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"An Official Publication of the Galt Mile Community Association"

October 2008

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**FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

BOLO
This Flyer Property of Fort Lauderdale Police Department

NAME: Josephine Frenna
DOB: 4/4/57
Race/Sex: W/F
Height: 5'06"
Weight: Unknown
Hair/Style: Brown
Eye Color: Blue
Build: Medium
LKA: 4020 Galt Ocean Drive #808
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308



B.O.L.O. Ref: (X) MISSING PERSON

Information: Josephine Frenna was last seen at her apartment by her son in the morning hours of 8/21/08. Upon coming home from school, Frenna's son found the victim missing. Anyone who had any contact with Josephine Frenna on 8/21/08, should contact the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

Contact: Det John Curcio Phone: 954-828-5529 Pager: 875-6075
Det Mark Breen 954-828-5708
Unit: Homicide-K56/58 FLPD# 08-099199

Fort Lauderdale Police Department Criminal Investigations Division
1300 West Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312
954-828-5496 Web Site: <http://www.flpd.org>

Issue Date: 8/25/08 Approved: _____ CCN: 1280
Control # 08-264
Suspense Date: One year from Issue Date

SEARCH FOR JOSEPHINE FRENNA ENDS IN TRAGEDY

her car keys and credit cards were inside her Galt Ocean Drive apartment, but following an intensive search of nearby apartments, hospitals, jails and airlines, declared that she was officially missing. Frenna's family and friends were interviewed as well. Frenna was last seen Thursday morning, August 21st, when she accompanied her son to the bus stop in front of the Ocean Club condominium complex.

"She went back into her apartment," said family friend Steve Stabile during a news conference outside the Fort Lauderdale Police Department on Friday, August 22nd. "At some point she left her apartment and then her whereabouts are unknown." Stabile explained "She's a mother, she's a daughter, she's a sister, she's an aunt and she's a friend, and yesterday she didn't show up at her apartment and she didn't call anybody and that is very unlike Josephine." Frenna's family and friends said her disappearance is out of character. "Josephine was the type of person who'd speak to her mom and dad four

or five times a day," Stabile said. "She'd speak to her sisters, her brothers four or five times a day." The stay-at-home mom owned the Ocean Club condo she shared with her son. Relatives looked after the teen in her absence.

Detectives said Frenna, who was in the process of filing for divorce, had an active domestic violence order against her husband.

By Eric Berkowitz

Hundreds of Galt Mile residents that joined Fort Lauderdale Police to help locate a missing friend and neighbor, Josephine Frenna, were shocked by the news that her body was recovered in St. Lucie County. Amid suspicions of foul play, friends and family had been joined by the entire Galt Mile Community in fueling the hope that she was unharmed. The hope was dashed on Tuesday, August 26th, when the St. Lucie County medical examiner publicly revealed that he positively identified a drowning victim as Josephine Frenna the previous evening. The close-knit Galt Mile neighborhood suffered a temporary emotional disconnect, praying that a discovered miscommunication or forensic error would relieve the shock and despair. No such relief was forthcoming.

Police began searching for the Fort Lauderdale woman – who recently moved here from Montreal, Canada – following her suspicious disappearance on Thursday afternoon, one day before she was supposed to attend an August 22nd hearing for a restraining order against her husband. The 51 year-old Frenna was reported missing after her 14-year-old son returned from school to their Ocean Club condominium at 4020 Galt Ocean Drive and became concerned about his mother's unexpected absence. Police said



Continued on page 3

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Tragedy...Continued

A hearing was scheduled for Friday morning to secure a restraining order. Although Frenna was absent from the hearing, Broward Circuit Court Judge Jack Tuter extended the restraining order, according to attorney Michael Emery. In her handwritten Court papers, Frenna testified that she and her son were afraid for their lives, contending that her estranged husband, Gerardo DiMarco, is "violent" and "dangerous." In the restraining order application filed on July 14th, Frenna claimed her husband had broken through locked doors with an ax and subsequently changed the locks on their home to prevent entry by Frenna and her son. Frenna claimed that DiMarco issued a threat to throw her off the couple's balcony and physically grabbed her and "started screaming, cursing at me and calling me names." In the court-filed domestic violence injunction, Frenna wrote, "He is a threat to me and my son and my son does not want to go with him." Attached to the injunction were photographs of the door that was allegedly axed by DiMarco. Labeled "HORROR," the pictures focus on an ominously missing chunk of wood near the knob.

Court records show that a judge granted Frenna temporary sole custody of her son last month and said DiMarco could only visit the teen four days each week. According to her Fort Lauderdale lawyer, Caryn Carvo, Frenna never showed up to a scheduled meeting on Thursday. Frenna had been served with divorce papers on Wednesday. "Her primary concern was her 14-year-old boy," said Carvo. "Hopefully we will find her, and we will find her in good physical condition." With the couple in divorce proceedings, Judge Arthur Birken was docketed to consider extending the restraining order again on September 18th.

Crime scene investigators spent Friday morning rummaging through the garbage in the Ocean Club's dumpsters, looking for any possible evidence. "I don't know that a crime has been committed," said Fort Lauderdale police Detective Kathy Collins. "Right now she is a missing person. Until we find out otherwise, we will treat it as that." Although police hadn't as yet ascertained exactly what happened to Frenna, the case had enough suspicious elements to require investigative participation by homicide detectives.

The 58-year-old DiMarco was located on Friday, August 22nd by Fort Lauderdale police and was cooperating, according to Detective Collins. The Canadian couple reportedly moved to South Florida within the last year. Di Marco indicated his intention to leave Florida and was seeking joint custody of the couple's son. He tried to get a court order barring Frenna from liquidating their assets and was named the beneficiary of her life insurance policy. Di Marco's divorce attorney, Marc Shelowitz, said he had spoken to his client earlier to discuss the divorce, but did not know Frenna was missing when contacted on Friday. "I am shocked to hear that," he exclaimed when informed of Frenna's disappearance.

On Sunday, August 24th, Fort Lauderdale police released a Be-On-The-Lookout (BOLO) flier with a description of Frenna's appearance – listing her as 5-foot-6 with a medium build and brown, shoulder-length hair. Later in the day, the U.S. Coast Guard discovered a woman's body in the ocean 24 miles east of Sebastian Inlet, clad in a blue bathing suit. On Monday, August 25th, the St. Lucie County sheriff's office said the body was that of a 5-foot, 6-inch woman, 160-pounds with black shoulder-length hair that was pulled back. Her toenails were painted red and she wore a dark-blue, floral print bathing suit. She also wore two large diamond and gold stud earrings.

"There are enough similarities so we sent detectives down to that area to get further information," explained Detective Collins. Fort Lauderdale police detectives went to St. Lucie County to determine if the unidentified body found earlier was Frenna. The body was taken to the U.S. Coast Guard's Fort Pierce Station. "It has not been determined whether the body is that of the woman whose name has been released by the Fort Lauderdale police as a missing person," said St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken J. Mascara. "The body had no obvious signs of trauma." An autopsy was performed on Monday to determine the cause of death. Sgt. Frank Sousa of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department said that they expected results of the dental records check to be completed on Tuesday.

Frenna's family – some from as far away as Canada and New York – gathered near her Ocean Club condo on Monday morning to organize a search strategy. They decided to fan out near her beachfront condo and search for clues to her whereabouts. "We want to find out what happened," said family spokesman Steve Stabile. Since her disappearance, Frenna's family and friends had rallied together, handing out missing persons fliers and pleading with the public for help. "We're all very distraught. This is a very close family and we're grieving," said her brother, Pat Frenna. Lisa Stabile, another family friend, said Frenna's disappearance had "hit those close to her hard. The family is distraught. She wouldn't just leave without notice."

Volunteers visited every member association of the Galt Mile Community Association to distribute fliers identifying Frenna for posting around the neighborhood.

Ocean Manor President Frank Talerico, a friend of the family, called GMCA President Pio Ieraci to secure participation of the neighborhood association. Ieraci immediately arranged for an article to be posted in the Association's web site in hopes of locating Josephine.

"We will pull together as a neighborhood to get to the bottom of this tragedy," said Ieraci. "The article on the web site will be followed by an article in the Galt Mile News.



Volunteers distribute missing persons flyer

Continued on page 5



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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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We intend to do whatever possible to help the police and Josephine's family. What we need is information!"

The medical examiner in St. Lucie County officially determined on Monday that the woman retrieved from the ocean died from drowning. Using dental records, the Medical Examiner also confirmed that the victim was Josephine Frenna. As the news spread throughout the community, hundreds of ongoing prayers for a brighter outcome were exchanged for expressions of sympathy and grief for the family's loss. Police said that they will continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding her death. Although the autopsy confirmed that there were no signs of a struggle, her death has not been ruled accidental. Sgt. Frank Sousa said that in addition to toxicology reports, authorities would examine surveillance video footage collected from nearby buildings.

On Wednesday, August 27th, DiMarco's attorney confirmed that his client was cooperating with detectives, stating that he passed several lie detector tests administered by police investigators. "He reiterated that he had nothing to do with the disappearance," said Shelowitz. Police reported finding a set of Frenna's keys in a bag on the Ocean Club Beach, intimating that she was somehow dragged 100 miles by the current to the Sebastian Inlet after going for a swim. The bag was found over the weekend by an employee of a neighboring condo who was unaware of Frenna's disappearance.

Frenna's family and friends held a news conference on Thursday, August, 28th, claiming that since she was afraid of the water, it is unlikely that she simply went for a swim. "There is no way that Josephine went into the water of her own volition," advised family friend Steve Stabile. Stabile made a public plea for help with the case, asking for "any leads, any information that anyone may have that can help us solve this matter." His sentiment was echoed by Josephine's brother Pat Frenna, who also threatened, "The person responsible for this will pay the price."

Commenting on the prospect of Frenna being carried out to sea, oceanographers surmised that although the Gulf Stream could have easily carried Frenna's body 100 miles north, they questioned how she could have entered the strong currents which start about three miles offshore. They speculated that winds from Tropical Storm Fay were possibly a contributing factor. Friends and family, however, put little stock in the scenario, contending that Frenna's fear of swimming in the ocean undermines the theory's credibility.

Anyone with information is asked to call Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS. GMCA officials also invite anyone with information that may be hesitant to contact the police to email the neighborhood association at editor@galt-mile.com. For additional information, check the same article on the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galtmile.com). •

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COMMISSIONER KEN KEECHL'S CORNER

"Broward County Challenges"

by Broward County Commissioner Ken Keechl

** In his September 2008 Newsletter, Broward County Commissioner Ken Keechl reminds his District 4 constituents that the planks comprising his platform include lower property taxes; fiscal accountability; more open and green spaces; and yearly reserve funding for beach restoration. While somewhat pleased with the Commission's progress in addressing these issues, he enumerates future challenges facing Broward residents and their Commission representatives.*

The continuing contribution that onerous property taxes make toward the economic recession dictates the need for additional surgery. Fulfilling a campaign pledge to track where our dollars disappear to once in county hands, Keechl is looking under rugs and behind doors to nail the disconnect between what we pay and what we get! In addition to excising waste and abuse, he recognizes that increased efficiency for County operations will proportionately lower the County's tax bite.

His second challenge alludes to enhancing the local business environment. The County resources diminished by successfully lowering the residential tax burden could threaten a cutback in services. To offset the reduction in tax revenues, the tax base must be comparably broadened. He describes the airport expansion, the rehabilitation and securing of Port Everglades and the construction of an onsite convention center hotel in Fort Lauderdale as competitive necessities.

Thirdly, Keechl envisions improving on the County's methodologies for the management of wastewater and drinking water. Anticipating a growth cycle following the current economic downturn, Keechl advocates exploring conservation strategies such as reverse osmosis, desalination and water reuse. Our District 4 Commissioner promises to keep constituents posted as these challenges are addressed. — [editor]

When you first elected me to be your County Commissioner in November 2006, I told you that Broward County faced numerous challenges. For too long, the Broward County Commission had been out of touch with the needs of its residents. I agreed to be your voice on the County Commission advocating for lower property taxes; fiscal accountability; more open and green spaces; and yearly reserve funding for beach restoration. I pledged to be an environmentally sensitive, business friendly County Commissioner.

As I have written in my previous newsletters, we have made substantial progress in the last 18 months. (For earlier articles, go to <http://www.broward.org/kenkeechl/newsletters.htm>.) Nevertheless, many challenges still face Broward County. I will briefly discuss three challenges.

First and foremost, the Broward County Commission must continue to cut spending and lower property taxes. The residents of Broward County are hurting. Quite simply, many are finding it difficult to afford to live in Broward County, and an increasing number are finding it difficult to make their monthly mortgage payments. While the Commission doesn't have jurisdiction to address the property insurance crisis, we do have the ability to lower the County's portion of your property tax bill. I will continue to advocate a) for lower property taxes; b) against wasteful spending practices; and c) to streamline and/or eliminate unnecessary Departments, Divisions and Sections within Broward County's bloated government.

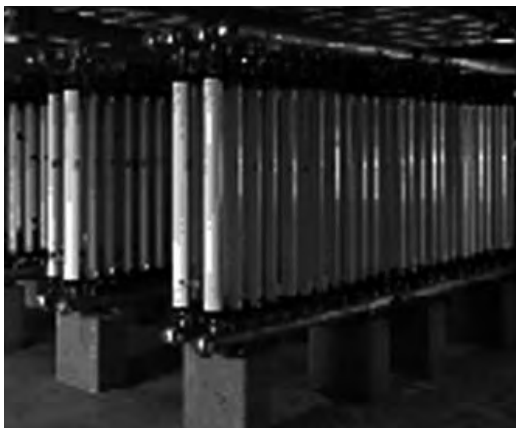
Second, the Broward County Commission must continue to attract (and retain) businesses in Broward County. While we undoubtedly need to expand the types of businesses in Broward, it is without question that tourism and the marine industry are currently our two most important business segments. For the last two years, I have been the Broward County Commission's appointee to the Broward Alliance, Broward's public/private business partnership. In this position, I have worked closely with Broward's leading CEOs so I have firsthand knowledge of the numerous issues facing the business community. I am convinced that the Broward County Commission has made three important decisions which must be finalized. We voted to expand the southern runway at the Hollywood/Ft. Lauderdale International Airport. We voted to expand (in an environmentally sensitive manner) Port Everglades. We voted to construct an onsite convention center hotel in Fort Lauderdale. These three decisions alone will ensure that Broward does not lose its competitive edge.

Third, we must address our impending wastewater and drinking water crisis. This issue encompasses quality, as well as quantity. Quite simply, we continue to pollute our oceans with our wastewater, and we continue to consume drinking water at an alarming rate. Fortunately, the County Commission is now taking steps to substantially reduce its release of wastewater into our ocean. Moreover, as your County Commissioner I have learned that we don't have a lack of drinking water. We have a lack of cheap drinking water. Notwithstanding the current property downturn, increased residential and commercial development in Broward is inevitable. The County Commission must continue to proactively plan for and invest in alternative water supply sources such as reverse osmosis, desalination, water reuse, as well as other options.

Again, these are just three of the issues facing Broward County today. I look forward to addressing each of these issues as your County Commissioner.

Broward County Commissioner Ken Keechl
KKeechl@Broward.org

Check the GMCA website (www.galtmile.com) for additional Broward County information and all of Commissioner Keechl's previous newsletters.



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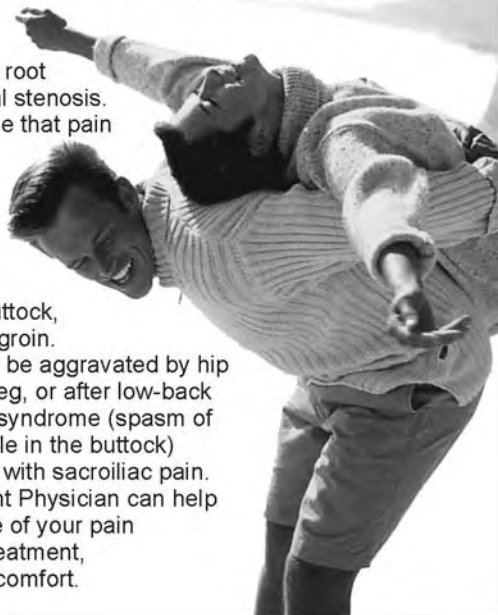
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TRUST US: WE CARE ABOUT YOU

By Eric Berkowitz

Background

Company stockholders roast directorial board members or corporate executives whose regulatory entanglements and/or competitive shortcomings cramp the share price. However, when companies eat their own customers for breakfast and usurp human rights with such impunity that they interpret good will as an unaffordable luxury, flags should go up warning that involvement will spell disaster. Unfortunately, it appears that we are facing such an institution; one which we neither sought nor approved. Some federal bureaucrat opened the back door, allowing a predatory foreign corporation a place at the table and an unlimited helping of Broward tax dollars.

Public service contracts embody a formulaic central premise. Companies agree to provide basic services to a jurisdiction in exchange for the opportunity to sell lucrative incremental services. Once comfortably protected by contract or political patronage, they often become predisposed to opportunistically “cherry pick” – neglecting contractual obligations to provide basic services while concentrating on products and services promising high profit margins. When cable companies do this, customers are selectively cheated out of watching the “Game Show Network” or the “Hallmark Channel”. When companies providing power, water or sanitation do it, people die. If this happens, the company is fiscally chastised in two ways. They lose “good will”, ordinarily an asset critical to attracting more business. Secondly, they risk the uncertainties of a judicial environment if dragged into court.

A public utility is defined by Merriam-Webster as “a business organization (as an electric company) performing a public service and subject to special governmental regulation.” Government regulation is implicit in the def-

inition because Noah Webster realized that when left to their own devices, many businesses gladly chalk up any deaths and/or disasters borne of a corporate strategy as the cost of doing business. Effective regulation balances the needs of shareholders with the needs of consumers.

Suez (GDF – Suez), the parent company of the Calypso gasworks, is a \$105 billion French Conglomerate inextricably tied to the French government, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Suez’ former chief executive, Jérôme Monod, was a leading fundraiser for former French President Jacques Chirac’s party, the Rassemblement pour la République (RPR). In 1994, a French court ruled that a Suez subsidiary paid \$millions in bribes to a RPR federal minister in return for delivering Grenoble’s newly privatized waterworks. Rates skyrocketed. Finally rid of Suez in 2000, water rates for the re-municipalized Grenoble waterworks dropped from one of the country’s highest to lowest overnight. As Mayor of Paris, Chirac handed over the Parisian waterworks to Suez as a gift to Monod, a mistake that the city plans to correct in 2009, when the Suez contract runs out. Monod left Suez in 2001 and joined Chirac directly as an adviser working from the Elysée Palace. Recently, to block a threatened acquisition of Suez by Italian energy giant Enel, the French government brokered a merger between Suez and Gaz de France (GDF), in which they held an 80% interest – thus creating GDF-Suez.

International financial institutions (IFIs) - including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - have supported the global expansion of Suez operations by pressing countries to privatize their public utilities as a pre-condition for loans and debt restructuring. By 2002, 80% of the loans made by the World Bank to governments for water projects were conditional on the privatization of their water utility, usually by Suez or Veolia (the world’s 2 largest water monopolies). While Suez’ CEO, Monod was also special counselor to International Monetary Fund Director Michel Camdessus. Suez supports a World Trade Organization strategy promoting the inclusion of water services into the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); changing access to water from a U.N. mandated human right to a commodity like running shoes or plumbing parts.

When Suez projects do not provide expected returns and costs are higher than anticipated, Suez uses bilateral investment treaties (BITs) to elicit governmental compensation for failed privatization schemes. When governments move to terminate breached contracts, Suez threatens to sue in the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, a closed-door tribunal run by the World Bank, despite the conflict stemming from the Bank’s heavy investment in Suez subsidiaries worldwide.

You’ll Just have to Trust Us!

At the August 11th Calypso workshop convened by the Broward Legislative Delegation at the Beach Community Center, Suez official Brad Cooley told residents and their State legislators that he was precluded from discussing safety and security issues by a “confidentiality commitment.” However, once licensed, “you can trust Suez to do what they think is right.” An incredulous Senator Jeffrey Atwater exclaimed “I can’t imagine that a security plan is viewed as a post-licensing decision.” L’Hermitage I General Manager Patricia Quintero summarized the community reaction to the Suez assertion that residents should trust Suez with their lives, declaring, “You’re asking us to put all our faith in you and just wait and see what you’ll do. That’s not good enough.”

Suez officials have ignored three reports by Sandia National Laboratories demonstrating that an ignitable vapor cloud from a breached LNG tanker can travel between 7.3 and 7.9 miles before dissipating. Ignitable from a carpet spark or a light switch, the resulting 3000 degree conflagration will disintegrate everything within 2 miles, requiring a minimal cushion of 9.9 miles to survive the thermal radiation. The two Calypso port locations are 7.7 and 10 miles offshore. You do the math!



Suez Paris Headquarters

Continued on page 9

Trust...Continued

Residents and lawmakers were already disturbed by the abominable safety record of the Suez Distrigas liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Everett Massachusetts, where they were fined \$220,000 for safety violations between 2002 and 2005. Although Mass. Congressman Edward Markey stated that from "direct first hand observation, I have seen a facility where security is either nonexistent or woefully lacking," Cooley asserted that the violations "weren't so bad."

Since Broward residents are being asked to trust Suez with the lives of their families and the resolution of an unlimited tax burden, the Galt Mile Community Association and the Central Beach Alliance opted to further investigate Suez' record for keeping their commitments. Verifying how Suez expanded its core business is elementally similar to a Stephen King novel.

A Track Record from Hell

While Suez nurtures a healthy list of human rights violations, their privatization of the Buenos Aires water and sanitation systems exemplifies their corporate attitudes. In 1993, Argentine President Carlos Menem's government privatized the Buenos Aires water utility under heavy pressure from the World Bank, the IMF and the French government, relinquishing control to Suez. Suez created subsidiary Aguas Argentinas (AASA) to deliver water services to 10 million inhabitants of Buenos Aires. Two years later, Suez took over the Santa Fe provincial sanitation company. To acquire the concessions at no cost, Suez promised to freeze water rates for 10 years and make investments to improve and expand water and sewage services. The contract obligated Suez to immediately alleviate pollution by building sanitation infrastructure.

To circumvent a vociferous anti-privatization labor union, Suez collaborated with World Bank affiliate Programa de Propiedad Participada (PPP). Using sanctioned bribery, the PPP offered union leaders a 10 percent stake in the new company, after which union opposition dried up and Suez fired half the union's 7200 workers.

Continued on page 12



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<p>5</p> <p>Pablo Picasso Museum of Modern Art (Through 2/23/09) Info.: 954-525-5500</p> <p>Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Vice Mayor Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m.</p> <p>GMCA Presidents Council Meeting Fountainhead Condominium 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p> <p>Janet Jackson BankAtlantic Center Tix.: 954-523-3309</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Erev Yom Kippur</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Ft Lauderdale Int'l Film Fest (Through 11/9) Info.: 954-760-9898</p> <p>Reptile Expo & Sale Flamingo Gardens 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Columbus Day Erev Sukkot</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Hairspray Broadway Broward Center (Through 10/19) Tix.: 954-462-0222</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bob Hoose & His Orchestra, Gold Coast Jazz Broward Center Tix.: 954-524-0805</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale P & Z Board Meeting City Commission Chambers, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>MYSTERY OF KING TUT War Memorial Auditorium 9:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (2 shows) Info.: 1-800-497-5007</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Teen Read Week Wilton Manors Library (Through 10/25)</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market Las Olas Blvd. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Vice Mayor Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m.</p> <p>Alanis Morissette Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p> <p>Mommy and Me - Sea Lions & Seals for moms & kids 2-5 years old Miami Seaquarium Info. & Res.: 305-361-5705 X 207</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Neil Diamond BankAtlantic Center Tix.: 954-835-SHOW</p> <p>Family Harvest Day Fairchild Tropical Gardens 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info.: 305.667.1651</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Maroone Moonlight Movies Huizenga Plaza Info.: 954-463-6574</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Vice Mayor Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p> <p>ELECTION DAY!</p>	<p>5</p>

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9



10 Mary J. Blige
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11 High Heel Hike
Las Olas Blvd & SE 9th Ave
Registration: 11 a.m.
Hike: Noon
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Info.: 954-FAB-HEEL

Harry the Dirty Dog-Family Fun Series
Broward Center
Tix.: 954-462-0222

16

G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting
Nick's Italian Restaurant
11 a.m.

17



18 ¡Viva Broward!
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Pompano Citi Centre

Cat Show
War memorial Auditorium
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23

Ft. Lauderdale Business Expo
War memorial Auditorium
5 to 9 p.m.
Res.: 954-763-1769

24 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

Buckler's Indoor Holiday Craft Fair
South Florida Fairgrounds
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Info.: (386) 860-0092

25

Halloween Haven & Haunted House
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Flamingo Gardens

30 Ft. Lauderdale Int'l Boat Show
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Bahia Mar Yachting Center & the
Broward Convention Center
Info.: 954-764-7642

Halloween Spooktacular (for Kids)
Wilton Manors Elementary School
6 to 9:15 p.m.
Info.: 954-390-2130

31 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

Wicked Manors Block Party (for Adults)
on Wilton Drive
7 p.m.

1 New Kids On The Block
BankAtlantic Center
Tix.: 954-523-3309

6



7 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

2nd Annual South Florida Int'l Blues Festival
(Through 11/9)
Nova Southeastern University Main Campus
Info.: 954-262-5000

8 City Yard Sale
Hagen Park
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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November 15
Coastal Tour of US Wines - Speakeasy Style
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Info.: 954-763-1288

November 15-16
Fort Lauderdale Marine Flea Market
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 954-828-5380

November 20-30
Broward County Fair
Fort Lauderdale Stadium
Info.: 954-922-2224

November 26
Madonna
Dolphin Stadium

December 2
Christmas on Las Olas
Las Olas Blvd., 6 to 10 p.m.

December 2
Christmas by the Sea
Commercial Blvd. & the beach, LBTS
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December 4
La traviata, Florida Grand Opera
Broward Center
Tix.: 954-462-0222





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Trust...Continued

In the first year, a rate increase of 13.5 percent asked of the government's newly established water authority ETOSS was granted in contravention of the original contract. Although its contract stipulated that rates would be frozen for the first ten years, Aguas Argentinas raised rates by 88.2% on average between 1993 and 2003. Those who couldn't pay, residents of poorer districts, lost their service as entire neighborhoods were redlined.

"What was said in 1993, that there was not going to be an increase in rates for 10 years, was not meant in absolute terms," said assistant director-general Carlos Ben of Aguas Argentinas. "It was to indicate to the bidders that they should not put a speculative number [on rate reductions]. There was not a presumption of a freezing of rates." Argentine courts disagreed, fining Suez millions of pesos for contract violations.

The World Bank's investment arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), purchased 5 percent of Aguas Argentinas, making the World Bank a partner with Suez in the subsidiary they also serviced as a lender. Menahem Libhaber, the chief water and sanitation engineer for the World Bank in Latin America, said "False promises are simply part of the game when it comes to such huge public contracts. You get into the business with low rates or high commitments - all the while telling yourself, 'When we are in we will renegotiate.' The public sector has to be aware," he said, that companies are disingenuously putting their best foot forward. "Sometimes it's a game to get into the business. ... And they [the companies] have leverage once they are in."

To incentivize a renegotiation of their contract, Suez' Aguas Argentinas delayed the promised construction of a crucial Berazategui wastewater treatment plant while dumping 95 percent of the city's sewage directly into the Rio del Plata River and cesspools - intensifying already dangerous nitrate concentrations. Although the high nitrate levels increased infant fatalities by reducing available blood oxygen, Aguas Argentinas was saving about \$100,000 a day in construction costs - adding \$35 million a year in profits - according to an estimate from a 1996 World Bank report.

Continued on page 13

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Trust...Continued

By the eleventh year of its contract, in 2004, towns in the service area were still plagued with high nitrate concentrations as the promised sanitation infrastructure was never delivered. Moreover, two million people in the concession area had no potable water and 3 million had no sanitation services (sewers).

Aware that Suez was preparing to leave the country and demand compensation from the World Bank's arbitration board for profits lost to peso devaluation, the government sent 50 undercover public sector agents into Aguas Argentinas to collect evidence of the company's misdeeds. The investigators discovered that the company disbursed 25 million pesos annually for no-show "consultants" and paid equally large sums to Suez-linked construction firms for equipment and "repairs" that were never done. Findings revealed that the company's day-to-day operations generated enough revenue to resolve the drinking water's nitrate concentrations within one year.

On March 21, 2006, President Néstor Kirchner signed a decree rescinding his government's contract with the Suez, charging them with breach of contract and negligence. Kirchner explained the next day, "Suez, the majority stockholder in Aguas Argentinas, failed to invest in vital infrastructure and much of the water it provided to 10 million people in metropolitan Buenos Aires was contaminated with unacceptably high concentrations of nitrates. Aguas Argentinas even included warnings on its bills to customers, that children shouldn't drink tap water because it was unsafe!"

In the backdrop of nationwide anti-Suez demonstrations, Kirchner explained that in view of such negligence and "appalling" service, "the Argentine State decided to take control of the company, to make the investments so that water can be given back to Argentines ... and that it return to being a social asset, rather than something available only to a very few." Continued on page 14

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Trust...Continued

Noting that Suez had walked away with hundreds of millions of dollars during their 15 years in the country, the Argentine President complained, "but we had to beg to get just a drop of water." Kirchner signed a second decree on March 21st, establishing the new state company – Argentine Water and Sanitation Company (AySA) – to immediately build the necessary infrastructure and close down contaminated wells.



Anti-Suez March in Argentina"

Risking exposure of his government's questionable ties to Suez, French President Jacques Chirac expressed his anger over the rescinding of Suez' contract through his Foreign Ministry. While ignoring Suez' exploitation of

millions of Argentines, Chirac instead disparaged the lack of "juridical security" for the company's French stockholders.

Suez sued Argentina for damages in the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), an arm of the World Bank. Since the World Bank owned 5 percent of Aguas Argentinas through its affiliate IFC, the court was clearly conflicted. Also, a senior World Bank water and sanitation specialist for Latin America, Ventura Bengochea, served as the main rate negotiator for Aguas Argentinas. Asked if the bank would be in conflict of interest as the case proceeded, World Bank water director Jamal Saghir said, "I cannot make a judgment. I don't make a comment on that."

In Bolivia, residents of El Alto and La Paz organized massive protests to terminate a government contract with Suez subsidiary Aguas de Illimani. Although privatized water utilities ordinarily generate 6 – 7% annualized profits, the contract guaranteed Aguas de Illimani a 13% rate of return while leaving 200,000 (1 out of 3) El Alto residents without access to water. Suez instituted a sky-high connection fee of \$445 (US) for a private home to access the water supply. In a country whose yearly per capita GDP is \$915, the fee cost almost eight times the monthly minimum wage in Bolivia or six month's average wages. By depriving almost half the population of water, Suez precipitated a popular revolt. When the Bolivian Government terminated the Aguas de Illimani contract because Suez failed to fulfill its contract obligations, Suez brought the case before the World Bank's rubber stamp International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Since The World Bank owned 8 percent of Aguas de Illimani, the government of Bolivia withdrew from the World Bank's ICSID on May 1, 2007, citing the court's admitted conflict of interest.

In the Philippine capitol of Manila, after seven years of water privatization under a Suez company contract (Maynilad Water), water rates increased in some neighborhoods by 400 to 700 percent. Philippine Government reports confirmed that company negligence resulted in cholera and gastroenteritis outbreaks that killed six people and severely sickened 725 in Manila's Tondo district.

Suez has a long and sordid history of looting on behalf of the private banking interests it represents. In the developing sector, although it has focused primarily on water privatization, it engages in electricity piracy as well. Metaphoric characterizations of Dick Cheney's Halliburton and George P. Schultz's Bechtel Corp. as "The Suez's of America" aren't without merit given the world-wide economic depredations with which these companies have become identified. While Suez precipitated similar economic implosions in Puerto Rico, Brazil, Africa, and Asia, the continental US has more recently been added to the list of corporate calamities.



Suez customer in La Paz

Continued on page 15

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Trust...Continued

Suez comes to America

The Calypso gasworks is part of a Suez corporate strategy to penetrate the North American market. Suez moved aggressively into the American market in 1999. Through their Belgian Tractebel gas subsidiary, they control the Distrigas LNG facility in Everett, Mass. To exploit the world's most lucrative water market, Suez spent \$1 billion expanding their one third share of United Water, a firm based in Harrington Park, N.J., to sole ownership.

Suez touted its financial clout and expertise to cultivate friends in city halls, state legislatures and Congress. It promised to provide solutions for cities struggling with aging pipes, tight budgets and tough environmental regulations. Over the last decade, major water firms like Suez and Veolia (the world's two largest) have made more than \$9 million in federal campaign contributions, according to the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics and about twenty times that amount to lobbyists and local officials. Not surprisingly, the 2008 recipients of the 2nd largest Suez contribution in the U.S. Senate and the 2nd and 3rd largest contributions in the House were local Florida legislators. The industry also has given generously to the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The mayors' conference sparked the industry's growth by lobbying the Clinton administration to strike an Internal Revenue Service rule that limited municipal utility management contracts to five years. The 1997 rule change cleared the way for 20-year deals. Suez claimed that long-term contracts allow them to spread operating expenses and capital improvement over decades and lower service costs. With the IRS change, the number of "public-private" water partnerships in the U.S. rose from about 400 in 1997 to 1,100 in 2003. In pursuit of contracts, water companies lobbied hardest at the local level, treating office holders to dinners, sports tickets, free trips and campaign contributions.

In 1999, the City of Atlanta responded to Suez promises to control

costs and help the city comply with a federal consent decree aimed at stopping sewage overflows into the Chattahoochee River. Suez subsidiary United Water stocked its management team with former city officials and political fundraisers for then Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell.

Once the City Council approved the \$428 million, 20-year contract with Suez and its United Water subsidiary, the companies shifted hundreds of city water and sewer workers onto their payrolls. Campbell called it "a great victory for the people of Atlanta," predicting that "every city in America will go to privately run water systems."

A few months later, Suez bankrolled a \$12,000 holiday for Campbell and paramour Marion Brooks (former WSB-TV/Channel 2 anchor) in Paris, where the mayor posed for snapshots at Napoleon's Tomb and the Arc de Triomphe. Although Suez executives later claimed that Campbell's visit was intended as a legitimate business trip, Campbell only met with company officials for 2 1/2 hours out of the five days Campbell and companion spent on "holiday". Shortly after the Suez takeover, Atlanta residents began complaining of brown, brackish drinking water and unresponsive service, peaking in the summer of 2002.

Gordon Certain, president of a north Atlanta neighborhood association, said poor maintenance and equipment failures caused recurrent water main breaks and boil-water alerts, at times producing tap water "the color of very well-brewed tea." It was soon discovered that 400 maintenance staffers initially assumed by Suez from the city were immediately fired to impress stockholders by inflating profits early in the project.

After succeeding Campbell in early 2002, Mayor Shirley Franklin said United Water and Suez neglected basic repairs, violated federal drinking water standards, failed to regularly flush impurities out of the system and billed the city for work not done. Company officials admitted that since haphazard city records had made it impossible to calculate how much it would cost to run the system before they signed the deal, they planned to quickly renegotiate.

Continued on page 17



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Trust...Continued

The two sides agreed to terminate the 20-year contract in 2003, after four years. By then, FBI investigators were focusing on Campbell's relationship with Suez.

In February 2006, during Campbell's corruption trial in federal court, United Water executives testified that they spent \$4,500 on Campbell's hotel suite and another \$4,500 for a limousine during the former mayor's Paris holiday. A handwriting expert testified that Campbell had signed secret amendments to the Suez contract worth about \$80 million to Suez over the life of the deal. Campbell denied signing the documents or approving the \$80-million increase. In March, a jury convicted him of three counts of tax evasion and other abuses.

According to Executive Director Wenonah Hauter of industry watchdog Food and Water Watch, "These contracts are usually awarded not through competition but through some kind of shady dealings. In the case of Atlanta, Suez, through its U.S. subsidiary, gave campaign contributions to the mayor's brother in South Carolina, even though they didn't have any operations there. It's legalized bribery." When Atlanta reclaimed its water system, costs dropped and the water cleared up. Inasmuch, Atlanta is not unique in regretting its experience with Suez.

United Water's operation of Milwaukee's wastewater system was marked by repeated sewage spills. A 2002 state audit uncovered that the Suez subsidiary caused 107 million gallons of untreated sewage to be discharged into streams and Lake Michigan. The report confirmed that the company triggered a series of overflows by deliberately shutting off sewer tunnel pumps during hours of peak electricity demand to save \$515,000. A lawsuit by Wisconsin's attorney general blames inadequate maintenance for an even bigger discharge in May 2004, when more than a billion gallons of sewage gushed into local waters.

Continued on page 18

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Trust...Continued

Jersey City officials discovered that United Water picked the pockets of local taxpayers when they diverted \$1.2 million worth of the city's water to other communities in New Jersey without remunerating Jersey City.

Residents of Toms River and Camden, N.J. went ballistic after United Water admitted it had failed to warn customers that their drinking water was contaminated. In Toms River, the company neglected to notify customers for six months of their exposure to elevated levels of carcinogenic radium in the water. In Camden, the company delayed reporting high readings of TCE (trichloroethylene), an industrial solvent that causes cancer and liver damage. New Jersey regulators fined the company \$4,000 in Camden and \$64,000 in Toms River.

After apologizing for the reporting failure in Toms River, United Water spokesman Rich Henning conceded that privatization deals have disappointed customers because, in the push to win contracts, SUEZ takes on too much risk. "We were kind of hitting each other in the head to get that next contract," explained Henning.

Officials in Laredo, Texas cancelled their contract with Suez subsidiary United Water when the corporation demanded more money than was agreed to in the contract. Within one year of securing a contract, Suez asked the city for an additional \$5 million to cover unexpected expenses plus annual increases of \$3 million.

In Halifax, Nova Scotia, the regional government cancelled its public-private partnership contract with Suez' United Water. The corporation led a consortium that spent five years negotiating a contract to operate sewage treatment plants. United Water was sent packing after the consortium refused to assume the risks associated with running the sewage treatment system.

Continued on page 19

Trust...Continued

When Suez insisted that the city accept responsibility for sewerage pumped into the harbor by the corporation in violation of environmental laws, the region's mayor finally admitted that remaining public will save millions of dollars.

Trust Us – Part II

The Broward Legislative Delegation's Calypso workshop afforded Broward residents and State legislators an opportunity to ask Suez official Brad Cooley about the planned Calypso security provisions. During his opening presentation, Cooley surprised the audience with the proposition that "Suez doesn't view safety as an issue for this project." Delegation Chair Jack Seiler disagreed, pointing out to Cooley that the primary community objection to the project stems from Suez demonstrated inability to adequately address public safety. Senator Jeffrey Atwater responded skeptically to Cooley's statement, admonishing "Safety is the most important issue!"

Serving as Suez North America's Assistant Manager for the Calypso Deepwater Port project, Cooley proclaimed that Suez filed a security plan that was created in cooperation with local authorities. Seeking to verify Cooley's statement, Senator Atwater asked Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti if Suez consulted with his office at any time to formulate these security measures. Lamberti answered, "No, I have not been consulted on this project."

When Representative Seiler asked the Sheriff about Calypso's security impacts, Lamberti complained "We're already pressed for resources to deal with our day-to-day responsibilities in Port Everglades. Where will the money come from to deal with additional needs? What will happen in case of a catastrophic event? We must have the capability to fight anything that might happen in the port as a result of this project. Where will the resources come from for preparation and readiness, not just response? We were already a terrorist target before this project. This will just add one more target that we'll have to prepare for."

Asked by Seiler to explain his contradictory statements, Cooley asserted that the need for confidentiality accounted for his equivocations about the security plan. Senator Atwater inquired, "Who will be responsible for funding the 'additional security' that will be required, local governments?" Cooley told the Senator "We plan to work with local governments at the appropriate time and we would consider shouldering some share of the burden." Characterizing Cooley's replies as nonresponsive, the Senator chastised the company for refusing to address security issues until after they received a license.

When Sheriff Lamberti denied Cooley's contention that local authorities participated in developing a security plan, Cooley altered his statement, promising instead to consult with local authorities at a time deemed appropriate by Suez. After the meeting, Senator Atwater expressed doubts about Suez paying for the safety and security shortfall that was described by Sheriff Lamberti and previously admitted by the Coast Guard.

Atwater, Representatives Seiler and Bogdanoff as well as Broward Sheriff Lamberti were angry about the Suez decision to "surprise" Broward residents with an unfunded mandate that they would have to continuously pay on their future tax bills. When asked about the resources Suez planned to commit towards security costs, Cooley repeatedly intimated that Suez would contribute what Suez thought appropriate. Senator Atwater said "Since Broward is already facing a shortfall, where will the resources come from? This is the reason I recommended to Governor Crist that he veto the project." Given SUEZ long history of sacrificing the needs of local populations to increase their bottom line and elevate their share price, relying on this company to voluntarily contribute resources once they've secured a license might reasonable be considered delusional. •

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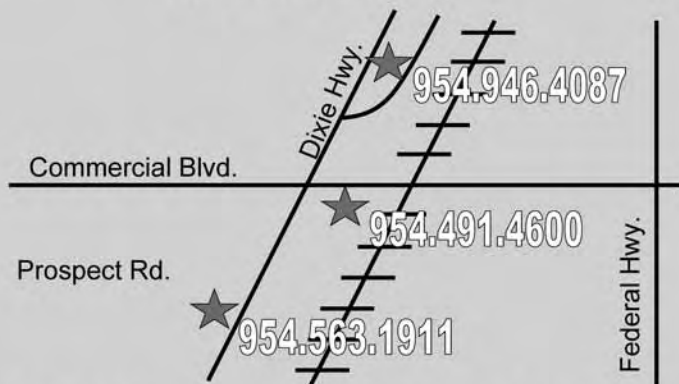
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