

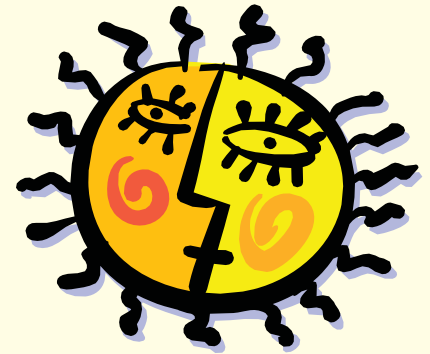
# Fort Lauderdale City News



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# Sex on the Beach

This new feature, by Parvona Fernandez, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist and Sex Therapist will answer your questions about sex. No topic is taboo. Please feel free to email your questions about sex to Dr. Fernandez at southfloridasexpert@gmail.com.

Dear Dr. Fernandez,

My husband and I just moved to Fort Lauderdale for the season and we have so much fun together at the beach. We were thinking about taking our fun to the next level and having sex in the ocean. Do you know if there are any negative consequences from this?

- Sensual Swimmer

Dear Sensual Swimmer,

First, I would like to congratulate you for continuing to think of ways to keep your relationship hot!

There are both positive and negative consequences of having sex in the briny deep. Having sex in public places is illegal, although I think it would be difficult to be caught, since you could "hide the evidence" before the lifeguards found you.

If you do decide to be a passion-fueled rebel who has no regard for the laws that govern the common citizen, there are additional considerations. Women are more likely to attain infections during water sex because the thrusting motions can push bacteria into the vagina. Furthermore, the water of the ocean can wash away a woman's natural lubrication. Therefore, sex could become uncomfortable and cause tears in the lining of the vagina.

For those of you whose interest has peaked at the prospect of making sensual waves in the cool waters of the Atlantic, and are not in a monogamous relationship, there are some additional issues to consider. The decrease of female lubrication can increase the possibility that the condom may break. Therefore, you may want to consider packing a silicone-based lubricant in your bathing gear for this special occasion. Silicone-based lubricants are condom safe and water-resistant.

To end on a positive note, adding a new and adrenaline inducing experience into your sexual repertoire can increase the bond in a relationship.

Therefore, I would like to encourage you to continue to think "outside of the bed."

Dear Dr. Fernandez,

I was wondering if it was possible to lengthen and thicken my penis. I have read about pills and such, but they seem like such a fraud. I'm only five and a half inches, which I know is supposedly in the normal length of the average penis, but I would like to be able to perform different positions with my girlfriend that require a slightly larger penis in order for it to work and feel better for her.

- Too Short

Dear Too Short,

You do have a normal penis length, and not to worry because the vagina actually adapts to the size of the penis. A female's subjective feelings of pleasure and intensity of orgasm are not related to penis size. In fact, I am having a hard time thinking of sexual positions that would require a larger penis size. Most females experience clitoral orgasms, which do not require a penis at all. Additionally, the female's G-spot is only located about a third to three-quarters of a finger deep, and can be stimulated to orgasm through digital penetration. Therefore, a penis is not even necessary to trigger female orgasm.

Furthermore, I am aware that you would still like to know if it is possible to enlarge your penis. You may want to try a penis pump prior to a lovemaking session. They are effective for short-term lengthen and fattening, but do not provide any long-term results. To be safe, first check with a physician before pumping for long periods and follow the directions on the packaging.

Finally, I think your time will be better spent communicating with your partner about your sexual likes and dislikes instead of researching penis-enhancing gimmicks. You may want to contact a sex therapist to facilitate this relationship enhancing communication.

About Dr. Parvona Fernandez

Parvona Fernandez, Psy.D. is a Licensed Psychologist and Sex Therapist. Her office is located in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, and she accepts clients who want to make the most out of their sex lives. Call today for an appointment at 954-205-4369.



Fort Lauderdale Historical Society

## FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND H.E.L.P TO HOST OLDIES NIGHT WITH RICK SHAW

Fort Lauderdale Historical Society  
219 SW 2nd Ave, Fort Lauderdale

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) and H.E.L.P will host their first ever Oldies Night with Rick Shaw of Majic 102.7 FM on February 2 at the FLHS from 7 to 11 p.m.

Eat, drink and dance to your favorite oldies tunes with Rick Shaw as DJ. Also featured at the event will be a Classic Car Show with Classic Car Specialist Russ Gagliano, Jr. Cars featured in the show will range from the 1920s through the 1960s.

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society and H.E.L.P have come together for this event in order to help each organization grow and become more recognized in the community. They also have one common interest that made this collaboration a perfect match: children. H.E.L.P is dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged children, and the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society is dedicated to educating children about the city's past.

Proceeds from Oldies Night will benefit both organizations and help them to fulfill their missions of educating and helping children.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, donating raffle items or attending, please contact FLHS Community Relations Manager Gina Farinhas at 954-463-4431 X 16.

Located on the New River, the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society tells the story of our community's history from the Pioneers of Fort Lauderdale to the present day through its four historic structures: 1905 New River Inn, which houses the Museum of History and was the first building in Broward County to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places; the 1905 Philemon Bryan House, a four-square Vernacular style house; 1905 Acetylene Building, which produced acetylene gas to light the New

River Inn; and the 1907 King-Cromartie House, which belonged to one of the first pioneer families in Fort Lauderdale. The site also includes a replica of the first Broward County school house and the Hoch Heritage Center, a public research library that holds the largest collection of material related to greater Fort Lauderdale, including more than 250,000 historic photographs. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5:00 p.m.

H.E.L.P stands for "Helping Every Little Person" and was established in 1998 to address the needs of disadvantaged, abused, and neglected children. H.E.L.P. was founded and developed by Jennifer Lostumbo during her high school years at Western High School in Fort Lauderdale. By spring of 2002, H.E.L.P. managed to establish branches in three other local high schools, as well as one at Florida State University.

One of H.E.L.P.'s biggest achievements came in October 2002 when it created a weekly Foster Home Mentor Program and Shelter Program through contacts with the Department of Children and Families.

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# Art View



## Artists Review

by David Wheatley, (954) 594-1009

January 5th and 6th - Fort Lauderdale hosts the **Howard Alan Events 20th anniversary art festival**.

This twice annual show features as usual over 200 artists, painters, sculptors and some jewelry. If you like variety in creativity this is a great opportunity as you'll see quite a range of artistic styles that aren't intended to relate to each other. There's none of the hesitation some people feel about walking into an art gallery or museum, everything is right there off the sidewalk one booth after another. If you've seen one of these shows the opinion of many is you've seen them all, but a closer look does turn up some golden nuggets.



Typically in a Howard Alan Fine Art event, there are half a dozen exceptional artists per 200 and a large number that entertain without being remarkable which is exactly what some people prefer.

There are a few jewelers who make their own products and not just assemble Chinese or Czech beads. You can't assume that the jewelry artist is showing you hand made work, because hand made to many means hand strung not hand made. But in past shows there were some fabulous silver work and glass beads made by the hand of artists in these shows.

There is also sometimes an artist/designer of fashion. In this show we have one very interesting artist who has adapted his painting designs to fashion.

Rafael has been exhibiting with Howard Alan Events probably in all of Howard's 20 years as a painter. He has done quite well showing and selling his work widely from here to Chicago. His paintings are quite compatible with south Florida, a little reminiscent of Art deco, Rafael blended Japanese stylized women with what you would assume to be a more traditional European style. In this show you won't see the paint-

ings. Rafael in collaboration with his sister and mother adapted his signature painting style to fashion.

And its even better, in fact, its brilliant. In their own words:

"Two years ago began the birth of an idea, the collaboration with Rafael's sister Celina Acevedo, graphic designer, and his mother Libel Acevedo, Advisor of the Quinquela Martin Museum in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Their idea was to launch an exclusive limited edition line with the concept Art in Motion, applying Rafael's painting to each design. The fashions were adapted specifically for each of Raphael's individual designs, carefully chosen to combine fashion qualities with the painted image. In the same way, the fabrics are precisely chosen to enhance the design with their finest resolution."

Another artist, **Mauro Pozzobonelli**, has also departed from the



comfort of his initial art form.

By the time an artist reaches creative maturity their style is fairly crystallized. Over time a busy artist produces a body of work in a signature style, which you can see in everything they do.

The tangents that a professional artist is willing to explore over their lifetime add to everything they do. Nothing is wasted. I personally don't find timid artistic temperament attractive, I want to see an artist explore his tangents. I want to see that an artist has spent time getting to know and experimenting with their materials.

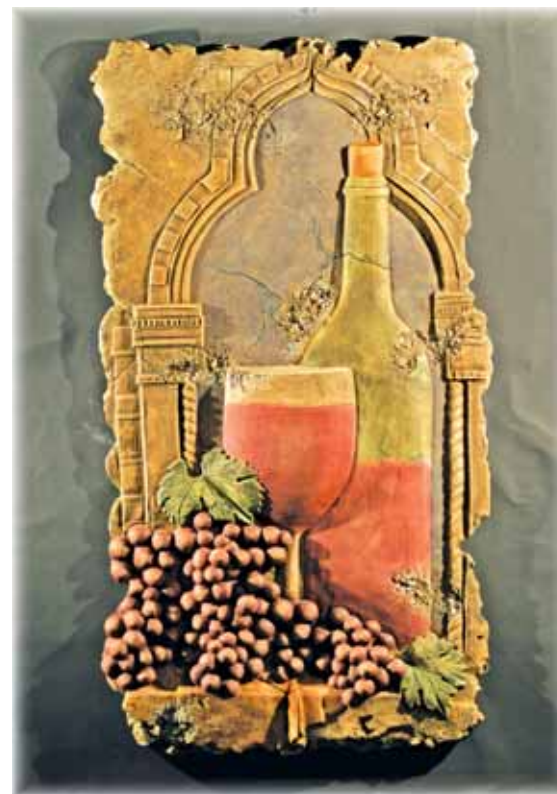
Unlike most painters, a sculptor has to have a very intimate relationship with his materials out from which come creations with the integrity to live in elements of nature, have architectural qualities, and be esthetically captivating.

Mauro has pushed forward with a sense of design rooted in an ancient artistic tradition combined with a vast knowledge of his materials to create larger than life bas-relief images, sculpture with a painterly feel.

Mauro's statement:

Mauro Pozzobonelli, Italo-American, through his art expresses his profound thoughts and feelings. For nearly 40 years he has sculpted the people and surroundings that shaped his life.

His artwork is influenced by his fas-



ination with history and the precious relics of lost civilizations as well as abstract thoughts generated in his passion for art, which is his life.

His works range from Classical to Surreal, passing thru different phases as Cubism, Surrealism, Realism and Portraiture.

Mauro uses important themes that involve politics, social issues and human emotions.

Pozzobonelli has developed an expression in his own artistic medium which includes sculpting two and three dimensional designs. These consist of multiple originals in sculpting mediums selected through years of perfecting his technique. Hydro stone, fiberglass, sand, pigments, and rocks; substances coarse and cold are molded and created into warmth and tones that do add great beauty to any home or collection.

He has won numerous awards and he has done numerous personal and collective Art and Gallery Shows in New York, Brazil, Italy, London and other ma-

jo cities around the world.

Mauro has been commissioned for sculptural portraits for public and private collections around the world including bronze, terra cotta and marble pieces as well as by several stars such as Reba McEntire, Michael Bolton, Sammy Davis Jr., Julio Iglesias, Ben Vereen, Anthony Quinn, Liza Minelli, Jay Leno and others, too many to list.

The third important artist is the outstanding saxophone musician Juan Del Rio.

Juan has performed and recorded with other musicians live and on CD's. But his presence in the art festival is to promote his own invention of a saxophone that for much less than a hundred dollars anyone with a pair of lips and a few fingers can learn to play. It has an authentic saxo sound and mouthpiece, there's nothing electronic about it; it's not a Casio.

Juan provides written material that comes with it. His invention differs from a traditional sax in the fingering which is the most difficult aspect to learn.

This artist also brilliantly transformed his craft to connect with people.

Outside the downtown festival event there is another musician who is playing in Fort Lauderdale and whose talent is so remarkable I think only another musician would understand just how good

he is.

Michael Bianco plays a variety of musical tastes but in a phenomenal style. His many guitars including the custom 14 string guitar is played with a combination of techniques unique to Michael. While he has been known to play two guitars at one time, his custom single instrument performances defy imitation. Whether Michael plays his own material or timeless classics, jazz or popular instrumental the rare combination of an artist who grasps the art and technique is worth the drive up the beach.

Michael is there in January as he says:

"Every Saturday night I'm @ Jeffs Beach House Grill, 4140 North Federal Highway. Great gig! The food is superb and the food network just filmed us. Eat and visit with us for a great time. Just north of Oakland Park Blvd. on US 1."

To be included in this section, Call David Wheatley, Arts Editor, at (954) 594-1009.



# Art View

## Fine Arts in Fort Lauderdale

David Wheatley, (954) 594-1009

Fort Lauderdale has over 40 Fine Art galleries, three or four cafes in different neighborhoods that exhibit paintings by local artists. There are also many places that use the name "Gallery" and "Galleria" but apart from the architectural application they aren't featuring the work of professional artists except perhaps as permanent parts of the interior design.

In Fort Lauderdale we have Artserve. It's a major fine art exhibition and teaching facility resource. Artserve not only hosts exhibits art related seminars and classes, it rents its facilities out to members in the community.

We also have a number of established art organizations such as the Broward Arts Guild. We have a fabulous fine art museum downtown that



secures, nationally and internationally, renowned exhibits for us.

Our city galleries show a wide range of artistic styles. That we have variety is high on my list, though you have to get around town to see it. Contemporary art is becoming traditional as the traditional becomes antique. I don't think most people get to the labels before they decide what they like but for those who want more definition Mac Fine Art and Design on Las Olas provides on their web site a page devoted to art Lingo.

Visit: <http://www.macfineart.com/>

Working artists in the community are aware of these categories and in some cases deliberately attempt to create admirable imitations of styles that have come and gone before. There's nothing new under the Sun in technique but the desire of an artist to experience it for themselves inevitably leads to their own personal impression within a style, it doesn't have to be something no one has ever seen before to be special.

The galleries that show the established recognizable art styles satisfy in ways that the new doesn't always provide without standing the test of time. But if you have an appetite for our resident artists view of things its right here

in our community. Artists recombining images and materials that are exciting because we see a familiar object or style of rendering in a new way.

In addition to the Las Olas art scene, there's also "off Las Olas" or OLO. There's a lot of building activity near the downtown south of Sunrise to Broward, up Andrews Avenue and Third Avenue over to Federal Highway.

There are excellent galleries on these streets and this developing area has the potential to host gallery and life styles that would appreciate them.

Heading further north along the same corridor into Wilton Manors an already interesting neighborhood with art galleries continually evolving a look and feel of both quality and uniqueness. Wilton Manors currently has four art galleries plus one gallery-framer.

Further north and east there are galleries in Oakland Park, along the Galt Mile, and a couple east of Federal on Commercial Boulevard.

Further out from the Fort Lauderdale downtown, there's more west on Sunrise, south and west onto Seminole Way at Fort Lauderdale's extreme south-western section.

With this article, I am starting to list on a monthly basis what highlights each of these art exhibit spaces.

I'm including some art framers who not only hang artists work for exhibit but host receptions for the artists.

Framing, which if done well is an art in itself, helps defray the costs of a gallery. A framer who is devoted to his/her own art and not to art itself isn't covered by this listing. Neither are the many interior design emporiums that include fine art and do not host artists' receptions, though they feature some beautiful pieces. This is the Fine Art Listings in Fort Lauderdale.

If you have an interest in updating the featured exhibits of your gallery or to be included if by chance I missed you, please email me and give me your details.

If you are an artist doing an exhibit in town not managed by an art gallery and want to be viewed for commentary, you can email me, or call (954) 594-1009, with your statement and show information.

We have a few performance venues in downtown Fort Lauderdale, if you are a performance artist and want to be considered for note here in these pages please contact me.

Be aware that my deadline is the 10th of every month to be included in the following month's issue.

Email David Wheatley at [Davidfinearts@yahoo.com](mailto:Davidfinearts@yahoo.com)

MUSEUM of ART | FORT LAUDERDALE

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# Art View

## THE ORIGINAL LAS OLAS NATIONAL ART FESTIVAL RETURNS AFTER 10 YEAR ABSENCE

SET FOR JANUARY 19-21, 2008

Event Benefitting the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale Studio Arts Program

The Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale announces the return of the Las Olas National Art Festival January 19-21, 2008. Huizenga Plaza, situated along historic Las Olas Boulevard, will serve as the beautiful al fresco setting for the festival. After a 10 year hiatus the return of this long time favorite signals the kick-off of the Museum of Art's 50th anniversary.



Sculpture by Richard Ryan

The juried art event will showcase the work of approximately 150 high-caliber artists from across the nation and the globe with a variety of mediums represented, among them sculpture, glass, mixed media, metal, ceramics, photography, jewelry, and more. All work will be available for purchase. A select number of artists will also be accepting commissions for custom pieces.

A unique feature of this year's festival is the opportunity for attendees to view the Museum's featured exhibition, Inspired by China, which displays rare antique Chinese furniture alongside new works by leading contemporary

furniture makers.

Visitors who make the suggested donation when entering the festival will be able to experience the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale for FREE on the same day. All proceeds will benefit the Studio Arts Program in its mission to meet the needs of the creative spirit, providing a learning culture that supports individual development in the visual arts and design. Proceeds will allow the program to award scholarships to young students on both merit and need based cases, as well as, expand the program on many levels.

A special kids art area, hosted by the Museum's Studio Arts Program, will allow artists of the future to explore their creative talents with hands-on fun. Entertainment throughout the weekend and a varied selection of gourmet food and beverage items from the Museum's Store Café and festival vendors round out the event agenda.

### WHO:

The Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, One East Las Olas Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

### WHEN/WHERE:

Saturday, January 19 – Monday, January 21, 2008  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

### HOW:

Suggested Donation of \$3 pp or \$5 for families of up to 4 will benefit the Studio Arts Program, which offers curriculum based art classes for students of all ages and skill levels. Donation will allow entrance into Las Olas National Art Festival and the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale on the same day.

Call 954.525.5500 for additional information.

### Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale

The Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale is open daily 11am – 7pm and closed on Tuesdays and select national holidays. Admission is \$10, adults; \$7, students (6-17), military and seniors 65+ (with valid ID); free, members and children (5 and under).

Bank Atlantic partners with the Museum to present Free Thursday Evenings and Third Thursdays, providing free admission to the Museum from 4 – 7 pm with a special happy hour on every Third Thursday at 5 pm.

Located on the northeast corner of Las Olas Boulevard and Andrews Avenue, it is in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale's Riverwalk Arts and Entertainment District.

## Impressions of Old South Florida

Annual Fundraiser and Juried Exhibition

Set to Open Friday, March 7, 2008

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens announces the new opening date of "Impressions of Old South Florida 2008." This juried art exhibition and fundraiser to benefit the educational and preservation programs of Bonnet House. The exhibition will now begin on Friday, March 7th at 6:00 pm. V.I.P. guests will be treated to champagne and hors d'oeuvres, preview the exhibition, and experience a rare viewing of the exclusive private living quarters of Evelyn and Fredric Bartlett, original owners and designers of Bonnet House. The reception opens to members of the public at 6:30 p.m.

The imaginative exhibition, presented by LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels, showcases artists throughout Florida and their personal interpretations of the meaning "Old Florida." LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels is hosting the extravagant event with musical and dance performances around the house and grounds. All guests and participating artists are invited to cast their vote for their favorite artist in the exhibition. The artist receiving the highest number of votes will receive the People's Choice Award. All of the artwork in the Impressions of Old South Florida 2008 competition will be available for sale with 50% of the proceeds benefiting Bonnet House Museum & Gardens.

Highlights of the evening will include a culinary delight of gourmet hors d'oeuvres, signature cocktails, a seated gourmet buffet supper paired with fine wines served in the estate's hibiscus gar-

den, as well as an incredible array of silent auction items. Tickets for the opening of Impressions of Old South Florida 2008 on March 7th are \$150.00 for V.I.P. guests, which includes the champagne preview, private tour & reception beginning at 6:00 p.m., or \$100.00 for the reception only beginning at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is by reservation only. Please call (954) 563-5393, ext. 163 for additional information, to request an invitation, and purchase tickets.

Impressions of Old South Florida 2008 will be on exhibit from March 8th to April 20, 2008 in the Carl Weinhardt Gallery during Bonnet House regular tour hours, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Sunday, from Noon until 4 p.m.

About Bonnet House Museum & Gardens:

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is a 35 - acre subtropical estate and historic house museum located in the heart of Ft. Lauderdale. Bonnet House, in addition to being open for guided public tours six day per week, offers a myriad of specially designed programs including school programs, adult programs and family programs. The mission of Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is to preserve, interpret and share the unique and eclectic historical legacy – artistic, architectural and environmental - of the Bartlett and Birch families, inspiring in our diverse audiences an appreciation for creative expression, historic preservation and natural conservation, while enhancing the educational, cultural and economic growth of the community.

For more information please contact Monica Estevez at (954) 563-5393 x127 or [monicaestevez@bonnethouse.org](mailto:monicaestevez@bonnethouse.org).

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# Candidates' Stump

## Meet Gwyndolen "Gwyn" Clarke-Reed: Candidate for the Florida State House- District 92

Born in the Frog Alley neighborhood of Delray Beach, Gwyndolen "Gwyn" Clarke-Reed is a visionary leader, educator, and committed public servant.

Understanding the need for a new voice in Tallahassee, Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed is once again answering the call to service as she seeks to represent District 92, a district that runs from Deerfield Beach south through segments of Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Tamarac, North Lauderdale, Wilton Manors and Fort Lauderdale.

Now retired after years of service educating youth in the public schools of New York and Florida, Clarke-Reed holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Science from Brooklyn College and a Masters Degree in Education from Adelphi University. With an interest in education, youth development, economic revitalization and citizen advocacy, Gwyn's keen willingness to serve as a catalyst for positive community change has certainly been evident throughout her stellar career.

Gwyn served 12 years on the Deerfield Beach City Commission, serving as the Vice-Mayor during her first year. A summer employment and mentoring program for youth ages 13 to 15 and a highly successful career development program are still operative after Clarke-Reed started them ten years ago, making a greater impact each year. Clearly, whenever her name is mentioned, it is always linked with service.

In May 2002, Clarke-Reed's noteworthy record of service was recognized by her colleagues when she was tapped to serve as President of the Broward League of Cities, the first Deerfield Beach government official ever to hold the post and the first woman of color elected to the position in the 45-year history of the organization. While in office, she served on the Board of Directors and in leadership roles for both the Florida League of Cities and the National League of Cities.

During her tenure leading the

Broward League of Cities, Gwyn championed the organization's focus on issues including education, public safety, annexation and taxation. While heading this powerful governmental body Gwyn became known as an "effective, results-oriented leader."

When asked to describe Gwyn Clarke-Reed, those who know her comment, "She is a tireless worker, a true public servant who is committed to excellence, fairness and ethical governance. If there is a task to be accomplished, Gwyn is the person to call."

Recognized as one with great tenacity, Clarke-Reed battled an adversary that has become too common these days, and that is cancer. Over two years ago, Gwyn suffered from breast cancer, shedding more than thirty pounds during the course of her successful treatment. Maintaining this weight loss and relishing good health these days, this community leader and public servant is vibrant and even more active as she tirelessly supports worthwhile causes throughout Broward County.

Gwyn lends her expertise to organizations like the Boys and Girls Club; Kiwanis Club; American Cancer Society; Mango Festival; Greater Deerfield Beach Democratic Club; American Association of University Women; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; the Common Highlands Homeowners Association; North Broward Hospital District Community Primary Care Committee; Broward Teachers Union Retirees and countless others.

A consensus builder, an accountable community leader who consistently demonstrates her knowledge about quality of life issues of concern to the public, a strategic thinker enthusiastic about proactively addressing issues through strategic action and positive change; this is the tapestry of public service that characterizes Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, Candidate for the Florida State House, District 92.

Attentive to pivotal issues such as education, health care, property taxes, affordable housing, transportation, youth development and senior services, Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed has exhibited noteworthy leadership in a variety of arenas impacting lives and transforming communities. The same can be expected of her as the Representative for District 92.

Known for an unyielding sense of integrity, with a reputation as a hard

worker among colleagues, Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed has set her sights on being the voice for District 92. Focused squarely on representing everyone across District 92, Clarke-Reed sees all of the area's unique opportunities, and is poised to translate that vision into action to positively impact the quality of life for the district's residents. Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed would like to hear from you! Call (954) 907-4965 or Email her at gwynrcampaign08@bellsouth.net.

## Bobby DuBose files for open District 3 City Commission seat

Lifelong Ft. Lauderdale resident and community activist Bobby DuBose filed to run for the District 3 commission seat in the northwest portion of the city which is being vacated by Carlton Moore.

"As a product of this great community, an active member of my church, neighborhood and fraternity, the son and grandson of Dillard Panthers, and a local businessman I have decided to run for city commission" said Bobby DuBose.

The northwest section of Ft. Lauderdale has been represented for close to two decades by Carlton Moore. The commissioner is term limited out as is a fellow Commissioner and the Mayor of Ft. Lauderdale.

"Carlton was a strong voice but it will be nice to have some new blood representing this district" said Yvonne Williams a longtime resident.

Mr. DuBose is the Polemarch (president) of the Ft. Lauderdale Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. a historically black fraternity, which members include Congressman Alcee Hastings, former County Mayor Joesephus Eggelation, State Rep. Perry Thurston and others.

He is also the chairperson of the NAACP ACT-SO program for gifted youth in the community. DuBose began his community activism in this northwest section of town when he was 15 years old as an officer and later elected president of the NAACP youth council. DuBose plans to make property taxes, crime, revitalization, and jobs a top priority when elected. For more information call Daniele Wilson (954) 562-1350.

## CINDI HUTCHINSON LAUNCHES MAYORAL CAMPAIGN

Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Cindi Hutchinson officially launched her campaign for mayor, promising "positive leadership" and focusing on her deep roots in the city.

"For too long, we've gotten into the mindset of focusing on what's wrong with Fort Lauderdale. I want to talk about what's right with Fort Lauderdale," Hutchinson said. "I'm running for mayor because I want to provide positive leadership for the city. I want to be inclusive and speak to the city's strengths. I want to be a mayor for all of Fort Lauderdale."

Hutchinson's campaign will center around developing a new vision for Fort Lauderdale, one that builds on recent successes and moves the city into the next decade. As a symbol of that vision, Hutchinson wants Fort Lauderdale to be named an All America City before the city's 100th anniversary in 2011.

Cindi Hutchinson has represented Fort Lauderdale's Fourth District since 2000, and is currently in her third term. Hutchinson and her 86 year-old mother Virginia live in the house her father Lawrence built in 1954 in southwest Fort Lauderdale's Edgewood neighborhood. As a child Hutchinson attended Croissant Park Elementary School and St. Jerome Catholic School. She graduated from Stranahan High School in 1975.

Hutchinson was elected president of the Edgewood Civic Association (ECA), a position she held for 11 years, until just before she was elected to the City Commission. After her election in 2000, Hutchinson fulfilled her campaign promises to level the playing field in City Hall. She voted for lobbyist registration, and for citywide campaign finance reform. She also initiated the "Citizens Presentations" program, in which Fort Lauderdale residents are given time on the Commission agenda to present ideas and raise issues of concern.

After her second election victory in 2003, Hutchinson thrust herself into the midst of the largest fiscal crisis the city had ever experienced. Faced with mounting evidence of fiscal mismanagement by the city's staff,

Continued next page





# More Candidates' Stump

Hutchinson challenged the city manager's budget presentation, exposing rampant waste, fraud and abuse. She made the motion to fire the city manager, which was approved by a majority of the Commission, and began the first steps toward putting Fort Lauderdale on firm financial footing for the first time in years.

Now in her third term, Hutchinson continues her quest to push for smart growth for Fort Lauderdale, recognizing that the city is now an international business and tourist destination.

"I've seen the changes over the years - good and bad. Fort Lauderdale has always been my home, and it always will be my home," Hutchinson said. "I want Fort Lauderdale to shine. That's why I'm running for mayor."

[www.OurCindi.com](http://www.OurCindi.com)

## CANDIDATES!

Thinking about running for elected office in 2009? It's closer than you think; most campaigns start late, often just a few months before election dates, resulting in predictable failure and waste of the candidate's and volunteers' work.

A lot of money is also lost through a lack of advance planning.

In March, 2009, the mayor's seat and all four city commission will likely be open to challengers. Mayor Naugle along with Commissioners Hutchinson and Moore will be term limited out of office.

The Fort Lauderdale City News will cover contests for public office and attempt to give candidates a forum to discuss the important issues of the day directly with the voters of Ft. Lauderdale. **This City News goes to every voter in the city. FYI.**

Candidates' articles, news items, campaign events, etc. are welcome.

If you, or a friend, is thinking about the mayor's or city commission seats, the Florida House or Senate, congress, county commission, school board or other positions please call Steve Kelley, publisher at (954) 564-1308 and let's discuss how this publication can help you at no charge.



## IN POLITICAL COMPANY

By Alain Jean

Election 2008: Will Ft. Lauderdale Have A Say and What Will It Say?

With a progressive north, a blue collar south, a liberal west and a conservative east, what will Ft. Lauderdale say on January 29, 2008. The Presidential preference is on the ballot as well as the question of property taxes.

On the Democratic side, will the city prefer the institutional and experienced Senator Hillary Clinton or the freshness and inspiration of Senator Barack Obama? On the Republican side will the city prefer the tough former NYC mayor Rudy Giuliani, the clean cut former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, the former Baptist minister and Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, the Vietnam veteran Senator John McCain, the actor and former Senator Fred Thompson, or the libertarian Ron Paul? The Republican side is far more fluid than the Democrat side, where just two candidates are dominating.

Ft. Lauderdale is like a microcosm of the country. The city is tremendously diverse with its wealthy, its low income, its gay, its immigrants, its young professionals and yet it is very much still old Ft. Lauderdale. Assuming these candidates remain viable after the New Hampshire primary, who would our great city give the most votes to?

Knowing what we know about the various segments of our city, one could over simplify the results. The northern portion of our city is pretty progressive so voting for a female or an African-American is very possible. The southern portion of our city is very blue collar and could have former Senator John Edwards on its mind. The west which is mostly African-American is split between Senator Barak Obama and Senator Hillary Clinton. The east is more socially conservative and may find it necessary to vote for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. Politics is a tricky business and all conventional wisdom can be thrown out of the window from election to election.

What also makes the results of a competitive presidential primary so interesting particularly to those of us who follow politics in the city of Ft. Lauderdale is the data it leaves behind. The information left behind gives the candidates for mayor in our city a glimpse into what they will have to do or over-

come on the campaign trail.

The presidential primary is on Tuesday, January 29th, which is rapidly approaching. When the voters from our city go to the polls, what will they actually say?

## Christ, Not Again. Anti-Gay Marriage Amendment Deceives Gullible Voters

By Chris Kelly

Florida4Marriage sounds like the worst boy band of all time, but it turns out it's not. It's a Republican front group, run by a personal injury lawyer, to lure gay-hating boobs into the voting booths next November.

Florida4Marriage, and its chairman, John Stemberger (a recognized leader in rental car accident law) are the people behind Florida's new Marriage Protection Amendment, and they finally got the signatures they need to put it on the 2008 ballot.

So come on down! And while you're in there, marking the magic X that proves you're not a homo -- and that your life wasn't a squalid waste of everyone's time, because at least you got yerself hitched -- why not also vote for a Republican president?

Something for you. Something for the GOP. It's a get-out-the-vote win/win.

Anti-gay amendments are the Happy Meal toy of Republican politics.

This new one reads:

"Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

(Yes, the dependent clause could be read to invalidate a few centuries of common law marriages between straight people, but don't worry. That's just because it was written by a lawyer whose field of expertise is suing the Orlando Hertz if you accidentally slam your hand in the door. Besides, it's not meant to be a practical. It's just a con.)

**Now I know what you're thinking:**

**Why doesn't a nice place like Florida already have a law? Well, it does. It's already illegal for gay people to get married in Florida.**

And there's also the Federal Defense of Marriage Act. It applies to Florida too, just like all the other Federal statutes, not including the ones about counting all the votes.

What Florida doesn't have is a constitutional amendment. And until they get one, there's nothing standing between those damn gays and the sweetest fruit of all -- a lifelong monogamous bond with one other person. Forever. And ever. Always the same. Until you're dead.

The last thing I want to be is partisan, so it's probably a little unfair to suggest that this whole thing is just a political loss leader for the Republican presidential candidate to get the hateful simpleton vote.

I only think that because I'm an old cynic, and John Stemberger is the former political director of the state party, and the party provided the majority of the funding (\$300,000) for Florida4Marriage.

The amendment would change Florida's constitution to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, so that marriage cannot be defined in ways that the Bible forbids, and so that marriages and families can be protected by state law.

The Bible forbids? Why didn't you

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# THE CONUNDRUM OF PARADISE

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Ernest Kelley is a former Fort Lauderdaleian who decided to get out of the "rat race." His adventures aboard his 44 foot catamaran, Lauren Grace, have taken him and his wife, Charlene, to South Africa, the Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica and the entire east coast of the U.S. Most recently, he's cruised southward all along the Mexican and Latin American coasts to Columbia.

He is preparing for a Panama Canal transit enroute to the Galapagos Islands. Is Tahiti next? Ernest's letters from paradise are published in the City News.

## THE TYRANNY OF MATERIALISM

Are you one of those Americans in hollow pursuit of comfort and status? Are you spending too much time trying to project status by purchasing all kinds of items? Are you endlessly at work for the simple lack of a more fulfilling direction? At the end of the day is it worth it and what does it matter?

"There is only one success: to be able to spend your life in your own way" Christopher Morely, 1890-1957)

For most of the world's people, working just to survive is a fact of life; there isn't the freedom to "choose" a job. They must face life on a course that will give them their best hope for survival. They have little opportunity to change course because, in their world, opportunities are few. They feel hope and they often smile, but survival is paramount and the freedom to direct their own lives does not exist.

Americans, however, have complete freedom to act and, with a little planning, direct our own lives. But material ambition has become the choice of too many and sadly it is America's loudest message to the world. Much of our freedom has been exchanged for financial success and the seeking of false status. Freedom of will has been weakened by the temptations of merchandising.

Too many televisions, air-conditioners, plush automobiles, and overly comfortable homes all allow us to shut out the physical world and are numbing our minds to the real discoveries and excitements that await anyone unbound by pretext. None of these things in and of themselves are bad. It is when we chose too much comfort and work too long for that purpose that we fail ourselves.

Recently my daughter was speaking to a Colombian soldier along the Caribbean coast of that country. Displayed on the screen of his cell phone was the

American flag with an overlay of the North American Bald Eagle. He was proud of America. It is a clear example of how people of the world view America as the center of freedom and fulfillment through personal accomplishment.

Within our own country, though, many of us squander these principles choosing instead empty materialism. This practice also makes us too comfortable, complacent and even out of touch with the desires of the rest of the world. Our support in the world is in general decline as more and more countries see our excesses.

In America, freedom also used to



mean we were unencumbered by the thousands of laws and ordinances that we live with today. To enjoy that early freedom we took responsibility for our own security and well being, full responsibility.

Over the course of the American experience, we have come to prefer that government take an increasing role in providing something for nearly every aspect of our lives. We want the false comfort and security of someone else looking after us. We have wrongly given that responsibility to people who in turn need our given authority to act. Hence, there are so many kinds of taxes that we must work longer to pay for, that it greatly affects the amount of time we have left to experience the same freedom of earlier Americans. Immigrants to the America were trying to escape the burdens of heavy taxation and unyielding class systems that prevented them from gaining the freedom to direct their own lives. Today we have chosen, of our own will, burdensome taxation and a status system based on how much money a person is spending.

Marketers are convincing us that there is status in spending money even if it is money not yet earned. New car ads comically implore us to make our neighbors envious by purchasing their latest luxury model. Here, they hope the desire to emulate is greater than the

desire to remain free of unrewarding and shallow commitments.

The time lost when we agree to work longer to pay for more government and to pay for products purchased only to impress severely limits the time we have left for family. Our contribution to our neighborhoods, society along with personal growth also suffer.

It is difficult to draw an exact line for everyone that will tell us when we are becoming too materialistic, too status conscious and too comfortable that we cannot accurately view our immediate and outside world.

Why does any of this matter?

Because without the freedom to choose what we do with our days, weeks and years we will not have the time to properly devote to important issues like raising our families, personal growth or the realization of our deepest and most important aspirations whatever we discover them to be. Later in life we will feel regret at the lack of fulfillment. Time will have been spent on the wrong things and then time will be running out. Our physical abilities will become limited. Health issues will likely present themselves earlier

from the excesses of soft living and become the dominate concern. It is not likely that there will be enough time and ability to accomplish all you would like.

It is in our prime years that we must come to understand that poor spending choices can limit the freedom we had before we voted for greater taxation or agreed to pay for so many things.

We should keep ourselves free and flexible enough to explore new directions rich with satisfying life experiences. Freedom invigorates the soul and a sense of wider capabilities takes hold. New areas of knowledge are opened to explore, a more natural self develops and you feel disdain for the unnecessary commitments required to compete in the materialistic world. Along the way you become more resourceful, independent and less desirous of status and the false security offered in the materialistic world. Too much "security" blocks our view of the real and dynamic world around us.

Perhaps real freedom for some is just too frightening while even false security and the comfort of owning so many things is less threatening. Freedom is what some pretend to have as they mindlessly succumb to consumerism.

As I have matured, I find I have the most respect for people who have the self confidence, self trust and courage

to focus on developing their character. It is much more interesting for me to interact with these developed personalities than to listen to someone detail proudly how much money each of his possessions cost him.

To trade one's freedom for comfort, security and status is to mute the search for who we really are as individuals and it lessens our contribution to family and society. The freedom to discover one's self will reveal a creative and interesting person. It will require us to steward our own lives, choose moderation over excess, and build resourcefulness, independence, and strength of character.

Materialism misdirects and harms us in five important ways.

First, it gives us a false sense of security because we are doing what the group at large is doing.

Second, we seek greater and greater creature comforts that eventually exceed a healthy lifestyle.

Third, materialism is used to create false social status by the mere fact that one individual possesses more things than their neighbor.

Fourth, the combination of these distracts Americans from what is real in the rest of the world.

And fifth, the amount of time that all this misdirection uses up does nothing to nurture and excite improvement in the individual.

The freedom we have in America is unique in the world. It has been provided to us through the wisdom, and at great personal risk, of our forefathers and all those who have since come to understand its worth and driving force to the spirit of humanity.

Many have died so we can live and grow as no other civilization has. We are a nation of over 300 million and most of the other 5 billion+ people in the world would come here instantly if allowed.

Visiting many U.S. embassies in foreign countries has taught me this as I watched hundreds of people lining up in the rain for a chance at a visa to our country. Most are turned down. The spirit of this freedom should be living and thriving within each of us as we conduct our lives. We are by birth the ambassadors of freedom.

We should not allow ourselves to become lulled by too much comfort or bound by materialistic status that we no longer have the courage to search for the best ways to fulfill our lives.

We are obligated to examine our own motives, and those of companies and government, when our own money is about to be used to abridge our freedom. With vigilance, will and self discipline we must remain free and flexible to challenge ourselves in an increasingly comfortable America.



# WORKING ON OUR WATER SOLUTIONS

By Kristin Jacobs  
Broward County Commission –  
District 2

Welcome to 2008 and the start of one-day-a-week water restrictions. The new restrictions mark the first time the South Florida Water Management District (SF-WMD) has imposed blanket restrictions for the 16 counties and 5 million residents it serves.

The new, mandatory restrictions apply to all water from traditional sources, including water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes. Only users of 100-percent reclaimed water are exempt from the restrictions.



## Water Rules

Effective January 15, 2008 everyone - residents and businesses - are limited to one of two "watering windows" for lawns and landscapes occurring one-day-a-week as follows:

- Addresses ending in an odd number may irrigate on Mondays.
- Addresses ending in an even number may irrigate on Thursdays.
- The "watering window" is between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m., OR between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Irrigation is allowed once during the day specified. Watering in the morning and again in the afternoon is a violation of the SFWMD Phase 3 water restrictions.

Stringent water restrictions will help to stretch limited water supplies during South Florida's 6-month dry season. Lake Okeechobee continues to set record low levels - and is falling still. The lake reached an all time low in July of 8.82 feet.

In December 2007, Lake "O" reached its lowest elevation ever recorded for the month at 10.16 feet. The SFWMD does have a process for changing your watering day or time. You must apply for a variance. The request must demonstrate a specific need.

For example, you must show the

variance is essential to your health or safety or you have some special circumstance which necessitates a variance.

The mandatory water restrictions will be enforced by your city's law enforcement or code enforcement officers. Residential fines vary by municipality, but typically range from \$25 to \$125 for a first offense.

While landscape irrigation accounts for up to half of all household water consumption, it is important that you conserve on all fronts. Make sure your faucets are tight and there are no leaks in your system. Make sure your dishwasher or washing machine is full when in use. Turn off your shower except to get wet and rinse off.

## Going Greener

Broward County Government is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and supports the principles of a whole-building approach to sustainability.

Recent breakthroughs in building practices and technology have made building green affordable and an important part of maintaining a sustainable environment. The County Commission opened our first certified green building a year ago, at ribbon cutting for the South Regional/BCC Branch Library in Pembroke Pines. Several of the County's architects have earned accreditation with the USGBC as LEED AP's (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design Accredited Professional).

The South Regional Library is LEED certified, which means an independent, third-party verified the build is environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to work. All further building projects under the County Commission's jurisdiction will be built with an eye to sustainability and our environment.

Whenever possible, construction of government buildings, including those at our Port and Airport will be constructed using U.S. Green Building LEED standards. Green buildings benefit both our environment and our pocketbook. They improve our air and water quality, reduce solid waste and

conserve our natural resources.

At the same time, green buildings reduce utility costs, enhance value, have a longer life-cycle and improve employee productivity.

In the United States alone, buildings account for 65% of electricity consumption and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. It's important we all understand how to be better stewards of our environment - at home and at work. Please let me know if you would like more information on the SFWMD Phase 3 restrictions or the US Green Building Council and LEED certification. Call me anytime at 954-357-7002 or send a quick note to, [kjacobs@broward.org](mailto:kjacobs@broward.org).



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## You are invited to be a part of this widely circulated publication dedicated to Fort Lauderdale!

The Fort Lauderdale City News is your home for your voice to be heard in the city. If you have an article you want to write about life in the city call me, Steve Kelley, at (954) 564-1308 and let's discuss it. Or, simply email it to the address shown below.

**This publication is for us and by us;  
this is your chance to have a seat at the table.**

Sun-Sentinel won't publish your "letter to the editor?"  
Send it to me, Steve Kelley at [steve@citynewsfl.com](mailto:steve@citynewsfl.com)



# TALES FROM THE GALT GULAG

## Horror stories abound at the condo towers on Galt Ocean Mile

by Grayson Walker, Ph.D.

Gulag is an acronym for the former Soviet Union's penal system. Since then, it has come into common use to describe any repressive system. I named my column the "Tales From The Galt Gulag," because I write about the repression of condominium Owners on the Galt Ocean Mile. The Galt Ocean Mile is the biggest crime scene in Broward County.

### Gulag Growth

The gulag is growing. The Census Bureau projected that Florida's population will pass that of New York within a few years, reaching twenty-million people. Forty percent will live in condominiums or homeowner associations. Confronting our growth problems, the real estate market is projected to lose an additional thirty-five percent of its current value over the next two years. There are projections of massive repossessions. The gulag's problems are growing, and Florida is ignoring us.

### A Culture Of Sheep

As Max Beerbohm, the English author and satirist, wrote, "You cannot make a man by standing a sheep on its hind legs. But by standing a flock of sheep in that position you can make a crowd of men." As you know, a Condo Commando is a member of a Condominium Board who uses fear and intimidation to rule. While the phrase has a cute ring to it, such a person is anything but cute. The term is misleading. The Condominium Commando is actually a Fascist Dictator. The Condo Commando is the architect and beneficiary of the culture of sheep.

### The Condominium Culture Of Sheep

There are two levels of the culture of sheep in the condominium culture. The first is among the owners. They have become submissive, passive people, afraid to raise their voices in dissent. At the most fundamental level, the owners allow the condominium commando to control their condominium association. Second is among the Boards of Directors. Board members submit to a dominant person, the head "condo commando" because they are afraid to exercise their fiduciary. Instead, they meekly obey as if they were small children.

The United States was founded by brave people who left Europe to found a new country and escape religious and political repression. Their descendants

created our Bill of Rights and Constitution. These fearless people were not afraid to fight for principles. They refused to knuckle-under to the repression of the European monarchs. What has happened to strength of character that created America, that we are willing to accept the evil repression of the condominium commando? How could people who have the brave blood of the American pioneers become a culture of sheep?

How did we become a culture of sheep? Is this some Malthusian solution in which the genes that made us bold and brave have been selected out? Is natural selection working against us, diluting the genes of strength and character, and creating a culture of sheep?

### The Condominium Owner As Sheep

If you attend a condominium board meeting, you would think this has happened. Here at Southpoint, I have watched in amazement when an owner raised a question about an action by the board. There were three components to the crowd's reaction. First, they hissed at the questioner, telling her to be quiet. Then they raised their voices over that of the questioner, saying, "let the board do their job." Finally, the response from the Board was to ignore Owner, saying, "Next question." Amazingly, the crowd of sheeple allowed this to take place instead of rising as one in objection to this violation of not only the questioner's rights, but of their rights.

### The Board As Sheep

Board members fail to realize that the condominium association is a non-profit corporation. The members of the Board have a fiduciary responsibility to the other Owners. Perhaps, most importantly, the board members have equal authority. Most boards elect several officers – president, vice president, treasurer – without realizing that each officer answers to the other board members. A simple majority vote of the board can remove any officer.

This is an important point, because some people, including board members, believe that the board president has additional powers. This is due to the title of president. This has nothing to do with the independent executive powers exercised by a head of government, such as the President of the United States. In a corporation, the president of the board has no special powers. Your board president serves at the pleasure

of your Board of Directors.

One of the tragedies of the failed experiment of the condominium, is the failure of a board of directors to remove a "condo commando" from their midst.

In the history of corporations, there are many instances of the Board firing the President for a variety of reasons.

### How To Stop Being Sheep

A Condo Commando is trampling upon your rights. You may be the victim of voting and/or financial fraud. What can you do about it? How can you protect your rights? First, call our Condo Ombudsman, Danille Carroll. Let her know what is going on in your association, and ask for her help. Second, call Representative Julio Robaina. He is the strongest supporter of Owner's rights in the Legislature. Third, join the Cyber Citizens For Justice. They are the only Florida organization that is working for Owner's rights. Fourth, join the AARP and let them know you support their Owner's Bill Of Rights. If you want other ideas, please feel free to contact me.

### Help For Owners

Attorney Inger Garcia can be reached by telephone at 954-894-9962, at [www.IngerGarcia.com](http://www.IngerGarcia.com), or at [Attorney@IngerGarcia.com](mailto:Attorney@IngerGarcia.com).

Jan Bergemann of the Cyber Citizens For Justice can be reached at [www.ccfj.net](http://www.ccfj.net), 386-740-1503 or at [Jan@ccfj.net](mailto:Jan@ccfj.net).

State Government Officials

Governor Charlie Crist can be reached at 850-488-7146 or at [Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com](mailto:Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com).

Condominium Ombudsman Danille R. Carroll, Esquire can be reached at 954-202-3234 or at [Danille.Carroll@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:Danille.Carroll@dbpr.state.fl.us).

State Representative Julio Robaina can be reached at 305-442-6868 or at [Julio.Robaina@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Julio.Robaina@myfloridahouse.gov).

State Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff can be reached at 954-767-9850 or at [Ellyn.Bogdanoff@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Ellyn.Bogdanoff@myfloridahouse.gov).

Harold Hyman of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation can be reached at 954-202-3982 or at [Harold.Hyman@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:Harold.Hyman@dbpr.state.fl.us).

Florida State Attorney Michael J. Satz can be reached at 954-831-6955.

Local Government Officials

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle can be reached at 954-828-5003, or at [MayorJames@aol.com](mailto:MayorJames@aol.com).

Fort Lauderdale City Manager George Gretsas can be reached at 954-

828-5013 or at [GGretsas@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:GGretsas@fortlauderdale.gov).

Galt Gulag City Commissioner Christine Teel can be reached at 954-828-5003 or at [CTeel@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:CTeel@fortlauderdale.gov).

Fort Lauderdale's Code Enforcement Department is investigating the illegal changes to condominiums that put your home risk. Protect your building, your home, and confirm that all work on your building had a permit and an inspection. They can be reached on the Internet at [http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/building\\_services/comm\\_inspections\\_staff.htm](http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/building_services/comm_inspections_staff.htm). Debbie Hernandez, Code Enforcement Manager, can be reached at 954-828-5808, or at [DHernandez@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:DHernandez@fortlauderdale.gov)

### Bill Of Rights For Owners

The AARP's Bill of Rights for Homeowners is available online at [http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/consume/2006\\_15\\_homeowner.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/consume/2006_15_homeowner.pdf).

### Other

The Southpoint Condominium website is at <http://www.Southpoint-Condominium.org>

### About the Author

I own a condominium at Southpoint, in the Galt Gulag. I am a University Professor and teach American Government. Nothing prepared me for life in the Galt Gulag where my Constitutional Rights are ignored. I have been assaulted, battered, slandered, libeled, disparaged, stalked, had my car keyed, and had my life threatened because I believe in American democracy and the Constitution. Do you have a story to tell? Write to me at [AGWill@comcast.net](mailto:AGWill@comcast.net).





# CONDO HELL

## One condo owner's tale 'o Horror

by Valerie Austin

I attended the well organized Annual Condominium Conference and it was an eye opener.

I had heard how bad the fights with boards and condo owners were, that's why I'm involved, but I had no idea of the scale.

As an author, I always like fodder for my books but this was the type of material I would expect for a bestselling novel on the underworld but, the players were ordinary people fighting corruption in every direction.

The problem was that many of the ordinary people were doing the corrupting. Two men, from separate condos, said that were literally frightened for their lives.

One of the men said he should be on the FBI protection program because of the board's President having mafia connections.

Another condo owner had been threatened with being shot in the head by a board member and one 70 year old lady went on a 7-day hunger strike outside where the board had their meetings.

Many were intimidated and had windows broken and eggs thrown at their cars, and much worse, for complaining about their extraordinary high assessments and simultaneously watching board members suddenly sporting new cars and \$10,000 stereo systems.

It was truly sad to see the human misery; lives have been turned into a living hell.

**It's like taking candy from a baby.  
But these are people's life savings**

"It's like taking candy from a baby" said one old gentleman said another liken the assessments to, "Robbing a bank only easier." There were over 100 people that were given their chance to speak about their grievances.

I spent 5 hours listening to condo owners relating their nightmare situations. Many boards seemed to have been infiltrated by con people. This is how serious it is and why the law needs to be changed.

**At the moment, you can buy a condo and within days have an assessment for \$50,000 and given a period of 90 days to pay or there is a lien put on your condo and then it can be repossessed.**

If you fail to pay it, bingo, you've lost your home because of greed and corruption that the law, as it stands,

seems powerless to stop.

What has happened! Why is everyone I talk to having balcony restoration, even new buildings, and stranger still the new restoration is having to have yet more restoration?

There seems to be a mantra, "Even if there is no signs that your balcony has a problem there 'may' be something going on underneath." Where's the common sense in this. You can imagine that a person on these high balconies are frightened and want to have them looked at just in case they fall off. As this



State Representative Julio Robaina (far left) talks to residents and our own outstanding Galt Condo Lawyer, Inger Garcia (far right).

is what they have been told by the so called experts.

The truth is that it is rubbish. There will be signs if there are problems cracking (depending how bad the cracking is) and rust signs seeping threw the concrete, Cracks needs to be 'monitored' but monitoring seems to be a foreign word to the South Florida engineers and contractors.

Contractors often say that we have problems with balconies in South Florida because we are by the sea and the salt is to blame.

One structural engineer told me. "I have lived in my 60 year old building in Beirut all my life and it has never needed repair. It is by the sea with a much saltier climate than here and it is in great condition and will last many more years.

In Europe, the German bunkers are on the sea and have been there since the 40's. Not to mention the Roman Pantheon built in Rome some 18 centuries ago and is still standing.

I spoke to an engineer who I was referred to by an architect, he said he was no longer in balcony construction he had tried to save balconies that did not need work,

but the contractors gave him so much trouble trying to make extra work that he said it wasn't worth it, "I'm busy enough without all that." Balcony restoration has become a nightmare.

**Is it because of corruption?  
or naivete'?**

Another problem is that your board may be just naive. But the result is the same.

Some owners are finding millions of dollars spent for unnecessary work. Many contractors are doing substandard work and some balconies are worse than before they started. Since many contractors will only guarantee the balcony for 5 years it shows how much faith they have in their work. They should be lasting another 40 years. One contractor that came to our building said, " My balconies will last forever, the other contractors dilute the concrete purposely so that it will only last 5-7 years but I don't do that." Is this really happening?

The good news is that at the meeting I attended State Representative Julio Robaina is looking to licence even volunteer board members, "because of the corruption and pettiness that is rife with boards members" he said. However, this conference gave us somewhere to go and

people to talk to which will, hopefully, help change the laws.

I live in a delightful old building on the New River where we are having all kinds of problems fighting the board on issues of concrete restoration.

So watch this space because we have Inger Garcia, the Galt's Condo Lawyer, fighting our case.

**OUR ELECTED  
OFFICIALS SHOULD  
BE HELPING US!**

Believe it or not, we have a mayor and a city commissioner who, long ago, should've taken an interest in the considerable problems of the Galt Community.

The Commissioner for the Galt Ocean Mile is Christine Teel who's busy telling people she's running for mayor in March, 2009.

Tell your Mayor, Jim Naugle and your City Commissioner, Christine Teel what's going on in your building and ask for their help. They'll want our votes in the next election and should be helping us now.

The mayor and all city commissioners can be reached at:

City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Tel. (954) 828-5003/5004





# WILTON MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO FEED FERAL IGUANAS

## Is Fort Lauderdale Next?

by M.e. DePalma

After receiving numerous complaints from residents citing damage to gardens and seawalls within the City; wild animals eating pet food left out for domesticated animals; the potential threat of bites and scratches to persons feeding or attempting to feed feral animals along with the possibility of contamination from salmonella and other diseases carried by raccoons and iguanas, the city felt it necessary to respond to these threats.



The Commission found it to be in the best interests of the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens, residents and visitors for the City of Wilton Manors to prohibit persons from feeding and for failing to take appropriate precautions to prevent the unintentional feeding of raccoons and iguanas, thereby amending ORDINANCE NO. 930 PART II, CHAPTER 4 of the city code of ordinances to create a subsection entitled "FEEDING OF WILD ANIMALS PROHIBITED".

Does the law have any teeth? Not really. If caught feeding one of these animals, you could be taken to court and fined by the judge. However, it will probably cost the city more to take you to court than the fine levied. So why then, you might ask, is it important that they made this a law?

Well, there are several reasons. First, keeping the public from feeding these animals will help keep them from becoming less fearless of humans. The less likely they are to approach a child, the less likely that child will be bitten. Second, inviting them into your yard by enticing them with food only adds to the citywide invasion and makes you a welcoming committee, which is not fair to your neighbors. Finally, you cannot ask for state help if you don't do anything on a local level and we definitely need state help.

Finding funding to study the possibility of a sterilization program for these creatures is not an easy task. Scott Hardin, Exotic-Species coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, says, "We have no funds for control or research & development into better methods. As with other wildlife in proximity to humans, we have to fall back on the use of local trappers because rarely are local agencies equipped or funded to deal with things."

When we suggested a budgeting request, Hardin stated, "We are considering a budget request that would help to address this. Of course, the request goes up against other agency priorities that are all being developed in a time of declining state revenues. Green iguanas are perhaps even more difficult since they are firmly established, and funds often go toward stopping the next species from reaching critical mass. In addition, green iguanas have yet to cause documented environmental impacts (not to diminish the social and economic impacts in neighborhoods)."

That position might change with recent press reporting that Disney World in Orlando is facing an iguana invasion where they are eating the lush landscape. Maybe we need to write our representatives, get in line, ask for their support and document that our seawalls and gardens are being economically impacted too.

Meanwhile, the population is expanding. As the iguanas multiply, the dominant male iguana forces the younger males out of his territory. The young males are challenged to find their own area and food supply, so expansion of their habitat is inevitable. What was once concentrated in the backyards of our city's waterfront properties, you can now see evidence of their expanding impacts on dry home sites throughout

Wilton Manors.

I get calls constantly asking for relief. All I can do is pass on what I have learned that has worked for others and let you make your own choices. There is no particular definition of animal cruelty; rather it depends on whether someone has caused prolonged and unnecessary suffering in killing the animal. Some use traps to capture them and then freeze, drown or eat them. Others report paint ball guns are quick and effective.

For those without the will to kill, one method that has been suggested is to attract iguanas to artificial nesting boxes, and then remove the eggs frequently. I have no data on how effective this might be to reduce iguana density on a neighborhood or community scale.

Most topical treatments for foliage we have previously suggested to deter iguanas need to be continually reapplied. One orchid grower recently reported successfully spraying plants with hot pepper wax as a deterrent. Made from a concentrate of Cayenne peppers, assorted repelling herbs and food grade paraffin wax the spray stays on the plant up to three weeks, saving you the bother and expense of applying after every rainfall or watering. This natural wax also offers protection to plants from hot, dry and windy conditions. Food plants do not absorb the heat of the pepper and the wax washes off easily with warm water.

Finally, there is a licensed trapper out there who captures and legally sells them to collectors and other countries whose population has been depleted. He charges \$30 to \$50 to hunt at your house.

George Ward owns Magnum Reptiles and told us we could print his cell phone, 1-772-240-3176. Leave him a message and he will get back to you.

I wish I had a better solution. How about a blistering cold winter? Which we will have again at some time, and that will set things back a little, although less so in Wilton Manors than points further north.

### About the Author:

M.E. DePalma, Co-author A Garden Diary: A Guide to Gardening in South Florida, Member NatureScape Broward, Wilton Manors NatureScape Committee, National Wildlife Steward.

She can be reached at [depalma@depalmaenterprises.com](mailto:depalma@depalmaenterprises.com) or at (954) 563-2148.

## Freedoms Foundation Plans Rededication Of Jack & Harriett Kaye Park

Jack and Harriet Kaye were passionate about their country, their community and especially young people.

Harriett Kaye was a founding member of The Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge Broward Chapter and served as President for six terms. To honor their



memory, ArylInne Vollmuth Bentsen and Astrid Hinz are chairing a very special event; the rededication of the park that is on Bay View Drive at North East 12th Street. When Jack died, the park was dedicated to his memory by naming the property, the Jack Kaye Park. With Harriett's recent passing, plans call for a rededication that will rename the lush area as the Jack and Harriett Kaye Park!

"We wanted to recognize Jack and Harriett's commitment to Freedoms Foundation and the idea of rededicating the park in both of their names was met with unanimous support," explained Freedom's Foundation president, Elizabeth 'Bankie' Benton. "It promises to be an exciting milestone for our organization." The event takes place on Saturday, January 26th at 10:30 a.m. at the park, followed by luncheon at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club, 2800 Yacht Club Boulevard. Cost for the luncheon is \$20.00 per person.

"Each year, the Broward Chapter sends 50 high school students to Valley Forge for The Spirit of America Youth Conference, where they attend seminars and workshops to learn about America's history and the free enterprise system," Bankie noted. In 2008, for the first time, 75 high school students will receive scholarships to attend. To help finance the additional 25 students a year, Jack and Harriet left their entire estate to the Community Foundation so that funding can continue in perpetuity. Their multimillion dollar gift is the largest in the Community Foundation's 23 year history.

For further information, call (954) 587-2615.



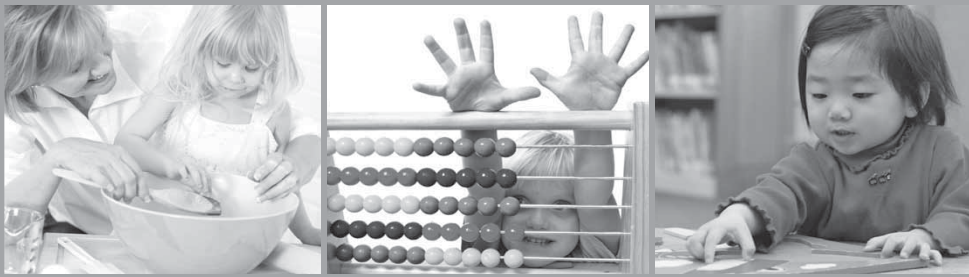
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OPENING**  
*in Victoria Park*



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### 23<sup>rd</sup> Community Police Academy

Where: Fort Lauderdale Police Department  
1300 West Broward Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

When: February 21, 2008 – May 22, 2008

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Thursday evenings)

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is offering a 14-week **Community Police Academy** to residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale as well as civic and government organization members. The **Community Police Academy** is designed to foster an active partnership with the community. Well informed citizens, who have an awareness of the mission, resources, policies and services of their Police Department, are critical to the success of this partnership. Topics addressed in the academy will include: **Community Policing, Officer Selection/Recruiting, Drug Enforcement, Special Investigations, Range/Firearms, Communications, and much more.** In addition to scheduled classes, an eight-hour "ride along" with our Patrol Officers will be made available to the attendees.

*All applicants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. Selection preference will focus upon Fort Lauderdale residents and those who work or own a business/property within the City.*

This is your opportunity to be involved in a dynamic, rewarding partnership with your Police Department. We need your participation to ensure the success of the Community Police Academy. Don't hesitate! Complete your application today. Applications are available in the Fort Lauderdale Police Department lobby or by calling the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Training Unit at (954) 828-6428. You may also download an application from the following website address: <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/police/cpa.html>

Mail or fax your completed application to:  
Fort Lauderdale Police Department  
Training Department  
1300 W. Broward Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312  
Fax (954) 828-5891

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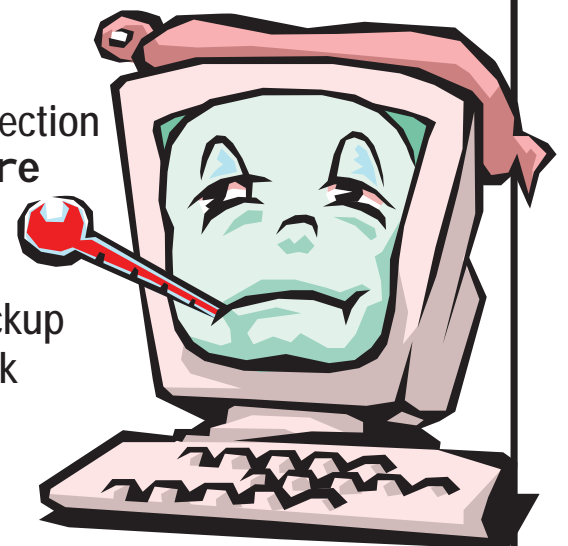
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# A VISION FOR THE FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH

## Do we really need more hi-rise condos and hotels?

By Mel Martinez

Presently there are about 104 hi-rise, hi-density condominiums and about a dozen hi-rise, massive hotels in Ft. Lauderdale. Not bad for a downtown area. But these numbers refer to our Ft. Lauderdale beach. Of the 104 condos, almost half are located in the Central Beach area and the dozen or so hotels are all in this area completely built, under construction or have been approved for future building.

On November 7, 2006, our beach commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom proposed a building moratorium. Mayor Naugle and Commissioners Moore, Teel, and Hutchinson all voted no. The City Commission has since hired consultants Sasaki Associates from Boston to revise or develop a new Central Beach Master Plan for the Central Beach from Sunrise Blvd. on the north to Harbor Dr. on the south. Another expensive study? Yup! Do we need this?

Well, we need something because right now we have no vision at all unless one calls unbridled development a vision.

This small piece of barrier island known as the Central Beach area has already gone too far regarding excessive development. The massive hotels along A1A have created a "wall" of concrete and glass some causing shadows on the beach, wind tunnels and blocking views of people living behind and along side of them thus creating a negative impact on their quality of life. The same thing is happening along the Intracoastal Waterway creating a canyon affect. Residents living in condos and vacationers residing in small motels and bread & breakfast establishments are feeling the affect of living in a stockade surrounded and cut-off by these "barricades."

### What ought to be done (though in many cases too late):

..Moratorium on all buildings not constructed yet which are destined to become hi-rise, hi-density.

..All future construction should be limited to 40 feet or 50 feet at the highest point.

..Preserve the NBRA (where most of the small hotels are located) as a unique area to Ft. Lauderdale. Help this area by providing flexible building codes, tax breaks, parking flexibility, allowance to change over to becoming cafes (no noise, music), grocery stores, pharma-

cies, coffee houses and other small enterprises.

..The City, via bond issues, should purchase all land along the Intracoastal not built on already to be used for parks and access to the Intracoastal (it's a buyers market now). This IOA area must not become a replica of A1A. And, we need to preserve the few remaining low-rise buildings along A1A.

..Keep the Las Olas parking lot...it is the only open space left and parking is needed. And it wouldn't be a bad idea of converting some of that land into a real park so people can enjoy and appreciate the Intracoastal Waterway.

..Construct a boardwalk along the



Intracoastal from Las Olas parking lot north to Sunrise Blvd. with park benches and trees. Many other cities fortunate to have a waterfront have done this very successfully.

..The hotels along A1A should contribute to the beach community by providing outdoor, informal, reasonably priced restaurants open to all beach comers. These hotels should also make available to all beach visitors public restrooms. Why not? Look at what the City gave to them.

### The problem:

The lack if vision and lack of leadership of the City Commission has encouraged the current run-away construction. Unless some significant and bold changes occur soon all will be lost. The result will be the "Manhattanization" of the Ft. Lauderdale beach with the accompany problems of traffic, noise, dirt, shadows, wind tunnels, water usage, hurricane evacuation, trucks & taxis and traffic accidents. In other words, the beach, instead of being a place to "get away from it all" will be transformed into an extension of downtown.

The recommended changes suggested above will be fought and opposed by anyone who has a financial interest on the beach. They are more

concerned, in fact, their only concern is money. These people are developers, real estate agents, construction people, bankers, land use attorneys, business folks and their friends.

They use Orwellian "double-speak" terms such as "world class destination", "smart growth", "property rights", "progress," "love Ft. Lauderdale and we want to give back something," etc.

Translated into English and plain speaking, all they are saying is let us continue to build hi-rise, hi-density condos and hotels for extremely wealthy people and to hell with the environment and quality of life for future generations. The irony is that most of these people do not live on the beach where such massive buildings are constructed.

### Oh Vision, Oh Vision Where Art Thou!

If the Sasaki Associates' report tries to compromise the future of Ft. Lauderdale by attempting to please everyone such as suggesting future construction should be tall and thin as opposed to the present tall and fat, then all will be lost. Height, density and open space are primary concerns of residents. A sense of urgency, bold changes to control growth, and preserving the character, uniqueness and ambiance of the Ft. Lauderdale beach by stopping the continuing hi-rise, hi-density megalopolis are all needed now. Educating and receiving acceptance from the City Commission will be the biggest challenge. When all is said and done, hopefully the right thing will be done for the right reasons.

### An interesting short story:

"In cosmopolitan cities here, creeping in with double lattes and imported cars is the concern that India's authenticity may be lost to development, especially in tourist quarters. It's a question being asked all over the world: How do you see the heart of a country when world cities are looking more and more similar? said Arun Chaudhari of the Rotary Club of Mumbai. Anyone can see a five-star hotel. They look the same whether you are in Dubai or Delhi." If this continues, when will you see "the real roads, the real villages, the heart and soul of India."

This story appeared in a local newspaper. Is not the message clear for us?

Do we really want this? Do we really want more of this?

## BASEBALL'S BACK IN CORAL RIDGE!

Baseball registration Ages 5-18

Close out Late Registration  
January 12, 9am to 12pm at  
**Bayview Park.**

### Sign up A.S.A.P.!!

T-Ball ages 5 & 6 at Bayview Park  
Coach Pitch ages 7 & 8 at George English Park  
Minor League ages 9-12 Bayview & Floranada  
Little League ages 10-12 Bayview & Floranada Park  
Junior League ages 13-14 Bayview & Holiday Park  
Senior League ages 14-16 Bayview & Holiday Park  
Big League ages 16-18 Holiday Park

### Mandatory Tryouts at Bayview Park:

For All Minor League Players  
January 19 from 9am to 11am  
Little League Players Jan 19 from 11am to 1pm.  
All Junior players (Ages 13-14) on Sunday, January 20th, 2pm to 4pm (Everyone plays).

### Make-up Tryouts:

Sunday January 20th, 4pm - 6pm  
Ages 8 - 14  
Practice begins in February  
Games begin around March and go through June

### Sponsors & Volunteers needed!

Members? Neighbors?  
Committee Members  
Board Members  
Coaches  
Concession Stand Coordinator:  
Safety Officer:  
Newsletter Editor:  
Data Base Coordinator:  
Umpires:  
Field Maintenance:

Fort Lauderdale/Coral Ridge Baseball  
P.O. Box 1254

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339

**Online Applications** and all questions answered at [www.ftlauderdalebaseball.com](http://www.ftlauderdalebaseball.com) or [www.coralridge-littleleague.com](http://www.coralridge-littleleague.com)

Please call 954-263-6065.



# Have the Sun heat your Pool - for Free

by Nansea Cross

The best deal from solar energy comes from solar pool heating. Using the sun to heat your pool water will eliminate a nice chunk of your electric bill. It will also extend your swimming season by up to 100%. Using the sun to heat your pool is environmentally friendly. You will be using free renewable nonpolluting energy from the sun.

South Florida has an ideal climate for solar pool heating. With the amount of sun we have, you will eliminate your utility bill for heating your pool if you make the switch to solar. Comparing solar pool heating to the other conventional methods: propane, gas, or electric heat, the best value is with solar energy. You could pay \$300 a month to heat your pool with electricity. If you use the sun instead, you will pay zip, zero, nada. The payback on a solar pool heating system is very short, usually between 1 1/2 to 3 years. Since solar panels can last up to 20 years or more, the system will pay for itself several times over. A gas or electric heater will have to be replaced at least once in this time period.

If you're not presently heating your pool, you are missing out on a lot of comfortable swimming in our cooler (where are they?) months. So by installing a solar pool heater you'll be able to swim year round. If you're part fish, like

I am, you know what a wonderful thing swimming is.

A solar pool heating system is quite simple. The biggest part of a solar pool heating system is the solar collectors. It's best to locate these panels on your roof where they will have good southern ex-



posure. A pump is needed to move the water through your solar collectors. If your present pump is in good working order that will suffice. The system will also require a couple valves and sensors, and a thermometer. The final component is the plumbing needed to connect the system together. Even though a so-

lar pool heating system is quite simple, you should use a professional installer to set up your system.

The size of a solar pool system is dependent on several factors. These relate to the size of your pool, your location, whether the pool is screened in, the number of months you use the pool, the temperature you require, and whether you use a cover on the pool. We definitely recommend that our customers use a cover. Generally speaking, you will need panels with an area that is approximately 75% of the surface area of your pool.

If you use the sun to heat your pool, you will be helping the environment. You won't be burning any fuels and adding to the overabundance of greenhouse gases. You will be greatly reducing your carbon footprint. It is the smart and responsible thing to do if you care about the environment.

Another great thing to do if you make the switch to solar power is to change your water purification system.

There is a great system, which generates chlorine from basic table salt. You will have a cleaner pool that it easier to maintain and you won't have to add chlorine to your pool anymore. If you have a person who maintains your pool, you won't need him with this purification system. My apologies to any pool maintenance people who

might lose work as a result. It really is a much cleaner system that's better for your pool and better for your pool's occupants. Your skin, your eyes, your hair and even your swimwear will thank you. Also, you won't be using chemicals that are harmful to the environment. So it's another win win situation. It's better for your wallet, better for you and your pool, and it's better for the environment.

The state of Florida will give you a \$100 rebate for the installation of a solar pool heating system. This is the smallest solar rebate they offer because they know what a great deal solar pool heaters are.

If you're concerned with solar panels during hurricanes, you needn't be as solar panels are designed to withstand hurricane force winds. Often times the panels protect the roof from flying debris during big storms.

Installing solar pool heating will also increase the value of your home. This is a great asset in a slow housing market.

For the least expensive form of pool heating, you can't beat solar energy. The sun is free and clean and plentiful here in the Sunshine State. It is a wise and ecologically correct investment. If you would like more information, please feel free to call Nansea at (954) 260-5253. Mention this article and receive a free consultation.

## Fort Lauderdale's Most Famous Characters!

by Tim Smith

I've been thinking lately about reputation. That probably has something to do with the recent realization that I'm getting old. You see, I am not only 50 years old, but, (oh my God), 51!

I can see that I've crossed the proverbial hill, and no matter how many sit-ups and brainteasers you do, some thing's are downhill from here.

It has been occurring to me that fame and fortune can be an honorable goal in your 30's, 40's, maybe even 50's, but at the end of the day, we'd all rather die broke and appreciated than rich and despised.

Would anyone cherish going to his or her grave known as the richest SOB on the planet, or the most famous jerk that ever lived? Of course not.

The final "mark" you lay down seems to be the important "mark."

And all this pontificating about life and meaning got me to thinking not only of my own reputation, but that of my fellow citizens. I've had the good fortune to be one of the "public people", you know, the kind that newspa-



Remember "city commissioner" Cary Keno? Here's an official mug shot.

per reporters report on. It's a position that you can love or hate, depending on the newspaper article!

Which brought me to thinking of all those "public people" that I've known through my 30 or so years here in Fort Lauderdale. And I thought it might be a fun exercise to see who my fellow citizens think are the MOST famous amongst them.

When I began to formulate this article, I called it the most "Notorious", but that has only a bad connotation. Then I went with "Renowned," but that's reserved for those that are only good. I'm looking for those "Public People" in both camps, and in a future article, we'll vote on the "Most Famous Characters" and give the devil (or Saints) their due!

I developed a short list already to give you an idea of the distinguished (or infamous) characters that might be on the final list. It's not important that they live in Fort Lauderdale, or even that they currently live, as long as they were a famous character here, or near here, and only those of the last 30 years or so. Here it goes.....

Wayne Huizenga..... Ken Jenne..... Lori Parrish..... Jim Nangle..... Crazy Gregg ..... Kathy Willets..... Jim Moran ..... Alcee

Hastings ..... Nick Navarro..... Scott Cowan..... Preston Henn ....Frank Petrillo..... Carlton Moore ..... Terry Stiles..... Ron Cochran ..... Dan Marino ..... Rev. Kennedy .....Norm Kent..... Chris Everett..... Lee Majors..... Bob Cox ..... Nicki Grossman ..... Michael Egan ..... Keith Wasserman ..... Joe Eggleton ..... George Platt.... oh yes, and Tim Smith

Here's what you need to do.

Send me an e-mail to Tim@Tim-Smith.com and tell me who you nominate for the "Most Famous Characters" list and why you think they rate. Feel free to let me know if you think that those on my list rate as well ... Looking forward to hearing from you !

Ciao, **Tim**





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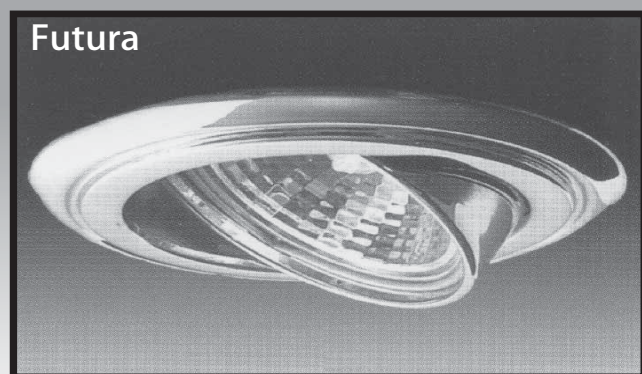
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# Legislative Lookout

## THE PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM: QUICK FIX OR REAL SOLUTION?

By Wilton Manors City Commissioner Gary Resnick

On Jan 29, 2008, Florida's voters will have a chance to vote on an Amendment to the Florida Constitution to change property taxes. Everyone in this State realizes that the property tax system is broken. Neighbors in basically identical homes pay drastically different taxes,



it's nearly impossible to buy a first home, and owners of commercial or non-homestead properties pay ridiculously high taxes. It needs fixing. The question is: does the Constitutional Amendment proposed for Jan. 29, 2008, really help or is it merely a good legislative sound bite that will make an inequitable system even worse? And finally, what everyone asks when they vote, what's best for me?

During the Legislative Special Session, our Legislators spent about a week coming up with this proposal to reform property taxes. Recently, I attended the Florida League of Cities Legislative Conference in Orlando and learned the details of the Jan. 29, Constitutional Amendment. It is important for us to understand what is and what is not addressed in this proposed Amendment. This article attempts to give you the information to understand this issue and make an informed decision.

There are 3 main components to the Constitutional Amendment to alter property taxes:

### 1) Homestead Exemption:

Currently, owners of homestead property receive a \$25,000 exemption on their home's assessed value. A house assessed at \$100,000 will only be taxed on \$75,000 – and this applies to all taxes, county, city, school board, and special districts. The proposed Amendment provides that the amount assessed between \$50,000 and \$75,000 will receive another \$25,000 exemption,

but only from taxes of cities and counties. In other words, a house assessed at \$200,000 will have the first \$25,000 exempt from all taxes. Then another \$25,000 will be exempt from City and County taxes, but not School Board, hospital district and other special district taxes. It is estimated that the average homeowner of a homesteaded home will save only about another \$100 as a result of this additional \$25,000 exemption, and this only applies to homestead property. Cities and Counties however, will lose millions of dollars in tax revenue -- meaning more cuts in services and personnel. In addition, because of action of the Legislature, School Board taxes actually must increase. Thus, there may be no net savings to homeowners as a result of this additional \$25,000 exemption. There is certainly not a "doubling" of the homestead exemption, as certain officials have claimed.

### 2) Portability of Save Our Homes:

Save Our homes was created a few decades ago to help senior citizens who lived in homes and condos that were increasing in value rapidly. It stopped taxes from increasing as much as their home values increased – but created the unfair tax system and problems we have now. Currently, under Save Our Homes, the assessed value of homesteaded homes cannot increase more than 3% per year. That is why there are homes with a market value of \$500,000, \$600,000, or more, but pay taxes on an assessed value of only \$200,000 or so. The Jan. 29, referendum creates "portability" of a homeowner's Save Our Homes tax savings, up to \$500,000. In other words, if your home has a market value of \$800,000 and is assessed under Save Our Homes at \$300,000, you have a \$500,000 tax savings. If you move and buy a more expensive home – say for \$900,000 -- you can take that full \$500,000 with you and thus, you would only pay taxes on an assessed value of \$400,000 (\$900,000 less \$500,000). If you buy a less expensive home, you take a proportionate share of your Save Our Homes with you. In the above example, if you moved from your \$800,000 home to a \$400,000 home, you could take ½ of your Save Our Homes exemption -- \$250,000 – and apply it to your new home so you would pay taxes on only \$150,000.

Critics point out several problems with creating portability this way. The main problem is that it will not end the unfairness. Neighbors with identical homes will still be paying tremendously different taxes. It is also thought that this helps wealthy persons more by giving owners of more expensive homes more of a tax break than owners of less expensive homes. Finally, some cities and counties may see huge tax losses because of this. For example, if residents from high property areas in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties move to less expensive areas, they will take their \$500,000 maximum or large proportion of Save Our Homes with them. The homes they purchase will have little if any tax assessments.

It is thought that creating portability of Save Our Homes will help the slow housing market. However, it is also widely believed that

creating portability of an already inequitable tax break will be subject to legal challenge as being unconstitutional, and thus, may create years of uncertainty as the legal challenges wind through the courts. This will certainly not help housing as residents will not know the correct property taxes for homes they are considering buying.

### 3) Cap on Commercial Tax Rates:

Currently commercial properties, condos and homes that are not eligible for a homestead are taxed at their full value. The Constitutional Amendment will cap the annual increase in the assessed value of commercial and non-homestead property at 10 percent. This is felt to be basically meaningless since such properties are not likely to increase in value over 10 percent, unless they were assessed at artificially low levels.

## What Is Not Addressed

Unfunded Mandates: During the Special Session, the Florida League of Cities urged the Legislature to reduce some of the unfunded mandates the Legislature requires cities and counties to pay under State law. For example, increased costs to cities and counties of elections to comply with state law, increased costs for pensions, health insurance and workers comp to comply with state requirements and other such state requirements cost cities and counties in

Florida millions of dollars per year. While these state law requirements may be laudable, there is no state funding that pays for cities and counties compliance. We indicated that if the Legislature reduced or did away with some of these expenses cities and counties are forced to pay, we would be able to reduce our expenses and consequently our taxes without reducing services we provide our residents. The Legislature, however, did not address any of the items we asked that they look at. Thus, the only way cities and counties can reduce expenses is by cutting services.

Tax Structure: Nothing in the Constitutional Amendment changes the tax structure. There will still be no major revenue alternatives for schools, cities, counties, public hospitals, water management districts and other special districts. If such governments are going to be able to continue to provide services, taxes will have to continue to increase, unless the Legislature provides for other revenue sources.

First Time Home Buyers: The proposed Constitutional Amendment does absolutely nothing to help first time home buyers. Those that qualify will have the benefit of the additional homestead exemption. However, creating portability of Save Our Homes does not help people who are buying their first home.

No Analysis of Economic Impact: The Legislature, in their rush to come out with something for the Jan. 29, election, did not perform any economic impact whatsoever on how some of these components will affect the State, cities, counties, schools, hospitals, businesses, or residents. Economists are now studying this, but will likely not have accurate information before Jan. 29. For other legislative and Constitutional proposals that have such drastic economic consequences, the State has required and performed important analysis. By not addressing sufficiently property taxes for commercial, rental and vacation properties, it is thought that this will make Florida too costly for tourists to continue visiting our State or businesses to locate or to remain in Florida. Florida's economy, like many states, is already significantly challenged. The State should study and give voters the economic impact of the proposed Constitutional amendment prior to asking them to vote on it.

Update continued on page 22



**Bottom Line**

Everyone needs to do their own analysis as to how this affects them. If you are planning on moving, the portability of Save Our Homes may be important to you. However, if you do not own homestead property or do not have plans to move, you may feel that this "quick fix" does not really help your property tax issues. Interestingly, a leading proponent for property tax reform, State Rep. Dan Gelber, who is currently the Democratic leader in the Florida House of Representatives, does not support the Jan. 29, Constitutional Amendment and hopes that it does not pass. He and many others who are involved in this issue believe that if this proposal, which was crafted only over a matter of days under huge political pressure, does not pass, the Legislature will do the serious work to come up with a better reform of property taxes. They will engage economists and experts to look at the tax system as a whole, and come up with real reform, as opposed to a quick fix proposal that makes for a good legislative sound bite, but don't fix the problem.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions on this or other issues affecting our City and our State. Please feel free to contact me at 954-566-0054, or via email at garyresnick@aol.com.

# DOG DAYS COMING IN MARCH! Make your DOG a star!

By Jessica Basi

Greetings neighbors and fellow dog enthusiasts. Winter is here, the weather is beautiful and sunny South Florida is the place to be. What better time to have the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association Dog Days event?

The Dogs Days event will be held on Sunday, March 9th, 2008 at our own Middle River Terrace Park and like last year, will host hundreds of pooches and their persons. This exciting and fun-filled event is sure to be well attended and is not only a great community event designed to increase awareness of homeless animals, but also acts as a fundraiser for the MRTNA. As always, funds raised for the MRTNA go directly back into our community to fund projects that serve to make our neighborhood safe and beautiful.

Activities for this year's Dog Days event will include a variety of contests like the "dog-owner look-a-like," the "most marvelous mutt," and "best dog trick," to name a few. In addition, there will be informational booths, free giveaways, a bounce house, great food and tons more fun for the whole family to enjoy. If you're interested in volunteering for the event, please email the MRTNA at MiddleRiverTerrace@hotmail.com.

Tickets are only \$2.00 so come on out, bring your "best friend" and your family too, for a chance to win great prizes, meet your neighbors, support your community and have a great time! Call Jessica at (954) 524-7870 for more information.



## Fort Lauderdale Historical Society to Host Teacher Open House

at the New River Inn, 231 SW 2nd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) will host a Teacher Open House on January 12th from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The event is open to all teachers, administrators and faculty of Broward County public and private schools.

The purpose of the Open House is to introduce teachers and faculty to the new education and outreach programs that FLHS has to offer. The FLHS has many programs centered on educating children about the city's early history. Through our education programs, students step back in time and see what life was like in the Pioneer days, before electricity and indoor plumbing. Students also experience firsthand what a school day was like in 1899.

The Open House is also a chance for administrators and teachers to familiarize themselves with the FLHS site which includes: the 1905 New River Inn, which houses the Museum of History and was the first building in Broward County to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places; the 1905 Philemon Bryan House, a four-square Vernacular style house; the 1905 Acetylene Building, which produced acetylene gas to light the New River Inn; and the 1907 King-Cromartie House, which belonged to one of the first pioneer families in Fort Lauderdale. The site also includes a replica of the first Broward County school house and the Hoch Heritage Center, a public research library that holds the largest collection of material related to greater Fort Lauderdale, including more than 250,000 historic photographs.



To RSVP for the Open House, please contact FLHS Education Director Jamie Melissa Wilms at 954-463-4431 X 12.

Students learning lessons from 1899.

## HELP AN OLD SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK AGAIN!



Southside School was built in 1922 on land donated by Frank and Ivy Stranahan. A local architect, John Peterman, designed the school in the mission style, a popular design of the time. Generations of local students attended Southside until the school bell rang for the last time on June 8, 1967. For several years after it was used for educational programs and later administrative offices. Finally, in the 1980's it was boarded up.

For many years, the City of Ft. Lauderdale and its citizens worked to acquire the property. In 2004 the property was acquired by the City. The Friends of Southside organization was formed to assist with the preservation of this historic building. In cooperation with the City, Friends of Southside are fundraising, working with architects & builders, collecting memorabilia and planning programs. The goal of creating Southside Cultural Center of the Arts is finally within our reach.

We need your help to restore this grand old school house to its former role as a vital part of our community!

"Friends of Southside" is a group dedicated to restoring Southside School. Join us and help transform this landmark into a community art and cultural center.

Call to help at (954) 524-1922.





By Kevin Lane

## Artist Micro Credit Program Offers "Revolving-Loan" To Artists

The Artist Micro Credit Program is designed to assist Broward-based practicing, professional, and emerging artists, to advance their work and careers with financing of their projects. This new "revolving-loan" program can provide assistance to eligible individual artists (and arts-related businesses), who cannot obtain funding from conventional sources.

The program's funds can be used for arts-related projects, artistic and product development, and artists' business development purposes.

There will be a free Artist Micro Credit Program Workshop on Saturday, January 19, 2008 from 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. at Nova Southeastern University's Alvin Sherman Library, Room 4009, Research and Information Technology Center, 3100 Ray Ferrero Jr. Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, 33314. There is no fee for the afternoon workshop but space is limited so please register online at [http://www.broward.org/arts/grants/micro\\_credit/welcome.htm](http://www.broward.org/arts/grants/micro_credit/welcome.htm) or call (954) 357-7502.

## 'Breathe Free' Is The Theme Of Women's Lung Health Luncheon

Kathy Molinet, ARNP and Marietta Glazer, RN, PhD, are Co-Chairs for the Friday, February 1st 'Breathe Free'



Kathy Molinet, ARNP, Carol Miller, Ph.D, Siva Dasan, Managing Partner of Bonefish Grill and Marietta Glazer, RN, PhD

# KEVIN'S KORNER

Women's Lung Health Luncheon to be held at the Bonefish Grill at 6282 North Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in this country, with lung cancer killing more women than breast, ovarian and cervical cancer combined," according to Elizabeth Roberts, Development Coordinator, ALAF.

The fundraising luncheon, presented by the Broward County Medical Association and the Broward County Medical Association Alliance, will honor t.v. anchor of WPLG Kristi Krueger and Stephanie Krulik.

Mark Schumacher, Director of Foundation and Marketing for the Children's Hospital of Broward Health will be the Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Dana Wallace is the keynote speaker. To balance the seriousness of the afternoon program, there will be a lively, informal fashion show featuring Sassy & Classy and Ace Sun Wigs.

Anyone interested in attending should call Elizabeth Roberts at (954) 524-4657.

## An "Evening of Jazz, Chocolate & Wine" Teams Bonnet House With Gold Coast Jazz Society

The 2nd annual "Evening of Jazz, Chocolate & Wine" at Bonnet House takes place on Thursday January 17, starting with a wine reception at 7:00 p.m., followed by Sassy Dancing under a tented pavilion to the hot tunes of the Bonnet House Jazz Band consisting of Dolph Castellano, Nicki Orta, Danny Berger and Erik Allison. During the intermission, coffee, tea, and chocolate goodies will be served. Co-chairs are Diane Linder and Fran Koerner. Admission to the event is \$25.00 per person members, \$30.00 per person, general ad-



(Seated) Sami Settlemier (Standing) Diane Linder, Maureen Dornau, Sondra St. Martin, Gini Vyfvinkel

mission. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 954-563-5393, Extension 126. The Bonnet House Museum and Gardens is open to the Public Tuesday-Sunday and closed on Monday. Visit [www.bonnethouse.org](http://www.bonnethouse.org)

## Operas Films To Be Screened At Cinema Paradiso In HDTV Format & Dolby Digital Sound... Wow!

The Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (FLIFF), along with the Florida Grand Opera (FGO) and Emerging Pictures, in an exclusive American collaboration with RAI Trade, will bring the Operas from La Scala and two other prestigious Italian opera houses to Cinema Paradiso. The operas were recorded live in gorgeous HDTV format with Dolby Digital sound. Each month through May, 2008, a different Opera will be featured in both a weekend matinee and week night primetime screening.

On Tuesday, January 22nd, Tristan Und Isolde will be screened. Under Daniel Barenboim's baton and with Patrice Chéreau's direction, Tristan, is the project that Daniel Barenboim, one of the greatest Wagnerian maestros, had been dreaming of staging with Patrice Chéreau, soon after the director left one of the most memorable marks in the story of staging on the Ring, 25 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for General Admission/\$18.00 for FLIFF and FGO members. For information, call (954) 525-FILM or [www.fliff.com](http://www.fliff.com). The theatre is at 503 S.E. 6th Street.

## Classical Music Returns! 89.7 FM WMCU Is On The Air

Classical music lovers have something to celebrate! While we had heard that there was a new classical music station, it wasn't until the programming on the radio station we usually listen to while writing, held little interest. So, we 'Googled' classical music stations in Miami and much to our delight, we discovered that WMCU, located at 89.7 on your FM dial, was broadcasting classical music 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! We've been listening to

it ever since.

The 100,000 watt radio station was recently acquired by American Public Media Group (APMG) and we couldn't be happier! "As one of public media's most active champions of classical music, we are pleased with this opportunity to contribute to southeastern Florida's cultural vitality by bringing classical music back to the airwaves," said Bill Kling, president and CEO of American Public Media Group. Enjoy!

## Mario and Phyllis Argiro Host Reception For Daughter's Shoe Designer Client

Mario and Phyllis Argiro, owners of Moda Mario, were beaming with pride recently when they hosted the launch of women's couture shoe designer Angelo Anastasio's new collection "Angeleigh Anastasio." Angelo is represented in the U.S. by Studio Sorelle, a multi-brand showroom for both women's and men's collections from Europe founded by their two daughters, Daniela, who recently married Luke Parker Bowles and Claudia Argiro. 'Sorelle' is the Italian word for sisters.

"We're very proud of Daniela and Claudia," Phyllis said. Growing up, they



took an active role in the business, traveling to Europe and New York City on buying trips and working in the store. They decided on their own that they wanted to pursue a career in the fashion industry.

Congratulations from this column. Moda Mario is at 820-822 East Las Olas. For information, call (954) 467-3258 or visit [www.modamario.com](http://www.modamario.com).

## About the Author:

Kevin Lane is a popular photographer and journalist covering society, fashion, entertainment, dining and South Florida Lifestyle. He's a Publicist with 'blue-chip' clients in the non-profit and for-profit sector and is a motivational speaker as well as a lecturer on historic and famous figures including Napoleon Bonaparte, Ancient Egyptian dynasties, Estee Lauder and famed tap dancer, Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson. He can be reached at [klane@gate.net](mailto:klane@gate.net).

Kevin invites your comments and can be reached at (954) 467-2624.



# MIDDLE RIVER TERRACE DIXIE HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION

## 67 neighborhood residents show up to clean up!

By Steve Kelley

On November 11, over 67 Middle River Terrace, and other, volunteers showed up at Dixie Highway to make this important road through the city look a lot more beautiful.

Great neighborhood volunteers took time out of their Saturday to plant nearly 300 trees, palms and decorative shrubs. Neighbors mulched the new plantings and trimmed previously planted trees and shrubbery. Best of all, almost all of the \$2,000 in trees and other materials were paid for by donations. The fish mural at the USA Grocer on 15th Street was also nicely refurbished and expanded.

Thanks to residents who care, this was a superb example of neighborhood activism.

Thanks to everyone who helped!



Here's some of the many volunteers who gave up weekend time to work on Dixie Highway. City Commissioner Cindy Hutchinson (and mayoral candidate) was the only elected official to show up.

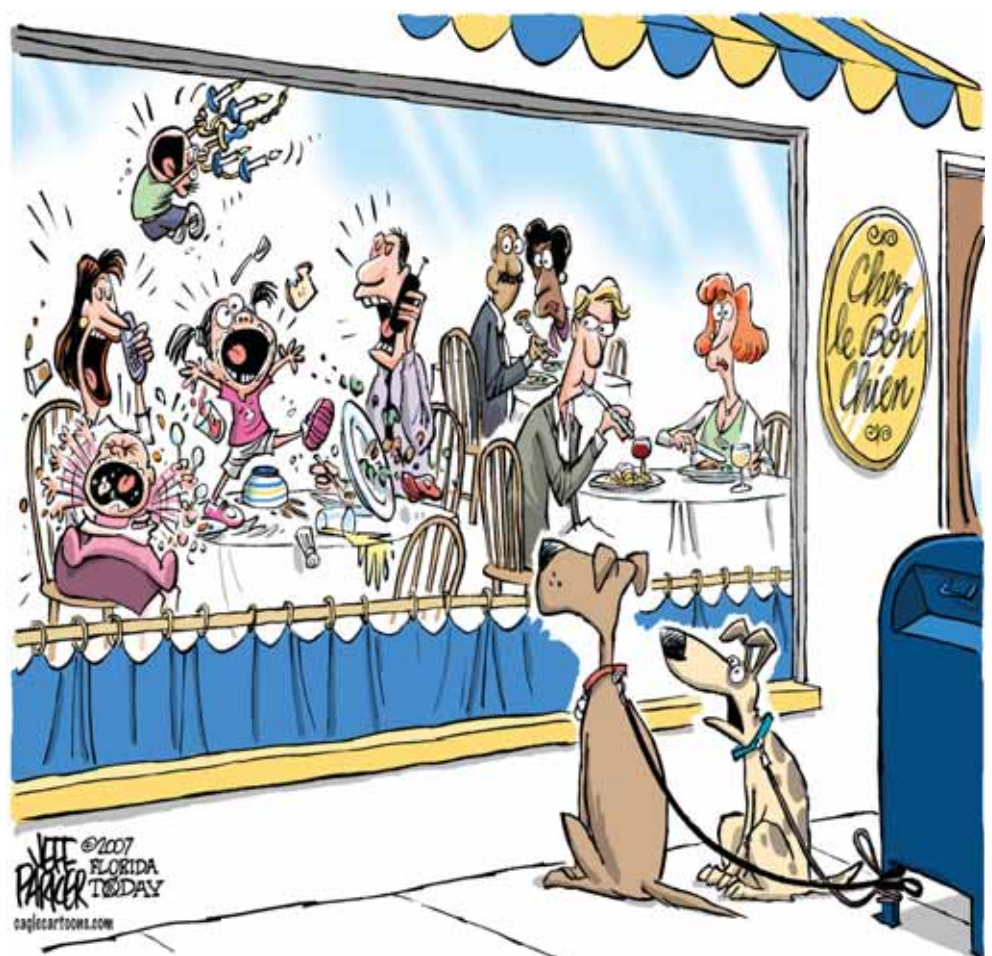
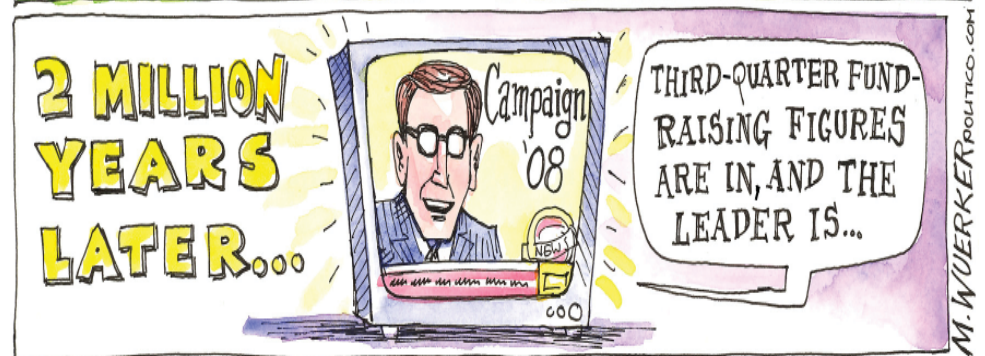
Below, the elderly even got into the act! Here, a local "resident" from a nearby "home" was let out for an hour for a few puny swings of a pickaxe. A nurse was in attendance.



We also had good folks like Genia Ellis from Harbor Beach helping out - Genia knows the business end of a shovel!



# cartoons





# Restaurant Review

## LAS OLAS CAFÉ ... THE HIDDEN GEM ON LAS OLAS FOR ROMANTIC DINNERS

**LUSHLY LANDSCAPED COURTYARD ... INTIMATE DINING ROOM ... & DAYTIME PRIVATE PARTIES**

By Kevin Lane

Chef Ernesto Rado came to the Las Olas Cafe with an impressive history of fine dining experience. His apprenticeship dates back to his early years, working under the tutelage of his father, Master Chef Fernando Rado, whose popular restaurant "Fernando's" was a mainstay of the trendy Miraflores district of Lima Peru.

Chef Rado arrived in Fort Lauderdale in 1993 and spent years honing his skills and gathering experience from working in various types of restaurants. He has lent his culinary talents to notable local restaurants as the "Grill Room" and the "Left Bank." His restaurant experience includes

learning to master the art of Italian, French, Mediterranean, and Asian cooking. Combining this experience - Chef Rado has created his own brand of culinary fusion. For the past eight

years, Las Olas Cafe has been very fortunate to have Chef Rado at the helm as he continues to please the palettes of discerning diners nightly at the Las Olas Cafe...

Enjoy the lushly landscaped court-



*Chef Ernesto Rado*

yard or the charming inside dining area and have your next private party, wedding reception, bridal or baby shower at the Las Olas Cafe.

Your party may start with mimosas and passed hors d'oeuvres in the picturesque courtyard. Nibble on duck quesadilla, miniature crab crakes and enjoy the mimosa as you relax in the shuttered courtyard.

Upon entering the intimate inside dining area - a customized menu is placed upon each table setting as to welcome each guest. Entre' choices may include the walnut crusted Mahi Mahi, their signature dish, homemade pine nut ravioli or maybe our herb crusted rack of lamb or any of our other choices off our private party menu. Their delicious homemade desserts will surely tempt you.

The dining room is yours to enjoy, relax, have a meeting or just spend time with your family and friends. The Cafe will expertly coordinate an intimate event to suit your needs. Just a few feet off at 922 Las Olas Boulevard - lies this hidden gem.

Visit [www.lasolascafe.com](http://www.lasolascafe.com) or call (954) 524.4300

## EVERY DAY IS A HOLIDAY AT A CHRISTMAS PLACE

January sale is on!

By Robert Cherin

Yes, Virginia, it is that time of year again. But for the Cullanin family every day is Christmas.

Jim and Ryan, father and son and the best of friends, are the proprietors for one of Fort Lauderdale's best known landmarks, A Christmas Place, south Florida's most merry place, and the busiest.

"Thanksgiving is one of the few days off we get, Christmas day, too," Jim said. The few days they get to sneak away, they do that together, too. They go scuba diving, using underwater cameras instead of spear guns.

And what is Christmas without little ones, smiling and expectant? At any given time there must be 30 or more moms pushing strollers or handholding their wanting-to-touch tots as they browse the thoughtful displays of Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa items. A musical trio consisting of a four foot tall Santa, and two elves a foot shorter, enthrall the kids. Moms are agog by

the tree decorations and bedazzled by neon-bright LED (light emitting diode) lights.

The Cullanin family has long owned eight other stores in the Albany, NY area, in business for three decades. They purchased the 33-year-old Fort Lauderdale store in 1999. One look at A Christmas Place, and you see why Macy's and Bloomingdale's should take merchandising lessons from Jim and Ryan. There are thousands of square feet of so many items, and how they situated every thing so it became a winter wonderland, the ideal place to escape a typical wilting July or August south Florida afternoon.

Jim said, "We have everything there is, pretty much, that has to do with Christmas. The big, big thing is that we are a one-stop shop. If it has to do with Christmas, it's here."

From trees to menorahs, this is the place to be. To make it so, the Cullanins go shopping for holiday ware worldwide. There are miniature rural American towns, some with snow covered train depots and roofs, the church steeple; cheerful elves in green clothes and mukluks that seem to smile as you pass; a nativity scene like no other, with lit-up snowmen as witnesses that brighten the blessed event, and so much more.

A hot item for A Christmas Place this season is a tree that shapes itself. "We're the only place in the country that has

trees that shape themselves. As soon as you take it out of the box, it has lights and it shapes itself. You just plug it in and decorate it," Jim said. "We call it The Instant Shape Tree." Another big thing for us this year is LED lights. "It's a new type lighting, much brighter, cool to the touch," Jim said. "It uses 90 percent less energy. It saves a lot of power and lasts forever."

"Any kind of new cool lighting out there that we see, we tend to pick up," Ryan said. "We're on the cutting edge of innovation." And the Cullinans also are creative. Every artificial tree is exclusive to A Christmas Place. They design and have them manufactured, just for them.

"Ryan and I have made this place the second largest store of its kind in the country," Ray said. The store is open year round.

"We have all other holiday merchandise. For Easter, Valentine's Day, and all other holidays, but Christmas is always here," said Jim.

A perennial favorite is outdoor lighting. Although they carry every imaginable outdoor Christmas light, there are plenty of people who enjoy their shrubs and landscape lighting.

When night darkens the sky, A Christmas Place puts on a show. "The store is all decked out. The whole store has 80-100,000 lights on it," said Jim. "And people all dance and sing to music

that plays out front. So it's a sound and light show."

"Just tune your radio to 88.1," Ryan said. "It's broadcast locally, within the proximity of the store. All the lights go to the music. It's all synchronized. It's pretty much fun to watch."

Shortly after New Years Day the Cullanins will be off to buy for next Christmas. Jim says by April it must be done for 2008, "because then you have to give them a month, depending upon the item, to manufacture it. And then it's another month over the ocean in getting it here, so we can have it by June or July and start rebuilding the store." If you cannot make it to A Christmas Place physically, you can take a virtual tour by Internet, and purchase what you need.

A great deal of work is going into [WWW.ACHRISTMASPLACE.COM](http://WWW.ACHRISTMASPLACE.COM). "We're just starting the Internet business this year," Ryan said. "It's only been up for a month. We're adding more and more items daily." "We hope to get half the stuff on the site eventually," Jim said.


The smart money will be on Jim and Ryan getting everything on [ACHRISTMASPLACE.COM](http://ACHRISTMASPLACE.COM) before next Christmas. Visit the store at 800 NE 13th Street in Fort Lauderdale, 954-763-1403.





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# Letters



## IT FELT LIKE AN AIR RAID OVER MY HOUSE!

### Executive Airport Noise Problems

The beautifully clear and dry weekend of November 3rd and 4th gave us a chance to enjoy the fresh air and our peaceful backyard.

Unfortunately, it was ruined by an excessive number of louder than normal aircraft flying over our house. On at least a half-dozen occasions, our house literally shook and the noise was deafening. It felt like we were being subjected to an air raid!

Every time this happened we ran out to see what was causing such a commotion. To our astonishment and disbelief there was a huge plane that looked like an old World War II bomber with multiple propeller engines on both wings and was flying barely a few hundred feet above the telephone polls. No wonder why the house was trembling so badly.

I did something I've never done before. I called the Executive Airport Noise Abatement Line on Sunday the 4th. I naturally got a voice mail service but left a message about this noisy low flying plane. On Monday the 5th, I received a call from a nice lady named Stephanie at the airport who took some more information and promised to get back to me with information. Later that day after not hearing from her, I decided to give her a call. Stephanie informed me that her research indicated that an old B-17 warplane from World War II indeed was giving rides to people over the weekend and was on a tour of Florida visiting various airports. She insisted that the plane was flying at 1,100 feet above the ground and that was normal VFR flight levels.

I strongly disagreed with her, as I have been diligent about noticing the level of the planes flying over my house. This plane was about 500 to 600 feet maximum above the house. I told her that I wish I had a video camera to prove this. There were several people at my home who confirmed the extremely low level of that particular plane.

Stephanie gave me the website of the

plane's company and the phone number for the FAA then said there was nothing she could do about it. As I hung up the phone, I had the immediate feeling of little Cindy Loo Hoo from the Grinch Who Stole Christmas being dismissed by the Grinch, patted on the head and sent to bed.

After reading recent newspaper reports about the airport authorities dismissal of the city of Oakland Park's airport noise complaints, I began to realize that nobody in current power seems to care about the safety and well being of the residents. All they do is pass the buck to other agencies.

I've spoken to Christine Teel several times in the past who assured me that everything is being done to minimize the noise level. Although I believe her to be sincere, I don't believe that any substantial action is being taken.

The recent plane crash on Route 95 at Commercial Boulevard should be a wake-up call to the authorities about the dangers this airport present to the residents. As I said to Stephanie, the authorities seem to be waiting for a major catastrophe before they act on the airport safety and noise issues.

It's nice to hear that the airplane company has no problem collecting \$399 per person for a flight on this vintage plane for those who can afford such luxury.

It's too bad that they have no respect for the residents of the city that they are flying over and making money off of. Could it have hurt them to fly at a higher level?

This inconsideration by all parties is just not acceptable.

Rod Mirchev, Fort Lauderdale

### Submitting your letter to the Editor:

Emailed letters are best - email your letter to: [letters@citynewsfl.com](mailto:letters@citynewsfl.com)  
Letters can be mailed to:

Ft. Lauderdale City News  
P. O. Box 347  
300 E. Oakland Park Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

## PALAZZO LAS OLAS - THE PROJECT THAT WON'T DIE

In 2003, about 200 residents went to a meeting at City Hall to persuade our City Commissioners that public land should not be turned over to developers for private financial gain. The City Commission agreed. Predictably the developer sued the City (that's us). This enormous project or site-plan is known as the Palazzo Las Olas.

Though it seemed that this plan, whenever presented to the community, frequently changed, in the final analysis it included a hi-rise, hi-density condo, big parking garage and a number of small and large commercial enterprises all of which would be located where the Las Olas parking lot is today. In addition to the noise from garbage trucks, delivery trucks, buses, and cars and the ensuing traffic tie-ups resulting from so many people living and shopping and parking in this area, it appeared that the developer was getting a very sweet financial deal building on land owned by taxpayers...too good of a deal!

The Las Olas parking lot is the only open space of any significance remaining on the beach. It is the only area where people not only have a needed place to park but residents and visitors are also able to enjoy the view of the Intracoastal Waterway and the many boats docked at this location. How visionary it would be if the City Commission used this precious land not only for parking which is greatly needed, but also a real park with lots of grass, trees, flowers, park benches, lights etc. so people and future generations will forever enjoy the magnificence of the Intracoastal Waterway...a view mostly lost due to the excessive hi-rise condos built along this Waterway.

So what happened with the lawsuit? The City requested that this case be dismissed in whole because the Palazzo group's site-plan was in violation of the ULDR (Unified Land Development Regulations), no contracts were approved and the City commission rejected this plan. The Broward Court agreed. The Palazzo developers appealed to the Fourth District Circuit Court of Appeals which ruled that the case should not have been dismissed outright and referred the matter back to the Broward Court. So what's next? The question before the lower court will be whether the developer is entitled to any damages. The issue is not whether they can build on this property. It all boils down to money! Surprise, surprise! Well, developers cannot violate the ULDR codes so any costs incurred should, in my opinion, be borne by them. Maybe the City ought to sue the Palazzo group for the legal expenses they are inflicting on taxpayers! Just a thought!

Mel Rubenstein, Ft. Lauderdale



PALAZZO LAS OLAS  
VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



# MARGE'S MUSINGS . . .

by Marge Anderson  
(954) 467-8641

## Editors note:

During 2007, Marge Anderson wrote extensively about Social Service Residential Facilities (SSRF's) invading our neighborhoods.

These facilities look like apartment buildings and serve as halfway houses for drug addicts, convicted felons and other problematic individuals. They are often blights on our neighborhoods and cause great problems for those who live next to them.

SSRF's are often secretly established and expanded while pretending to be a "normal" neighbor. Given the scale of new construction, they appear to have a lot of money. Do they get taxpayer money to "privatize" some government program? If you know anything about their funding, call (954) 564-1308.

She also emphasized that ordinances had been enacted to oversee the placement of these facilities so that some neighborhoods would not be burdened with too many facilities.

Why the secrecy? Are the ordinances not being enforced? In this issue, she tries to get some answers from our elected officials and Code Enforcement.

## Social Service Residential Facilities continue to open and operate

It has been seven months since I began writing about the proliferation of Social Service Residential Facilities in our neighborhoods, and about the difficulty in finding information about their licensing and operation.

Properties around Fort Lauderdale continue to be bought up.

Questions continue about their proposed use and the enforcement of the Dispersal Rule; (A Social Service Residential Facility (SSRF) may not occupy a site within 1500 feet of another SSRF or Day Care Facility).

One property, 715 NE 6 Street, had been a nuisance in Victoria Park for months. Noisy announcements were made each morning; vans came and went; a red hazardous waste dumpster was placed in plain sight. Police and Code personnel visited and their answer to queries was "the property is under investigation."

Now the property is empty and

under renovation. By whom? "The owner," was the reply of the City. What are plans for the future? "No future plans are known," said the City. Did the City find a "threshold of evidence" to close this place which was operating as an SSRF but licensed as an "apartment house?" No one knows (or no one asks). Commissioner Rodstrom says she is asking for information. She is receiving very little.



All the pictures were all taken in Poinciana Park, where it appears the SSRFs are much too close to one another. Note that SSRF's never seem to "pop up" in "nice" neighborhoods like Las Olas.

Meanwhile, residents in Poinciana Park have a list of more than 30 properties that they are looking at. The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office shows that many of them are owned by the same groups.

A drive through the neighborhood shows signs posted by the same groups. Emails to me have mentioned the names Coloney Ventures, Liberty House, Broward House, and Recovery USA. Residents are asking only for the laws and codes of Fort Lauderdale to be applied and enforced fairly to achieve their intended purpose of providing a safe and desirable place to work and live. Commissioner Hutchison has been contacted with a request for information.

Poinsettia Heights also reports an SSRF at 1445 NE 16 Avenue. An article in their neighborhood newsletter with the headline, "Unlicensed Halfway House in Poinsettia Heights?" apparently had some results.

Residents report that since the article appeared, the house is now populated by several women, but they are not nearly as visible as the former tenants, who spent much of their time on the front porch or in the front yard. However, the property continues to deteriorate and licensing is still under question.

Recently, Commissioner Teel was brought into the controversy by reports of a possibly unlicensed SSRF at 3100 Commercial Blvd. and 3041 NE 49 Street, in her district. Broward County Property Appraiser's website shows "no records found" when these addresses are entered.

The comment voiced most often is, "everyone is afraid of lawsuits." Why? Apparently there was a case

in Boca regarding alcoholics or drug addicts living in rental apartments. A group there rented apartments, town homes, and single-family homes to individuals who are recovering from substance addiction so they can live in an alcohol and drug-free environment.

These people are considered "persons with disabilities" under federal law; and federal law prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Does this mean these facilities will demand exceptions be made to our codes, such as maximum people per square foot, or SSRF's within 1500 of each other or a day care? Does this mean that neighborhoods must accept lower standards of safety; lower standards of enjoyment of their environs? Does this mean neighborhoods must simply accept that these matters are "under investigation" with no further explanation?

For a growing number of Fort Lauderdale residents, this is simply unacceptable.





# Business Announcements

## LOCAL DESIGNER'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO CHILDREN

At the annual "Christmas on Las Olas" that was held on November 27th, 2007 this year, Cynthia Muni of Cynthia Muni Design located at 111 SE 8th Avenue, Venezia Las Olas in Fort Lauderdale donated time and materials to create and construct the "Photos with Santa" booth that benefited Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation. The booth along with the "Santa" was one of the highlights of the evening.

Approximately 300 photos were taken at the booth and generated over \$1500 that will help support the Foundation's mission to help seriously ill chil-



dren and their families with programs designed to restore some of the laughter and happiness illness takes away.

"Children fighting serious medical conditions often feel like they're alone. They don't get to see their friends as often as they'd like.

Most of their time is spent shuffling between hospital rooms or meeting with physicians. With so much commotion on the outside, it can be easy to forget that there's a child on the inside. Starlight Starbright makes sure that never happens."

For more information call Cynthia Muni at 954-802-9752.

## THE FRAME STUDIO SAYS MAKE TIME FOR A FAMILY PORTRAIT

Now days it seems like we are all too busy. We run in and out of places, checking off one "to do" item after another. It's hard to enjoy life when it's flying past you as you scramble to get it all done. With all we manage to accomplish, how come it's so easy to go 5 years without a family portrait? How come we all have air looms and favorite items sitting in a drawer or a box waiting for a frame? Well now there is a place in your neighborhood that has the feel of the good old days. Remember when a shop was run by the owner, and they cared about your happiness.

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## VICTORIA PARK'S INFANT MONTESSORI HOUSE OPENS

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Please contact us at 954-462-4564 to schedule a tour or visit us on our website at [www.thenurtury-montessori.com](http://www.thenurtury-montessori.com).

## Bonnet House Museum & Gardens Receives Highest National Recognition

Awarded Accreditation from the American Association of Museums

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens has achieved accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition for a museum.



Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public.

AAM Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for 35 years, AAM's museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable in order to provide the best possible service to the public.

Of the nation's nearly 17,500 museums about 775 are currently accredited. Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is one of only 48 museums accredited in Florida.

"Accredited museums are publicly committed to upholding and sustaining the highest standards and practices in the museum community," said Kim Igoe, AAM's Interim President and CEO. "Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is a proven leader in the museum field in providing the best possible museum services and experiences, reminding both their peers and the public exactly how much museums really matter to their communities."

Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. To earn accreditation a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, consider the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation. While the

time to complete the process varies by museum, it generally takes as much as three years.

"AAM accreditation signifies excellence within the museum community," said Karen Beard, Bonnet House CEO. "It is an honor to be recognized for meeting the highest professional standards for a museum. AAM accreditation positions us to participate in exchanges of exhibitions and loans with leading national and international museums. To receive AAM accreditation, we had to meet a series of high standards that AAM uses to measure professionalism in the field—particularly the manner in which collections, both living and non-living, are curated."

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is a 35 - acre subtropical estate and historic house museum located in the heart of Ft. Lauderdale. Bonnet House, in addition to being open for guided public tours six day per week, October through August, offers a myriad of specially designed programs including school programs, adult programs and family programs. Bonnet House also has membership opportunities for local artists, emerging professionals and socialites.

Music students from nearby universities and opera companies gain experience through their performances on property in the Young Artist Music Series and orchid enthusiasts have an opportunity to see and buy an exclusive selection of orchids as well as learn how to grow and care for orchids in their own homes. The mission of Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is to preserve, interpret and share the unique and eclectic historical legacy - artistic, architectural and environmental - of the Bartlett and Birch families, inspiring in our diverse audiences an appreciation for creative expression, historic preservation and natural conservation, while enhancing the educational, cultural and economic growth of the community.

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens -- 900 North Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale.

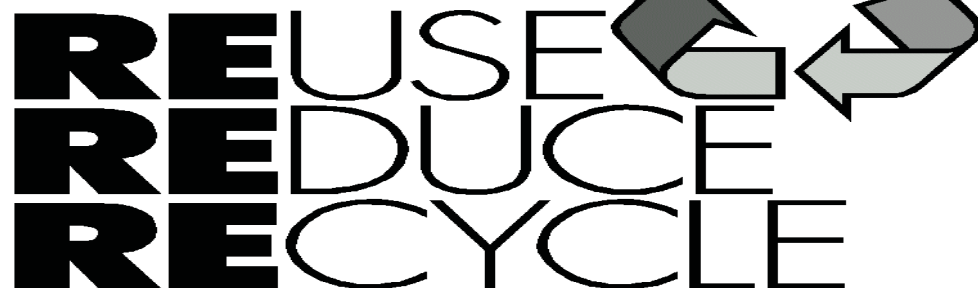
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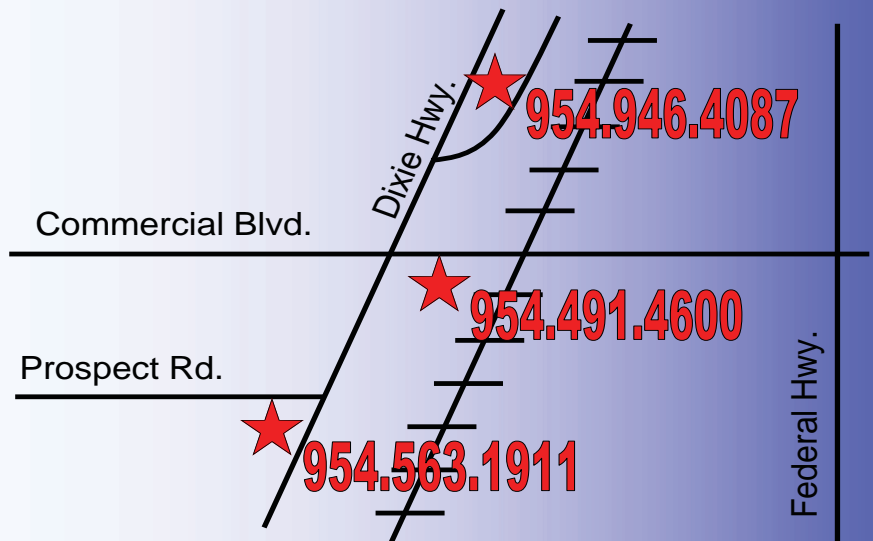
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