

Accolades

■ **Maureen Horn**, a Realtor with **Michael Saunders & Company**, earned Platinum Status from



Maureen Horn

RatedAgent.com in March in recognition of her customer satisfaction record in 2018.

Horn is currently the only real estate

agent in Manatee County and the cities of Sarasota and Longboat Key to receive this honor. RatedAgent.com is owned and operated by Quality Service Certification, Inc. (QSC), the premier provider of resources, education and training to measure and improve the service real estate professionals provide to customers. Customer survey results were compiled and validated by Leading Research Corporation (LRC) for 2018 and reflect 100% client satisfaction with the overall service Horn provided.

Horn is a top-producing realtor who together with husband, Steve, has been associated with some of the area's most prestigious transactions. She's consistently in the top 25 in the Sarasota/Manatee Board of Realtors and holds numerous industry designations, including the Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist designation (CLHMS) from the Institute for Luxury Home Marketing, Graduate Realtor Institute designation and the Christie's International Real Estate Specialist designation.

Maureen is based out of the Michael Saunders & Company South Longboat Key office.

■ For the 13th consecutive year, the **Holleran-Bouck Team at RE/MAX Alliance Group** has earned the Five Star Real Estate Agent award. Fewer than one percent of all agents have received the award for 13 consecutive years. Based on an independent survey of recent homebuyers and industry peers, the Five Star Award is presented to fewer than seven percent of real estate agents in a given market.

Homebuyer clients are asked to evaluate agents based on customer service, integrity, market knowledge, communication, negotiation, closing preparation, post-sale service, finding the right home, marketing of the home, and overall satisfaction. Agents also must receive a favorable regulatory and complaint-history review.

Industry peers (mortgage professionals, insurance professionals and real estate professionals) are asked to evaluate agents based on industry expertise, customer service skills, market knowledge and negotiation skills.

Consisting of **Joe and Virginia Holleran** and **Lisa Bouck**, the Holleran-Bouck Team also received the RE/MAX Gold Club Award based on 2018 production. The

Sarasota office is located at 2000 Webber Street, Sarasota.

■ **Joni Burnette Pirnot**, professor of mathematics at **State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota (SCF)**, has been reappointed chair of the national committee that determines the recipient of the prestigious Etta Z. Falconer Lecture award.

The award honors women who have made distinguished contributions to the mathematical sciences or mathematics education. It is presented annually by The Association for Women in Mathematics and the Mathematical Association of America.

The selection committee consists of four members with staggered terms of three years who review candidates for the award. Pirnot previously served as chair and was reappointed for a second three-year term.

Appointments

■ **Gayle Guynup** has been elected to the **Board of Directors of JoshProvides Epilepsy Assistance Foundation, Inc.** Former Editor of *STYLE Magazine* and Social Editor at Herald Tribune Media Group, Gayle recently established her new business, *Content Connections*,



Gayle Guynup

which offers corporate communications for both profit and nonprofit companies, web-based communications, traditional media and memoirs or biographies. "I am thrilled to join the JoshProvides Board. Having lived with epilepsy for more than 40 years, I am anxious to help spread the word that epilepsy does not define who we are, but rather is something we have and learn to live with," noted Gayle.

"We are delighted to have Gayle join our Board. As an advocate and ambassador for individuals with Epilepsy, Gayle will help us pull back the curtain on this disorder – providing community awareness & education. One in 26 people will be impacted by Epilepsy and JoshProvides is here to offer help and hope to families," stated Andria Bilan, CEO.

In 2018, JoshProvides assisted 59 families by offering seizure detection & alert devices, assistance with transportation or medical services, and securing seizure response dogs. JoshProvides also offers a monthly Epilepsy Support Group to provide resources and socialization to families.

■ **Manatee County Commissioners** appointed **Karen Stewart** as the acting Deputy County Administrator to County Administrator Cheri Corryea.

As Manatee County Economic Development Official for the past decade Karen has facilitated economic development and redevelop-

ment projects by linking County departments and the business community. She manages the performance-based incentive program, rapid response permitting, business retention and expansion in the Southwest District and promotes the business-friendly approach in county government.

Since 2009, County Commissioners have approved Economic Development Incentives for more than 90 companies with potential to create over 6,000 jobs over the next several years. Stewart will be responsible for County operations decisions, along with managing many of the County's top projects on behalf of the Administrator.

Karen has a Master's of Science in Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, is a graduate of Eckerd College and is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) through the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). She is a member of the IEDC, Bradenton Area EDC Board of Directors, Manatee Technical College Board of Governors, Urban Land Institute, the Florida Redevelopment Association, Florida Brownfields Association and various local business organizations.

■ **GATES Construction** has added **Kara Marotto** as Accounts Payable Coordinator. Marotto will collect, review and enter data for the firm's Accounting Department and assist in the processing of vendor and subcontractor payments. Marotto has over 10 years of diversified accounting experience. She will be based out of GATES Construction's Headquarters in Bonita Springs.

■ **Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County** has promoted **Dawn Page** to Vice President of Operations and hired **Shelley Brooks** as Vice President of Finance.

Page is a Sarasota native who graduated from Cardinal Mooney and joined the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County in 1991 as a Counselor at the former Fruitville Boys & Girls Club. Page returned to Sarasota after college, and continued to grow her career throughout the organization. She has held a variety of positions at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County over the past 28 years including Program Director, Club Director, Director of Education, Area Director, Director of Youth Services and Director of Operations. As Vice President of Operations, Page will plan, direct and evaluate the daily operations of the organization's six Club locations and four school sites.

Brooks brings 28 years of nonprofit and financial management experience from businesses across Tampa Bay to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County. Born and raised in Clearwater, Brooks graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration in 1994, and secured her MBA with a concentration in Accounting from St. Leo University in 2008. She has held executive positions at multiple organizations

including Directions for Mental Health, Inc.; New College Foundation, Inc.; and, most recently, ShelterBox USA. As Vice President of Finance, Brooks will lead all financial and administrative aspects including internal control processes, financial compliance and grant management.

■ **Holly E. Gray** has been named director of student support at the **Education Foundation of Sarasota County (EFSC)**. In her new role, Gray is responsible for developing a dynamic volunteer-student mentoring program to ensure students get "to and through" their postsecondary pursuits.

Gray earned her master's degree in counselor education and her bachelor's in psychology and education, both from Rhode Island College. Previously, Gray was a college success coach and academic advisor at Take Stock in Children of Manatee County. She has worked in counseling and advising at several schools and colleges, including the American School of Barcelona, Spain; an Oregon college preparatory school; and public schools in Rhode Island.

Good News Dept.

■ **All Faiths Food Bank** has dedicated its lobby in recognition of **Bob and Lin Williams** for their



Bob and Lin Williams

contribution to the facility construction and long-time support. Created as a welcoming entrance to the food bank's 2018 building expansion, the lobby brings together guests including donors, volunteers and community partners who share an interest in ending hunger. The building expansion tripled the food bank's capacity to store fresh produce and refrigerated foods, increasing access to healthier solutions for all communities in Sarasota and Desoto counties.

For the past six years, Bob and Lin Williams have played a vital role in supporting the development of the food bank's mission to end hunger. In addition to the building expansion, the Williams supported the Backpack program providing students with nutritious snacks for the weekends, the annual turkey distribution providing Thanksgiving meals to families, and funded trucks that pick up and deliver food to children, families, seniors and veterans, and other special initiatives in DeSoto County.

The Williams legacy also includes the *Campaign Against Summer Hunger*, which they have funded since its inception in 2014. The annual six-week long

campaign has raised funds to feed children at risk of hunger during the summer months with a dollar-for-dollar match occurring through May 15. Over the last 5 years, almost eleven million meals have been served and 145,000 children fed. For more information or to register for the *Walk to End Summer Hunger*, visit www.allfaithsfoodbank.org.

■ **Mothers Helping Mothers of Sarasota** has announced that it has been awarded a **\$20,000 grant from the Norm Skalicky Foundation** to help serve needy families in Southwest Florida. "We are so grateful for this generous donation from the Norm Skalicky Foundation," said MHM co-founder Terry Stottlemeyer. "Grants like these allow us to continue to provide assistance to those in need in our community."

For almost 30 years, MHM has been providing free clothing, household goods, toys and books, baby equipment, diapers and emergency assistance to thousands of families in need. The all-volunteer Sarasota nonprofit operates a free "thrift store" at 5933 N. Washington Blvd. Visit www.mhmsarasota.com to learn more, to make a donation, or to volunteer.

Business News

■ **Elysian Fields** was purchased by **Ruta and Tony Gillette**. Ruta is from Lithuania, but always knew she wanted to live in a coastal community in the U.S. She originally located to San Diego, CA, where she became an esthetician. While working, she discovered that she had passion for helping others through her touch and went on to become a Reiki Master. Ruta has always been intuitive and decided to continue her self-discovery by taking a psychic development class.

Tony has been working in retail for over 35 years, from store management to executive level corporate leadership. He has been involved

with many different facets of retail, including operations, training and support positions. Originally from Indiana, Tony has moved several times and has lived in Michigan, California, Texas and now Florida with Ruta and their two children.

When asked why they picked Elysian Fields, Ruta stated, "We did not choose Elysian Fields, Elysian Fields chose us." Tony added, "Elysian Fields is now a family owned business," as you are likely to see their children in the store when not in school. ☺

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