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**JOY RAMDEEN**  
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## HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS MADE EASY

All legal Florida residents are eligible for a Homestead Exemption on their homes, condominiums, co-op apartments, and certain mobile home lots if they qualify. The Florida Constitution provides this tax-saving exemption on the first \$25,000 of the assessed value of an owner/occupied residence. You are entitled to a Homestead Exemption if, as of January 1st, you have made the property your permanent home or the permanent home of a person who is legally or naturally dependent on you. The filing period for homestead exemption for 2004 is March 4, 2003 Through March 1, 2004.

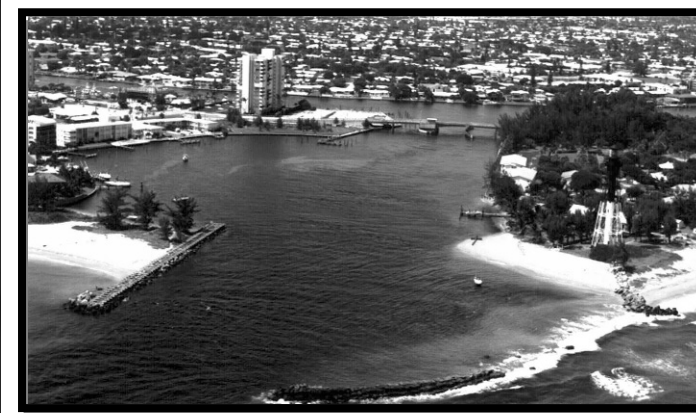
When filing an application you must bring the following items listed below, dated prior to January 1, 2004. All owners occupying the property prior to January 1, 2004 must file in person on jointly held property, other than husband and wife, who may file for each other, with the required documents for both (copies or originals). If you are married and the deed has different last names for husband and wife, a marriage license/certificate must be presented.

**Proof of Ownership:** Recorded Warranty Deed, Co-op Propriety Lease, Notice of Proposed Taxes or Tax Receipt, if in your name(s). A deed must be presented if the property is jointly owned. If the PROPERTY IS HELD IN A TRUST, A COMPLETE COPY OF THE TRUST AGREEMENT IS REQUIRED.

Continued on page 7

## FEDERAL FINDINGS FAVORABLE!

A.C.E. DRAFTS FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Hillsboro Inlet

The US Army Corps of Engineers (A.C.E.), Jacksonville District, has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Segments II and III of the Broward County Shore Protection Project. The proposed Broward County Shore Protection Project involves placement of approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of material along 11.8 miles of Broward County's coastline. The Statement confirms that "The proposed Broward County Shore Protection Project will be in

the National interest and can be constructed while protecting

the environment from unacceptable impacts." In summarizing the project's rationale, the statement further elaborates, "Federal and County objectives include: (1) the reduction of expected storm damages through beach nourishment and other project alternatives; (2) reestablishing beaches as suitable recreational areas; (3) maintaining suitable beach habitat for nesting sea turtles, invertebrate species and shorebirds; (4) maintaining commerce associated with beach recreation in Broward County." This is good news for the millions of South Florida residents and visitors that consider the beach, which is in imminent danger of disappearing, to be an integral part of their lives.

Continued on page 3

# JUST SOLD

Information provided by Eastside Properties

Twelve more properties were sold in the Galt Ocean Mile Community:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Top of the Mile South #401</b><br>(1/1)<br>\$135,000 - closed 12/15/03 | <b>Plaza South #16D</b><br>(1/1.5)<br>\$285,000 - closed 12/22/03   |
| <b>Playa Del Mar #1914</b><br>(1/1.5)<br>\$215,000 - closed 12/10/03      | <b>Southpoint #1910N</b><br>(2/2)<br>\$449,000 - closed 12/18/03    |
| <b>Galt Ocean Club #1112</b><br>(1/1)<br>\$185,000 - closed 12/17/03      | <b>Riviera #1605</b><br>(2/2)<br>\$290,000 - closed 12/15/03        |
| <b>Royal Ambassador #1612</b><br>(1/1)<br>\$189,000 - closed 12/3/03      | <b>Southpoint #803N</b><br>(2/2)<br>\$357,000 - closed 1/20/04      |
| <b>Ocean Summit #614</b><br>(2/2)<br>\$270,000 - closed 1/16/04           | <b>Playa del Mar #1701</b><br>(3/2.5)<br>\$485,000 - closed 1/14/04 |
| <b>Fountainhead #9G</b><br>(2/1.5)<br>\$272,000 - closed 12/1/03          | <b>Plaza East #12A</b><br>(3/2.5)<br>\$529,000 - closed 12/29/03    |



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Findings...Continued

A contingent of Galt Mile Residents attended a May 13th Florida Cabinet meeting (Item 19 on the Agenda) in a successful effort to include Fort Lauderdale in the permit required to advance the project. The project was approved to be completed in two parts or "Segments". The Southern part, Segment III, extends from Port Everglades through John U. Lloyd State Park, Dania Beach, Hollywood (where the beaches are already gone) and Hallandale to the Broward County/Dade County line. Work on this segment is anticipated to start in June, 2004 and continue for six months to December. A Cabinet-mandated 18 month "observation period" to assess direct, secondary and long-term effects to nearshore hardbottom habitat associated with the proposed project will commence upon completion of Segment III. Based upon the monitoring of these areas in Segment III, DEP would determine the likelihood for adverse impacts to the similar areas in Segment II, and recommend possible modifications and/or conditions to avoid or minimize impacts. The Segment II (Hillsboro Inlet to Port Everglades) fill will be placed along beaches in southern Pompano Beach, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, and northern Fort Lauderdale. Segment II should subsequently start in June of 2006.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement addresses all of the concerns expressed by an assortment of official environmental watchdog agencies in response to the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement drawn in March, 2002. The Project has garnered the support of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), The Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection (DPEP), The National Marine and Fisheries Service (NMFS), The Florida Audubon Society, The Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District Regulatory Division (ACE), The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Florida Communities Trust (FCT), The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) and The Nature Conservancy.

### TIMELINE

Date	Project Progress
June 2004	Commence Segment III (Port Everglades to Broward/Dade County Line)
December 2004	Complete Segment III - 18 Month Monitoring Period starts
June 2006	18 Month Monitoring Period ends - Commence Segment II (Hillsboro Inlet to Port Everglades)

Examples of obstacles that surface in the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement released last April that were successfully addressed in the recently released Final Environmental Impact Statement are as follows:

1) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Division of Recreation and Parks, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) expressed concern regarding the negative impact of the construction of T-head groin structures upon sea turtle nesting success and hatchling behavior, and the potential public safety hazard to recreational beach users. Since initial consultation with the FDEP, the groin field at John U. Lloyd State Park was modified from eleven (11) T-head groins to three (3) groins: two T-head structures and one spur. Appropriate sea turtle protection measures will be implemented in Broward County to minimize impacts to sea turtle hatchlings. Of course, if the beaches are permitted to disappear, there will be NO NESTING HABITAT for sea turtles.

2) The FFWCC expressed concern that sand placement for the Broward County beach restoration project will result in the loss of nearshore hardbottom areas with dense coverage of marine macroalgae that has been identified as important foraging habitat for certain marine turtles.

Continued on page 11

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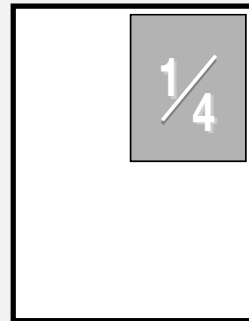
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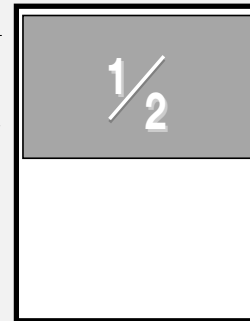
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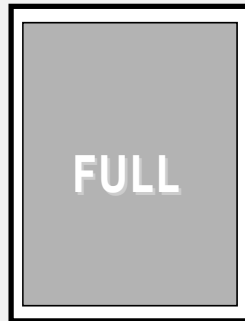
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## GENERAL INFO.

- All newsletters are black and white publications.
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- Images, such as logos and photos, must be formatted as an **EPS, TIFF, JPEG, or PDF**.
- Images, such as logos, which contain text, must be converted into paths.
- Must include all placed or nested images and fonts (Postscript/Type 1 only).
- Ad must be **Macintosh** formatted.
- Ad must be created in QuarkXpress, Adobe Photoshop, or Adobe Illustrator. Some Word Documents are acceptable.
- Images must be **high-resolution (with a minimum density of 300 DPI)** at final size).
- File cannot be saved with transfer functions or screening options checked.
- Make all checks payable to: Allison Weingard Muss and mail to 1661 Poinsettia Dr., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305.

## NEED ART?

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS AN ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT to ad placement costs.

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- All photos, logos, descriptive text, address, phone, and fax numbers will be client-supplied.
- Web and Internet addresses are optional.
- Photos may be provided, however, a hi-res digital file is preferred; all prints will be returned.
- When necessary, graphic treatments will incur extra costs.
- All ads created by the publication are and will remain the property of Allison Weingard Muss. If client would like to use the artwork in other publications, a user fee will be assessed.

## A FISCAL CHRONOLOGY...WHO DID WHAT, WHEN

The 168,000 residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale pay more taxes per person (\$570 in 2003) than any other large city in the State of Florida. A 3 year period of gross mismanagement has transformed a city with an \$18.3 billion tax base into a municipal basket case. On December 16th, the City Commission approved a package of tax & fee increases along with service cuts, layoffs and program freezes that stunned residents and employees alike. Contrary to appearances, this fiscal deterioration didn't occur overnight. Despite protests of surprise and shock by municipal representatives, the budget disaster we now face did not ambush Fort Lauderdale. City officials have had a ringside seat to a three-year fiscal mismanagement spectacle. They were not, however, spectators. They were participants. "How did we get here?" acting City Manager Alan Silva asked rhetorically. "As I have said many times, we had been living beyond our means." This is what happened...

**August, 1998** - Floyd Johnson was selected as city manager. Johnson's relationship with the City Commission was simple. The City Commission's job was to distribute tax revenues to the projects they supported. Johnson's job was to create a viable financial structure through which this could be accomplished. It was a simple arrangement, the City Manager wouldn't say "no" to any project or curb the financial outflow and the Commissioners would turn a blind eye to the fact that Johnson's budgets made no sense.

**July, 2000** - Johnson warned in a budget message that the City should be "more foresighted and strategic in our financial planning" and that "we have tended to be too incremental with some past decisions." Johnson elaborated, "We have prided ourselves on lowering taxes and holding utility rates steady; however, there are times when reasonable increases are prudent and this year requires such increases." No one, including Johnson, paid heed.

**Summer, 2001** - The City's new self-insured health plan showed a substantial jump in costs but nothing was done. Johnson and his top budget staff (Director Damon Adams, who retired last spring, and current Finance Director Terry Sharp) knew of the growing financial problems and repeatedly warned city commissioners by memo. Sharp, for example, spelled out in a November 2001 memo the possible loss in pension investments and sales tax revenue in the sluggish economy after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. However, at the end of nine pages of forecasts of economic downturn and talk of budget cuts, he concluded: "No action is requested at this time." He rated the severity of "fiscal stress" as "low."

**March, 2002** - Sharp states in a memo that water-sewer projects staff overtime and the city jail and stadium continue to sap money. Labor contracts, annexation, pension upgrades and insurance hikes were costing the city more and a health insurance deficit was looming. He recommended no budget cutbacks.

**Spring, 2002** - Commissioners and employees were told that the city's health insurance program was failing (the fund currently carries a \$6.5 million deficit); officials

acknowledged program mismanagement and longtime finance director Damon Adams retired.

**June, 2002** - City risk manager Scott Denham resigned, taking responsibility for the failed health insurance program. Simultaneously, Sharp warned that the City's contribution to the general employees' pension would jump \$4 million. He optimistically asserts that "The FY 2003 budget is tight but doable."

**September, 2002** - Commissioners approved a budget that included \$1.3 million towards restoring the City's self-insured health program, which had a negative balance of \$8.7 million that was expected to worsen. In the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (FY ending 9/30/2002), the Management's Discussion and Analysis states that "the City's insurance fund had assets of \$7.3 million but liabilities of \$22.4 million of which \$21.9 million represent estimated claim liabilities." Ironically, it continues, "The health plan has undergone major renovation" and "appears to be on a better financial track." The budget, not surprisingly, also included new expenditures. Commissioners raised taxes and fees, but excluded home-steaded property.

**April, 2003** - Commissioners are told the budget outlook is bad but no action is taken.

**June, 2003** - Johnson established a hiring, travel and purchasing freeze, and a ban on nonessential overtime.

**July, 2003** - Muni-war broke out. Johnson and Sharp announced an official deficit of \$5.4 million and that the city would run out of money before the end of the budget year. Commissioners denounce Johnson's budget and its proposed tax increase as a "shell game" of shifting funds with cuts in the most sensitive, and wrong, places. In response, Johnson vows to avoid layoffs. Retiree Alan Silva critiqued the budget, saying it is out of balance and "fiscally irresponsible" and that layoffs are needed.

**August, 2003** - Auditor Ernst & Young LLP confirmed that "the city's financial condition is deteriorating." Johnson writes a letter denying the city is in a crisis. He says a three-year economic downturn and the City Commission's failure to raise taxes high enough created the problems. The city's coffers are empty (about \$10 million in the hole) and its emergency savings depleted.

**September, 2003** - Commissioners ordered Johnson to resign or be fired. Then they passed a budget with higher taxes and fees, and cuts in services. (Johnson later agreed to quit.) However, Commissioners find out the budget they passed is not balanced and that major cuts are needed immediately. Moody's Investors Service placed Fort Lauderdale on a watchlist for possible reduction in its bond rating, an indicator of financial health.

**October, 2003** - Silva is selected to be interim city manager, working for free. He's told the city must start saving \$25,000 a day to avoid a deficit.

Continued on page 9



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Exemptions . . . Continued

### Proof of Permanent Florida Residence, all dated prior to 1/1/04:

- Florida Voter's Registration or Recorded Declaration of Domicile - **required**
- Florida's Driver's License ("Valid Only in Florida" license is not acceptable) - **required**
- Florida Car Registration - **required**
- Non U.S. Citizen must bring permanent Visa (Green or Pink Card) or Political Asylum Documentation and Recorded Declaration of Domicile - **required**

Note: it is generally against the law for a Florida resident to drive in Florida with an out-of-state license or tag if he/she claims Homestead Exemption (Sections 320.37 and 322.08 of the Florida Statutes).

The State mandated application form requires the following information for all owners living on the premises and filing.

- Current employers of all owners
- Addresses listed on last I.R.S. income tax returns
- Date of each owner's permanent Florida residence
- Date of occupancy for each property owner
- Social security numbers of all owners filing are recorded

Homestead Exemption does not transfer from property to property. If you had this exemption last year on another property and moved, you must file a new application for your new residence. Notify the Property Appraiser to cancel the exemptions on your former home. Property purchased during last year may show qualified exemptions of the seller. The sellers' exemptions will not carry over to this year; **you must apply for your own exemptions!**

The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office will conduct special taxpayer sign-up sessions for the 2003 Homestead Exemption and Senior Exemption at City Hall, the Beach Community Center, and various Homeowners and Civic Associations this November, December, January and February. The Appraiser's Office will send Deputy Appraisers to the meeting locations to assist members and new area residents with their property tax exemptions filings.

Beach Community Center (3351 NE 33rd Street) sign-up dates are:

- Friday, December 20, 2003 - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Friday, January 17, 2004 - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Friday, February 21, 2004 - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Note:** For those who cannot leave their home and need to file for Homestead Exemption, please call: 954-357-6830.

William Markham, the Broward County Property Appraiser, maintains a web site at "http://www.bcpa.net". Go to the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galtmile.com) to access the "Homestead and Other Exemptions" part of the Property Appraiser's Web Site. Please contact Bob Wolfe, Deputy Director of Community Services at 954-445-5732 or media@bcpa.net for further information.

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THIS MONTH AT-A-GLANCE

# FEB/MAR 2004

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	<b>2</b> GMCA President's Council Meeting 7:30 - 9 p.m.	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> to 2/15 42nd Street Broward Center for the Performing Arts Tix: 954-462-0222	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Florida Panthers vs. Montreal Canadiens Office Depot Center 7:30 p.m. Tix: 954-523-3309	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Florida Panthers vs. Pittsburgh Penguins Office Depot Center 7:30 p.m. 954-523-3309	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Commissioner Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 7 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	<b>17</b> Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Galt Mile Community Association Meeting Nick's Italian Restaurant 11 a.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Walk for the Animals Esplanade Park Registration: 8 a.m.
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Florida Panthers vs. Toronto Maple Leafs Office Depot Center 7:30 p.m. Tix: 954-523-3309	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Florida Panthers vs. Washington Capitals Office Depot Center 7:30 p.m. Tix: 954-523-3309	<b>28</b> Romeo and Juliet Broward Center for the Performing Arts 8 p.m. Tix: 800-741-1010
<b>29</b>	<b>1</b> GMCA President's Council Meeting 7:30 - 9 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 27th Annual Waterway Cleanup Info.: 954-524-2733

A LOOK AHEAD

March 10 Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Broward Center for the Performing Arts.  
Tix: 954-462-0222.

March 13 \$1 Million Florida Derby Gulfstream Park. 954-454-7000.

March 22 Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Broward Center for the Performing Arts.  
Tix: 954-462-0222.



Chronology . . . Continued

Standard & Poor's Rating Service changed its outlook to "negative," a warning of possible downgrade in the city's bonds. A lower bond rating makes it more expensive for a city to borrow money.

**December, 2003** - Commissioners made final the \$12 million in cuts Silva recommended, a decrease that would cut \$15 million out of next budget year's base. They also set aside \$2 million in reserves (enough to pay the bills for about 4 days - Alan Silva asked for \$10 million). They will reduce the workforce 6 percent, including layoffs for 50 employees, the first layoffs in almost a decade.

The City's finance officials consistently warned of impending budget troubles. Memoranda went to Commissioners, the Mayor and their staff personnel. Although memos were sent about the need to curb spending, raise taxes and plan for the future, finance officials never acted on their own advice. While official budget documents acknowledged the anticipated problems, no timely recommendations were made. Instead of setting aside additional cash for emergencies, officials ran through contingency funds (meant for "unanticipated demands after budget adoption"), reserve funds (meant only for extreme emergencies), one-time funds like grants or money that had been set aside to maintain roads and buildings. The "undesigned" fund balance dwindled from \$9 million in 2001 to nothing by early 2003.

While the Administration's Finance officials did nothing to stem the washout aside from mentioning it, the City Commission behaved as if there was no cause for concern, pointing to the anticipated increases in tax revenues from several large but incomplete real estate developments. It is unfathomable that City officials were oblivious to the downturn in the economy and how that would impact pension investments (\$96.7 million in losses last budget year in city employee pension funds required an additional City contribution of \$8 million), tax revenues (property taxes came in \$1.15 million short) and interest income (interest earnings plunged \$600,000 from expectations). Generous union contracts, a self-insured employee health insurance plan that leaked money like a sieve and a non-stop stream of porky municipal projects chewed through the paper thin reserves in a flash. City records show that in the last budget year the city dipped into its emergency cash to pay for a \$19,380 roundabout on Miami Road, \$137,000 for a Downtown Master Plan, \$45,000 for a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, \$12,366 to give the city manager a raise, and another \$946,101 to give all other managers raises. City Commissioners didn't pay serious attention to the collapse until pieces of plaster started falling on their heads. The self-insured health plan that the City implemented to save money paid rich benefits, with low employee contributions. The troubled program's deficit peaked at \$13 million and will cost the city \$2 million extra this year.

Continued on page 11

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Hello Wellfit Forum:

**I would like to start a workout routine, but I am unsure of what I should be doing to reach my personal goals. Do you have any suggestions? Thank you, Meaghan W., Rio Vista**

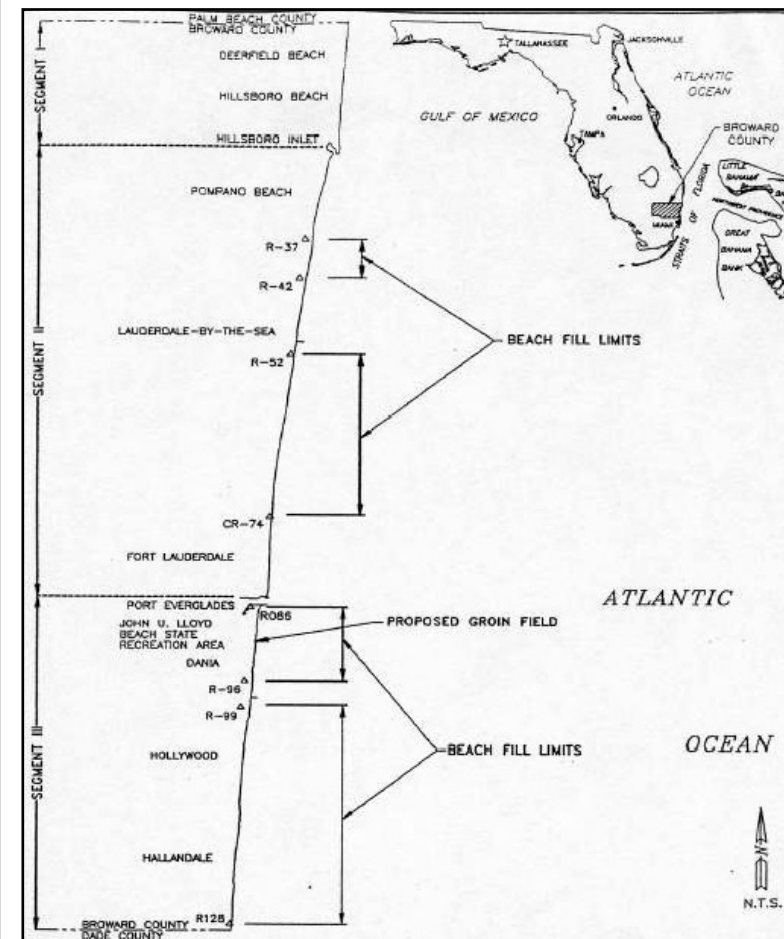
Hello Meaghan,  
The first suggestion is to know what your goals are. Is it to change your body composition (lower your fat percentage and increase your muscle), to tone or maintain where you are? All three of these may be your objective. You need to have a fitness facility that you feel good about, that way you will want to go back week after week. Get a full evaluation from a certified professional, and help them put together a customized program for you based on your fitness results and your short and long-term goals. Make sure your routine incorporates strength, cardio, flexibility and balance training throughout the week. Start slow if you need to and add on as you grow stronger. Do not over-do it, or you may get discouraged, and remember a healthy diet is a necessary part of the mix to reach your goals and keep them. Good Luck!

**I am a female in my mid-thirties and have been working out in the gym a few years. I drink 2-4 protein shakes a day or eat protein bars to help keep my muscles tone. I feel as though my body is at a stand still. Please help me get out of the rut I am in. Sincerely, Kristen L., Galt Ocean**

Hello Kristen,  
If you have not yet tried Pilates, you should. It may be a great compliment to your strength training routine. Pilates lengthens muscles as it strengthens them, and will help to counteract what weight bearing exercises can do, shorten muscles. Pilates also strengthens your core muscles (stomach and back) and improves posture, which in turn supports other exercises from running to lifting weight by giving you an easier, longer stride when in motion and better form when stationary on equipment. Also, please be aware of your protein intake. As a woman if you intake more protein than what your body needs, one of the negative effects is loss of calcium. Your body may pull calcium out of your bones to handle the excess protein. This can lead you down a path of brittle bones in later years.

Please send all questions or ideas to: [kellyfitness@bellsouth.net](mailto:kellyfitness@bellsouth.net) or fax 954-630-2212. WELLFIT Forum is made up of an Exercise Physiologist, Fitness Professional, an Athlete, a Nutrition Specialist and a Doctor. The WELLFIT Forum is a column developed for you, our readers, that answers questions regarding fitness, wellness, nutrition and health for adults and children.

Findings...Continued



Segments 2 and 3 Beach Fill Limits

A mitigation monitoring plan has been developed and accepted by the FFWCC and FDEP that involves long-term monitoring of the mitigation reefs to determine the replacement habitat value compared to the natural nearshore hardbottom.

3) The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) expressed concern that several issues related to project siting, impact assessment, mitigation proposals and economic analysis were not adequately addressed in the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Extensive interagency coordination and additional field investigations were conducted to address the issues raised by the NMFS. The NMFS has withdrawn their opposition to the project contingent upon the construction of 11.9 acres of mitigation reef and extensive project monitoring.

Every environmental impact raised by every mainstream environmental group has been thoroughly addressed and scrupulously responded to in this Final Environmental Impact Statement. It clearly demonstrates the Broward County plan to be safe and effective. It includes a comprehensive Cumulative Effects Assessment, a Biological Monitoring Program, turbidity monitoring, a Habitat Equivalency Analysis and a complete Nearshore Hardbottom Mitigation Plan and Shoreline Impact Analysis along with a Broward County Nearshore Hardbottom Fish Study.

There are, however, a small number of radical fringe groups that wouldn't mind seeing our beaches melt quietly into the sea. Some of these groups have political motives behind their opposition to save the beaches. Others have financial concerns. Most of them do not live here. They have a history of making completely irrelevant and unrealistic demands on Project Coordinators, such as their insistence that Florida beaches be completely rezoned prior to saving the beaches. Their stated intention is to delay and/or derail the widely supported effort to rescue Broward's eroding beaches.

The Army Corps of Engineers is currently in the process of finalizing the documents and permits that will allow Broward County to begin the renourishment of our beaches. The Final Environmental Impact Statement was first made available for public review on January 2, 2004. This review will be completed by February 2, 2004. During this month-long process, the Broward County community has the right to comment on the plan. Once the comments are all received, the Corps will issue a final Record of Decision.

Continued on page 15



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Chronology...Continued

The city's workers' compensation insurance fund needed a \$2 million boost and franchise fees from FP&L and People's Gas dropped \$475,000. The parks, police and fire departments collectively overspent their budgets by \$4.9 million, resulting in a two-year \$7.75 million "overtime" deficit.

To imply that intelligent elected political officials and experienced career bureaucrats were either distracted by a shell game, had the wool pulled over their eyes or were misled in any other way, shape or form is simply not credible. In fact, there is no credible explanation for this collapse. Vaudeville is commonly presumed to be dead...not in Fort Lauderdale!

Fort Lauderdale's Annual Operating Budgets and Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFR) are available on the internet. Go to the Galt Mile Community Association's Web Site ([www.galtmile.com](http://www.galtmile.com)) and surf to the Budget Page in the "Issues" section to familiarize yourself with the full impact of the Fort Lauderdale Budget Crisis. From there you can click to the City's Budget Page and access the Annual Operating Budgets from 1997 to the present. Acting City Manager Alan A. Silva's offices are located at 100 N. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 and his telephone # is 954-828-5013, Fax is 954-828-5021.

## WE HAVE A WINNER

REPRESENTATIVE ELLYN BOGDANOFF

Forty-four-year-old Ellyn Bogdanoff, political consultant from Fort Lauderdale, defeated Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Mayor Oliver Parker and five other fellow Republican candidates for the Florida Statehouse seat vacated by Connie Mack IV. Competing for the Florida House District 91 seat were: Parker; Bogdanoff; Kenneth Donald Cooper, an attorney; Jim Lewis, an attorney; Bruce McNeilage, a financial adviser; Julie Morrall, a former legislative aide; and Rich Paul-Hus, an electrical contractor and entrepreneur. The January 6th special election was her third attempt at elective office. In 1998, she vied unsuccessfully with Democrat Stephen Geller for a Hollywood Florida Senate seat. In 1996, she bowed to Miriam Oliphant in a race for the Broward School Board. The third time proved to be the charm.

Although all the candidates were Republicans, voters from any political party were allowed to cast ballots Tuesday because of a 1998 state constitutional amendment allowing open primaries. The district, which has among the highest property values in Florida, contains about 95,000 registered voters, a majority of which (about 53 percent) are Republicans. Many of the votes in Tuesday's election came from people who sent in their ballots by mail. Parker, McNeilage, Bogdanoff and Paul-Hus all used the nontraditional campaign strategy of helping voters request Absentee Ballots. The 10,845 votes cast represent 11% of the district's registered total. Because of the low voter turnout, the roughly 1,400 absentee ballots received heavily influenced the outcome.

The election was held in an environment of anticipatory angst, as Broward County's Interim Supervisor of Elections Dr. Brenda Snipes worked feverishly to avoid the myriad pitfalls that ultimately dethroned predecessor Miriam Oliphant. The election went smoothly until a computer problem threatened to mar Snipes' debut and Bogdanoff's eventual victory. During the final tally, with Bogdanoff and Parker in a dead heat and only one precinct still uncounted, the computer module containing the voting totals from the Pompano Beach Library precinct 13C failed. The actual voting machines that sourced the raw data were collected by the Broward County Sheriff's Office and transported to Dr. Snipes' Fort Lauderdale office to extract the results. A three-member canvassing board comprised of Broward Mayor Ilene Lieberman, County Judge Gary Cowart and Snipes confirmed the preliminary results as valid late Tuesday night.

The election was further clouded by the appearance of 137 flawed ballots that, although cast, do not count in the final totals. The flawed ballots, called "undervotes", stemmed from the "ATM-style" format utilized in the voting machines. To vote, one simply touched an area on a screen next to the chosen candidate's name. To finalize the selection after it was made, the voter had to press a button labeled "vote" located above the screen. When the voter leaves without depressing the button, the vote isn't recorded and, in turn, rejected. "Undervotes" were cast by voters who were either confused by the format or decided not to participate in the vote after arriving at the polls and scrutinizing the field of candidates. An additional 5 absentee ballots that weren't filled out properly were rejected. Three ballots were cast without a candidate having been selected and two more had every candidate in the field being chosen.

Glitches notwithstanding, Florida Secretary of State Glenda Hood on Wednesday praised the way the contest was handled. House District 91 generally runs along the coast from southeast Boca Raton to Dania Beach, east of Interstate 95. Seventy-four of the district's precincts are in Broward County, while four are in Boca Raton in Palm Beach County. Hood noted, "Broward County Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes, Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Theresa LePore and staff worked diligently to ensure a flawless election. The constituents of Broward and Palm Beach counties are well served by their preparedness and continued commitment to the democratic process."

The paper thin victory margin of 12 votes triggered a Statutory Recount, mandatory whenever there are diminutive winning margins. The recount took place on Thursday, supervised by canvassing boards in Broward and Palm Beach counties. It changed the vote total for only two candidates.

### Winner...Continued

Bruce McNeilage, who finished fourth, won an extra vote because officials found two absentee ballots stuck together in a box. Julie Morrall, who finished fifth, lost a vote when officials discovered one ballot was actually an overvote, as a tabulation machine misread a ballot in which the voter selected more than one candidate. By the end of the day, records still showed that Bogdanoff had defeated Oliver Parker by a 12-vote margin.

When Governor Jeb Bush suspended the scandal-plagued Miriam Oliphant as elections supervisor in late November, the office she managed was left in a state of disarray. Interim replacement Dr. Brenda Snipes used the six weeks before the election to reconstruct the decimated staff and purge the Broward County voters registration list of 60,000 names of those who either died or moved. She rehired key experienced staff personnel fired by Oliphant and re-established a working relationship with Broward County Government and Broward Sheriff Ken Jenne's office. With veteran Miami-Dade elections official Gisela Salas serving as her deputy, Dr. Snipes steered the election through an uneventful opening and maintained phone contact with county and state officials throughout the day to apprise them of her progress. The election was widely perceived as a successful effort.

Ellyn Bogdanoff, a mother of three, carries substantial political credentials. Currently Chairwoman of the Broward County Children's Services Board, an Advisory Board member of the Homeless Initiative Partnership of Broward County and a member of the East Broward Federated Women's Republican club, Representative Bogdanoff has served on the state's Elections Commission, the state WAGES program (as a Board Member), Governor Jeb Bush's transition team, the Children's Home Society Board of Directors, the District Advisory Council for the Broward County School District, the Fort Lauderdale Education Advisory Committee and the Human Rights Board of Broward County.

A Fort Lauderdale attorney, Bogdanoff is a Guardian ad litem, 17th Judicial Circuit and sits on the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors and Board of Directors. She's an advisory board member of the Enterprise Ambassador Program of Nova Southeastern University and a board member of JAFCO (Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options). She's also a foundation board member and former chairwoman of President Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanity of Broward County and the Broward Alliance. Bogdanoff served on the Women's Chamber of

Commerce of Broward County as a Charter Member, board member and chairwoman. She currently serves as a director of the Brighter Futures Foundation.

She was a partner in an independent insurance agency, Setnor Byer Bogdanoff, for 15 years. In 1997, Bogdanoff founded Enterprising Business Strategies, a consulting firm specializing in government relations, political and candidate support and corporate community strategies and relations. As such, she's played an active role in campaigns ranging from School Board to City Commission to the State Legislature. Her support for Boca Raton Mayor Steve Abrams during his unsuccessful state House campaign in 2000 may have been the key to her recent elective success. Abrams reciprocated by campaigning for Bogdanoff in this election. Despite there only being four District 91 precincts in Palm Beach County out of seventy-seven total precincts, more than half the 546 people who voted in the county chose her. This local landslide offset Parker's strong showing in his Lauderdale-by-the-Sea political backyard. Bogdanoff, a pro-choice moderate Republican, will represent the district at the March 2nd legislative session in Tallahassee. Shore Preservation, Fire Safety, Insurance Dogma ... her work is definitely cut out for her!

### FINAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidate	Votes	Percent (%)
Ellyn Bogdanoff	2,816	25.97 %
Kenneth Donald Cooper	489	4.51 %
Jim Lewis	506	4.67 %
Bruce W. McNeilage	1,514	13.96 %
Julie H. Morrall	995	9.17 %
Oliver Parker	2,804	25.86 %
Rich Paul-Hus	1,579	14.56 %
Flawed Undervotes	137	1.26 %
Flawed Absentee Votes	5	0.04 %

Continued on page 13

## CHIEF ROBERT EDGAR'S CRUSADE

Fort Lauderdale Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division Chief Robert Edgar has been a staunch advocate of defibrillators. Chief Edgar is intimately familiar with the unfortunate consequences that inevitably result from his EMS teams arriving a few precious minutes too late. The frustration that wears on an EMT unit from helplessly witnessing case after case of lives lost to ignorance and apathy requires a near limitless reserve of courage and hope. Courage to keep doing a job where death rides with you everywhere you go and hope that those whose lives are in your hands are getting the message. The message is defibrillators.

When Chief Edgar's EMTs are alerted to a "Sudden Cardiac Arrest" emergency, a person's life depends upon them winning a race with the clock. With each passing minute, the victim's survival rate decreases 7 to 10%. After 10 minutes from the onset of the incident, only 2% of the stricken victims survive. Chief Edgar realized early on that a healthy majority of the people he serves didn't understand that Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) kills more people than house fires, AIDS, firearms, prostate and breast cancer, and automobile accidents, COMBINED. It is one of the leading causes of death among American adults. The vast majority of the 250,000 lives lost to SCA each year in the United States would have been spared by access to an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).

Horror stories that proliferate in the media didn't work. Sterile informational pamphlets didn't work. Chief Edgar took it upon himself to go directly to the people living in the buildings under his protection to hammer home the message. "A defibrillator in your home is more likely to save your life than the fire extinguisher that you scrupulously maintain." He sent out representatives to neighborhood associations, condominium associations and homeowner associations attempting to stem the engrained technophobia, overcome the misconceptions surrounding liability and give perspective to the obvious benefits that accompany acquiring an AED. Everywhere his minions connect, they leave Association Board members, committee Chairpersons and building managers embarrassed for not implementing a surprisingly simple, inexpensive program capable of saving the lives of their constituents and their families. Few "in-house" projects yield so much for so little.

The Galt Mile community owes the Chief a debt of gratitude. His persistence has borne fruit. Since the inception of his efforts, almost half the member Associations of the Galt Mile Community Association have purchased defibrillators. While an AED can be used by almost anyone to save a life during an emergency, it is strongly recommended that several building residents and/or employees be trained and certified in the proper use and maintenance of the device. Aware that this could represent another roadblock to the correct implementation of a successful AED program, Chief Edgar has attempted to arrange training classes as part of the overall incentive to local Associations to equip their premises with these "medical fire extinguishers."

Continued on page 15



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### Crusade...Continued

The City of Fort Lauderdale is in the throes of a devastating fiscal crunch. As a result, many of the municipal programs will suffer withering cutbacks or disappear completely. The City, while low on funds, still has an abundance of expertise. Because of the partnership formed between the Galt Mile Community Association and Chief Robert Edgar's department, an AED program was developed that included certified AED/CPR training to be delivered at Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue's Training Facility. The first class was held in October and attended by 16 assorted Galt Mile residents, employees and Board members. Shortly thereafter it was discovered that Fort Lauderdale was broke. Chief Edgar explained apologetically that while the City doesn't currently have the resources to continue providing the certification training, he continues to support the effort to emplace defibrillators into each and every condo and coop. He also indicated that once these budget constraints have abated, Fire-Rescue would reconsider the training program.

Fortunately, the program is continuing through the use of alternative training resources. Many inexpensive private sources of AED/CPR training are available locally. The American Heart Association, the American Red Cross and others offer comprehensive training adjunctive to the implementation of an AED program. To obtain information about implementing a successful AED program, including training and liability, go to the Galt Mile Community Association Web Site. There is a comprehensive "AED" Page in the "Issues" section that also lists the different AEDs currently available on the market. They're inexpensive...they're easy to use (a child can operate an AED)...and they could save your life! Make sure that your building has one!

### Findings...Continued

This is your opportunity to be heard. Please exhibit your support for the plan to save our beaches. For more information and/or to demonstrate your support, contact Ms. Terri Jordan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019, phone: 904-232-1817, fax: 904-232-3442 or e-mail at Terri.L.Jordan@saj02.usace.army. Tell her that you support the Broward County Shore Protection Project to save our beach! Comments must be received within 30 days of publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register. That's February 2. Don't procrastinate. Please act now as we are currently one hurricane away from the beach disappearing forever! To learn more, or to send a supportive prepared e-mail that can be posted with a simple click, visit the Galt Mile Community Association Web site ([www.galtmile.com](http://www.galtmile.com)) and check the Shore Protection Page in the "Issues" section. The full text of the Final Environmental Impact Statement is available through links from the GMCA Web Site to the A.C.E. Web site.

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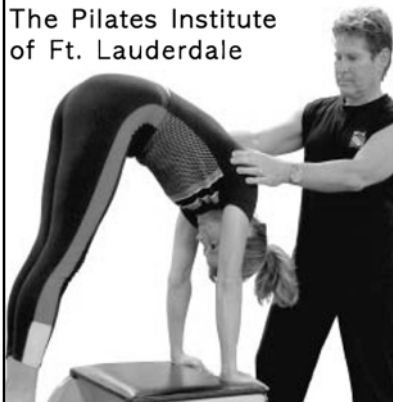
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# CODE AMNESTY PROGRAM COULD SAVE SAFETY AIDES!

One of the efforts that elevated Fort Lauderdale's reputation for public safety from spotty to sterling is the Public Safety Aides Program. This successful program is in danger of being either suspended or sacrificed in the "budget bonfire" ignited to restore the municipality's fiscal sanity. Every Public Safety Aide frees up one trained police officer to fight crime instead of answer phones. As part of Police Chief Bruce Roberts' \$6.4 million contribution to diminishing Fort Lauderdale's budget, the "Public Safety Aides" program was included in the package of cutbacks approved by the City Commission to relieve the severe budget imbalance. As hope springs eternal, the threatened program may yet exact a reprieve and survive the budget axe.

A deal was struck at the December 16th City Commission meeting to approve the emergency budget adjustments. In a clever attempt to kill several birds with one stone, the City is offering a Code Amnesty Program designed to raise the half million dollars needed to perpetuate the Public Safety Aides Program. Should the code amnesty program underperform, layoffs could loom in the spring.

Here's how it works. From February 1st to March 1st, any eligible property owner with an outstanding code enforcement fine or lien can settle their balance due by paying the City 25% of the debt's face value. There are, however, certain prerequisites to participation in this municipal 75%-off sale. In addition to owing outstanding fines or liens, the violated property needs to be currently in compliance with the City's code of ordinances. If the violation persists, the property is ineligible for the discount. Owners desirous of program participation need to effect repairs of the offending violation and secure an "all clear" from the building department. That's it...you're in!



Payments may be made with a personal check, cashier's check or money order payable to the City of Ft. Lauderdale (no cash or credit card payments will be accepted). Payments may be made in person Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the City's Community Inspections Division, located at 300 NW 1st Avenue. Payments may also be mailed to: City of Fort Lauderdale, Community Inspections Division, 300 NW 1st Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. **Payments that are mailed must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2004. Payments made in person must also be made no later than 4:30 p.m. March 1, 2004.** Once the amnesty period ends, outstanding code enforcement fines and liens will revert back to 100% and will be aggressively collected using every means available to the City, including foreclosing on properties.

The benefits derived of this program's success are manifold. Procrastinating property owners have a substantial incentive to secure participation in the discount program and "fix" their safety violations. Whenever this occurs, our world becomes a little safer. The benefit to "violated" property owners is self-evident and substantial (75% off is a BIG discount). The program's central mission is to bring in enough dollars to bridge the budget gap that threatens to swallow Fort Lauderdale's heretofore successful Public Safety Aides Program.

Property owners who think they may be eligible, or have any questions about the Code Fine Amnesty Program, are encouraged to contact the City's Community Inspections Division at (954) 828-5207. To further investigate the full extent of the budget crisis, go to the "Issues" section of the Galt Mile Community Association Web site ([www.galtmile.com](http://www.galtmile.com)) and click on "Budget Bust."



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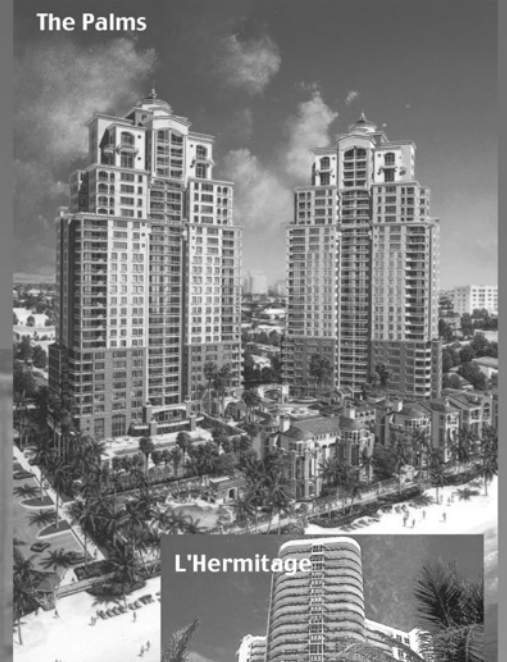
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