

Accolades

■ Duane and Rhonda Finney of The Finney Team at RE/MAX Alliance Group have earned the



Duane & Rhonda Finney

RE/MAX Chairman's Club Award, which recognizes the highest producing RE/MAX associates based on performance. In 2017, the Chairman's Club Award was presented to fewer than 2 percent of all active RE/MAX agents worldwide.

With more than 25 years of full-time real estate sales and marketing experience, the Finneys specialize in residential resales and new-home construction located in Bradenton, Sarasota, Anna Maria Island, Lakewood Ranch and Longboat Key.

■ Sheriff Tom Knight presented two awards recently to employees who demonstrated exemplary service to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.

Chief Financial Officer Lisa M. Kiesel and Director of Planning and Research William J. Spitler were presented with the Meritorious Achievement Award,



(L-R): Chief Financial Officer Lisa M. Kiesel, Director of Planning & Research William J. Spitler, and Sheriff Tom Knight.

recognized for their dedication and tireless work to provide the employees of the sheriff's office with a new facility.

Directors Kiesel and Spitler often worked long hours, coming in early and staying late to meet with contractors, county staff, or accepting the delivery of goods for the new building. Both were then given the task of planning the logistics of moving nearly 200 employees along with their desks and computers to the new headquarters.

Due to their work, a significant portion of the sheriff's office workforce is housed under one roof, greatly improving the efficiency of operations. For the first time in 30 years, all science-related units are now located in one area. This includes Property and Evidence, Forensics, drug and digital forensics labs, Automated Fingerprint Identification System unit, and detectives. In addition to streamlined operations, the new headquarters provide four separate break areas, a fully equipped fitness center with

showers, and ample conference room space for employees to conduct daily meetings.

■ Carol Schoff, a salesperson at Sir Speedy in Sarasota, was recognized for winning three prestigious awards – the Don F. Lowe Salesperson of the Year, 2018 Platinum Level Top Performer and Million Dollar Club.

The Don F. Lowe Salesperson of the Year is the most sought after award because only one salesperson is selected each year based on merit. The Top Performer award is presented annually to recognize top achievers in the Sir Speedy franchise network. This year, Schoff was one of only eighteen Sir Speedy salespeople who received Platinum Level status from more than 300 salespeople worldwide.

In addition, Schoff won a Million Dollar Club award, which is reserved for salespeople who achieve a million dollars or more in annual sales. Only nine Sir Speedy salespeople received Million Dollar Club awards.

Awards are presented at the annual Sales Forum event, sponsored by Franchise Services, Inc., parent company of Sir Speedy. This year's sales training event was held in March at the Marriott River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. The three-day event encompasses general sessions, a keynote speaker, breakout sessions for specific tracks, a vendor show and an awards dinner.

Sir Speedy is located at 3939 S. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota.

■ Cutting Loose Salons has announced the promotions of five stylists. The promotions were a result of the stylists' growing skills, unmistakable talent and a commitment to excellence. Dedication to education and advancement is at the forefront of the salon's philosophy.

- Julie "Jewels" Cappello was promoted to Designer Stylist (University Location).
- Mackenzie Foote was promoted to Designer Stylist (University Location).
- Genna Pumo was promoted to Senior 1 Stylist (University Location).
- Kris Timm was promoted to Designer Stylist (University Location) and,
- Mandy Finnerty was promoted to Stylist (Lakewood Ranch Location).

Appointments

■ Sarasota Memorial Health Care System appointed Terry Cassidy, LICSW, to lead the health system's Bayside Center for Behavioral Health and its regional safety net of addiction and mental health services.

A longtime leader in community and hospital-based mental/behavioral health and substance abuse programs, Cassidy assumes the position of Bayside's executive director, succeeding Ken Alexander, who retired after 25 years with Sarasota Memorial. Cassidy is a licensed independent clinical social worker with a master's degree in social work from Boston University. During a career that spans nearly



Terry Cassidy

25 years, Cassidy has helped a number of organizations spearhead programs and secure grant funds to address specific needs in the communities she served. Some of those initiatives and programs included launching a new Partial Hospital Program and Intensive Outpatient facility serving 50 patients a day in central Massachusetts; facilitating a 48-member Community Coalition directed toward prevention and early intervention of substance abuse/misuse in Massachusetts; leading a taskforce of more than 50 legislators, government and school officials, social service providers and community leaders to address the needs of homeless families in central Massachusetts; and developing a day treatment program for Latino men and women recovering from addiction in Boston.

Before relocating to Sarasota, Cassidy served as interim executive director of behavioral medicine and regional director of partial hospitalization and outpatient programs at Tenet Healthcare in the New England market. In that role, she oversaw 285 employees providing adult, pediatric and geriatric inpatient units and outpatient services in three emergency departments and inpatient psychiatric units at MetroWest Medical Center and St. Vincent's Hospital in Massachusetts. Previously, she spent five years as an evaluator/consultant and executive director with Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services in Shrewsbury, MA.

■ Realtor Ruth Laurent has joined the Venice office of RE/MAX Platinum Realty. She specializes in general residential sales, new homes, and relocations. Prior to her career in real estate, Laurent had a 25-year career in supply chain management in the automotive industry.

A native of Amesbury, Massachusetts, Laurent moved to Florida in 2005. She has a certificate in Supply Chain Management from Northeastern University in Boston, and completed the Executive Supply Chain Management Development Program at the University of Florida at Gainesville.

She is active in the Sarasota Chapter of One Billion Rising, an organization which promotes prevention of violence against women and children, serving as a committee member since 2014.

The Venice office is located at 307 W. Venice Ave., Venice. Laurent can be reached at 978-314-6104.

■ Lee Hayes Byron has accepted a conditional offer to be-



Lee Hayes Byron

come the new director of Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability. Byron has served with Sarasota County Government since 2005, starting her career as a land manager in the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection program. The Sarasota native became the county's Sustainability manager in 2008 and has served in that position since. The Sustainability program



Nin A. Aguilar-Morales, Kara M. Raymer, Enedina Gamez-Martinez, Saray Torres-Benavidez, Blanca E. Estrada-Betancourt, and Mauricio De la Rosa-Portales (front row, left to right); Julia Hess, LeVonne N. Bell, Riley E. Burgess, Yves R. Castor, Manuel B. Vargas-Fuentes, and Sagès Thalon (back row, left to right); not pictured, Leonardo H Antonio-Lucas.

merged with UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County in 2014.

"I am excited to have Lee Hayes officially join our team. She brings a wealth of organizational knowledge from the county government side of the partnership and a genuine desire to learn the UF/IFAS Extension side," said Brenda Rogers, southwest district extension director with UF/IFAS Extension. "She is well positioned to lead the county Extension program, and I look forward to working with her and the Sarasota County team to continue addressing important local needs through educational programs."

As part of the national Extension system founded in 1914, UF/IFAS Extension provides practical education to help individuals and organizations make informed choices through community initiatives, classes and volunteer opportunities related to food systems, water and environmental resources and youth and community resource development.

Backed by the commitment of Sarasota County Government to foster thriving, sustainable communities, UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability develops and delivers economically viable, environmentally sound and socially equitable programs and services.

"We believe that Lee Hayes' experience and tenure with the county will be a tremendous benefit to both organizations and the greater community," said Sarasota County Administrator Jonathan Lewis. "She has played an integral role in Sarasota County's efforts to serve as environmental stewards."

Byron previously worked in Washington, D.C., as the coordinator of the U.S. Climate Action Network, a coalition of environmental organizations working to establish climate change policies at the state, federal and international levels. In her previous role as Sustainability manager, Byron was responsible for the county's sustainability education and outreach programs and oversaw the addition of more than \$4 million in grant funds to support those programs.

Education News

■ The Adult General Education Programs of Manatee Technical College inducted 13 students into the National Adult Education Honor Society in April. To be admitted, students must demonstrate dependability, a cooperative attitude, and a positive work ethic. Students attend either Adult ESOL or GED preparation classes.

Board News

■ Asolo Repertory Theatre announced its 2018-19 Board of Directors. Officers include Ann Charters (President), Carole Crosby (Vice President/President Elect), Sy Goldblatt (Vice President), Dennis Dirks (Treasurer), and Giselle Huberman (Secretary). New members include Terry Brackett, Andrew M. Economos, L'Tanya C. Evans and William D. Evans.

Asolo Rep 2018-19 Board of Directors: Ann Charters – President; Carole Crosby - Vice President/President Elect; Sy Goldblatt - Vice President; Dennis Dirks – Treasurer; Giselle Huberman – Secretary; Betsy Marshall - General Counsel ; Lawrence Haspel - Immediate Past President. Other members: Peggy Abt, Robert Baer, Charles Barancik, Beverly Bartner, Bob Bartner, David I. Bavar, Terry Brackett, Mary Braxton-Joseph, Susan C. Buck, Jim Chandler III, Warren J. Coville, Jaime DiDomenico, Susan Dweck, Andrew M. Economos, William D. Evans, L'Tanya C. Evans, Richard Ferrell, Herman Frankel, Leslie Glass, Ronald Greenbaum, Gary Heard, Nona Macdonald Heaslip, Judith Hofmann, Charlie Huisking, Carolyn Keystone, Beverly L. Koski, Ruth Kreindler, Flora Major, Nancy Markle, Elenor Maxheim, L. Scott Merritt, Melanie Natarajan, Anna Nekoranec, Paul E. Nelson, Carol Phillips, Jules Price, Audrey Robbins, Flori Roberts, Jim Roque, Jennifer Rust, William Sandy, Nikki Sedacca, Stephanie L. Shaw, Eva T. Slane, William S. Villafranco, Marysue Wechsler, Mary Lou Winnick, Margaret Wise, Joan Wood, Geri J. Yonover, Judy Zuckerberg, Patricia Anderson Ex-Officio, Scott A. Shamp Ex-Officio, Cameron Jackson Ex-Officio, Stanley Kane - Honorary Member. ☺

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