

Fort Lauderdale City News

FORT LAUDERDALE EXECUTIVE AIRPORT: A GROWING THREAT TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Executive Airport quietly, and secretly, being expanded as more noise and other problems impacts neighborhoods

By Steve Kelley

"You're taking money out of my pocket and putting it in to your pockets," said one Coral Ridge resident at the public meeting called by the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) to explain a Master plan which included options of expansion of the airport runways and other "build-more-stuff" scenarios. The staff of FXE believe it is their mission to fuel this "economic generator" as they proudly celebrate their 60 year Anniversary. This is a direct conflict of interest with the

Continued on page 2



Ft. Lauderdale City News

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

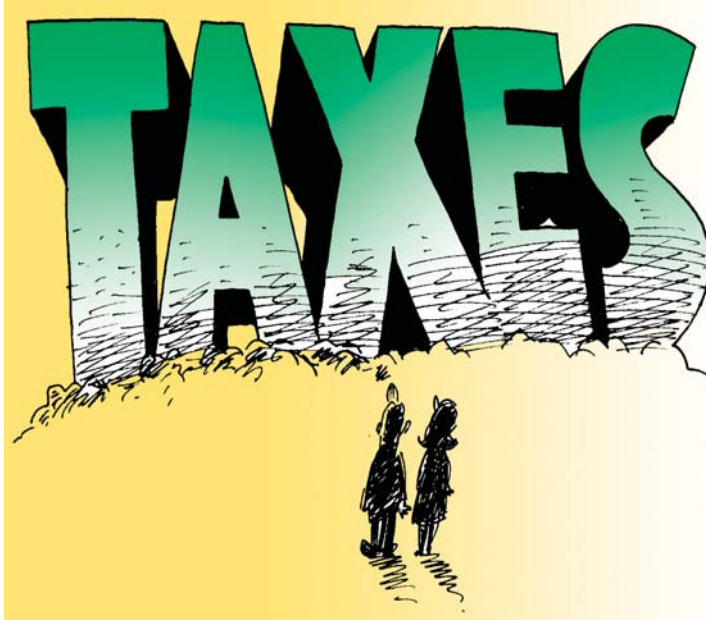
Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
FORT
LAUDERDALE, FL
Permit No. 2670

"It's All About Property Taxes"

By Broward County Commissioner,
Ken Keechl, District 4

During my campaign for the Broward County Commission, I made several fundamental promises to you. First and foremost, I promised you that I would never vote to increase your property taxes. I intend to keep my promise.

Let's start with the basics. Just exactly how can you determine if the Broward County Commission is increasing your property taxes for its next fiscal year, 2008?



It's simple: Look for the soon to be published state-defined "rolled-back" millage rate. This "rolled-back" rate is determined yearly in Tallahassee. It is determined by the total amount of property taxes in the current year's budget, plus an increase in estimated new taxes from new construction growth.

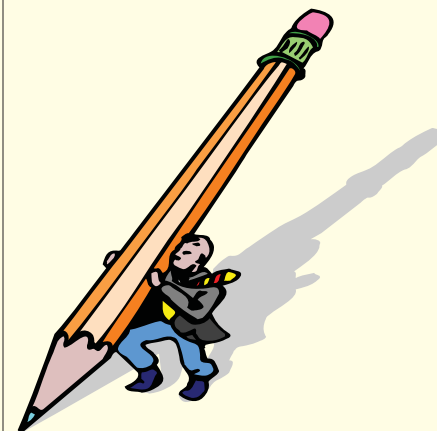
If the Broward County Commission votes to establish a millage rate for the fiscal year 2008 higher than the "rolled-back" millage rate, it's a tax increase. Period.

Our budgeting process is now underway. We have completed our first budget workshop and it seems to me that most of the County Commissioners recognize the high level of anger and frustration felt by the average Broward County taxpayer. Based on the Broward County Office of Management and Budget's rough estimate, we have been told that we must eliminate approximately \$54 million dollars from our \$3.7 billion dollar budget in order to establish a budget that doesn't raise property taxes. Obviously, it can be done; however, the real question is whether 5 of the 9 County Commissioners have the will to do so.

Trust me. As a Broward County Commissioner, I've already learned it's easier to say "yes" than to say "no" when someone is requesting

Continued on page 11

**Residents' Survey -
Tell Us What You Think**
page 24



Bringing it Home
Page 10



**Cigarette Litter at the
Beach - Page 22**



Inside

Dog Day page 7
Legislative Update page 10
Laud. Lumber page 11
Humor in Paradise page 12
Galt Gulag Tales page 14
I Led 2 Lives page 18
Kevin's Korner page 23
Residents' Survey page 24
Calendar page 30

THE FORT LAUDERDALE CITY NEWS WILL HOST A CITY-WIDE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT IN APRIL, 2007

We will recognize, and give awards to, the fine volunteers who have made our city great. There will be many categories covering all aspects of service and giving.

If you know an excellent and deserving volunteer in your neighborhood or organization, please send a nomination along with a short paragraph describing their volunteer activities.

Please Send it to:

**steve@citynewsfl.com or call
Steve Kelley at (954) 564-1308.**

**This event will be held in April, 2007.
Former City Commissioner Tim Smith
will be the Effervescent Emcee and good time
will be had by all.**

**Sponsors are welcome - if you have
an interest in building goodwill in the
community, call Steve Kelley at
the above number.**

Generously sponsored by:

**Dan O'Flaherty, Remax Realty
&**

Norman Fisher, The Mortgage Shoppe

Continued from page 1

surrounding neighborhoods' goal of "quiet peaceful enjoyment" of their property as guaranteed by the Florida Constitution.

Safety

On June 13, 2005, a DC 3 cargo plane departing from FXE crashed in an area surrounded by schools and residential properties. More than 150 residents packed a Town Hall Meeting called by the residents over the objections and sabotaging efforts of Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Christine Teel. She actually went to a neighborhood meeting and told residents not to attend because the Town Hall Meeting was "only" organized by residents and not "official." She did not tell them that the residents went to her first after the DC3 crash and demanded a public meeting. She said she wanted no part of it unless they would wait a couple of months so that she could politicize it and have then Congressman Clay Shaw, (who was running for re-election) to be front and center.

Instead, the neighborhoods organized it. With the help of then Florida Senator Ron Klein and U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz who both recognized the urgency of the situation, called for an emergency meeting with the FAA. Twelve homeowners associations attended, along with representatives from three municipalities, School Board members, State Representatives' staff and then State Senator Ron Klein (now newly elected US Congressman). They were able to get the FAA to answer tough questions. The audience found out that the FAA budget had cut back on inspectors on the ground at FXE. The pilot of the ill fated crash was carrying 3,200 pounds of granite to the Bahamas and the plane's certification had lapsed.

Inspections

The neighborhoods requested more FAA inspectors on the ground and surprise inspections monitoring planes departing from and arriving at FXE. Forcing compliance with FAA regulations and stronger policing will prevent systematic negligence of the airport operators to do their diligence. The Miami International Airport had cargo operations that were nicknamed by people familiar to the airport as "Corrosion corner or cockroach alley" where cargo plane operators took the least expensive, cost cutting procedures, overloading planes, stalling maintenance until absolutely necessary, and ultimately causing unsafe conditions for the surrounding communities in their flight path. The residents did not want that to happen here at FXE.

Noise

Ever increasing noise continues to be an issue for the neighborhoods surrounding the airport. Neighbors constantly complain of aircraft flying at lower and lower altitudes with more resultant noise. Without consulting the neighborhoods, our International Airport has quietly shifted some operations to the Executive Airport. They now require small planes coming in from the Bahamas and other areas to clear customs at FXE and not at the Fort Lauderdale International Airport. The Fort Lauderdale International Airport has also moved some businesses up to FXE such as engine repair services. These actions mean a lot more air traffic at FXE. How long will it be before we see commuter aircraft quietly shifted to FXE?

FXE has a Noise Abatement Hotline. (954) 828-666, to report noise complaints and low flying aircraft. They also maintain a log book of complaints with the names of those who call the hotline. Commissioner Teel said on February 20, 2007 that complaints were way down. However, when this reporter looked at the log book there were many entries for the past two months.

In the event that aircraft must take an easterly departure, homeowner associations requested that the Fort Lauderdale Air Traffic Control Tower assign the planes the 13/31 runway to travel over the Commercial Boulevard corridor which is approximately 1/2 mile south of the residential neighborhood, rather than on a straight out, easterly heading on runway 08/26.

This would eliminate the flight pattern over six schools- Floranada, Northeast, Rickards, Westminster, Pine Crest and North Andrews Gardens Elementary and hundreds of homes and reduce the likelihood a major catastrophe killing many citizens. This is not an unreasonable request.

Other airports across the nation do a much better job of policing pilots and placing restrictions and curfews on pilots flying planes with noise events over 65dB. The City of Albuquerque asked the FAA to approve a departure procedure requiring airplanes taking off to turn south on takeoff to avoid more populated areas to the north and it was granted.

This is where we should be spending our tax dollars. Instead, FXE spends heavily on faulty noise monitors which have consistently lost data, and on costly slick public relations materials to assure the community that they are doing all that they can to educate the pilots, holding annual events for pilot awards,

Continued on page 4

The Fort Lauderdale City News is published monthly by City News and serves the 176,000 residents of Fort Lauderdale.

Stephen M. Kelley, publisher, can be reached at (954) 564-1308.

Editorial Board

Tim Smith
Dan Lewis
Craig Sherritt
Ted Fling
Jon Albee
Lily Charles
Ernest Kelley

Contributing Writers

Dr. Grayson Walker
John Bernardo

Food and Entertainment

Kevin Lane
Rob Lowenberg

Art Direction & Ad Design:

Patti Smith
ads@citynewsfl.com

www.citynewsfl.com

**ADVERTISING RATES
& SIZES**

Deadlines for camera ready art and prepayment are the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Color ads are available - please call for prices. Adobe Acrobat files work best but we try to accommodate most graphic formats. Our monthly advertising rates and ad dimensions are:

Full Page - 12.25 inches high by 10.37 inches wide - \$1,500

Half Page - 6.125 inches high by 10.37 inches wide - \$800.00

Quarter Page - 6.25 inches high by 5.10 inches wide - \$450.00

For more information about advertising please call Steve Kelley at (954) 564-1308 or email your questions to ads@citynewsfl.com.

Mail may be sent to:

Ft. Lauderdale City News

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



Advertise in the new Fort Lauderdale City News and reach the residents of Fort Lauderdale!

Introductory Rates are
affordable and start at
\$1500 for a full page,
\$800 for a half page and only
\$450 for a quarter page.

Call Steve Kelley at
(954) 564-1308
for more information about
advertising to this huge and
high-quality audience.

Continued from page 2

and attending national symposiums. The staff even spends time in their monthly reporting on which household in which neighborhood calls FXE to report noise events. Many of these people are on the HOA's Airport Noise Committee and their calls represent the concerns of the neighborhood.

Aviation Advisory Board

Where was the leadership of Mayor Jim Naugle and Commissioner Christine Teel in the organization of this Town Hall meeting? Why are they consistent proponents of the Airport at the expense of the community? Why haven't they been proactive and initiated action? Fort Lauderdale Commissioners have consistently appointed pilots and people with aviation and economic interests on the Aviation Advisory Board who rubberstamp FXE staff recommendations carte blanche over the objections of the neighborhoods.

Their agenda seems to be "tell the neighbors what they want to hear" and then stack the Aviation Board with people whose opinion is just the opposite. The appointment on the Aviation Board is for up to six years with approval given annually. Neighborhood proponents called on

Teel and Naugle to remove the appointees from the Board if they do not live under the flight pattern affected areas and replace them with appointees who have sentiments reflecting the majority opinion of the voters who attended the meeting and were loud and clear.

When is the City Commission going to listen to the will of the people?

The Homeowner Associations would like elected officials who care for "the quality of life" issues for the neighborhoods.

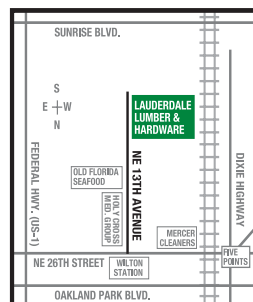
Next Month:

More on the secret growth of the Executive Airport and why they don't want you to know about it. Concerned about the airport? Send your letter to the editor to: steve@citynewsfl.com



Hello! Neighbor

Your local hardware and lumber store. Come visit!



Our 70 years of experience ensure that we sell only the highest quality lumber as our knowledgeable staff accepts only the best from our vendors. We provide traditional old-fashioned service with the advances of today's building materials.

We've been serving the community since 1937 for all your building needs and have relocated from our old downtown store to our new bigger and better Wilton Manor location.

We've changed our name to "Lauderdale Lumber and Hardware", but don't worry we've kept the friendly faces you've come to trust over the years and the great prices you've come to depend on.

- Lumber & Plywood
- Drywall • Hardware
- Millwork & Doors
- Quality Hand Tools & Accessories
- Concrete & Masonry & much more.
- Delivery available



(954) 537-0444

2449 NE 13th Avenue, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Contractors and Builders ask us about a revolving line of credit. We are open M-F from 7am to 5pm and we accept all major credit cards.

FOR ALL OF YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS CALL

"D" ELECTRICIANS

HOME • OFFICE • RESTAURANT • CONDOS

- SWITCHES & PLUGS
- CEILING FAN
- INSIDE / OUTSIDE LIGHTING
- BREAKER • PANEL
- COMPUTER NETWORK CABLING
- HOME STEREO WIRING

24HR EMERGENCY SERVICE

- HOME AUTOMATION
- POLE LIGHTS REPAIR
- MARINE ELECTRICAL
- GENERATOR
- REMODEL
- INSPECTIONS

- SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
- BUCKET TRUCK
- ALL WORK TO CODE
- ONE YEAR WARRANTY & LABOR

WE HONESTLY DO IT ALL

STATE REG. # ER13012890
LICENSED & INSURED

954-726-0394 • 800-675-9035
WWW.D-ELECTRICIAN.COM

Wilton Manors Nursery

Visit us at our great new location at 2430 NE 13th Avenue, right behind Old Florida Seafood on 26th Street. See our great selection of trees, shrubs, groundcovers & flowers.

Beautiful Pottery from Spain, Italy, Mexico, Asia & Vietnam

2430 NE 13th Avenue - Wilton Manors
(954) 564-9147

YOU ARE INVITED . . .

TO BE A PART OF
THE NEW

FORT LAUDERDALE
CITY NEWS

A CITY-WIDE PUBLICATION
FOR US AND BY US

YOUR ARTICLES ABOUT THE
IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING
FORT LAUDERDALE ARE WELCOME.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND ORGANIZATIONAL
NEWS ITEMS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR AND PICTURES ARE ALSO INVITED.

TO DISCUSS ARTICLE IDEAS AND POSSIBILITIES
PLEASE CALL STEVE KELLEY AT (954) 564-1308

Make Your Dog A Star!

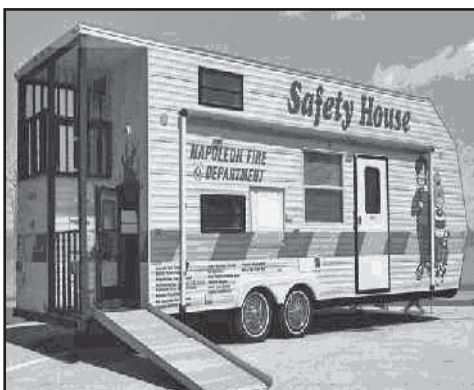
"Dog Day in the Park"

All the food, all the fun, all the great contests and raffles, and all the work that goes into making this event great are right around the corner. This year we hope to expand upon last year's successful Dog Day, and expect that it will be the best ever! This a fun dog event with lots of recognition for your great pet.

Sunday, March 18, Middle River Terrace Park - 10:00 am - to 4:00 pm
Rain or Shine ~ 1329 North Dixie Highway

- Dog Judging Contests • "Doggies on Parade!" • Local Entertainment • FLPD Canine Unit
- FLPD Mounted Patrol • FT Laud Fire Rescue • Community Vendors • Pet Rescue Groups
- Games, Raffles, Prizes • Scrumptious Food • Bounce House for kids • Fire Safety House!

For additional information or to purchase your tickets, please call 954 237-1769.



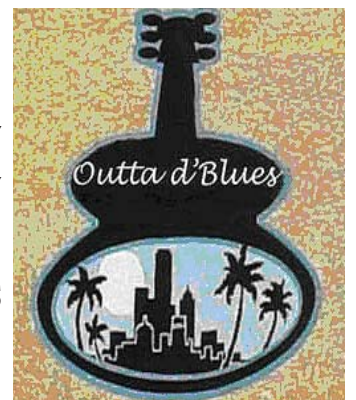
If you would like to be a part of the best Dog Day ever, please contact Dick at 954-237-1769 or

deatonfl@comcast.net to sign on.

If you or someone you know would like to sponsor the event, we have a sponsorship package that will fit any budget. Sponsors and vendors please contact Dick as soon as possible.

We look forward to partnering with you!

Live Music!
Featuring:
"Outta d' Blues"
A South Florida Blues Legend!



Exotic and Tropical Landscaping



- ✓ Custom Designs & Installation
- ✓ Unique Palm & Plant Nursery
- ✓ Complete Landscaping Service
- ✓ Brick Pavers - Marble - Natural Rock
- ✓ Professional Sprinkler Installation
- ✓ Beautiful Landscape Lighting
- ✓ Ask about our happy Ft. Lauderdale Customers

ALL TERRAIN LANDSCAPING
Residential & Commercial

(954) 565-6453

www.allterrainlandscaping.com
Since 1981 - Licensed & Insured



smile!

Experience the calm of Sedation Dentistry today!
Don't put off your dental care any longer.
Call Dr. Mitchel Senft's office for an appointment
and let us put the smile back on your face!

1-888-SEDATE-U

Bring in this ad and receive

50% off your first sedation!*



MITCHEL A. SENFT, DMD, PA
SEDATION DENTISTRY
Experience The Calm

6451 N. Federal Hwy., Ste. 129, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308
954-491-3544 • Fax: 954-491-3562

email: masmdpa@bellsouth.net • www.southfloridasedationdentistry.com

*Offer good thru 03-31-07. Valid only for new patients for first time sedation.

FTCN

List of Services:

Sedation Dentistry

- Preventive Dental Care
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Crowns
- Bridgework
- Bonding & Tooth Colored Fillings
- Root Canal Therapy
- Periodontal Treatment - Non-surgical & Surgical Care
- Implant Dentistry
- Extractions-Simple or Impacted
- Dentures Repairs & Replacements



The patient and any other person responsible for payment has a right to refuse to pay, cancel payment or be reimbursed for any other service, examination or treatment which is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free, discounted fee, or reduced fee service, examination or treatment.

LITLIVE! BRINGS LITERATURE TO LIFE AT 19TH ANNUAL LITERARY FEAST

Want to laugh with bestselling novelist Adriana Trigiani, author of the Big Stone Gap series? Talk football with New York Times sports columnist William Rhoden and former NFL great Doug Williams? Spend time with noted historian Jeff Shaara, literary figure Susan Cheever, and romance-adventure writer Jennifer Crusie?

You can do it all at Literary Feast's LitLIVE!, a free event designed to bring literature to life for Broward book-lovers of all ages. The event, which will feature 25 nationally known authors, book signings and entertainment, is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 24, on the Davie campus of Nova Southeastern University.

Literary Feast, the Broward Public Library Foundation's largest fundraising event, has grown the past 19 years into one of the most popular events of the season. Nova Southeastern University is the Title Sponsor for the sixth year, and the Sun-Sentinel is the Presenting Sponsor of the two-day Feast, which includes three separate events.

On Friday, March 23, Novel Day for Students, which is sponsored by BankAtlantic, kicks off Literary Feast as authors visit area high schools. This year for the first time, all Broward County high schools will have the opportunity to tune into a lecture by an author, thanks to videoconference capabilities provided by the district's television station, BECON, another Feast sponsor.

The Night of Literary Feasts is held that same evening, beginning with a cocktail reception with all of the authors at the Main Library in downtown Fort Lauderdale, followed by 19 dinners with authors at private homes and restaurants throughout the county. Tickets to the Night of Literary Feasts are \$150. Sponsorships are also available.

The literary festivities culminate on Saturday, March 24 with LitLIVE!, a free event formerly known as the Day of Literary Lectures, at NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center and its new University Center. A series of author talks will be held throughout the day, along with the opportunity to buy the authors' books and have them autographed. The authors will be appearing throughout the event in the Authors' Café, where LitLIVE! guests will have a chance to chat with them.

A special luncheon is planned at LitLIVE! with New York Times sports columnist William Rhoden, whose book

Third and a Mile, tells the story of the NFL's first black quarterbacks and their struggle to topple the sports world's racial barrier. Appearing with Rhoden is former NFL quarterback Doug Williams, who is featured in the book. Tickets for the luncheon, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Alvin Sherman Library, are \$50.

"This will be the most exciting Literary Feast ever," said Melinda Lee, vice president and community liaison for BankAtlantic, who is chairing the event with Meaghan Schneider, vice president of Bernstein. "Our goal is to open up the world of literature to high school students and younger adults. This year, the Library and LitLIVE! will be the popular place to be."

This year, Nova Southeastern University is providing shuttle buses from the Main Library to the Alvin Sherman Library for LitLIVE!. Shuttle buses will run throughout the day, beginning at 9:15 a.m. For reservations, please call the Literary Feast Hotline at 954-357-5954.

In addition to Nova Southeastern University, the Sun-Sentinel and BankAtlantic, sponsors include

Meeting of the Minds, Enyd and Elliot Sokolow; Platinum Sponsor, Comcast; LitLIVE!, The Albert E. and Birdie W. Einstein Fund; Gold Sponsors, Barnes & Noble, BECON, South Florida Business Journal, WPBT Channel 2; Silver Sponsors, Adorno & Yoss LLP, Bank of Florida, Comerica Bank, Hudson Family Foundation, Richard Ingham, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Maroone, an AutoNation company; Moss and Associates, Dr. Catherine Mozino and Joan Readding, Ocean Bank, Office Depot, Seitlin & Co., Shutts & Bowen, LLP and Helen and George Weaver.

The Broward Public Library Foundation was incorporated in 1982 to enhance the collections, programs and services of Broward County Library beyond the means of public funding. Since its formation, the Library Foundation has provided more than \$16 million to

the Library system. Today, it supports children's and literacy programs and library staff scholarships.

For Night of Literary Feasts or luncheon tickets, or for more information, call the Literary Feast Hotline, at 954-357-5954, or visit the Broward County Library's website, www.broward.org/library and click on Broward Public Library Foundation.

Participating authors for the 19th Annual Literary Feasts include:

- MARGARET AHNERT, *The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide*
- ISHMAEL BEAH, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*
- ANDREW CARROLL, *Grace Under Fire & Operation Homecoming*
- SUSAN CHEEVER, *American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work*
- JON CLINCH, *Finn*
- JENNIFER CRUSIE, *Don't Look Down*
- JOHN DICKERSON, *On Her Trail: My Mother, Nancy Dickerson, TV News' First Woman Star*



(Left to right) Mary Riedel, director of major gifts, Nova Southeastern University; Kate Waites, author of *Particular Friendships: A Covent Memoir*; Melinda Lee vice president of Bank Atlantic, Literary Feast co-chair; and Jorj Morgan, author of *Gorgeous! The Sum of All Your Glorious Parts*.

- FARRAH GRAY, *Reallionaire: Nine Steps to Becoming Rich from the Inside Out*
- MICHAEL GRUNWALD, *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida and the Politics of Paradise*
- CASSANDRA KING, *Queen of Broken Hearts*
- BRIAN LATELL, *After Fidel*
- LINDA FRANCIS LEE, *The Devil in the Junior League*
- DANIEL LEVITIN, *This Is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession*
- SUJATA MASSEY, *Girl in a Box*
- BOB MITCHELL, *Match Made in Heaven*
- JORJ MORGAN, *Gorgeous! The Sum of All Your Glorious Parts*
- SAM MOSES, *At All Costs: How A Crippled Ship and Two American Merchant Marines Reversed the Tide of World War II*
- T. JEFFERSON PARKER, *Storm Runners*
- WILLIAM RHODEN, *Fifth and a Mile*
- TOM SANTOPIETRO, *Considering Doris Day*
- JEFF SHAARA, *The Rising Tide: A Novel of World War II*
- YASMIIN SHIRAZ, *Privacy: A Novel*
- ADRIANA TRIGIANI, *Home to Big Stone Gap*
- ALISA VALDES-RODRIGUEZ, *Make Him Look Good*
- KATE WAITES, *Particular Friendships; A Covent Memoir*

CONTRACTORS CORNER

TONY'S TREE SERVICE DOES A FINE JOB WITH TREE REMOVAL

Professional, affordable and they show up!

By Steve Kelley

Finding a good tree contractor is a never ending job here in South Florida.

And our brushes with four (count 'em) hurricanes in 2005 left many of us with a greatly sharpened awareness about the importance of removing problem trees before the next hurricane season. Who can forget seeing all those Ficus trees, and many others, blown over? I know of one homeowner who spent \$10,000 and four weeks removing a giant Ficus that crushed his car.



A "before" picture - this was a big tree!

So I was in the category of "I gotta get that tree removed before it ends up on my house" or worse: on my neighbor's. My GIANT Norfolk Island Pine was getting older but seemed to keep growing to ever-amazing heights and had gotten to the point of being worrisome.

While it looked very healthy, it had had attracted lightning strikes which led to pool, window, household electronics and plumbing problems over the years.

Several tree and landscape services had advised me to "top off" the tree (ie. trim off the top to make it about 20 ft. tall), because broken branches during a storm would damage my house and my



Tony brought down this huge tree in only 5 hours - he didn't even stop for lunch.

neighbor's house.

I resisted the idea because other trees trimmed in that fashion did not look very attractive.

However, since I was acutely aware of the need for preparation before hurricane season, I called Tony's Tree Service to evaluate the tree. Using his expertise as a true arborist, he was able to determine that the tree's base had been damaged by lightning, and it would actually fall from the root if it succumbed to strong winds. The tree needed to be removed, not "topped off."

Tony started at about 11:00 AM, going up the tree with his chain saw, expertly trimming the lower branches as he ascended. The crew on the ground promptly carried away the fallen branches to the waiting chipper and truck out front. Reaching the top of the tree, he chainsawed small topmost sections that fell to the ground. Larger branches and trunk sections were tied

with long lines and carefully lowered to the ground where they were cut to manageable sizes that could be carried away.

In this way, he gradually worked his way down the tree making it smaller as he went. Once he made it to the ground, the remaining trunks were quickly dispatched with chainsaws and carried away.

By 4:00 PM the tree was down safely without damage to the pool, surrounding structures, fences or landscaping. Cleanup took a few days, but I was impressed, not only with his tree removal capabilities, but his ability to

alive and healthy looking. I was fortunate to have secured his services.

The next day, Tony's heavy duty, and custom made, stump grinder was wheeled in and the stump and its splayed out roots were quickly chewed down to well below ground level. He then cleaned up the mess and left only a tidy pile of sawdust that I could use for mulching.

This whole process was really quite fascinating and spectacular. To watch a highly skilled professional deftly handle a chainsaw while balancing in a swaying tree top 60-70 feet up is quite amazing. If it was me, I would have fallen out of the tree minus a hand or leg.

He was also neat and very careful with my landscaping, electrical outlets, deck, outdoor lighting and pool.

The whole job on my huge Norfolk Island Pine was completed in a mere five hours - he didn't even stop for lunch.

Tony is a consummate professional and knows trees as an Arborist who is specially trained and educated in the care and needs of trees and will provide proper pruning for the health and well being of your trees.

Tony's Tree Service, started in 1979, is a competent tree cutting company that many of us already know.

Tony's Tree Service gets my enthusiastic recommendation as an excellent tree service.

Tony can be reached at (954) 792-8135. If he doesn't answer, leave a message because he's probably up in a tree.

predict the health of the tree. Unknown to me, the stump and root of the tree was already badly decayed. Only about 25 percent of it was keeping the tree



The "after" picture - this was all that was left after Tony worked his magic.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Wilton Manors Commissioner
Gary Resnick

WORKING TO BRING BACK OUR MONEY TO BROWARD COUNTY'S CITIES

During the end of the 2006 legislative session, we were caught off guard by a last minute Bill sponsored by Representative Pickens from Palatka that took money away from Broward, Palm



Beach, Miami-Dade Counties, and their cities and transferred these funds to more rural counties within Representative Pickens' State House District. These include portions of Clay, Volusia, Putnam, Lake and Marion Counties.

The reason he gave for this was that these were such poor counties that they needed an increase in funds that the richer cities and counties, particularly in southeast Florida could afford to give up. While it is true that these counties are among the poorer counties of Florida, we have researched this issue further and found out that most of these counties are not even close to the maximum they could charge for taxes. When we inquired further as to why he took money from Broward County residents and transferred it to residents of these other counties, the real answer became clear. It's simply because he had the power to do it. This has cost us all money.

First of all, this is not money that comes from any State or Federal program to distribute among cities and counties. This is money that you and I pay as sales taxes on certain services we purchase locally. For the most part, these are sales taxes we pay on satellite television services, such as DirecTV and DISH. I participated in drafting the legislation that created this tax. The main purpose was to lower the overall taxes that customers paid on these services. These tax funds would then be collected by the Florida Department of Revenue for distribution back to the cit-

ies and counties where customers lived. This is how it has worked since 2001. However, with Representative Pickens' legislation, our money, instead of going to our own cities -- Oakland Park, Pompano Beach, Wilton Manors or Broward County -- and spent on services that our local governments provide, now goes to rural counties in other parts of the State.

This is real money our local cities and Broward County are losing. We have estimated that the costs to some of our local governments are as follows:

Coconut Creek	\$29,000/year
Deerfield Beach	\$45,300/year
Fort Lauderdale	\$103,000/year
Oakland Park	\$20,000/year
Pompano Beach	\$61,361/year
Pembroke Pines	\$90,600/year
Wilton Manors	\$7,500/year
Broward County	\$703,260/year

Over the years, this has significant impact on our finances. Again, this is money that you and I paid as sales taxes on services that we purchased in our homes that was earmarked to go to our local cities and Broward County that is now being sent to other counties.

I and my colleagues on the Board of Directors of the Broward County League of Cities, including Broward County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman, have agreed to work together for legislation to bring this money back to our local cities and counties. While the State certainly has the moral obligation to help rural, poorer counties, it has other funding sources available that will not take money away from our residents.

As always, if you have any questions about this or any government issue or would like to obtain periodic updates, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at garyresnick@aol.com or on my home telephone at 954-566-0054. Thank you for your input and continued support!



Stop in and Discover Fort Lauderdale's Finest Garden Center & Plant Nursery.



- 1000's of Unusual & Exotic Plants
- Orchids, Bromeliads & Bamboo
- Specimen Palms & Trees
- Colorful Flowering Plants
- Garden Relics & Whimsy
- Unique Imported Pottery
- Custom Landscape Design & Planting

1401 SW 1ST Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

(Just South of Davie Blvd & West of S. Andrews Avenue)

Phone: (954) 525-8995

Taxes continued from page 1
money.

From now until September you will hear the Broward County Commission "educate" you with regard to the difficulties the Commission will face in eliminating \$54 million dollars from our budget. Fair enough. You will learn that about a third of the budget revenues come from "enterprise" funds. These are revenues generated by the airport, seaport, garbage collection, and the water department which cannot be utilized for any other purpose. You will also learn that about half of the budget is comprised of funds requested by Broward's Constitutional Officers (such as our Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, etc.) You will learn that it is procedurally difficult (but not impossible) to force these elected Constitutional Officers to tighten their own budgets. All of these facts are undoubtedly true.

Nevertheless, it is without question that you elected us to make the hard decisions. As one of my colleagues often says, "If you can't make the hard decisions, you don't deserve to sit up on the dais." He's right; it's time to listen to the voters and make these necessary budget cuts. We must tell our Constitutional Officers that they, too, must tighten up their budgets and share in our burden. We must slow down, if not decrease, the size of Broward County's governmental workforce. We must eliminate and refuse to fund services that aren't absolutely necessary. We must stop capital projects that aren't essential, unless they can be constructed without increasing the amount of ad valorem property taxes. We have to determine our priorities and fund accordingly.

Again, the budget process is just beginning. Obviously, I can't predict how my colleagues will vote with regard to the upcoming fiscal year 2008 budget. But I can again tell you how I will vote. After all, campaign promises should be kept by elected officials.

Until next month...
Ken Keechl



Host A YFU International Exchange Student

Youth For Understanding (YFU) is a private, non-profit, volunteer-based educational youth exchange organization, operating in over 50 countries. We are currently seeking families to host international high school exchange students for the upcoming 2007-2008 school year.

Begun in 1951, YFU USA annually exchanges more than 2,500 high school students through the YFU host family program. Host families enjoy learning about another culture through sharing family life with an exchange student in their home.



A YFU international exchange student is typically between 16 to 18 years old and must pass an English proficiency examination as part of their program qualification process. They also must demonstrate strong academic performance and obtain positive recommendations from teachers.

You can join thousands of American families who are selected to be YFU USA host families each year. Host families are as different as Americans themselves. They come from all ethnic, racial, economic and religious backgrounds. They live in cities, small towns and rural communities. Some have teenagers themselves, some don't. Quite simply, any two people related by blood or marriage can be a host family—whether you have young children, adult children or no children. Single parent households and non-traditional family units will be considered for hosting too. Host families open their hearts and homes to their international student, providing room and board, love, guidance and the shared experience of everyday life in America.

If you would like more information on how to become a YFU host family, please call Molly Vongsaly at 866-493-8872 ext. 224, email at vongsaly@yfu.org or local YFU Area Representative Mark Ketcham at 954-779-3713, MarkEKetcham@aol.com. Visit our website at www.yfu-usa.org to find out more about hosting, studying abroad or volunteering.

LAUDERDALE LUMBER RELOCATES

Local institution still popular

By John Bernardo

Although it's no longer an old, rustic-like store nestled among Fort Lauderdale's tall, glass office buildings and other modern real estate, Lauderdale Lumber is still around.

In fact, this May marks a company milestone as it reflects on 70 years of improving home improvement for Broward County residents.

Last October, Lauderdale Lumber relocated from Ft. Lauderdale to its present, new, updated modernized facility at 2449 NE 13th Ave. in Wilton Manors. Before the company opened its store at the city's Five Points area, Lauderdale Lumber was a country-like place that stood on 405 NE Second St. in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Lauderdale Lumber first opened in 1937 and since 1981, the business was owned and operated by the late Jake Parker and his son Mike.

The late Helen G. Bailey of Fort Lauderdale founded Lauderdale Lumber and managed the company's books until 1971. The store had three employees when it first opened.

Today, Lauderdale Lumber has nine employees: a driver, two lumber yardmen, a yard/warehouse manager, an accountant, two inside sales reps, a sales manager and the owner. But don't let the company's small size fool you because combined, the employees have over 80 years of building material experience.

Lumber accounts for about 45 percent of the store's annual sales. It also sells doors, drywall, plywood, hardware items for builders, bag goods and other home improvement products.

And although the company has fierce competition from Dixie Clamp, Inc. in Oakland Park, Causeway Lumber in Fort Lauderdale and home improvement giants, Home Depot in Ft. Lauderdale and Lowe's in Oakland Park, Lauderdale Lumber still does most of its advertising by word of mouth. Moreover, throughout its history, the company has succeeded financially due to its loyal customer base and dedicated, experienced staff.

Debbie Clark of Fort Lauderdale, owner of Lauderdale Lumber since February 24, 2006, said about 90% of the customers who regularly went to the old Ft. Lauderdale store now come to

the new one.

"The employees who worked in the old Ft. Lauderdale store established a following of customers which is the key to the continued success of our new store," she said.

One customer, George W. Young, now 69, first stopped by Lauderdale Lumber when he was 5 and rode with his father, George F. Young, who then was a local contractor, in his truck when the company had an all-drive-through store. For many years, the company did some customer transactions the old-fashioned way and even wrote up tickets by hand. Today, all transactions are computerized but customers don't change as Young continues to visit the new store at least once every week and a half or so.

"Customer service has always been number 1 here; you are not a credit card number here and they know what I expect in regards to quality," said George W. Young. "I can also cash a check here without showing my driver's license, I never have a problem exchanging something here and they never ask me for a receipt."

One employee, Matt Erdman of

Margate, started with Lauderdale Lumber as a part-time yardman in 1994. Erdman, now the general manager, said what has changed is that the store's showroom floor is three times the size as the old store and the company can store about 30 percent more inventory. "What hasn't changed is we still are special-order oriented, have the same quality lumber products and still provide personalized, customer service," he said.

Lauderdale Lumber's former and retired owner Mike Parker, a former resident of Wilton Manors now living in Pomona Park, FL, first worked for the company in 1978. Parker said other companies say they have customer service but can't provide it. "At Lauderdale Lumber, we provided customer service that you couldn't get anywhere else," he said. "People who came to our store were not just numbers. We knew everyone's name, we knew their lives and employees and customers were all family."

In addition to its rich history, Lauderdale Lumber recently improved its new store this February. Clark said the company doubled its size of its warehouse to accommodate specialty lumbers and mouldings.

Store hours are Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 954-537-0444 or e-mail LaudLumber@bellsouth.net.



Another Day in Paradise

Getting Lazy in a Service World

by Dan McCarty

Everyone who lives in South Florida knows that our economy is based upon our biggest asset...the laziness of our residents.

In a state where a lemonade stand constitutes a major industry, we must turn to providing services as a way to make a living. In Florida, we have developed a culture where success is measured by how little you do for yourself.

I employ about a dozen service people myself. I have a landscape design and maintenance man, even though I have no landscape. He designed my yard to be maintenance free, but still charges me \$100 per week to maintain it. I also need a pest man to keep my indoors free from bugs. The chameleons



handle the outdoor pests, sending me a bill every two months. (Luckily, they always want to be paid in more bugs.)

Then we have the dog services. Because I have no time for a dog and no yard for a dog to play in, I must hire a dog walker to inflict my pet upon others in the neighborhood. And if Fido starts to bark or soil the rug because I have no time to spend with him, I bring in the pet psychologist for a therapy session. (How's life, Fido? Ruff.)

Someone puts on a diving suit and scrapes the bottom of my boat every month. I am not sure what they are scraping, because I can't see the bottom of my boat without a diving suit. But I have been assured that something truly awful will happen if I stop.

My car washer comes on the weekend to "detail" my car. I am not sure what detailing is, but it costs about triple that of a normal car wash, so it must be good.

My maid comes in once a week to clean my house and mutter to herself about my hygienic habits. I don't think she speaks English, but rather a strange language made up of primarily tsks, sighs and headshakes. Three trucks are needed to haul away my garbage. I have the regular trash guy, who is a generalist. Then there are the specialists, who haul away my recyclables and plant waste. I kind of suspect they all go to the same dump, but the system makes us feel better about it.

I get my meals delivered by another service. I follow the zone diet...the pizza zone from Big Louie's. And my reading material is also delivered to a special place under my pickiest bushes at no extra charge.

All told, I spend a little more than my salary on services every year. That means I will have to work even harder and have even less time, so I will have to hire more service people. It sounds like a vicious circle to me.

I will have to have my accountant worry about that.

About the Author:

Dan McCarty retired from corporate America to devote his life to important causes, such as global warming and keeping fat guys from wearing speedos on the beach. He can be reached at danmccarty1@comcast.net.



THE SERVICES IMPORTANT TO YOU COULD BE ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK FOR NEXT YEAR

By Kristin Jacobs, Broward County Commission - District 2

Throughout my service on the Broward County Commission I have always been committed to providing the maximum benefit for your property tax dollar. While the State attempts to make our property tax system more equitable,



it is my responsibility and that of my colleagues to plan for the impact reduced funding could have on the services we provide.

Local city and county governments function mainly on property tax revenues while programs funded by the State of Florida depend largely on sales tax revenues. There is no doubt the

State's current property tax system is off balance, creating dramatic increases for businesses, those without Homestead Exemption and new home buyers. At the same time, those who benefit from Homestead Exemption and have lived in their homes for a long time (about 60% of the property in Broward) are not taxed at the same rate. The County receives more than 61 percent of our General Fund revenue from property taxes. The rest of the funding comes from fees, state revenue sharing and contracts with cities for services. It's important to note that more than 51 percent of the revenue in the County Commission's general fund goes to other elected, Constitutional Officers (Sheriff, Elections Supervisor, Property Appraiser, Clerk of the Court, State Attorney and Public Defender).

During the upcoming 2008 budget deliberations, a new process, called Zero-Based Program Performance Outcome budgeting will be used by the County Commission. In the past, the Budget Office assumed county programs and services supported during the last fiscal year would continue to the next. During this year's deliberations, no service or program will be assumed, unless it is mandated by the state or federal government. Everything else will be on the table. It's like taking a blank piece of paper, writing down the program or service you want to produce, and then justifying its existence, prioritizing it, and

determining whether it meets established goals.

The performance of each program under the jurisdiction of the County Commission will be analyzed for quantifiable performance measures, compared with other local government services, reviewed for cost savings and ranked according to the Commission's goals. Specific criteria will be established to guide the process, such as: Is the program mandated by law? Are there alternative service providers or additional revenue sources? Does the program protect a prior County investment? Does it produce the anticipated results in a cost effective manner? The end result of the review will reveal whether a program can be justified for funding.

It is very important you be part of this process as well. It is, after all, the services or programs important to you that could be on the chopping block for next year. Whether it's our libraries, parks, children's services, cultural events, road improvements, mass transit, child support services, animal care or Broward's environmental programs - - all are up for review. The Commission has already begun to consider the 2008 budget and will continue this review through a series of workshops occurring almost every month through August. In September 2007, we will finalize the 2008 budget at two Public Hearings scheduled for Tuesday, September 11 and Tuesday,

September 25 each beginning at 5 PM in the Governmental Center. However, as important as these Public Hearings are to the budget process, it is in our Workshops that most of the hard work will occur.

Please let me know if you would like information on the budget workshop schedule and agendas. Whether you can be there or not I urge you to follow the discussion before your taxes are set and before you have no options but to suffer without an important service or pay a tax which you do not understand.

You can call me anytime at 954-357-7002 or send an email to kjacobs@broward.org for information on our budget deliberations or any county service.





Title Sponsor of

LITERARY FEAST 2007

Presented By **Sun-Sentinel**

Night of Literary Feasts

Friday, March 23rd

6:00 PM

Cocktails at the Main Library followed by private dinners in homes and restaurants with the authors. Reservations required.

Lit LIVE!

Saturday, March 24th

9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

On the Davie campus of Nova Southeastern University. Free and open to the public. Free shuttle from Main Library.

Meet and mingle with authors including:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Margaret Ahnert | Cassandra King | Bill Rhoden |
| Ishmael Beah | Brian Latell | Tom Santopietro |
| Andrew Carroll | Linda Francis Lee | Jeff Shaara |
| Susan Cheever | Daniel Levitin | Yasmin Shiraz |
| Jon Clinch | Sujata Massey | Adriana Trigiani |
| Jennifer Crusie | Bob Mitchell | Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez |
| John Dickerson | Jorj Morgan | Kathleen Waites |
| Farrah Gray | Sam Moses | ...and football great |
| Michael Grunwald | T. Jefferson Parker | Doug Williams |

Literary Feast benefits the Broward Public Library Foundation
www.broward.org/library HOTLINE (954) 357-5954



Try us & notice the difference!

Complete Cleaning Services

- Homes
- Apartments
- Condos
- Vacants
- Offices
- Boats/Yachts
- One-Time
- Weekly
- Bi-Weekly
- Monthly
- Supplies Furnished
- Reasonable Rates



Maid for a Day

Try us & notice the difference.

954.822.2933

www.maidforadayinc.com

HAVE A NEWS ITEM FOR THE FORT LAUDERDALE CITY NEWS?

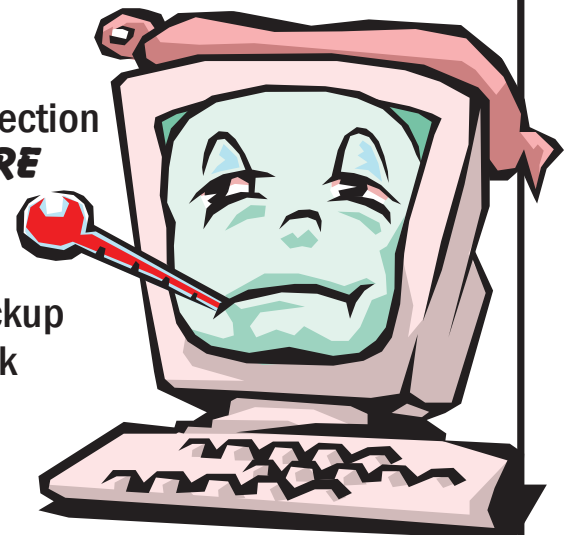
Call (954) 564-1308 or email it to citynews@bellsouth.net

Share your event or organizational news with all the residents of FORT LAUDERDALE!

Computer Sick?

We can fix any computer problem!

- All Computer Repairs - ***YOUR HOME OR OFFICE!***
- Fast Service!
- Hardware Upgrades
- Virus Detection/Protection
- ***SPYWARE & ADWARE REMOVAL!***
- New computer setup
- Data Recovery & Backup
- Home/Office Network Systems—Wireless!
- Affordable systems starting at \$599



And much, much more!



Call Garry Thani (954) 893-9540 or (954) 444-7788



TALES FROM THE GALT GULAG

Horror stories abound at the condo towers on Galt Ocean Mile

by Grayson Walker, Ph.D.

The word 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. Thus, the name of my column is the Galt Gulag. In this regular column, I write about the lives of Owners of Florida condominiums.

Ladies and Gentlemen, your outpouring of support, and your tales of your condominium have been incredible. As I write this column, I have received over three-hundred telephone calls and over one-hundred fifty emails. My publisher, Steve Kelley, has also received staggering numbers of calls and emails. After listening to your numerous stories of fraud, graft, corruption, violence, and intimidation, we are now calling this the **biggest crime scene in Fort Lauderdale.**

Freedom Of The Press

I have been assaulted, battered, harassed, stalked, had my car keyed, and had my life threatened because I believe in American democracy. The publisher of this newspaper, Steve Kelley, has received ugly anonymous phone calls and even had his few advertisers harassed due to this column. Southpoint and Playa del Mar have banned this newspaper from their buildings, apparently not recognizing that we are in the United States of America, and have a Constitutional right to free speech. Ladies and gentlemen, the bright light of Florida Sunshine is very threatening to these corrupt Boards and those that profit from servicing those Boards.

Condo Commando

Some things are worth repeating, and a Donna LaPorte definition of a Condo Commando is very repeatable. A Condo Commando is "an egocentric person on a condominium's board of directors who rules by intimidation, putting his/her interests ahead of others, abusive to the property manager and any board member who gets in the way. Dominates meetings, won't let others speak. Can be prone to angry outbursts."

Any Condominium Board can remove any officer by a simple majority vote, generally by secret ballot. Any condominium Board that allows a "condo commando" to exist, is voluntarily submitting to that tyranny.

Term Limits

In 1992, Florida's voters passed a

term limits law for the state legislature with a huge 77% majority of the vote on this initiative. This law was challenged, and in 1999, the Florida Supreme Court sustained our term limits law. Term limits are the law of the land, but not for condominium Boards. If State Representative Julio Robaina has his way we'll soon see term limits.

Julio Robaina

In 2004, State Representative Julio Robaina proposed term limits for condominium Board members. The primary problem is that some Board members are serving for almost unlimited time periods, preventing others from participating. Thus, Mr. Robaina proposed, "2 year term limits on board members unless there are no other volunteers then the term can be extended upon the approval of the majority vote of the unit owners."

These term limits were narrowly defeated due to the intense lobbying efforts of organizations like the Galt Mile Association and the Community Action Leadership Lobby, aka CALL. These lobbyists are using your money to work against your rights as a citizen and property owner.

In 2006, Mr. Robaina created a Condo Fraud Pilot Program with the State Attorney's Office, the Florida Department Of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) to train all Detectives in Miami/Dade County on "condo crime." The Miami/Dade pilot program will be extended into Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

Mr. Robaina's work is being supported by Miami State Senator Alex Villalobos. Senator Villalobos, we thank you for working to support our rights. Mr. Robaina is enthusiastic about our new Governor Charlie Crist. According to Robaina, "the new governor is all about consumer protection and that includes condominium and home owner associations."

Mr. Robaina, thank you for your tireless efforts in our behalf.

Ellyn Bogdanoff

State Representative and Majority Whip Ellyn Bogdanoff continues to work for the interests of property rights of Owners in condominium and homeowner associations. According to Ms. Bogdanoff, "the Legislature is continuing to look at ways to protect the rights and improve the lives of Owners in condominium and homeowner associations."

Michael J. Satz, State Attorney

Many of you have asked why Florida laws are not being enforced. I am a victim of violent crime in my condominium and of threats against my life. I share your concern about the non-enforcement of Florida law. Publisher Steve Kelly and I have been attempting to ask this question, and others, of our State Attorney. To date, Mr. Satz has not been willing to speak with us. Michael J. Satz is the Broward County State Attorney.

According to his website, the State Attorney is required to provide personnel and procedures for the orderly, efficient and effective investigation, intake and processing of all felony, misdemeanor, criminal traffic, juvenile and specially enumerated civil cases referred by law enforcement, by other state, county, and municipal agencies as well as the general public. (<http://www.sao17.state.fl.us/Duties.htm>)

So we ask: Mr. Satz, why are you refusing to enforce Florida law? Why are you refusing to talk to a victim of violent crime? Why are you avoiding the press? Publisher Steve Kelley characterized the Galt as the biggest crime scene in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Satz, it is time for you to protect us.

Bruce Roberts

I am a victim of violent crime in my condominium and of threats against my life. There have been many police reports filed concerning violent and economic condominium crime. Publisher Steve Kelly and I have been attempting to speak with Fort Lauderdale Police Chief Bruce Roberts about crime on the Galt, enforcement of Florida law, and protection of our Senior Citizens. To date, Chief Roberts has not been willing to speak with us.

According to their website, the Criminal Investigation Division's objective is to reduce the rate of property crime. It's (SIC) main objective is to investigate crimes including auto theft, homicide, burglary, violent crimes, special victims, economic crimes. Within the division there is also the fingerprint section, forensics, volunteer, and youth services. In order to make a significant and meaningful impact several units have been reorganized, some responsibilities have been changed, several new programs and initiatives have been introduced, and additional resources have been dedicated to support this focus.

The Violent Crimes Unit is charged with the investigation of all robbery of-

fenses (i.e. armed, strongarm, carjacking, home invasion, and bank robbery) as well as all aggravated assault/battery offenses which are not domestic in nature. The Unit works closely with the FBI and other local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that perpetrators of these type offenses receive the maximum penalties under the law. Recent legislative changes consisting of enhanced penalties for habitual, violent, and/or repeat offenders has been of great service to the overall effectiveness of the Unit in assuring the safety of the community from predation by violent criminals. (http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/police/crim_inv.html)

On March 29, 2005, Southpoint Owners and their attorney met with two Fort Lauderdale police detectives. The detectives were very well informed, interested, and recognized that crimes have been committed. A police report was taken as the first step in the criminal action. **After hearing the story the use of the petty cash, one detective classified the case as embezzlement.**

The detectives reviewed photocopies of several documents and concluded they had sufficient evidence that a crime has been committed. The detectives were extremely concerned that evidence would be destroyed. They anticipated the next step in the criminal investigation would be to obtain a Search Warrant and remove all records, files, etc. from the Southpoint Office. As one detective put it, "This is a criminal investigation. There are only two classes of people; witnesses and defendants."

What happened next is pathetic. The detectives' boss contacted the Southpoint Owners' lawyer and said, "we do not have enough money to investigate condo crimes." With the Police Department having the lion's share of Fort Lauderdale's budget, how could this be possible?

Chief Roberts, why have you refused to enforce Florida law? Why are you refusing to talk to a victim of violent crime? Why are you avoiding the press? Chief Roberts, it is time for you to protect us.

Windows

I have received more calls and letter about windows than any other item. It seems that many condominium associations are ignoring Florida law, and are pressuring Owners to waste their money buying windows. Some Boards are sending terse letters to Owners in what almost amounts to extortion!

If an individual Owner is forced to replace his/her windows, they must buy

them at retail. Add to this the premium that many vendors add to anything on the Galt Mile, and it is easy to see how the individual Owner is overcharged to replace the windows in a condominium. The individual Owner must buy at retail prices, often with a premium added because of the location.

On the other hand, if a condominium Association were to decide to replace many or all windows in a building, they enter the window market with great buying power. An Association could send out requests for proposal (RFP) to window manufacturers, and buy windows for as little as 50% of retail prices.

Florida law now requires that condominiums insure our windows and patio doors. Florida new statewide building code requires special high-impact window frames and two-layer laminated glass. Depending upon where one lives, there are new installation and specification requirements for windows and doors.

In January 2006, the DBPR issued Declaratory Statement DS2005-055, stating that all Florida condominiums are responsible to repair and/or replace anything they are responsible for insuring. You should make certain that your Board is in full compliance with Florida law and the DBPR Declaratory Statement DS2005-055.

Your windows are the responsibility of your Condominium Association. If you have spent your money to repair or replace your windows, you should submit your bills for reimbursement.

Julio Robaina Endorses Playa del Mar Board Candidates

I am pleased to announce that State Representative Julio Robaina has endorsed candidacy of Grace Antonello, Daniel Lecht, Michael Marsalona, and Mark Stern.

Playa del Mar Owners have formed Residents For a Better Playa del Mar to bring honesty, openness, and fiscal responsibility to Playa del Mar. Their election is February 27, 2007. Like Southpoint, the Playa del Mar Owners face a critical election. The Residents For a Better Playa del Mar are putting forth a powerful slate of reform candidates, including Grace Antonello, Daniel Lecht, Michael Marsalona, and Mark Stern.

Because of the irregularities in the last election, Residents for a Better Playa del Mar request that Owners not mail their ballots, but rather hand carry their ballot to the meeting or give their ballot to another Owner to take with them. "We want every vote to be properly counted," says a committee member.

Playa del Mar Cocktail Party Reception

On February 10, the Residents For A

Better Playa del Mar sponsored a cocktail party reception to introduce candidates Mark Stern, Michael Marsalona, Grace Antonello and Dan Lecht. Board candidate Mark Stern and guest solo singer Joanne Mills entertained over 150 residents and guests.

Residents For A Better Playa del Mar hosted the cocktail party and reception at their own expense. They provided soft drinks, wine, and an impressive array of hors d'oeuvres. "We wanted a social function so neighbors could meet neighbors, bringing our building into a more cohesive unit so, hopefully, people can realize that we can enjoy each other's company even if we have different points of view. All residents were invited."

Residents For A Better Playa del Mar asked to have the invitation posted in the building, but current board member and opposition candidate, Lucille Fannin, refused the request. Apparently, the current Playa del Mar Board chose not to attend the function. Nevertheless, the event was a grand success. As I moved through the rooms, I heard happy voices and laughter. There were many smiles and friendly faces, and not one discouraging word was heard.

Playa del Mar Candidates Night

On February 15, Playa del Mar held its Candidates Night. The contrast between this event and the cocktail party reception of the 10th was shocking! The tone was set by having an armed Fort Lauderdale Police Officer. The mood was further darkened when Board President Ed Napolitano announced that there was also a court reporter paid for by an anonymous unit owner and an attorney from Becker and Poliakoff.

Napolitano claimed this was for the Owner's security. There was no such need for "security" on February 10. Apparently, Napolitano and Fannin feel the need for armed protection when meeting with the Owners. Ironically, Napolitano refused to allow an Owner's court reporter to attend the April 7, 2005 Board meeting. Are there two sets of rules at Playa del Mar?

Napolitano's court reporter swore in each of the candidates and the moderator, Mr. Napolitano. Each candidate was allotted five minutes to speak. As Mark Stern began his five-minute speech, he was interrupted by Napolitano. Somehow, this incident was overlooked by the armed officer, who sat and watched. Board member Bob Boffa attempted to intercede, but it was too late. Many Owners said that they were distracted by the interruption and could not hear Stern.

The next speaker was Lucille Fannin, who is running for re-election. Ms. Fannin told the Owners that her father taught her that honor one's most prized

possession and if anyone ever attacks it, you need to strike back. It appears that Mrs. Fannin filed a lawsuit against Mr. Stern the day before the Candidates' meeting. Fannin and Napolitano appear to have attempted to provoke Mr. Stern. Fortunately, Mr. Stern remained unflappable.

Julio Robaina Endorses Southpoint's Board Candidates

I am pleased to announce that State Representative Julio Robaina has endorsed the candidacy of Southpoint Concerned Owners' candidates, Robert Coopchik, Barry Leeds, Nico Minardos, Grayson Walker, and Vivian Xenos for the new Southpoint board.

Southpoint's Concerned Owners candidates have always taken the high road. In their campaign, they focused upon the important issues facing Southpoint. More importantly, they avoided negative campaigning, avoided personality, and focused upon positive reform. They have not insulted Owner's intelligence with mudslinging.

The Southpoint Insurgents have been fighting for your rights for years. They need your help to restore ethics, honor, safety, and integrity to Southpoint. Vote to protect your property rights. Vote to restore democracy to Southpoint. Please vote for Robert Coopchik, Barry Leeds, Nico Minardos, Grayson Walker, and Vivian Xenos.

Help For Owners

Attorney Inger Garcia can be reached by telephone at 954-894-9962 or by email at Attorney@IngerGarcia.com.

Jan Bergemann's Cyber Citizens For Justice is an organization of Owners, for Owners, to protect Owners' rights. For more information, please visit them at www.CCFJ.net or telephone 386-740-1503.

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Bureau of Enforcement is located at 1400 West Commercial Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. Supervisor Harold Hyman can be reached by telephone at 954-202-3982 or by email at Harold.Hyman@dbpr.state.fl.us.

Dannille Carroll is our Condominium Ombudsman. Her office is in Fort Lauderdale and she can be reached at 954-202-3234 or by email at Dannille.Carroll@dbpr.state.fl.us.

State Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff can be reached at 954-767-9850 or by email at Ellyn.Bogdanoff@myflorida-house.gov.

State Representative Julio Robaina can be reached at 305-442-6868 or by email at Julio.Robaina@myflorida-house.gov.

Fort Lauderdale Police Chief Bruce Roberts can be reached at 954-828-

5700.

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

The AARP's Bill of Rights for Homeowners is available online at http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/consume/2006_15_homeowner.pdf.

Governor Charlie Crist can be reached at 850-488-7146 or by email at Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com.

About the Author

I own an apartment in the Galt Gulag, at the Southpoint condominium, on the Galt Mile in Fort Lauderdale. Many people do not realize how many rights they give up when they buy an apartment in a condominium association. I have taught American Government, Constitutional Law, and Ethics for over twenty-years, but I was not prepared for life in the Galt Gulag.

At the June 2005 Board meeting, Board President Marty Glazer called the critics of the Board "insurgents." I am an insurgent in the Galt Gulag. You can reach me at AGWIII@comcast.net or

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. Galt residents vote so heavily in local elections that they are the deciding factor in races for mayor, city commissioner and others. The Galt has real political power!

When you write a letter to your city commissioner, it is copied and all commissioners and the mayor see it in their packets each Monday morning.

At presstime, a number of bills were moving through our Florida Legislature that are very sympathetic to condo owners. Senate Bill 902 and House Bill 433 would strictly regulate how homeowner associations manage your money. To read these bills and check their status, visit www.leg.state.fl.us.

Is it too much to ask of our elected officials that they use their clout and contact our state representatives and tell them to support these bills?

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

THE CONDO LAWYER



Committed to justice for the Galt Condo Community

Editor's Note:

The Condo Lawyer is a regular feature. This is the first of two installments discussing the actual laws regarding condo associations. These two articles will be unavoidably legal but they are critically important in the empowerment of Galt Condo residents.

by Inger Garcia, Esquire

My name is Inger Garcia. I have been an attorney in private practice since 1991 in Georgia and since 1997 in Florida. Prior to that, I worked as an Intern Assistant State Attorney for Janet Reno in Miami. I have also interned for numerous Judges, as well as, my Law School Trial Program Director. I have been involved in real estate and/or litigation for over 16 years.

In trying to help clients of mine in the past in condominium related issues, the biggest brick wall that we would hit was the lack of obvious cohesive support from the enforcement entities and the unit owners themselves, and lack of understanding of condominium law. The problem was that there was no way to enforce the laws in any meaningful way, even though they existed. The obvious lack of education and knowledge that the actual Associations and Board of Directors do have is a significant problem. Their attorneys have "no obligation to inform them of the law," or so I was told.

Condominium Owners were considered "the minority," and still are today. However, do the math. Condominium Owners are the majority and need to act as such to make any significant changes. Now is the time to act as a cohesive group and to protect our rights as Home Owners. A wise politician told me recently, at a meeting on Galt Ocean Mile, that the Condo Owners would get no help with their problems until "they became the majority, not the minority." Since Condo law is created by our legislature due to the fact they are creatures of statute, now is the time for the Condo Owners to unite and act. Now is the time to either change the law or enforce the law, and to inform their Associations, Managers, and Board of Directors to follow the law or suffer the consequences.

Many citizens in Broward County have expressed the need for change in the operation and management of condominiums. We are diligently working on establishing a Pilot Program similar to the one in Miami-Dade County established by Representative Julio Robaina where the FDLE, the State Attorney's Office, and the Ombudsman Office will

train the local law enforcement office to investigate the fraud leg of the many complaints that the unit owners have. These complaints include the criminal actions of the Associations or the Board Members such as issues concerning missing money, kickbacks, theft, embezzlement, misappropriation, and other illegal behaviors.

The governing Administrative body is the Division of Florida Land Sales, Condominiums, and Mobile Homes of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. They implement the fines and civil end of the enforcement in relation to Condo matters. They can file suit in court to enforce their findings. However, they do not have the "teeth" to criminally prosecute themselves. Therefore, in the past, there has been no effective way to enforce the correct behavior on the Associations and Board of Directors and Managers. That is about to change if we have any say so.

As a condominium owner myself, I understand the trials and tribulations you deal with on a daily basis. Some of you are dealing with a situation where you feel you have no constitutional rights, no privacy rights, and no accountability for your hard earned money that is "assessed" and "special assessed" over and over again. You are not being informed of meeting, votes are being conducted improperly and worse yet, someone is maybe stealing from the till, and no one will produce the documents to prove it. It seems that that the "Board of Directors" or "Managers" are a mini Nazi community conducting themselves with no consequences for their actions. Well, there actually are laws that govern the Board of Directors for your condominium and those laws must be followed strictly or there are consequences.

This article is not meant to be legal advice, but some general information to point you in the right direction and to help you understand that there is a right and wrong way to meet your responsibilities as a Director and that the Condo Owner does have rights that can be enforced; administratively, civilly and even criminally.

The governing law for condominiums is Florida Statute, Chapter 718, and Florida Administrative Code, Title 61, Chapter 61B-21, 61B-22, and 61B-23. Florida Statute 718 governs Condominiums and is known as the "Condominium Act," and every single Condominium is subject to the provisions of this Chapter. Condominium Documents (Declaration, Article of Incorporation, and By-Laws) cannot lawfully provide for procedures that are inconsistent with the Condominium Act. The purpose of this law is to

give statutory recognition to the Condo form of ownership and to establish the procedures for condominiums. Because of the unique problems in condominiums such as the closeness of proximity and common facilities, each unit owner must give up a certain degree of freedom; however, that is balanced by the requirement of strict adherence by the Condo Association and its Board to the Condo Declarations and Florida Law.

Florida Statute 718.103 set forth the definitions of Assessments, Special Assessments, Voting Interests, Associations, Board of Directors, Bylaws, Common Elements, Common Expenses, Condominium, Declaration of Condominium, among other terms. The main document of a Condominium association is the Declaration of Condominium, along with its attached Exhibits, Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the proper administration of the Association and operation of the common elements and limited common elements. This includes the maintenance of Official Records, the making and collecting of assessments, lease, maintain and repair of the common areas and limited common areas, handling of the condominium meetings and minutes, management, accurate financial reporting, accountability for assessments and special assessments, voting procedures, inspection rights, maintaining adequate insurances, and emergency decision-making. This also includes acting as a fiduciary to the unit owners and not breaching that fiduciary duty. This includes keeping the condo safe, secure and clean, and keeping each unit free from breach of quiet enjoyment, trespass or other intrusions from the other units.

The Board of Directors has a direct responsibility and accountability for its actions to you, the unit owners. Florida Statute 718.111, The Association, sets forth the law in relation to the Associations responsibilities and its Officers and Directors fiduciary responsibilities to the unit owners. For Example, the Officers and Directors may not accept solicit, offer to accept or accept anything or service of value that is not provided for in their compensation package for any provider or proposed provider of any goods or services to the Association. If they do, it is a violation of Florida Statute 718.50(1)(d). If a Director is present at a meeting of the Board, he/she is presumed to assent to the action taken by the Board at that meeting, unless they vote against or abstain from voting due to conflict of interest.

Florida Statute 718.112, titled, By-

laws, sets forth the required provisions that are needed in the Bylaws, including the powers, duties, manner of selection and removal, and compensation of the Officers and Board of Directors. Each unit owner should review a copy of their bylaws and any amendments made to it, a copy of which must be kept by your Association for your inspection. This statute sets forth the proper manner of the administration of the Association, the voting requirements and the procedures and time frames involved, the Board of Director meeting procedures, the Unit Owner meetings procedures including felony related issues, your ability to tape record the meetings, the annual budget requirements (718.504 (21)), the assessments and common areas (718.113), the amendments to the Bylaws, the recall of Board Members (718.301), and Arbitration requirements (718.1255). Violations are fined according to Florida Statute 718.303.

Florida Statute 718.113 titled Maintenance; limitations upon improvements; display of flag; hurricane shutters, states that the maintenance of the common elements is the responsibility of the association. It also states that, unless an exemption applies, that there shall be no material alteration or substantial additions to the common elements or to real property, except as provided for in the Condo Declaration as recorded and if not specified in that instrument, the approval for the alteration or additions must be by 75% of the total voting interests of the association. The definition of "material alteration or addition" means to palpably or perceptively vary or change the form, shape, elements or specifications of a building from its original design, plan, or existing condition, in such a manner as to appreciably affect or influence its function, use or appearance. If you as a Unit owner believe that an improper alteration was conducted in your building, request a copy of the Condo Declaration, as recorded and any amendments, the Bylaws and minutes of the meetings where the votes took place. If it was in the last year, you will still have access to the voting documents, ballots etc.

Florida Statute 718.115 deals with common expenses and allows the expenses of operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or protection of the common elements, costs of carrying out the powers and duties of the association, and other expenses set in the Condo Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, and the Bylaws. These expenses do include reasonable transportation expenses, insurance for the directors and officers, road maintenance

and operation expenses, in-house communications, and security services, cable television by bulk contract and hurricane shutters for the common areas. If you are receiving food stamps or SSI and you do not want cable service, you may opt of paying that portion of your assessments by following the procedures that allow this reduction.

By now, it should be apparent that you as a Unit Owner need to have and review your condominium documents. This is the first thing any lawyer is going to ask for if you seek legal advice or representation.

Unit Owners can be specially assessed to pay any judgments, attorney's fees and costs associated with a lawsuit brought by a unit owner against the association as a common expense. Also, remember that if you win as the Unit Owner, that you may not be responsible for your share of the special assessment and are entitled to your reasonable fees and costs. The DBPR can assess civil fines and penalties, and issue cease and desist orders that are enforceable in the circuit courts in your jurisdiction.

According to Florida Statute 718.123, you as a unit owner have the right to assemble peaceably in the common areas with invited guests, subject to 718.106(4). If you are deprived of exercising your rights a guaranteed by law, you may bring action in the Court and the court will enjoin the enforcement of your rights.

Recent cases have held the Condo Association and its Board liable. A unit owner in some circumstances may apply to the Circuit Court to appoint a receiver to manage the affairs of the association, secure an injunction or declaratory Judgment against the Association or its Board Members to enforce the regulations in its Declaration of Covenant and the Florida law. Other legal theories of liability that may be pursued include negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, willful misconduct, breach of covenant, tortious interference, fraud, libel, slander, civil theft, trespass, theft, grand theft, civil RICO, self-dealing, restitution and criminal action if warranted. Criminal liability includes, misappropriation of funds, theft, embezzlement, illegal acceptance of kickbacks, theft, fraud, battery, assault, false imprisonment, criminal RICO, etc. If you as a unit owner prevail in a complaint against the Association and it Board, you may receive your attorney's fees and costs and a deduction for your share that was assessed to the other Unit Owners.

Next month, I will continue my presentation of Florida Statutes 718, and begin my presentation of the Florida Administrative Code, Title 61, Chapter 61B-21, 61B-22, and 61B-23. I will also present some specific examples of violations and address some current and past cases filed in the Broward County and other Counties in relation to your Con-

dominiums, and what the local Judges have been doing with these cases.

Many people are instrumental in seeking the necessary changes to the Condominium law and/or enforcement of the law. Call or E-mail them and let them know I sent you.

These include Jan Bergemann, President of Cyber Citizens for Justice, Inc., who may be reached at jan@ccj.net; Florida House of Representatives, Representative Elyn Bogdanoff, who may be reached at (954) 767-9850, Representa-

tive Julio Robaina, District 17, who may be reached at (305) 442-6868; our local Ombudsman Danielle Carroll who may be reached at (954) 202-3234, or Dr. Grayson Walker, who may be reached at (954) 567-0520 or agwiii@comcast.net .

I am committed to justice in the Galt Ocean Mile. If you have any comments or questions, I may be reached at attorney@IngerGarcia.com or 954-894-9962.



THE Regency TOWER

3850 GALT OCEAN DRIVE • FORT LAUDERDALE • FLORIDA • 33308
PH: (954) 566-8606 • FAX: (954) 566-0048
WWW.REGENCYTOWER.NET

recd 2/19/2007
5:10 pm

February 19, 2007

Name removed for fear of board retaliation

To:

Re: Unauthorized postings

It has come to our attention that flyers and cards are being placed in the elevators, mail lobby, console tables, and trash rooms. No unauthorized postings in common elements are permitted.

If you are observed violating the above after the date of this letter, this matter will be immediately turned over to the association attorney. You will then be responsible for all attorney fees and costs incurred to insure your compliance.

The Board of Directors

Dott Nicholson-Brown, President

Eric Berkowitz, Vice President

Fern McBride, Secretary

Bill Tennenbaum, Treasurer

Bob Nagle, Asst. Treasurer

Iris Anastasi, Director

[Handwritten signatures of board members]

VERBOTEN! Has Freedom of Speech been banned in the Galt? Here's an actual letter sent out by the Regency Tower president and signed by board members telling residents how they'll handle those candidates who are brave enough to run for a volunteer board position in their upcoming election. Of course, this letter refers to communications from candidates who are opposing current board members. Note the intimidating language and menacing threat of legal retaliation. Will this board "allow" candidates to mail their information through the U.S. Postal Service? Why would a volunteer president and volunteer board behave like this?

I LED TWO LIVES - a book by Commissioner Tim Smith

My Life as a City Commissioner and Private Citizen

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Tim Smith was a beloved District 2 Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner from 1996 to 2003. Smith wrote this book after he left office to tell his story about what it was actually like to be a City Commissioner.

His book, Politics 101, will be published here in serial form, one chapter per month.

I Was Robbed, Mugged, Blackmailed and Ignored, So I Ran For Public Office, got Elected And Made a Difference

AN INTRIGUING TALE FROM A FORMER FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSIONER

“When smart people refuse to engage in politics they are punished by being governed by those who are dumber.”

Plato

Chapter 5

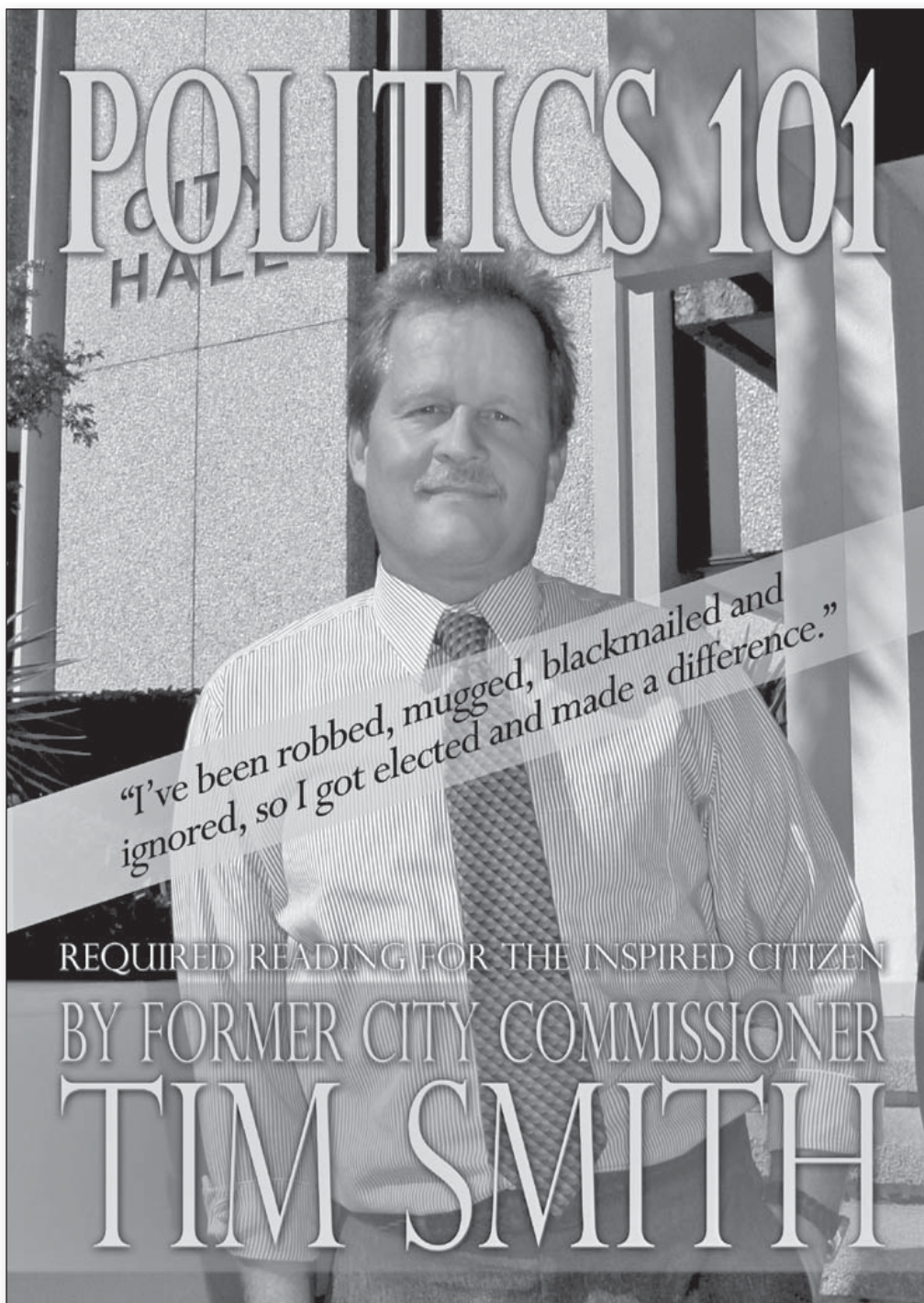
The nuts and bolts of it all!

Somehow I kept my wits about me and stuck to my task. Now it was just weeks before the primary and I was neck and neck with Tom Gustafson. The pundits were saying that Sam didn't have a chance and only Ned Skiff was anywhere within striking distance of Tom and me. The other two candidates were still on the ballot, but had basically given up. I left the blackmail threat in the capable hands of Chief Investigator Amandola and his G-People and prepared for the dash to the finish line.

Now, sometimes in life you win, and sometimes you lose! It's an ugly reality. I've experienced both, and winning is definitely better! Read on for my story of the thrill of VICTORIES, and the AGONY OF DEFEAT.

Anyhow, my path through campaigning hell follows!

Through all the wire-tapping and undercover intrigue, I was somehow able to continue the killer task of campaigning. If you are thinking of running for office, and you're being told that



campaigning is fun, they are LYING! It is brutal! Particularly if you are a first timer, or if it's a hotly contested race, count on kissing your wife goodbye, and set that picture of you on the piano so your kids will remember what you look like!

I had started out the campaign in the dog days of August. I didn't know how to run, much less how to win. I asked Cal, who would turn out to be my campaign manager, even though he consistently refused to take the job, if he had any ideas. Cal is long on ideas. He is an idea factory! I'd like to get a look inside his brain if he goes before me. It's bound to be full of stuff, with no room for more. He had heard of a book that talked about running for office and referred me to it. It was kind of a dry and boring how to book (not like this tantalizer!), but it had most of the basics covered.

There is one cardinal rule among all

the other rules that you can't forget if you decide to run for office. Try and talk to every possible voter, and I mean every one! You have to have some face time with all your future bosses. You won't end up talking to them all, but the harder you try, the greater your chance of winning. The less well known you are, the more important getting your mug in front of those that vote is. And there are many ways to introduce yourself to that rare bird - a voter!

You'll end up being disappointed when you find out that most of the people you know don't even vote. Your neighbor, the one that always criticizes whoever is in office and constantly goes on about how all the politicians should be thrown out of office doesn't vote. Your sister, who majored in political science in college doesn't vote. Your butcher, baker, even the candlestick maker don't vote. And you'll have the official voting

lists to prove it. I think the actual voter should be added to the endangered species list! In all of my races, the highest turnout was 22%, and that was in a very angry, contemptuous mayoral race (I'll tell you more about that torture later!)

I think that there ought to be some reward for voting. Or, in the converse, a punishment to those that don't. Maybe there could be a new line put in the grocery store, next to the 10 items or less line. It could read VOTERS ONLY. It would be a lonely line, the Maytag repairman would be busier. Or maybe you could get one of those discount cards that would give you 10% off of everything everywhere if you would just do your civic duty. It wouldn't be restricted to off-beat or new restaurants. It wouldn't just include the new Scissors and Snips! I mean everything! You would get 10% off your phone bill, groceries, federal taxes, and the whole shooting match! You think I'm kidding, but I'm not. And you may think that this phenomenon of low voter turnout doesn't happen in your town, but it does.

Getting to the actual voter is imperative. Many first time candidates think they will change history. They think that all they have to do to win is turn out folks likely to vote for them if they voted. They think that the millions of want-to-be politicians that went before them just didn't try hard enough to get out their vote! I know, because that's what I once thought. And if you could move mountains and walk on water, you'll also be able to get that non-voter off the couch! But it just doesn't happen. I'm sure there have been a few exceptions, but they will be rare, very rare.

The first thing you should do is go to your local Supervisor of Elections. They have the lists of registered voters and you, as a candidate, have the selective right to these lists. Hopefully, you live in a county where the Supervisor of Elections remembers where she put the lists. If not, have them look in the bottom of any of their filing cabinets (this is a local joke!). That's one of the nicest perks about running for office. You'll get the lists. And that's important because you'll need the lists. But remember, if you use those lists to start a mail order business of Ginzu knives, you'll have to use a return address that includes a prison cell number!

Many registrars will give you lists that are detailed. You should be able to pick off the list the most important voters, what they call the **SUPER VOTERS**. In our county, the list shows the voters name, age, address, sex, and race,

Continued on page 19

and most importantly, do they actually vote! Did they vote in the last city race, only the national races, never at all, or in every election? Now you can start to make some educated choices. Pick out those that vote all the time first. And if the task of culling through those lists is too difficult (my political district had 20,000 plus registered voters), there are plenty of political consultant companies that will do the analyzing for you, for a price.

Once you find out who the voters are, it's time to go on the attack. You need to get out your message, and you need to let them know where you stand on the issues. But most important, you need to let them see what a great guy (or gal) you are. That's really what most voters want to get at. They will want to know if they can look you in the eye and feel like they don't have to hide the valuables! We are all so disgusted with politics and politicians; we want a straight talker. We need people that answer the same questions that are asked. We are all looking for someone to lead us, to give us the right answers, show us the right path. And if you want to be that person, and you are willing to take the abuse of the doubters to do it, then you can! But first you have to win!

There are many ways to get in front of the elusive voter. By far the best way is to just knock on their door and say hi. We are assuming that shyness is not one of your weaknesses. I found that nearly all of the real voters appreciate your coming by. Some may be too busy to talk with you, but they will remember that you made the effort and they will tell their neighbors.

Every once in a while you will come across a citizen that really pays attention. They will ask you in, sit you down, get you some lemonade and start the grilling. They will want to know what you are going to do about the budget shortfall, the pollution from the electric plant, the latest development proposal, and your stand on abortion! Be ready for these rare birds. Have a plan and some thoughts on all the issues of the day. Develop a platform.

Hopefully, that's why you're running, to fix problems. Try and be honest and forthright. If you start sounding like a slippery politico, they'll mute you like a bad T.V. commercial. Remember the Latin for politics (many bloodsucking insects). Most people will like you and give you a chance if they feel like you are giving them the straight scoop, an honest answer. And look them in the eye. If you are gazing past them, they will wonder if you really care about them, and you must. Remember, this is your future boss you are chatting with. Though you need to have a platform and a plan, you should always keep an open mind and listen, and let them know that your

mind is open, and not just to let the air pass through! Walk door-to-door, real voter to real voter, as often during the campaign as you can.

Many office seekers say they walk door to door, but do very little of it. And some don't believe in culling the real voters out and just walk down the street and knock on every door. Trust me, if you are planning on doing that, you might as well carry along some Kirby vacuums and try to at least sell something, otherwise you will be wasting your time.

Only registered voters are allowed to vote at all, and only the real voters vote. Saturdays are the best days to walk, as you'll catch the most people home, but weekday evenings will work also. You will probably have to do a lot of apologizing for coming while people are eating, but as I said before, most folks appreciate you reaching out and will thank you for coming. Many candidates devise a system when they walk. They take their supporters with them and fan out throughout a neighborhood.

The political consultants all have software that will devise a walk plan through each neighborhood so you can concentrate on those that will vote. It will give you a route through each neighborhood, tell you the gender of the voter, their age, how long they have been registered in your county and their shoe size (just kidding).

Additionally, it will tell you the political party of the voter. If your city is like ours, you run on a non-partisan basis. This means you are not allowed to put your party affiliation on any literature or use it in any way. But it can come in handy while you are walking door to door. If you are a Democrat, and you are knocking on the door of a Republican and they ask you your party affiliation, you can be ready to tell them that the race is a non-partisan race.

If they are a Democrat, (and you are also), you can just proudly announce, "Oh, I'm a Democrat! If you have too many thousands of real voters, and there is no way you'll reach them all yourself, then this method of using your volunteers to help you make it through all the neighborhoods is a good one. Make sure that you are in the same neighborhood though. Have your friends give your spiel and let them know that you are "just around the corner" talking to their neighbors. And then make sure you are!

Some of the rarest voter birds will tell your walkers to have you stop by in a few minutes to chat. They will have just one burning question that they have to ask you in person. Or they don't really believe that you are "just around the corner." If you are really in the Bahamas fishing, you'll be bagged! Also, many walk teams keep copious notes about their visits.

They mark up the walk-list with in-

formation that can be used at a later date. "Call Mary Jones and let her know if the dog leash law was passed" and so forth. Sometimes voters sitting on the fence will be swung by that added effort. No matter how you decide to "walk to the voters," whatever method or system you use, it is by far the most effective way for an upstart candidate to win.

Phone calls can be effective as well. Often, people will say things over the phone that they won't when you are at the door. Things like "I wouldn't vote for that bum if he were the only candidate in the race!" If you get a negative comment, it will give you a chance to see where you need some work.

Phone work can cover a lot of ground. I always used a local real estate office. They have lots of phones and don't work in the evening. I often had 20 people calling for 4 hours a night, night after night. We could reach thousands of people during the campaign. But once again, make sure you are there when the calling is happening. Voters will often say to your callers "well, I want to talk to Tim himself, and NOW!" You will want to get right on the line. If you are home catching a catnap, one vote lost!

The co-front runner in my race for the Commission seat, in my first term as Commissioner, Tom Gustafson, made a major mistake with his phone calls. Tom, having been such a big shot in Florida politics had contacts everywhere. And those contacts turn into money. Big bucks! Mucho, mucho dinero!

I had been running for six months and had restricted my donations to a maximum of \$25 (more about that later). I had managed to raise twelve thousand dollars. Tom had been in the race for only two months and was restricting his to a MINIMUM of \$250. He had reportedly raised some ungodly amount like \$80,000.

While I was busy begging volunteers to show up at the real estate office and call our super voters, Tom had another plan. He would take it easy and let his moola work for him. He hired a company out of North Carolina to make his calls for him. After they had called thousands and thousands of voters, Tom's staff realized that in their spiel they were mispronouncing his name! They were asking voters to get out and vote for GUSTAFSON instead of GUSTUFSON! The local newspaper editors picked up the guffaw and wrote a column about Tom relying on his campaign war chest instead

of real local support.

They fashioned our fight a "David vs. Goliath" battle and I couldn't be happier! Anyhow, I could go on and on and detail all the multitude of ways for you to reach those rare voter birds. The street corner sign holding work, the mailers, the public debates, the truck with your sign on it and the loudspeakers, but check that dry book out of the library for that. Just make sure to get to those super voters, they are the cheese, the gold, the cream, the kings and queens, the one and onlys. Am I getting my point across? Have I stressed this enough? And get to them early and often. And again and again and again. Until they cry UNCLE! Until they turn all the lights out when they see you coming up the drive! You do want to win, don't you?

And just in case you were wondering what that outcome of the blackmailing case was, Keno was found not guilty when his trial finally came to court years later.

The neighbor boy that had fingered Keno in the photographic line-up could no longer say for certain that Keno was the man who delivered the extortion threat. In a few months, the statute of limitations will have expired and I hope that someone who knows the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth will come forward and give it up.

And just for incentive, I'll throw in a one-thousand dollar reward for that whole ugly truth!



Street corner sign holding "Thank You" is important, too!

MAYOR FAILS TO ACT ON GLOBAL WARMING

Calls rest of us "Environmental Whackos"

by Marge Anderson, (954) 467-8641

February 2, 2007: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), composed of 2,500 of the world's leading climate scientists, concluded that "global warming is "unequivocal."

February 2, 2007: Sun-Sentinel released information that 28 South Florida Mayors have signed on to take steps to reduce emissions of greenhouse gas in their cities because they are frustrated by what they regard as inaction by the Bush Administration.

February 6, 2007: Unfavorable press appeared regarding Mayor Naugle's refusal to sign the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, a domestic effort to protect our future by setting minimum CO2 emissions reductions targets. (And the bad press wasn't from this newspaper! Sun-Sentinel, February 6; Miami Herald, posted February 10). The consensus seemed to be that the Mayor is everything from "silly" to "shameful." And, like President Bush, very sure of himself. Mayor Naugle is

sure that he made the correct decision when he declined to sign what 28 other South Florida Mayors signed; a pact to make their cities more energy efficient. Naugle called those who are concerned about global warming "environmental whackos." (Rush Limbaugh requires underlings to use these exact words)

It is true that Mayor Naugle created a "Broward Mayors' Environmental Accord." This document reads, in part, "Whereas, many leading US companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the US to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables....;" and "Whereas, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs" and "Whereas many cities throughout the nation.....are reducing pollutants through programs....." Now so far it sounds like the Mayor DOES believe greenhouse gas emissions are a real problem. Or is he just saying because others are doing something, we'd better do something so we'll look good?

The document goes on to make this declaration: "Now therefore be it resolved that Broward Mayors where possible and feasible will:" Then it goes on to list quite constructive ideas on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But the crucial phrase is "where possible and feasible." The omission of any emissions reductions targets and time tables is glaring.

The fact that Mayor Naugle on the one hand "sniffed" at reports that humans have very little influence on global warming, and on the other hand, proposed the Broward Accord, is confusing. Is this leadership?

Mayors who sign on to the USMCPA are making "a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emission in their own cities and communities to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 through actions like increasing energy efficiency, reducing vehicle miles traveled, maintaining healthy urban forests, reducing sprawl, and promoting use of clean, renewable energy resources." Why is setting a goal so frightening to Mayor Naugle?

In January, before the IPCC met, Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association already had concerns. Board members had gone on line (www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate) to learn that Fort Lauderdale had not signed on to the US Mayors' Conference Climate Protection Agreement, which was started after President Bush declined to sign the Kyoto Protocol. President Michael O'Brien then asked to be on the agenda of the Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations to discuss this issue. The plan was to ask the Council to submit a letter to Mayor Naugle urging him to change his mind and sign the pact. The Council voted to allow the issue to be put on the agenda.

O'Brien invited representatives of other groups to attend a meeting on January 31 to discuss the formation of a new Broward County Green League. The response was gratifying. More than

30 people attended the meeting: Notably present was Barry Heimlich, Broward Audubon Vice-President, who has been asking the Mayor for a year to sign the Agreement. Attendees were asked to contact their neighborhood associations to support Middle River Terrace's proposal.

Then came the unfavorable press.

On February 13, the Council met. O'Brien asked the Council to urge the Mayor to sign on to the USMCCPA. He presented reasons for the request. Mayor Naugle then spoke. He held a list of "thousands" of US scientists who do not support signing the Agreement. He claimed that the media has been very slanted; presenting only one side of the facts. "The trouble is journalism," he opined.

He offered the view that people were drinking too much Kool-Aid. Further, he explained that the term "where feasible" had to be used (in the Broward Mayors' Accord) because Police Officers could not drive in hybrid cars. The bad guys wouldn't fit in the back. He did not mention why Code Enforcement officers needed new SUV's to replace their Chevy Cavaliers.

Discussion was ended. Only five neighborhoods had discussed these issues with their members, as they had been asked to do. The vote was deferred until April.

So much for thinking global.
So much for acting local.



"Relax, Honey . . . Mayor Naugle said climate change is just a normal fluctuation of the Earth's temperature."

A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF A FORT LAUDERDALE TAXI

The road to hell is paved with . . .

By Frank J. Marshall

The Road to Hell Is Paved With ...

In the preceding episode Ft. Lauderdale taxi driver, me, grieved over the received riches, but not enough to go to the police. The love of my life, Viv turned up missing and I was told by my good friend Don that Howie Staunton was shot to death and he planned to tell the cops that I had threatened his life. Meanwhile I missed a condo board meeting concerning Sinaites, which was the name of that Williamsburg shul, and the last fare before my getting arrested was carrying the baby she strangled.

It was two days before I got the cab back. The seats and carpets took a team of pros three hours vacuuming and shampooing before all the dog hairs vamoosed. It would have been two days before I got back, too, if not for the intervention of a tired looking Deputy Lieutenant Carlos Kaplán of Homicide. He was the same lieutenant who accompanied the cop, Manny Lasker, who locked me up as a material witness, at that fast food place a few years ago. Kaplán's accent seemed to have thickened, and he was second-generation Puerto Rican-American. Loosely translated, he said, "Oy. You again."

I did not much care whether he liked me or not. In fact, I did not know until he rang my doorbell the day I got my cab back, that he expedited the release. But at that moment, I did not want to see him. He asked to come in for something cold to drink. In the merciless sunlight his wrinkled puss looked three inches deep, and his eyes were clouded over, probably cataracts.

On him the old-man blue-gray suit bagged at the shoulders and knees, a maroon tie with a skinny knot so ancient, it defied untying, kept the limp white shirt closed at the collar. He looked sixty, so it was no surprise his, later, telling me he was retiring in a couple of weeks. Twenty-two years, now that was a surprise. I did not think the Sheriff hired deputies thirty-eight years old. The real jolt struck when he said me he was forty-five. Boy, I was ready to call him a liar. But then I remembered reading in a biography: "He was then thirty-eight, which in Latin races represents a greater age than in the Nordic strain," I and thought better of calling him that.

Nor did I know two other taxi drivers were slain with Glock projectiles. "Do you think it is an advertising campaign?" I asked. He was at the kitchen table in the dining room while I noodled around the back of the fridge for a can of beer I remember having seen a

month or so ago, so I did not know if he cracked a grin. But I guess not; his face did not crash.

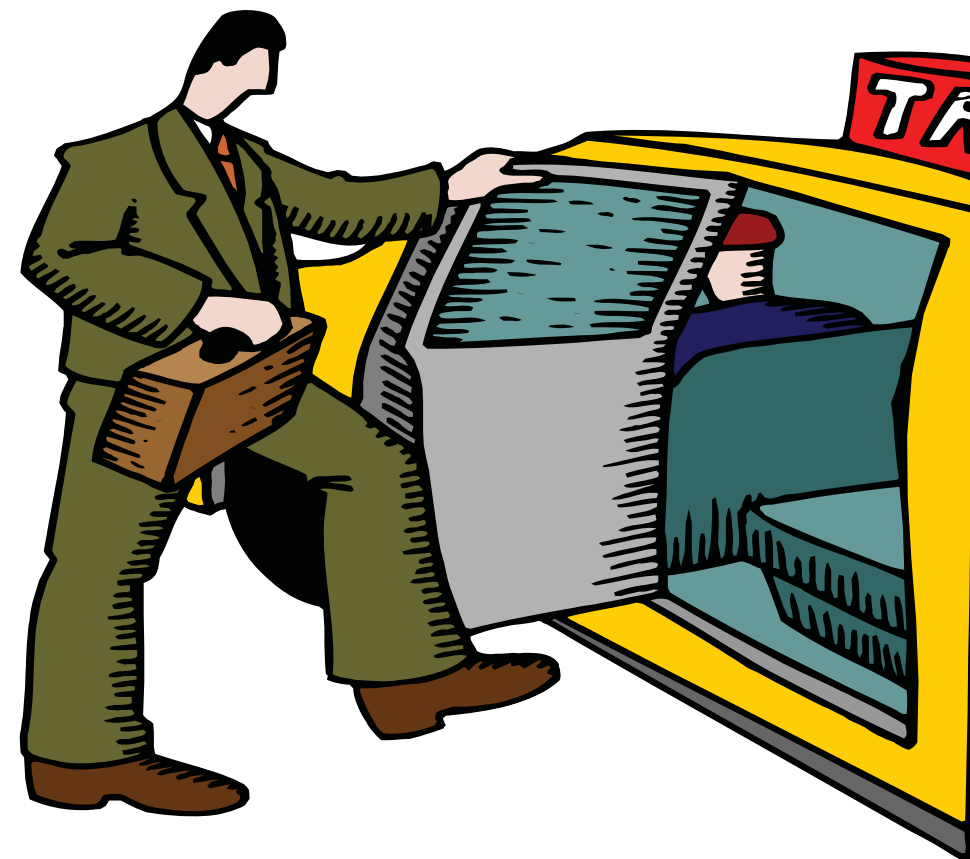
My memory was good. I felt around behind the grapefruit for something cold and there it was. As I was bringing it over, he said, "I need a straw with that."

"There are no straws."

"Damn. Just set it down and I'll wait for it to warm."

"That could take an hour," I protested.

"At least. I have been so busy that my aching molars suffer from neglect. As long as I must wait, I might as well get



an answer to one big question: If I can think of two officers you should never have another dealing with, they are ..."

"Porthos and Athos," I said.

"...Lasker and me. Coincidence?"

"Hey! Mr. Sheriff of Nottingham. If your back teeth are aching, I have a bottle of hooch. They say setting it on the tooth helps, but I have found it does not stay settled for long. The tooth still hurt, but who cared. You know what I mean?"

"Very clever. Now, how'd it look if a law enforcement officer got a D.U.I.?"

"I have my cab. I would not charge you much."

"You shouldn't. If I hadn't intervened, you'd still be in stir and your cab in an impound lot. It's very costly."

"You intervened? Why?"

"I had a tip from a Mr. Don Janowski. It just so happens that I inherited the case of the cab drivers. He said, 'I give

my left ear to crack it.'"

We met again the next afternoon, his treat, at a Burger King on Federal. The man had a passion for French fries and mustard. As long as it was on his buck-and-a-quarter, I had a double cheeseburger, and he watched me take that first big bite. He was delighted that I enjoyed it so much.

He said, "On the police report, you told Deputy Lasker you never ate cheeseburgers. Salads and iced tea, you said."

I might have.

"You filed a false statement."

"Big deal! Look, why the invite? It

"You spilled mustard on your sleeve."

"It'll come out." He showed me a plastic tube about the size of a cigar that he took out from his jacket's inside humidior pocket that contained a detergent stick. Lo and behold it worked. It left a clean spot. "No. Not me. I'm strictly administration."

"And I will be able to afford to go fishing?"

"Sure. How much would you charge the men in green who can cite you on just about anything?"

While he maintained the deadpan, I grinned like Hell. I knew not to play poker with him. "That is quite an act," I said just before the mood turned south. He did not yawn but his face was vacant, no one at home. He would arrest his own mother, even set the trap to catch her. I had a trap of my own to set.

"Suppose the killer strikes in the day."

He did not blink for the entire two years we stared into each other's eyes before I finally laid down the framework of the swindle. First state my purpose: "You know damn well that could happen. And it just so happens that I am in the market for another cab."

This time I did not bother to get stared down. I just stared at my thumbs.

At long last, he said, "Talk!"

Using his own words, I said, "Here is the thing ..." which drew a sharp look and what might be considered in Siberian social circles as a grin. I stuck a finger in the air. "You lease the cab all day." A second finger joined him. "You pay the insurance premiums. And," up when number three which did not stand as tall as his brothers, "you breeze it through Taxi-Limo red tape."

"I'm sure my Captain'll go for it. I told him I am holding off retirement until I crack this case. His son is up for my job when I go."

"You misunderstood me. When I say 'you', you is what I mean. Stop looking at me like that. You know damn well what I meant. I am not going to get involved with a government agency."

"That's how it has to be."

We were at an impasse. Imagine trying to sue a police department as huge as BSO over a breach of contract. By the time I collect, money would be out of style.

(To be continued in the next exciting issue of City News.)

To contact Frank Marshall, email FRANKJMARSHALL4@aol.com)

wasn't to trap me in a three-year-old lie, that is for sure."

Lt. Kaplán said, "Here's the thing ..."

There was no more mention of the false statement other than Manny Lasker's name. Although Kaplán called it karma, it was coincidental that he stopped me for one homicide and Lasker for another, of which I was innocent; the homicide with the gray area of my involvement, if one actually took place, still occupied the bottom of my mind. It damned sure kept me under a gray cloud.

"... So far the taxi killer struck at night. You lease your cab at night to the Sheriff's Office." "Then what do I do?" "Go fishing. You already got the lying part down pretty good." "Who dunks fries into mustard? Geez!" I cringed. "Who is going to drive the cab? You?"

"Me?"

CIGARETTE LITTER UNSIGHTLY AND DISGRACEFUL AT THE BEACH

By Mike Moran

Everyday we watch complacently as cigarette butts are flicked out of car windows or stomped, one at a time, on our sidewalks, beaches, parks, garden beds, and other public places as if the city commission declared Fort Lauderdale



a public ashtray. Just take a look around, it's a disgrace.

Sadly, cigarette butts have become the most littered item in America and the world, accounting for 35% of picked-up trash (according to Keep America Beautiful, the nation's largest nonprofit community-improvement organization).

The Ocean Conservancy's annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) study supports cigarette butts have become the most littered item found on our nation's beaches. FL tops the charts as the 2nd filthiest. At a beach cleanup in Delray Beach last September, volunteers unearthed 3,540 cigarette butts in a single day.

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) contends that under the current litter ordinance, cigarette butts are, in fact, considered litter. However, report a violator and your complaint will fall on deaf ears...

The FLPD claims the biggest obstacle to addressing this problem is one of time and priority. Yet, ironically, the FLPD makes enough time and priority to generate over \$2,500,000+ in traffic fines and other violations collected by the County.

Today, over 54 local governments across the country prohibit smoking on beaches & parks. Imagine that; a beach, a park, a playground, a place where you can take a child to enjoy smoke free air and no cigarette butts.

All have adopted new, strict litter

ordinances that make cigarette butt litter a severely finable offense in any public place. Their police departments are enforcing the law, generating revenue for the city, all while cleaning up the environment.

Some cities are pursuing more aggressive laws that prohibit smoking anywhere in their cities except for single-family detached residences in order to protect their citizens, especially the children, from the known, negative health effects of second-hand smoke. Not to mention, the toxic residue in cigarette filters is damaging to the environment, and littered butts cause numerous fires every year, some of them fatal.

The reality is the problem is deep rooted in our culture. We, as a community, have tolerated blatant and routine cigarette butt littering for so long that we have conditioned smokers to think it is okay to use our sidewalks, beaches and parks as a public ashtray.

Well, it's not okay and the nation is rising up and saying no more butts!

On Thursday, January 4th I was given the opportunity to deliver a second citizen's presentation on Cigarette Butt Litter to the Fort Lauderdale City Commission. I am happy to report that there was support and openness to take action. Now, we need your support.

If you are sick and tired of sitting complacently as cigarette butts are flicked out of car windows or stomped, one at a time, on our sidewalks, beaches, parks, garden beds, and other public places - please, speak up and email helpkickbutts@gmail.com.

STUDY SOFT PASTELS IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING AT BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is offering a Pastel Painting Workshop with Barbara Dix, April 19 and 20 from 9:30am-3:30pm. Included in the workshop are early morning demonstrations, outdoor painting, discussion of shared experiences, and work.

Basic requirements for the workshop are: Some ability to draw, the desire to work in a new medium, or to brush up on technique in a familiar one and the ability to relax into a whole new spectrum of glorious color in a very forgiving medium. A few rewards are: Immediate gratification--no tedious mixing, no waiting for drying time, just fun, messing about with beautiful hues.

For a supply list and details, please contact Barbara Dix at 954 497-7799.

Cost of the workshop is \$63 for members and \$70 for non-members. Mail or deliver check, payable to Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, Attention Susan Parker. Class space is limited. For registration and information call 954-563-5393 X 122.

TO PROTECT HOME OWNERSHIP, CAP GOVERNMENT SPENDING

By Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff

Usually when I ask my constituents what the Legislature can do to help them build their business, I am quickly reminded that the best thing that government can do to grow our small businesses throughout the state is to keep taxes low and get out of the way.

Government continues to face these challenges, and it must continue to be mindful of its role in securing Florida's economic prosperity.

In the past several years, our state has been enjoying one of the most prosperous times in the history, not just in our state, but in the nation. Unfortunately, due to our government's outmoded property tax code, we are in danger of quickly allowing that prosperity to drift away. It is time that we take action.

Rising property taxes are crippling Florida's families and small businesses. As a tax that is tied to the value of our homes, farmlands, vacation homes, and investment properties, property taxes have become a heavy burden not just on property owners, but also on renters of residential and commercial properties. The pace of rising values has caused an immediate tax burden that is becoming unbearable.

Seniors and young families are finding it tougher to make ends meet. Small businesses in some instances are being forced to close their doors. And unfortunately, because the taxes due are tied to the value of a property, even when millage rates remain the same, a substantial automatic tax increase is passed on to taxpayers every year. In almost every case, both local and state governments have used the tax windfalls for additional spending and have not returned monies in excess of a reasonable inflationary rate of increase. Furthermore, these tax increases have essentially occurred without voter approval. This is not just a bad tax policy. It is unconscionable.

Sales tax revenues are down, and for the first time since the advent of air conditioning, anecdotal evidence shows us that more people are moving away from Florida than moving in. Without a doubt, our state is becoming less attractive to young families and middle income retirees who simply cannot afford to move here.

Because of the courage of Speaker Marco Rubio and the leaders in Tallahassee, help is on the way. However, we

must be careful to address this issue in a comprehensive manner. Anything less will only exacerbate the problem and create even more inequities in the system.

We need to consider a number of policy changes but all must be designed to protect the American Dream of Homeownership. However, we cannot support policies that shift the tax burden to our commercial owners and



subsequently the renters and small business owners. Therefore, I propose that we cap the annual increase in property tax revenues at the city and county levels to the increase in a community's growth plus inflation for the previous year. This will keep taxes fairly distributed and will not allow local government to grow faster than a

community's ability to pay for it. If local governments need more revenue, then let them take their case to the people. We must also consider bold proposals such as the elimination of at least a portion of the state's property tax and substitute it with a sales tax increase. This will allow the state to tax consumption instead of the production of wealth in our state and allow non-state residents to share the tax burden.

There will be much more debate on this issue going into the legislative session. I am confident that there will be many plans put forth in an effort to address this problem.

While I am not certain what the final plan will look like, I can assure you that if we are to keep our state moving forward, our property tax fix must be thoughtful, comprehensive, and immediate.

Bonnet House Lecture Series Concludes With Bonnet House Board Member and Tour Guide, J. Kent Planck

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens concludes its ever popular Lecture Series 2007 with "Friends of the Bartlett's: Who they knew and when they knew them" at 10am in the Island Theater on Monday, March 12th. Our special guest speaker is J. Kent Planck, a Bonnet House board member and extremely knowledgeable tour guide and fine artist. This will be the last lecture of this season's lecture series. The cost is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Don't miss out!

To reserve your seat, please contact Linda Schaller.

Tel: 954-563-5393 ext. 137
education@bonnethouse.org



By Kevin Lane

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Joins Eclectic Fort Lauderdale Beach Dining Scene

When you add the number of world class restaurants, sidewalk cafes and bistros on Las Olas Boulevard, to the growing number of eclectic restaurants opening along Fort Lauderdale Beach, our residents and visitors have a tasty



variety of dining options unlike any other place in South Florida! That variety will get a little spicier with the opening on March 10th of Bubba Gump Shrimp Company at 429 South Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd. (A1A)

Better than a box of chocolates, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., the 6,800 square foot restaurant that captures the charm and American spirit that made Paramount Pictures' "Forrest Gump" a smash hit, combines quality seafood in a casual family atmosphere and features the down-home décor reminiscent of the movie's setting in Alabama. Film memorabilia and still photos decorate the walls, along with reproductions of script pages, storyboards and costumes, to create a fun family atmosphere. Scrawled "Gumpisms" grace the varnished tabletops inside.

Just as the name implies, shrimp is the specialty of the house and served the way you like it from steamed in beer to fried to shrimp scampi to stuffed and more. The menu also includes appetizers such as Mama Gump's Garlic Bread Basket and Bubba's Far Out Dip. Entrées include Bucket of Boat Trash, Bourbon

KEVIN'S KORNER

Street Mahi Mahi, award -winning Dixie Style Baby Back Ribs and the Shrimp'n' Dippin' Broth. Guests who have room for dessert can savor outstanding treats such as Apple Cobbler, Mama's Bread Pudding and the warm Chocolate Chip Cookies Sundae. For more information about Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurants, visit www.bubbagump.com. The Web site features sample menus, restaurant locations, Bubba Gump merchandise and more.

ManKind For Men... A Unique Club-Like Grooming Emporium

When Lee Garipoli conceived of the idea of opening a 'barber shop', he reflected on the old world type of men's sanctuary where a man could get a haircut... enjoy a hot shave... have his shoes shined and feel important... a place where everyone knows your name.

This month, Lee celebrates the second anniversary of ManKind Grooming & Services, which encompasses all of those components and a lot more. In fact, ManKind is part 'Cheers,' part private club, and part spa. In addition to all of the traditional services, you can play a game of pool, watch sports events or news on the big screen t.v., enjoy complimentary beer or Dewars 12 at the red-brick and chrome bar, get a massage, order a made-to-measure suit, drop off your dry cleaning... or have a manicure... all in the comfort of the club-like atmosphere. ManKind is at 501 S.E. 2nd Street, #103 in the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale.

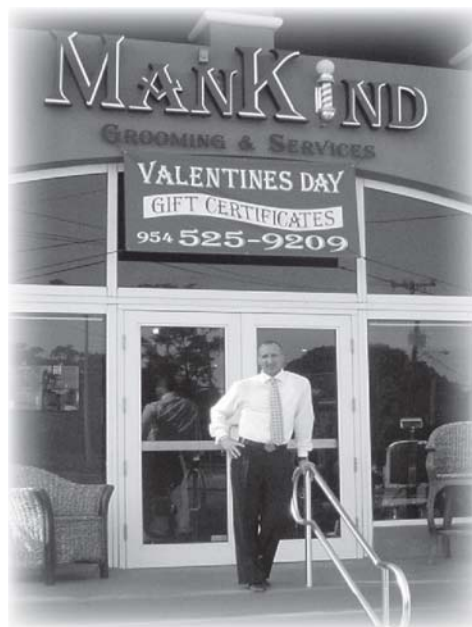
"When I conceptualized ManKind, I wanted to create a warm and friendly environment for men. In my ten years of work in the private club arena, I learned the importance of customer service... the importance of knowing people's names and making them feel welcome," Lee explained. "We've built a strong repeat business and over the past two years, we've redesigned the interior to provide a one-of-a-kind, full-service, men's grooming emporium that heralds a bygone era." Garipoli's guiding principal... "... Grooming wasn't meant to be a task... where the tradition of services yesterday, meet the products and services of today, in an atmosphere you will come to expect tomorrow."

ManKind's Spa offers Swedish, Reflexology and Deep Tissue Massage, facials, chemical peels, and hot stone. The steam room provides a true respite from the tension of everyday life. A special opportunity exists for Groomsmen and Bachelor party packages and the entire facility can be rented for private events. Their 'made-to-measure' program offers

men the opportunity to select the fabric, styling nuances and special fashion accents for suits, sport coats and slacks as well as dress shirts that can include monograms.

Throughout the month of March, anyone having a spa service will be registered in a drawing for an Executive Membership, valued at \$1,400.00, one of three tiers of membership. "Each Membership level provides a much greater dollar value than the actual costs of services," Lee noted. "For instance, the Executive includes unlimited haircuts, 12 'one-of-a-kinds,' and 12 manicures."

Open 7 days a week. For information, call (954) 525-9209 or visit www.mankindformen.com.



Fort Lauderdale Historical Society Hires New Director with Solid History Credentials

The Board of Trustees of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society has recently announced the appointment of Richard C. Borges, Ph.D., a highly respected figure in the museum history world for more than three decades, as its new executive director. Dr. Borges's areas of specialization include 20th century American history, the history of technology and the history of the Shakers. He has served as a member of the board of directors of the American Association of Museums, the Society of Industrial Archeology and the New England Museum Association.

"We are excited to welcome Dick Borges as the Society's new Executive Director. Dick brings great leadership ability, solid academic credentials, a passion for history and extensive experience in leading history museums similar to the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society," said Arthur Bengochea, FLHS President.

Borges said, "I am very pleased to

have been selected as the head of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. It offers an opportunity to apply my experience in long-range planning and help the Society continue in its efforts to be an inclusive organization and refine and develop its mission of history education. The FLHS is an incredible resource, and I look forward to working with staff, Trustees, members and volunteers to fully develop its potential."

Prior to the FLHS appointment, Dr. Borges was Executive Director of the H.H. Franklin Foundation in Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Borges and his wife Daithi have two children, Virginia, a recent Harvard University graduate and, Breckinridge, who just entered the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. Dick has many interests that he shares with his family including antique automobiles and boating. This column welcomes Dr. Borges and his family to Ft. Lauderdale.

Pamper Yourself at Complexions

Having lived in Fort Lauderdale for 28 years, skin care specialist Patti Ross "... always dreamed of owning a business with a Las Olas address." Well, dreams do come true as she's recently moved to 811 East Las Olas. "What better location than Las Olas to open a skin care/massage studio, with a wonderful array of shops and eating establishments," Patti said. The pleasing décor and tranquil atmosphere adds to the Complexions experience.

While there are numerous services and ways to be pampered, Patti was especially enthusiastic about one of Complexion's newest services, a Belavi Facelift Massage. She explained that the Belavi (bell-a-vee) Facelift Massage is the most luxurious, safe and effective method of treating the problem of sagging, aging skin without surgery. After a thorough cleansing of cellular debris, your "Certified" Belavi practitioner performs gentle acupressure, manual lymph drainage and advanced facial massage using specialized techniques stimulating blood and oxygen to nourish, rejuvenate, and tone the muscles and skin of the face.

The Belavi Institute recommends a minimum of eight treatments to be completed in four weeks. "You will experience a remarkable improvement in your facial muscle tone and quality of your complexion," she noted. Single treatments are priced at \$90.00 while a 'Package Price' of 8 treatments is \$650.00, a savings of \$70.00. To learn more, visit <http://www.complexions-skincare.com>.

Complexions is open seven days a week by appointment only. Call (954) 764-1101.

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

FORT LAUDERDALE RESIDENTS' SURVEY 2007

The Fort Lauderdale Residents' Survey has been a yearly effort to gauge public opinion on the most important issues facing our City. Leading citizens have participated in developing the questions used in the survey. Some of the questions will be asked every year so trends can be identified. Please respond to the questions by using the answer that most closely resembles your opinion. Extra space is available at the end for additional comments. Results will be published in the April issue.

Thanks, Tim Smith.

Name (optional) _____ Neighborhood _____

General:

- 1.) How long have you lived in Fort Lauderdale? _____
- 2.) If you moved here, where did you live before? _____
- 3.) Do you think you will stay in Fort Lauderdale for another five years? Yes _____ No _____
- 4.) If you feel you may leave within 5 years, what would the reason be?

- 5.) If you were to leave Fort Lauderdale, where would you likely go?

- 6.) Do you attend your Homeowners Association meetings? Yes _____ No _____
- 7.) Do you generally vote in the City elections? Yes _____ No _____
- 8.) Do you think the City elections should be moved from March to November to coincide with National, State and other local elections? Yes _____ No _____
- 9.) Do you think the City Commission is doing an adequate job representing your interests? Yes _____ No _____ Why? _____
- 10.) Is the Mayor doing an adequate job representing the city? Yes _____ No _____ Why? _____
- 11.) Do you think the City Manager is doing an adequate job managing the City? Yes _____ No _____ Why? _____
- 12.) Should the City consider electing their Commissioners citywide instead of by Districts? Yes _____ No _____
- 13.) Should the City consider enlarging the Commission from 5 Commissioners to 7 Commissioners? Yes _____ No _____
- 14.) Should the beach have its' own city Commissioner? Yes _____ No _____
- 15.) Is the City generally headed in the right direction? Yes _____ No _____
- 16.) Does the City encourage enough participation from its' citizens? Yes _____ No _____
- 17.) All in all, is Fort Lauderdale a better place than when you moved here? Yes _____ No _____

Growth:

- 1.) Do you favor continued redevelopment in the City? Yes _____ No _____
- 2.) Is the City as a whole already overdeveloped? Yes _____ No _____
- 3.) Is the Beach overdeveloped? Yes _____ No _____
- 4.) Is the Downtown overdeveloped? Yes _____ No _____
- 5.) Within legal limits, do you feel that future population growth in the City should be discouraged or even outlawed? Yes _____ No _____
- 6.) Should the Development Code be modified to reduce Mass, Height, or Setbacks of future development in the City? Yes _____ No _____
- 7.) Should the City encourage new redevelopment projects in the City? Yes _____ No _____
- 8.) Should the City enact an Affordable Housing Ordinance? Yes _____ No _____
- 9.) Would you accept affordable housing opportunities in YOUR neighborhood? Yes _____ No _____

Public Safety:

- 1.) Have you been a victim of a crime in the last year? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, what was the crime? _____
- 2.) Is the Fort Lauderdale Police Department on the right track? Yes _____ No _____
- 3.) Does the City need more Community Policing? Yes _____ No _____

Financial:

- 1.) Are the recently enacted State regulations to reduce insurance rates adequate? Yes _____ No _____
- 2.) Should reducing the tax burden on homeowners become a top priority by City and County Governments? Yes _____ No _____
- 3.) Are you worried about the condition of the Real Estate market? Yes _____ No _____
- 4.) Are you in favor of increasing the Homeowners Exemption? Yes _____ No _____
- 5.) Are you worried that too much of the tax burden is being placed on the non-homesteaded and commercial property owners? Yes _____ No _____
- 6.) Does the \$50 million dollar cost overrun in the \$550 million dollar water/wastewater project greatly concern you? Yes _____ No _____

Miscellaneous:

- 1.) Do you generally approve of traffic calming measures such as speed humps, road closures, and lane reductions? Yes _____ No _____
- 2.) Does the city need a Bulk Trash Dump Site? Yes _____ No _____
- 3.) In general, do Neighborhood and/or Condominium Associations have too much influence on City officials? Yes _____ No _____
- 4.) Are you generally in favor of Term Limits for Public Officials? Yes _____ No _____
- 5.) Should Fort Lauderdale move to a Strong Mayor form of Government? Yes _____ No _____
- 6.) Should the City consider taking over the Electrical System from F.P.L.? Yes _____ No _____
- 7.) Should the City consider developing its own school system? Yes _____ No _____
- 8.) Should the City consider forming it's own County? Yes _____ No _____

Other Comments: (please feel free to add additional comments here)

Please cut out this page when you have completed the survey and send it to:

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



Now SELLING HOTEL-CONDOS

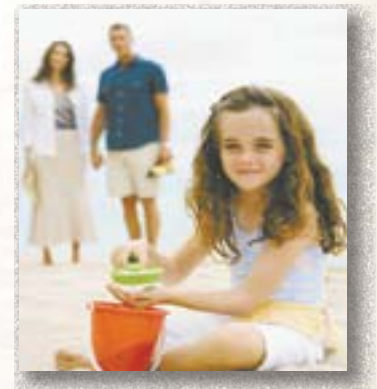
WHERE NOTHING COMES BETWEEN
YOU AND THE BEACH.



Live part time. Lease part time.
Enjoy a never-ending array of
benefits all the time.

Pelican Grand Beach Resort Hotel-Condominium provides you with an unprecedented opportunity to own a luxuriously appointed hotel guest room or suite, as well as participate in an exciting lifestyle, directly on the sands of Ft. Lauderdale beach. When you're in residence, you'll be treated with our impeccable old-style personal service and enjoy all of our spectacular services and amenities. When you're away, you may have the option of having your suite placed in a rental program, providing you with a percentage of the rental income, and none of the associated management responsibilities.


Pelican Grand
BEACH RESORT



2000 NORTH OCEAN BOULEVARD
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33305

OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
800-384-6103
954-556-7580

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
800-525-OCEAN(6232)

HOTEL-CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCES
STARTING FROM THE MID \$500S
TO OVER \$1 MILLION

WWW.PELICANGRANDRESORT.COM

ANOTHER FINE PROPERTY BY
CONDOMINIUM VENTURES OF AMERICA, INC.



Oral representations cannot be relied upon as correctly stating the representations of the developer. For correct representations, make reference to the documents required by Section 18.503, Florida Statutes, to be furnished by developer to a buyer or lessee. Obtain the property report required by federal law and read it before signing anything. No federal agency has judged the merits or value, if any, of this property.



The Key to Good Health Starts with a Good Internist

What is an Internist? Internists are physicians who specialize in the medical care of adults and adolescents. We are trained in the diagnosis and nonsurgical treatment of internal organs and systems. As do family physicians and general practitioners, internists specialize in managing your total and continuing healthcare and screening for previously undetected diseases.

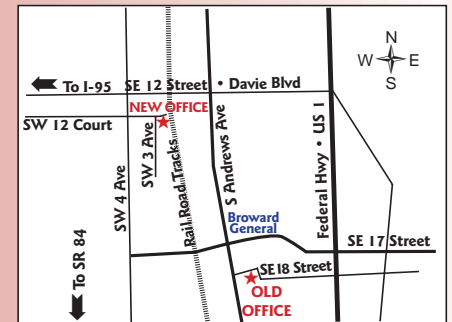
- ✦ On-Site Primary Care, Lab Work & EKG
- ✦ Internal Medicine
- ✦ Handicap Accessible
- ✦ Humana Mail Order Prescriptions
- ✦ Transportation to office available for Humana Gold Plus members
- ✦ House calls when necessary
- ✦ Most Insurance Accepted

Serving this Community for 29 Years.



We've Moved!

Our friendly bilingual staff is eagerly waiting to assist you...



HUSMAN KHAN, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P.

Fellow American College of Physicians • Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine & Geriatrics
Member of the Broward County Medical Association since 1978

1226 SW 3 Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33315
Telephone (954) 527-0222 • Facsimile (954) 765-3544

Urgent Care Hours/Phone • (954) 527-0222 after 5pm

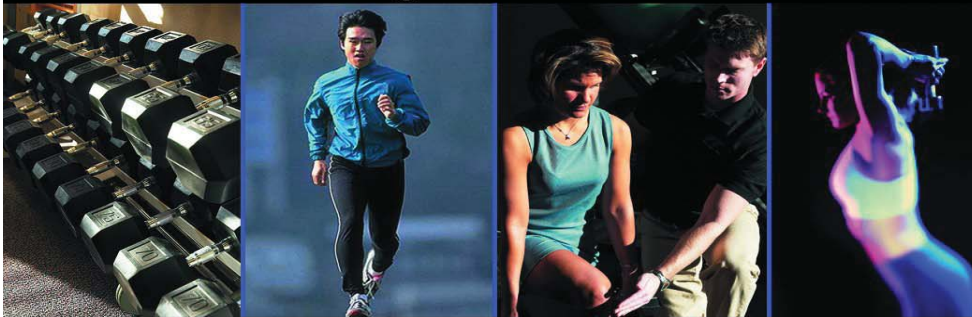
Patient Appointments • Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

On staff at:

- ✦ Broward County General Hospital
- ✦ Plantation General Hospital
- ✦ West Side Regional Medical Center



Pushed - Challenged - Focused - Committed



"There Is Nothing Like Us In ALL of South Florida"

Cutting edge, Luxurious,
One-On-One Personal Training Suites

954-491-7988

1759 East Commercial Blvd. • Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- The Shoppes At 18th & Commercial -

PLANTATION SHUTTERS • FREE SHOP-AT-HOME SERVICE
30 YEARS IN BUSINESS • FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
FROM \$19.95 PER SQ FT INSTALLED



GUARD YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES FROM HARMFUL CELL PHONE RADIATION

"THE CELL PHONE CHIP"

Scientifically Proven, Patented Technology to NEUTRALIZE harmful radiation.
Affordable • Compact • Effective

DO NOT use a cell phone without it!

Call 954.249.6600 or, click on contact at www.mybiopro.com/LarryK (I.D.#39940)



POSITIONS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

**JACK'S BAR-B-QUE SMOKEHOUSE
FT. LAUDERDALE & MARGATE LOCATIONS**

SUPERVISORS & PART-TIME HOURLY HELP

CALL JACK AT 954-599-3811

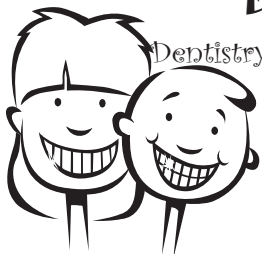
**Yoga
For Chronic Pain**

Private Studio Sessions

954. 822. 5400

Smiley Kidz Dental

Dr. Oana Komasan



Dentistry for Children & Adolescents
1749 N.E. 26th St. Ste B
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33305

(954) 564-5540

www.smileykidz.com

**RON SHILTON
LAWN SPRINKLER SERVICE**



Service, timers, system upgrades
Ask about our efficient systems that save you money on your water bill!

954-828-1310

Licensed & Insured Lawn Sprinkler Contractor
We also offer monthly sprinkler contracts
Broward County Lic# 85-CLS-424-X



Just Spas & Adventures

Spa, Adventure, Cruises
and Luxury Travel
(866) 772-3678

www.justspasandadventures.com

"Finding just the right destination for you"

Your Ad Here!

Reach all the residents of Fort Lauderdale!

Call Steve Kelley at (954) 564-1308



TUTORING 954-646-8246

7 Ways of Learning - TeachersToTeachers.com
SAT prep / homework help / FCAT prep
Free CD to promote reading and larger vocabulary



Free copy of the "Get Ahead" workbook
Learn how to put something educational on that iPod
Free tips by email
mistermath@comcast.net

Fine Homes Realty Inc.

5927 S. University Drive
Davie, FL 33328
Phone: 954-434-5543
FAX: 954-434-7372

David J. Rinck
REALTOR—ASSOCIATE

Cell : 954-803-3854

Res. : 954-760-4642

e-mail: drinck@bellsouth.net



"Let us be the key to your real estate success story."

Florida Drapery

S E R V I C E

Serving South Florida Since 1950

Drapes★Blackout Drapes★Sheers★Cornices
Valances★Verticals★Blinds★Plantation
Shutters★Roman Shades★AND MORE!



Specials on already low-priced NEW SALES:

15% OFF Vertical Blinds

10% OFF Pinch-Pleat Drapes and Blackout Liners

More affordable than designers

Personalized *customer service* unrivaled by department stores

Call for your Complementary Consultation on NEW Window Treatments

954-467-1426

HunterDouglas
priority dealer

Florida Drapery

S E R V I C E

South Florida's
Window Treatment
CLEANING LEADER

- ★ on-site and off-site
- ★ take-down and re-hang
- ★ reasonable turn-around

ALL WINDOW TREATMENTS

20% off with ad

Regular Prices

Drapes: \$1.90/Pleat

Sheers: \$1.70/Pleat

Call for other treatments

Letters



Thanks for a great job

I am the vice president of my condo in Bayside, Queens, New York. I read your newspaper and as an owner at the Venetian Condo for 27 years, I find it very interesting.

You don't pull punches and you tell it like it is. I wish we had a newspaper like yours in Queens.

I would love to receive a free subscription sent to New York - if there's a charge I will be glad to pay it.

You do a great job and keep up the fine work. Thank you.

Ike Nosomowitz, Bayside, New York

Recognize Sunset Civic Association

Oh how I enjoyed your article printed in our recent newspaper ~ "Do Our Elected Officials Need A Brain, A Heart And Some Courage?"

The one thing that really got to me was "Next to the Heart."

I became a city activist because of an officer that was dedicated that was assigned to our zone ~ that officer was Gary Martin. With Officer Martin's dedication Sunset Civic Association came to life. Was not an easy road to travel we had a small amount of residence within our neighborhood that went over & beyond to watch our neighborhood rid some problems (drugs dealers, prostitution & graffiti throughout) My hat really goes off to Chris Suarez for this!

How many times Chris has gone to the city (through emails) & with rides with our problems within our neighborhood & still here. How many times must one ask the city for help?

I decided a while ago not to be active ~ why some may ask? I have a district commissioner that thinks only of the Northwest ~ Oh forgive me also his new annexed area of Melrose Park. It is amazing that from time to time I see our FLPD Mounted Unit in Melrose Park but never in Sunset.

It also amazes me that the city wants to always recognize Lauderdale West. Lauderdale West is actually Sunset

Civic Association ~ (has been for years for years) but city does not to recognize it. Why?

Rita Jackson, Fort Lauderdale

AN APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

Editor's Note: Following a telephone conversation with this writer, she sent this letter, published here verbatim.

To the Fort Lauderdale City News:

I have lived in this wonderful and clean state of Florida since 1972. Since this date many trials and tribulations have touched my life. One in being the loss of my dear husband from cancer, due to tobacco use. I was his only care giver for four years until he passed away. God rest his heart & soul. With that in mind, I myself became ill and now I have a disability. I was left alone, to raise three beautiful daughters and very proud of my accomplishments. Still going strong with spiritual advice and guidance.

When I became a widow, I literally lost every one of my so called friends, plus family disappeared like the plague? With my strong Roman Catholic faith I knew God would give me the strength to raise my family. I am writing to you today because, recently I was made aware, that the owner of my residence would like to place his property on the market. I was blessed to be able to raise my daughters for many years now, in a very safe and beautiful neighborhood. Now I have my own dilemma, I cannot find a safe or affordable place.

Being on a fixed income and most of the properties in this safe neighborhood, have been taken over by corporations, that have turned mom and pop apartments; that use to be reasonable rentals, are now condos and you are forced to become an owner? How does one do this? I am very confused as to why, with all my many long hours; & hard efforts to do research for myself; I am hit with solid cement walls and doors closing? Every legitimate agency from city to government, everyone tells me the same story "sorry, you are not old enough"!!!!

If you were 62+ in years, we have many resources for you??? I am so worn out with the same exact answers to my daily questions??? Steve how does an individual like myself become blessed with a small miracle, to find someone in this state; to guide a person 55+ through a transition like mine??

I really need a voice not only for my needs, but also for many others who are dealing with the same closed doors. Most of the time, I will be guided to contact social workers or mental health agencies? Their again, I get tongue lashed, because I am just not old enough!!! Wow go figure???

The next piece of advice they care to share with me. "Florida does not have a state tax" and truly because they really do not have any solid advice, they say, "why doesn't your children bond together to help you"?? Well honestly, they are still trying to get off on their own two feet, because they are still in college, and are working full time to persevere for their own futures. Each of them has roommates to share the high cost of rent, food, high utilities, high gas prices.

I did not wake up one day, wishing to become a widow and with disability. I am so darn tired, of being passed by, like I am no one. I would have to say I feel so beat up with the way I am treated.

I am a human being with feelings.

Thank you so much for listening and taking your valuable time to care. If you have any advice for me please call me.

Marie, (954) 821-8567
Fort Lauderdale

Annex Rezoning

Recently, the City of Fort Lauderdale (CoFL) implemented a outreach program to involve the public in the decision making process regarding rezoning of annexed neighborhoods. The intention is to change the currently applicable (Broward County) zoning criteria to City of Fort Lauderdale criteria.

I offer the following comments and observations regarding Annex Rezoning. Please take all these comments in the context of an architect completely understanding and appreciating the City's need to have a cohesive enforceable code of ordinances:

1. Regarding the meeting held February 1 for the Riverland Neighborhood: I never received notice of this meeting. To the best of my knowledge no one on SW 29th Way received notice of this meeting via US mail. I found out through word of email the day before. This is no small matter. For a municipality to propose changing the zoning of someone's property has potentially serious ramifications. It is a matter which should have included a double

mailing and some sort of follow up to that. Even the phone companies call house to house to ascertain that something as frivolous as a phone book was delivered. It makes everyone question the sincerity of intention.

2. To announce at that meeting the first workshop would be in two weeks, on a holiday weekend, is completely inappropriate and again makes the recipients question the sincerity of intention.

3. When the CoFL made its pitch to the Riverland Neighborhood regarding annexation we were repeatedly told that no changes would be made to our zoning. Two years later we are being told our zoning is going to change - we are not being asked if we want to change it, we are being told it is changing. Prior to annexation we were repeatedly told that no changes would be made to the enforcement practices of Code Enforcement. This is not true either. For example, my neighbor has been cited for an "overgrown" yard. We went back and forth with Code Enforcement for nearly six months before Code Enforcement withdrew that particular complaint the day before the Special Master's hearing. Code Enforcement originally stated that my neighbors hurricane damaged fence had to be removed. The damaged portions were removed. Code Enforcement then modified the claim stating that a partial fence was not allowed even though the portion still standing was stable and unblemished... and the fence does not secure a pool. The sad irony is that some of us bought in this neighborhood because it is "overgrown" - we prefer to think of it as a "natural oak

Submitting your letter to the Editor:

Your letters to the editor are welcome at the Fort Lauderdale City News. You should include your telephone number so that you may be called for verification. Your name will be included with your published letter to the editor.

Emailed letters are best - email your letter to: 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

hammock” - but we will accept overgrown, sans the negative connotation.

I offer these scenarios because they are two significant commitments made and, from my perspective, not kept.

Again, I understand the need for a cohesive and enforceable code, but the option being offered is fundamentally flawed to the extent that significant numbers of properties are going to be put into a “non-conforming” status - either “legal” or “illegal” - and the majority of the property Owner’s effected have no idea of the ramifications of that classification. Take that in the context of the Code Enforcement mandate that “if we receive a complaint we have to respond to it” and you have created a potentially volatile environment.

The average homeowner has no idea what “non-conforming” means. They do not understand that they can no longer modify that portion of their home or business property (or possibly their entire property) if it is in a “non-conforming” status. They do not understand that when they go to sell their property a savvy buyer is going to discover this non-conforming status and either brow beat them on the price or walk away from the deal. I speak from experience here; several years ago my father’s property was reclassified without his knowledge and he was unable to sell his property and retire when he wanted to. It took two years to resolve the situation with the City of Fort Lauderdale - fortunately my father did not have to hire an architect to resolve this for him. Most people simply can not afford to hire architects and attorneys to protect their rights.

The average homeowner does not understand that when this proposed change is implemented Code enforcement could show up and say that the boat docked behind their house is in violation of the code and therefore must be removed or subject to fines. Many of the property owners in this neighborhood rely on dock rental income, particularly retirees.

More specifically: In my neighborhood the city is proposing an ‘RS4.4’ Zoning. This zoning will allow greater lot coverage and taller structures (3 story). One only needs to look at the effect this has had in the Victoria Park / Rio Vista neighborhoods, and what is currently happening in the Croissant Park Neighborhood, to appreciate the

adverse aesthetic implications. Greater lot coverage means less green space and less trees. Three story structures are not currently allowed and drastically alter the scale of a neighborhood.

I could continue with potential scenarios but I hope I have made my point. I offer a simple solution:

The City of Fort Lauderdale can adopt the Broward County Criteria, and district overlays, in effect at the time of annexation and enforce those criteria - change the nomenclature if you like, but simply adopt the criteria as is.

This would have the following positive effects:

- (1) It would save the reputation of the CoFL. Most people walked out of the February 1 meeting feeling ‘this has already been decided they are just trying to indulge us with the illusion of democratic participation’. I think we should have been asked if we wanted our zoning changed, not asked which options we might prefer.
- (2) This could potentially save the CoFL tens, if not hundreds, of thousands in consulting fees, staff expenses and City Commission time. I have to ask whether the consultant was paid for the mailing which we never received?
- (3) This will potentially save tens of thousands of tax payer dollars in code enforcement costs. I fully appreciate the values of competent code enforcement but I do not think we should create violations via re-zoning.
- (4) This will ensure that not a single property Owner in the Riverland neighborhood is adversely effected by the annexation and subsequent rezoning. Might some of the City’s zoning criteria better serve the neighborhood? Yes, but it should not be at the expense of even a single properties use / value.

The CoFL wants to change the zoning on hundreds of properties in the Riverland neighborhood alone. In proposing to do so, the CoFL must be aware of the significant number of ‘non-conforming’ properties this is going to create. If not, the research should be completed and property owners that will be cast into a “non-conforming” status should be notified in advance of any workshops. I am certain there would be a decisive response from every Property Owner so effected. They should not have to find out years later, when they try to add a

bedroom, or sell their property to retire, that there property has value and use limitations it did not previously have.

The City of Fort Lauderdale should adopt the Broward County Zoning in effect at the time of annexation - Problem Solved. Then we can spend our energy and resources on more important issues: like getting our power lines buried to protect us from hurricanes and save our trees which are being trimmed from the top by FPL and from the bottom by the CoFL resulting mangled trees that are even worse than any hurricane has produced.

Scot DiStefano, Fort Lauderdale

CONGRESSMAN RON KLEIN DISCUSSES HIS FIRST FEW WEEKS IN OFFICE

I’m Ron Klein, and on January 4th, 2007, I was sworn in to represent Florida’s 22nd District in Congress. It is truly an honor to serve South Floridians in Congress. I assure you that with every vote I cast and with every decision I make in Congress, I will always put the best interests of Florida families first.

During the first few weeks in Congress, we hit the ground running, passing six major pieces of legislation that will improve the everyday lives of Florida families. We passed legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, expand stem cell research, allow the government to negotiate for lower drug prices, slash interest rates for student loans, increase the minimum wage, and end subsidies for big oil companies while investing in research into renewable energies.

Continuing my fight to lower homeowner’s insurance rates, I was proud to be appointed to serve on the House Committee on Financial Services, which has jurisdiction over the insurance sector. I was also tapped by the chairman of this committee, Congressman Barney Frank, to help lead the insurance reform effort in Congress – an honor that I will use to help homeowners in South Florida. I serve on three Financial Services subcommittees: the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit subcommittee, which has oversight over the insurance industry; the Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee, which has oversight over the banking, securities,

and housing industries; and the Oversight Committee.

I also serve on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where I look forward to promoting our national security by decreasing our dependence on foreign oil, assessing our Middle East policies, and fighting for accountability in Iraq. On this committee I was appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the Middle East Subcommittee, where I will fight to restore the credibility of the United States abroad and strengthen our partnership with our sister democracy, Israel. I also sit on the subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, and the subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade.

I am deeply grateful and honored to have the opportunity to serve you in the United States Congress. My staff and I look forward to working for you, and learning about your concerns and ideas.

For those of you who may not be aware, our district is quite long and begins at the Port of Everglades and goes as far as the Martin County Line. In order to serve everyone as best we can, we are going to have two district offices. Our Fort Lauderdale office is located at 800 East Broward Blvd. Suite 300. The Palm Beach office, which is in the process of being opened, will be located at 625 N. Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach. Both offices will be staffed with constituent service liaisons, Jennifer Johnson and Nancy Germansky; Community Outreach Coordinators Laurie Watkins and Frank Guzman; and my District Director, Felicia Goldstein who is always available to answer any questions you may have. In addition, we will have satellite offices throughout the district to best serve those constituents who are unable to travel as easily as others.

As we settle in, we welcome you to contact our offices and share your thoughts and concerns. This district, unlike others, includes two ports and two international airports. Florida’s 22nd district is fortunate to include a great deal of beachfront property and that plays a significant role in the issues that need to be addressed.

My staff looks forward to hearing from and meeting you. It is our privilege to serve and represent the people of Florida’s 22nd District.

Contact Information:

Broward County
800 East Broward Blvd., Suite 300
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: 954.522.4579



Calendar

LADIES FISHING TOURNAMENT

The first fishing tournament exclusively for ladies in Ft Lauderdale is scheduled for April 28, 2007. Men can join the fun as crew. The Senorita Shootout will be a one day event for "fun fish" which include dolphin, wahoo, cobia, kingfish and blackfin tuna. The prize for the top ladies team is \$4000 based on at least 50 teams signing up to fish the event. The family oriented tournament will also have prizes for families, junior girls and small fry girls.

Fishing will be from 8 AM till 4 PM with weigh in at Lauderdale Marina at 15th Street and the Intracoastal.

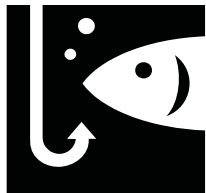
The kickoff party and final registration will be on Thursday, April 26th at the Fireman's Benevolent Association building at 309 SW 26th Street located behind Lester's Diner on State Rd 84. The awards lunch, catered by Sonny's Bar B Que, be at the same location on Sunday, April 29 from noon till 2 PM.

The Senorita Shootout in Ft Lauderdale is the second leg of a new Ladies South Florida Championship. The other two legs are the Senorita Shootout in Miami on April 14, 2007, and the 22nd Annual Ladies fish-Off in Pompano Beach on June 2, 2007. The ladies team that accumulates the most points in the three events will win a one week trip for four to Kona, Hawaii with airfare and accommodations, plus a charter boat to fish in the Huggo's Wahine Tournament in Kailua, Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii on July 28, 2007.

Tournament Director, Mike Leech, said as far as he knows this is the first tournament that only allows ladies as anglers in Ft Lauderdale. It follows in the footsteps of the popular Pompano Beach Ladies fish-Off which is in it's twenty-second year. The Shootout is a team event with awards for the top five teams, but awards will also be for the heaviest fish of each eligible species and overall heaviest fish. Leech said since the award for the ladies team that wins the Championship is a trip to Hawaii, there will be a cash prize for the best decorated boat and team costume using "Aloha Hawaii" as the theme.

Some of the proceeds of the Ft Lauderdale event will go to support Women In Distress.

Tournament rules and application form can be found on the tournament web site www.senoritashootout.com. For further information call (954) 566-2813 or email ladiesfunfishing@aol.com.



GORE NURSERY 2nd ANNUAL ART SHOW March 31 and April 1

Spring brings flowers and wildly colorful art together at the Gore Nursery Second annual Art Show and Sale from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, March 31 and April 1.

A group of talented artists and neighbors will display their original watercolors and other media in amongst the green leaves and pretty posies in long-time resident Bob Gore's Nursery at 1611 SW 9th Avenue. Most of the artists are women who express their creative spirit with brush and palette, and more than a few have gardens that are almost as lush and colorful as their paintings.

Call (954) 463-4673 for more information.

INSIDE OUT THEATRE RECIEVES RIGHTS TO "FAITH HEALER" AND WILL PRESENT IT AT THE MUSEUM OF ART

Inside Out Theatre Company received the rights to "FAITH HEALER" by Brian Friel, and will present the play March 16 through April 1st at the Museum of Art, One East Las Olas Blvd. in downtown Ft. Lauderdale. "Faith Healer," which recently closed on Broadway, uses poetic language and the power of ritual to engage the audience in a seamlessly unraveling mystery that leaves one wondering what to believe and who to trust.

The production, which features an award-winning cast starring Gordon McConnell, Sandy Ives and Ken Clement, will take the place of the pre-scheduled "Triptych" which will now be postponed for Inside Out Theatre's 2007-2008 season. "Faith Healer will play Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays 2:00 & 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 954-385-3060 or online at www.tix.com. Prices are: \$30 Gen. Admission, \$25 Museum members, \$24.00 Seniors and \$10 for Students (with i.d.).

For more information, visit www.insideouttheatre.org



BONNET HOUSE EVENTS

FauxPainting Workshop
Saturday, March 10 & 17 - 9:30am-12:30pm

RSVP (954) 563-5393 Ext.122 or susanparker@bonnethouse.org
\$50 members , \$60 non-members

Bonnet House Lecture - "Friends of the Bartletts"

Monday, March 12 - 10-11:30am
RSVP (954) 563-5393 Ext. 122
Free for members, \$5 for non-members

Young Artist Music Series – Palm Beach Opera

Thursday, March 15 - 7-9pm
RSVP (954) 563-5393 Ext. 124
\$22.50 for members, \$27 for non-members

Impressions of Old South Florida – Bonnet House Fundraiser & Juried Exhibition

Thursday, March 22 – 6-8pm
RSVP (954) 563-5393 Ext. 163

African American Hero Program
Monday, March 26 – 9:45am & 11:45am

RSVP (954) 563-5393 Ext. 137 for education@bonnethouse.org
\$6 per person

900 N. Birch Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
Phone: 954.563.5393
Fax: 954.561.4174

Email: www.bonnethouse.org

Impressions of Old South Florida

On Thursday, March 22nd, the Impressions of Old South Florida 2007 exhibit will open in the Carl Weinhardt Gallery at Bonnet House Museum & Gardens. LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels will be the presenting sponsor of this annual fundraiser and juried art exhibit. VIP ticket holders will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a special champagne preview and an exclusive private showing of the upstairs living quarters of Evelyn and Frederic Bartlett. General admission will begin at 6:30 p.m. when guests and participating artists will preview the artwork selected for inclusion in this elite art competition. Our guest juror for Impressions will be George S. Bolge, Executive Director of the Boca Raton Museum of Art South Florida, and prizes will be awarded during the evening for

the top artwork submitted. The People's Choice Award is always a highlight of Impressions. All guests are encouraged to become a "Juror" for the evening and vote for their favorite artist of the night. All art in the Impressions of Old South Florida 2007 competition will be for sale with 50% of the proceeds benefiting the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens.

Tickets for the opening of Impressions 2007 on March 22nd are \$125, which includes the champagne preview at 6:00 p.m. and the reception, or \$100 for the reception only at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is by reservation only by calling (954) 563-5393, ext. 163 for additional information or to request an invitation.

The Impressions 2007 exhibit will be on display from March 22nd –May 6, 2007 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.

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is located at 900 N. Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale, between A1A and the Intracoastal Waterway just South of Sunrise Boulevard. For general tour information and hours call (954) 563-5393 or go to www.bonnethouse.org.

GOLD COAST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

The Gold Coast Watercolor Society, South Florida's largest watercolor organization, is holding it's 32nd Annual Members Show at the Broward County Main Library, 6th Floor Gallery, from March 6th until March 28th.

Jorge Santis, Curator of the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, juried and judged the exhibit which will have it's opening reception March 6th, 7pm until 9 pm. The public is invited to attend.

Call 954-560-8665 or go to www.goldcoastwatercolorssociety.com for more information.

Community Yard Sales at Riverside Park 555 SW 11th Avenue, Fort lauderdale

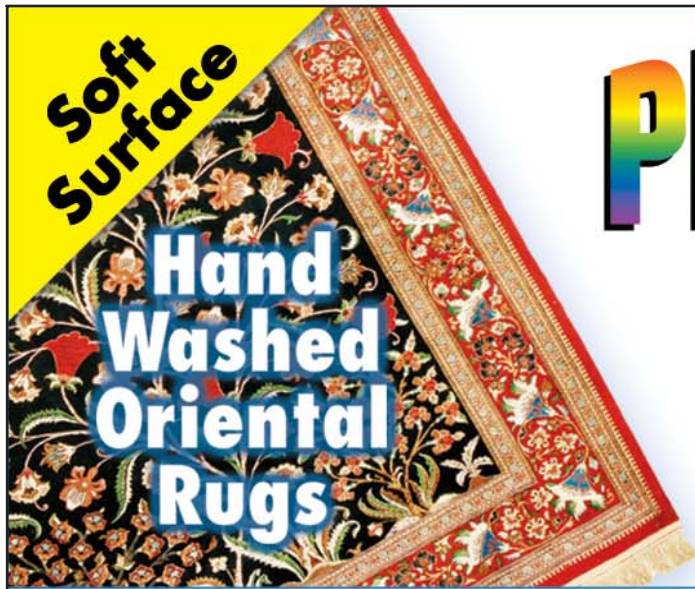
March 31, and April 28

8:00am-11:30am -Table Reservation required for sellers. call 954 468-1553.

Announcements for this Calendar section can be emailed to:

calendar@citynewsfl.com

or call (954) 564-1308.



PRIDE CARPET CLEANING

★ **Guaranteed** ★   
Pet Stain & Odor Removal

— **Upholstery** —

Free Estimate:
954-832-0799

www.PrideCarpetCleaning.com



Bill Thornton, Owner

COLONIAL Floor and Stone Care

"Terrazzo, Marble and Granite Specialists"

Restoration, Polishing, Repairs & Maintenance

Ultimate Tile and Grout Cleaning

Residential & Commercial • Licensed & Insured

954-566-4555 **Free Estimates** ColonialFloorandStoneCare.com



Dr. Brett Bolton

great hair transplants

Specializing in Hair Transplants!

great hair transplants

Over 3,000 surgeries performed.

State-of-the-Art facilities.

great hair transplants

Free consultation.

www.GreatHairTransplants.com

great hair transplants

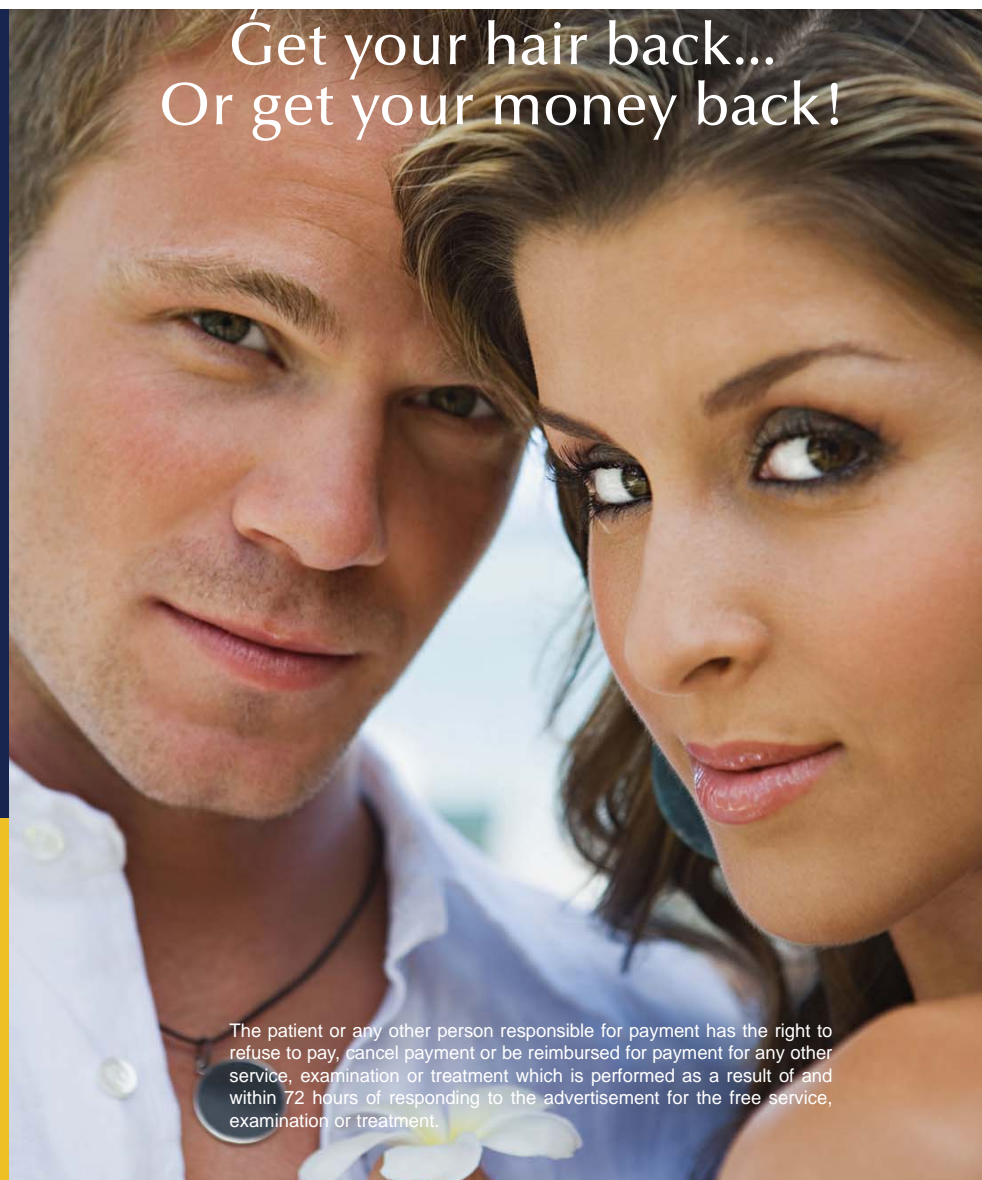
AGE DEFYING SURGICAL CENTER

2715 East Oakland Park Blvd.

Suite 200

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

954.567.5868



Get your hair back...
 Or get your money back!

The patient or any other person responsible for payment has the right to refuse to pay, cancel payment or be reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination or treatment which is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free service, examination or treatment.

THE PORT FORT LAUDERDALE MARINA

New Concept In Sport Yacht Dry Dock Storage



5 Minutes to the Ocean

Fee Simple Ownership

Force 4 Hurricane Protection

Climate Controlled Facility

7am - 7pm In and Out Service

Boats up to 52' LOA and 35,000 lbs. Wet Weight

DEVELOPER UNITS AVAILABLE INCLUDING SET UP FEE

Sales Office
954-880-8410
www.theportmarina.com

Sales Director - Ginger Hornaday PA
954-682-2196
ginger@gingerhornaday.com



The Port Marina is located only five minutes to the ocean
on 17th Street Causeway in Ft. Lauderdale, FL

