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Article by Eric Berkowitz

THE ANNUAL FLU TWO-STEP

Influenza season has arrived. Threats of pandemic disaster aside, November heralds the annual confusion surrounding protecting yourself from the flu. Every August, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) informs the nation about the flu's newest and most dangerous permutations. In September, the Department of Health and Human Services reminds us that the lessons learned from the previous year's mistakes have prepared them for any possible contingency. During October, the Administration confirms that their latest purchase and distribution policy for vaccines and other therapies is the most comprehensive in history. In November, federal and local health officials squabble in the press and in December, they apologize for shortages.

Other than a new \$7.1 billion plan to protect the nation from a pandemic, instigated by the spreading threat of avian flu (bird flu), this year will be no different. Consistent with the Administration's philosophy of expecting the private sector and local government to shoulder the responsibility for protecting citizens from emergencies, healthcare or otherwise, Maxim Health Systems, Clinic Mobility and other pri-

vate distributors were charged with providing inoculations to Broward residents throughout the flu season. As always, private physicians will dispense vaccine to those patients who prefer to avoid the lines at Health Clinics, Supermarkets and other distribution points. Last year, although the plan was plagued by a series of mishaps, the country was relieved by a mild flu season.

Federal auditors from the Government Accountability Office released a report clarifying what went wrong. British vaccine manufacturer Chiron Corp was precluded from delivering 50 million contaminated doses of the vaccine to the United States market. The CDC scrambled to fill the shortage with vaccine not licensed for the U.S. market. Severe restrictions were implemented to insure that those most "at risk" received the limited number of available doses. By the time adequate amounts of vaccine were obtained, the flu season was largely over. The report details two lessons learned from last year's gaffes. Foreign-licensed vaccines need to be shipped prior to October and the Federal Government needed a more responsive delivery system to the States; vaccines weren't available when they were needed.

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The Galt Mile News

The Galt Mile News is the official newsletter of the Galt Mile Community. Published 12 times a year, this publication is designed to educate the Galt residents of neighborhood-oriented current events and issues, and to offer residents Galt-specific discounts from various local merchants.



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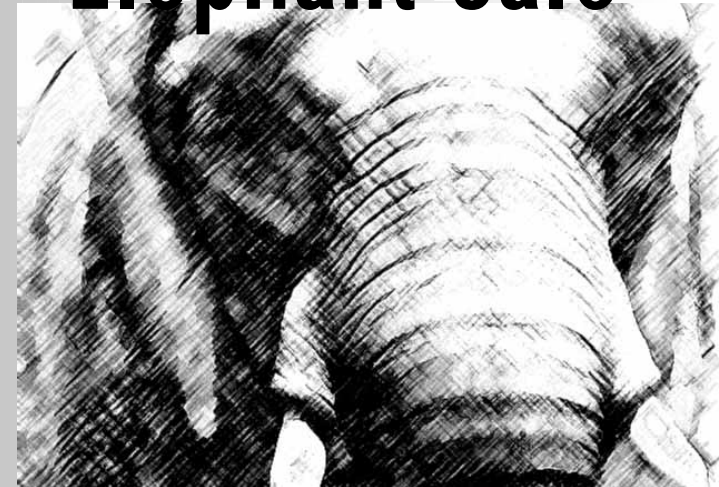


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8 18th Annual Las Olas Art Festival Las Olas Blvd. Urban Outdoor Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	9 Seeing Fort Lauderdale Through the Lens (Through 2/27) Old Fort Lauderdale Village & Museum Info.: 954-463-4431 X 13	10	11 Woody Herman Big Band Orchestra Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222	12 Panthers vs St Louis BankAtlantic Center 7 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	13	14 Panthers vs Columbus BankAtlantic Center 7:30 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com
15 Billy Joel BankAtlantic Center Tix: ticketmaster.com	16	17 Vice Mayor Teel Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m. Info: 954-828-5033	18 Ft. Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.	19 Aerosmith & Lenny Kravitz BankAtlantic Center Tix: ticketmaster.com	20 Heat vs San Antonio American Arena 8 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	21
22 Heat vs Sacramento American Arena 6 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	23	24 Heat vs Memphis American Arena 7:30 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	25 Panthers vs Carolina BankAtlantic Center 7 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	26 Heat vs Phoenix American Arena 8 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	27 Panthers vs New Jersey BankAtlantic Center 7:30 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	28
29 FIESTA! Ft. Lauderdale Riverwalk 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Info: 954-527-0627 Barber of Seville Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222	30 Vice Mayor Teel Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m. Info: 954-828-5033	31 Steven Wright Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222	1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Panthers vs Atlanta BankAtlantic Center 7:30 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com Pinocchio Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222	4 Rose Show & Sale Fairchild Tropical Gardens 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
5 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985	6 Vice Mayor Teel Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m. Info: 954-828-5033	7 Ft. Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.	8 Wicked Broward Center (Through 2/19) Tix.: 954-462-0222	9	10	11

A look ahead

- February 10 - 15 Home Design & Remodeling Show Coconut Grove Convention Center, Info.: 305-667-9299
- February 14 Moonlight Musicales, Valentine's Day Jazz Celebration Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Tix.: 305-667-1651
- February 16 Young Artist Music Series, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, 7 p.m., Info.: 954-563-5393
- February 22 Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra Broward Center., Tix.: 954-462-0222
- March 31- April 2 International Orchid Festival Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Mayor Naugle...Continued

dwarfed our own." In addition to "Disaster Training", as characterized by the Mayor, "cities learn to use new technologies under fire." During an emergency visit to Coral Springs, he couldn't help appreciating how their new "solar powered traffic lights offered an innovative solution to power outages."

GMCA Presidents Council Chairman Pio Ieraci asked the Mayor about support for gas stations, reminding the Mayor that "the gas shortage was inflamed by outlets with full tanks but no way of pumping the gas without electricity." He asked about supplying these gas stations with emergency generators, thereby relieving the shortage. Mayor Naugle opined that oil companies, recently the beneficiaries of record profits, should financially underwrite the generators, not the taxpayers. In a related issue, Eric Berkowitz inquired if authorities "anticipated holding FP&L to higher standards than those currently expected of them?" He said, "There are conflicting opinions about the \$55 billion cost of burying the lines throughout the area. Some claim that protecting them from wind and debris would be offset by the danger posed by flooding. While experts disagree about the technical particulars required to better protect the grid from future storms, they agree that the present system is inadequate."

As evidenced by the record breaking power outage and the helter-skelter repair efforts, FP&L clearly lacks an adequate emergency response plan. It appears that when the next hurricane blasts through the area, FP&L will perform approximately the same calamitous application of scotch tape and crazy glue that we just witnessed. Nobody wants to endure a repeat performance wherein the utility emotionally blackmails 10,000 guys with screwdrivers and wire cutters to help patch together their neglected equipment - for humanitarian reasons. Reports that FP&L deliberately neglected equipment maintenance to save money have put the utility under the gun. Repair workers imported from all over North America to help restore power to Broward residents have uniformly criticized the utility for the highly deteriorated state of support poles, substations and overgrown trees entangling lines and equipment. In July, the Public Service Commission cited the company twice for an explosion in tree-related outages and for neglecting to conduct routine pole inspections. The entire power grid was so unacceptably vulnerable that when Wilma hit, it collapsed like a house of cards.

What does the Mayor recommend? FP&L's current arrangement with Fort Lauderdale is coming up for reconsideration in 2009. Mayor Naugle thinks its time for a change. He would like to see the CEO resign and be replaced with someone up to the challenge of adequately maintaining the system and protecting its customers. The Mayor added, "I would prefer that the City purchase the power grid from FP&L and subcontract out operations." Florida Power & Light, the largest cog in the FP&L Group, must balance commitment to customers with allegiance to stockholders. According to company records, FP&L cut their per customer maintenance budget by 32% between 1991 and 2001. From 2001 to 2004, despite explosive growth in their customer base, they cut maintenance another 4.5%. Opting to save money by seriously cutting back equipment maintenance clearly demonstrates the company's currently skewed priorities. To deliver a 49% return to shareholders over the past three years, the company allowed its equipment to sink to an unconscionable level of disrepair, directly contributing to the catastrophic impact suffered from Wilma. Whether changing the guard will herald in a resolution is questionable. The Mayor continued, "By engaging a highly regarded energy powerhouse with an impeccable reputation, such as Duke Energy, to operate the utility would position the city to enforce adequate maintenance standards." While government regulation is currently considered "politically incorrect," every resident forced to live without power for more than a few days would likely be comforted by more stringent statutory standards for maintenance and safeguards.

On the whole, the Mayor should be pleased with the way city employees responded to the devastation. When Edgewater Arms' Sam Montross said that she was disappointed with the inaction of police assigned to traffic control, several other Advisory Board members disagreed, testifying to the excellent job done by police officers after the storm. Cops, Fire-Rescue, Parks, maintenance and building personnel all helped the city regain its equilibrium in record time, despite having been used as human band-aids - running for weeks from one emergency to another. While under terrific strain and a media microscope, the Mayor, the City Commission and the City Manager all reacted expeditiously and effectively. Aside from the FP&L fiasco, their emergency hurricane plan proved equal to the task. They were able to recover a lost water supply in

Continued on page 19



Bureaucratic foul-up delays FEMA supply trucks at South Florida Fair Grounds



Mayors Kristin Jacobs and Jim Naugle greet President George Bush and Governor Jeb Bush at Pompano Airport



Offloading fuel and supplies at Port Everglades



Officials survey toppled lifeguard stands at Ft. Lauderdale Beach

Beaches...Continued

Galt Towers, Regency Tower, Plaza South and other Galt Mile Associations also reported large accumulations of sand covering balconies as high as the 31st floor. In the weeks following the storm, Fort Lauderdale cleanup crews removed hundreds of reconstituted sand dunes on Galt Ocean Drive and A1A. In contrast to the one-time protection provided by the Galt's wider beach of the 1980s and early 1990s, our now-shrunken shoreline afforded a negligible cushion against Wilma's storm surge. The two-year meteorological onslaught has whittled our beach to less than ten feet in several spots along the northern Galt Mile - at low tide. When the tide comes in, the beach disappears completely in these areas.


In a monument to understatement, beach administrator Higgins described the damage to north Broward's beaches, "Areas that were thin to start with got beaten up a little bit more. It chewed up the beaches as much as you'd expect in a serious storm." Contrasting the damage sustained by Broward's southern and northern beaches, Higgins said, "Beaches in Hallandale Beach, Hollywood and Dania Beach fared better because they are being widened as part of a \$45 million renourishment project expected to end in January. However, wind and surf lashed sections of beach more in parts of Fort Lauderdale, Hillsboro Beach and Deerfield Beach, where erosion has eaten away the shoreline and left it more vulnerable to storms."

At the May 13, 2003 Cabinet hearing that resulted in the County receiving the green light to salvage south Broward's beaches


(Segment III), opponents of the County's Beach Restoration Project downplayed the predicted damage to properties left unprotected by tidal erosion, characterizing it as, "a scare tactic created by special interests." Supported by federal, state and local environmental agencies, highly respected environmentalist Roy Rogers contradicted the anti-renourishment claims, stating that, "The State should anticipate billions of dollars in unnecessary incremental damage to the beaches and collateral damage to the municipalities they protect if they're left in a critically eroded state." Mr. Rogers has served as the Vice Chair of the Florida Audubon Society and Vice Chair of the Florida Community Trust. In addition, he's chaired the Nature Conservancy and was the Governor's appointee to the Environmental Regulation Committee. As if scripted in a three-act play, every word of Mr. Rogers' warning to the Cabinet came true. Although strange bedfellows, environmental experts and insurance officials agree that the projected \$10 billion in Wilma-related damages would have been substantially less had the northern beaches benefited from the same protection afforded those in southern Broward.

When environmental authorities told the Florida Cabinet that the unprotected Broward coastline from Fort Lauderdale through Hillsboro Beach invited the same catastrophic damage as the County's southern beaches, the Cabinet agreed to extend the Project permit to include the northern coastline (Segment II). In a political compromise designed to expedite emergency renourishment of the County's nearly non-existent southern beaches, the Cabinet agreed to an 18-month observation period following the completion of Segment III. The effects of the Segment III renourishment

Continued on page 8



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Mayor Naugle...Continued

fueled to make the 15 mile trip from their South Florida Fairgrounds staging area in Palm Beach to the distribution pod locations in Broward County. Broward Mayor Kristen Jacobs sent officers from the Broward Sheriffs Office to escort the trucks to their destinations and the thousands of waiting people dependent on receiving the water and ice. When she learned that the drivers refused to leave without the "OK" from FEMA officials in Tallahassee, she angrily criticized the bureaucratic obstacles that once again plagued FEMA. The next day, she issued instructions to the Broward County Sheriff to again meet the trucks and escort them to Broward, only this time with additional instructions if they refused to proceed. The officers would commandeer the supplies and deliver them to the pods. Fortunately, the trucks rolled out the next morning without incident. Unfortunately, many pods ran out of supplies after a few hours. In contrast, Fort Lauderdale opted to deliver ice and other emergency supplies directly to where they were most needed.

Mayor Naugle imparted an anecdote derived of Fort Lauderdale's 7 PM curfew. Since most people agreed with its premise, there were surprisingly few difficulties surrounding the curfew. Wandering around in the dark on foot or by car was a dangerous proposition at best. The Mayor, however, admitted to unexpected glitches. The city jail, operated by the Broward Sheriff's Office, decided to continue releasing prisoners when, for instance, they made bail. Bonded-out prisoners released after 7 PM were given a little note stating that they were "already arrested" and that their violation of the curfew should be overlooked. As this was never cleared with city officials, those released after the curfew were re-arrested by city

police and sent back to jail! When BSO called to complain about the catch-22 revolving door for those arrested, the city told the Sheriff that a hand written Monopoly-style "Get out of Jail Free" card could not be respected by City police. When asked what they should do with prisoners that bond out, City officials told BSO to hold them until the next morning, when the curfew was lifted.

The Mayor was impressed with the generally cooperative attitude adopted by most residents during an incredibly stressful ordeal. He said, "I was surprised with how such a terrible experience served to get people working together. Overall, people extended themselves to help neighbors that they didn't know. It demonstrated what the people who live in Fort Lauderdale are made of. It brought out the best in almost everyone." The Mayor evidenced gratitude for this unexpectedly positive reaction to the universal hardship. "We came to rely on neighbors checking on one another. We'd never have been able to know whether elderly or invalid people isolated by the storm were experiencing an emergency. No government could arrange for the caring and concern that people demonstrated to each other under such adverse conditions." The Mayor admitted to feeling pride in being a resident of Fort Lauderdale after witnessing this spontaneous grass roots cooperation. Not everybody, however, was on the same page as the Mayor. Taking advantage of the pitch black nights and heavily stretched police resources, opportunistic criminals looted empty stores along Sunrise Boulevard during the first few days after the storm. Closer to home, Paul Daniels International Menswear and the Hamilton Gallery on A1A were hit by looters. Two of the city's emergency generators, despite being bolted down and chained, were also swiped.

Continued on page 17

Beaches...Continued

This data, however, doesn't reflect the true cost of the politically motivated delays. According to insurance industry estimates, if the beaches in Hollywood, Hallandale and Dania were widened



Before beach renourishment - Westin Diplomat Hotel's beach

on schedule, the added protection would have spared those communities tens of millions of dollars in incremental storm damage, primarily on the barrier island. Since the original project timetable also anticipated Segment II's completion well before 2004, the damage suffered by residents of Fort Lauderdale, Pompano, and Hillsboro Beach during the 2005 and 2006 hurricane seasons would have been similarly moderated. As such, the net cost of delaying the project is closer to \$100 million.



After beach renourishment - Westin Diplomat Hotel's beach

We'll soon enter the 18-month monitoring period. Some project opponents have stated that they intend to practice the same tactics when Segment II beaches become eligible for renourishment. Fort Lauderdale, Pompano, and Hillsboro shorelines can be made whole at an estimated cost of \$22 million if Segment II starts in 2008 as scheduled. That is, of course, unless Tallahassee allows the beach to again become a political football.



Beach blown over wave wall across A1A at Ft. Lauderdale Beach

For additional information about the Broward County Beach Restoration Project, its history and progress, go to the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galtmile.com) and click on "Issues" on the navbar menu. Scroll down to Shore Protection and click again.

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Mayor Naugle...Continued

Having aggregated experts from the Police Department, Fire-Rescue personnel and fire inspectors, building inspectors, emergency medical officials and others experienced with emergency management, they set about devising a plan to ascertain the damage and arrange a response. Officially entitled, "Rapid Impact Assessment", they divided the city into sections represented by about 40 squares on a map of the area. An expert in each venue evaluated the wind and water damage sustained within each segment. In line with recovery priorities, they sought to first bring Police Stations, Firehouses, Hospitals and water treatment facilities to full functionality. They also had to power Port Everglades and the airports, facilitating the offloading of fuel and the expeditious importing of supplies and manpower. They met with officials representing various utilities such as Florida Power & Light, Bellsouth, water treatment officials as well as medical authorities and FEMA to establish a game plan. After restoring power to priority services, a few days later they formulated a list of secondary priorities consisting of gas stations, convenience stores, markets, etc. to relieve the burden on State and City distribution networks for food, water, ice and fuel.

Along with other officials, the Mayor toured the City while the storm's feeder bands were still dangerously active. He arrived at Fort Lauderdale Beach by 10 AM on Monday morning where he noticed that 3 lifeguard stands were destroyed while three remained intact. After visiting the beach, the municipal entourage headed to the downtown area. As broken glass rained down on them, they witnessed the destruction of some of the city's premier structures such as the Landmark Bank building, the Broward Financial Center (the Templeton building), the Kathleen C. Wright building (the School Board building), One Financial Plaza (the Regents Bank building), the Courthouse and dozen of others. He ascribed the pattern of destruction to the unusual westerly direction of the storm's winds. The Mayor was struck by the degree to which buildings protected by impact windows avoided damage. The juxtaposition of buildings unaffected by the storm adjacent to structures thoroughly devastated impressed the Mayor with the importance of these code-compliant windows and doors - given the expected increase in frequency and intensity of hurricane activity for the upcoming decade.

The various public services worked together to bring the City back from the brink. The Mayor explained, "Police officers risked becoming inadvertent targets as they tried to direct traffic at pitch black intersections. They also patrolled lightless neighborhoods in an effort to thwart looting and vandalism. Fire-Rescue personnel faced a city with disabled detection and alarm capacity. Fire-Rescue EMS sought out tens of thousands of isolated elderly and invalid residents incapable of alerting anyone to possible emergencies." Building Department Inspectors had to evaluate the structural integrity of thousands of buildings to determine whether they could continue to be safely inhabited.

The Mayor pointed out that before police, fire, EMS or FP&L personnel can perform their duties, they need to be able to navigate to their assigned tasks. The debris blocking the roads needed to be cleared to provide repair personnel with access to damaged equipment and downed lines, to get police to traffic hot spots

Continued on page 13

Mayor Naugle...Continued

and allow Fire-Rescue to reach reported emergencies. The Mayor said, "Within 24 hours, sanitation personnel were clearing major arteries and secondary roads. Once they started, crews worked around the clock cleaning up the mess left by Wilma." Until the contractor retained by the City for catastrophic debris clearance, Crowder-Gulf, was able to marshal its resources, municipal employees had the task of clearing the way for all the other services to effectively function. He continued, "In the first 24 hours after the storm, police were directing traffic and patrolling vulnerable commercial and residential neighborhoods, Fire-Rescue crews were visiting high rise buildings, searching for isolated medical shut-ins and FP&L and other utility repair crews were escorted to priority repair sites."

Given the need to remove rotting garbage, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers escorted garbage trucks, clearing debris that blocked every road in Fort Lauderdale. Without the volunteers, the trucks would have been immobilized and unable to prevent a serious health hazard presented by deteriorating uncollected organic waste. The Mayor credited CERT volunteers with helping the city to regain its footing. He recommended to the Advisory Board that participating in the CERT program was one of the most important ways that people could help in an emergency. He said, "By taking classes one night a week for twelve weeks, residents can earn certification in a variety of important emergency skills."

With Wilma having chewed up 30% of Fort Lauderdale's tree

canopy, Mayor Naugle expanded on the Herculean clean-up efforts by describing "Wilma City". He explained, "Fort Lauderdale has a contract with a company called Crowder Gulf to remove debris after catastrophic events. Crowder Gulf often retains local subcontractors to abet their own substantial resources. After Wilma, they compiled a force of 500 workers and 300 trucks to assist with fulfilling their contractual obligations. They set up a staging area at Mills Pond Park. The park, located at I-95 and NW 19th Street, served as a debris separation center. Uprooted tree logs were ground into non-commercial grade mulch which sold for \$11 per ton." The Mayor commented, "Unsurprisingly, local residents indicated that they preferred Wilma City as a park rather than a dump."

People needed water, food and ice to survive. When FP&L announced that it would take a month to restore power to the balance of Broward County, federal, state, county and city authorities were forced to assume responsibility for getting the necessities of life to many thousands of Broward inhabitants. Despite having declared that they "were prepared for any contingency," FEMA immediately started their South Florida rescue efforts with a series of inexplicable gaffes. Their plan to deliver ice and water to 15 Broward locations was delayed because they decided to use cellular phones to manage the project. Since the cellular networks were also damaged by Wilma, they were unable to give their waiting supply truck drivers the green light to roll. When they finally contacted the drivers, they learned that the trucks weren't adequately

Continued on page 16



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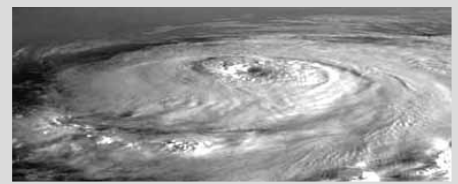
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MAYOR NAUGLE TACKLES WILMA

Eric Berkowitz

On November 17th, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle addressed the Galt Mile Community Association Advisory Board. Fresh on everyone's mind was the ordeal faced by South Florida with the advent of Hurricane Wilma. Mayor Naugle enlightened Galt Mile representatives about the part played by their elected representatives in the City's preparation, response and recovery. After Wilma's opening salvo, the City's emergency plan dictated that local government officials meet in what amounts to a "War Room", the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on West Broward Boulevard. A self-contained local headquarters designed to help officials actualize their decisions when responding to an emergency, the EOC is a windowless municipal bunker equipped with redundant communications capabilities. Powered by emergency generators and furnished with cots to accommodate long-term occupancy when necessary, the EOC puts Police, Fire-Rescue and medical resources at the disposal of our local emergency management team. Television screens and telephones that crowd the room affords access to Tallahassee, Washington, the National Hurricane Center, the CDC, FEMA, etc. City and County officials can coordinate their response to Wilma while organizing effective relief efforts.

The Mayor conveyed that while Wilma became a monster during its two day respite off the Mexican coast, it was a medium strength hurricane by the time it reached the east coast of Florida, ranging between categories 1 and 2 on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Despite official anemometer readings taken at some local public schools, he acknowledged that Wilma attained category 3 dimensions in areas along the coast. Although a medium strength storm, Wilma's enormous scope rendered evacuation an improbable alternative.

Mayor Naugle explained that Fort Lauderdale had resources not available to the surrounding municipalities, such as "the Monster". Originally designed as armored "Swat" equipment, the 40,000 pound riot control vehicle is replete with advanced communications, water cannon and other offensive and defensive wherewithal. Questionably deployed for some "spring break" disturbances, its ability to reach inaccessible parts of the City during hurricanes has elevated it to an invaluable tool for reconnaissance, repair and rescue.

Continued on page 12

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Beaches...Continued



Salvaged sand piled up along A1A being returned to Ft. Lauderdale Beach

would be monitored to avoid "direct, secondary and long-term effects to nearshore hardbottom habitat" when renourishing the County's northern beaches (Segment II). The Governor took note that the Army Corps of Engineers stated in their

Environmental Impact Statement that the success of the project's individual segments depended on the successful completion of the project as a whole. They warned that eliminating any part of the project would undermine the engineering basis for the project's overall success.

The \$45 million price tag on the nearly completed Segment III project component is double projected costs. The original cost of rehabilitating the beaches in Hollywood, Hallandale and Dania was approximately \$23 million. Certain vested interests enlisted the assistance of a few fringe environmental groups to intimidate specific Tallahassee bureaucrats. At first, they claimed to be beach residents representing the majority of people that lived along Broward's shore. This tactic backfired when thousands of barrier island residents and their municipal representatives demonstrated overwhelming support for the project. Their new tactic was simplicity itself. If they could deplete the resources earmarked for the project, they could increase the project's burden on taxpayers, burning out public support. Despite the project's acceptance by the mainstream environmental community as safe and "in the national interest," they used the media to foment doubt about the project's environmental safeguards. By loosing a virtual blizzard of baseless allegations, they systematically drained resources and delayed the project.

To fulfill his responsibility as Project coordinator and beach administrator, Steve Higgins had to scientifically discredit the continuous slew of "red herrings" drummed up by project opponents. "Somehow our project has gotten more scrutiny from agencies and activist groups than any project I've ever seen," explained Mr. Higgins. Despite his having earned the backing of the environmental community, delays seemed to take on a life of their own. It wasn't until Eleanor Sobel (D-Hollywood), supported by almost every coastal municipal administration frustrated by the project's plodding pace, asked Florida State Attorney General Charlie Crist to look into the legitimacy of the delays. Sensing that the underlying motives for their tactics were dangerously close to being uncovered, project opponents tried to elicit several questionable concessions from both State and County officials. Suspicions were aroused, for instance, when they asked the State to rezone all of Florida's beachfront property. At the end of the day, this abuse of the system cost taxpayers \$22 million extra and delayed the project for six years.

Continued on page 9

Mayor Naugle...Continued

President Ralph Hamaker of Coral Ridge Towers South asked the Mayor "what Associations and/or their members can do to help the City during or after a hurricane?" Mayor Naugle stressed the importance of preparing for the event and appropriately reinforcing the building and its individual units to withstand the wind, water and debris responsible for the vast majority of storm-related damage. He endorsed the installation of impact glass and other code-compliant storm resistant measures. He exhibited concern about how some people used emergency generators during the power outage. Some suicidal individuals thought it clever to operate their generators inside their homes. Unfortunately, this resulted in one reported asphyxiation death after the storm. Addressing the emergency generators used in high rise buildings, he spoke to the importance of fuel diversity. Wilma made unavailable a variety of resources used to operate generators. Losing water knocked out water-cooled generators. Associations dependent on diesel and gas fueled machines were frustrated by the sporadic availability of those fuels. While generators fueled by natural gas fared better than most others, had the gas lines been cut, they would also have failed. He recommended that Associations considering redundancy for their emergency generators NOT simply duplicate their primary system, but install a secondary system utilizing a different fuel and coolant.

After momentarily reconsidering his answer to President Hamaker, the Mayor said, "The most important contribution that high rise homeowners can make to the City's recovery effort is to check on their neighbors. Elderly and invalid high rise dwellers are far more likely to slip through the public services safety net during emergencies. If each building could police itself for emergencies by actively accounting for everyone's safety, they would compensate for this loophole in our safety net." While verifying the safety and security of one's neighbors should be a priority for every community, the associated access problems render it critically important in high-rise buildings. The Mayor elaborated, "Mobility impaired individuals isolated without power, water and telephone in high-rise buildings might just as well be on the moon. In the absence of friends or family, they must be able to rely on neighbors to verify that they are all right."

Mayor Naugle depicted how municipalities exchange information during Wilma-style catastrophes. Responding to Fort Lauderdale's ordeal, Hillsborough County sent members of their Sheriff's Department to assist our local police. The Mayor explained that "they received valuable experience in emergency management while helping us." He recalled one of last year's more virulent storms, after which he asked City Manager George Gretsas to visit Punta Gorda on the west coast. The devastated city issued pleas for help. Gretsas returned with a new appreciation for the unique dynamic experienced by local officials and residents under catastrophic emergency circumstances. "It helped put our problems into perspective," said Gretsas, "I couldn't help identifying with the way the residents persevered in the face of problems that

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Intersection of Las Olas an A1A covered in sand.

BROWARD BEACHES BATTERED

The poor get poorer. Like everything else in Broward County, its beaches took a beating from Hurricane Wilma. The Broward County Beach Restoration project was planned around salvaging the shorelines of those communities most afflicted by tidal erosion. In keeping with the project's priorities to address "the worst first", the County's devastated southern beaches were the first targets for rehabilitation. Dania, Hollywood and Hallandale Beaches were all but gone by the time that project opponents finally succumbed to public pressure and allowed the project to proceed. Segment III, ranging from the Broward/Dade county line to the John U. Lloyd Beach State Recreation area in Hollywood - just south of Port Everglades - was 90% complete by the time Wilma rolled in. The project stalled north of Franklin Street in Hollywood, near the Dania Pier. Construction of the erosion control structures at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park was scheduled to begin in November. Work on three rock groins designed to prolong the effects of the renourishment was already underway.

The municipalities lining Broward's southern shoreline were given new leases on life by their widened beaches. Hotels, resorts and hundreds of businesses whose lifeblood flows from the region's beaches were revived after years of an existence based on cloudy memories of when their beaches were world famous. In 2004, before the project started, each hurricane that hit Broward's southern shore devastated the municipality behind the beach. Following Hurricane Frances, the world watched Surf Road just south of Dania Boulevard break up on television as Hollywood Mayor Mara Giuliani declared "Well, the situation is extremely dangerous because there is no beach to buffer us from the effects of the storm." Frances also pushed all the remaining

sand from Dania Beach into a parking lot across the street from the beach. 2005 was a different story. The widened beaches protected the properties and infrastructure in Dania, Hollywood and Hallandale from Katrina, Rita and now Wilma. Broward County's beach renourishment administrator Steve Higgins said, "We really didn't see a lot of erosion in the south end of the county." The northern beaches weren't as fortunate.

Large stretches of the shoreline along the Segment II part of the project - Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Pompano Beach, Hillsboro Beach and Deerfield Beach - have experienced deterioration equal to that of the southern beaches prior to their renourishment. After Hurricane Wilma, Fort Lauderdale's famed Ocean Highway, State Road A1A, was reminiscent of Surf Road in Hollywood after Hurricane Frances. In Deerfield Beach, Wilma blew huge segments of their beach onto and across Ocean Way, the street running along the ocean. When asked to evaluate the loss to their Beach, Deerfield's Director of Parks and Recreation Vince Kendrick responded, "We're trying to evaluate how much sand we've lost. We [bulldozed] 40 truckloads of sand over just three blocks." Hillsboro and Pompano Beach suffered identical dilemmas. In addition to losing the sparse remnants of the north Broward coastline, exposed shorefront communities suffered heightened damage to their coastal properties and infrastructure. From Fort Lauderdale to Deerfield, the unprotected barrier island was literally covered in sand.

Along the Galt Mile, sand and ocean flotsam filled swimming pools. Huge drifts covered parking decks and penetrated the lower levels in several condos. When some sixth floor Galt Ocean Club residents finally opened their balcony doors, they discovered large sand dunes covering their balcony floors.

Continued on page 7

Mayor Naugle...Continued

record time and deliver needed supplies to residents. Along with the County, they kept constituents reasonably well informed about repair progress and safety issues. The City's "Boil Water" alert - accompanied by detailed instructions to properly treat the suspect water supply for those without electricity - averted compounding the catastrophe with a health emergency. Listing some positive steps taken by the City, the Mayor spoke to a \$500 million upgrade to the City's water and sewer lines. To lessen the financial impact of the storm, the City arranged to be reimbursed by the federal government for 90% of their debris removal outlay.

In addition to instituting an effective general recovery plan, municipal officials remained in constant contact with local civic and neighborhood leaders. City residents faced different problems depending on where they lived. During the entire period, Mayor Naugle called on his neighborhood contacts to ascertain their individual needs and problems. This local input allowed the Mayor to better address obstacles unique to certain communities along with universally shared problems. GMCA President Bob Rozema confirmed to the Advisory Board that he "was in contact with the Mayor on a daily basis." The Mayor said, "I took a lot of heat when I stated in a televised interview that people living in high-rise communities should be accorded priority status for the restoration of their electricity and water." Explaining his familiarity with our dilemma, he continued, "My mother lived in a high rise development. If she was isolated without electricity, phone service and water, I'm not sure if she would have been able to let anyone know if she needed help. Most people living in single family homes don't understand the additional safety and health risks faced by high rise dwellers under emergency conditions."

Other city officials remained in contact with local civic representatives. Vice Mayor Christine Teel learned about the impending health crisis due to the lack of water. Many of the pools that served as sources for bucket-wielding residents to force flush their toilets were almost empty. After explaining the growing problem to City Manager George Gretsas, he contacted GMCA Secretary Eric Berkowitz to explain the steps being taken by the city to resolve the issue. Despite the many variables affecting the City's repair efforts, the water and the electricity were turned on within a few hours of Mr. Gretsas' repair projections. In large part, Galt Mile residents were rescued by the efforts of the Mayor, the Vice Mayor and the City Manager. By assigning a high repair priority to the Galt Mile's high-rise neighborhood, the expeditious return of services averted tragic repercussions. Fort Lauderdale Fire Marshal Steve Kastner, by sending an EMS team to check every Galt building for isolated medical shut-ins who may have required assistance, also demonstrated a personal interest in our well being. From Sunday through Wednesday, 8 Galt Mile residents were hospitalized. The cool weather kept that number relatively low. While some may misconstrue our gratitude as relief from inconvenience, the people that lived through Wilma understand the dangers that a few more days without power, water or phone access would have portended for many of our elderly and invalid neighbors.

Continued on page 21

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Flu...Continued

This year is starting off on the wrong foot. Maxim Health Systems and other private providers organized a series of vaccination delivery locations at supermarkets, clinics and other sites accessible to the general public. Greater than expected turnouts and delivery delays depleted available supplies. Public Health officials blame the unexpected overutilization on fear stimulated by the threat of Avian Flu. Lines at Maxim's outlets were inflated with additional frightened low-risk candidates, quickly depleting available doses. Apparently, instead of shipping the entire required vaccine allocations, the Federal Government again decided to incrementally release doses. Inexplicably, they also delayed the abbreviated vaccine shipments to providers. While last year's delays were deliberately arranged to help stretch the inadequate number of doses, there is no apparent reason for the current delays.

Private physicians were also affected by the delays, asking Senior citizens and other members of high risk groups to reschedule when the next shipment arrived. Maxim discontinued scheduled flu shots at Winn-Dixie and other public venues on November 6th, two weeks earlier than planned. Maxim successfully held about 90% of their 35,000 planned flu vaccination clinics nationwide. On November 10th, Maxim stated that they were back in business. Together with officials from the Broward County Health Department, Maxim announced that public clinics would be given at three locations in Broward County during late November. On November 14th and November 21st, they conducted clinics from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Festival Marketplace, 2900 W. Sample Road in Pompano Beach. Vaccinations were also available at the Broward Mall, 8000 W. Broward Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on November 17th and 18th. A third clinic was scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 16th at the Sawgrass Mills Mall, 12801 W. Sunrise Blvd. Speaking to the vaccine delivery delays, Maxim southeast account executive Kevin Colley elaborated, "Hopefully, this will help. We're going to get more later in the month, and we'll try to get the word out about those, too."

Orlando based Clinical Mobility, another private company duplicating Maxim's Broward efforts in Palm Beach County, also announced receipt of previously delayed vaccine. President Kirby Ryan said his company hopes to reschedule previously cancelled clinics in early December Simon Malls such as Town Center at Boca Raton and the Boynton Beach Mall.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) head Dr. Julie Gerberding admitted to local shortages across the Country. All told, 71 million doses have been distributed and more is expected. Calling this year's supply the biggest ever manufactured, Gerberding explained, "Our projection is somewhere between 81 and 83 million [total] doses. We still don't know for sure how much Chiron is going to produce, but typically we still get vaccine into December." In view of last year's contaminated American consignment, Chiron is sharing vaccine manufacturing responsibilities with three other pharmaceutical companies, Sanofi Pasteur, Inc., MedImmune Vaccines, Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals. Not surprisingly, Chiron, manufacturer of the popular FLUVIRIN influenza virus vaccine, hasn't kept pace with this year's delivery schedule, exacerbating local shortages.

Continued on page 21

Mayor Nauge...Continued

The Mayor's opinion about the value of checking on one's neighbors was borne out by events on the Galt Mile after Wilma. People congregating in dozens of building lobbies offered one another supplies and assistance. When frozen foods started to defrost, residents went to their Association's barbecue grill to cook steaks and other food before it spoiled. Any hungry neighbor was unreservedly invited to partake, some insisting that they be afforded the opportunity to do the cooking in return for their meals. These spontaneous demonstrations of neighbors taking care of each other were rightfully a source of much Association pride. Less obvious were dozens of "understandings" between small groups of residents to check on every elderly or infirm person in their building. These little known efforts to reach out to our most vulnerable neighbors exemplify what the Mayor was alluding to. It might be a good idea for every Association to wedge that sort of ad hoc assistance into their official hurricane manual. Perhaps between taking in the balcony furniture and filling the bathtub, somewhere on the third page could read, "Love thy Neighbor!" Corny... maybe... but the Mayor would agree that it's on the money. •

Flu...Continued

Dr. Gerberding was grateful for the flu season's slow start with most states currently reporting only sporadic cases. Addressing complaints about not having received promised vaccine allocations from Broward physicians treating high-risk patients, such as the elderly and those with compromised immune systems, she said, "The CDC has ordered 800,000 shots from Chiron and will work with state and county health departments in the coming weeks to get the shots distributed where they are needed most." Hopefully, this vaccine slush fund will address delivery gaps.

In addition to the clinics operated by Maxim and Clinic Mobility, those without health insurance are eligible for vaccination by the Broward County Health Department. Every Monday, vaccinations are available from 8 a.m. to noon at 333 SW 28th Street in Fort Lauderdale on a first-come, first-served basis (Fort Lauderdale Health Center Satellite). For information, call 954-713-3268 or 954-467-4943. Given the sporadic availability of doses, the recent spread of avian flu and the tenuous balancing act performed by federal and local health officials every flu season, postponing your vaccination is a uniquely dangerous decision. Smarten up - protect yourself as soon as possible!

Hurricane Wilma closed the Holy Cross Medical Group building across from Winn-Dixie. Galt Mile residents seeking a physician on the Barrier Island to administer a flu vaccination may call Dr. Alex Leeds of the Galt Ocean Mile Medical Group at (954) 568-6789. His office is located at 3298 NE 33rd Street Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308. •

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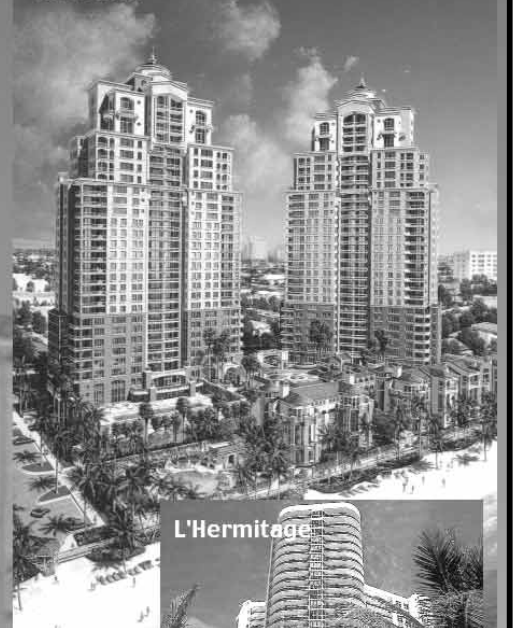
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- Brand New Oceanfront Condos starting at \$800,000
- New Intracoastal hotel/condo prices starting in the mid \$200,000's
- Townhomes available starting from \$350,000 & up
- Rentals Available (Annual/Seasonal)
- Restaurant Opportunities Available

The Palms



L'Hermitage



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