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"An Official Publication of the Galt Mile Community Association"

January 2009

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beach project stirs **SUSPICIONS**



By Eric Berkowitz

Most Galt Mile residents understand that the impending beach renourishment project is the single most critical improvement impacting the future of this neighborhood. According to a 2007 report by Broward beach administrator Steven Higgins, the Segment II beaches along Fort Lauderdale and the Galt Ocean Mile should start seeing new sand by the late fall of 2009. Since that announcement, inhabitants of north Broward beachfront neighborhoods have patiently anticipated the reclamation of their shrinking shoreline.

For the past decade, the Galt Mile Community Association has battled misdirected attempts to subvert this project while continuously monitoring its progress. Broward Commissioner Ken Keechl and City Commissioner Christine Teel notify us when city or county issues threaten the renourishment project. Congressman Ron Klein similarly reports on prospective federal funding roadblocks. When some of their overambitious colleagues in Tallahassee try to hijack the dedicated state funding, new Senate President Jeffrey Atwater and Statehouse Majority Whip Elyn Bogdanoff nail the strongbox shut. As we head into the home stretch, this multi-level oversight by our public officials has intensified. After enduring 10 years of delays and dozens of politically motivated attempts to undermine the project, when a new obstacle arises, community leaders become understandably frustrated and angry.

Teel was reading the November 13th Broward County Commission meeting agenda. After noticing an agenda item entitled "Beach Erosion" and perusing 5 pages of an attached exhibit, she popped off emails to GMCA officials Pio Ieraci and Eric Berkowitz, attaching the following statement that she perceived as a potential project pitfall.

"A sand search is being conducted to discover new sources of beach-compatible sand for placement onto Broward County beaches, including those of the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, and the City of Pompano Beach. These beaches comprise Segment II of the Broward County Shore Protection Project. The search for sand will include not only the seafloor offshore of Broward County, but also areas offshore of other Florida counties and areas outside of US waters. In addition to finding new sand sources for Segment II, the County will reevaluate the Segment II project in the context of current economic and environmental conditions, and will propose a project appropriate to those updated conditions. Finally, a high-resolution study is being undertaken to ascertain whether erosion control structures can be employed along the County's shoreline to reduce the rates of erosion and help sustain our beach nourishment projects."

On November 8, 2008, while enjoying Saturday morning breakfast, City Commissioner Christine

Continued on page 3

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Crime Must Go !

A crime committed against a single person is a crime against all of us. We must feel safe in our homes and where we work. We must support our men and women in law enforcement, working with neighborhood leaders, who together ensure our safety and well-being. Our commitment to change will make it happen.

Reach Out For New Investment !

A changing world will pass us by if we don't seek new economic investments that are tied to the future. As we continue to support real estate, tourism and the marine industry, the old rules invite overdevelopment and threaten our quality of life. Our future beckons for change.

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Beach...Continued

Of immediate interest was the county's intention to "reevaluate the Segment II project in the context of current economic and environmental conditions," and to "propose a project appropriate to those updated conditions." Since current economic conditions border on the bizarre, Ieraci sent an email to Broward Commissioner Ken Keechl asking about the significance of the agenda blurb while exhorting "If any change is made that will adversely effect this project, the mobilization of beach area constituents will be tantamount to a major revolt." Verifying that the statement was not bureaucratic county spin for defunding the project, Keechl allayed Ieraci's concern, "The 'reevaluation' is nothing more than a required response to the environmental monitoring report for the earlier southern segment. It shouldn't affect the Galt in any significant way."

Commissioner Keechl was referring to an environmental impact report summarizing observations made during the mandated 18-month monitoring period following the Segment III beach renourishment in Hollywood and Hallandale. Although the funding fears were quickly dispelled by our Broward Commissioner, the statement still embodied two very real problems facing the Beach project. While circumstances surrounding the sand shortage remain murky, this obstacle was first revealed over a year ago. Secondly, by stating his intention to incorporate aspects of Segment III erosion control into the Segment II renourishment plans, Higgins has fueled concern by coastal residents and public officials from Fort Lauderdale to Pompano Beach. To date, he's neglected to adequately explain whether or how this would adversely impact the resources and timetable for the north Broward beach renourishment.

Two days later (November 10th), Commissioner Teel distributed some pictures taken of the beach before and after an ordinary rainstorm on October 31st. They demonstrate the extreme vulnerability of the critically eroded Segment II beaches. She also copied some emails among City officials questioning the actual scope of the Segment II beach rehabilitation. Among these correspondences was an email from Assistant City Attorney Carrie Sarver informing City Attorney Harry Stewart that beach administrator Higgins is considering additional areas for inclusion in Segment II based on the report's findings. Officials from Parks, Legal and Engineering attempting to assess the degree of deterioration for which they had to prepare all seemed surprised to find themselves "outside the loop" with regard to such an important issue.

When asked about requesting that our county beach administrator convene an

informational event for both residents and public officials in the Segment II jurisdiction, City Commissioner Christine Teel said that a meeting with Mr. Higgins and City officials was already being arranged. Unless that meeting is expanded to include local residents, a second "open" meeting should follow the City's initiative. In particular, Mr. Higgins needs to quell rumors portending additional Segment II delays, especially if they result from political pressure to benefit constituents in Segment III. For the last decade, officials and civic leaders from both areas cooperated closely with county officials to promote the southern renourishment with the understanding that the northern Segment would subsequently enjoy the same unilateral support.

In 2002, the south county Segment III part of the project was facing fierce opposition from pseudo-environmental groups hastily recruited by the Scuba Industry (which stood to lose \$millions during the project's planned temporary reef closures). Former Hollywood Mayor Mara Giuliani, Broward Commissioner Sue Gunzburger from Hollywood and former Hollywood Statehouse Representative Eleanor Sobel (who was recently elected to the Florida Senate) pleaded with Barrier Island beach communities to join them in convincing Tallahassee of the project's necessity. In a testament to irony, the only substantial response came from the Galt Mile Community Association. On April 30, 2002, the GMCA bussed more than 150 concerned Galt Ocean Mile residents to a public hearing at the Hollywood Beach Community Center in support of the Army Corps of Engineer's plan to renourish Broward's shrinking beaches.

Broward County's 24 miles of beach are uniformly under attack as the State of Florida has declared 21 miles of the county's beaches to be "critically eroded". The nearly 50 million dollars initially pledged to help mollify this impending disaster has doubled due to politically motivated delays. Having witnessed the loss of large tracts of their beach to tidal erosion, Galt Mile residents were already aggressively supportive of the county's intention to reclaim this community keystone.

The county's plan divided the critical target area into three zones. The North Zone (Segment I) is about a mile of shoreline off Deerfield Beach. The Middle Zone (Segment II) includes the roughly 5 miles of beach running from the Hillsboro Inlet to John U. Lloyd State Park Beach. The South Zone (Segment III) ranges from John U. Lloyd Beach State Recreation area for 6 miles through Dania, Hollywood Beach, and Hallandale Beach to the Dade County

Continued on page 5



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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GALT MILE READING CENTER HAS A PULSE

Eric Berkowitz

The Galt Mile Reading Center - one of our local "gems" - will soon be closed for approximately one to two weeks. A popular improvement project to expand the facility was repeatedly raped by Murphy's Law during the past few years. Broward County leasing specialists rented space adjacent to the Reading Room to accommodate the expansion. Unfortunately, they forgot to check the premises. WHOOPS! The floor and one of the two ceilings were loaded with asbestos! If disturbed, the toxic cocktail would precipitate a virtual mesothelioma epidemic among Reading Center fans.

The Broward Public Works Department's Real Property Section houses two ancillary components called Asset Leasing Services and Due Diligence Services. Asset Leasing Services is used by the Real Property Section in its capacity as the County's professional advisor for the leasing of Broward County property, or the leasing of non-Broward County property for Broward County business - such as the Reading Room. Due Diligence Services enables the Real Property Section to act as the County's real estate advisor in conducting adequate and professional research into and reporting of factors that could affect the use and market value of real property. Both County Services are theoretically required to apply "professional real estate standards and methods in accordance with Florida Statutes, Broward County Code, and Broward County Administrative Code." Whoever negotiated the Reading Room expansion lease dropped the ball.

In 2005, \$471,200 was plunked into the county budget for the expansion (\$370,000 for renovation of the new space, \$66,000 for furniture and equipment and \$35,200 for the rent). On March 21, 2006, the County Board approved a 2,200 sq. ft. lease with landlord Sharon Manelas for the property at 3411 Galt Ocean Drive at a rental rate of \$19.08 per sq. ft. for the first year and increasing 3% thereafter. The term ran from April 20, 2006 to June 30, 2009 and cost \$3,500 a month with additional operation and maintenance costs estimated at \$3 per square foot. The Broward Board simultaneously amended the lease of the existing Reading Room location at 3405 Galt Ocean Drive, giving \$6500 to the landlord for the Tenant's right to make structural modification to the leased premises for the purpose of ingress and egress between the existing library and the adjacent expansion space. Since the Real Property Section neglected to verify the environmental adequacy of the premises, the asbestos wasn't discovered until October 2006, when the Construction Management Division hired hazardous construction materials specialist Advanced Industrial Hygiene Services to ascertain the extent to which the facility was infused with the toxic fire retardant.

Since first discovered, the asbestos dilemma was investigated continuously by Property Management, Construction Management and the County Attorney throughout 2006 and 2007. When asked by the "Friends of the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Room" and the Galt Mile Community Association to investigate the lack of progress, Commissioner Ken Keechl surmised that if the county couldn't devise a cost-effective strategy for using the additional space, it should get out of the lease.

Continued on page 11

Beach...Continued

Line. In the plan Broward County developed with the Army Corps of Engineers, sand dredged from seven "borrow" areas north of Pompano Beach would be transported by ship to the south county target zones awaiting renourishment. This herculean effort would add in excess of 2.5 million cubic yards of sand to our shrinking beaches while widening them by an additional 50 feet to 150 feet depending on the degree of need. The county anticipates recovering almost half of its outlay from the Federal Government.

A contentious propaganda campaign by project opponents claiming that beach residents were opposed to the beach renourishment was thwarted at the Hollywood meeting. Having failed to stop the southern Segment III part of the project, supposedly local anti-renourishment elements (who were subsequently identified in the Federal Register as scuba industry lobbyists from Cleveland, Boston and the Bahamas) revised their dilatory tactics to instead derail the Segment II component that includes Fort Lauderdale and the Galt Ocean Mile.

In preparation for the Segment II licensing hearing in Tallahassee, Galt Mile residents sent hundreds of letters and thousands of emails to former Governor Jeb Bush, former Attorney General Charlie Crist, former Florida CFO Tom Gallagher, and Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson in support of the project. On May 13, 2003, the Florida cabinet met to hear testimony about the Segment II renourishment.

Former Director Steve Somerville of the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection (DPEP) – precursor to today's Environmental Protection Department (EPD) – described to the Cabinet members the county's plan to safely replace sand lost to Broward beaches from tidal erosion, tropical storms, and hurricanes. After Somerville summarized salient aspects of the County's plan, former Broward County Commissioner Jim Scott, former Hollywood Representative Eleanor Sobel (now in the Florida Senate), and Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Christine Teel all voiced strong support for the project's implementation.

Unable to assert that local officials were opposed to the project, an anti-renourishment Golden Beach resident who identified himself as "a friend of the environment" instead told the Cabinet that Galt Ocean Mile residents were opposed to reclaiming the Fort Lauderdale and Galt Mile beaches "on environmental grounds." He was unprepared for the contingent of Galt Mile Community Association homeowners that traveled to Tallahassee and uniformly testified that saving local beaches was of paramount priority – for them and their neighbors. Adorned in tee shirts emblazoned with "Save Broward Beaches", Rose Guttman from the Ocean Club, Fern McBride, Iris and Joe Anastasi, and Eric Peter Berkowitz from Regency Tower, Ron Gresser from Playa del Mar, Kathleen Freismuth from Regency South and Pio Ieraci from the Galt Ocean Club presented the Cabinet members with a 220-page pro-project petition signed and addressed by more than 9,000 area residents. Opponents were equally surprised when Mr. Ieraci introduced prominent environmentalist Roy Rogers of the Nature Conservancy and the Audubon Society along with other esteemed naturalists who explained the need for repairing the shoreline and characterized Broward's plan as environmentally sound. Following the successful Cabinet Meeting, Former Secretary David B. Struhs of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection expressed his appreciation to the GMCA in a televised interview, crediting "community members in their red t-shirts" with salvaging the beach project.

As a result, the Cabinet voted unanimously to maintain Fort Lauderdale's status as a renourishment target and license Segment II with the proviso that an 18-month monitoring period be implemented to review the impacts of the Segment III renourishment and use the data to refine permit requirements for the Segment II beach construction.

On January 2, 2004, US Army Corps of Engineers published its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Broward County Shore Protection Project, Segments II and III, in the Federal Register.

Continued on page 7

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Harvard Study Reorients CDC Policy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention qualifies the onset of every flu season with the same intimidating statistics. A contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses, the flu is typically contracted by 5 to 20 % of the United States' population each year. More than 200,000 victims require hospitalization from flu complications. About 36,000 die. This may soon change.

Since the influenza virus is a "meta-morph" – a shape shifter, every year new strategies must be devised to design a vaccine against the predicted flu strain for that year. The two processes by which influenza evolves are colloquially known as "Shift and Drift." Antigenic drift is a function of the small changes in the virus that happen continually over time. The less common antigenic shift derives from abrupt, major protein changes to the influenza A viruses, resulting in a new influenza A subtype unrecognized by existing antibodies. Due to the uncertainty surrounding which influenza strain will actually emerge, this has evolved into an annual guessing game. These vaccines are frequently based on the previous year's strains. Researchers annually dream about formulating a vaccine that could provide immunity to all strains of influenza, a medical "Holy Grail" of sorts. The prospects for a DNA-based vaccine are also being explored, as well as RNA interference, and new antiviral candidates.

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) met in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on February 21, 2008, to select which influenza virus strains should comprise the 2008-2009 influenza vaccine for use in the United States. During this meeting, the advisory panel reviewed and evaluated the surveillance data related to epidemiology and antigenic characteristics, serological responses to 2007/2008 vaccines, and the availability of candidate strains and reagents.



SHOTS FOR KIDS

2008 TO 2009 FLU SEASON UPDATE

Each seasonal vaccine contains three influenza viruses—one A (H3N2) virus, one A (H1N1) virus, and one B virus. The viruses in the vaccine change each year based on international surveillance and scientists' estimations about which types and strains of viruses will circulate in a given year – a strategy more appropriate to the gaming industry. The selected strains must be grown individually before the three are combined late in the production process. They are usually chosen in February and the vaccine production and preparation process takes about six to eight months. Distribution of influenza vaccine begins as early as August and typically continues throughout November and December. The virus strains in the 2008-09 trivalent influenza vaccine are:

- **A/BRISBANE/59/2007(H1N1)-LIKE VIRUS;**
- **A/BRISBANE/10/2007 (H3N2)-LIKE VIRUS;**
- **B/FLORIDA/4/2006-LIKE VIRUS**

There are two vaccination vehicles currently available, the infamous "flu shot" and the less well known nasal-spray flu vaccine. Approved for people older than 6 months, the shot is a Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) containing a spread of three dead virus strains and is usually injected into the arm muscle. Since the viral content is dead, the post-vaccination symptoms claimed by some are often nervous or allergic reactions, possibly to some component of the chicken eggs from which the viruses are bred. As of July 1, 2005, people who think that they have been injured by the flu shot can file a claim for compensation from the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP). As mandated in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-660), the VICP is a no-fault alternative to the traditional tort system for resolving vaccine injury claims. It protects vaccine manufacturers that would otherwise hesitate to distribute the hundreds of millions of annually required doses while providing compensation to people injured by certain vaccines. The U. S. Court of Federal Claims decides who gets paid and who just gets sick.

The nasal-spray flu vaccine is made with live, weakened flu viruses that do not cause the flu (sometimes called LAIV for "Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine"). LAIV is approved for use in healthy people 2 years to 49 years of age who are not pregnant. Additionally, the FDA has indicated that the safety of LAIV has not been established in persons with underlying medical conditions that confer a higher risk for influenza complications. All children aged 6 months – 8 years who have not been vaccinated previously at any time with at least 1 dose of either LAIV or TIV should receive 2 doses of age-appropriate vaccine in the same season, with a single dose during subsequent seasons.

Continued on page 17

Beach...Continued

In May, Brigadier General Randal R. Castro, former South Atlantic Division Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, sent notification that the official Record of Decision (ROD) stated that every major environmental agency and organization supported project implementation "as soon as possible." In the ROD, the General also proclaimed, "I find that the plan recommended in the GRR (General Reevaluation Report) and FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) by the District Engineer, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), is economically justified, technically feasible, in compliance with environmental statutes, and in the overall public interest."

On May 6, 2005, a long-awaited celebration took place in Hollywood. The first beneficiaries of the Broward County Shore Protection Project – the Segment III municipalities of Hollywood, Hallandale Beach and Dania Beach – joined Broward County in throwing a party to highlight the project's kickoff. Over the next year, the Segment III beaches would be salvaged. The Hollywood, Hallandale and Dania shorelines, where waves previously lapped against the sea wall, would enjoy 150 feet of new sand. The Mayors of the three cities and Broward Commissioner Sue Gunzburger again thanked the Galt Mile Association residents for their critical contribution to project approval and promised to reciprocate by supporting the northern renourishment.

Following completion of the Segment III beaches in March of 2006, monitors from Nova Southeast University Oceanographic Center, Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc. and Olsen Associates, Inc. (a joint venture of coastal engineering consulting firms) joined county scientists to examine the environmental effects of repairing Broward's shoreline from the Dade County line to John U. Lloyd State Park. During the mandated 18-month monitoring period, County officials addressed project housekeeping issues in preparation for the upcoming Segment II construction. When the monitoring period was concluded in September 2007, the accrued data was collated and forwarded to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

In contrast to past projects that were largely neglected once completed, the County's strategy included a maintenance component to ensure the ongoing health of the rehabilitated beaches, thereby postponing the need for (and curbing the expense of) future renourishments. Although sand naturally migrates south along the coast, intermittent special attention to certain "erosion hot spots" that evacuate at a heightened level could preclude the need for future full scale renourishments.

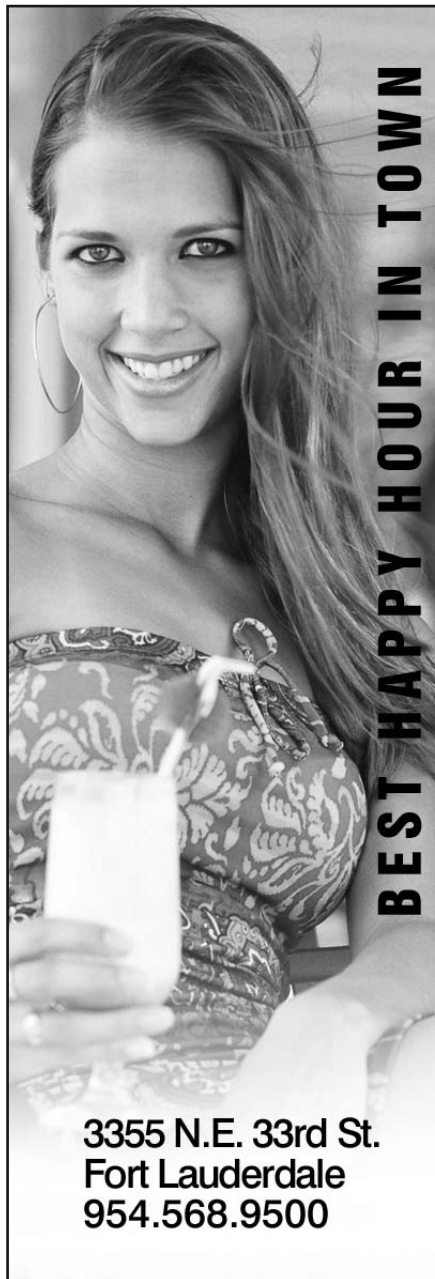
In his 2007 report, Broward Beach Administrator Stephen Higgins described the new maintenance concept, stating, "The County is investigating the feasibility of moving between 50,000 and 90,000 cubic yards of excess sand from the upland beach north of Port Everglades to a hot-spot location along south Hollywood and north Hallandale Beach." Performing smaller, more frequent sand placements at erosion hot-spots only require what he called "sands of opportunity," avoiding additional pressure on dredge sites. Higgins also studied the viability of using erosion control structures 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."

Higgins then revealed two previously undisclosed project impacts. His report continued, "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." Until that moment, every scrap of relevant documentation, from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to the plan that was

finally permitted by the State, targeted the waters off Deerfield Beach as sand "borrow sites" adequate for both Segment III and Segment II renourishments. The plan refers to that particular patch of beach as "Segment I". Why was it suddenly necessary to scavenge for sand in other locations?

He said, "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."

Continued on page 10



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Beach...Continued

It is difficult to believe that Higgins was ambushed by the fact that removing large amounts of sand from the borrow area would increase the ratio of rock to sand. While the simplistic characterization he offered to define this new dilemma wasn't a paragon of credibility, the sand shortage is evidently real. Higgins is diligently investigating alternative sources of sand for use in Segment II, including the possible utilization of recycled "glass sand" since glass and sand are both composed primarily of Silicon Dioxide. The County hired Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc. (CPE) to compile a report about the advantages and disadvantages of artificial sand. However, his belated revelation about the sand shortage casts a shadow on his contention that the south county "hot spots" could be addressed with "sands of opportunity". Admittedly, there are no "sands of opportunity!" The bottom line is simple; any sand that's used to address erosion shortages in Segment III would likely be hijacked from Segment II.

Make no mistake. Stephen Higgins is largely responsible for the continued viability of this project. A unique blend of scientist and technocrat, he successfully nursed it through a minefield of antipathetic scrutiny, responding to literally thousands of agency questions over a decade. His familiarity with the issues surrounding the project is unparalleled. That's why his explanation for the sudden surfacing of a sand shortage so late in the game was enigmatic.

Last month, Higgins attended a meeting in Hollywood. South County politicians have been pressing Higgins to leapfrog the project schedule and give their erosion deficit priority over the Segment II renourishment. Certain Fort Lauderdale officials and Galt Mile civic leaders suspect that vested interests are placing Higgins in an untenable position by coveting resources earmarked to save our nearly non-existent beaches in order to add a few more feet of sand to their beaches. While Higgins is a magician when addressing technical issues, as an unelected county official, he is susceptible to political pressure.

Galt Mile Community residents rescued the project from political oblivion in Hollywood and Tallahassee, passionately entreating regulatory authorities to support the threatened project at every critical crossroads. Officials representing the south county municipalities that were the immediate beneficiaries of these efforts exclaimed that we were "partners and allies in this enterprise."

There is no mystery as to why our supposed allies in Hollywood and Hallandale are eying the sand earmarked to enlarge Fort Lauderdale's beaches. As in Fort Lauderdale, beaches in Hollywood and Hallandale are lined with hotels that help fuel the tourism economies of those municipalities. These resorts contribute heavily to the campaigns of their local officials. Key tourism venues such as the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa haven't forgotten how tough it was to fill their rooms prior to the beach renourishment. They also know that each beach is an integral part of the coastal system. Any weakness in the system threatens the entire shoreline. The "hot spots" are sources of sand loss that the hotels want to address at any cost. If they lay claim to the sand that would otherwise nourish the Segment II shoreline, they will have accrued an insurance policy for which we will pay the premium.

To address any attempt to surreptitiously alter the project's focus, Fort Lauderdale residents and officials must be equally passionate in demanding that the Segment II timetable is scrupulously followed and its renourishment resources are fully dedicated. The correct forum to insure these objectives is a meeting at which Mr. Higgins will hopefully identify these sources of controversy as "rumors" and confirm the late 2009 Segment II start date.

For additional information, check "Shore Protection" in the "Issues" section of the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galt-mile.com/shoreprotection.html). The entire project history, replete with obstacles, setbacks, detours, and successes are explained in detail. The page is peppered with source links supportive of the published conclusions. •

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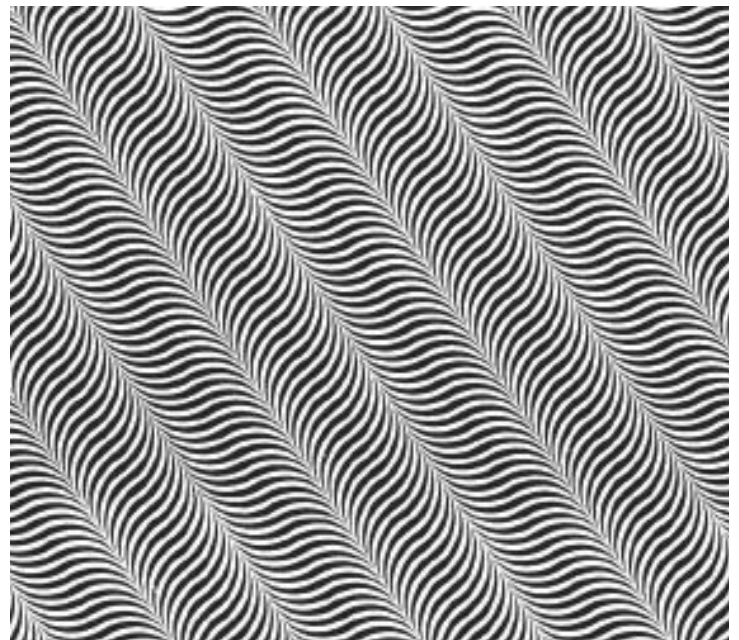
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Library...Continued

In September 2007, Property Management, the Libraries Division, the County Attorney and Construction Management decided jointly to restrict use of the leased space to library offices and storage (instead of the more ambitious functionality that was initially anticipated) or escape the lease. The rationale for this strategy centered on the fact that if the asbestos is left undisturbed, it will remain benign. This scaled back compromise seemed appropriate since the lease will terminate on June 30, 2009 and the cost of the original renovation was inordinately high given the area's utilization limitations.

In January, 2008, after the Friends of the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Room advised Commissioner Keechl that using the tainted space for offices and some programs is better than nothing, they requested that he help "jump start" the project. In February, Facilities Maintenance Division reevaluated the renovation plans and their prospective cost at Keechl's behest. Simultaneously, Keechl warned Library proponents that the Commission was considering budget cutbacks that threatened the county's four leased library facilities. Fortunately, the Reading Room was given a fiscal reprieve, allowing further consideration of the expansion compromise.

No one ever accused Broward County of acting precipitously. Following a frustrating six month hibernation period, Friends of the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Room President Herman Gardner asked Commissioner Keechl to take the pulse of the comatose Reading Room project. At Keechl's request, Library Division Director Bob Cannon summarized the Reading Room's status in an October 30th response to Gardner. Cannon's message to the Galleon resident was as follows:

Dear Mr. Gardner:

This is a follow up to your letter to Commissioner Keechl about the Reading Center and the progress concerning the many renovation projects for that library.

Continued on page 13

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Library...Continued

As you know, we previously agreed that certain improvements to the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center would be made. Several improvements have been made already and several others are pending.

The laptop computers have been delivered. We intend to provide more stacking meeting room chairs and will send an order in November. We have re-wired the kitchen to accommodate the copy machine. The facility has been re-carpeted and painted throughout. We have worked up the shelving improvement plan and have submitted that to our purchasing division for processing and ordering, which should occur in November. The shelving vendor won't manufacture the shelving until he has the specifications and order in hand.

We hope to move the Public Art by the entrance, where the Friends want a bulletin board. If we are allowed to move the art, the bulletin board will be provided. We have ordered a certain number of shelves in the new shelving order to accommodate CD's. We don't think the purchase of the large panels for art in the meeting room is feasible. The room is too small for these panels.

The order for the pull down screen and ceiling mounted projector was awarded to a vendor August 8. We have not received the equipment and have not scheduled installation for these improvements as of this writing.

As I told you in our phone conversation, we won't be able to order the shelving until sometime in November and the manufacturing of the shelving and its delivery will take several months before installation. When the shelving and audio-visual systems arrive, the installation of these items will disrupt library operations but only for a short while.

We understand your frustration and the needs related to the use of the meeting room and the high attendance you are experiencing for all the many programs you provide. We are in circumstances that we must meet the needs of the audience the best we can until all the improvements are installed. This is going to take several months.

Continued on page 16

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<p>4</p> <p>Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Vice Mayor Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p> <p>GMCA Presidents Council Meeting Location: TBA 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info.: Call Pio Ieraci</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Billy Joel Hard Rock Live 7:30 p.m. Tix.: 954-327-ROCK</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Vice Mayor Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p> <p>Florida Panthers vs. Buffalo Sabres BankAtlantic Center, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Mamma Mia! (Through 2/1) Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p> <p>Florida Panthers vs. Dallas Stars BankAtlantic Center, 7:30 p.m.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste Event 101 N. Andrews Ave. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>99.9 KISS Country Chili Cookoff CB Smith Park 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>The Eagles BankAtlantic Center Tix.: ticketmaster.com</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Florida Panthers vs. Philadelphia Flyers BankAtlantic Center, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Rod Stewart Hard Rock Live 8 p.m. Tix.: 954-327-ROCK</p>
<p>1</p> <p>Wild Music: Sounds & Songs of Life (Through 4/26) Museum of Discovery and Science</p> <p>Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Vice Mayor Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p>



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<p>8 Dog Park Petiquette Secret Woods Nature Center 7 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: 954-938-0617</p> <p>Florida Panthers vs. Carolina Hurricanes BankAtlantic Center, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & A1A 7 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p> <p>Dolphin Promotions Antique World 2009 War Memorial Auditorium Info.: 954-563-6747</p>	<p>10 22nd Annual Boca Fest (Through 1/11) The Shops at Boca Center 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-472-3755</p> <p>Florida Panthers vs. Atlanta Thrashers BankAtlantic Center, 1 p.m.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting Nick's Italian Restaurant 11 a.m.</p>	<p>16 Box Lunch with Artist in Residence CARLOS LUNA 12 Noon Museum of Art Res.: 954-670-2854</p> <p>Mother/Daughter Afternoon Tea Fairchild Tropical Garden 3 to 5 p.m. Info.: 305-663-8059</p>	<p>17 The Tribute to Pavarotti Cinema Paradiso 7 p.m. Tix.: www.fliff.com</p> <p>Design Squad Build It Challenge! Museum of Discovery & Science (Through 1/18)</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23 Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & A1A 7 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p> <p>Dancing with the Stars Tour BankAtlantic Center Tix.:954-835-SHOW</p>	<p>24 David Copperfield (Through 1/25) Coral Springs Center for the Arts Info.: 954-344-5990</p> <p>3rd Annual Int'l Chocolate Festival (Through 1/25) Fairchild Tropical Garden 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info.: 305-667-1651 X 3344</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Florida Panthers vs. Montreal Canadiens BankAtlantic Center, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & A1A 7 p.m.</p> <p>Celine Dion BankAtlantic Center Tix.:954-835-SHOW</p>	<p>31 Flea Market Bennett Elementary 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>Ft. Lauderdale National Art Festival Museum of Art Huizenga Plaza 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info.: 954-525-5500 X 239</p>
<p>5 Fort Lauderdale Billfish Tournament (Through 2/8) Las Olas Marina Info.:954-523-1004</p> <p>Florida Panthers vs. New York Islanders BankAtlantic Center, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. & A1A 7 p.m.</p>	<p>7 ArtExplosion 2009 (Through 2/21) Fort Lauderdale Info.: 954-568-1154</p> <p>Have a Heart Weekend-Explore Heart Health (Through 2/8) Museum of Discovery & Science</p> <p>Florida Renaissance Festival (Through 3/8) Quiet Waters Park, Weekends only Info.: 954-776-1642</p>

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February 14
Valentine's Day, A Romance of Jazz
Fairchild Tropical Garden, Outside on the Garden House Lawn
Tix.: 305.667.1651 X 3391

February 17-March 1
A Chorus Line
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Tix.: 954-462-0222

February 18
Taste of the Beach 2009
El Prado Ave., Lauderdale by the Sea, 6 to 9 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-1000

February 22
A1A Marathon
Info.: 561-241-3801

February 24
Fat Tuesday on Hollywood Beach
Hollywood Beach Boardwalk Main Stage, Noon to 12 a.m.
Info.: 954-926-3377

February 28
Harlem Globetrotters
BankAtlantic Center, 2 p.m.
Tix.: ticketmaster.com

March 7
Waterway Cleanup
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info. and Cleanup Sites: 954-524-2733

March 13-15
7th Annual International Orchid Festival
Fairchild Tropical Garden, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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Library...Continued

We appreciate the support of the Friends over all these many years and will work with you cooperatively in the interim as these improvements are fully implemented. I apologize for our slow processes and many procedures but all of them are in place to protect the taxpayers, by making sure our bidding requirements are fair and professional and the vendors selected are qualified and thorough in their work.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Cannon, Director
 Libraries Division

When juxtaposed with the nearly \$100K in unrequited rental expense, Cannon's intimation that the inexcusable delays suffered during this fiasco are somehow beneficial to Broward taxpayers drips with irony. Although Cannon is not responsible for the Real Property Section's failure to perform an initial environmental assessment of the asbestos laden premises, it shouldn't have taken almost three years to implement an alternative use plan or relocate the project to a space devoid of toxic construction pitfalls.

The next flicker of progress came in the form of a November 24th letter from Director Cannon to City Manager George Gretsas. The letter was a courtesy notification explaining that the Galt Mile Reading Room would be will be closed to the public for approximately one week in the near future for library improvements (installation of more shelving to accommodate additional library materials). Cannon told Gretsas that when an exact date was determined, he would issue a news release and again flag the City Manager.

Continued on page 18

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Almost everyone who wants to reduce their risk should consider receiving a vaccination against the flu. Some people should immunize themselves annually. Among them are children 6 months old through their 19th birthday; pregnant women; people 50 years old and older; people any age with various chronic medical conditions that put them at more risk (asthmatics and others suffering from compromised respiratory function, diabetics, those afflicted with chronic kidney disease or weakened immune systems, etc.), people living in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities; health-care workers; household contacts of people at high risk of flu complications (such as those mentioned); household contacts and people outside the home who take care of children younger than 6 months (too young to be vaccinated).

However, not everyone is automatically a viable candidate for a preventive vaccination. People who shouldn't be vaccinated without first consulting a physician include those who are severely allergic to chicken eggs, who had a severe reaction to flu vaccination in the past, who developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine previously and children younger than 6 months old. Those suffering a moderate or severe illness with fever would do well to postpone vaccination until the symptoms abate.

Landmark Study Shifts Vaccination Priorities

It is impossible to ignore the evolving demographics on the Galt Mile. The community is becoming younger. While the healthy corps of retirees serves to provide substantial stability, the growing number of families and young couples inject the community with new life and a focused interest in the future. To accommodate the change, people are learning to share the pool with kids and foment interests in activities usually frequented by younger people. One thing more, make sure your medical insurance is paid to date.

A recent Harvard study links exposure to children to influenza contagion rates and symptomatic severity. Over four winters, Harvard researchers matched 157,542 adults demonstrating flu-like symptoms in Boston-area emergency rooms with Census data in 55 zip codes. Flu symptoms hit first and hardest in those zip codes inhabited by the most kids. Every 1 percent increase in the child population brought a 4 percent increase in adult ER visits.

Published this summer in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, the study by epidemiologist John Brownstein and Dr. Kenneth Mandl intimates landmark changes in how modern medicine should tackle the flu. Until this year, children under 5 were prime candidates for flu vaccination, given the high death rate for youngsters and infants contracting the disease. Starting immediately, government programs will extend vaccinations to all children from age 6 months to 18 years.

Statistical confirmation of what most parents know intuitively, that their children spread germs with uncanny efficiency, will substantially ramp up official vaccination policy. Although older children are less impacted by the effects of flu than infants, the additional 30 million school-age kids are a huge target pool with a massive potential for incubation. The members of this group are not targeted for vaccination primarily to protect their health, but to prevent their becoming "Vectors", or people for whom infection is of less concern than their potential for spreading the flu to more vulnerable groups such as the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

"The impact of kids and the flu is clear," says study co-author John Brownstein of Children's Hospital Boston. "It doesn't mean the areas without kids are protected from flu. It just means they experience flu later and at lower rates." He considers crowded schools, preschools and day-care centers to be disease distribution centers, locations that foment and perpetuate local epidemics. By defusing these distribution hotbeds, many prospective local infestations will never achieve the critical mass necessary to spread the disease epidemically.

Continued on page 19

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Library...Continued

It appears that we will soon be awakening from this 3 year nightmare. During the past 8 months the Galt Mile Community Association web site received dozens of inquiries about the Reading Room from local residents. Many asked why the County initially agreed to lease the contaminated space and others wondered how long the seemingly endless renovation would take. The greatest confusion, by far, was reflected in questions asking why the county didn't eighty-six the tainted lease after learning about the asbestos and rent an alternative space more conducive to flexible long term use. In view of the extremely abbreviated term remaining on the lease and the limiting impact of the center's construction obstacles, the question was often accompanied by theories about the participants' motives that presumed varying levels of greed and/or incompetence. It provides little consolation that the smart money is on the latter.

If not for the persistent efforts of the Friends of the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center and Commissioner Keechl, three years of expensive serial blunders would have remained safely couched in a bureaucratic cloud. Nevertheless, if fate smiles, the renovation may be completed before the lease expires. •

Deputy Director Dr. Jeanne Santoli of the Immunization Services Division in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ascribes several benefits to this new data. In addition to crippling influenza's incubation capability – as is required to mount epidemic attacks on a community – she extols a more direct dividend to expanding inoculation eligibility. School children will no longer miss the thousands of classroom hours lost each year to the flu and their parents will commensurately realize improved work attendance. Santoli said, "We're all very enthusiastic and anticipate seeing an indirect benefit, but that's something we need to study and carefully watch."

The most significant benefit of this vaccination strategy will be its impact on the elderly. While babies and infants are certainly highly vulnerable to influenza, a vast majority of the 36,000 flu-caused deaths each winter are people over age 65. The effectiveness of protection strategies against the flu for the elderly has enigmatically plateaued. Despite the annual implementation of comprehensive elderly vaccination programs, death rates haven't proportionately dropped as projected.

While flu vaccine protects 75 percent to 90 percent of healthy young people, studies suggest that protection appears to plummet to 30 percent among people 65 and older. Research is probing whether increased doses or adding immune-boosting compounds will intensify protection for the elderly. By inoculating the huge incubation pool of school kids, exposure and transmission rates should drop precipitously, including to the elderly. This strategy better arms the single greatest weapon against the flu, prevention.

Herd in Immunity

Dr. Stephen C. Aronoff, chairman of the department of pediatrics at Temple University in Philadelphia, explained the CDC policy. "This is the concept of herd immunity; the more people you vaccinate, the less likely you are to see infection in people who are not vaccinated." There's no shortage of statistical corroboration for Brownstein and Mandl's findings. When 85% of the schoolchildren in Tecumseh, Michigan were vaccinated before the 1968 flu pandemic, they reported two-thirds fewer flu cases in the overall population than nearby towns wherein children were not vaccinated. Similar results were recorded in Japan. After immunizing Japanese schoolchildren, infection rates and deaths dropped significantly throughout the Japanese population.

Simply put, the chain of transmission in the vast majority of flu cases includes a school-age child. Immunizing that child, by definition, should eliminate these cases. Director Julie L. Gerberding of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that although school-age children have the highest rate of flu infection, last year only 21 percent were vaccinated against the disease, allowing the flu an unchallenged opportunity to incubate and proliferate.

The flu season typically lasts from December through March, peaking in January and February. To adequately prepare, the CDC schedules vaccine for distribution by October. An October vaccination will provide immunity within two to three weeks and last throughout the flu season. All together, the CDC is recommending vaccines for about 261 million people, or nearly 85 percent of Americans. Although 143 million doses were manufactured for the upcoming flu season, CDC has expressed concern about utilizing the entire stock. While they plan to reach 90% of the elderly population, they anticipate serious obstacles to immunizing members in other eligible categories such as young adults with chronic illnesses like asthma, heart disease or a weakened immune system. Chasing down 30 million school children might also prove a challenge.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Immunization Flu web site is a cornucopia of useful information offering a plethora of Flu Facts. The Fight the Flu how-to page discusses how to prevent the flu, how to distinguish the flu from colds and other symptomatic mimics and, if caught, how to feel better and hasten recovery.

Continued on page 22

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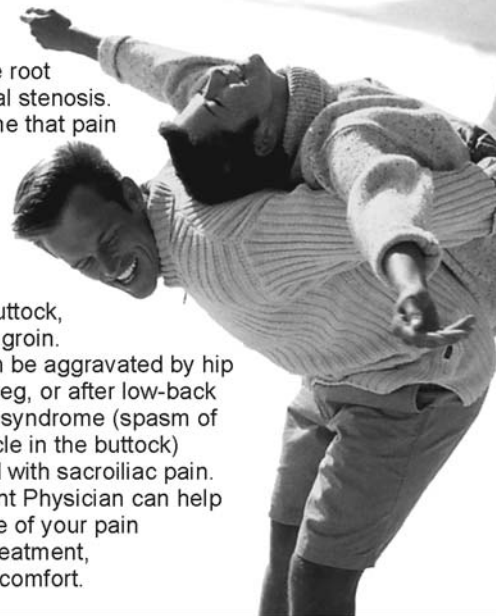
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform your readers of the **New Condominium Law** that goes into effect on January 1, 2009. The New Law, FL Statute 718.11 mandates that all condominium associations require the following:

- Each unit owner must provide evidence of Hazard and Liability insurance within 30 days of a written request.
- The unit owner policy must include coverage for Loss Assessment of at least \$2000. per occurrence.
- Condominium Associations must be listed as additional interest on all unit owner policies for liability purposes.
- Failure to provide proof of insurance may allow the association to purchase a policy on behalf of the owner, which could be at a much greater cost. The association can then charge the owner by assessment.



Frequently asked questions:

Q: I do not have insurance. What do I do?

A: Contact a local insurance agent.

Q: I already have an insurance policy. Is there anything I should do?

A: Yes contact your insurance agent and make sure you have loss assessment of at least \$2000 and the association is listed as additional interest. Obtain proof in writing and give a copy to your association.

Q: The association has insurance on the building. Doesn't that cover me?

A: No. The association policy does not cover you for any liability or for the interior of your unit.

Q: How much will an insurance policy cost ?

A: The cost of a policy will vary based on your particular insurance needs. An insurance agent can help you determine what is best for you.

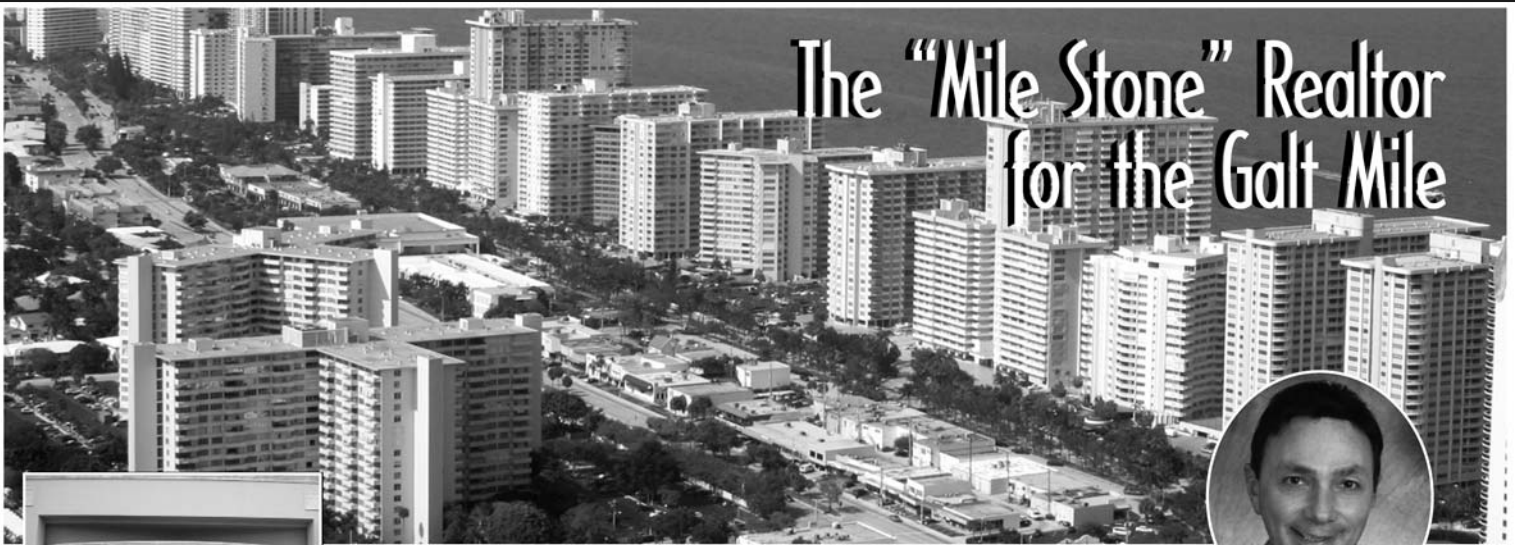
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** The Broward Board of County Commissioners reshuffled their governance deck in November, seating District 3 Commissioner Stacy Ritter as Mayor supported by District 4 Commissioner Ken Keechl as Vice Mayor. In his December 2008 Newsletter, our County Commissioner assures constituents that the additional challenges companion to his new office will not distract Keechl from his District 4 responsibilities. Constituents familiar with Keechl's operational proclivities are aware of the Commissioner's capacity for overdrive, and innate ability to quietly rise to whatever*

VICE MAYOR KEN KEECHL'S CORNER

level is necessary to deliver on his promises.. While assisting the Mayor in chairing Board meetings, Vice Mayor Keechl will also represent the County in local, state, national and international venues.

*Both elected in 2006, Keechl and Ritter share a commitment to a business friendly and environmentally sensitive administration. He intends to press Ritter's agenda, which includes morphing the Florida East Coast rail corridor into countywide transportation links, creating a shipping hub in western Palm Beach County to service Port Everglades and implementing green technologies to moderate Broward County's carbon footprint. - [editor]**

"LOOKING OUT FOR DISTRICT 4 AS BROWARD'S VICE MAYOR"

By Broward County Vice Mayor Ken Keechl

It's been a little over two years since you elected me to represent you and your families

on the Broward County Commission and my pride and enthusiasm hasn't lessened in the least. Again, I am honored and humbled by your vote of confidence in me.

On November 18th 2008, my eight colleagues on the Broward County Commission also bestowed upon me an additional honor: they unanimously elected me to be Broward County's Vice Mayor for the next twelve months. I can't remember the last time the Broward County Commissioner for District 4 was actually Mayor or Vice Mayor of Broward County. Obviously, I am honored and humbled by their vote of confidence in me as well.

For the past two years as your County Commissioner, I have looked out for (and will continue to look out for) District 4, which is comprised of: north and coastal Deerfield

Continued on page 23

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Flu...Continued

A selection of Clinic Locators will help locate a flu vaccination source. A comprehensive set of Flu Links accesses every aspect of this seasonal crisis. Influenza Antiviral Medications are an important adjunct to influenza vaccine in the prevention and treatment of influenza, especially to reduce the impact of influenza on persons at high risk for developing severe complications secondary to infection. A "Get it and Forget It!" Adult Pneumococcal (Pneumonia) Vaccine page addresses a very serious illness that results in more death to people in the United States than all other vaccine-preventable diseases combined. The voluminous 2008-2009 Flu Archive summarizes the data available on the DOH Bureau of Immunizations online flu resource. Following the web version of the article on the Galt Mile web site (www.galtmile.com) is a list of flu links to authoritative medical resources and "vaccination clinic locators" that identify convenient local sites where flu clinics administer immunizations.

The Broward County Health Department also offers a web page seeking to answer the question, "Do you have a Cold or is it the Flu?" A table encompasses a comparative assessment of symptoms, complications, prevention and treatment. More importantly, it contains an Influenza and Pneumococcal vaccination clinic schedule. Starting October 13th, the Fort Lauderdale Health Center (954-467-4868) at 2421 S.W. 6th Avenue offers flu vaccinations from 8 AM to Noon every Monday. The Northwest Health Center (954-467-4805) at 624 N.W. 15th Way offers flu vaccinations from 8 AM to Noon every Thursday. The Hughes Health Center (954-788-6140) at 205 N.W. 6th Avenue in Pompano Beach offers flu vaccinations from 8 AM to Noon every Tuesday. The \$28 fee for the Influenza vaccination and the \$50 for the Pneumococcal (Pneumonia) vaccination are covered by Medicare Part B. •



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Keechl...Continued

Beach, Hillsboro Beach, Lighthouse Point, southeast and coastal Pompano Beach, Sea Ranch Lakes, Lauderdale By The Sea, northeast and coastal Ft. Lauderdale, Oakland Park (east of I-95), Wilton Manors, Lazy Lakes, and a small portion of north Hollywood and northeast Dania Beach. I will continue to look out for District 4.

But while looking out for you and your families, I will be simultaneously assisting our new Mayor, Stacy Ritter, in chairing our Commission meetings, and in representing Broward County locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. I'm looking forward to the challenge.

Importantly, Mayor Ritter and I share the common belief that Broward County needs to be both business friendly and environmentally sensitive. We both believe that the Broward County Commission should play an important role in identifying and encouraging the development of our economic engines. Therefore, I will be assisting the Mayor with her stated priorities of: a) accessing the Florida East Coast rail corridor to link Broward's cities with the airport, seaport, courthouse and transportation centers; b) supporting an inland port in western Palm Beach County to maximize rail and truck shipping opportunities for Port Everglades; and c) "greening" Broward County's operations by creating a comprehensive plan to substantially reduce Broward's carbon footprint—in a cost efficient manner.

And, of course, I will continue to further my vision (and our shared vision) for Broward County by advocating for lowering property taxes, eliminating wasteful spending, encouraging a more efficient County government, and continuing the protection of our dwindling green and open spaces.

You and your families deserve nothing less. •

Broward County Commissioner and Vice Mayor Ken Keechl
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