed the problems as old hat. "We've been through this four years ago," 5th Ward Councilman Donnie Peters said during the work session. "The same exact thing. I'm getting sick of it. The ultimate authority lies right here with City Council. We can override anything. They can vote on every little thing they want to, and we can turn it

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

down." Councilman at-large Paul Manson added, "Everything we have done with that (golf course) is legal. They may not like it, but it's legal."

In 2010, Judge John Haas sided with the city on all issues that were brought forward in a civil complaint by resident Edward Todd. Todd, who never made a public appearance or spoke to the media about the lawsuit, fought whether the city can own and operate a golf course; whether the course belongs under the Parks and Recreation Department; and whether parks levy funds could be used for the course's operation. Halter, though, and other first-year members of council, such as Lewis, say the issues have not been resolved and want some clarification. Specifically, Halter says, the board needs to know what control it has over its finances and the department director. "Who's in charge of the money?" she said. "Who's in charge of the department? Someone has to make a decision once and for all."

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Parks and Recreation Department Director Bob Straughn says he has two bosses. "On the organizational chart, I report to the board, and I also report to the service director and the mayor." he said. "I just work through it the best I can. It is what it is." Rickett disagrees. "We hire him. We fire him," Rickett said of the board. "Wouldn't it stand to reason he reports to us? A man can't serve two masters. He's been torn between the board and the city, which is why we need to get some things straightened around. That will be coming down the road."

Rickett points to **Boodheshwar's** decision to accept the debt without board approval in 2005, among other reasons why the director has long been torn between the city and board, which is made up of members appointed by the mayor and city school board. The debt problem surfaced when the city added nine holes to the course in the late 1990s. The third nine cost more than the initial 18. Golfcourse revenue was supposed to pay for the debt, but operating costs left little to spare at the end of most seasons following its expansion.

Cicchinelli unsuccessfully attempted to sell 50 acres of the course in 2007, but no one was willing to bid on the land. His plan was to return the course to 18 holes, reduce maintenance costs, and apply any money from the sale to the ballooning debt. In 2008, the city began contributing \$350,000 from the general fund to the debt. However, Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry, a critic of Cicchinelli's handling of the course, pushed the entire debt onto the department this year. Catazaro-Perry has argued that the decision saved the jobs of several critical city workers, but still was not enough to prevent the layoffs of 27 employees, including police officers and firefighters. Her position on the course is that "everything is on the table," including a sale.

LAWYERS

Others believe the dispute is simply political noise. Councilman at-large Larry Slagle has defended the course, despite a belief the city shouldn't be in the business anyway. He says Legends play has increased in recent years and that critics consistently ignore the property tax revenue created by surrounding development. Furthermore, the department's problems run deeper than the course, he says, and include massive debt on the Massillon Recreation Center.

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Jay Boodheshwar
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"It's far more nuanced than just blaming it on the Legends or blaming it on the income we have coming in," Slagle said at council's meeting last week. Slagle, who is serving on the mayor's committee, called it a long-term problem. He said there is a "core of people" that has blamed every problem in the department on the Legends. "They still like to protect what they were actively involved in, because they see it as a burden of their idea," he said. "Their idea, in their opinion, has somewhat been sidetracked. And it has somewhat been sidetracked."

Rickett would not elaborate on what steps he believes the parks board should take next and refused to comment on talk of lawyers getting involved again. But he vehemently defended himself of accusations that the dispute is politically motivated. "It has nothing to do with me personally," he said. "It's about trying to do what the people voted for. The people didn't vote for a Legends golf course. Does it upset me the city wants to keep paying it? Yes, I take that personally because I voted (on the tax), too."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
February 12, 2012

New marina strategy may yield tens of thousands of dollars a year

Author: David Rogers

When hotels want to fill empty rooms, they sell them for a discount on popular travel websites. The town's adoption of a similar strategy for unoccupied slips at its docks has the potential to bring in tens of thousands of dollars in extra revenue a year -- while bringing well-heeled yachters to town for shopping, dining, golf and other recreation, according to dock master Kenny Kooyenga. After Kooyenga joined the town staff last July, he suggested the town sublease slips at a flat daily rate to groups of six or more boats.

Last fall, the Town Council adopted the flat-rate flotilla fee with winter and summer rates for transient boats. "There are only so many slips we can lease on an annual or season basis," said Recreation Department Director **Jay Boodheshwar**. "There are 84 available. We haven't been at 100 percent occupancy in the last few years but we are trending back in the right direction." From Oct. 1, 2010, to Jan. 31, 2011, revenue from transient business was \$163,314, a \$3,645 increase over the same period the previous fiscal quarter, according to **Boodheshwar**. Spring and summer are the biggest months for transient customers, and the new flat daily rate should help the town compete better for those customers, he said. Boaters with annual and seasonal leases often have their vessels away from town docks for weeks or months at a time, **Boodheshwar** said. "There may be extended periods of time in the summer -- months -- when they are not using them, so we sublease them," **Boodheshwar** said.

Kooyenga said the town's traditional occupancy rate at the docks ranged from 92 percent to 96 percent. When he came on staff, the occupancy percentage was in the high 80s, he said. That left room for a little private sector-style creativity, the dock master said. "This is a newly implemented policy at the town docks so the full potential has yet to be realized. The revenue will likely be \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year, which is not huge, but it's in a positive direction," Kooyenga said. And that revenue will only grow as the word spreads in the yachting community, he said. Kooyenga said the flotilla rate is an opportunity for the town to promote its services and businesses to yachters. The town attempts to group transient boats at the south end of the docks, off Peruvian Avenue, he said. That location is convenient to Worth Avenue.

Town staff also will provide contact information to flotilla groups seeking shuttles to the Par 3 golf course, town tennis courts and restaurant hot spots such as Café L'Europe, Kooyenga said. "It's not just about docking at the town docks. It's about experiencing everything the town has to offer," he said. Kooyenga emphasized that annual and seasonal slip holders will always have a slip. He just asked that captains give the dock crew the courtesy of contact 24 hours before a boat is expected to arrive back in town.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
July 3, 2011

Nine join board of Palm Beach United Way

Nine new members joined the board of trustees of the Town of Palm Beach United Way on July 1. **Jay Boodheshwar**, Vicki Hunt, Gerald Jordan, Pamela McIver, Heidi Niblack, Monica Preston, David Schaff, Laurie Silvers and Kathy Willis are all newly elected members of the class of 2014.

Officers were elected at the annual meeting April 28 at The Breakers.

Michael J. Bracci is chairman; J. Ira Harris, Christine Curtis, Michele Kessler, Ralph V. Moore and John Scarpa are vice chairmen. Mark W. Cook is treasurer with Peter Elwell, deputy treasurer. Mayor Gail Coniglio is secretary. Emily Bowman, Margaret Luntz and Sydelle Meyer were elected honorary life members.

The United Way office is at 44 Coconut Way. Call 655-1919 or visit palmbeachunitedway.org.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
May 11, 2011

Council approves Boodheshwar pay boost

Author: Margie Kacoha

Jay Boodheshwar, Palm Beach's Director of Recreation and Special Projects, picked up a \$12,000 raise Tuesday from the Town Council. But he wasn't there to hear the unanimous vote in his favor. "I was sitting at my desk, working," he said.

Town Manager Peter Elwell made the recommendation to increase **Boodheshwar's** pay to \$130,853, effective Oct. 1. He noted **Boodheshwar's** service to the town, first as Director of Recreation, then to Director of Recreation and Special Projects last year, to reflect additional duties he has taken on during the past two years.

Boodheshwar, 38, was first hired in January 2006 and has taken on the responsibility of overseeing the town's emergency preparedness. He also led the improvement of procurement policies and practices in the capital improvement program and throughout the town, and served as acting public works director for three months. **Boodheshwar** also facilitated the recent town-wide Centennial Celebration. Elwell said **Boodheshwar** is, for all practical purposes, serving as a part-time assistant town manager.

Boodheshwar said he was grateful for the increased pay and the recognition. "But that's not what motivates me," he said. According to **Boodheshwar**, he keeps focused on the challenges in front of him, and what he can do to help the town.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below.]

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
April 24, 2011

Garden Club bestows awards

Author: Robert Janjigian

The Garden Club of Palm Beach convened Thursday afternoon to recognize the achievements of individual members and others in the community over the past year. The annual awards session, held in the Pannill Pavilion at The Society of the Four Arts, was attended by about 75 members of the club and served as the final meeting of the 2010-2011 season.

Connie Geisler served as chairwoman of the club's awards committee and the event. "This is our way of celebrating and recognizing the hard work of our members and other individuals who support our efforts," said Cindy Hoyt, Garden Club president, who received an achievement medal and certificate from the club in recognition of her leadership over the past two years.

With Hoyt at its helm, in the past year alone, the club has overseen and supported the installation of the Oasis Traffic Circle at the intersection of South Ocean and Southern Boulevards and the Living Wall on the west wall of 150 Worth Ave., part of the Worth Avenue Renovation Project. Hoyt is to be succeeded as club president by Heather Henry, who will serve a two-year term.

- **Jay Boodheshwar**, the town director of recreation, for his leadership and devotion to the community;

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/article/20110221/NEWS/302219965>
February 21, 2011

Jay Boodheshwar, Recreation Department director, lives his values, knows worth of hard work

Author: John Nelander

Jay Boodheshwar has plenty on his plate, searching for ways to run the Palm Beach Recreation Department more efficiently on a leaner budget. He's a confident professional and enjoys talking shop, especially rising to the challenge of running local government services in a time of financial crisis. His vision for Palm Beach recreational services is clear-cut: "Work harder and work smarter, and be as efficient as possible without compromising services." But in spare moments between his work on town recreation issues, the Palm Beach United Way, and volunteering in his own Royal Palm Beach community, **Boodheshwar** has taken on a much more personal mission — trying to make sense of a world in perpetual religious and racial conflict. "The older I get, the more fascinated I am, trying to understand how the world got to be the way it is today," he says. "I'm attracted to ancient cultures and the history of mankind — how we started and how we moved. And why." It's an interest that reflects his personal journey in so many ways. **Boodheshwar** was born in Guyana, a tiny tropical outpost on the northern coast of South America that has the unfortunate distinction of being infamous — in the United States, at least — as the site of the 1978 mass suicides of the Jim Jones cult. **Boodheshwar's** parents packed up the family and immigrated to the United States a year later, following one of his uncles who had attended an American college. "One by one, my father's brothers and sisters moved to the States," says **Boodheshwar**, who left Guyana when he was 6 years old. "They sold everything and took a big risk, moving here literally with a suitcase of old clothes and three kids. It was tough early on."

Culture shock

Guyana, a nation of 800,000, is considered a Caribbean country. Its official language is a form of Creole English, which doesn't translate well in the United States. And the family moved to Cleveland in the fall, so even the weather was a shock. The city had more people than the entire population of his family's native country. But they dug into the community and slowly adjusted. "I remember the first car we had, the first TV we had," **Boodheshwar** says. "I remember first grade and it being scary. There's a cultural difference, and an educational difference. I've seen other relatives coming over here in middle school and high school, and that's really tough. "I learned a lot of good things from my parents, like hard work and caring for other people. They also knew they had to take advantage of opportunity. As I got older, I was tempted to mess around as a teenager and as a college student, and not really focus on my studies. "But I had a tremendous sense of guilt because my parents had sacrificed so much to get me to that point. I still live that today and try to instill those values into my own kids. I want to make sure they know how hard their grandparents had to work and how hard I had to work."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Embracing heritage

Like most kids, **Boodheshwar** was consumed with the idea of fitting in. Looking back, he says, that was the most challenging thing about living in the United States. “As a child, you’re very conscious of being different. And you’re ashamed, to some degree, that you’re different. You have a tendency like I did to suppress your culture and your background. But as an adult, I’m ashamed I did that. I’ve really embraced my heritage as I’ve gotten older.” All that started to change, he says, when he married his wife, Anne, 15 years ago. He began to celebrate his roots and look more closely at the whole issue of race. “When you break it down to the molecular level, it’s silly. The religious strife and the racial tension — all of the conflict that exists is man-made.” Introspection hasn’t hindered **Boodheshwar**’s professional ambition. He had the good fortune of knowing, in his college freshman year, that he wanted to major in recreation administration at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He stuck with it and never looked back. After graduation, he took jobs building recreation programs in Bloomington, Ind., Munster, Ind., East Chicago, Ind., and Massillon, Ohio, before coming to Palm Beach.

Redefining ‘recreation’

The East Chicago assignment may have been the toughest for **Boodheshwar**, newly married and just starting a family (he and Anne have two daughters). “It’s politically and socially a suburb of Chicago. It was a thriving steel community, but now it’s a devastated community, and politically corrupt. “The word recreation means something different in every community. And in East Chicago the word recreation was literally the difference between gangs and no gangs, and sometimes life and death for some of the kids. My role was to professionalize and build up the department. It was a great experience and I’d do it all over again, but it was tough.”

In East Chicago, he was an assistant recreation director under Kevin Briski, who recalls: “He was the only person I considered for that particular job. **Jay**’s a real forward thinking and progressive administrator, and he instinctively knew how to set the right tone. “He opened the gyms at night for basketball, got some private donations, and worked to make sure kids and families had the ability to get out and play.” Briski, now superintendent of parks in Madison, Wis., says people liked **Boodheshwar** because he’s “grounded and humble,” except for his golf game. “He talks a good game. He’s much less humble about his golf game than he is about his professional life.”

Florida alluring

After East Chicago, Massillon was a garden spot for **Boodheshwar** and his family. But when he heard about the job as recreation director in Palm Beach in 2006, the idea of warmer weather appealed to him. “South Florida is a very diverse place, and there’s a lot to do,” he adds. “I had a young family, so I figured it would be good to make the move now, or otherwise it would be harder to pry them away.” He heads a department of 18 full-time employees, which is 18 percent fewer people than when he arrived. When the town is finished “restructuring” the department, it will be 35 percent smaller. The contraction is taking place through attrition.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Finding his golf game

Boodheshwar was a high school basketball star. Luckily for his future in Palm Beach, his father-in-law introduced him to golf while he was still in Indiana. A natural athlete, he thought he had the game figured out after practicing on the driving range. When he got to the first tee, though, he topped the ball and it rolled 30 yards. Now, he has a scorecard from his best round ever framed on his office wall. It’s an impressive two strokes under par. He routinely shoots in the high 70s and low 80s. All of which ties in with stories about his father, who made a living as a farmer in Guyana. He then worked his way up in the manufacturing industry in Cleveland to become — without a formal education — a production supervisor and “go-to guy.” “He’s a quick learner,” **Boodheshwar** says. “I think I picked a lot of that up from him.”

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
January 3, 2011

Water use earns Par 3 Grand Award

Author: Margie Kacoho

The town's Par 3 Golf Course is heading to Washington, D.C., in a manner of speaking. The newly renovated course recently received a Grand Award in the 2011 Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers Excellence Awards Program. It was submitted by the West Palm Beach engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc., which designed environmentally friendly water conservation elements for the public green space. The project will move forward in a national contest representing engineering firms and their work around the world. "All golf courses do have an engineering element to them," said Kevin Schanen, senior project manager at Kimley-Horn.

The basic redesign of water use at the renovated golf course included the reuse of storm water and use of brackish water. That eliminated the need for treated water from the City of West Palm Beach, the town's water supplier. Also, a retention on the property stopped discharge of water from the course into the Intracoastal Waterway. The Kimley-Horn design also uses natural pressure to provide water to the course for irrigation, rather than relying on a pump.

Results of the national competition will be announced in April, according to Kate Ray, director of member services for FICE. "If you win, it's like an Academy Award for the engineering world," Schanen said. The town's project was one of eight selected from a field of 25 entries by a six-member panel, Ray said. Judges represented a variety of fields, including architecture, education, government, transportation and the media, giving the panel wide diversification, she said.

Palm Beach's Director of Recreation **Jay Boodheshwar** was naturally pleased with the recognition. "I think it will reflect well on our golf course," he said. "We knew we had a special project, a unique project. This gives us outside validation."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL) - July 18, 2010
July 18, 2010

Report: Culture allowed collusion

Author: William

Fired construction manager Steven White was able to pocket a tidy sum in bribes from town contractors because his bosses weren't watching him as closely as they should have, town investigators found. White, a trusted employee who presided over contractors in the field, was inadequately managed by his direct supervisor, Chuck Langley, who was then assistant director of the Public Works Department. That was the conclusion of an administrative report the town released Thursday. That lack of supervision, along with a department culture that sometimes allowed cutting procedural corners to complete tasks expeditiously, enabled White to engage in a pay-for-play scheme with his chosen contractors, according to the report. Police say White collected \$250,000 in bribes between January 2009 and March 2010. The eight-year-employee was arrested on multiple felony charges in April following a criminal investigation triggered in November by a confidential informant.

The town hired accounting firm Crowe Horwath for \$48,000 to probe its contract procurement procedures and practices. Town Manager Peter Elwell and Human Resources Director Danielle Olson followed up with their own investigation, in which arrest warrants and related materials were closely inspected, and some town employees were interviewed. Outdated job descriptions and a circumvention of purchasing procedures were partly responsible for the failure to detect the criminal activity, the report said. Field supervision of White is faulted. Public Works Director Paul Brazil tolerated a "get the work done" department that took precedence over strict adherence to purchasing procedures, it said. But investigators zeroed in on Langley for failing to consistently and effectively supervise White, especially in the field.

Contractors Chaz Equipment and Dee Griffin Earthworks were two of five vendors pre-qualified to do certain types of projects for the town. The two firms were used for the vast majority of work managed by White, and their work involved a high frequency of change orders. "The combination of Mr. White's skills, experience, and his demanding expectations of contractors provided for an environment where his work was rarely challenged by supervisors," the report said. "Mr. Langley allowed Mr. White to work in an autonomous manner, where his work was rarely questioned, and his on-going circumvention of purchasing procedures was not stopped. This fostered an environment that allowed opportunity for criminal behavior."

As a result of the administrative probe, Elwell cut Langley's pay and demoted him to a new post where he will no longer supervise other employees. His assistant director's position, which was one of two within the department, has been eliminated, Elwell said. Brazil received a milder pay cut. Brazil and Langley were back at work on Thursday after being placed on administrative leave with pay for nearly three months. Brazil declined to comment for this story, and Langley did not return a message seeking comment. Town Engineer James Bowser will remain on administrative leave with pay until additional information is received by Elwell in the next few

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weeks, the report said. There is no evidence to suggest that Brazil, Langley or Bowser were aware of any criminal activity, the report said.

Recreation Department Director **Jay Boodheshwar**, who was acting director of the public works department during Brazil's absence, will continue to be responsible for the timely completion of scheduled construction projects and emergency work, Elwell has decided. Brazil will take direction from **Boodheshwar** regarding those projects, according to the report. Meanwhile, **Boodheshwar's** position with the town has been reclassified as director of recreation and special projects. Those projects include leadership of the town's Emergency Planning Team and facilitation of the preparations for its centennial celebration.

Town procurement system being updated

Acting director of Public Works, **Boodheshwar** began the process of improving procurement procedures and work flow for construction, the reported noted. **Boodheshwar** has not received a pay increase for his additional responsibilities and work load, Elwell said.

The arrest of White and the three contractors was the result of a criminal investigation triggered by a confidential informant. The investigation by State Attorney Michael McAuliffe's office and the Palm Beach Police Department began in November. White was initially charged with 25 counts of unlawful compensation, each of which carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison, and one count of conspiracy, which carries up to five years in prison. In June, he was charged with four counts of money laundering, each of which also carries up to 15 years in prison. Contractors Gary Czajkowski, Janis Griffin and Stephen MacDonald have also been charged as a result of the probe. Czajkowski is owner of Chaz Equipment. Griffin and MacDonald are both highly placed employees with Dee Griffin Earthworks. Dee Griffin Earthworks and Chaz Equipment did more than \$4.9 million in business with the town, police said.

Czajkowski faces one charge of unlawful compensation and one charge of money laundering. Griffin and MacDonald each face 23 charges of unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior, one count of conspiracy to commit unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior, and two counts of money laundering. White, Griffin and MacDonald each await a jury trial in Palm Beach County Circuit Court during the week of Sept. 13. Czajkowski has a jury trial set for the week of Sept. 20. All are out of jail on bond.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
June 3, 2010

Panel: Assistant dockmaster's firing proper

Author: William Kelly

John Fallon was a polite, capable, friendly and helpful town employee, popular with the yacht owners and captains at the Town Marina. For those reasons, Recreation Department Director **Jay Boodheshwar** told a Town Council committee Wednesday that he was reluctant to fire Fallon, the assistant dockmaster with nearly nine years of town service. But Fallon's friendliness and helpfulness toward the customers -- to the point of insubordination -- eventually became his undoing.

Boodheshwar testified at a hearing Wednesday that, despite repeated warnings, counseling and disciplinary action taken against Fallon since 2006, Fallon insisted on excessive socializing with dock customers and their staff members during weekends, when he was in charge of the marina. Fallon, 51, was fired by **Boodheshwar** on April 6 for repeated insubordination. He challenged the termination before the council's Administrative and Personnel Committee, which voted 2-0 to recommend that the full council uphold the termination after finding he had repeatedly ignored directives from **Boodheshwar** and Dockmaster Jonathan Luscomb. The two supervisors told Fallon to be polite to customers, but to limit social contact to avoid any appearance of favoritism. Luscomb said Fallon would spend hours out of his work day talking with boat owners out on the docks, in the marina office and on their boats. Luscomb observed Fallon's socializing on tapes from the marina's security cameras. Luscomb said he told Fallon: "Just back off. Let them know you are at work. When you are on the clock, you have a responsibility to the town to run the marina."

Fallon also was accused of accepting gratuities, asking a subordinate employee to punch his time card for him after he left work early, and of breaking into a locked office after being told to stay out of it. He denied none of those allegations. Each time he landed in trouble, Fallon apologized and pledged to do as he was told, **Boodheshwar** and Luscomb testified. But Luscomb said the problem behavior continued, despite a written reprimand, two suspensions and a probationary period. Fallon told the committee he verbally went along with his bosses because he's a nice guy. "I don't rock the boat," he said. "I told them what they wanted to hear." But he said he then continued to approach his job as he saw fit. He said his job was to keep the customers happy and make sure they stayed loyal to the marina. "I honestly thought I was being an ambassador for the town," Fallon said.

Clearly, Fallon developed strong ties with some of the customers and their staff members. His attorney, Joseph Vassallo, presented a petition bearing 44 signatures from yacht owners, captains, staff and "other interested individuals associated with the docks." The petitioners called Fallon the "face of the docks," and a "fine gentleman" and asked that he be restored to his job. A few boat owners, and current and former members of the Police Department's Marine Unit also testified in support of Fallon. Fallon broke into the restricted office area at the request of the

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Marine Unit, which wanted him to splice a cable so they could have phone service in their office, according to Officer Mick Keehan.

Councilman Richard Kleid, the committee chairman, called Fallon a well-intentioned, nice guy. But he and Council President David Rosow, the committee's other member, agreed that Fallon could not be permitted to ignore the orders of his supervisors.

Fallon was fired about a year before he would have been eligible for pension benefits. The committee recommended that the council allow him to collect an estimated \$13,331 pension after he turns 55. That is the amount he would have been eligible for after 10 years of employment, which would have occurred in May 2011.

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
October 10, 2009

TOWN GOVERNMENT FINDS BENEFITS OF GOING GREEN

Author: David Rogers

Energy-efficient features being incorporated into Town Hall include low-water-use toilets, lights and faucets controlled by motion sensors, heat-repelling windows and wall insulation, and a lighter colored roof that reflects heat. The use of two software applications that allow staff to receive, edit, share and store documents electronically will allow the town to dramatically decrease the amount of paper it consumes. The Par 3 golf course, set to re-open this winter, has a new irrigation system that uses brackish water from the Floridan Aquifer mixed with rain water that collects in two drainage lakes on the property. The town used to use, on average, about 32 million gallons of water a year -- purchased from West Palm Beach -- to irrigate the course. Now, because of the water-retention ponds and the use of drought-tolerant grass, Recreation Director **Jay Boodheshwar** estimates the course will pull much less water, from 16.5 million gallons to 21 million gallons, from the Floridan Aquifer.

The town manager is tracking the costs and benefits of hybrid and clean-diesel vehicles in the town's fleet. While the hybrid vehicles have a higher up-front cost than comparable all-gasoline models, they provide significantly better fuel efficiency as well as lower emissions of greenhouse gases. The Public Works Department has removed 600 Australian pines, a non-native invasive plant, from town properties, installed deep wells to irrigate large parks and median areas, and adjusts irrigation in the parks to account for rainfall. On Royal Poinciana Way and elsewhere, the town has opted for native perennials, rather than water-hungry annuals. The town has endorsed a new Palm Beach Civic Association campaign designed to reduce the amount of water that property owners use to irrigate their lawns, by 40 to 60 percent, through the use of smart irrigation techniques. Starting next year, builders and architects submitting construction plans and design renderings to the Planning, Zoning and Building Department will be able to do so electronically. By using software called Bluebeam PDF Revu, the town's planners, building officials and clerks can receive the typically oversized documents via computer and review them, share them and even edit them on-screen. Doing so will save paper and greatly reduce the amount of space needed for traditional document storage, according to building official Jeff Taylor. "It would basically affect all our rolled plans, all of our drawings, which I would say is 40 to 60 percent of our paper works," Taylor said. "Right now we are dedicating an entire room to storing these drawings. Aside from our file cabinets, that's probably the largest storage area that we use in the town."

The Bluebeam software, designed for architectural and engineering applications, is being installed initially at computer stations, according to plans examiner Bill Bucklew. Some of the stations are based in the Fire-Rescue and Public Works departments. The system will significantly reduce the amount of materials the town has to copy and store, Taylor said. "Right now it will amount to hundreds of pounds of paper per year," Taylor said. "The ability to eliminate the need for multiple sets of full-size construction plans will make a substantial impact

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on paper usage." Changes in facilities, equipment, operations. The system is one example of how Palm Beach's town government has adopted more environmentally friendly practices in the past few years. At Town Hall, now in the middle of a major renovation, workers with Hedrick Brothers Construction have installed sealed, thick-paned windows that keep cool air from escaping and have installed climate control devices. A heat-reflecting white roof and spray-foam insulation beneath it also will improve energy efficiency. Motion sensors are in place in offices and bathrooms throughout the building to save electricity and water. In April, when Town Manager Peter Elwell moved into his new office in the north end of the building, the motion sensor was too far from his desk. "So the lights would go dark and stay dark," he said, smiling. The sensor was moved. "What we are finding is that in the rooms that have a number of windows, if the lights go out you don't really sweat it anymore. We're kind of getting used to that and you might work for a while with just the natural light coming in. If it gets dark, you do one of these," Elwell said, waving his hand. "Or otherwise you get up to leave the room and the light comes back on."

The light sensors, as do the other features, will provide the town with "good savings," Elwell said. The staff hasn't fully established a system for tracking the savings expected, but Elwell said he plans to determine their financial benefit. The need to craft a lean budget took priority this summer, he said. "In some cases, the efforts that the town is making to be more environmentally conscious are also saving money for the taxpayer. That's obviously the best kind of situation, where we have win-win," Elwell said. "The original motivation for most of these things, however, is not strictly cost savings but just recognizing changes that are occurring in how business gets done and doing the right thing by consuming less in the process of getting our work done." Other programs under way include expanding the use of Laserfische software, now used by the Town Clerk's office, to other departments for storing and sharing reports and other documents electronically. That is the centerpiece of the town's effort to dramatically reduce its use of paper, Elwell said.

Conserving water on course, at residences

The Par 3 Golf Course, set to re-open this winter, now is irrigated with brackish water from the Floridan Aquifer, combined with rain water collected from lakes on the property. Raymond Floyd's redesign of the course includes more dunes for better playability and aesthetics. "But an important part of the contouring is to have a golf course that drains properly," recreation director **Jay Boodheshwar** said. A large drainage lake on the east side of the course and a smaller drainage lake on the west side work to hold water for use in irrigation. The irrigation system, installed about six weeks ago, will keep the town from having to buy millions of gallons of water a year from West Palm Beach. "In the past, preconstruction, we were using on average about 32 million gallons of potable water per year," **Boodheshwar** said. The new turf, a variety of Paspalum, is salt-tolerant. The saltier water now used for irrigation is less hospitable to weeds and thus reduces the need for herbicides, **Boodheshwar** said. The town will periodically use potable water just to flush salt that collects on the turf roots during periods of less rainfall, he said. **Boodheshwar** said he expects the town will use 16.5 million to 21 million gallons of water from the Floridan Aquifer each year. "We are going to use roughly two-thirds of what we used to, because this turf is not only salt-tolerant, but it's drought-tolerant, too," **Boodheshwar** said.

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The town also is supporting a new campaign by the Palm Beach Civic Association to get property owners to substantially reduce the amount of water they use for irrigation. The association has identified a number of smart controllers that can help owners achieve that goal. In recent years, the Town Council has grown increasingly open to practices that save energy and resources. For Council President David Rosow, saving green is the bottom line. He plans to ask the town staff to begin a formal cost-analysis of these programs. "I think dealing with public money, we have to be certain we get a payback," Rosow said. "The first responsibility we have is to reduce costs and if we can reduce costs and help the environment, that is an added bonus. But I don't think we should do anything that increases the cost of our government."

Vehicle study under way

In 2008 the town purchased a Toyota Prius gas-electric hybrid vehicle for use by building department inspectors. It bought a second for the same use this year. The cars get significantly better gas mileage and have lower greenhouse-gas emissions than most vehicles, though they have a higher purchase price than similar gasoline-only models. The town bought a "clean diesel" Volkswagen Jetta for the Public Works Department. Town Manager Elwell said his goal is to study the vehicles' maintenance needs and fuel efficiency across their lifetime to determine whether to add more hybrid and/or clean-diesel vehicles to the town's fleet. Flex-fuel vehicles, for more heavy-duty needs in the Public Works or Police departments, could be an option if more fueling stations are able to provide gasoline blends with a high percentage of ethanol. "It's going to be a period of years that we try out some different technologies, see how they are working and then decide what looks like the better approach," Elwell said.

As chairman of the council's water committee, Rosow has promoted smart irrigation practices. The councilman said he understands that the cost of implementing some green programs is not necessarily recouped in a few years. He pointed to the installation of a new irrigation system with a smart controller at his own home this week as an example of a long-term investment in conservation. John Banting, sustainable construction manager for Hedrick Brothers, the construction company doing the Town Hall renovation, said the town has made wise decisions in choosing the energy-saving features for that project. "These initial costs, the selections they've been doing are not high up-front costs. They are not superfluously spending money whatsoever," Banting said, of the Town Hall project. "They've been very conservative but have made wise decisions, making educated decisions that will pay for themselves," Banting said. Going to a white roof is a prime example, he said. "It's very minimal additional cost and it will save them energy. And in turn if you can save energy, you are going to save money as well."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Palm Beach Daily News (FL)
January 20, 2006

**PB CITY COMMISSION RECREATION ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL
NEW REC DIRECTOR ON BOARD**

Author: Margie Kacoha

Jay Boodheshwar spent last week in a suit and tie, attended the monthly Town Council session, lunched with elected officials, held meetings in his office, got to know his staff and generally familiarized himself with town operations. But it's only a matter of time before the town's new recreation department director jumps into tennis, golf and other activities. "Recreational professionals should practice what they preach," said **Boodheshwar**, who gravitated toward football and basketball in high school. "I've made golf my lifetime sport. My other sport will be tennis." The 32-year-old, who grew up in Cleveland, started his \$92,000 a year job Jan. 9, arriving from Massillon, Ohio, where he served as recreation director for five years. "He took the city by storm," said Massillon Mayor Francis Cicchinelli Jr. "He enhanced our parks and recreation department. I hated to see him leave." Under his direction, the department received a \$200,000 federal grant to develop a nature preserve. During his tenure, the city opened a dog park, built a 69,000-square-foot recreation center and constructed about 14 miles of multipurpose trails. **Boodheshwar** oversaw a staff of 22 full-time employees and more than 100 part-time, seasonal staff. He managed a 27-hole championship golf course, recreation center, senior citizens' center and 32 parks. Massillon's recreation department budget was about \$4 million.

In Palm Beach, he will supervise the department's 18 full-time and 50 part-time and contractual workers, working within a \$1.3 million budget. He said he was drawn to Palm Beach because of its reputation for exceptional quality in all services. "From what I know and have heard about Palm Beach, they expect excellence across the board," he said. **Boodheshwar** replaces Russell Bitzer, who retired in October after 30 years as the department's director. **Boodheshwar** was chosen after a nationwide search that attracted 87 applicants. "He represents the next generation of leadership," said Town Manager Peter Elwell. "His youthful energy and creativity were a plus in his selection. His experience in the field gave him a good leg up." **Boodheshwar** holds a bachelor of science degree in recreation administration from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He has 13 years of municipal recreation experience, having worked in the Indiana communities of East Chicago, Munster and Bloomington, where he studied park and recreation administration at Indiana University.

"**Jay** is a very creative guy and a critical thinker," said Mick Renneisen, director of parks and recreation in Bloomington, Ind., where **Boodheshwar** served as youth services area manager for two years. "He's intelligent and does his homework on issues. He likes to listen to the community before making decisions. Elwell said he expects the new director to enhance existing recreational programs. But for the immediate future, **Boodheshwar** said he plans to get a feel for the town from its residents, staff and elected officials. "I want to be quiet, listen a lot and observe," he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below.]

Independent, The (Massillon, OH)
January 2, 2006

Exiting council members reflect
Author/Byline: R.J. VILLELLA

The turn of the year brings many changes, one of which will be the face of Massillon City Council. Gloria Autrey, representing Ward 4, and Tom Weber, of Ward 6, are leaving, having lost their respective campaigns. But both say they learned a great deal from their time on Massillon's legislative body about how the city works. Autrey served three terms on council and Weber served one term. Both, too, said one of the main problems the city has to solve is the smell coming from the waste-water treatment plant. That effort is still in the works, city officials say, as they try to fine-tune the equipment to get rid of as much of the unpleasant odor as possible.

Autrey, who was head of council's Parks Committee, said the department made a lot of strides in the past six years. The Massillon Recreation Center was built, Community Park was finished, and the Eagles 190 Sports Complex by Paul Brown Tiger Stadium was built. "(Parks and Recreation Director) **Jay Boodheshwar** made my job very easy," she said. "He was always organized and did things in a timely manor. I enjoyed working with him. Massillon is going to miss him. He was an asset to the community." Massillon's economy, too, has shown tremendous progress, Autrey said, noting the Massillon Marketplace, the Hampton Inn, the Great Escape Theatre and the new Meadows Plaza. "I just hope it continues," she said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Independent, The (Massillon, OH)
November 14, 2005

Legends misses green, deep in the red

Author: R.J. Villella

Long-term debt is causing financial problems for The Legends of Massillon golf course, Parks and Recreation Director **Jay Boodheshwar** said. **Boodheshwar** is expected to explain what the course needs to alleviate its money woes at City Council’s meeting tonight. He suggested consolidating the golf course’s debt with the Massillon Recreation Center, which is running a large surplus, would be one solution. “The dollars need to come from somewhere to assist with the annual debt payment to ensure a sufficient amount of dollars is spent to properly maintain and improve the course,” he said. “In essence, we’ve painted ourselves into a corner with too much debt.” **Boodheshwar** said the course should have been building up cash reserves to pay for debt, which peaks in 2017. Revenue has not increased as projected after an additional nine holes was added in 2002. Golf revenue has stayed around \$1 million, while debt for the course more than doubled from \$3.5 million for the original 18 holes to \$7.5 for the additional nine holes.

The original estimate for the additional nine was \$2.687 million, but about \$500,000 more was spent on course construction. Almost every hole changed from the original drawings. Cart paths had to be upgraded to the tune of more than \$100,000. Extra drainage was needed as was a more powerful pump for the irrigation system. Plus the debt was rolled over an extra year as construction dragged on. But a story published in The Independent in May 2002, when the new nine opened, stated “Approximately \$500,000 in new revenue annually is expected to be generated by the nine-hole expansion project.” That hasn’t happened. Most decisions were made before he arrived, **Boodheshwar** said, and he hasn’t been able to find any documentation to support the \$500,000 in additional revenue.

Revenue was reported at \$1 million in 2000, two years before the new nine opened, but revenue dropped to \$921,000 in 2001. Revenue rebounded in 2002 when the new nine opened to \$1.1 million but has stayed in that range since. There have been a variety of setbacks from 2003 through 2005, **Boodheshwar** said. “In 2003, there was record rainfall. In 2004, there was the hail storm which closed the course for a week and hurt play for a month. In 2005, there was the arson fire in the storage and maintenance building which destroyed the irrigation computer during the midst of a 90-degree heat wave.”

Crews trying to turn all the sprinkler heads on and off by hand really couldn’t keep up, **Boodheshwar** said, and the bent-grass turf, which requires more water, was damaged in spots. When the course opened with 18 holes in 1995 on land just south of the former Massillon Psychiatric Center, it earned a 4.2 star rating from Golf Digest. The rating designated the course as one of the best to play in the country. “The course is a significant asset for the city,” **Boodheshwar** said. “It sparked a tremendous housing boom on the city’s southeast side. It was a major tourist attraction and is a major recreation facility. It has had a tremendous economic impact.” When revenue didn’t meet expectations in 2002, the course was folded into the Parks

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Jay Boodheshwar
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and Recreation Department in 2003. It was borrowing roughly \$25,000 a year to get through each winter, **Boodheshwar** said. **Boodheshwar** and Director of Golf Craig Immel tried to stem the tide. Expenses were slashed by more than \$125,000 as a 27-hole course than when it was an 18-hole course. Memberships have been instituted to boost revenue during the months of November and December. “We are facing a challenge,” **Boodheshwar** said. “Certain things are in our control and certain things are out of our control.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Repository, The (Canton, OH)
October 12, 2005

Massillon parks boss accepts Fla. job

Author: Benjamin Duer3

City officials will conduct a nationwide search to find a new parks and recreation boss. The current superintendent is leaving. **Jay Boodheshwar**, 32, is resigning to take a recreation director's job in Palm Beach, Fla., with a year-round population of 10,000 residents. The seasonal population is 30,000. At his new job, **Boodheshwar** will make an annual salary of \$92,000 — more than \$25,000 over his current salary. "I was very drawn to their approach and delivering of governmental services. Their facilities are first class. This is a top-notch town," he said Tuesday. He was chosen from 86 other applicants in a six-month nationwide search, town officials said. "**Jay** really stood out, mostly because of his attitude and energy," said Sarah Hannah, Palm Beach's assistant town manager, on Tuesday.

Boodheshwar replaces the Florida community's only recreation director, Russ Bitzer, who will retire after 30 years on Friday. "He (**Boodheshwar**) has big shoes to fill," Hannah said. In 2000, **Boodheshwar** came to Massillon after working in East Chicago, Ind., and supervised the construction of the city's recreation center. In April, he was named the Massillon Area Chamber of Commerce's Person of the Year. "We certainly hate to see him go," said Mayor Francis H. Cicchinelli Jr.

Boodheshwar will remain with the city until the year's end, and has been asked to help search for his replacement, the mayor said. The next superintendent will have to finalize projects such as a nature preserve on the city's northwest side and a skate park at Hetrick Park. "I think the new person will add his or her style to our parks," Cicchinelli said.

Hannah said she doesn't expect **Boodheshwar** to join the Palm Beach staff until early January. Going with **Boodheshwar** is his wife, Anne, and their two daughters. "I'm very, very happy and very proud of what we've been able to do (here)," he said. "We're far from perfect, but I am proud of our staff."

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Independent, The (Massillon, OH)
October 11, 2005

Parks director resigns

Author: R.J. Villella

Parks and Recreation Director **Jay Boodheshwar** is leaving Massillon for Palm Beach, Fla. He broke the news, his emotions showing, to City Council at the work session Monday night. City officials agreed he will be missed. “When facing life changing decisions, we all struggle with the pros and cons,” he told council. “I can sincerely say that there are no negative things here in Massillon that have driven my decision. Massillon has been great to us, and I thank you for that. We’ve made a lot of friends here, and they will all be missed. There was some emotional hesitation.”

Boodheshwar said he was faced with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – something he just couldn’t pass up. “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed the position working with city officials, my staff and my board,” he said. “Everyone’s been so supportive. But Palm Beach had several ‘wow’ factors.”

Besides being one of the most exclusive addresses in the U.S. and being one of the most prestigious, high-profile positions for a parks and recreation director, **Boodheshwar** said the “wow” factors included the island’s facilities and financial strength. The community’s carryover in its 2005 budget was \$25 million. Massillon’s entire general fund budget is roughly \$16 million. The city’s recreational facilities include a first-class golf course bordering the Atlantic Ocean, clay tennis courts and a marina.

Mayor Frank Cicchinelli said he didn’t want to lose **Boodheshwar**, but there was no way Massillon could come close to the substantial pay increase. “He’s taken a relatively new department, developed the recreation program into a very comprehensive one and won numerous awards,” Cicchinelli said. “We’ll miss him and wish him and his family luck. We know it’s an offer he can’t refuse. But life goes on. We’ll conduct a nationwide search and find someone suitable.”

“It’s a terrible loss, and he’s done a terrific job for the city,” said Mike Loudiana, safety-services director. He leaving the department in better shape than when he got here.” Rameir Martin, recreation superintendent, said **Boodheshwar** brought professionalism, respect and integrity to the department and enthusiasm to the job. “Those are things that are hard to measure,” he said, “but things that have made us much better.” The Massillon Recreation Center opened under his watch, Martin said, and the entire staff had to be hired and trained from scratch. “That’s the department’s main contact with the public,” Martin said. “That sets the tone for how the public perceives us.” “He’s done a lot for the department and a lot for the city,” said Parks Superintendent Doug Nist. “He’s had a lot of fresh ideas, like the dog park and the skate park we are planning. He’ll be missed by the staff, and I think he’ll be missed by the citizens of Massillon.” **Boodheshwar** has been like a rock, a main-stay for the department, said recreation

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

board member Mo Rickett. “We’re losing a heck of a man,” he said. “He’s brought a lot of class to the department.”

Fellow board member Ron Pribich noted the department has grown under **Boodheshwar**, increasing services and facilities. “I knew when we hired him four years ago he was a real gem,” Pribich said. “But this is a great career move for him.”

Ron Mang spoke to **Boodheshwar**’s dedication to the job and to Massillon. “I know how hard you worked – probably double the normal. That’s dedication,” Mang said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Independent, The (Massillon, OH)
April 15, 2005

Chamber honoree ‘floored’

Author: Doug Staley

He moved to the area five years ago, but the executive director of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department says he’s just starting to think of himself as a Massillonian. It should feel a little more like home for **Jay Boodheshwar** now. On Thursday evening, **Boodheshwar** was presented the J.S. “Sandy” Sanders Award at the Massillon Area Chamber of Commerce’s 89th annual dinner in recognition of his efforts to make the city a “better place to live, work and play.”

“I’m floored and so surprised,” **Boodheshwar** said. “This really is overwhelming to be honored with this award.” **Boodheshwar**, who has helped direct the department through a period of growth that has included construction of the city’s Recreation Center, said he has worked for four other municipalities during his career but counts Massillon as his favorite stop. “I plan on being here for a very long time,” he said, adding his wife, Anne, and daughters Haley and Miranda agree. “I know there are hundreds of individuals in the community that are far more deserving of this award. I humbly accept it.”

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Independent, The (Massillon, OH)
February 13, 2005

Athletic council intends to sue

Author: R.J. Villella

Athletic Advisory Council officials say they will file papers soon to initiate a lawsuit against the Massillon Parks and Recreation Department and the city over damages at the Edmond A. Jones Community Center. “The papers are already in the works,” said Richard Crenshaw, president of the non-profit organization. The dispute centers around damage Crenshaw claims Massillon caused while leasing the building; damages which were not repaired. Crenshaw said there is a leaking roof, a hole in the driveway, damage to gym doors, damage to fencing and downspouts which aren’t draining water away from the structure, formerly the Sparma Youth Center. Before that it was a junior high school.

The water from the downspouts is causing the building, at 50 Pearl Ave. S.E., to start to crumble. In addition, two rooms have been completely ruined by the leaking roof including drop ceilings and the floors, Crenshaw said. “We just want the city to do what’s right,” he said. Furthermore, Crenshaw contends he’s told the city about the damage for a couple of years and nothing has been done. The city also has prevented the Athletic Advisory Council from even having access to the building for the last three years, after the locks were changed, Crenshaw claims.

Parks and Recreation Director **Jay Boodheshwar** said the city has made repairs to the structure but hasn’t repaired the items it isn’t responsible for, as per the direction of Law Director Perry Stergios. The five-year lease, which expired in December 2004, was signed before **Boodheshwar** came on as director, he said. **Boodheshwar** said decisions were made to terminate the lease and the after-school youth program at the Jones Center was ended because the department’s resources could be better spent on other youth programs. The after-school program was serving less than 10 youths a day when it was ended, he said.

There also was a duplication of efforts with after-school programs offered at York, Franklin, Emerson and Smith Elementaries, and the Massillon Boys & Girls Club. The kitchen space at the Jones Center was being used to cook the meals for the city’s youth meal program, but that also was duplication of resources. The Parks Department had a kitchen at the Senior Center which was underutilized. To make up for ending the after-school program at Jones, summer programs were added at two parks – Shriver and L.C. Jones – in addition to the summer programs at the Oak Knoll Medal of Honor Park and Kiwanis Park.

Boodheshwar said he gave orders to provide the Athletic Advisory Council with keys as soon as it was brought to his attention and referred all legal aspects of the dispute to Stergios. “As I understand it,” Stergios said, “the city has actually improved the building. Roughly \$300,000 in Community Development Block grant dollars were used on the structure and the Parks Department also has poured significant dollars into the Jones Center. “It is an old structure,” he continued. “The school district closed it down as a junior high shortly after I graduated and that

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Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

was in 1979.” Stergios said under the lease the city is responsible to return the building in roughly the same condition it was leased minus regular wear and tear. He said he believes the building is in better shape now than when it was leased and none of the repairs the Athletic Advisory Council wants Massillon to make are the city’s responsibility. “I believe we are on firm legal ground,” he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Independent, The (Massillon, OH)
December 14, 2004

Hitting budget not easy

It was hard work, acknowledged City Auditor Bill Hamit, but at least one city department – the Parks and Recreation Department, will end 2004 in the black without layoffs or major retooling. Hats off to **Jay Boodheshwar** and his staff for their accomplishment.

The Parks Department is funded by user fees and income tax revenue. Voters approved a separate tax to support recreation and parks in 1995. It operates independently from other city departments. As the economy improves or – as it did in 2003 – takes a nosedive, so do the fortunes of the Parks Department. But **Boodheshwar** saw it coming. He and his staff, including supervisors Craig Immel, Doug Nist and Rameir Martin, were able to pull back on expenses and increase revenue in some areas.

The biggest headache has been the Legends of Massillon golf course. The course recently was expanded and while the physical course was still recovering from the construction, the economy took a turn for the worse. The combination scared away many golfers. To cope, Massillon has retooled its golfing strategies to focus on loyal, local enthusiasts who will provide the Legends with a base membership. Some parks projects were put on hold by the tough times. Others were scaled back. Programs were re-evaluated and each staff position was reviewed to see if it could be modified to make better use of the personnel. In the end, it meant that – even if by the slightest of numbers – the Parks and Rec Department broke even.

We anticipate a similar type year for 2005. Massillon has a wealth of physical assets in its parks. The Rec Center is first-rate and few communities can top the trail system that Massillon boasts. We must take care of the physical facilities we have, waiting until the income tax revenue increases when we can look at expanding and enhance the parks.

Again, hats off on hitting the budget numbers.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Repository, The (Canton, OH)
April 6, 2004

Council criticized for plans to cut Youth Center, director

Author: Shane Hoover

City Council got an earful Monday night, as a chorus of black residents decried the city's plans to cut the Youth Center's director and end its after-school program. Miranda Young, a Woodland Avenue SE resident, said the Youth Center keeps her six children, four foster children and nine grandchildren out of trouble. "Please don't close the Youth Center," Young said. "Give them something to do."

For almost three years, the Youth Center has resided in the former E.A. Jones school at 50 Pearl St. SE, Parks and Recreation Director **Jay Boodheshwar** said. The city pays about \$40,000 in utilities and insurance on the building that it rents from the Athletic Advisory Council of Massillon. Another \$60,000 from a federal grant pays for a full-time director.

The after-school program started when the city moved into the building. This year's cutback in federal funding and a drop in participation no longer warrant continuing the program and keeping full-time Director Desmond Carpenter, particularly when there are other after-school programs, **Boodheshwar** said. But Richard Crenshaw, president of the Athletic Advisory Council of Massillon, spoke for many when he asked why \$210,000 from the same grant could go to the Hampton Inn but there wasn't enough money to keep the director and the program. "Is asphalt more important than kids?" Crenshaw asked. "There isn't much, if anything, on the southeast side, and now you propose closing the community center."

Maple Avenue SE resident John Relford said the cuts would end a program that had existed in the neighborhood for a quarter of a century and that the black community felt invisible to city officials. "The only thing that brings blacks and whites together on Friday nights is football," Relford said. "We're the greatest friends then. But what happens after the season?"

Boodheshwar said kids in the neighborhood will have places to go. York and Franklin schools and the Boys & Girls Club of Massillon have after-school programs, he said, and the school district provides free bus service. As for the meals program, the city wants to continue it at E.A. Jones site, and summer activities will remain and expand to two more locations on the southeast side this year, he said. "We're not just going to ignore the outcry from the community," **Boodheshwar** said. "There are sincere concerns we have to listen to." **Boodheshwar** and Mayor Francis H. Cicchinelli plan to meet today with residents concerned about the Youth Center's future.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below. Removed are the sections of the article Mr. **Boodheshwar** is not mentioned.]

Repository, The (Canton, OH)
February 24, 2004

Massillon proposes \$10 yearly increase in sewer rates

Author: Shane Hoover

In other business, council heard the first annual report of the Parks and Recreation Department. Director **Jay Boodheshwar** reported that the department had \$4.2 million in revenue and \$8.6 million in expenses last year. More than half of those expenses were in paying down the debt on the Legends of Massillon Golf Course, the report said. Because of a \$6.5 million carry-over from 2002, the department ended the year with a balance of \$1.1 million.+

As for the golf course, 800 more rounds were played last year than were played in 2002 and the Legends earned \$1.1 million, the report said. The golf course also sold 112 memberships last year.

Despite the challenges, **Boodheshwar** said the department is looking forward to completing expansion of the Rec Center, the 10th anniversary of Legends and becoming the first nationally accredited parks and recreation department in Stark County.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Repository, The (Canton, OH)
October 14, 2003

Massillon parks department seeks spending changes

Author: Edd Pritchard

City Council is expected to let the Parks & Recreation Department adjust how income tax dollars that fund the operations are divided. The department has been using 45 percent of the income tax dollars for operations, 40 percent to pay debt and 15 percent toward capital improvements. The city collects about \$2.2 million per year for the parks and recreation programs. But now that the Recreation Center is up and running, more money is needed for operations, **Jay Boodheshwar**, department director, told council during Monday's committee meetings.

Through the end of the year, the department wants 70 percent of the money directed toward operations and 30 percent to pay debt. Next year, the money would be divided with 50 percent toward operations, 40 percent to pay debt and 10 percent for capital improvements. The switch leaves \$220,000 to \$230,000 for capital improvements during 2004, **Boodheshwar** said. Changing the split won't affect future growth or hurt efforts to pay debt, he said. The park's department has borrowed in the past to pay for the Recreation Center and for Community Park on the west side.

The Recreation Center opened in June 2002. Now that the facility has operated for a year, the department has a better understanding of cash needed for operations, **Boodheshwar** said. "Until you have a full year of operation, you really don't have a benchmark," he told Council. The department also collects user fees for different programs and events. That money is used to cover the utility costs and other expenses at the Recreation Center, **Boodheshwar** said.

Boodheshwar also asked council for an ordinance banning dogs and other pets from Genshaft Park and the Sports Complex. Dogs already are banned from South Sippo Park. Dogs and other pets are a problem at the two sports facilities, **Boodheshwar** said. There also have been complaints that some people allow their dogs to run free in the fenced areas and don't clean up after them. **Boodheshwar** noted that the city has a dog park off 17th Street NE.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Jay Boodheshwar** is listed below. The rest of the article contained information that did not pertain to Mr. **Boodheshwar**.]

Repository, The (Canton, OH)
November 4, 2000

City engineer takes post in N. Canton

Author/Byline: Malcolm Hall

Concluding nearly five years as this city's engineer, James Benekos will take a similar municipal post with North Canton. Benekos, appointed as Massillon's engineer in January 1966, will maintain his post here until Dec. 8. As engineer here, Benekos has been involved with projects ranging from planning an upgrade of the sewage-treatment plant, charting a recreation trail along the Ohio & Erie Canal towpath as well as the mundane street paving and bridge repair.

A native of western Pennsylvania, Benekos obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and master's degree from the University of Akron.

After James Seikel resigned earlier this year as superintendent of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, municipal officials placed Benekos in charge of planning design and construction of the indoor municipal recreation center.

But **Jay Boodheshwar**, who will succeed Seikel starting Nov. 27, will assume supervising the recreation center's planning and design. **Boodheshwar** has been assistant superintendent of the parks and recreation program in East Chicago, Ind.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Times, The (Munster, IN)
January 8, 1999

E. C. announces expanded park offerings

Author: Jim Masters

Bringing community members together for fitness, fun and fellowship is the focus of an expanded schedule of winter and spring programs offered by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. "We've doubled our offerings since the fall and expect to double them in the summer," Recreation Superintendent **Jay Boodheshwar** said. Registration is under way for such programs as mens basketball league, mens 30-plus drop-in basketball, youth 3-on-3 basketball, adult coed and womens volleyball and open swimming. Other offerings include a Valentine's Day dance, Sunday bingo for adults aged 55 and older, park ranger program and an Easter egg hunt. Such events as a Mother and Son Movie Date and Family Fun Nights are designed to strengthen family bonds. "We're trying to bring families together and at the same time enhance specific relationships," Park Superintendent Kevin Briski said. Special trips are planned to Skate on State in Chicago, Woodmar Mall in Hammond (Seniors Day), Prime Outlets Mall in Michigan City and to Comiskey Park for a Chicago White Sox game. The Park Department is utilizing the schools and community centers to host programs. "We've got a great relationship with the schools," Briski said. "They've been good at identifying recreational needs and opportunities."

Other community-based programs, such as Proud to be an East Chicagoan, 21st Century Scholars, Teatro Del Sol, General Education Development classes and Classes de Ingles, are administered through the School City and detailed in the recreational program guide being distributed around the city. "We don't want to duplicate what other organizations are doing," **Boodheshwar** said. "We want to work together to combine resources." Non-residents are welcome to participate in most of the programs. The large participation in the Arnold Schwarzenegger-backed Inner City Games during the summer reinforced Briski's belief that the needs of youth should drive program offerings. "We're trying to create positive memories through community events," Briski said. "These are the types of things you can talk about at the Christmas dinner table 20 years from now."

Since registration began Monday, there have been numerous calls to the park department. Half the seats from Skate on State are already reserved, **Boodheshwar** said. The city's parks are looking better than ever, Briski said, adding he hopes that through informal park usage more people will become interested in participating in recreational programs. "Making the parks cleaner, safer and aesthetically pleasing is a major emphasis for us," Briski said. "We installed new playground equipment in 75 percent of the parks last year, and we'll finish the rest of the parks in the spring and summer" A variety of grants and financial assistance from local businesses has helped fund the new programs, which are expected to be self-sustaining from the fees charged.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Times, The (Munster, IN)
July 3, 1998

Good-behavior fee dropped at East Chicago pools

Author: Bob Tita

The city's Parks and Recreation Department has stopped charging a returnable deposit fee at city swimming pools as a way to improve pool patrons' behavior. The city last week started requiring a 50-cent deposit from those entering the Carver, Goodman and Tod Park pools. Swimmers who obeyed the pool rules received their money back when they left. Those who violated rules or were ordered to leave the pools would forfeit their deposits. "Basically, we wanted to put some responsibility on the kids for behaving and following the rules," said **Jay Boodheshwar**, the city recreation superintendent. "What we're trying to do is provide a safe place for our kids to swim." **Boodheshwar** said the same 50 cents conceivably would have allowed a youngster to use the three pools all summer since the deposit would be returned over and over again. But **Boodheshwar** said park officials eliminated the fee Wednesday in response to complaints that the fee was an unreasonable burden on low-income families.

Evelyn Joy Jones, a Democratic precinct committeewoman from the New Addition neighborhood, said the fee stigmatized children who could not afford the deposit. During a meeting this week between city officials and residents from the City Council's 5th District, Jones said children from poor families shouldn't be reminded that they often don't have the same entertainment and recreational opportunities as other children. "I didn't feel poor," said Jones, recalling her free visits to the Carver Pool when she was growing up. "I want everybody who walks into the Carver Pool to feel like I did. Please don't charge our children." Jones and other residents reported that neighborhood children pestered them and business owners for pool money during last week's sweltering temperatures. **Boodheshwar**, however, said children who didn't have the deposit money were not turned away from the pools. "We understand that there are families and kids out there who don't have the 50 cents," he said.

Boodheshwar said the lack of rowdiness and behavior problems at the pools so far this summer made it easier for park officials to abandon the deposit. He attributed much of the improved atmosphere to the use of off-duty police officers as security guards. The deposit and the security guards were added to the pools after swimmers blatantly disregarded rules and reprimands from the pool staffs last summer, **Boodheshwar** said.

Besides the three swimming pools, the Jeorse Park Beach next to Showboat Mardi Gras Casino opened Monday for the first time in recent years. Lifeguards are posted at the beach and portable toilets were added on Tuesday. By next summer, **Boodheshwar** said a new bathhouse would be constructed to replace the building that was removed to make way for the casino boat. "This is a transition year for the beach," he said, "but it's still safe."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN)
March 12, 1998

Hitting the roof
Rooftop program looking to catch teens' attention
Author: Gena Asher

Catching teens' attention — and holding it — presents a challenge, but a local program is attempting to attract and serve the area's large teen population. Rooftop at Banneker Community Center, a Bloomington Parks and Recreation program, officially began last fall when the department took a hard look at its youth programming. "It's still evolving," said **Jay Boodheshwar**, youth services manager for the department. "But we have come a long way." Rooftop came about, he said, after department representatives talked to several teen groups about their wishes and interests. "Many teens say they have nothing to do and, as a department, we wanted to meet these needs, to offer a safe place to drop in as well as a central place to have some structured programs," **Boodheshwar** said.

The change initially upset some residents of Banneker's westside neighborhood and center users, many of whom objected to the parks department's plan to eliminate an after-school program for younger children. After several meetings with neighbors, the parks department agreed to continue the after-school program. Today, kids of many ages mingle after school, and the third floor, initially called Rooftop to designate teens- only turf, also draws some younger kids. "So now, we're reserving the name Rooftop to designate teens' programs," said program specialist Michele Fanfair, whose office is at Banneker and who directly oversees Rooftop projects. "Whenever we do a teen program, it'll carry that name."

Programs and projects will be focal points of Rooftop in addition to just offering free space and recreation for teens. For example, recently the center held a dance for teens. "That was thanks to the generosity of the Elks, who donated the food and the disc jockey," said **Boodheshwar**. "We'd like to see more interaction between community and business and the teen programs, since we can't afford to do many such dances or special programs ourselves."

Rooftop teens will get the chance to attend two Indianapolis Indians baseball games this spring, though, as well as attend "splash" parties at Bryan Park later in the summer. Though these events go over big, it's hard to predict what teens will consider cool. "Friday nights we hope to offer some more 'open mike' nights, where kids can come and entertain," said Fanfair. "It gives local bands a place to practice for a crowd as well as provides some entertainment." Two weeks ago, for instance, the center hosted a local garage band, which made its own posters to advertise the gig and attracted 75-100 kids, she said. Sometimes, teens just want to hang out, so part of the Rooftop goal was to provide a safe place for that. The third floor, for example, contains ping pong and pool tables, some other games, and a big-screen TV. "This is a great place to hang out and relax and get along with peers," said Chris Bridgwaters, 15, as he chatted with friends David Brown and Darnell Hopkins before the gym opened up. "Before Rooftop, we played basketball here, but now there are other things to do, too. We come every day and would like others to

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check it out, too." One employee works on the third floor to sell soft drinks, help kids get games started and generally supervise. "But our employees here also help with homework on an informal basis since kids do their homework here, and just chat with the kids," said **Boodheshwar**. "We also have some teen volunteers who help around here." One of those is Joe Kerr, a Tri North Middle School eighth-grader. "I volunteer on a schedule, working downstairs sometimes," he said. "I live nearby and come here anyway a lot to play basketball."

The open gym is a draw for all ages, but teens gravitate to it for the chance to shoot hoops, or just watch their friends. "We are seeing an increase in interest, but also know we have to keep the offerings and ideas fresh," said **Boodheshwar**. "It's hard to track numbers, but last year, we had 10 to 15 people a night with as many as 35 or 50 playing basketball on Mondays. Now we offer basketball Mondays through Thursdays and are seeing an increase of 50 percent for this year, in all ages."

The Rooftop programs are for teens 12-19, and some programs may be further focused on middle school or high school age. The center is open to those 7-19 years old and the after-school program is still housed there. Fanfair visits area schools to introduce the programs to teens and get feedback from them about their interests and needs. "Recently, I connected with 50 or 60 kids at schools, and signed up about 20 for a mailing list," she explained. "We figure they'll share the word with their friends. This is a tough age group to draw in."

Both administrators and teens involved feel the Rooftop fills a need. Some boys waiting for the gym to open lauded the programs' offerings to a visitor, while **Boodheshwar** said he's already noticing differences in participants. "We see changes in the kids who come here," he said. "Being around positive adults is a motivator. We've come a long way, but are always looking to see what works and what doesn't, to always reassess what we're doing."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Jay Boodheshwar
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Times, The (Munster, IN)
January 28, 1995

Ohio native takes over Munster parks post. Jay Boodheshwar

Author: Cynthia Lisle

Jay Boodheshwar makes play work. The 21-year-old newly named recreation coordinator for the Munster Department of Parks and Recreation plans to use his experience in athletics to develop stronger youth and teen recreation programs. Recreation Director Chuck Gardiner said the department's recent self-analysis showed a need for such programs, even though its sports programs are popular.

Boodheshwar said he initiated playground activities, including soccer, whiffle ball and scavenger hunts, at four parks during his 1994 summer internship with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department of Kettering, Ohio. He also worked with summer camps and other youth activities there. He started the \$22,000-a-year coordinator's job in Munster on Jan. 10. A graduate of Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, **Boodheshwar** has a bachelor of science degree in education with a major in recreation administration. He is a native of Brook Park, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland.

While in college, **Boodheshwar** said he scheduled intramural league games, promoted sports events and supervised court and field activities. He also played intramural basketball, football, volleyball and whiffle ball. **Boodheshwar** also coached pee wee basketball in the summer of 1993 and worked with Brook Park's Parks and Recreation Department, and summer girls' softball and boys' baseball leagues.

Munster Park Superintendent Kevin Briski said he and park staff members received dozens of responses to an advertisement for the recreation coordinator's job. The ad ran in a national professional parks publication and in local newspapers. **Boodheshwar** seemed to fill the bill the best, Briski said.

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