

Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911), publisher; Harry Morgan (1915-2011), actor; Max von Sydow, actor, is 87; Omar Sharif (1932-2015), actor; John Madden, football coach/broadcaster, is 80; Steven Seagal, actor, is 64; Babyface, singer-songwriter/producer, is 57; Michael Pitt, actor, is 35; Mandy Moore, actress/singer-songwriter, is 32; Haley Joel Osment, actor, is 28.

**Today's fact:** According to 2014 estimates from the CIA, residents of the 0.77-square-mile principality of Monaco enjoy the longest life expectancy in the world, at an average of 89.6 years.

**Today's quote:** "The origin of all science is in the desire to know causes; and the origin of all false science and imposture is in the desire to accept false causes rather than none; or, which is the same thing, in the unwillingness to acknowledge our own ignorance."

— William Hazlitt

**Today's number:**  
**69.9 million** — dogs owned as pets in the United States in 2012.

**Bible quote:** "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." — James 1:12

## Crisis hotline

Project HELP offers 24-hour crisis (suicide, rape, depression) hotline and referral services at 239-262-7227; call free from pay phones, 800-329-7227. Hearing-impaired, call 800-955-8771.

personally, for me, I ride the center lane. This is for two reasons. First, to accommodate those aforementioned drivers who simply must make it to the red light before me. (Had I known better in my younger days, I would have

to hold hearings, or to vote, on a Supreme Court justice nominated by the president.

To the contrary, the Constitution indicates the "president shall appoint, and the Senate shall provide advice and consent" — that

The people did not elect a conservative — twice — by design. It was no fluke. We didn't want a conservative, tea party person running the country. It is time for Republicans to stop hindering the progress of our country.

business section is gone, and now duplicating news further waters it down. So we're paying for duplicate news now.

Well, the good news is I don't have short-term memory loss yet. But the Daily News does.

## Guest commentary

# The facts behind Naples Historical Society's proposal

**By Elaine L. Reed**  
President and CEO,  
Naples Historical Society

Naples Historical Society's mission is to preserve Naples history. The strategy endorsed by the society's board of directors is to do this through a series of initiatives.



Elaine L. Reed

These initiatives are major efforts to reach all segments of the community: old-timers, children, longtime and new residents, local business and industry, and visitors.

There are 10 strategically crafted programs that flow under these initiatives, and each has metrics, milestones and generates positive impacts for the short- and long-term benefit of the community.

One such initiative is the Naples Historic District Initiative. It is perhaps the society's most significant and challenging one to date.

The society is working to find a way to extol the unique virtue and person-

ality of the Naples Historic District, a downtown area that is less than one-tenth of 1 square mile, by having the moral courage to introduce and rally behind a fresh and recognized approach to historic preservation, one that reflects the extraordinary breadth of historic preservation and still respects the needs of the community at large.

The complexity of this project runs deep, and understanding the decisions made to move it forward require a thorough understanding of the challenges that have existed in Naples, sometimes for decades.

Sharing our assessments, thinking and decision-making rationale about these challenges was the centerpiece of two public information programs the society hosted in March. Of the many ideas presented, one item we emphasized has played a significant role in the preservation disaster that has affected Naples: that is, misinformation. That includes everything from not understanding the big picture to perpetuating poorly drawn assumptions.

Our proposal includes,

but is not limited to the following:

1. Recalibrating the existing processes in our local preservation review process so that unintended impediments to preserving historic structures can be removed. Why create a fuss for someone who wants to use their own financial resources to preserve a house?

2. Educating the community (government, resident, trades and more) to the vast and broad interpretations that surround historic preservation. The National Register of Historic Places and the secretary of the interior have what are referred to as "preservation approaches." There are four approaches used throughout the nation, and they allow an extraordinary amount of leeway for the owner and his/her house team. Why not tap into that?

3. Introducing the discussion for new construction guidelines in the vernacular. This would include general suggestions for scale, height, roof pitch, rhythm of openings, etc., for houses in the Naples Historic District. It's important to note the word

"suggest" — we are not proposing to mandate this.

We realize the economic reality that exists in Naples, and that means that unless someone buys every historic house and fixes them up with their own finances, some houses will fall. We also realize that original construction for some old houses was not as strong as others and, as a result, termite damage may be too much to overcome.

For these and more reasons, we believe that if a house is demolished, we want to suggest design guidelines to reflect the broad visual integrity of Naples.

With our proposal, a homeowner can deny our guidelines; there is no infringement on property rights. That's why this will work.

There are 67 counties in Florida and 52 of them have historic districts; 32 have multiple historic districts. Sarasota County has 17 and Palm Beach County has 16 historic districts. Collier County has one historic district, and it has not had any support since being recognized by the federal government in 1987. It's

time to do so, because this is the last chance.

One option on the table is to continue to do nothing. We believe this would render the greatest disservice to the preservation of Naples as we know it.

A call to preserve Naples cannot be a directive alone. It cannot be a wish. There must be a plan. The society has a reasonable vision (many say it is intrepid), but it is based on sound judgment and we are making solid headway with the residents of the district and many others in the related industries in Naples.

We rely on the community to learn more about it before believing in propagated misinterpretations of those who have not studied the issues in Naples. We did our homework, and we ask for your support as we move this project forward over the next year.

To view a map of the Naples Historic District and read mountains of support information, please visit the society's website: [www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org).

Our tag line says it all: "It Takes a Community to Preserve One!"

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