

NEWS

Rogue Theory Band Plays To A Packed House In Wellington

By Gina M. Capone
Town-Crier Staff Report

The Rogue Theory Band was in town from Nashville this month and performed at the Village Music Store & Café in Wellington. South Florida local Harry Rogue, who plays violin and sings, founded the band in 2012 and was glad to make a stop home on his South Florida tour.

Rogue returned to his West Palm Beach roots, where in Wellington he taught violin at Village Music. Suzuki trained, he has been playing the violin since the age of three with private instruction along the way. He attended the Dreyfoos School of the Arts and juggled an education in performing arts and theater into his college years.

At the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Rogue studied theater and public relations, but in between built work performing in New York and Europe.

"I worked for Disney while I was in school," he recalled. "I did a Broadway show when I was in college."

He was mentored by Ben Vereen and Gregory Hines and other classic Broadway greats like John Kander of Kander and Ebb. Rogue can tap dance, play piano and sing.

"I got to meet a lot of really great people through Disney," Rogue

said. "I would work for Disney during school because they are in Orlando. From high school into college, there were outside things happening during the summers. School was really something I had to get done, but in the summers, I was always active in entertainment."

Rogue participated in an Ann Reinking theatre project. He completed a workshop with the TV show *Arrested Development*, which added to his experience in the arts.

But having a band with his own sound was etching in as he approached his career direction. Music was where he wanted to spend his time, instead of performing in theater shows.

At the end of the tour in Europe, Rogue made a decision to build a repertoire of his own songs and form a band.

"I have always played in a band," Rogue said. "I have been writing songs and composing music all my life. I wanted to put my all into one thing. It had to do with exploring the original songs I had been writing. I didn't explore music enough creatively."

Rogue played his acoustic violin everywhere, but when he developed a love for flex pedals, he started playing electric after that.

"I never really intended on violin or playing in a band being my ultimate goal," he said. "I really played with as many people as possible. I played a lot of open jams."

The last seven years, he has been building his own projects. Moving to Nashville was a step to ensure that his sound would find a place to grow and increase exposure.

"For the last seven years, I have been focused on writing and playing music and producing," Rogue said. "We have found a lot of success doing that."

Nashville was the place Rogue was already going to showcase the band and write. But two years ago, he moved there.

"Nashville's New York City for music," Rogue said. "I always felt like I wanted to explore it, to be there for at least a couple of years and dive into it. I wanted to grow and learn. Nashville is an interesting town. If you are an actor, you go to L.A. If you're a musician, you should definitely spend some time in Nashville."

As a musician, he loves working in the studio while in Nashville.

"There is a calling for me to produce the kind of music I have in the back of my head," Rogue said. "There are things I have been writing for years, trying to orchestrate

them, and create an album."

Rogue wants to build a way that musicians in Florida and musicians in Nashville can play with each other. He wants to bring Florida artists to Nashville to perform a show and bring Nashville musicians to South Florida to perform.

"My ultimate goal is to build a bridge between Nashville and South Florida," he explained. "There are many similarities in the music; it's not just country but rock and funk. There is a lot of talent in South Florida that doesn't get out of Florida."

As he works on that goal, he continues to express himself creatively.

"I believe in the arts; it's like my religion. People need a form to express themselves, being able to connect and communicate with people. Being able to see an influence, whether it be a monologue or a dance piece. I have always been involved with as many things as possible."

Rogue Theory is a live performance band, playing private and public shows in Nashville, the Caribbean and at venues across South Florida. They have been building a cosmopolitan fan base. The sound is a unique mix of music with a tight ensemble.



Rogue Theory includes (L-R) Johnny Frasca on guitar, Harry Rogue on violin, Garrett Kealer on drums and Johnny Hayes on bass.

"We are like family," Rogue said. "We communicate through music."

The regular setup to the band is Harry Rogue on violin, Johnny Frasca on guitar, Johnny Hayes playing bass and Garrett Kealer on Drums. The sound is funk, rock and

jam, according to Rogue. According to fans, it is a band you should catch whenever they are in Wellington and South Florida. Look for their new album to be released soon.

To learn more about Rogue Theory Band and upcoming shows, visit www.aroguetheory.com.

Royal Palm's Rec Board Reviews Sales Surtax Fund Projects

By Callie Sharkey
Town-Crier Staff Report

The Royal Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Board met Monday, Sept. 24, where they were brought up to date on the progress of ongoing projects funded by the one-cent sales surtax approved by county voters in 2016 and the many village programs in the works for the month of October.

Village Engineer Chris Marsh gave a detailed presentation on the ongoing projects funded by money

generated by the sales surtax. Each municipality receiving sales surtax money must have an oversight board, and Royal Palm Beach assigned that task to the Recreation Advisory Board.

Marsh first spoke about access improvements to Royal Palm Beach Commons Park.

"What we are looking to do is purchase land to create better non-vehicular access to the park. This will be for bike and pedestrian access," Marsh said. "The park is

centrally located in the village. So, the goal is to connect the community using Commons Park, and with events like the Fourth of July, to encourage people to use other methods of transportation than driving there with their car."

There is also a plan in place to build a new Royal Palm Beach Village Hall.

"The current project is to build a new Village Hall and then demolish the existing building," Marsh said. "Staff can stay in the building

and then transition over. The new building will also serve as our EOC [emergency operations center]. Right now, we have to move the village facilities and have to shut down village services to make that transition. That will be another advantage of the new building."

Other major projects include resurfacing pathways at Todd A. Robiner Park and the addition of a kayak launch there, the construction of new all-access playgrounds at Commons Park, canal system dredging and a road resurfacing program scheduled for 2022.

Another major project coming up is the renovation and expansion of the Royal Palm Beach Recreation Center. "We are adding a new gym, new offices, new restrooms and a kitchen," he said. "It's hot here during the summer, so having air-conditioned recreation space is a plus."

Parks & Recreation Director Lou Recchio stressed the importance of the expansion. Currently, there are more programs than space, and the expansion would allow the village to discontinue its use of Crestwood Middle School's gym for regular programs.

"The whole idea is to have a wing separate for senior programs," Recchio said. "The lobby will be centralized, and that's why this whole thing came up. We decided to keep senior programs at the rec center."

In total, the sales surtax list contains 20 projects in the works over the next five years.

Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Mike Mikolaichik then gave a presentation highlighting programs during the month of October. "I'm going to limit it to October because we are very busy," he said. "If we go beyond that, we'll be here all night."

Mikolaichik noted that upgrades are underway that will allow the village to relaunch its successful early childhood program at the Recreation Center.

"We found out after several years of success that the Department of Health requires you to

begin on Saturday, Oct. 19 at Village Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.," Mikolaichik said. "Those will be held on Saturdays now. We believe that there is more visibility, and we think Saturdays will be a better day."

The first ever Rockin' Fall Festival will take place Friday, Oct. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 26. This combination of Rocktoberfest and the Fall Festival is a new way to merge the fun of both events.

Friday evening's celebration will be an adult-oriented Rocktoberfest featuring live rock entertainment, craft beers, food trucks and an adult costume contest from 5 to 10 p.m.

"On Oct. 26, we are going to turn it over and have more of a family-oriented Fall Festival event," Mikolaichik said. "There'll be a kids' fun zone, pumpkin patch, a petting zoo, arts and crafts, pumpkin carving contest, trunk-or-treating, hayrides, a costume contest and more."

The village's first ever haunted house, presented by Catskills Haunts, will run at Commons Park from Oct. 25 through Oct. 30, from 5 to 11 p.m. The cost for the haunted house is \$10 per person. The 3,000-square-foot complex involves live actors, strobe lighting and animatronics.

In other business, the Recreation Advisory Board unanimously approved the retention of contracts with the village's youth sports providers and also put into place an automatic renewal of the contracts to streamline the process in the future.

During the meeting, Board Member Denis Seibert voiced concerns over the lighting at a small pavilion located at Homeplace Park.

"This time of year, it's so dark, and there are teens there standing in the dark," he said. "It gets better when the time changes, and I think that pavilion with a light would be a safer place. There used to be one there. That's the only reason why I'm bringing it up. I think it is something to be looked into."

A Halloween party is scheduled for seniors on Oct. 31 at the Recreation Center from noon to 3 p.m. The cost is \$3, and lunch is provided.

A food truck expo and a movie night at Commons Park is planned for Friday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m., featuring a screening of the Halloween favorite *Hocus Pocus*.

"We have a new home and day for our green market. It is set to

begin on Saturday, Oct. 19 at Village Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.," Mikolaichik said. "Those will be held on Saturdays now. We believe that there is more visibility, and we think Saturdays will be a better day."

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Coastal

Lox Waste Contract

continued from page 1 including unlimited pickup of yard waste, as well as shifting some of the clients to commercial accounts, which she said probably should have been there in the first place.

"We have not heard back from Waste Pro, so we had no choice than to put aside our permanent negotiations on the new contract, which we will now bring back on Oct. 3, and to go full speed into a temporary services agreement to replace the extension that we thought we were going to have with Waste Pro," Ramaglia said, explaining that the temporary agreement with Coastal is a mirror of the existing Waste Pro contract. "All it does is pick up the time from Oct. 1 until when a new contract can be implemented."

She said Coastal intends to start with the new contract as soon as

possible. "They have prepared a postcard to go out to everyone in the community, based on the landowner list," she said. "They are putting a Spanish translation together as well. They have agreed that they will take some advertising or put some notices in social media and other venues, and they will also do a town hall in the first week of October."

She added that Coastal will have a fully manned customer service department on duty, as well as a devoted web site and e-mail.

"The rate that they are proposing to charge us is that which Waste Pro would have charged us, which is \$42," she said.

Town Manager Jamie Titcomb said the interim contract would be from Oct. 1 to at most Dec. 31, when it will be replaced by the new contract unless it is finalized sooner.

"They will continue to mirror the current pickup days at a mirrored rate," Titcomb said. "We felt it was very important to negotiate

and make sure that there was seamless transition to the citizens, and that their garbage and their waste got picked up and serviced without them having to adjust with practically no notice, which will give Coastal the ability to roll out the full community education campaign that goes with the new contract services."

Councilman Dave DeMarois made a motion to approve the interim contract, which carried 4-0 with Councilwoman Lisa El-Ramey absent.

Ramaglia said the new Coastal contract will be a new business model. "There's a lot of opportunity for us to better serve the community," she told the *Town-Crier*.

In other business, the council approved final reading of the town's \$5.8 million budget for the new fiscal year with the tax rate remaining at 3.0 mills. The proposed millage rate generates property tax revenues of \$1,012,998, which is an increase of \$73,128 from fiscal year 2018-19.

Free Native Plant Giveaway At Spookyville

Join members of the Native Canopy Education Program for frightening festivities at Spookyville in Yesteryear Village at the South Florida Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 26 and Sunday, Oct. 27.

At the event, the Native Canopy Education Program will be distributing free native trees and shrubs

in three-gallon containers and offering lots of information about native plants and invasive ones, as well as games and coloring book pages.

Plant recipients must be Palm Beach County residents. Limit of two plants per household, while supplies last.

The Native Canopy Education Program is a joint effort by the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management and the Cooperative Extension Service. For more information on Spookyville, visit www.southfloridafair.com/p/yesteryear-village/spookyville.

NEWS BRIEFS

Wellington Seeks Public Input On Town Center Plan

Wellington invites residents and local businesses to take part in two upcoming public input opportunities for the village's Town Center Master Plan.

On Friday, Sept. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m., Wellington Planning & Zoning staff will host an open forum at the Wellington Community Center (12150 W. Forest Hill Blvd.). The goal of the meeting is to allow residents to stop by and provide the master plan design team with their comments and suggestions.

The following day, Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wellington staff and the master plan consultant team will be at Village Park (11700 Pierson Road), requesting that sports participants and spectators complete a survey regarding future improvements to the town center area.

During this day-long outreach initiative, survey teams will be based out of five Wellington tents, located throughout Village Park. At these tents, participants can review concept boards, learn more about the Town Center Master

Plan and take part in a survey. Members of the survey team will also be walking through the park with surveys to request participation.

Visit www.wellingtonfl.gov/towncenter to learn more about Wellington's Town Center Master Plan planning process.

Art Society To Sponsor Art Fusion Pop-Up Gallery At Mall

The Wellington Art Society will sponsor an Art Fusion Pop-Up Gallery at the Live 360 Studio at the Mall at Wellington Green from Friday, Oct. 4 through Sunday, Oct. 6. There will be live demonstrations by art society members in the Grand Court.

Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Oct. 4 and Oct. 5, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 6. A private reception will be held for artists, sponsors and their families on Oct. 4 from 7 to 9 p.m., with a public reception on Oct. 5 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested for the Wellington Art Society Scholarship Fund.

A total of 23 artists will feature more than 70 works of art, most of them for sale. The following

artists will be represented: Brigitte Balbinot, Lara Chapman, Hildegard Donovan, Lynn Doyal, Gail Erikson, Norman Gitzen, Cynthia Hockaden, Laura Jaffe, Robin Kasten, Carolina King, Erica Kyle, Rachel Laub, Joseph Marcou, Charles Moses, Leslie Pfeiffer, Candace Platz, Suzanne Redmond, Ernesto Rodriguez, Vasantha Siva, Rochelle Snyder, Lois Spatz, Raymonde Talleyrand and Jean Williard.

This promises to be a fun exhibit for everyone. The artists will be there to talk with the guests, and there will be something for everyone.

For more information, visit www.wellingtonartsociety.org.

Forum Club To Meet Oct. 7 At Kravis

On Monday, Oct. 7, the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches will host Brigadier General Robert Spalding for a discussion on 5G and the threats China presents. The luncheon will be held at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts' Cohen Pavilion, located at 701 Okcechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach. Community leaders, Don and Sally Chester, will also be recognized with the organization's

Outstanding Public Service Award at the event.

Spalding retired from the U.S. Air Force as a brigadier general after more than 25 years of service. Throughout his career, he was recognized for his knowledge of Chinese economic competition, global trends and cyber warfare. From 2014 to 2016, he was a lead China strategist for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. He also served as a senior defense official and defense attaché at the U.S. embassy in Beijing.

Spalding then became the senior director for strategic planning with the National Security Council, where he advocated for a nationalized 5G plan to defend U.S. technological infrastructure from Chinese interference.

In recognition of their longtime service to Palm Beach County, Don and Sally Chester are the recipients of the Forum Club's Outstanding Public Service Award.

With multiple connections to the healthcare industry, Don Chester has been in leadership positions at St. Mary's Medical Center and the Palm Beach Children's Hospital for more than 40 years with Sally as a registered nurse. The Chesters were instrumental in forming the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, which cre-

ated the trauma system that sends critical patients to St. Mary's. The Chesters have held multiple board and leadership positions within the community. Don is a past president of the Forum Club, while Sally is a past president of Leadership Palm Beach County.

Tickets are \$40 for members and \$60 for guest tickets ordered by members, \$125 for public tickets and \$550 for a table of 10 ordered by members. Tickets are currently on sale and can be reserved on the Forum Club's web site at www.forumclubpalmbeach.org.

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens Open House Oct. 5

The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, located at 253 Barcelona Road in West Palm Beach will host a free community open house event on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For one day only, the public can step through the garden gates free of charge to experience garden and exhibition tours, refreshments in the courtyard, music and some special surprises.

"With this free community open house, we hope to introduce

even more people to this beautiful urban sanctuary," said Cynthia Kanai, CEO of the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. "We invite the public to tour our grounds, including Ann Norton's studio and her magnificent sculptures, the historic home where Ann lived, and the almost two-acre gardens with a beautiful landscape of more than 250 species of rare palms and cycads. In addition, visitors will have the opportunity to create their own sculptures surrounded by all things meaningful to Ann — her art, rare gardens, music and friends."

Visitors will also be able to view the exhibition "Expanding Horizons: Nontraditional Approaches to Photography," which will be on display in the historic home. In partnership with JL Modern Photography, the exhibition includes photography featuring works by Kimiki Yoshida, Bernard Faucon and Steven Wilkes.

The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens is a nonprofit foundation established in 1977 by resident sculptor Ann Weaver Norton (1905-1982). The compound comprises Norton's historic home with exhibition galleries, her studio, monumental sculptures and tropical gardens. For more info., visit www.ansg.org or call (561) 832-5328.

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By **Town-Crier Editor** · September 27, 2019

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<https://www.gotowncrier.com>

The Town-Crier is your local news source for Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, The Acreage, Loxahatchee Groves and all of Palm Beach County, Florida.