



CAFCI NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc.

Our mission is to enhance, maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community consistent with the culture and traditions of our diverse ancestral heritage.



CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
in Florida, Inc.

CAFCI Annual Friendship Ball

LEGACY IN MOTION

CELEBRATING

37

YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

STRENGTH IN SERVICE

Honoring Those Who Uplift Our Community.



SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
7 PM - 1 AM



HILTON PALM BEACH PBI
Majestic Ballroom
150 Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach



DOOR PRIZES | RAFFLE

Semi-Formal Attire

Live Entertainment featuring
DJ MANSTA & MORE



\$125 | Advance Ticket Sales Only | Cash Bar



To purchase tickets or for more information
Dennis Wright 561.653.1586 | Audrey Smith 561.601.8856
Alvin Nembhard 561.670.8113
CAFCI • 561.790.4002 • cafcibellsouth.net • CAFCIPBC.org

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.....Micaela Ferguson
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Home Of Our Own Radcliffe Brown
Membership.....Micaela Ferguson
Newsletter..... Junette Powell &
.....Thalia Lauren
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Picnic Yvonne Wright
Program Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
Relay for Life TBD
Student Assistance Fund Junette Powell &
..... Nadine White-Boyd
Sunshine.....Paul Baker
Toys for Tots Lauriston Simms
Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund ..Genieve White
Website Radcliffe Brown
Youth..... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis

CONTACT US

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Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
561.790.4002
cafc@bellsouth.net
www.cafcipbc.org
www.facebook.com/cafcipbc
General Membership Meeting
2nd Saturday of month
Board Meeting
4th Thursday of month
See back page for calendar of events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CAFCI Members and Friends,

As we enter the month of September, I am filled with gratitude for the continued support and commitment of our CAFCI members. This is an especially important month for our organization as we are preparing for our 35th Annual Friendship Ball, our signature fund-raising event.

 **Membership Appreciation:** I extend a special thank you to Micaela Ferguson, Chair of our Membership Committee, for organizing our Membership Appreciation Social in August. Micaela and her team worked diligently to create an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship, games, laughter and good food.

We also appreciate the delicious food and refreshments that were provided for the evening. Events such as this remind us that CAFCI is more than an organization; it is a family built on friendship, service and a shared commitment to our community. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the afternoon a success.

 **Welcoming Our Caribbean Teachers:** CAFCI was proud to be represented by Norma Smith-Hill and Marva Wilks at the Palm Beach County School District's Welcome and Orientation Program for new foreign teachers, including educators arriving from the Caribbean. Norma and Marva did an excellent job representing CAFCI and introducing these new recruits to our organization and the many opportunities available within our Caribbean-American community.

Their participation was especially meaningful because arriving in a new country and community can be both exciting and challenging. By sharing information about CAFCI and our Caribbean community, they helped these educators understand that they have a place where they can connect, build friendships, and feel at home while living and working in Palm Beach County. Thanks to Norma and Marva for giving their time and representing CAFCI with warmth, pride and professionalism.

 **Friendship Ball – September 26:** The countdown is on! Our 35th Annual Friendship Ball celebrating 37 Years of Excellence will take place on **Saturday, September 26, 2026**. I encourage every member to make plans now to attend.

The Friendship Ball is not simply a social event—it is an important part of CAFCI's ability to carry out our mission throughout the year. The proceeds help support our Student Assistance Fund program, community outreach, cultural activities, educational initiatives and humanitarian efforts.

Your Ticket Purchase Matters! I cannot emphasize enough the importance of purchasing your Friendship Ball tickets and encouraging others to attend. Every ticket represents more than a seat at the Ball. It represents an investment in the young people we support, the families we serve and the programs that strengthen our community. Please do not wait until the last minute. Purchase your tickets, invite your family and friends, and help us make this year's Friendship Ball a tremendous success.

 **Together, We Make a Difference:** As we prepare for one of the most important events on our CAFCI calendar, I ask each member to continue supporting our organization through your participation, volunteerism and generosity.

Thank you for believing in CAFCI and for helping us remain committed to our mission of bringing people together, celebrating our Caribbean heritage, supporting education and serving our community. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Ball on September 26 as we come together once again in the spirit of Friendship, Service and Community.

With sincere appreciation,



Dennis B. Wright

"Working Together • Serving Together • Growing Together."

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page#
Annual Friendship Ball	1, 8
President's Message	2
Board, Committees & Contact	2
Member Acknowledgements	3, 5
Upcoming CAFCI Events	
- Membership Meeting: Scout & VAFMSF Night	4
Let's Do Business	5
CAFCI Values Statement	5
Our Children Are Our Future	
- Student Assistance Fund	6-7
Hurricane Season	6, 11
Ways to Support CAFCI	
- Membership	9
- Home Of Our Own	9
Month of Celebrations & Awareness	10
Events: CAFCI, Around Town	12

PLEASE LET US KNOW...

GET WELL, COMFORT & CONDOLENCES

We want our members to know that we, the Board and Sunshine Committee, are always here to support you. Please contact (or ask someone else to contact) one of our Sunshine Committee members if:

- *you are ill or know of any CAFCI member who is ill or*
- *you have or know of a close family member of a CAFCI member who is ill or*
- *you have, or know of a CAFCI member who has, lost a family member.*

Remember, if we are not notified, we cannot share it in the Newsletter or offer our support.

Paul Baker, Chair..... 561.784.0067
 Samuel Baxter 561.358.3737
 Elet Cyris 561.791.9087

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

If you are a CAFCI member and notice that your birthday or the birthday of another member has not been acknowledged, please send an email to CAFCI (cafcibellsouth.net) and we will update the birthday list. We apologize for any oversight.



GET WELL TO:

Kathleen Lannaman



CONDOLENCES TO:

Cynthia Beckles, on the loss of her mother,
 Blossom Elaine Beckles
 Inez McCallum, loss of her sister, Berril Moore
 Shirley and Mark Morrison on the loss of his
 brother, Wayne Morrison



September 16 - 30

Michelle R. Miller	17
Vincent Elliott	18
Shauna Simms	19
Jannette Sharpe-Paul	23
Elizabeth Morgan	24
Phyllis Charlton	27
Raymond Ferguson	29
Hugh Smith	30
Lucille Walters	30

October 1 - 15

Paula Ferguson	02
Vinnie Perrin	04
Frank Watson	04
Larry Milender	05
Aldin Smith	05
Maxine Cheesman	06
Jeff Hmara	08
Rachelle Litt	11
William Turner	12
Dominique McDonald	13
Inelda Bullock	14
Lorna Pearson	15

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SCOUT & VAFMSF NIGHT

Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 7 pm

In-Person & Via Zoom

10287 Okeechobee Boulevard, Level-X Fitness Center - Suite A-5, Royal Palm Beach

The meeting will feature CAFCI Subsidiaries, the Scouts and the Vivian & Adrienne Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund.

You will also have the final opportunity to purchase tickets for our upcoming Annual Friendship Ball.

If you are unable to attend in person, join us via Zoom:

- Visit website: www.cafcipc.org; Select "Enter Zoom Meeting"
- Click on link or copy and paste link in your browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318987422?pwd=dllLNER0a2JuNIhtYUZIVkZzYmRSdzO9>
- www.zoom.com Select "Join A Meeting" Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705
- Call-In: +1 646 558 8656 | Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705

JOIN US AT CAFCI'S MONTHLY MEETING

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 @ 7PM

**CAFCI IS THE PROUD PARENT ORGANIZATION
OF THREE SUBSIDIARIES. LEARN ABOUT OUR
SCOUTING PROGRAMS**

AND

**VIVIAN & ADRIENNE FERRIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
REFRESHMENT AND SURPRISES**



Caribbean-American For Community Involvement SUBSIDIARIES

SCOUTS



SCOUT TROOP 111
Est. 2003



CUB SCOUT PACK 111
Est. 2006

VAFMSF



**FERRIN STUDENT
ASSISTANCE FUND AWARD**
Est. 2004



**FERRIN EAGLE
SCHOLARSHIP**
Est. 2008

CONGRATULATIONS

PostNet Palm Beach

on earning 1st Place in its category in

Palm Beach County

Black Chamber of Commerce

People's Choice Awards.



LET'S DO BUSINESS

When we support a small business in our community or share a recommendation about that business' services and excellence, we help that business to grow; and in helping that business to grow, we help our community to grow. We show by virtue of our dollars and our support, that we believe a business is valuable, and worthy of patronage.

Let's Support Businesses in Our Community.

LOS AGAVES MEXICAN RESTAURANT ROYAL PALM

1179 Royal Palm Beach Blvd. Royal Palm Beach

561.782.8027

Mon - Sun: 11 am - 10 pm

Pickup | Delivery

"We stick to the basics, preparing authentic Mexican cuisine as it is done in our homeland."

If you would like to recommend a business to be featured in the "Let's Do Business" section in our Newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee so that we can share it with our members.

- junettep56@gmail.com or thaliaec@gmail.com

CAFCI VALUES STATEMENT

Caribbean-American for Community Involvement acknowledges and honors the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and pledges itself to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences. We believe in giving a voice to all people and respecting all people regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic background. We support the participation in and promotion of events that lead to respect and mutual understanding among the various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in our community. We believe in promoting honesty and integrity by being transparent in all our dealings, having fun and fellowship with each other while volunteering and caring for the young and elderly and helping those in need.

DISCLAIMER: *The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views and opinions of CAFCI's members and/or the Newsletter Committee members.*

CAFCI MEMBERS... *If you would like to share the accomplishments of a close relative (e.g., child, grandchild, niece and/or nephew) with your CAFCI Family in the "Our Children Are Our Future" section of the NEWS, please provide the information to Paul Baker (email: ujama4@aol.com or phone 561.784.0067). If there is any other information you would like included in the NEWS, please submit the information to Junette Powell (junettep56@gmail.com).*

IMPORTANT: *Include "CAFCI NEWS" in the subject line when sending e-mails. Inclusion of articles submitted will be at the discretion of the Newsletter Committee and based on space availability.*

OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

CAFCI and the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee would be honored to recognize the accomplishments of its members and/or their relatives. Please share your good news with us and we will publish it as space permits.

Student Assistance Fund

EMPOWERING YOUTH & INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Each year the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee offers deserving Palm Beach County high school seniors the opportunity to apply for a monetary "Student Assistance Award" from CAFCI. A donation of any amount helps CAFCI's SAF Committee reach its yearly fundraising goal.

- Mail check payable to CAFCI, Attention: SAF (write "SAF" on your check on the notes line to make sure it is posted to the SAF program), 675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411.
- Donate online at <https://www.cafcipc.org/donation-center>. Select the Student Assistance option.

For more information, please contact Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895 or Junette Powell at 561.346.2353. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

HURRICANE SEASON 2026 Things to Know ...

- **Know your zone:** Do you live near the Gulf or Atlantic Coasts? Find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation area by contacting your local government/emergency management office or by checking the [evacuation site website](#).
- **Put Together an Emergency Kit:** Put together a [basic emergency](#) kit. Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators and storm shutters.
- **Write or review your Family Emergency Plan:** Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. Start at the [Ready.Gov emergency plan webpage](#).
- **Review Your Insurance Policies:** Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property.
- **Understand NWS forecast products,** especially the meaning of [NWS watches and warnings](#).
- Preparation tips for your home from the [Federal Alliance for Safe Homes](#)

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT
WHERE TO GET HURRICANE INFO

1 **Television** - Tune in to your trusted local news source.

2 **Phone** - Access [mobile.weather.gov](#) on your mobile phone and get Wireless Emergency Alerts.

3 **Radio** - Receive forecast information and news on your NOAA Weather Radio.

4 **Social Media** - Stay in touch with friends and family and receive updates from your trusted sources of information.

5 **Computer** - Access information from [weather.gov](#), [ready.gov](#) and [flash.org](#)

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit [weather.gov/hurricanesafety](#)

(continued on page 11)



STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND



Empowering Youth & Investing in Our Future

CAFCI extends heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors whose financial contributions make the 2026 Student Assistance Fund (SAF) possible. Your support empowers students to pursue their educational goals and achieve their dreams. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to making a difference in their lives and within our community.

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STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE

**Nadine White-Boyd, Esq., Co-Chair • Junette Powell, Co-Chair • Leonie Escoffery, Treasurer
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CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
in Florida, Inc.

CAFCI

2026 Annual

Friendship Ball

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

Legacy in Motion

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Strength in Service

Honoring Those Who Uplift Our Community.

*A heartfelt thank-you to all our sponsors, donors,
advertisers, volunteers and our indispensable Ball Committee
whose behind-the-scenes magic & teamwork make everything shine.*

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WAYS TO SUPPORT CAFCI . . . WE NEED YOU!!!

CAFCI website: <https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center>

Please share with your friends and family.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO CAFCI???

MEMBERSHIP DUES (Single - \$80 • Couple - \$140)

Submit your membership dues online at:
<https://www.cafcipbc.org/membership-dues>

OR

Submit check payable to: CAFCI
Mail to CAFCI, Attention: Membership
675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411



For C.A.F.C.I.

Our current objective is to have the community funding organization provide us with a Letter of Interest or credit so that when another opportunity comes our way we have a funding source to supplement our available funds.

We made an appeal for someone with the necessary knowledge, experience and skill to assist us with the planning, set up and operation of a business to provide income to assist in paying off a mortgage.

Other options under consideration include the possibility of purchasing a large commercial building and subletting some of its spaces. To that end, we are also looking for someone with property-management experience to assist us in determining the feasibility of this option.

If you are able to step in and assist, or know of anyone who can, please contact Radcliffe “Woody” Brown at 561-790-4002 or 561-791-3344 and leave a message. You can also send an email to cafcipbc@bellsouth.net.

*Participation in the **Home of Our Own** project is available through the Buy-A-Brick program. Visit the web page at www.cafcipbc.org and click on the “Home of Our Own” tab or call Radcliffe “Woody” Brown at 561.791.3344 for more information. We have made it easier to take part in the program by facilitating monthly payments to buy a brick. Monthly payments of \$50 for a \$1,000 brick and \$150 for a \$3,000 brick are available.*



Scan QR Code to Support
CAFCI's Home Of Our Own

Submitted by Radcliffe “Woody” Brown, CAFCI *Home Of Our Own* Chair

SEPTEMBER... A Month of Celebrations & Awareness

September is a month filled with various celebrations, including national and international observances, awareness campaigns, and cultural festivals.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY Sunday, September 13, 2026

Do Something Grand and celebrate Grandparents Day (Sunday, September 13, 2026) throughout the month of September!

Ways to Celebrate Grandparents Day:

- Read a book with your grandfriends, grandparents, or grandfamily caregiver.
- Take a walk together through your neighborhood or favorite park.
- Share family stories of your favorite memories together, your family's history, or look through a family photo album together.
- Go for an outing as a family (i.e. dinner at a restaurant, to the movies, skating rink, hiking, amusement park, etc.).
- Cook a meal together using your favorite family recipe.
- Do an arts and crafts activity.
- Participate in an in-person or virtual family game night.
- Volunteer together in remembrance of 9/11 or attend a 9/11 memorial service event.
- Gather in person as a family and share kind words to honor those grandparents, grandfriends or older caregivers who are no longer here. Afterward, plant a tree or flower seed at a park, family garden, or special location to amplify their remembrance.
- Create a celebratory dance video with your family and friends. [Learn more and see examples.](#)

Source: [Grandparents Day – Do Something Grand](#)

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from September 15 to October 15. It began as a week-long celebration in 1968 under President Johnson and was expanded to a month by President Reagan 20 years later in 1988. The month-long celebration provides more time to properly recognize the significant contributions Hispanic/Latino Americans have made in the United States.

Hispanic Heritage Month does not cover one single month but instead begins in the middle of September and ends in the middle of October. The timeframe of this month is significant because many Central American countries celebrate their

independence days within these dates, beginning on September 15 with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. By aligning with these independence dates, Hispanic Heritage Month honors the resilience and determination of the Hispanic community. Key Independence Days celebrated within Hispanic Heritage Month include:

- September 15 – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua
- September 16 – Mexico
- September 18 – Chile
- September 21 – Belize

Learn more about the unique [Latin Independence Days](#) traditions and celebrations.

Hispanic Heritage Month provides an additional opportunity to explore the incredible impact Latinas and Latinos have had on the United States for generations. The Latino presence in America spans centuries, predating Spain's colonization of what is now part of the United States, and they have been an integral part of shaping our nation since the Revolutionary War. Through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Treaty of Paris that followed the Mexican-American and Spanish-American wars, the United States gained territories in the Southwest and Puerto Rico. This incorporated the people of this area into the United States and further expanded the presence of Hispanic Americans. Today, the [Latino population](#) in the United States today is over 60 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This makes up 18.9% of the total population and is the largest racial or ethnic group. Latinos continue to help fuel our economy and enrich our nation as entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, entertainers, scientists, public servants, and much more.

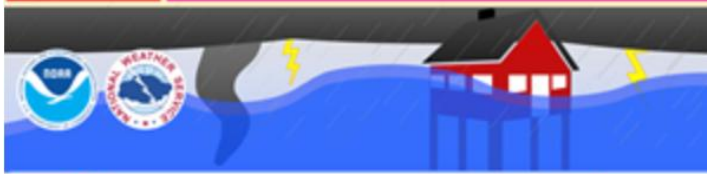
Source: [Hispanic Heritage Month | National Museum of the American Latino](#)



For upcoming events visit

- <https://downtownwpb.com/hhm/>
- <https://www.wellingtonfl.gov/2177/Hispanic-Heritage-Night>
- <https://www.royalpalmbeachfl.gov/Calendar>

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HURRICANE HAZARD RISKS



- 1 Storm surge is water pushed onshore by the tropical system. It causes the most damage of any of the hurricane hazards.
- 2 Wind from a hurricane can top 200 mph and cause massive damage to buildings in its path.
- 3 Inland flooding caused by heavy rain damages homes and can wash out roadways well away from the coast.
- 4 Tornadoes are common as a hurricane moves ashore. They are not typically long-lived, but they can cause plenty of damage.
- 5 Rip currents and rough seas are common both before and after a hurricane, making swimming or surfing very dangerous.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HAVING AN EVACUATION PLAN



- 1 Find out if you would need to evacuate. Don't travel hundreds of miles, only far enough away from the evacuation area.
- 2 Plan your evacuation route. Have an alternate route.
- 3 Leave when ordered to so do. Do not wait.
- 4 Communicate your plan with someone not in the storm's path.
- 5 Plan for your pets. Most local shelters do not permit them.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT UPDATING YOUR INSURANCE



- 1 Check your insurance policies well ahead of the storm to see what is covered.
- 2 Make sure you have flood insurance. Flooding is the leading cause of damage from tropical systems.
- 3 Visit [floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) to learn about your flood risk and flood insurance options for your area.
- 4 Prepare your home and vehicles according to your specific insurance policies to ensure damages are covered.
- 5 Know where your insurance documents and contact information are located. Take them with you if you evacuate.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT STRENGTHENING YOUR HOME



- 1 Keep trees around your home trimmed well before a storm to prevent damage from broken branches.
- 2 Have the proper materials in advance to board up your windows to protect them from flying debris.
- 3 Bring loose outdoor items such as patio furniture inside. They can blow around and cause damage to homes.
- 4 Secure all doors on your property. Remember that the garage door is usually the most vulnerable.
- 5 Move your car inside a garage or to another secure location.

Mark Your Calendar CAFCI's 2026 Events

Dates are subject to change. Please check the current issue of the NEWS and the website.

Saturday, September 12 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Scout & VAFMSF Night

Saturday, September 26 CAFCI ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL

Hilton Palm Beach PBI - Majestic Ballroom
150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL

Support The Celebration • Honor The Legacy • Promote Your Brand
Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunities Available. Contact us at CAFCI@bellsouth.net

Saturday, October 10 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Business Awareness

Saturday, November 14 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ International Games Night

Saturday, December 12 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Toys for Tots & Holiday Potluck

SAVE THE DATE Thursday, December 31 CAFCI NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

AROUND TOWN

- **Saturday, September 19, 6 pm** | FREE SPIRIT OUTREACH INC. 20th ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY at Wellington Community Center, Grand Ballroom, 12150 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, FL 33414; Tickets: \$120; For more information: 561.313.4772 or info@fsocharity.org
- **Saturday, November 7, 2 pm to 10 pm** | CARIBBEAN AMERICAN CULTURAL GROUP, INC. presents TREASURE COAST CARIBBEAN FOOD AND MUSIC FESTIVAL at the Midland Florida Event Center in Port St. Lucie. For more information visit <https://www.cacgpsl.org/carifest>.
- **Sunday, November 8, 1 pm to 10 pm** | The premier GRACE JAMAICAN JERK FESTIVAL in South Florida at Miramar Regional Park, 16801 Miramar Pkwy, Miramar. For tickets, go to www.jerkfestival.com.
- Visit the CULTURAL COUNCIL FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY at <https://www.palmbeachculture.com/events> for upcoming activities.
- Events in WELLINGTON, go to <https://aroundwellington.com/>
- Events in WEST PALM BEACH, go to <https://downtownwpb.com/explore/calendar/>
- Events in PALM BEACH COUNTY, go to <https://www.thepalmbeaches.com/events>

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