

AUGUST 2019

Best Of Wellington Since 2004

WELLINGTON

THE MAGAZINE

BACK TO SCHOOL
Wellington Students Get Ready

**WELLINGTON YOUTH
PUT THE VILLAGE
OVER THE TOP**

Plus

Teacher Karen Epstein Wins Top County Award
Synchronized Skating Is Growing In Popularity
Customer Service Team Aims To Help Residents
Whit's Frozen Custard Serves Up Smiles In A Cup

Features

- 24 WLMS TEACHER KAREN EPSTEIN WINS TOP COUNTY AWARD**
Wellington has established itself as the home of the best and most talented, not only in the areas of equestrian sports, but also in the area of education, where the community is home to some of the best public schools and the most outstanding teachers. Among them is Wellington Landings Middle School fine arts teacher Karen Epstein. By Mike May
- 28 SYNCHRONIZED ICE SKATING IS SOARING IN POPULARITY**
As the popularity of synchronized ice skating soars coast to coast, Palm Beach Skate Zone keeps pace with this growing trend by hosting teams for ages 5 to 7, 7 to 11, 12 and up, and the Theatre on Ice group for ages 6 through adult. The program is coached by Debra Fertig. By Deborah Welky
- 34 YOUTH HELP WELLINGTON WIN LET'S MOVE CHALLENGE**
What does it take to log 12,849,676 minutes of physical activity across the Village of Wellington to win the Palm Health Foundation's 2019 Let's Move challenge? According to Paulette Edwards, Wellington's community services director, the key was community engagement. By Melanie Otero
- 39 ELBRIDGE GALE CLAIMS LLS TOP FUNDRAISING HONORS**
For years, Palm Beach County teachers, staff, students and families have supported the various campaigns of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This past year, one Wellington elementary school claimed top fundraising honors in Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast. By Robin Hansel
- 43 THE ARC'S PROGRAMS SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**
The Arc of Palm Beach County has been providing services for people with disabilities since 1958. The nonprofit's dedication to encouraging independence for people with disabilities led the United Way to name it a Community Champion.
- 47 DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY IS THRIVING AT NEW HORIZONS**
The Dual Language International Spanish Academy Program at New Horizons Elementary School in Wellington educates students to become fully bilingual, biliterate and bicultural. The thriving program has been in place for 15 years. By Gina M. Capone



Departments

WELLINGTON SOCIAL SCENE

- 14 Blow Out Lounge & Color Bar Hosts Mother-Daughter Event
- 16 Great Weather, Great Crowd For Wellington's Fourth Of July Fun
- 18 Rotary Club Of Wellington Hosts 39th Annual Installation Dinner
- 20 Wellington American Legion Post 390 Hosts Officer Installation

54 TEAM WELLINGTON

In 2018, Wellington's Customer Service Department handled 43,000 phone calls and assisted 33,000 visitors. The team of 13 people is dedicated to serving the community and takes the relationship between government and residents very seriously. By Callie Sharkey

67 WELLINGTON TABLE

The newly opened Whit's Frozen Custard in the Courtyard Shops of Wellington goes far beyond making tasty treats using its unique small batch approach. The husband-and-wife proprietors, Chris and Natalie Mass, strive to bring the community together, while giving back along the way. By Melanie Kopacz

- 51 WELLINGTON PROFESSIONAL
- 57 WELLINGTON REAL ESTATE
- 61 WELLINGTON HEALTH
- 62 WELLINGTON HOME
- 70 WELLINGTON DINING GUIDE
- 71 WELLINGTON CALENDAR

ON THE COVER Participation from local youth helped Wellington take first place in the 2019 Let's Move challenge sponsored by the Palm Health Foundation and featured this month. PHOTO COURTESY THE VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON



The Arc Of Palm Beach County *Honored For* **OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

Ralph is about to celebrate his third anniversary at Otis Elevator Company. He stuffs envelopes to help the company with its monthly billing, and the job helps Ralph buy DVDs of his favorite TV shows and movies. Working gives the 45-year-old a sense of purpose.

The Wellington-area resident has been part of The Arc of Palm Beach County's Adult Career Transition Program since 2008. The Arc staff take Ralph to and from his job at Otis Elevator and help him complete his time sheets and stay organized.

The career program is just one of the many services that The Arc of Palm Beach County has been providing for people with disabilities since 1958. The nonprofit's ongoing dedication to creating connections and encouraging independence for people with disabilities led the United Way to name it a Community Champion. The honor was bestowed at the Simply the Best Awards ceremony in May.

The Arc's wide array of services address the needs of all people with disabilities, from infants to senior citizens. Along with educational and recreational activities, the nonprofit also provides group housing and in-home or center-based respite care to help parents find balance as they care for their child. The United Way has funded many of these programs, allowing the nonprofit to serve more than 2,800 families each year.

"The United Way of Palm Beach County is grateful to be a partner in the incredible work that The Arc is doing in our community," said Dr. Laurie George, president and CEO of United Way of Palm Beach County. "Like the



The Arc supports Ralph by taking him to and from his job.
PHOTO COURTESY THE ARC OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

United Way, their programs were created in direct response to the community's need for basic services so that everyone can achieve their full potential. The Arc is a champion for individuals in our community with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and it was our honor to recognize them for the significant impact they are making."

The Arc was also recognized this spring for its fiscal responsibility. In fact, Volunteer Florida and AmeriCorps founded the Financial Organization of the Year Award in honor of The Arc. Thanks to a grant from Volunteer Florida, 27 AmeriCorps workers were able to spend a year working at The Arc and learning about the nonprofit. As the AmeriCorps representatives gained experience, they noted the nonprofit's efforts to document expenses, issue reimbursements and maintain overall financial excellence. ▶

(L-R) Laurie George, Maria Bertuzzelli, Kristie Giles, Bob Salmore, Kimberly McCarten, Russell Greene and Kim Jones at the United Way award presentation. PHOTO BY TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY



“Receiving these awards from those who have entrusted us with their time and resources, reaffirms that our efforts are truly felt in every corner of our community,” CEO Kimberly McCarten said.



(L-R) Jason at therapy; Kimberly McCarten with Arc clients; and Joanne in the Artisan Program. PHOTOS COURTESY THE ARC OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
Karah and Faith at Job-A-Palooza. PHOTO BY TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY | Kerryann and Patrick in the Artisan Program. PHOTO BY JACEK PHOTOGRAPHY

“This year, there was one organization that we felt was so deserving of recognition, we created the new Financial Organization of the Year Award,” said Tracie Lambright, senior financial analyst for Volunteer Florida. “They have become an exceptional role model for other organizations, and those who are struggling in this area should reach out to them for guidance.”

The Arc of Palm Beach County Presi-

dent and CEO Kimberly McCarten said her organization was honored by these awards.

“It’s an incredible honor to be recognized for our lifeworks,” McCarten said. “Receiving these awards from those who have entrusted us with their time and resources, reaffirms that our efforts are truly felt in every corner of our community.”

McCarten added that seeing the dai-

ly accomplishments of the people they serve keeps the nonprofit’s staff motivated. The impact they have made in Ralph’s life is evident — his smile is consistent no matter how many envelopes he has to stuff. For the staff at The Arc, there is no greater reward.

To learn more about how The Arc is helping to better the community and the future for people with disabilities, visit www.arcpsc.org.

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