

## Accolades

■ **Heather McLain** has joined **ATLARGE** as Director of Communications. McLain is responsible for leading and growing the agency's communications department, as well as overseeing communications across an array of brands, including strategic planning, media relations, key messaging development, issues/reputation management and crisis communications.



Heather McLain

"We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Heather to the team. Her experience in the field is unprecedented and coupled with her leadership across the industry, we couldn't be more excited," said Anand Pallegar, Founder, ATLARGE.

McLain has 16 years of agency experience in the marketing and communications industry. During her career, McLain has led national, regional and local public relations efforts for brands such as The Fresh Market, The Mall at University Town Center, Taubman, 9Round Kickboxing, California Pizza Kitchen, Chuy's, Sotheby's International Realty, YO! Sushi, aLoft, and Sophie's at Saks Fifth Avenue, to name a few.

Prior to joining ATLARGE, McLain served as VP, Director of Public Relations for On Ideas, where she supervised some of the agency's largest accounts, including ClosetMaid. In that role, she managed PR/communications, content strategy, social media plan development and execution, influencer marketing, product placement and various advertising campaigns.

In addition, McLain is on the board of the Central West Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association and serves as the VP of Communications. For more information about ATLARGE, visit [atlargeinc.com](http://atlargeinc.com).

■ **Ferguson Skipper, P.A.** has named **Michelle Lajoie Hermey** president of the law firm. Her-



Michelle Lajoie Hermey

may has been with Ferguson Skipper since 1994. Hermey was admitted to The Florida Bar in 2007 and is board certified

as a specialist in real estate law. Her areas of practice include residential and commercial real estate law and banking and finance law. Hermey is a member of the Sarasota County Bar Association, Women's Council of Realtors, and Sarasota Association of Realtors, where she served on the Realtor/Attorney Joint Committee and as chair. She is the recipient of the William F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award and AV® Preeminent Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

Throughout her tenure, Hermey has also taken leadership roles in community organizations, serving as a past president and treasurer of the Sarasota High School Association of Dramatics Arts Boosters and vice president and treasurer for the Sarasota High School Chorus Boosters. For her dedication, Hermey received the "Outstanding Adult Volunteer of the Year" award from the school district.

Ferguson Skipper, P.A. is a full-service law firm concentrating in the areas of federal taxation, wills, trusts and estates, guardianships, civil, trial, business, and real estate law. The firm is located at 1515 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota. For information, visit [www.fergesskipper.com](http://www.fergesskipper.com).

■ **Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee** announced its 2020 **Board of Directors**. **Mark Goodson**, community volunteer, will Chair the Board of Directors with **Jackie Barron** of Mosaic Company serving as Vice Chair. **Jamie DiDomenico**, Cool Today, is Treasurer. **Kathy Martella**, community volunteer, is Secretary and **Susan Kramer**, Cablish & Gentile Certified Public Accountants, serves as Member-at-Large.

The 2020 Directors are **Lisa Barnott** of Lakewood Ranch Communities, **Steve Bayard**, community volunteer, **Christi Bock** of TDS Construction, **Jamara Clark** of Rowlett Middle Academy, **Andy Guz** of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, and **Natalee Herrig**, community volunteer. **Maribeth Phillips** is President & CEO of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee and ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

This past February, Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee's annual **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** was held.

"Over 42,000 volunteer hours contributed to the advancement of our mission in 2019. We could not provide the critical programs of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee without our volunteers. We appreciate what our volunteers contribute each and every day and tonight was about coming together to celebrate them," said Maribeth Phillips,

President & CEO of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee.

**Jonah Grayam** was awarded the Jr. Champion Award. **Zeta Grepling** was recognized for her ongoing work at The Food Bank of Manatee. **Jimmy Harris** received the Team Spirit Award. **Christine Cimino** received the Rookie of the Year award. **Betty Vogel** and the **Cascade Women's Club** received the Good Neighbors Award. **Toni Muirhead** received the MacGyver Award. The evening culminated in the presentation of awards of recognition given to volunteers **Robert Kirkpatrick**, **James Torpie**, **Ronald Owens**, and **Marcia Owens** for ten years or more of service to Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee should visit [www.mealsonwheelsplus.org/volunteer/](http://www.mealsonwheelsplus.org/volunteer/) or call 941-747-4655.

## Business News

■ For those looking to make changes that positively impact the environment but don't know where to start, **Zero Waste Bar** can help. The new shop has opened inside The Bazaar on Apricot & Lime in Sarasota.

Zero Waste Bar currently features household cleaning products from Molly's Suds. Community members are invited to bring their own containers (or get one there) to fill up and keep refilling – it's a simple way to eliminate single-use plastic containers, which are piling up on landfills and in the oceans. Molly's Suds are made with earth and plant-derived ingredients to enhance efficiency and cut down on cleaning time, without compromising your family's health.

Zero Waste Bar also carries bamboo toothbrushes and Humby Organics shampoo and conditioner bars and other made in-the-USA, environmentally, sustainable products. The shop is owned by public relations professional **Kim Livengood**,



Kim Livengood

APR, CPRC. Livengood saw the popularity of these types of shops in St. Pete and Tampa and felt Sarasota was ready. "Learning about minimizing waste and helping the environment is a journey," said Livengood. "It would be very difficult to live a completely zero-waste lifestyle but, if we strive to do even some small things, together we can make a difference."

Visit Zero Waste Bar inside The Bazaar at 821 Apricot Ave, Sarasota. It's open Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. weekly. For more information, visit [ZeroWasteBarSRQ.com](http://ZeroWasteBarSRQ.com).

## Real Estate News

■ With more than 30 years of experience in community engagement, philanthropy, branding and marketing, **Veronica Brandon Miller** is now a Realtor with **Michael Saunders & Company**.



Veronica Brandon Miller

Prior to joining the Michael Saunders Lakewood Ranch Real Estate team, she served as a vice president for Goodwill Industries. She created multiple programs and initiatives that were duplicated around the globe with stellar success.

Veronica is a graduate of the Sarasota Civilian Police Academy, Gulf Coast Leadership Institute, Leadership Sarasota, and Leadership Manatee. She has served on the boards for the Sarasota Parks Foundation, the Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center, Pines Foundation, Project 180, Child Protection Center, the McKay Academy, Leadership Manatee Alumni Association, and the All-Star Children's Foundation.

Miller moved to the Sarasota-Bradenton area more than a decade ago from Washington, D.C., where she served in multiple leadership roles. Originally from Philadelphia, Pa., Miller earned her bachelor's degree in Marketing from Boston University and her master's degree in Business from the University of Maryland.

■ For the 14th consecutive year, the **Holleran-Bouck Team** at **RE/MAX Alliance Group** has earned the Five Star Real Estate Agent award. Only 18 agents locally have achieved this distinction.



Holleran-Bouck Team

Based on an independent survey of recent homebuyers and industry peers, the Five Star Award is presented to fewer than 7 percent of real estate agents in a given market. Homebuyer cli-

ents 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 Gold level recognition from RE/MAX Alliance Group based on 2019 production.

The Sarasota office is located at 2000 Webber Street, Sarasota, Florida 34239. The team can be reached at (941) 308-6584 or [theholleranteam@gmail.com](mailto:theholleranteam@gmail.com).

■ **Kathleen Comerford** has announced the launch of **The Comerford Group at Icon Premium Realty**. Comerford has a background in real estate experience that spans brokerage,



Kathleen Comerford

banking, finance, construction and development. In addition to serving the real estate needs of buyers and sellers in their community, Icon Premium Realty gives back through a variety of community and charity partnerships. They are also a supporter of Soles4Souls, a non-profit global social enterprise committed to fighting poverty through the collection and distribution of shoes and clothing.

Icon Premium Realty is an independent boutique real estate brokerage firm whose professionals represent both buyers and sellers in the transfer of residential properties, raw land, new construction, and real estate investments. Icon Premium Realty services Sarasota, Bradenton, Palmetto, the Keys, Lakewood Ranch, Palmer Ranch, Osprey, Nokomis, Venice, Englewood, North Port, Port Charlotte and more.

For more information, call 941-257-5050, or visit [www.iconpremiumrealty.com](http://www.iconpremiumrealty.com). Icon Premium Realty is located at 452 South Tamiami Trail, Osprey.

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