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NEW OBSTACLES DELAY BEACH RENOURISHMENT

Article by Eric Berkowitz



Galt Milers have participated in a long and difficult fight for the promised renourishment of their critically eroded beaches. When opponents of the Broward Shore Protection Project organized an anti-renourishment effort at a 2002 public hearing in the Hollywood Beach Convention Center, more than 200 Galt Mile residents arrived by bus to demonstrate their overwhelming support for the beach rescue. In 2003, responding to politically motivated claims in Tallahassee that the local population opposed saving their own beaches, thousands of neighborhood residents signed petitions supporting the project. Thousands more sent emails and letters to the Governor and members of the Florida Cabinet. Brigadier General Randal R. Castro, Former South Atlantic Division Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, confirmed that the plan was "economically justified, technically feasible, in compliance with environmental statutes, and in the overall public interest." Environmentalist Roy Rogers of the Florida Audubon Society and Florida Communities Trust reported to the Governor that "the entire project was safe, well-planned, and absolutely necessary."

Although the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement earned the endorsement of every reputable environmental group and governmental agency, at a May 2003 Cabinet Meeting in Tallahassee, opponents aspired to exclude Fort Lauderdale's beaches from participation. Abandoned by the mainstream environmental community, they again resorted to the transparently baseless claim that Broward's beachfront property owners were adamantly against saving their shoreline.

They were expecting the Mayors, City and County Commissioners, Councilpersons and other local officials that spoke on behalf of saving our beaches. After rebuking these elected project supporters for "playing politics" and otherwise demeaning their motives, the anti-beach coalition insisted that they spoke for every beachfront property owner in Broward. However, they were unprepared for the contingent of beachfront homeowners from the Galt Ocean Mile who unanimously testified that saving local beaches was of paramount priority - for them and their neighbors. They were equally surprised when prominent environmentalist Roy Rogers along with other esteemed naturalists represent-

ing the Nature Conservancy, Florida Communities Trust, The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and The Florida Audubon Society explained the need to repair the shoreline and opined that Broward's plan was environmentally sound. As a result, the Cabinet voted unanimously to maintain Fort Lauderdale's status as a renourishment target.

After hurricanes pounded coastal regions that suffered from critical tidal erosion, opponents publicly reversed themselves, agreeing that rescuing Broward's beaches was an environmental necessity that enjoyed overwhelming local support. In concession, Broward Environmental officials agreed to devote 18 months for the purpose of monitoring the effects of the "Segment III" renourishment in south Broward. The information learned would be utilized to refine protective techniques applied to the subsequent Segment II renourishment from Fort Lauderdale to Pompano Beach.

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Senator Jeffrey Atwater's Tax Update Atwater Comments on Special Session

**District 25 Senator Jeffrey Atwater has long been an avid proponent of tax reform. In mid-March, the Senator organized a community meeting at the Beach Community Center with Representative Elyn Setnor Bogdanoff and Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Christine Teel to shed light on the factors surrounding property tax reform. Central to the rationale for the meeting was the disquieting fact that 2006 saw more people leaving the state than moving here. This was an ominous first time event. Following a contentious political melee in the Legislature, the Joint Select Committee on Property Tax Relief and Reform met in Special Session to generate some version of tax relief. The 2-part package was seriously trimmed in response to pleas of poverty by local governments across the State. The statutory component was diluted from its initial \$56 billion in tax savings to a more modest \$15.6 billion cut. Although the average savings portended for homeowners this year is estimated at about \$150, the exact amount will depend on the recent assessment proclivities of the property owner's local taxing authority. On January 29, 2008, the Florida electorate will decide the fate of the plan's Constitutional alternative to the Save our Homes tax cap. Read on... *[editor]*

"Dear Friends,

After many months of traveling around the state, listening to your individual concerns at public workshops, it became clear that statewide the property tax system was a run-away train and property owners demanded relief. It was at that point that the State became actively involved. The people of Florida provided us the vital input that helped shape the reform package we passed last week. Fresh back from Tallahassee, I wanted to give you an update on the Special Session on Property Tax Reform.

This property tax relief package comes together in two parts: a change to state law, and a proposed constitutional amendment. The change to Florida law provides \$15.6 billion in tax relief immediately, by requiring local governments to roll back this year's property taxes to last year's levels, with additional cuts of 3, 5, 7, or 9 % depending on the taxing performance of each local government over the last 5 years. Governments that have benefited from the largest tax increases will be required to enact the largest cuts, while governments with conservative spending will have conservative cuts. To ensure that Florida taxpayers will not face another property tax crisis, the bill limits growth in local governments' property tax revenue to their level of population growth and the growth in personal income.

If approved by the voters, the second part of the reform, the proposed constitutional amendment will provide further relief by substantially increasing the homestead exemption. Current homeowners will have the choice to retain their Save Our Homes benefit on their current home as long as they would like. Every step of the property tax reform process has been guided by the input of Floridians. Now the level of tax cuts will be determined by the vote of the taxpayers on January 29th, 2008. The decision is in your hands and I encourage you to vote. As always, it is an honor and a privilege to represent you in Tallahassee. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you or your family.

All the best,"

Jeffrey Atwater
Florida Senate – District 25

To contact Senator Atwater, call his office in Palm Beach County at (561) 625-5101 or in Broward at (954) 847-3518. You can also contact him using his Senate email address at atwater.jeff.s25@flsenate.gov or his private email at jeff@jeffatwater.com.

To access comprehensive year-round contact info for Senator Jeff Atwater and Representative Elyn Bogdanoff – including access to Jeff's Senate web page and Elyn's House web page – go to the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galtmile.com) and click on the GMCA Report Card page in the navigation bar located atop every page.



Governor Crist sign part 1 of property tax bill into law



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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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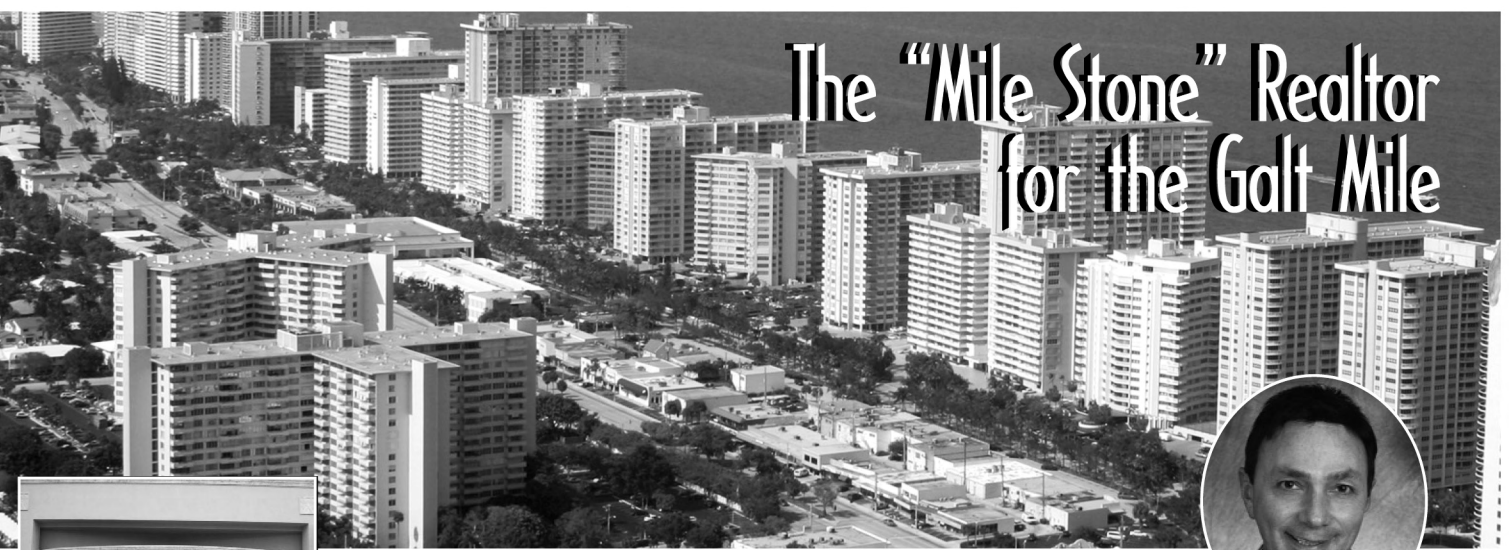
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Water...Continued

Since building such a system would require substantial financial resources, weighing the benefits against the costs becomes central to the issue. Prior to undertaking such a decision, SFWMD officials must first formulate a scope of work and estimate anticipated project expense. Floridians could then choose between enduring continued water shortage ramifications or a significant tax consequence. Since recent shortages seem manageable through the application of mildly inconvenient conservation measures, officials are currently only willing to explore the implementation of a permanent conservation strategy. Unless the State is faced with a more serious threat to life and/or property and overtaxed Florida residents are recipient to realistic legislative relief, a complete system overhaul is not a likely prospect in the foreseeable future.

For additional information about Florida's water shortage and its local impact, including access to Statewide and Regional real-time data, check the Weather Page of the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galtmile.com). The internet version of this article is followed by a comprehensive list of water shortage links. •



Lower east coast warning area map

Beach...Continued

In contrast to past projects that were largely neglected once completed, the County's strategy includes a maintenance component to ensure the ongoing health of the rehabilitated beaches, thereby postponing the need for (and expense of) future renourishments. Although sand naturally migrates south along the coast, intermittent special attention to certain "erosion hot spots" that evacuate at an expedited level could preclude the need for future full scale renourishments. Higgins reports that, "The County is investigating the feasibility of moving between 50,000 and 90,000 cubic yards of excess sand from the upland beach north of Port Everglades to a hot-spot location along south Hollywood and north Hallandale Beach." Performing smaller, more frequent sand placements at erosion hot-spots only require what he calls "sands of opportunity," avoiding additional pressure on dredge sites.

In mid-2007, Broward will also be performing a study of the applicability of erosion control structures in order to slow erosion along Segment III hot-spots. Higgins said, "The County is currently monitoring the equilibration of the beach fill to ascertain any impacts that might occur to the nearshore hardbottoms from migrating sand."

Upon conclusion of the 18-month monitoring period in September 2007, data accrued by biologists and engineers from Broward County, Nova Southeastern University, Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc. and Olsen Associates, Inc. (a joint venture of coastal engineering consulting firms) will be collated and forwarded to the State. FDEP will prepare a report to the Governor and Cabinet detailing project impacts. Monitoring results will be used to craft permit conditions for the construction of Segment II beaches. Approximately \$1.4 million of FDEP's Broward County funding request is allocated for Segment II engineering, design, and environmental studies.

Of substantial interest to some Galt Mile associations is the County's concern about their antiquated outfall pipes. Higgins reports that "communications continue with property owners in buildings with drainage and/or air conditioning outfalls under or across the beach to inform them of the need to retrofit these systems such that they do not become buried by future nourishment or adversely impact the beach or public safety." Steve Higgins met with the few Galt Mile Association members still dependent upon these outmoded structures, alerting them to commence investigating alternatives since the pipes will be rendered useless by the impending renourishment. Any building that ignores his admonition is likely to suffer loss of their air conditioning for months.

Buried in the report was the seemingly innocuous statement, "The County will be investigating the use of sand from other locations, including locations outside of the United States, for future nourishment of Segment II." Accompanying the report was an email composed to address the original inquiry about the Segment II start date. Identifying its content as disappointing is a gross understatement. In opening, Higgins redundantly confirms the obvious.

"The specially-designed, DEP-required 18-month post-construction monitoring program to determine the impacts to the nearshore hardbottoms of Segment III will end in September. When the results have been reduced and interpreted, a report will be prepared and submitted to the DEP. DEP will digest the report and present it and their recommendations to the Governor and Cabinet as to the permissibility of Segment II. We probably won't know much for sure until late this year or early next." To evaluate and diagnose 18 months of scientific data, FDEP would reasonably require at least several months. The stage is now set for a "Rolands" moment.

Higgins continues, "In the meanwhile, we are close to executing an amendment with our consultants to undertake several tasks in preparation for resuming the Segment II engineering/design/permitting. One important task is to find sand." Every scrap of relevant documentation, from the Final Environmental Impact Statement to the plan that was permitted by the State, targets the waters off Deerfield Beach as a sand "borrow site" adequate for both Segment III and Segment II renourishments. In fact, the plan terms that particular patch of beach as "Segment I". Why scavenge for sand in other locations? KABOOM - Thus drops the other shoe!

Continued on page 6

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GALT MILE SPARK PLUG DICK TYMESON P A S S E S

by Eric Berkowitz



One of the pillars of the Galt Mile Community, Dick Tymeson died early Thursday morning on August 8, 2007. After slowly recovering from a stroke suffered about six months ago, Dick was again stricken during the last week. Unable to marshal another recovery, Dick passed away peacefully.

Born March 16, 1918 on a farm outside Storm Lake, Iowa, Dick's family eventually moved into town. While attending college and business school, Dick flirted with testing societal limits by playing trombone in a swing band. After he joined the Army during World War II, Dick met Katherine Perkins while stationed in Baltimore. This heralded the beginning of a 64-year love affair.

His business sent the Tymesons to New York where son Craig was born. After moving to Philadelphia, daughter Janis joined the crew. In 1955, the family migrated to Brazil, where they flourished for 18 years in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Although his corporate career started with Philco/Ford, it moved him to IIT and finally culminated with Quaker Oats, where he served as the General Manager in Brazil.

With both kids in college, Dick and Kitty returned to the United States in 1973, settling in the Sunshine State. For years, Kitty and Dick Tymeson lived in the Ocean Summit Condominium at 4010 Galt Ocean Drive, where he repeatedly served as Board President, providing guidance to his neighbors as the stable compass of their active administration. His reputation for organizational skill and penchant for achieving consensus extended beyond his Ocean Summit Association family. Neighborhood activists solicited Dick's participation in the Galt Mile Community Association, hoping to harness his unrelenting optimism for the benefit of the entire neighborhood.

Dick's familiarity with Property Management developed into a community resource. While working closely with the Southeast Florida Chapter of the Community Association Institute, he elicited an endless stream of relevant queries from friends and neighbors. Dick selflessly applied his unique expertise to accomplishing important objectives for his Association and the neighborhood as a whole. He was soon drafted into serving

as Chairman of the Galt Mile Community Association's Presidents Council. A master of diplomatic compromise, Dick successfully steered this group of strong-willed Association Presidents through a series of universal improvements that continue to benefit every Galt Mile homeowner.

Dick was one of the driving forces behind the Galt Ocean Mile Neighborhood Improvement Project, arguably the most successful project of its kind in Fort Lauderdale history. Working with peers Robert Rozema, Rose Guttman, Leah Glickfield, Jim Gill, Oscar Kraehenbuehl, Earl Lifeshy, Commissioner John Aurelius and other City officials and engineers, Dick was often called upon to help overcome a litany of obstacles interfering with the project's completion. If a deteriorating issue required improved communications, Dick Tymeson was the cure. His remarkable ability to replace contention with a comfortable working environment made Dick an indispensable community asset.

Long after he and Kitty moved to John Knox Village in Pompano Beach, Dick commuted regularly to attend Galt Mile Community meetings and events. His eternal willingness to volunteer his time, effort and expertise to any community objective earned Dick one of the three Honorary Lifetime Memberships ever accorded by the Neighborhood Association. Needless to say, Dick leaves some unfillable shoes and an unmatched legacy of achievement. He will be sorely missed.

Dick is survived by loving wife Kitty, his son Craig, daughter and son-in-law Janis and Peter Steinfeld, and 5 grandchildren (Michael, Bryan, Alyson, Kristen and Hayley). Having recently moved within John Knox Village, Kitty's new address is 651 SW 6th Street, #808, Pompano Beach, FL 33060.

A simple memorial service was scheduled for Saturday afternoon, August 11th at Kraeer Funeral Home (200 North Federal Highway in Pompano Beach). At Kitty's request, in lieu of flowers, please make donations in Dick's honor to the charity of your choice.

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ECHOES FROM OUR VOICES IN TALLAHASSEE

Following the legislative session, Senator Jeffrey Atwater and Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff, the Galt Mile's voices in the State Capitol, expressed the desire to remain in contact with their respective constituencies. The Galt Mile community is located within one of the largest jurisdictional overlaps represented by the two State officials. As a reminder to their constituent electorates, in contrast with the brevity of the time spent in session, their responsibilities span the entire year. To actualize the continuity inherent in their job titles, Representative Bogdanoff issued a Summer Newsletter and Senator Atwater composed a post-special session Tax Update.

Representative Bogdanoff's Summer Newsletter

**Since the session closed in May, District 91 Statehouse Representative Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff has shed light on relevant legislative accomplishments. In June, the Majority Whip discussed a law promoting Cable Television competition, no-interest storm mitigation loans, a law prohibiting the expiration of gift cards, prison bed and DNA database expansion, and her expectations for property tax reform. Her Summer Newsletter explains the advantages of moving the date of the Florida Presidential Primary to January 29th, environmental bills designed to abate pollutants, develop alternative fuels, purchase more endangered land, Everglades restoration and beach renourishment. Representative Bogdanoff also expresses pride over her role in drafting a State Budget with a \$1 billion + reserve, protection for the state's Triple A bond rating and extensions of the June and August Sales Tax Holidays worth roughly \$80 million to taxpayers. Read on... *[editor]*

"Dear Friends,
It's my pleasure to be able share with you a few of the many important developments that occurred this past legislative session in Tallahassee, which are not only significant to our community, but the entire state of Florida. This month I have highlighted three issues: the Presidential Primary, the Environment, and the Budget.

Election Presidential Primary

For the first time in decades, Florida has a big say on who will be running for president next year. By the time you and your neighbors cast ballots in previous presidential primaries, the decision had been made. Front runners were so far in the lead that Florida's voters in the March presidential primary had little influence over the outcome of the race. As a result, primary candidates ignored the issues of our state. The legislature thought Florida's voters, residents of the nation's fourth biggest state, should have a more significant role in presidential primaries. They moved the primary's date to January 29th, insuring that now Floridians will have a voice in picking the nominees of each party.

Environment

Preserving Florida for our grandchildren continues to be a commitment of the Legislature. A new law will lessen the impact of new power plants on the environment. It encourages new plants to use high-tech methods that produce less harmful pollutants. A comprehensive energy package

approved by the Legislature promotes research and development of alternative fuels and requires all government buildings to meet the nationally recognized environmentally sensitive building standards. More than \$500 million was approved to continue the nation's largest program for the purchase of endangered land and for Everglades restoration.

To sustain our beaches, more than \$30 million was earmarked for beach renourishment projects. To keep the ocean clean, research into red tide and harmful algae blooms was funded. This year, the Legislature moved to further protect Lake Okeechobee, a source of water for Southeast Florida, by extending the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund to 2020. Lawmakers realize that none of newly enacted environmental protection will matter if Floridians do not have water to drink.

Financial Responsibility

As the Majority Whip, I had a role drafting this year's Florida State Budget. I'm pleased to report that the budget funds needed programs, yet remains fiscally responsible. The budget prudently keeps over \$1 billion in reserve. If our economy slows, we are hit by a major hurricane or other unforeseen incident, that rainy day fund will be there to help. The money in reserve protects our state's Triple A bond rating – the best possible. A high bond rating saves you money because it keeps the interest rates lower on state bonds that are used to build highways, bridges and other improvements. Once again we are returning some of your tax money to you. We renewed the August back-to-school and June hurricane supplies tax holidays. Taxpayers like you will save an estimated \$80 million in sales tax. The sales tax holiday is a real achievement and is consistent with a guiding principal of my public service – that it is your money, not ours.

It is a pleasure to serve the residents of District 91. I hope you will call me (954) 762-3757 or e-mail at ellyn.bogdanoff@myfloridahouse.gov anytime I can be of assistance.

All the best,
Ellyn Bogdanoff
Majority Whip
Florida House of Representatives – District 91

Continued on page 14

THIS MONTH AT-A-GLANCE

SEPT/OCT 2007

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Erev Rosh Hashana | 13 | 14 Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & ATA 7 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092 | 15 Pizza Fusion - Kids Organics Class 10 a.m. Info.: 954-427-5353 AROID SHOW & SALE Fairchild Tropical Gardens Info.: 305-667-1651 |
| 16 | 17 Vice Mayor Teel Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 7 p.m. Info: 954-828-5033 | 18 Ft. Lauderdale City Commission Meeting High School Musical: The Ice Tour BankAtlantic Center (Through 9/20) Tix.: 954-523-3309 | 19 | 20 GMCA Advisory Board Meeting Pa DeGennaro's 11 a.m. | 21 Erev Yom Kippur Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & ATA 7 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092 | 22 Brad Paisley Sound Advice Amphitheatre Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & ATA 7 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092 | 29 |
| 30 | 1 Vice Mayor Teel Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m. Info: 954-828-5033 | 2 Dine Out Lauderdale (Through 11/15) Dine Out Lauderdale fea- tures fixed-price, three- course dinner menus for \$35 at top-rated restaurants. | 3 The Wedding Singer Broward Center (Through 10/14) Tix.: 954-462-0222 | 4 | 5 Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & ATA 7 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092 | 6 Las Olas Fall Art Fair (Through 10/7) Info.: 954-765-5900 HIT HOLE HIKO Official 1K Walk to benefit Breast Cancer Galleria Mall, 11 a.m. Info.: 813-671-9596 |
| 7 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 The Rare Event of Contemporary Art Fairchild Tropical Garden (Through 10/19) Info.: 305-667-1651 | 12 Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & ATA 7 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092 | 13 Bonsai Show and Sale Fairchild Tropical Garden Info.: 305-667-1651 |

A look ahead

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Oct 20 - 21 Hollywood International Art & Music Festival ArtsPark at Young Circle,
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Beach...Continued

"Borrow area No. 1, which has enough material with which to construct Segment II, now has a higher percentage of rock in it after removing sand for Segment III. We'll need to investigate that. We'll also look for additional sand offshore, but I'm not confident that we'll find any significant new deposits. Accordingly, we will also be looking for more remote sources of domestic sand (e.g. offshore central FL and in the Gulf of Mexico) and for non-domestic sand, with emphasis on Bahamian aragonite. When we find the sand we're going to use, if it's different from the sand we had proposed to use in our previous plans, we will have to do some re-engineering of the project and redo some of the permitting." Actually, when the project was undergoing Cabinet scrutiny, former Florida Chief Financial Officer and gubernatorial candidate Tom Gallagher also recommended that the project's County supporters consider Bahamian sand as an alternative to the Deerfield Beach borrow site.

Wrapping up his correspondence with a flourish, Higgins said, "Finally, regulatory scrutiny of our reefs has recently ratcheted up due to the listing as federally 'Threatened' of a couple of species of shallow-water hard coral, which is prolific offshore of Segment II." With the President's ex-governor brother safely sheltered from any political blowback, the Bush Administration has extended their enigmatic environmental policies to the State of Florida.

The Bush administration and Congress have used the Everglades as a public relations flagship, promoting it as a national symbol of environmental recovery. However, on August 2nd, the White House threatened to veto the long-delayed Water Resources Development Act, a massive state-federal Everglades project that the Administration had adopted as proof of their commitment to the largest remaining subtropical wilderness in the United States. In what appears to be a case of kicking up the dust and then complaining that you can't see, Administration delays to the project have driven up estimated land purchase costs from \$15.4 billion in 2000 to \$19.7 billion. Responding to the problem they were instrumental in creating, the White House contends that the bill has become too expensive. Director April Gromnicki of ecosystem restoration at the Audubon Society said, "If this is not authorized, it means more delays, more cost increases, less likelihood of success."

Simultaneously, a mid-level Administration official recommended that UNESCO remove the Everglades from the endangered list. A unique rich tangle of sawgrass marshes, mangrove forests and rare species - the Everglades was added to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) list of the world's most outstanding sites in 1979 and attributed endangered status in 1993, primarily due to pollution from urban growth, unrestricted agricultural runoff and severe damage from Hurricane Andrew in 1992. In 2000, Congress approved a 40-year recovery project for which the funding would be shared equally with the State. Not surprisingly, Florida taxpayers have paid the vast majority of the \$7 billion already spent on the effort.

Florida Senator Bill Nelson characterized the damaging recommendation as improper meddling by Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary Todd Willens since UNESCO is supposed to solicit input from the National Park Service and the World Conservation Union, or IUCN, a Swiss-based network that recommended keeping the Everglades on the endangered list. Its removal provides the Administration with a manufactured rationale for renegeing on its commitment to support federal funding for Everglades rehabilitation.

Continued on page 13

Water...Continued

Assistant Deputy Executive Director for Water Resources Terrie Bates spelled out the crux of the State's dilemma. "This combination of managing the system for a lack of water to the north and for flood control to the south demonstrates the variability and challenges presented by this dynamic regional water system. Even while Lake Okeechobee remains at record lows, counties along the lower east coast are now seeing good signs of recovery as above average rains replenish groundwater levels, canals and wetlands." The strange juxtaposition of inadequate Lake levels and oversaturation in coastal regions has resulted in water use restrictions in areas threatened by flooding. Unless a more dynamic method of balancing the State's water resources is developed, this eerie dilemma is likely to reoccur.

Appointed to the SFWMD Governing Board by Governor Charlie Crist in April 2007, Chairman Eric Buermann confirmed that the need to repeat or continue restrictive conservation measures may be unavoidable. Upon announcing the relaxation of water use curbs on July 11th, he warned, "With conditions in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed so radically different from conditions along the coast, the District is still in a severe regional water shortage. Even with modified water restrictions in some areas, we must still practice wise water use and conservation. Residents along the coast need to be prepared for the possibility that these modified restrictions may only represent a temporary reprieve. If water stages in Lake Okeechobee and other water bodies do not climb to acceptable levels by the end of the current wet season, we may find ourselves in full Phase II or Phase III restrictions again during the next dry season."

The only permanent solution for what appears to be an inherent system defect is the creation of a dynamic resource distribution mechanism. If a two-way system were engineered, the entire State would become a catchment area. Oversaturated coastal counties operating under water use restrictions could feed any rain overflow to depleted reservoirs instead of dumping it through flood protection discharges. By expanding the existing static distribution network into a dynamic system, rainfall anywhere in the State could ameliorate or eliminate Statewide or regional drought threats.

Continued on page 12

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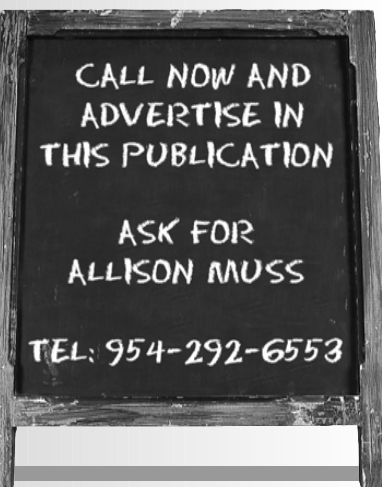
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Beach...Continued

Following completion of the Segment III renourishment in March of 2006, monitors from Nova Southeast University Oceanographic Center and a coalition of outside engineers joined county scientists to begin examining the environmental effects of repairing the County's shoreline from the Dade County line to John U. Lloyd State Park. During the 18-month monitoring period, Broward County planned on addressing truck-loads of bureaucratic housekeeping required for project continuity.

Stephen Higgins, Broward's Beach Administrator, was assigned the unenviable responsibility of contending with any environmental, structural and financial pitfalls, expected and unexpected, that surface during the hiatus. Positioned on ground zero, he is the only official competent to authoritatively explain the project's current status, investigate consequences of unanticipated problems and evaluate their influence on the project timetable.

Responding to a recent request for an update with respect to commencing the Segment II (Fort Lauderdale) phase of the project, Mr. Higgins sent documentation substantiating the financial and environmental aspects of the project – both of which impact the schedule. The May 2007 report summarizes the fiscal fallout from Segment III (the completed south Broward beaches), the outlook for Segment II (the Fort Lauderdale beaches) and discusses the Port Everglades Inlet Sand Bypassing Project – a separate but related adjunct to the County's overall beach renourishment strategy.

Project funding is underwritten by a combination of municipal, County, State and federal resources allocated for this purpose. The release of this dedicated financing is contingent on the successful accomplishment of goals outlined in the County's plan. As of May, 2007, Broward County received from the US Army Corps of Engineers a \$2.8 million reimbursement for the federal share of preconstruction engineering and design costs for Segment III.

The County has requested from the Corps of Engineers reimbursement of approximately \$17 million for the federal share of Segment III beach and structure construction costs. These funds are subject to appropriation by Congress and apportionment and allocation by the Corps. While the Corps of Engineers currently only has available approximately \$2 million for Broward's reimbursement (subject to audit), the County has requested that Congress appropriate \$6 million for FY 2008 to facilitate uninterrupted funding.

The County has requested approximately \$1.6 million more from the State of Florida to cover future Segment III monitoring expenses and engineering design costs for Segment II. These funds are contained in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) FY 2007-08 Legislative Budget Request.

Since the shorelines of Dania Beach, Hollywood, and Hallandale Beach have been restored, the participating Segment III municipalities have submitted projections for their individual shares of the estimated costs. Pending realization of federal and state reimbursements, a final reconciliation will clarify their respective financial liabilities.

Continued on page 5



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Beach...Continued

When UNESCO took environmental marching orders from Willens, a controversial irony was unwittingly exposed. The Interior Department's No. 3 official served as policy director for ex-House Resources Chairman Richard Pombo, a California Republican and rancher who unsuccessfully tried to scale back the Endangered Species Act. Willens was also a recipient of Jack Abramoff's largesse, joining a group of congressional staffers who visited the Mariana Islands on the disgraced lobbyist's dime.

Keeping pace with federally engineered environmental moving targets and being subjected to a new formula governing the availability of sand off Deerfield Beach, Beach Administrator Higgins was forced to deliver the bad news. Consistent with his predisposition for conservative prognostication, Higgins wrote, "Realistically, I don't see us beginning construction on Segment II until fall of 2009." Understandably, GMCA President Pio Ieraci dashed off a concerned correspondence to the Chief of Broward's Biological Resources Division, exclaiming, "2009! I feel somewhat ill. It will have taken almost 13 years for this project to materialize (Segment II). Is there ANYTHING we can do collectively to 'speed up' this painfully slow process?" The consummate trooper, Higgins answered that upon locating a sand source, he would submit the appropriate state and federal permit modification requests. Having been pummeled with unexpected obstacles by project opponents at virtually every turn, Higgins also told Ieraci that he anticipates requiring additional support from the affected Galt Mile residents in the near future.

As Mr. Higgins prepares to mollify the latest federal obstacles threatening the beach project, we will have to patiently stand by, awaiting his cue to do what we do best – express our honest opinion about the importance of our beach to vested interests at every level of the political food chain. On the bright side, Steve Higgins has displayed a remarkable resilience when confronted by such obstacles during the past decade.

To date, the project's progress is largely a reflection of his voluminous scientific acumen, sober penchant for diplomacy and a stoic fortitude that stiffens in proportion to the challenge confronted. While exhibiting patience is a painful proposition for those of us familiar with the project's history, we could do worse than to faithfully follow the advice of the man who's Biological Resources Division has successfully navigated the shifting political minefields surrounding the beach project in Broward, Tallahassee and Washington. Skeptics need to take a quick trip to the beautifully widened beaches in Hollywood, Hallandale and Dania; close their eyes and imagine the waves lapping against the seawall – an IMAX moment! Alternatively, recalling how sections of Surf Avenue floated by Hollywood Mayor Mara Giuliani during 2004 Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne and Ivan will serve to stiffen a sagging resolve. **More to come...**

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WATER SHORTAGE ON A FLOOD PLAIN?

Article by Eric Berkowitz

Conservation Measures along the Galt Mile

By Eric Berkowitz

South Florida is experiencing one of the most severe water shortages in its history! Water levels in Lake Okeechobee are at critical minimums. Until nature responds with an above average seasonal rainfall, only serious conservation measures will avert catastrophic health and economic consequences.

Officially responsible for managing our water supply, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. To ensure adequate drinking water for area residents, they have instituted a series of conservation measures to restrict unnecessary utilization. Since about half of the area's drinking water is used for irrigation and washing vehicles, they are the primary conservation targets.

Water restrictions apply to all businesses, shopping centers, government buildings, street medians, parks, golf courses and other recreational facilities, as well as area residents whose water supply source is Lake Okeechobee or another surface water source that is recharged by Lake Okeechobee. On May 30th, the lake's water level was measured at 8.94 feet NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum, or NGVD, is a nationally established coordinate system used to determine elevation, especially in areas close to sea level.), breaking the all-time record low of 8.97 feet NGVD set during the 2001 drought. For the 12 months ending in June, the 41 inches of rain that fell across the 16-county region was more than 10 inches below the annual average. On June 30th, Lake Okeechobee reached another all-time record low of 8.88 feet above sea level. During the following week, new lows were reported on a daily basis, hitting 8.82 feet above sea level on July 5th.

Phase I water use restrictions (voluntary curbs) were implemented following the SFWMD's November 9, 2006 Declaration of Water Shortage Warning and were expanded to Phase II by a vote of the SFWMD Governing Board on March 15, 2007. As the drought intensified, Phase III restrictions were enacted, reducing irrigation and car wash utilization to one day a week. After raining out many South Florida Independence Day celebrations, several consecutive days of intermittent heavy rains improved water supply conditions over much of South Florida. On July 11th, SFWMD relaxed restrictions, reinstating Modified Phase II water use regulations for the Upper and Lower East Coast Service Areas, which comprise the residential areas of St. Lucie, Martin, eastern Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, limiting all landscape irrigation to two days per week and four hours per day. Restrictions on all other uses of water were lifted. Certain complications left several jurisdictions under Modified Phase III restrictions. Unfortunately, Water Utilities in Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach were identified as at risk for saltwater intrusion based on elevated chloride levels in monitoring wells. Owing to an obligation to supply water to Clear Lake, the City of West Palm Beach will also continue to suffer Modified Phase III restrictions.

Following are brief explanations of the terms mandated under Phase II and Phase III conditions:

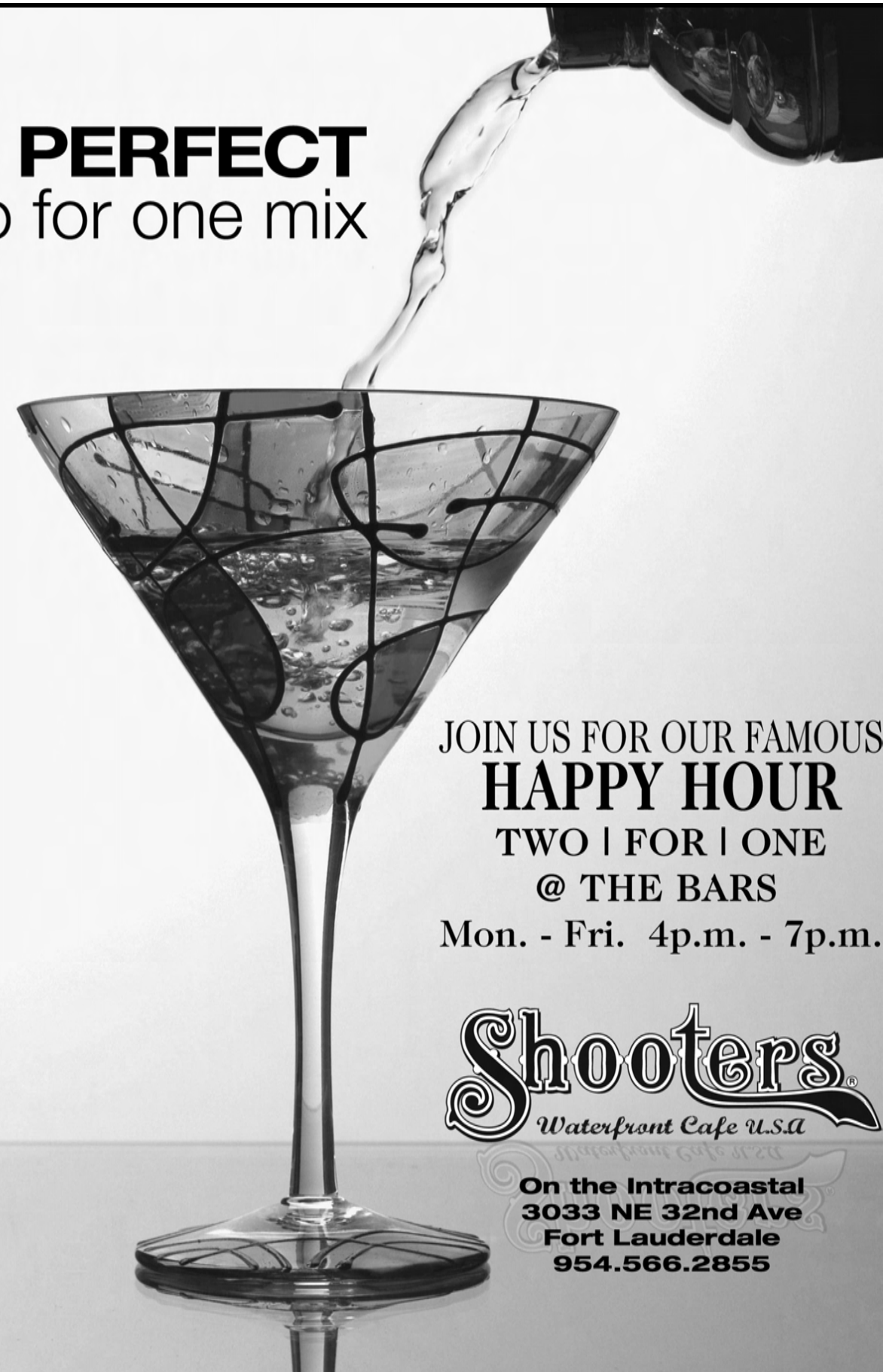
- Under Modified Phase II restrictions in the Upper and Lower East Coast, homes, businesses and government facilities with addresses that end in an odd number may water Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.; homes, businesses and government facilities with even-number addresses may water Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- Under the Modified Phase III restrictions for water users within the geographic service areas of the four utilities at risk, homes, businesses and government facilities with addresses that end in an odd number may only water on Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.; homes, businesses and government facilities with even-number addresses may only water on Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- Under both orders, other outdoor water uses, such as low-volume pressure cleaning, and car and boat washing, are no longer restricted; agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, and recreational water uses also are no longer restricted. These restrictions apply to users who obtain their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

While the coastal areas recently enjoyed heavy rainfall, little help was realized in the central inland areas. As part of the vast Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades system, which spans 16 counties across South Florida, Lake Okeechobee is ordinarily fed by the Kissimmee River. "In order to release water from Lake Kissimmee and the connected lake system into the Kissimmee River, the water levels in all of the lakes would have to climb above their regulation schedules," said Lawrence Glenn, director of the SFWMD's Kissimmee Division. "At this point, it would take well above normal rainfall over the remainder of the wet season to achieve that." Despite recent rains, water levels remain below normal in the Kissimmee watershed that typically helps replenish Lake Okeechobee, and backup water storage in the watershed has been lost because of the severe regional drought.

Meanwhile, along the lower east coast, groundwater levels are steadily rising, aided by above average rainfall in June, including more than 12 inches of rain recorded over the past 30 days in coastal areas of Miami-Dade and Broward counties. These rains are replenishing water levels along Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, where many residential canals and local storm water ponds are now full. Given limited water storage options in residential areas of these counties and without the ability to move water all the way back to Lake Okeechobee, additional wet season rainfall likely will trigger the need for periodic flood protection discharges to tide. Without these discharges, streets and homes could be inundated in even modest rain events.

Continued on page 11

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