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# Palm Beach Daily News

THE SHINY SHEET®

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## Bulk of Mizner architectural awards won by Palm Beach firms, projects

**Darrell Hofheinz**

Palm Beach Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Firms and projects with Palm Beach connections won the majority of the architecture, landscape and design honors during this month's 2023 Addison Mizner Awards dinner in the Coral Ballroom of The Colony Hotel.

The 12th annual juried competition was sponsored by the Florida Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art.

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An "Anglo Caribbean"-style house on Clarke Avenue in Midtown Palm Beach won Fairfax, Sammons & Partners a 2023 Addison Mizner Award in the category for homes measuring between 5,000 and 10,000 square feet. PROVIDED BY FAIRFAX, SAMMONS & PARTNERS

## Seaview Tennis Center to get redo

### Rec Department appoints new chief for tennis venues

**Diego Diaz Lasa**

Palm Beach Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Court renovations, a new tennis manager and changes to how pro staff are contracted are among the changes coming to the Seaview Tennis Center this summer.

Details of the planned changes for the facility at 340 Seaview Ave. were announced during the Recreation Advisory Board's meeting April 16 by Recreation Department Assistant Director Rance Gaede. Renovations, which include resurfacing the center's courts, replacing its 10-foot fencing, installing new benches and replacing the center's awnings, are set to begin to June 1.

"When we get ready to reopen, hopefully the first of August, you'll be looking at predominantly a new tennis facility for you to utilize," Gaede said.

The update is part of the department's effort to improve the town's tennis program, following an October meeting at which commissioners and residents criticized the tennis center's amenities, pro shop staff and lack of town oversight over the tennis programming.

Recreation Director Mark Bresnahan told the board that Dan Stover had been hired to manage the town's tennis centers. Stover's hiring, Bresnahan said, was aimed at addressing the issues raised by board members about pro shop staff and the shortcomings of the program.

As a former professional player with more than 12 years of experience as a tennis director, including for the Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart and Boca Grove and Tennis in Boca Raton, Stover will serve in this new position as the head executive for the Seaview and Phipps Ocean Park tennis centers. His duties will include organizing the professional staff.

Bresnahan noted that Stover would not lead any tennis lessons or training. Stover's tenure as tennis manager began April 22.

Under the previous system, town head tennis professional Dejan Minic is in charge of running the program, as well as hiring and leading the professional tennis staff. Minic also is responsible for racket sales and restringing.

However, as a contractor, Minic was allowed to pocket any excess revenue, so long as the program brought in \$90,000 in revenue for the town, commissioners noted during their October meeting. He also received payments for organizing the lesson and training schedules.

Under the new system, every tennis professional, including Minic, will

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The Rev. Tim Schenck of The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea blesses a pair of stone lions donated by Devonshire of Palm Beach at the front door of The Church Mouse on Wednesday. MEGHAN MCCARTHY/PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS

## Church Mouse gets new stone lions to replace two that were lost in crash

**Kristina Webb**

Palm Beach Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK

In Palm Beach, it takes two lions to protect a mouse.

In this case, stone lions. And this is no ordinary mouse, but the Church Mouse, the thrift store that for more than 50 years has raised money for the outreach ministry of The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea.

A small group of church officials, members and supporters from the community gathered Wednesday evening outside of the store at 376 S. County Road to bless the pair of stone lions that recently took up residence in front of the Church Mouse — a full circle moment that marked the completion of a six-month journey that began with a bang.

The previous lions — along with the store's front

door and its casing, a chunk of the building near the front door and the landscaping outside — were destroyed when a 54-year-old Tennessee woman lost control of her SUV about 4 a.m. Oct. 4.

Video from a surveillance camera on the back of the nearby Town Hall shows the vehicle approaching quickly from the north, slamming into the front door area of the Church Mouse, ricocheting toward the south end of the building and finally coming to rest in the southbound lanes of South County Road.

"Fortunately, the driver was not seriously injured," the Rev. Tim Schenck, Bethesda's rector, told those gathered at the Church Mouse on Wednesday. "But our lions were. And they were down for the count."

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## Awards

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Fairfax, Sammons & Partners and its affiliated office in New York City took three awards for projects designed by principal architect Richard Sammons, who is vice chairman of the Palm Beach Architectural Commission. Sammons runs his architectural firm with his wife, architect Anne Fairfax, a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The firm earned two of its awards for the design of new homes. An “Anglo Caribbean”-style house on Clarke Avenue in Midtown Palm Beach was honored in the category for homes measuring between 5,000 and 10,000 square feet. And a house designed by Sammons on the east end of Southampton in New York was named the best new residential project under 5,000 square feet.

Sammons’ firm also took the prize for best project in the renovations-and-additions category for a house on Onondaga Avenue on the North End of Palm Beach. That project added a second-floor addition and a fifth bedroom to a 1950s-era house while also overhauling its architectural style.

Awards were presented by Mitchell Owens, editor of The World of Interiors. Owens served on the judges’ jury with Palm Beach resident and interior designer Victoria Hagan of Victoria Hagen Interiors; and New York City-based architect Mark Ferguson, principal of Ferguson Shamamian Architects.

“We’re here to honor so many beautiful houses and interiors,” Owens said during his opening remarks at the April 20 ceremony, adding that the judges had reviewed “a formidable array of entries.”

The goal, Owens added, was to honor projects that “exemplify the classical spirit in all its timelessness as well as its opportunities for experimentation and surprise.”

Eligible projects had to have been built within the last 10 years. The competition is open to members of the Florida chapter, regardless of where the project is located. Other members can submit projects for consideration if they were built in Florida or the Caribbean.

The design of a new Mediterranean-style house on South Ocean Boulevard in Palm Beach won architect Phillip James Dodd of Bespoke Residential Design LLC in Greenwich, Connecticut, the award for best new home over 10,000 square feet. In 2022, Dodd won the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach’s Schuler Award in recognition of same house, which has a stepped-back design for its long-but-narrow lot near former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Club.

FGS Design LLC of Palm Beach earned the award for excellence in historic preservation for its work on a project to restore Harbour Island Cottage, an 18th-century private residence reputed to be the oldest house on Harbour Island in the Bahamas. The firm also has offices in New York and Newport, Rhode Island. In accepting the award, FGS principal Francisco “Kiko” G. Sanchez recounted how the Bahamian cottage had collapsed during the construction work and had to be me-



**A Mediterranean-style house with a stepped-back footprint was designed by architect Phillip James Dodd for a lot on South Ocean Boulevard. The design just won Dodd an Addison Mizner Award for best new residential architecture over 10,000 square feet.**

PROVIDED BY PHILLIP JAMES DODD: BESPOKE RESIDENTIAL DESIGN LLC



**Fernando Wong Outdoor Living Design of Palm Beach and Miami was honored with a 2023 Addison Mizner Award for best landscape architecture for a project at an estate known as “Shangri-La” in Coral Gables.** PROVIDED BY FERNANDO WONG OUTDOOR LIVING DESIGN

ticulously rebuilt.

“The town was mad at us. It was a disaster,” Sanchez said, before adding that the owners have since forgiven him and his design team: “We still have a key, and the staff of FGS is allowed to stay there” on visits to the island.

FGS Design also won the award for best architectural “folly” for another project in the Bahamas — a small structure with a Moroccan-style arch by a swimming pool at an estate in New Providence.

The garden surrounding FGS’s folly was designed by Fernando Wong Outdoor Living Design of Palm Beach and Miami. The latter firm was honored with a separate award for best landscape architecture at an estate known as “Shangri-La” in Coral Gables. Wong, who also has offices in New Orleans, the Hamptons and London, is an alternate member of the Palm Beach Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The craftsmanship award went to Remains Lighting Company of New York’s Brooklyn borough, for its

handcrafted reproduction of two meal lanterns, originally manufactured around 1929 for a Palm Beach project.

At the end of the ceremony, West Palm Beach architect Kristin Kellogg of Smith Kellogg Architecture was recognized for her two years of service as president of the Florida Chapter.

Architect Chris Baker of Moor, Baker & Associates Architects in Vero Beach described Kellogg’s “efficient, clear and kind approach” to the job and her success in attracting new members through “meaningful education programming and social events.”

Other award winners included Moor, Baker & Associates Architects for best cottage; interior designer Frank Ponterio of Naples and Chicago for excellence in residential interior design; and Daniel J. Kiser, a student at the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture, honored as an “emerging classicist.”

The honorees also included Orlando’s planning division, which won the “patronage” award for commissioning, developing and maintaining the city’s Baldwin Park; Bruce Stephenson, a professor at Rollins College in Winter Park, honored for “pedagogy” in recognition of his dedication to teaching; and Steve Mounzon for exemplary architectural “research and documentation.”

With 310 members, the state chapter is one of 16 affiliated with the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, which was co-founded in 1991 in New York City by Sammons, Fairfax, Richard Cameron and Donald Ratner.

The Florida Chapter’s stated mission is to promote and advance “the classical tradition in contemporary architecture, planning and their allied arts and building crafts throughout the state.” Its members conduct business in Florida and the Caribbean.

More details about the awards and photos of the winning projects are available at [FLClassicist.org/](http://FLClassicist.org/) awards.

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## Lions

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The crash happened just two days after the Church Mouse opened for the season, a busy time of year for the store as patrons swarm in to check out the donations that came into the secondhand store over the summer.

The lions had held their station for about 14 years.

That’s where Devonshire of Palm Beach comes in.

The West Palm Beach-based home and garden shop originated on the island in 1985, and its co-owners Nelson Hammell and Pete Hawkins are big fans of the Church Mouse and Bethesda, they previously told Palm Beach Daily News.

When they heard about the crash and the lions’ demise, they quickly offered to donate a pair of stone lions as replacement.

“It’s good to give back, to help the community,” said Clayton Braga, Devonshire’s general manager. “I thought it was amazing for Devonshire to be part of the history of the Church Mouse.”

A few weeks ago, Schenck and parish administrator Joseph Sanelli drove to Devonshire’s store in West Palm Beach to choose the lions. They went with a stately pair, about 40 years old and from The Cotswolds in England.

“I think they’re both regal and welcoming,” Schenck said.

They’re also incredibly heavy, he said, noting that he and Sanelli loaded them into Sanelli’s pickup that day and brought them to the Church Mouse, where they put them in position as the new guardians of the store.

Wednesday’s event was a celebration of the lions’



**The lions, one of which is seen here, were donated to the Church Mouse by Devonshire of Palm Beach after a driver lost control of her SUV and ran into the store’s front door on Oct. 4.**

MEGHAN MCCARTHY/PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS

arrival, and of Devonshire’s gift to the Church Mouse and Bethesda, he said.

“It’s also a fun way to highlight the ministry of the Church Mouse,” Schenck said.

Wednesday’s brief ceremony took place on the sidewalk along South County Road, where fresh landscaping masks the ghost of the damage from the crash.

keep Dan (Minic) here,” he said.

Commissioner David Missner questioned the change, saying that the program had worked well under Minic. “To me, this is not how you treat somebody who’s been busting their butt for 15 years to make this program work,” he said.

Bresnahan responded by saying the changes were made in an attempt to emulate the staff structure used at the Par 3 Golf Course, a change the commissioners had asked for at the October meeting. “We hope he stays around. I’ve had many conversations with Dan (Minic),” Bresnahan said.

Commissioners Susan Watts, Millie Dayton and Peter Harris welcomed the changes.

“This commission ... made a unanimous division to elevate Seaview’s tennis program to one that’s best in the country,” Harris said. “Mark (Bresnahan) implemented our recommendations. That recommendation has consequences — those actions have consequences. Now, we have to manage those consequences.”

Schenck opened with a prayer: “Almighty God, we gather before you today to seek your blessing upon these lions, guardians of our beloved Church Mouse and symbols of fidelity and welcome,” he said. “Grant that all who pass by may be insured by their steadfastness and find comfort in their silent watch. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

That was followed by the Rev. Susan Beebe of Bethesda, who read the passage from Chapter 6 of the Book of Daniel in The Bible, where Daniel is thrown into the lions’ den and saved by God.

Schenck then dedicated the lions, using a palm frond to sprinkle holy water on each one “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

“The folks at Devonshire of Palm Beach, they came to the rescue,” Schenck said, speaking to those gathered before the blessing. “They reached out almost immediately and said, ‘You need lions. We have many lions to choose from.’”

It’s a perfect example of the community at its best, he said.

“Someone’s down and someone offers to lift us up,” Schenck said. “That was incredibly meaningful to all of us and incredibly supportive. Thank you for that.”

*Kristina Webb is a reporter for Palm Beach Daily News, part of the USA TODAY Florida Network. You can reach her at [kwebb@pbdailynews.com](mailto:kwebb@pbdailynews.com). Subscribe today to support our journalism.*

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## Center

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have their own contract directly with the town, Bresnahan said during the April meeting. For Minic, that means he will lose the revenue from organizing lessons with the other tennis professionals.

While commissioners praised the updates to the Seaview Tennis Center and the streamlining of the town’s tennis program, they worried that the changes could lead to Minic’s departure, since the hiring of Stover likely means an earnings cut for Minic. Also, because Minic now recruits and hires the professional staff, commissioners worried they will follow him if he leaves.

Commissioner Henry Jamison highlighted the international staff brought in by Minic and the work he put into building the tennis program at Seaview. “My biggest concern is that we do everything we can to