

NEWS

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.

SEPTEMBER 2024



BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

DIRECTORS

Carolyn Hmara Norma Smith-Hill Charlesworth "Barclay" Varlack



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	Radcliffe Brown
Bylaws	Barbara Walker
	Radcliffe Browns
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Grants	Shirley Morrison
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	Audrey Smith
Newsletter	Junette Powell
	& Thalia White Lauren
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Picnic	Yvonne Wright
	. Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
Relay for Life	Nova Brown
Student Assistance F	und Junette Powell
	.& Nadine White-Boyd
	Paul Baker
Toys for Tots	Lauriston Simms
Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund	
	Genieve White
	Radcliffe Brown
Youth	. Rhonda Ferrin-Davis

CONTACT US

Caribbean-American For Community Involvement 675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite #134

> Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411 561.790.4002

cafci@bellsouth.net * www.cafcipbc.org www.facebook.com/cafcipbc

General Membership Meetings
2nd Saturday of the month
Board Meetings
4th Thursday of the month

See back page for calendar of events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Join us as we celebrate our 35th anniversary at our 33rd Annual Friendship Ball on September 28, 2024, at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport Hotel. Experience an evening of community camaraderie, elegant dining, and sophisticated dancing. Proceeds from this event will be used to support CAFCI's activities for the coming year. Event highlights will include a performance and serenade by international recording artist, Steve Higgins, and musical entertainment during the presidential reception and dinner. Wear your dancing shoes and get ready to party to the electrifying sounds of DJ Mansta. Tickets are \$110 per person and can be obtained from Alvin Nembhard (561.670.8113); Dennis Wright (561.653.1586), Audrey Smith (561.601.8856) or from the CAFCI website: www.cafcipbc.org.

Dennis Wright

Thank you 33rd Annual RIENDSHIP. **SPONSORS** BODDEN & BENNETT LAW GROUP HI-CLASS PROMOTIONS OF WAVS RADIO LEWIS LONGMAN & WALKER, P.A. ROYAL INN HOTEL & RESORT S.A NELSON & ASSOCIATES STEVE HIGGINS PRODUCTIONS **SUPA JAMZ RADIO**

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page#
CAFCI Annual Friendship Ball	1
President's Message	2
Board, Committees &	2
Contact Information	
Member Acknowledgements	3
CAFCI Events	
- General Membership Meeting	4
- Friendship Ball	4
CAFCI Values Statement	4
Let's Do Business Feature	4
Member Spotlight	5
Our Children Are Our Future	
- Student Assistance Fund	6
- Scouts Troop 111 & 4111	7
Ways to Support CAFCI	
- Membership	8
- Home Of Our Own	8
VOTE: It's Your Right & Responsibility	9
Month of Celebrations & Awareness	9
Calendar of Events	10
Hurricane Awareness	11



SEPTEMBER 16 - 30

Vincent Elliott	18
Shauna Simms	19
Frederick Pinto	21
Jannette Sharpe-Paul	23
Elizabeth Morgan	24
Phyllis Charlton	27
Hugh Smith	30
Lucille Walters	30

OCTOBER 1 - 15

	O O TO DETAIL TO
Vinnie Perrin	04
Frank Watson	04
Larry Milender	05
Aldin Smith	05
Maxine Cheesman	06
Jeff Hmara	08
Rachelle Litt	11
William Turner	12
Inelda Bullock	14
Sheila Wright	14
Lorna Pearson	15

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 (cafci@bellsouth.net) and we will update the birthday list. We apologize for any oversight.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Audrey Campbell • Winsom Genus-Martin Charlesworth "Barclay" Varlack

CONDOLENCES TO:

Nova and Woody Brown
on the loss of his uncle, Coleridge Orr
Yvonne and Vincent Elliott
on the loss of her dad, Leonard Parkin
Thalia and Timothy Lauren
on the loss of his aunt, Donna Zweygardt
Dr. Cedric Lynch
on the loss of his wife, CAFCI member, Dorothy
Yvonne and Dennis Wright
on the loss of his cousin, Levi Schloss

Please Let Us Know...

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 7 pm In-Person & Via Zoom 10287 Okeechobee Boulevard Level-X Fitness Center - Suite A-5 Royal Palm Beach (located at the Target Plaza, corner of Okeechobee Boulevard and State Road 7 / US 441)

Please join CAFCI's General Membership meeting on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 7 pm at our new membership meeting location. The meeting will focus on the upcoming Ball on September 28th. This will also be the final opportunity to purchase Ball tickets.

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

- Visit website: www.cafcipbc.org
 Select "Enter Zoom Meeting"
- Click on link or copy and paste link in your browser:
 https://us02wob.zoom.us/i/85318987/222pwd-d

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318987422?pwd=d IILNER0a2JuNIht YUZI VkZzYmRSdz09

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

LET'S DO BUSINESS

in Royal Palm Beach • Wellington Western West Palm Beach (up to Vista Parkway) Let's Support Businesses in Our Community.



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 at:

<u>junettep56@gmail.com</u> or <u>thaliaec@gmail.com</u> so that we can share it with our members.

CAFCI Annual FRIENDSHIP BALL

CAFCI: 35 Years Strong in Community Involvement

Saturday, September 28, 2024 Hilton Palm Beach Airport West Palm Beach

CAFCI's 33rd Annual Friendship Ball will be held at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport in West Palm Beach on September 28th. Are you ready? We hope so. This year's Ball promises to surpass all the those that went before. Our Ball Committee is going all out to create an extravaganza that enchants and enthralls. Excellent food, superior company, plus music and entertainment that ensures an unforgettable night! Yes, we are ready! Entertainment will be provided by Spirit & Soul Band and DJ Mansta. Special Reminder: Get your tickets early from a CAFCI member before they are sold out. Watch out for more details on the CAFCI website, www.cafcipbc.org. Let's Party!!!

CAFCI'S 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.

Member Spotlight



HAVE YOU MET ... VALERIE DORSEY?

Valerie Dorsey is the queen of reinvention. Born and bred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Valerie's multiple careers have allowed her to live in several states and travel the world. Most recently she traveled to Antarctica, allowing her to cross the goal of traveling to all seven continents off her bucket list.





U.S.A

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Valerie's many careers included working as a registered nurse—a calling she'd had from the age of 11—an air force flight nurse, the head nurse in a methadone clinic, a sales rep for Xerox, a pharmaceutical sales and marketing rep, a managed care executive, and finally in her latest incarnation, a luxury travel advisor and owner of a travel agency.

Valerie says that talking to people and being unafraid to try new things opened the door to surprisingly successful and satisfying careers. "When I was studying nursing at Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia, I had an instructor who spoke about what it was like to be a nurse in the air force reserves. As soon as I graduated, I signed up for the reserves and began what became one of the most satisfying periods of my nursing career."

Two weekends a month she'd report for the reserves. One weekend she'd report to the local military base, and the other she'd fly to Greece, Türkiye or some other international military location on C141s—the second largest airplane in the air force—to pick up sick or injured soldiers stationed abroad, along with their families.

A typical flight transported 200 passengers, and two flight care nurses. Valerie and the other nurse alternated between being the medical crew director and the medication nurse. Apart from the pilot and crew who oversaw everything in the cockpit, she and her colleague were responsible for everything that happened with the patients. Once the plane arrived back stateside, soldiers who needed more intensive care were delivered to a military hospital. Valerie says "That was one of the most exhilarating jobs. It demanded pure knowledge. That was the best seven years because it was so interesting. I look back over my life and I'm just glad I wasn't afraid to step out on faith."

Valerie attained the rank of captain before leaving the air force in 1984. Around the same time, she decided to leave nursing altogether. Long divorced from her first husband, and caring for her son as a single parent, she decided it was time for a reset after years marked by the intensity of weekend international travel and juggling her full-time job at the hospital.

This was also a time when she found that nursing's focus had shifted, and the change was not one she welcomed. "There was less focus on patient care—the thing I cared about—and more on paper management so the hospital didn't get in trouble."

Upon leaving nursing Valerie went to work for Xerox in sales, a position she applied for after a contact suggested that her love of interfacing with people would make for a good sales fit. Working at Xerox, Valerie was only one of a handful of Black sales agents selling copiers for what was then one of the biggest companies in the world.

From Xerox, Valerie went on to work in pharmaceutical sales with SmithKline Beecham (again at the suggestion of a friend). At SKB she was one of only six Black managers in the country. She says that today there are probably a few hundred Blacks in the company's management ranks—still far short of what there should be—and she adds that the glass ceiling in pharmaceutical companies and many other corporations remains to be cracked.

Valerie worked for SKB—later to become GlaxoSmithKline, one of the largest global pharmaceutical companies—for 24 years, climbing the corporate ladder and mastering the different divisions, including sales, marketing, and national accounts, eventually becoming a managed care executive before retiring.

The fact that she was one of only a few Black executives in pharmaceutical sales wasn't unusual Valerie says. She explains: "I am used to being a first in just about every job or company I went to. I was the first in so many situations. In the town I grew up in I was the first Black to work at the bank—This was in the 70s. I was the first Black to work in the employment department at Sears and Roebuck in Philadelphia (where my mother had worked as a packer. She was so surprised! I was the receptionist, and they'd never had a Black there!) I was the first Black to work in the credit union at Campbell Soup. Back in those days most of us who got jobs were the first of our kind."

Valerie took early retirement in 2010, and a year later opened a full-service travel agency, marrying her love of travel and her proficiency in sales. The name of her agency? Charmed Vacations, Inc., a franchise of global travel firm, Cruise Planners.

Her agency offers travel tours to fit individual needs, including both land and sea packages. Since opening Charmed Vacations, Valerie has made travel plans for several thousand clients, expanded her business to include three additional associates, visited dozens of countries and formed close relationships with many clients. Her company website is www.charmedvacations.com and she can be reached at 561.383.7774 or vdorsey@cruiseplanners.com.

Post-COVID she notes that clients have been more focused on world cruises and luxury travel to exotic destinations. Her business has grown, and she says, "Thirteen years ago I bought my franchise from Cruise Planners, and thirteen years later I'm still doing it and still loving it."

Valerie has lived in West Palm Beach for 21 years. Her second husband, and the love of her life—they were married for 27 years—passed away unexpectedly two years ago. She is the proud mother of a son and has two lovely granddaughters.

Her life lesson: "My life wasn't all roses but there were enough roses in it. I loved all of it. It all makes you who you are. The truth is I probably learned more from the pain than from the pleasure. There's nothing I would change."

Valerie joined CAFCI a year ago, though she has long attended its events. Her very good friend and business associate, Audrey Campbell, is a veteran member. She says, "I'm not Caribbean but I joined out of admiration for the organization. I admire the fact that People of Color have come together to do something positive. The women and men in this organization work very hard. I appreciate seeing People of Color doing things for themselves and not putting the responsibility on anybody else. I just admire their dedication and their harmony. It's really impressive."

Written by Max Smith, Newsletter Committee Member

Member Spotlight is an opportunity to share your story. If you would like to be featured or have someone to recommend, please email us at: junettep56@gmail.com or thaliaec@gmail.com.

Thanks, CAFCI family. We look forward to shining the spotlight on you.

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

For more information, visit the Student Assistance Program section on CAFCI's website at https://www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram or contact Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895 or Junette Powell at 561.346.2353.

The 2025 Student Assistance Scholarship Application will be added to the CAFCI website shortly. The Application deadline is Friday, February 28, 2025.

The Student Assistance Fund Committee thanks everyone who donated to the Fund. See the 2024 "Thank You flyer" which is included in this newsletter and posted on CAFCI's website at https://www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram. If you missed the 2024 awards ceremony, the video with congratulatory messages from past recipients, pictures from the awards ceremony as well as a recording, can be viewed on CAFCI's website https://www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram.

ONGOING DONATION: To donate to the Student Assistance Fund and/or sponsor an award recipient, please contact Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895; Junette Powell at 561.346.2353; or visit CAFCI's website at https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center and select the Student Assistance option. Every donation—large or small—will help CAFCI's Student Assistance Fund Committee reach its fundraising goal. So please, donate. If you cannot donate, do share the fundraiser link to help spread the word with family, friends, and social media contacts. There is no greater reward for your donation than seeing the proud and smiling faces of the student winners and knowing that your donation will help support them as they attend college and become the future community leaders that we need.



CAFCI SCOUTS TROOPS 111 & 4111



Greetings CAFCI!

Troop 111 has had an amazing summer and is now ready to start a new Scouting year. We are excited to host visits from Cub Scouts Packs and recruit new members. Our camping calendar is planned with many exciting adventures including the Northern Tier High Adventure trip to Minnesota in the Summer of 2025. Scouts and leaders will be

canoeing along the boundary waters between the U.S. and Canada. Training has already begun for this strenuous trek.

We recently combined our and girl units to boy participate in a Scouting America National Pilot Program offering this format as an option to separate Troops. We look forward to a great year of service to our community and to you, our Charter Organization. Thank you so much for your continued support of Troop 111!

Lorianne Cabrera Troop 111 Committee Chair



<u>Front Row</u>: Mrs. Montoya, Ethan Johns, Gracyn Vallee, Waylon Vallee, Keenan Stack, Mrs. Thompson, Marissa Johns Ms. Pfister, Mrs. Mahne

Middle Row: Mrs. Schnick Baker, Mrs. Cabrera, Jonathan Schnick Baker, Mrs. Grieser, Mr. Thompson, Kyndell Thompson, Ms. Davis, Mrs. Okkashe

<u>Back Row</u>: Kirill Montoya, Hadi Okkashe, Roman Mahne, Keil Grieser, Ethan Thompson, Bella Page



To apply for membership in BSA Troop 111 or to volunteer for scouting, visit https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-085taa0111

"On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty, to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." - Scout Oath

"A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent." - Scout Law



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

CAFCI website: https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center GoFundMe: Visit https://gofund.me/7319cf9a • Please share with your friends and family.

HAVE YOU JOINED OR RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO CAFCI???

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES (Single - \$80 • Couple - \$140) Submit your membership dues online at: https://www.cafcipbc.org/membership-dues OR Mail to: CAFCI

Attention: Lawrence Logan, 675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

For C.A.F.C.I.



In August we were presented with an opportunity to purchase a condo Unfortunately, we were unable to close the deal due to the lack of ready funds or a letter of commitment for a mortgage. This incident magnifies the need for our organization to be able to show a more significant and consistent stream of income, if we are to obtain a commitment letter.

As such, be on the lookout for a call-forassistance as we enter another phase in our efforts to purchase a Home of Our Own. One option we are considering: setting up a for-profit business as a means for generating steady income.

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.



CAFCI's Home Of Our Own

Despite the above setback the search for a property continues, with a primary focus on lease-to-own options, including the possibility of purchasing land or commercial condominiums. Another option being considered is jointly purchasing and sharing a property with a partner organization, thereby reducing the cost of acquisition.

If you have information about an available property, or about a potential investor (or investors) who may be able to help with funding, email cafci@bellsouth.net, and copy radcliffewoody@aol.com, or call 561.790.4002 and leave a message.

Submitted by Radcliffe "Woody" Brown, CAFCI Home Of Our Own Chair

CHECK YOUR STATUS

Visit the My Status page:

https://www.votepalmbeach.gov/Voters/My-Status

- Review and update your voter registration information.
- Look at your personalized sample ballot.
- Check your Vote-by-Mail requests.
- Track your Vote-by-Mail ballot to see when it went out and when it was received by our office.
- Find out where you vote on Election Day.
- See your voting activity for the past 12 months.

ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES & POLLING PLACE CHANGES

Verify your assigned election day polling place at https://www.votepalmbeach.gov/Voters/Precinct-Finder

We've Moved!

Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Main Office and Voting Equipment Center 4301 Cherry Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Source: https://www.votepalmbeach.gov/

SAMPLE BALLOT

The races on your Primary ballot are determined by where you live and your party affiliation in partisan races. Look up your voter information below to find your specific sample ballot.

The links to "All Races" sample ballots show all of the races that are included in this election, including those that are district-specific.

2024 Republican Primary Election All Races Sample Ballot

https://www.votepalmbeach.gov/Portals/PalmBeach/20 24%20Elections/Compressed%20Republican%20Party%2 0Sample%20Ballot%20Primary%20Election%202024.pdf? ver=lvui0SpIT_Hq9F2gEQTBkA%3d%3d

2024 Democratic Primary Election All Races Sample Ballot

https://www.votepalmbeach.gov/Portals/PalmBeach/20 24%20Elections/Compressed%20Democratic%20Party% 20Sample%20Ballot%20Primary%20Election%202024.pdf ?ver=xH7xE6brULzADDM4oDARpA%3d%3d

2024 Nonpartisan Primary Election All Races Sample Ballot

https://www.votepalmbeach.gov/Portals/PalmBeach/20 24%20Elections/Compressed%20Nonpartisan%20Sampl e%20Ballot%20Primary%20Election%202024.pdf?ver=HT U8U3i8SeuWobtHID6LBQ%3d%3d

SEPTEMBER ... A MONTH OF CELEBRATIONS & AWARENESS



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Grandparents' Day occurs on the first Sunday after Labor Day every year. This year, Grandparents' Day was Sunday, September 8, 2024.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR CAFCI'S EVENTS

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

Saturday, September 14: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Hybrid

Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 7pm

CAFCI ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL

Celebrating CAFCI: 35 Years Strong in Community Involvement
Hilton Palm Beach Airport, 150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach

Saturday, October 12: General Membership Meeting ~ Membership Appreciation | Game Night, 7 pm, Hybrid Saturday, November 9: General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Hybrid

Saturday, December 14: General Membership Meeting, ~ Toys for Tots | Christmas Potluck, 7 pm, Hybrid

AROUND TOWN

- Saturday, September 14th at 7 pm | Mr. Showtime Ent presents OLIVER SAMUELS LUCKY MONEY at Royal Palm Beach High School, 10600 Okeechobee Blvd., Royal Palm Beach. For information, contact Dain at 772.249.9324.
- Sunday, September 29th at 4 pm | Victory Black Box Theatre presents Debra Ehrhardt & Chris Grossett Look What Fell Out De Mango Tree at Victory Black Box Theatre, 1409 NW 6th Street, 3rd floor (YMCA) Fort Lauderdale. Tickets \$39; Eventbrite.com.
- Friday, October 4th at 6 pm | *TALENT FASHION ART SHOW* at Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center, 151 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach. For information, call 772.256.5485.
- Saturday, October 12th at 9 pm | Kingston College Old Boys' Association presents their 23RD ANNUAL BIG PURPLE SESSION at The Sport of Kings Theater Gulfstream Park, 901 S. Federal Hwy, Hallandale. Featuring Third World. For information, call 786.402.4965.
- Saturday, November 2nd, 12 noon 10 pm | 6th Annual *TREASURE COAST CARIBBEAN FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL*; MidFlorida Event Center, Port St. Lucie, FL. For ticket prices and more information, go to www.CACGPSL.com.
- Saturday, November 9th at 7 pm: Free Spirit Outreach Inc. presents their *THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY* at Palm Beach Airport Hilton Hotel, Majestic Ballroom. For information, call 561.709.3193 or e-mail info@fsocharity.org.
- Visit the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County at https://www.palmbeachculture.com/events for upcoming events and activities.
- Visit the Kravis Center at https://www.kravis.org/ for upcoming events.
- For information on what's going on around Wellington, go to AroundWellington.com.

CAFCI 675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard Suite #134 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

2024 HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE - BE PREPARED

Eastern Pacific: May 15-November 30 | Atlantic: June 1-November 30 | Central Pacific: June 1-November 30

Take an Active Role in Your Safety.

- Go to Ready.gov/hurricanes and use FEMA's Guide for Alerts and Warnings to learn more about hurricane watches and warnings.
- Download the FEMA app to get more information about how to prepare.
- Check out this link to get all the information you need to ensure you're prepared this hurricane season: floridadisaster.org/planprepare/florida-hurricane-guide

To review previous articles about Hurricane Preparedness see CAFCI NEWS

- May Issue for PREPARE NOW
- June Issue for SURVIVE DURING
- July Issue for BE SAFE AFTER

Source: https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes#before