Residents get heard on busy intersection

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Palmetto Park Road and Fifth Avenue downtown is already too crowded and unsafe, residents have been warning Boca Raton City Council for years.

With so many apartments coming online, and the city deciding on the fate of the Wildflower site, the main drag to the beach and through their neighborhoods could be log-jammed.

So about 125 residents, by Mayor Susan Haynie’s estimate, said they were glad to have the chance to weigh in at a consultant’s workshop Nov. 16 in the meeting room of the Downtown Library. Large maps were laid out on tables, and lists were dutifully recorded for the staff of Calvin, Giordano & Associates.

All that input will go into a report with at least three alternatives for City Council by mid- to late January, said Eric Czernieckiewicz, the firm’s director of traffic engineering and transportation planning.

As a basis for comparison, the firm handed out a list of seven other downtown intersections along Palmetto Park Road and Northeast/Southeast Fifth Avenue with traffic statistics for each one based on counts taken Sept. 2.

“This may just cause more traffic that goes somewhere else,” Czernieckiewicz said.

On the residents’ lists were at least 20 suggestions: Heading east on Palmetto Park Road, put “no U-turn” signs.

Festival of the Arts Boca announces lineup

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Also on the bill are an English translation of Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” and 12-year-old jazz pianist Joey Alexander, who performed at Lincoln Center and the Apollo Theater last year.

Zakaria will speak on global hot spots at the festival’s Authors & Ideas series, among other authors and a new addition, Irwin Stovroff, according to Joanna Marie Kaye, festival director.

A World War II POW and bombardier, Stovroff started Vets Helping Heroes and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and an honorary doctorate by Florida Atlantic University.

Zakaria was already booked in the larger venue when the Paris attacks happened Nov. 13. “We knew he would bring in a big

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DUI VICTIMS REMEMBERED

KIWANIS KICKS OFF WALK

‘DAMES’ ON DISPLAY AT MUSEUM

CELEBRATING NATURE

PLANTED Gabriele Russo, 8, left, Cammie Bristow, 9, Paige George, 8, Boca Mayor Susan Haynie and Boca firefighter John Luca plant a slash pine tree at the 36th annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration. STAFF PHOTO/ANNA COLLINS

SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

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The evening’s $150 dinner includes valet parking. Cocktail attire is requested. Dietary laws will be observed.

For more information about the event, and other Major Gifts opportunities at the Federation, contact Ida Novack at idan@bocafed.org or 561-852-3342.

A 90-minute version of “The Magic Flute” in English, in costume and in front of a live orchestra is set for 7:30 p.m. March 5, the festival’s first opera, he said.

Jazz great Herb Alpert and his wife singer Lani Hall will perform at 7 p.m. March 6.

“I heard them at The Carlyle Hotel and he has a new album out,” Letourneau said about “Come Fly With Me.” “He doesn’t do many shows and has a great dialogue with the audience.”

Bell will wrap up the festival when he performs and conducts the Lynn Philharmonia with Lynn’s University theater impresario Jan McArt narrating “The Biology of Good and Evil.”

“He’s supposed to be very funny and entertaining,” Kaye said.

Laila Lalami, a Pulitzer Prize finalist this year, will speak about her novel, “The Moor’s Account.” Kaye described the book as “historical fiction based on the first black explorer who came over as a Moroccan slave and what would have been his memoir.”

Dr. Jay M. Winter, a professor of history at Yale University, will explore World War I.

“Cynthia Brown [author series chairwoman] met him on a trip to Normandy this summer and said he was engaging and interesting,” Kaye said.

Festival co-chairman, producer and founder Charles Siemon called the 10th anniversary, “a real milestone and a legacy for the future.”

“Our plan was to have a major sponsor by the fifth year and that didn’t happen because of the Recession,” he said. “We have smaller but significant gifts…and this is an opportunity to celebrate and say thank you and reach back to the people who were key.”

The audiences in Boca are people who come from all over and have a cultured environment and we think that is part of the attraction,” he said.

New this season is a free Festival of the Arts BOCA app, according to the festival. Tickets are available at festivaloftheartsboca.org or by calling 866-571-2787.

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