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EARTH DAY OUTING



ABOVE: Second graders from The Conservatory School in North Palm Beach learn about artist Ann Norton's "Seven Beings" sculpture during an Earth Day celebration at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens on Monday.

LEFT: Millipedes crawl on each other as students watch while learning about decomposer and composting communities during an Earth Day field trip to the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens on Monday.

See Page 11A for story, more photos.

PHOTOS BY DAMON HIGGINS/
THE PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS

Engineer: 3 beach projects set for '25

Diego Diaz Lasa
Palm Beach Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

By this time next year, the South End's eroded dunes will be revitalized, Town Engineer Patricia Strayer says.

Strayer told a coastal protection panel on April 18 that the renourishment project to replenish the dunes in the stretch of coastline from Phipps Ocean Park south to La Bonne Vie Condominiums will begin in January.

While the sand dunes may appear unsightly in their current state, coastal engineering consultant Thomas Pierro told the gathering the dunes were meant to erode to supplement the coastline's beach.

"They're providing a reserve of sands so that your pool decks don't fall into the ocean," said Pierro, principal engineer for Coastal Protection Engineering, which is working with the town on its coastal protection policy.

Strayer and Pierro were panelists at the event, which was organized by the Citizens' Association of Palm Beach and hosted at Fire Station 3.

The upcoming project is one of three major beach renourishment efforts expected to begin in 2025, Strayer said.

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers large-scale dredging of the Palm Beach Inlet also is expected to begin in January, Strayer said. Though a dredging project is currently underway, the upcoming project also will include on-shore sand placement as far south as Angler Avenue.

Strayer also highlighted the Midtown Shore Protection Project, the Army Corps' plans to replenish sand on Midtown Beach lost to erosion during the 2022 hurricane season. While she did not announce a start date for the project, officials working with the town told the Shore Protection Board in April that they expect that project to begin near the end of 2025.

Pierro also noted the success of the town's coastal protection policy in retaining sand within Palm Beach.

Since 1990, Palm Beach has retained over 5 million cubic yards of sand, he said.

"A standard pickup truck ... might

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Synagogues host bat mitzvahs for 20 who missed out as teens

Jodie Wagner
Palm Beach Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A pair of Jewish congregations in Palm Beach hosted bat mitzvah ceremonies this month for more than 20 women who had limited opportunity to celebrate when they were teenagers.

The Chabad House Palm Beach hosted a bat mitzvah celebration for two

congregants April 8 at The Colony Hotel, while Palm Beach Synagogue hosted a ceremony for 18 congregants on April 13.

The women spanned six decades in age, with many lacking previous Jewish education, said Dinie Scheiner, the Hebrew School director at Palm Beach Synagogue, who hosted a six-month bat mitzvah preparatory course for them.

"This journey is a commencement, the beginning for spiritual and educa-

tional growth," Scheiner said of a bat mitzvah, which is a coming-of-age ceremony for Jewish girls when they reach the age of 12. Bar mitzvah ceremonies for boys traditionally take place at age 13.

"There are many who have not had the opportunity to have a Jewish education. One of the women's parents was a Holocaust survivor. A bat mitzvah wasn't a priority. There are various rea-

sons that they didn't have the opportunity to learn for and celebrate their bat mitzvah."

The 18 women who celebrated their bat mitzvah at Palm Beach Synagogue Saturday were the first to participate in a pilot program launched last fall by Scheiner, whose husband, Moshe, is the synagogue's rabbi.

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Students visit Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens for Earth Day

Antonio Fins
Palm Beach Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

To celebrate Earth Day on Monday, the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach welcomed more than 200 elementary school students.

The children included kindergarten, first and second graders from Glades Academy in Pahokee and second graders from The Conservatory School in North Palm Beach.

“Designed to embrace Ann Norton’s vision for maintaining an urban preserve that celebrates the powerful intersection of art, science and the natural world, Earth Day at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens will spotlight the missions of the organizations listed below,” organizers of the event said in a statement announcing the event. “Children will travel through the gardens to visit interactive learning stations presented by each partnering organization.

During their three-hour visit, the Title I program students explored the gardens and engaged in interactive learning stations presented by partnering organizations: the ANGARI Foundation, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, A Green Community, Cox Science Center & Aquarium, Environmental Resources Management, FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, Friends of Palm Beach, Manatee Lagoon and Youth Environmental Alliance.

The events included decorating “drift cards” that teach how trash moves in the ocean; learning how vegetables and plants grow; a demonstration on composting and seed planting; and playing a game about mangroves, herons and the Lake Worth Lagoon estuary.

There also were lessons on pollination by bees, hummingbirds, moths, bats, butterflies, flies, and beetles; the harmful effects of plastics and pollution; manatees; and the importance of worms in the ecosystem.



Second graders from The Conservatory School raise their hands to answer questions about the importance of eating healthy.



Bryan Galvin, representing Friends of Palm Beach, has a conversation with Glades Academy second grader Leanthony Williams about the need to reduce plastic pollution.



A Youth Environmental Alliance representative shows students the ring neck snake she found in the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens during Monday’s event. PHOTOS BY DAMON HIGGINS/THE PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS



During Monday’s Earth Day Celebration at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, Nancy Jones teaches a group of second graders from The Conservatory School about the materials artist Ann Norton used in her work.



A Glades Academy student touches a replica of manatee jawbone.



Glades Academy first grader Matthew Paige talks to Briana Pucci of the Angari Foundation as he designs a drift card.



Nathaniel Jean Louis says she chose to use flying fish to decorate the drift card she created while participating in the Earth Day Celebration at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens on Monday.

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