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# Palm Beach Daily News

THE SHINY SHEET®

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SWEET EXPERIENCE



Above: Under the direction of executive pastry chef Bashar Alshamali, top, children make and decorate cookies Thursday during the 10th annual Take Your Kid to Work event for employees at the Four Seasons. Sixteen children ages 6 to 11 spent the day working in the kitchen and at security, the pool and beach, among other areas. Nationwide, Thursday was Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day. Right: A cookie decorated by Leonardo Rossi, 6.

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Photos by Bill Ingram / Daily News

## Taxable value may be up 6.2%

Early projection for town is significantly less than 9.7% increase from 2014 to 2015.

By WILLIAM KELLY  
Daily News Staff Writer

The taxable value of Palm Beach grew 6.2 percent to \$15.6 billion from 2015 to 2016, according to an early estimate released this week by Palm Beach County Property Appraiser Gary Nikolitis' office.

That is slightly behind the 6.6 percent average growth forecast for Palm Beach County and its 38 municipalities, and significantly less than the 9.7 percent increase in Palm Beach from 2014 to 2015. "Six percent is very healthy," Chief Deputy Property Appraiser Dorothy Jacks said Friday. "Bigger municipalities, a lot of their value is being driven by their downtown growth. Of course Palm Beach doesn't have that necessarily in the same sort of way."

Very high-end properties like those in Palm Beach did not lose as much as value as lower-priced properties did in the 2008 recession, so they don't have as much ground to make up, she added. Countywide, "we are starting to see new construction," Jacks said. "There is a lot of activity in the market. The inventory of foreclosures is pretty much resolved and even the short sale market is tighter than it was. That means people are paying more."

Taxable values grew in each of the county's cities and towns for the third consecutive year. It's the fifth straight year of expansion for the county's taxable value, estimated at \$162.6 billion. If the trend continues, it's possible the county could return next year to the historic high set in 2007, when the housing boom was at its zenith.

"At some point we will reach that height, but it is still way too early to tell if it is going to be in 2017," Jacks said.



Struder Town tax base up yearly since 2011.

## Contemporary-style house sails past board

Architectural commissioners largely impressed by proposed lakeside home of Jack and Fran Levy.

By DARRELL HOFHEINZ  
Daily News Real Estate Writer

Proposals for contemporary-style houses have stirred up plenty of controversy over the past few years in Palm Beach, generating anxiety among officials and neighbors who worry the homes will rend the architectural fabric of the neighborhoods where they would be built.

So it came as no surprise when New York architect Billie Tsien, in presenting

her design for a lakefront lot at 430 N. Lake Way, urged the Architectural Commission this week to think of the proposed one-story house as "timeless" rather than "modern."

Local architect Daniel Kahan, meanwhile, carefully put the house in a historical context, telling the board that Palm Beach "has a long history of really great but limited modern architecture."

It turned out that Tsien

needn't have worried about the nomenclature nor Kahan about the island's architectural legacy.

The vast majority of commissioners heartily embraced the design of the sleek house planned by investment banker and longtime seasonal Palm Beacher Jack Levy and his wife, Fran. It would occupy a lot measuring three-quarters of an acre facing 115 feet of waterfront, a little less than a mile north of Royal Poinciana Way.

"This is truly another gem that we will have here," architect and Commissioner Robert N. Garrison said. "I am happy to support you."

With a floor plan fitted around several outdoor courtyards, the house has a long-and-lean profile and a flat roof. Defining the roofline is a straight-lined entablature clad in horizontal panels of quartzite marble from

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## CREATIVE KINSHIP

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens showcase Phipps family artistry

By JAN SJOSTROM  
Daily News Arts Editor

Not many families could be the subject of an exhibition spanning six artists and four generations. The Phipps family can.

The artists featured in "Art in the Family Tree" at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach are all related to resident Susie Phipps Cochran, who also has works in the show. They are: Michael Phipps (her late father), Diana Guest (her late second cousin), Hubert Phipps (her cousin), Jay Cochran

(her son) and Rafe Cochran (Jay Cochran's son).

The Phipps family fortune originated with Susie Phipps Cochran's great-grandfather Henry Phipps, a partner in Carnegie Steel. The family once owned large stretches of coastal South Florida, including much of Palm Beach and the El Cid neighborhood, home of the Ann Norton.

"That's one reason the Ann Norton mounted the exhibition, Executive Director Karen Steele said. "This makes sense historically, plus Susie's work is so aligned with what we have in the gar-

dens." Susie Phipps Cochran's giant bronze insects and figurative pieces are more playful than the monumental abstract sculptures by Ann Norton that anchor the gardens, but they're equally at home outdoors.

"Did family play a role in the artists' individual decisions to pursue art? It depends on who you ask."

"No," Hubert Phipps said. He's been making art for most of his life, even when

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Diana Guest's bronze cheetah head is among several pieces in the show inspired by the natural world.

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## FAMILY

### Rafe Cochran got his start at age 3

From Page A1

he was a professional race car driver in the 1980s.

Sporting competition runs in the family. Michael Phipps was a champion polo player, and Jay Cochran competed on the high-performance prototype endurance circuit of motor sports.

On the other hand, Susie Phipps Cochran handed her grandson Rafe Cochran a lump of clay and an armature when he was 3 to distract him while she worked in the studio. Now 11, he has several small bronze figurative sculptures in the show.

Michael Phipps is represented by portrait paintings and a lively oil of rival roosters.

#### 'Pushing the envelope'

Hubert Phipps' contributions include abstract charcoal drawings and paintings, a rippling bronze serpent and *Voyager*, a streamlined stainless steel piece.

"I like pushing the envelope," he said. He's been working 10-hour days at his studio in Virginia to prepare for the Ann Norton show, his first public exhibition, and another show scheduled to open in fall at the New York Studio School.

Diana Guest was a seasonal resident who learned to love nature while growing up on a country estate in England



Hubert Phipps crafted the stainless steel sculpture "Voyager" in 2015.

and a farm in Kenya. The show includes her bronze animals and alabaster flowers, as well as spare, deft sketches of animals and birds.

Guest preferred carving stone. She rarely sold her stone pieces. Instead, she had them cast in bronze and donated proceeds from sales to animal welfare causes, her daughter, resident Lorraine Odasso said.

#### 'All about the wood'

Resident Jay Cochran was introduced to wood-working as a child in the workshop of his grandfather, yachtsman Drayton Cochran, in Oyster Bay, Long Island.

He crafted a mahogany desk and walnut table for the show. His influences include fine English and early-American furniture and the designs of the late Japanese-American furniture artist George Nakashima.

"To me, it's all about the wood," he said. "I like the piece to have presence."

#### IF YOU GO

##### What

"Art in the Family Tree"

##### Where

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, 2051 S. Flagler Drive

##### When

Through May 15

##### Note

Hubert Phipps will give a talk about his work at noon Sunday at the gardens.

##### For more information

Call 832-5328 or visit [ansg.org](http://ansg.org).

The wood obviously spoke to the guest who bought the table on the show's opening night. Cochran now has another order from the buyer for a dining room table.

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