



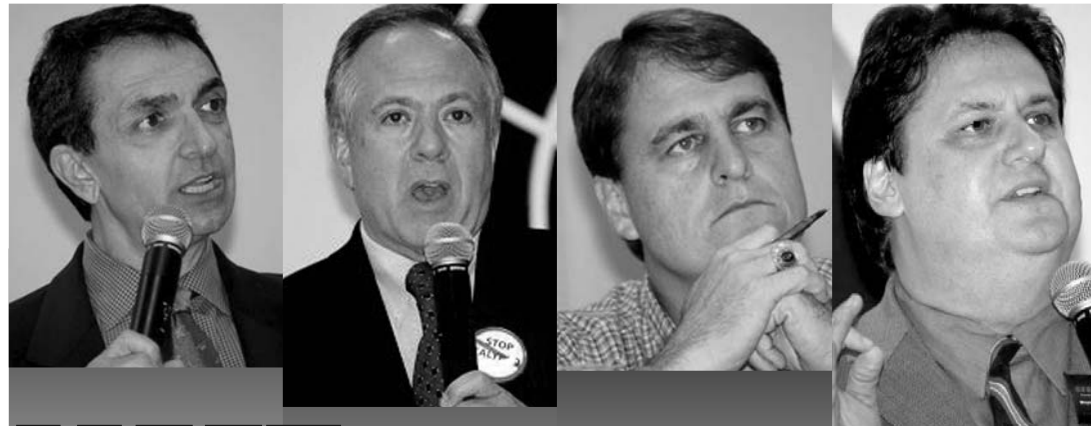
# The Galt Mile News

"An Official Publication of the Galt Mile Community Association"

December 2008

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## MEET the PLAYERS

By Eric Berkowitz

On October 22nd, The Galt Mile Community Association sponsored an event to assist local residents ascertain the electability of the current crop of aspirants to those municipal offices most relevant to the Galt Mile neighborhood. Most Fort Lauderdale residents know little or nothing about many of the candidates running for City seats. Scheduled at the Beach Community Center, Galt Mile residents were afforded the opportunity to meet the four mayoral hopefuls and the three candidates vying for the District 1 Commission seat. Half of the participants enjoyed the politically competitive advantage of name recognition, enabling them to punctuate promises with a track record and opinions with experience. The others embraced the opportunity to introduce themselves to those they mean to govern.

Four men are running for the seat soon to be vacated by Mayor Jim Naugle. Representative Jack Seiler is a well respected term-limited Statehouse veteran whose remarkable talent for weaving homespun logic with legal acuity made him one of the few real Democratic players in Republican Tallahassee. He also has some relevant previous experience, formerly serving as Mayor of Wilton Manors. Former District 2 City Commissioner Dean Trantalis is a nose-to-the-grindstone attorney who effortlessly toggles sensitivity and passion to achieve consensus. Less well known are Earl Ryner, a former Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and San Francisco Human Services Commissioner who owns and operates a specialty tile & stone company called CLAD Tile & Stone. Fort Lauderdale Attorney Steve Rossi is a former FBI Agent whose citywide bus bench advertisements ripened into an arguably prurient cam-

paign slogan – "Sit on my Face."

The District 1 Commission seat is also up for grabs. Incumbent Christine Teel is a work-a-holic former nurse whose bi-weekly Pre-agenda meetings were precursor to hundreds of neighborhood improvements. After 35 years of honorable service on the Fort Lauderdale Police Force, Former Chief of Police Bruce Roberts apparently decided to trade 5 bosses for 30,000 bosses, opting to pursue the District 1 Commission seat. Rounding out the field was newcomer Attorney Inger Garcia, a former Assistant State Attorney who interned in Miami for Janet Reno before she became the nation's legal bellwether.

### Fixing the Format

The format was simple. Notice of the event was sent to member associations. Included in the notice was an email address to which residents were encouraged to send questions and/or topics for the candidates. Altogether, 73 residents sent 124 questions and/or topics, mostly by email. 41 were eliminated as non-responsive, although rife with colorful vulgarity. The 83 remaining questions were separated into topics (neighborhood improvements, tax policy, city and/or local events, beach renourishment, municipal services, etc.). The questions were also sorted as appropriate for mayoral or Commission candidates, although many fit both categories. Questions from those topics most heavily weighted were selected. Although certain

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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.

### Environment First!

Our commitment to quality air and water must be included in today's new imperative — leading the race for renewable resources. We must preserve our open spaces and set a path for new greenways. Change requires bold initiatives.

### Embrace Diverse Cultures!

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Candidates...Continued

critically important issues were neglected due to statistical insufficiency, our primary commitment was to insuring that the questions reflected our neighbors' concerns.

An introductory preface was composed for each question to add perspective and help clarify its rationale for the benefit of the candidates and the audience. None of the questions were released prior to the event. Candidates were seated alphabetically, questions were selected randomly and first responders were subject to a rotation, insuring that each candidate was afforded the opportunity to answer some question first and some question last.

GMCA President Pio Ieraci acted as moderator, posing questions from a podium facing the candidates seated on stage. Riviera's Franci Bindler and Plaza South's Terry Claire were the official timekeepers, holding up a green flag to start responding, a yellow flag to alert speakers that they had 15 seconds to complete their answer and a red flag accompanied by a bell signaled expiration of their 3 minute response allocation. Rose Guttman of Ocean Club organized the refreshments and Playa del Mar's Fred Nesbitt brought "No Calypso" buttons for distribution. By the 6:30 PM start time, about 120 residents, candidates and public officials braved an intermittent downpour to attend the event. The District 1 Commission candidates constituted the first panel. Among the local residents and invited candidates were public officials and candidates for an assortment of other elective seats.

### District One Commission Aspirants

Addressing the candidates, Ieraci pulled the first question from a blind box and read the preface, "At a July 14th presentation at the Beach Community Center, City Manager George Gretsas described a series of local Master Plans for neighborhoods throughout the city that reflect the vision of those communities' residents. Enshrining a community's aesthetic, structural, greenspace and zoning objectives into a well designed architectural Master Plan is the most effective protection against developmental anomalies in building height, density issues, connectivity, traffic flow and other developmental concerns described in questions contributed by Galt Mile residents. At a recent meeting with GMCA officials, the City Manager agreed to commence the long, arduous process to develop such a plan for the Galt Mile Community." Turning to Attorney Inger Garcia, who topped the alphabetical rotation, Pio asked, "What potential improvements can you identify as most beneficial or critically important to a Master Plan for this community?"

Garcia said that since the beach is the heart of the Galt Mile community, a Master Plan should capitalize on it as a "tourism benefit". She recommended marketing the resource through the city's promotional apparatus, targeting vacationers and new businesses. Stating that our coastal asset should be "built out," she explained "We need to use our beach to attract

more business to the area." After suggesting that the Master Plan feature "more security," Garcia added "and transparency" — presumably referring to the public workshops that serve as vehicles for conceptual input.

Next in the rotation, former Chief Roberts asked "Why did it take so long? The Galt Mile should have had a Master Plan by now. The Plan should dove-tail with the existing Galt Ocean Village Shoppes plan executed almost six years ago." In addition to the streets familiar to condo owners, areas such as Bermuda/Riviera would be included. Identifying the neighborhood's current lack of a Master Plan as a crippling disadvantage, Roberts admonished, "A Master Plan would enable us to exploit improvement opportunities from State and County projects such as the upcoming FDOT A1A resurfacing." To punctuate the Plan's importance, Roberts pointed out that Lauderdale-by-the-Sea was able to share in FDOT funding to beautify their segment of the "Ocean Highway." The Galt Mile product would have to blend seamlessly with the existing City and County Comprehensive Plans.

Finally, Commissioner Christine Teel rang in, reminding the audience that the Galt Ocean Village Shoppes Plan was released simultaneously with Fort Lauderdale's fiscal collapse in 2003. She was instrumental in attracting Il Lugano, whose developer donated the significant improvements on 34th Street which were taken from the plan. Until a change in corporate policy induced their withdrawal from South Florida, the Commissioner was working with developer Opus South to make improvements near their La Reserve property, including to the Fire Station and along 32nd Street. To initiate the new Master Plan, she anticipates holding vision workshops similar to the design charrettes she conducted for the Galt Ocean Village Shoppes Plan. She also noted that our timing is fortunate. Since the FDOT A1A project is scheduled for 2011, the Community has ample time to complete any regulatory groundwork prior to its necessity. She also warned that area zoning limits "give property owners the opportunity to build very tall buildings."

Ieraci read the second question preface, "The Galt Mile Community Association has been engaged in a struggle to renourish our disappearing beach for nearly a decade. To overcome each obstacle, the neighborhood association formed an alliance with City and County officials to insure the project's implementation. In the upcoming year, we will need the cooperation of the State Department of Environmental Protection to convince the Governor and the Cabinet to green light the remaining Segment II component which impacts the beaches from John U. Lloyd State Park to the Hillsboro Inlet - including the Galt Mile Beach."

Directing the second question first to Chief Roberts, he asked, "Are you willing to travel to Tallahassee next year to testify on behalf of rehabilitating our critically eroded beaches and how will you otherwise support the Broward Beach renourishment project?"

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# ENVIRONMENTAL HONCHO BLASTS CALYPSO PROJECT

By Eric Berkowitz

At the 1:30 PM City Commission Conference meeting of May 20, 2008, the Commissioners familiarized themselves with the issues surrounding the agenda items scheduled for the 6 PM Regular Meeting later that evening. After a discussion about replacing the Air-Sea Show with an annual music festival operated by an outfit called Live Nation, Commissioner Christine Teel requested that the Commission consider supporting the Galt Mile's opposition to the Calypso LNG deepwater port just off the Galt Mile Beach. When Commissioner Teel pointed out that several Galt Mile residents were in attendance, Mayor Naugle asked them to summarize their concerns.

Bill Claire from Plaza South and Fred Nesbitt from Playa del Mar joined Chris Chiari in detailing a litany of reasons why the gasworks represented a catastrophic threat to people living in Barrier Island communities and an unfunded mandate for every local taxpayer. They warned the Commission about a new law that allows municipal resources to be involuntarily pressed into service at the behest of the facility owner – a foreign corporation. The cost is passed on to taxpayers. After remarking, "It's the dumbest place in the world to put this thing – next to a heavily populated area," Mayor Naugle invited attending Suez officials to respond. Calypso General Manager Dan McGinnis introduced Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center Executive Director, Dean Richard Dodge, who said "I've worked with Tractebel for many years on environmental issues and concerns and find them to be conscientious. They located the deepwater port in the selected area to minimize environmental damage. There would be minimal impairment of the view." Incredibly, he then remarked, "As to explosions, I would trust their assessment. You should treat them with respect." Although Dean Dodge is a well-respected academician, Commission eyebrows were raised when he went awry of his field and recommended that the Commissioners blindly believe that a foreign company is more interested in the City's residents than the Suez balance sheet.

Tractebel is the Suez subsidiary that sponsored the Calypso Pipeline Project and planned building the adjunctive deepwater port in Grand Bahama Island. When Bahamians learned about the project dangers, they overwhelmed the government bureaucrats that initially agreed to the LNG facility, forcing its rejection. When Suez was refused permission to build the Bahamian facility, the project was moved here.

Nova faculty member Dr. Amy C. Hirons spoke next. She said she was asked by Nova to investigate the project's possible effect on zooplankton and ichthyoplankton. From her dealings with Suez, she believes that "they are open, accepting of scientific recommendations, forthcoming and willing to meet the needs of the fishing community." She said "As the chief scientist, I can say that there is a negligible impact to the hardbottom community, as indicated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which we acquired from the Coast Guard."

Commissioner Carleton Moore told her that the EPA sent a team of scientists to evaluate the Wingate Coal plant because it heavily polluted the surrounding area. He asked if Nova filled that role, were they "asked by the government to investigate on behalf of citizens?" She answered, "I'm a completely independent research scientist." Still curious about her motivation, Moore then asked the source of Nova's involvement. When Hirons responded, "We were contracted by Suez," Moore smiled and shook his head, stating "so you are paid by the operator, thank you very much, that's all I wanted to know." At the 6:00 PM Regular Commission Meeting that followed, the City Commission passed a resolution opposing the Calypso Project.

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## The Galt Mile News

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

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Candidates...Continued

Roberts retorted, "I'll travel to Tallahassee and Washington D.C." The former Police Chief complained about the dilatory pace of the project, asserting that he would "move it along more quickly" by forging new relationships. He said he has been watching the beach wash away for decades, threatening area tourism and the ancillary businesses.

Commissioner Teel reviewed her project-related travels, "I've joined community activists traveling to Tallahassee several times. Wearing red t-shirts lettered with the message 'Save Broward Beaches' we successfully testified before the Governor and the Cabinet, securing the inclusion of Fort Lauderdale into the project." She also described traveling to Washington DC and New York on behalf of the Broward Beach Renourishment Project. She explained, "While the city is 100% behind the beach fix, it is a county function. The relationships developed with the Broward Beach Administrator and the Galt Mile Community Association have brought the project to within a year or so of completion. When we get the call next year, we will all climb aboard the jet once again and fly to the Capitol."

Attorney Inger Garcia also promised to attend the Cabinet meeting in Tallahassee. "I fly to Tallahassee all the time. Last year I flew around the State with a group that argued for citizens and Representative Julio Robaina. We collected input from condo owners and helped promote their interests." Insisting that she would do whatever was necessary to advance the project's success, Garcia said, "I would do what you want, I am just a conduit." Acknowledging the critical importance of a viable beach, Garcia exclaimed, "I am 1000% behind this project."

President Ieraci set the stage for the final question to the Commission panelists, stating, "Recently, a growing disconnect between Fort Lauderdale's beachfront communities and the State Department of Environmental Protection has become increasingly controversial. After issuing a prohibition against effectively clearing the shoreline of beach hazards, organic waste and a shipwreck until turtle nests washed out by storms could be located and marked, DEP officials told the Nova volunteers assigned to the task that since the season was almost over, there was little reason to expedite the project. What should have taken a week to ten days was prolonged for almost a month."

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# COMMISSIONER KEN KEECHL'S CORNER

*weeks uncovered that animal carcasses were left rotting in maggot-infested bags for days, habitual food shortages, shelter employees set aside dogs with high resale value for friends and/or profit, pharmaceutical stockpiles were left unlocked (in violation of state standards) and workers didn't check for microchip implants, tattoos and other identifying elements ordinarily used to reunite pets with their owners. Keechl's illumination of agency misdeeds also established cause for the Broward Sheriff's Office to pursue animal abuse complaints against three shelter workers.*

*Events quickly unraveled. Exclaiming "It is horrendous, this kind of stuff cannot be tolerated," County Commissioner John Rodstrom threatened to ask for an independent audit to monitor the shelter's progress. Acting as a whistleblower, a 56 year-old animal care specialist at the shelter, Julia Brown, filed a complaint with the county on June 27th. With encouragement from former County Administrator Pam Brangaccio, Animal Care Division Director Rick Richter took medical leave September 14th after announcing his intention to retire in December. Responding to a seven-page September 19th investigative report, acting director Beth Chavez (Richter's interim replacement who was subsequently appointed as Director of the Broward County Community Services Department) instituted a two-day pet adoption hiatus, boosted inadequate food supplies and promised immediate policy reforms.*

*Under attack by the County Commission, the employees, the Sheriff and a battery of animal activists, Broward's Animal Care Division could only regain credibility through a thorough vetting by an independent authoritative agency. On February 27, 2008, the Broward County Commission agreed in an 8-0 decision to pay \$30,000 to the National Animal Control Association (NACA) for an independent assessment of the department. Although Commissioners debated whether the county should consider a "no-kill" policy for its two animal shelters, the issue died when a proposal to table the item until the commission's next meeting was deadlocked by a 4-4 vote.*

*In May of 2008, the NACA released a comprehensive "Program Evaluation Report," which covers Service Delivery Area, Administration, Communications, Shelter Operations, Field Operations, Occupational Safety Procedures, Licensing, Employee Attitude, Community/Interagency Relations and a Proposed Implementation Plan. On page 1 of the introduction, NACA states that the "Broward County Animal Care and Regulation Division was not able to provide the Study Team with all the data required to provide a detailed analysis" and "the Animal Care staff provided most of the data utilized in this study." Although the agency's defunct administration had already been discredited in the public eye, the report appeared to confirm that a majority of the benefits provided to the community by this agency were due to the workers, not their management.*

*The Broward County Animal Care and Regulation Division has been reborn. It now operates in the humane rational manner that everyone mistakenly thought it had all along. This is only true because Commissioner Keechl decided to expose and clean up a disgraceful embarrassment in his county government back yard instead of sweeping it under the nearest rug. In his November Newsletter, he deservedly takes credit for cleaning up the agency and more importantly, keeping his word. - [editor]*

## "Fixing Broward County's Animal Control Program"

By Broward County Commissioner Ken Keechl

When you elected me to be your County Commissioner, I made several important promises to you. First, I promised never to raise your property tax rate. Second, I promised to be an environmentally sensitive, business-friendly Broward County Commissioner. As my voting record indicates, I have kept those promises.

But I made another important promise to you as well. I promised to be your eyes and ears while serving as your County Commissioner. I promised to be responsive to your concerns. If something was wrong at the County level, I promised to investigate it and, if possible, remedy it.

With that last promise in mind, I would like to utilize this month's article to update you with regard to an appalling situation that several of you brought to my attention: alleged animal abuse and incompetency at Broward County's animal shelters.

Last year, I received a number of emails and phone calls from residents of Lighthouse Point, Fort Lauderdale, Wilton Manors, and Oakland Park regarding a local news program's "exposé" of alleged animal abuse practices at our shelters. Two employees, acting as "whistleblowers", alleged that Broward County was allowing unacceptable practices to occur at our shelters.

As an animal lover and owner, I was skeptical. Animal abuse at our own taxpayer funded shelters? Unthinkable. Nevertheless, I reviewed the transcript of the television program and demanded an immediate in-house investigation. The in-house investigation revealed numerous appalling practices including: euthanizing cats in front of other cats; mistreating animals by a few employees who inflicted unnecessary pain and utilized unnecessary force; improperly estimating the amount of euthanizing drugs because of the lack of scales; improperly utilizing expired drugs; failing to use sufficient diligence when examining impounded animals for traceable identification; and the improper handling of deceased animals.

To say that I was (and still am) appalled was an understatement. While I believed the in-house investigation to be thorough, I nevertheless demanded an outside review of Broward County's entire Animal Care & Regulation Division by a nationally recognized program: the National Animal Control Association (NACA). My colleagues on the County Commission unanimously agreed. I am pleased to report that the outside review

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\* Broward commissioner Ken Keechl's November 2008 Newsletter summarizes the outcome of his investigation into animal abuse in shelters operated by the Broward County Animal Care and Regulation Division (ACaRD). After reading the transcript of a television news segment intimating that the County sponsored an agency practicing institutional torture, Commissioner Keechl launched an aggressive defense of its four-legged victims. On June 12, 2007, WSVN investigative reporter Carmel Cafiero interviewed two workers at Broward County's animal shelter. They revealed how the division compensates for the lack of equipment required to humanely euthanize animals.

The standard dosage of sodium pentobarbital is 1cc (one cubic centimeter) per 10 pounds of body weight. Without scales, workers were forced to guess dogs' weights when calculating the lethal doses of pentobarbital or "blue juice". When they underestimated the animal's weight, the resulting inadequate dosage required "the animal getting stuck three to four times" with the toxic cocktail, an agonizing experience. They were forced to perform feline executions in full view of the other cats. Since no one bothered to repair or replace their broken crematorium, plastic bags stuffed with canine cadavers were taken to the Central Disposal Landfill off Sample Road near Florida's Turnpike three times per week. However, since a lack of stethoscopes precluded workers from verifying if their victims' hearts had stopped; the bagged animals heading for the landfill may not have always been dead.

When shelter director Rick Richter was asked about the lack of scales, stethoscopes, a functional crematorium and other equipment necessary for effecting humane euthanasia, he appeared surprised, casually exclaiming, "Well, then we need to get some for them." Despite a rule in the county training manual that states, "Keep all other animals both dead and alive out of the euthanasia room," Richter maintained that "The County believes it is OK to kill cats in front of other cats," rationalizing that it somehow reduces the animal's stress!

Understandably shaken, Keechl surmised that he wasn't facing a ring of sociopathic zoosadists, just a dysfunctional bureaucracy afflicted with inept leadership operating in an accountability vacuum. Further exploration by the County Commission over the next few

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Keechl...Continued

is now completed, and the Commission convened a special two hour workshop in late October to deal exclusively with the recommendations of NACA.

NACA's report is extensive and eye-opening. It can be viewed at [www.broward.org/animal](http://www.broward.org/animal). Space limitations preclude me from discussing the report's findings and recommendation in detail. But suffice it to say that many of the problems outlined above were confirmed, and others were uncovered.

Because of your concerns, these appalling practices have been stopped, people have been fired, and, in one case, the State Attorney's office was notified. Because of your concerns, Broward County's Animal Control Program is on its way to becoming the type of program Broward's residents (and their pets) deserve.

Much progress has been made, and I believe this unfortunate episode is behind us. Again, as your County Commissioner, I am your eyes and ears at the Broward County Commission level. If something needs fixing, let me know. Remember, I work for you.

My best to you and your families,  
**Broward County Commissioner**  
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Candidates...Continued

Many Galt Mile residents that supported the Agency's mission to rescue turtle nests were enraged by the callous disregard with which local agency officials treated the beachfront community. Similar sentiments were raised last year when DEP refused to wait until Fort Lauderdale installed turtle-safe lighting before forcing DOT to deliberately darken the city beach for months - skyrocketing the crime rate. Nevertheless, we need DEP's support to insure Tallahassee's cooperation with the impending beach renourishment."

Following a round of applause from the audience, he asked Commissioner Teel, "Since political pressure applied to balance the needs of sea turtles with the needs of beachfront residents could conceivably alienate the FDEP at a time that we need their support to rescue our disappearing beach, what strategy would you recommend to address this 'Catch 22' dilemma?"

Commissioner Teel admitted that the city passed the Turtle-safe lighting ordinance because they supported the Agency's objective to rescue an endangered species. She was surprised to discover that some DEP officials "seem to care more about turtles than about people." Pointing out that these decisions are State and County domain, she said "Some Agency officials repeatedly failed to exhibit common sense." Despite the DEP levied nest-marking prerequisite to adequately cleaning the beach, Nova volunteers were told that there was little need to expeditiously mark the nests, inflaming the controversy. After observing that a shipwreck joined the garbage collecting on the beach for a month, Teel and City Manager Gretsas arranged an on-site meeting with local DEP officials to elicit a special permit allowing a specialty contractor to demolish the shipwreck and clear the beach. Summarizing the endgame, Teel said, "Within 48 hours the evacuation was completed for \$900 - paid by the city - instead of the \$10,800 quoted by the regular vendor."

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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.

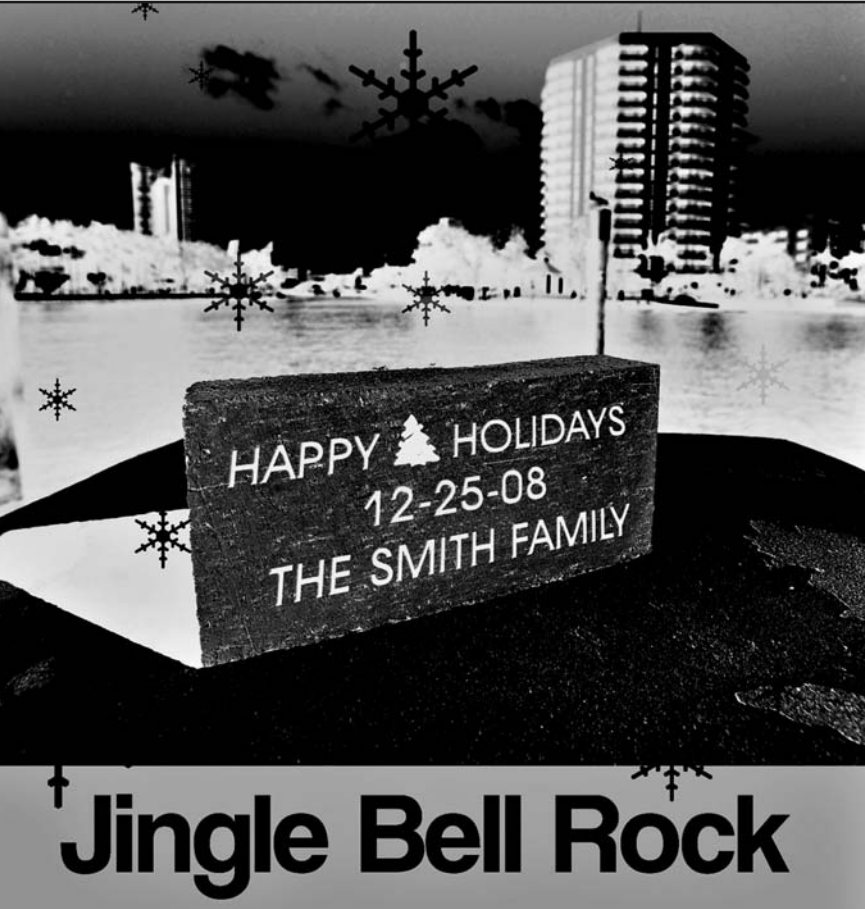
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Alluding to Turtle-safe light shielding created and affixed to city lamps in the Fort Lauderdale beach area to comply with the ordinance, Commissioner Teel explained that the City asked if the shields would address Agency concerns. The DEP representative answered, "After you manufacture and install them throughout the neighborhood, we'll tell you if they are acceptable." Although perturbed by the vindictive indifference demonstrated by Agency officials, she recommended that we mobilize the Broward Legislative Delegation to act as a go-between.

Inger Garcia described a multi-step plan. First, she recommended enlisting civic volunteers to clean the beach. Secondly, she would solicit input from the police to better demonstrate to DEP the significant safety hazard (resulting from insufficient lighting). State Representatives can also be recruited to help negotiate a balance between the two issues. She intimated that traveling to Tallahassee may help facilitate some resolution. Garcia reinforced that her actions would reflect the wishes of the community.

Bruce Roberts characterized the dilemma as "a bureaucratic mess." Although he agreed with Teel and Garcia that we need some plan to insure that both issues are effectively addressed, he admitted to having no simple answer. After contending that this would require an exercise in diplomacy, Roberts asserted that better communication would be a positive consequence of new relationships. He recalled an earlier incident involving refugees that was also clouded by jurisdictional confusion.

He was referring to a raft carrying 10 Cuban refugees that landed on the Galt Mile Beach behind Regency Tower and Playa del Mar on November 30, 2004. City police were caught in a jurisdictional squeeze between Federal and State authorities. A litany of agencies with overlapping jurisdictions including the Coast Guard, Homeland Security, Customs Enforcement, State Police, Border Patrol, Immigration, etc showed the local police with conflicting directions. During the bureaucratic in-fighting and a media feeding frenzy, Roberts kept order. Pursuant to "The 1996 Cuban Adjustment Act", since the undocumented Cuban migrants made it to land, they were permitted to stay in the country and

work. Had they been intercepted at sea, however, they might have been returned to Cuba.

### Q & A Meltdown

Pio Ieraci called on the four residents who earlier submitted requests to directly question the candidates, two of whom responded. President Martin Glazer of Southpoint Condominium asked Inger Garcia how Grayson Walker was affiliated with her campaign. Garcia responded that he was her campaign Treasurer. Glazer then asked if she was involved with a newsletter in which the Galt Mile was repeatedly characterized as a hotbed of criminal activity by condominium boards. She answered, "I write my own column dedicated to helping condo owners know their rights." She added, "My opinions aren't his (Mr. Walker's), I am not responsible for anything he writes." Glazer retorted, "Do you believe that all Board Members are crooks?" Ms. Garcia responded "Of course not," clarifying that she advocates transparency for associations.

Michael Katz, another Southpoint Board member, asked Ms. Garcia how she feels about people who deliberately incur unnecessary legal expenses in Southpoint. Since neither Katz nor Garcia explained the rationale for his question, most onlookers surmised that they were addressing either personal or association-specific issues. He also asked if she believed that misusing the law was OK. Garcia reservedly answered, "No, I do not think that misusing the law is OK."

### Meet the Mayors

After thanking the Commission Candidates, President Pio Ieraci welcomed the four mayoral aspirants. Prefacing the first question, he stated, "Every major Metropolitan area in South Florida is struggling to maintain services while balancing recessionary budgets strained by diminishing resources. Cities are in competition for police and fire-rescue officers, administrative personnel, technical expertise and other facets of a municipal workforce. However, pension funds that guarantee staff from 60% to 67% of their salaries for life after 20 years of service will bankrupt the city in less than a decade. Although the City Manager has recently made some progress in controlling these unsustainable expenses during the last round of contract negotiations, the skyrocketing growth rates of healthcare and pension benefits can only be supported by huge tax increases. Alternatively, we could face bankruptcy like California cities Vallejo, San Diego or Rialto - which were similarly crippled by burst real estate bubbles."

Addressing Attorney Steve Rossi, he asked, "How can the city keep pace with these runaway pension and healthcare costs without cutting critical services or taxing its residents into oblivion?" Rossi responded "We've got to stem the flight of seasoned police and Fire-Rescue officers from the City of Fort Lauderdale." Expressing concern about the adequacy of the current level of police and Fire-Rescue services, Rossi exclaimed, "If the City can't afford to pay whatever it takes to keep trained officers here, we will just have to raise taxes."

Businessman Earl Rynerson disagreed, insisting that "City Budget and pension costs are out of control. With the values of our homes and businesses way down, we can't afford to subsidize unnecessary expenses." Seeking to measure the City's fiscal behavior against comparably sized municipalities, Rynerson said "Every year, our 175,000 residents pay more in taxes. Other cities that are the about the same size experience budget growth of about 2% to 4%. We do less with more, as our budget jumps 10% annually, almost doubling the budget over the past decade despite a stable population." He castigated the City Commission for having just approved a 5% salary increase for managerial personnel (non-union municipal employees whose pay was not adjusted in the recently completed contract negotiations). Promising to rid the City of what he called "additional layers of bureaucracy," Rynerson said, "I will review the entire municipal workforce to determine whether positions are critical to the function of the City."

Continued on page 11

Representative Jack Seiler views the budget as a critical issue. Affirming his budgeting credentials, Seiler said that he was an integral part of the team in Tallahassee responsible for reducing the \$72 billion State budget to \$64 billion. However, of all the critical expenses facing the city, Seiler said "Law Enforcement and Fire-Rescue deserve priority." While acknowledging the importance of trimming the budget whenever possible, Seiler pointed out the need to balance any savings realized by cutting corners against the cost of recruitment and training. "Of all the City's responsibilities," Seiler said, "Maintaining well trained Police and Fire-Rescue services is the number one job. The City mustn't sacrifice safety and security to the budget."

Former Commissioner Dean Trantalis took issue with Seiler's evaluation, exclaiming "We aren't in danger of losing our police and Fire-Rescue personnel. We are competitive with other cities facing similar budgeting pressures. In fact, we must change the process." Trantalis insisted that the City's current fiscal priorities are unsustainable, complaining that "70% of our tax bill is already dedicated to fund police and Fire-Rescue services." He disparaged the City's inordinate reliance on property taxes for revenues, promising "I will ramp up efforts to bring new business into Fort Lauderdale. By strengthening the Economic Development unit's agenda, we can reduce the burden on homeowners by broadening the tax base."

Detailing an issue that stirred unparalleled community controversy, Pio Ieraci explained, "Oceanfront communities have registered overwhelming opposition to the proposed 18-story Calypso gasworks planned just off the Galt Mile beach. Municipalities including Pompano Beach, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and the City of Fort Lauderdale have joined the Galt Mile Community Association, the Lauderdale

Continued on page 13

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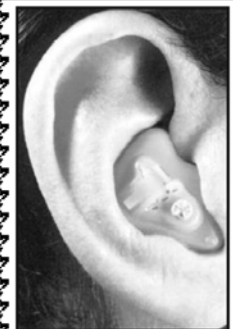
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Galt Mile Community Assoc. Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Residence (yrs) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Home) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
City **Ft. Lauderdale** State **FL** Zip **33308** Phone (Work) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (if different from above:) \_\_\_\_\_

BASIC PACKAGE COVERAGE		SERVICE OPTIONS	
Air Conditioning (Including compressor - up to 4 tons)	Included	2nd Air Conditioner (up to 4 tons)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00
Heating	Included	Yearly A/C Check-Ups	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00
Thermostat/Humidistat	Included	Microwave (Built-In)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00
Refrigerator	Included	Extended Plumbing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00
Icemaker	Included	Each Additional Bath	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00
Cold Water/Ice Dispenser	Included	Freezer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
Oven/Range (includes self-cleaning)	Included	Double Oven	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
Garbage Disposal (replacement 1/2 HP)	Included	Trash Compactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
Plumbing & Electric (2 baths)	Included	Thermador Oven	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00
Dishwasher	Included	2nd Refrigerator	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
Washer & Dryer	Included	Jenn-Air Range / Glass Cook Top	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
Water Heater (up to 40 gallons)	Included	Sub-Zero Refrigerator	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
		& GE Monogram Refrigerator	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
		Instant Hot	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
		*Replacements:	
		Air Conditioner (up to 4 tons - excludes water cooled units)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00
		2nd Air Conditioner (up to 4 tons - excludes water cooled units)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00
		Water Heater (each - up to 40 gallons)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00
		Refrigerator (excludes Built-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
		Oven/Range	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
		Dishwasher	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
		Washer (excludes stack-sets)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
		Dryer (excludes stack-sets)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
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Candidates...Continued

the Lauderdale Beach Homeowners Association and the Central Beach Alliance in sending resolutions to the Governor objecting to the deadly threats described by the Government Accountability Office, The Congressional Research Service, the Pentagon, the Department of Homeland Security and Sandia National Laboratories. Some of you have attended meetings wherein Suez officials admitted that they were 'Not concerned about security' and that \$millions in monthly security costs to protect a foreign corporation's assets would be paid by Broward taxpayers. Of course, should an incident occur, Fort Lauderdale taxpayers would pay for the significant damages. Despite our assuming substantial financial obligations and living with a catastrophic threat, not one cubic meter of the gas is dedicated for local use. As Suez' Tom Allen explained, 'Once in the interstate pipeline, it goes to the highest bidder.'

Turning to Businessman Earl Rynerson, he asked, "While the fate of Calypso rests solely with the Governor, what would you do as Mayor to help convince the Governor to veto the project?" Rynerson smiled and retorted, "It's not going to happen! I will make it my business to make the Governor understand the dangers of this project." Rynerson admonished that we should be exploring the use of green energy sources, calling Calypso "a non-starter." Rynerson said that he would visit Governor Crist in Tallahassee and "politely sit in his office until he agreed to veto the project."

Characterizing Calypso as a problematic project, Jack Seiler commented "I don't think a sit-in demonstration will work. A more productive strategy to elicit a gubernatorial veto would be to start with fact-finding hearings." Seiler explained, "As chair of the Broward Legislative Delegation, I convened such a hearing right here."

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# DR. ALEXANDER LEEDS SUCCUMBS TO ILLNESS

Eric Berkowitz

On Wednesday, October 15, 2008, thousands of Galt Ocean Mile residents learned about the loss of an irreplaceable friend. Following a tenacious struggle with cancer, Dr. Alexander Leeds passed away. It is unlikely that the colossal vacuum created by his untimely death will soon be filled... if ever. His unrelenting efforts to improve the lives of his neighbors, enhance the community and promote good health for hundreds of grateful patients will be sorely missed. By cloaking a piercing intelligence and soft heart in a laid-back friendly demeanor, Alex naturally commanded the respect and trust of these neighbors, patients and peers.

While many Doctors demonstrate admirable levels of commitment, Alex nourished a long term love affair with his patients. Most physicians identify their patients as customers whose office chart is filled with medical histories, medical claim forms, x-rays and payment ledgers. Alex's practice additionally extended to hundreds of friends, neighbors and acquaintances who, despite never visiting his medical office, unhesitatingly called on him for advice about their health, their homes, their families and with personal problems of every stripe. They knew that his moral compass was as trustworthy as his medical opinion.

Dr. Leeds graduated from the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1975 with a DO (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) and did his residency at Washington Hospital Center. Alex was joined by his son, Robert Leeds, who managed his thriving Galt Ocean Village Medical Center at 3294 NE 33rd Street in Fort Lauderdale – down the block from his home. Along with another office at 4420 W Oakland Park Boulevard in Lauderdale Lakes, he operated the Osteoporosis Imaging Center, a Radiology Laboratory and Diagnostic Center. Alex also worked with his son, Dr. Mark Leeds, who followed in his father's footsteps, also earning a DO from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1996. Alex enjoyed professional affiliations with Holy Cross Hospital at 4725 North Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale, Plantation General Hospital at 401 NW 42nd Avenue in Plantation and the Florida Medical Center at 5000 W Oakland Park Boulevard in Lauderdale Lakes. Board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians, his practices meticulously kept pace with ever-changing cutting edge medical technologies. Consistent with a personal philosophy deeply immersed in "giving back", Alex was also a Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Having earned the respect and admiration of his L'Hermitage II neighbors at 3200 North Ocean Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale, Alex was elected President of their Condominium Association. He was also elected President of the L'Hermitage Community Association, serving the residents of both L'Hermitage Condominium Associations. He deployed sensibility and sensitivity to balance the needs of his neighbors with those of the Associations. Alex and wife Marilyn worked as a team, contending with daily Association issues and helping residents address an endless litany of personal and association problems. He worked with his peers on the board to maintain L'Hermitage's sterling reputation as a top-flight condominium.



## 1941 - 2008

A tireless civic leader, Dr. Leeds served as a member of the Galt Mile Community Association Advisory Board, where he contributed to countless neighborhood improvements. Since Alex both lived and worked in the community, his unique perspective proved an invaluable asset to the neighborhood association. Not surprisingly, his fellow business owners elected Alex President of the Galt Merchants Association.

In this capacity, Alex participated in the 32nd Street Alley Partnership. In 1996, stagnant water collecting in the 32nd Street Alley between 32nd Street and Oakland Park Boulevard caused a portion of the alley infrastructure to collapse. If the polluted ponding water were discharged into nearby stormwater drains, it could have infused local rivers, lakes, and canals with a broad range of noxious and toxic contaminants. The Galt Merchants Association, the Galt Mile Community Association, local merchants, businesses, and the City of Fort Lauderdale formed the Alley Partnership to finally address this persistent problem. After more than a decade of working with the City and an evolving merchant population, Dr. Leeds and Commissioner Christine Teel were able to induce the City to rehabilitate the alley's drainage functionality, primarily because Alex elicited the cooperation of contentious area merchants who promised to maintain a clean drainage environment.

During the Holiday season, the Galt Ocean Village Shoppes neighborhood was annually devoid of seasonal lighting. At a meeting attended by group of participating merchants, Community Association representatives Ralph Hamaker from Coral Ridge Towers South and former GMCA President Bob Rozema, City of Fort Lauderdale staffers Hal Barnes, Mike Fayez and Tom Terrell, and Alfred Russillo of FPL (Florida Power & Light), Alex and City Commissioner Christine Teel addressed the technical and financial obstacles responsible for the neighborhood's lack of seasonal illumination. Due to the area's inadequate electrical underpinnings, Dr. Leeds had to elicit City cooperation to install special outlets and converters to power the festive atmospheric lighting and FP&L to discount the juice expense. If not for his yearly efforts, the entire largely commercial district and the Coral Ridge Towers complex would have remained a seasonal "no mans land".

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## THIS MONTH AT-A-GLANCE

# DEC/JAN

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2008-09

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>7</b> Holiday Music Fairchild Tropical Garden 6 to 10 p.m. Info.: 305-667-1651 X 3344	<b>8</b> The Climate Change Show (Through 1/11) Museum of Discovery & Science	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> The Nutcracker (Through 12/14) Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222	<b>13</b> Y100 Jingle Ball BankAtlantic Center Admission: \$43 - \$118  Winterfest Boat Parade Intracoastal Waterway 6 p.m. Info.: 954-767-0686
<b>14</b> Pompano Beach Holiday Boat Parade Intracoastal Waterway, Pompano 6 p.m. Info.: 954-941-2940	<b>15</b> Vice Mayor Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m.	<b>16</b> Ft. Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.	<b>17</b> Fort Lauderdale Planning & Zoning Board Mtg City Commission Chambers 6:30 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Candy Cane Hunt Riverside Park 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	<b>20</b> Santa Visits Flamingo Gardens 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  Acappella Singers Concert Butterfly World 12 Noon Info.: 954-977-4434
<b>21</b> Chanukah Begins  Florida Panthers vs. Colorado Avalanche BankAtlantic Center, 5 p.m.	<b>22</b> Santa on the Beach/ Candy Giveaway Starts: South Beach Park 12 Noon Info.: 954.828.7275	<b>23</b> Florida Panthers vs. Nashville Predators BankAtlantic Center, 7:30	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b> Christmas Day  FedEx Orange Bowl	<b>26</b> 73rd Annual College Swim Forum (Through 1/15) Ft. Lauderdale Aquatic Center Info.: 954-828-4580	<b>27</b> Orange Classic Int'l Girls Soccer Tournament (Through 12/30) Info.: 305-823-4934
<b>28</b> MetroPCS Orange Bowl Basketball Classic BankAtlantic Center Info.: 305-341-4700	<b>29</b> Florida Panthers vs. Montreal Canadiens BankAtlantic Center, 7:30	<b>30</b> Jay Leno Hard Rock Live! 8 p.m. Admission: \$50 - \$125 Avenue Q, Broadway (Through 1/11) Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Downtown Countdown SW 2nd St Schedule of Events: 954.828.PARK	<b>1</b> 75th Annual FedEx Orange Bowl Nat'l Championship Dolphin Stadium Tix.: 305-341-4700	<b>2</b> WWE Presents: RAW Live! BankAtlantic Center	<b>3</b> Las Olas Art Festival (Through 1/4) Las Olas Blvd. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Info.: 954-472-3755
<b>4</b> Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985	<b>5</b> Vice Mayor Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m.	<b>6</b> Fort Lauderdale City Commission Mtg City Hall 6 p.m.	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> Florida Panthers vs. Carolina Hurricanes BankAtlantic Center 7:30 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Florida Panthers vs. Atlanta Thrashers BankAtlantic Center, 1 p.m.

## A LOOK AHEAD

- January 16 January 16 Mother/Daughter Afternoon Tea Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Res.: 305.256.8399
- January 20 - February 1 Mamma Mia Broward Center, Tix.: 954-462-0222
- January 24 - 25 3rd Annual International Chocolate Festival Fairchild Tropical Garden, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- January 25 99.9 KISS Country Chili Cookoff C.B. Smith Park, Pembroke Pines, 8:30 a.m.
- January 31 Museum of Art | Ft Lauderdale National Art Festival Huizenga Plaza and Las Olas Blvd, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.





Candidates...Continued

In fact, I see many of the people here tonight that participated in that meeting." Seiler explained that it was important to review the information documenting the threat posed by Calypso and its covert costs to Broward Taxpayers in a credible forum. Seiler said, "By showing a panel of Legislators that work with the Governor that the community's concerns were real, the Governor will have a basis for taking those concerns seriously." Seiler added, "I really believe that the Calypso people hurt themselves when they surreptitiously moved a meeting scheduled for the Galt Mile out to Dania. Their attempt to avoid responding to community concerns backfired when Christine Teel chartered a bus to transport scores of Galt Mile residents to the meeting."

Dean Trantalis said, "The Calypso project has no public purpose. It offers no benefit to the City or the County while threatening City residents with a potential catastrophe. A French company will make \$millions while the local community pays to protect their property and must live with the danger." Trantalis commented "The City was right to send a resolution opposing Calypso to the Governor. It's unfortunate that the County hasn't followed the lead of every beachfront municipality and issued a similar resolution." He said, "This is an example of private enterprise taking over our lives. We've been forced to act as police in safeguarding and protecting our shoreline." Although millions of residents and visitors from other states and Broward cities regularly enjoy the beach, to preserve this important resource, Trantalis said "we must take control of our destiny."

Steve Rossi said "Governor Crist must take the reins" and pursue a clean energy policy. Rather than installing a dangerous dirty fuel facility across from our homes, Rossi opined, "We should be investing in wind power, solar energy and geothermal technologies." Rossi called the threat of catastrophe unacceptable and opposes being forced to protect a foreign, high-value terrorist target. He exclaimed "No terrorist ever attacked a windmill or a solar panel."

Rossi expressed the belief that soliciting greater media exposure would strengthen the alliance against Calypso and winning over more communities would enhance prospects for a veto.

Ieraci read the preface to the last Mayoral question. "Senator Jeffrey Atwater made the ominous observation that 2006 marked the first year that more people left the State than came here. Although we can no longer count on superheated residential growth to fund the City's increasing expenses, the tax base can still be broadened by attracting new businesses to Fort Lauderdale, thus relieving tax pressure on homeowners."

Addressing Jack Seiler, Pio Ieraci asked, "What can the City do to enhance its reputation as an ideal incubator for new and relocating businesses?" Representative Seiler expressed dissatisfaction with the City's current business development strategy. In a simplified summary of that policy, he said "Now... we go into the neighboring county or city and try to get them." His objection is mostly to the City's lack of ambition. Seiler advocates expanding the playing field; casting a wider net for new business. He said, "I brought up 4 children in the Capitol of Broward County - Fort Lauderdale. Our primary industry has historically been tourism followed closely by the Maritime industry." He proposed courting cutting edge industries such as Biotech firms (like Scripps in Palm Beach) and E-Commerce. Fort Lauderdale is already home to thousands of jobs in Agricultural Biotech and the Biotech equipment and supply businesses. It's also key part of South Florida's "Internet Coast".

Dean Trantalis is passionate about widening the City's tax base by expanding the Economic Development Department. Comfortably familiar with the requirements for attracting new businesses, Trantalis said, "We need to preserve our existing amenities and develop new ones, we need to keep taxes in check, the crime rate must also be kept low and our schools must be able to offer the workforce ample educational opportunities."

Continued on page 17

Candidates...Continued

Steve Rossi was adamant about running the City like a business. The same tough decisions that spell survival for any competitive institution need to be made for municipal operations. Rossi said, "I see Fort Lauderdale as an International Center - comparable to Miami." Almost half the City's businesses either engage in or support international commerce. He said, "We must develop locations that aren't being used to capacity and take advantage of the City's diversity."

Earl Rynerson exclaimed that this is an area where he can put his 27 years of business experience to good use. He said, "We already enjoy thriving tourism and Maritime industries. I have significant experience with E-commerce, having worked for Hewlett Packard and Commerce One. Fort Lauderdale is an ideal location for high-tech and internet firms." Rynerson also stressed the importance of a reasonable tax environment to attracting new and relocating businesses. He proposed, "We can polish the city's image by replacing strip malls with well planned destination areas."

The Primary is scheduled for February 14, 2009 and General Municipal Elections will take place on March 14, 2009. The Mayor and four City Commissioners are the elected officials of the City of Fort Lauderdale. The Mayor is elected at-large and the City Commissioners are elected from each of the four districts. The three-year terms run concurrently, and all are up for election at the same time. Residents may pick up an Absentee Ballot Request card at the lobby Security Desk in City Hall to request that an absentee ballot be mailed to them for the February 14th Primary and March 14th General Municipal Elections. Residents must either mail the request card using first class postage or hand deliver it to:

- Supervisor of Elections, Broward County Governmental Center  
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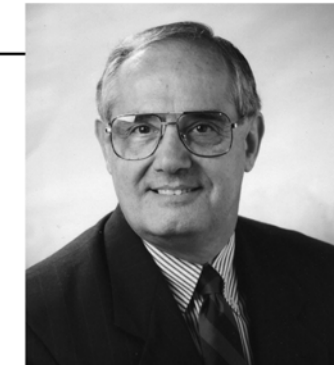
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Calypso...Continued

McGinnis, Dodge and Hirons gave a repeat performance at the May 28th Public Meeting sponsored by Suez at Dania Beach, where the paid Nova officials again extolled the Calypso project's environmental virtues. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place on the Galt Mile in Plaza South. After the City Commission passed the anti-Calypso resolution, Suez moved the meeting to the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Headquarters in Dania Beach - halfway across the county. At the meeting, a Suez lobbyist denied that they moved the meeting to protest the City resolution, contending that holding the meeting at the IGFA imparted environmental credibility to the project organizers. Simultaneously, Suez lobbyists and their high end media firm - RBB Public Relations - flooded the state with advertising spin insisting that Calypso presented no threat to the surrounding marine environment.

On October 25th, the former President of the International Game Fish Association, Michael Leech, sent an email to Governor Crist expressing his opposition to the Calypso project. In addition to being the past-president, 49 year-old Leech functions as an ambassador at large for the International Game Fish Association, which monitors world-record catches while sponsoring and sanctioning local and world class tournaments. The IGFA's 300 international member organizations speak for millions of sports anglers in 90 countries and territories.

A Rhode Island native who has lived in Fort Lauderdale since 1955, Leech initiated the IGFA's Junior Angler Program, the Junior World Championship series and the prestigious International Rolex/IGFA Inshore and Offshore Championships. Prior to joining IGFA in 1983, Leech served in the U.S. Coast Guard, held the position of executive director of the Florida Council of 100, and later worked as financial advisor for a major brokerage firm. Leech served as president of the first-ever night swordfish tournament, won the Gold Coast Triple Crown of fishing in 1993, and served on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. He assumed the lead position of IGFA president in 1992.

While serving the organization for 25 years (a decade as president), Leech helped the IGFA grow exponentially, pursuing an ardently proactive conservation policy as well as establishing its 60,000 square foot, \$30 million Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Dania Beach. In an interview, Leech said, "Until I joined the IGFA, conservation was really not part of IGFA's mission. Now it's one of our most important missions." He added, "Anglers today are faced with huge conservation challenges. The world's fishery resources are already severely depleted and in many cases still getting overfished." He was instrumental in starting the IGFA Certified Observer Program (COP), which insures an all-catch-and-release format for big-game tournaments. Leech anticipates "Twenty years from now, I see our international efforts in promoting fishery conservation becoming an even larger part of our mission." He represents the IGFA as a member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance Board of Directors and the Marine Fish Conservation Network. Leech also currently serves on the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Mike's email to the Governor should reverse the "credibility-by-association" Suez hoped to purchase by convening their meeting in IGFA Headquarters. Governor Crist is well aware that Leech is an environmental ideologue qualified to authoritatively refute the dubious assertion made by Calypso officials and their "paid experts" that an 18-story industrial regasification facility and 3 to 4 incremental tanker convoys per week will have no impact on the maritime environment. In his email, Leech asks the Governor's Staff, "Please allow the governor to read this urgent letter personally." He proceeds:

**Dear Governor Crist:**

**Many of us in South Florida have grave misgivings about the proposed Calypso Deepwater Port off Ft. Lauderdale. You have veto power for this project. Here are 20 reasons for you to say thanks, but no thanks.**

Continued on page 19

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Calypso...Continued

**1. At a time when the U.S. is trying to reduce our dependence on foreign energy, we should not allow this massive French gas import operation.**

**2. The U.S. already has a plentiful supply of natural gas. We don't need to import more from other countries.**

**3. The proposed location of Calypso Port is in a very active hurricane area with potential huge tidal surge, a potential for disaster.**

**4. Calypso officials admit in the case of an explosion, the vapor fire could extend 3.8 miles from the center.**

**5. Should the 1100 foot ship be blown ashore by a hurricane or commandeered by terrorists and exploded, the fire ball would envelope tens of thousands of residents in hi-rise condos, hotels, homes, possibly Port Everglades oil dept and even Ft. Lauderdale International airport. A perfect target for terrorists.**

**6. The project would be located between the north and south very active shipping lanes, making collisions (and possible explosion) a distinct possibility.**

**7. The two mooring systems for the ships will create the world's largest fish aggregating devices (FADs) in a prime spawning and nursery area for sailfish, marlin, swordfish, dolphin, baby sea turtles, and dozens of other important species.**

**8. The study conducted to determine the number of ichthyoplankton and zooplankton destroyed by the average intake of 43.6 million gallons per day admits to 2171 fish eggs and larvae destroyed per million gallons. That's 94,655 per day or 2.8 million per month! It includes dozens of species of important gamefish and it would continue for at least 25 years. It does not include another estimated 712,421 zooplankton destroyed per day.**

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Continued on page 21



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Calypso...Continued

9. The ichthyoplankton study is bogus. It was conducted in the open ocean, not in the center of a huge fish aggregating device where 17 mooring lines will lead to the center of two massive floating platforms where the millions of gallons of sea water will be extracted daily. The destruction of small fish and eggs will be many magnitudes greater in the center of these FADs than in the open ocean.

10. This facility, if constructed, will not reduce the price of gas which is regulated by supply and demand. Current supply is adequate. The developer will charge as much for their gas as possible in order to earn tens of millions of dollars from U.S. customers. We don't need more U.S. dollars going overseas.

11. The construction of this project would close 11 square miles of water for three years in an area where there are close to 50,000 registered boats. It would adversely impact thousands of these boat owners including transient vessels and shipping.

12. The deep water port is proposed in an area popular with both commercial and recreational swordfish anglers. They would be prohibited permanently from getting close to this prime swordfish area.

13. The project would cause increased turbidity and ship traffic in an already congested area.

14. There may well be inadvertent spills of petroleum which project officials admit would result in impacts to marine mammals, sea turtles, and birds.

15. Officials admit LNG and support vessel traffic is expected to cause moderate long term adverse impacts to threatened and endangered sea turtles.

16. Officials have not answered the questions of when a severe storm is threatening; at what point is the decision made to unmoor the huge ships; how long it takes to unmoor, how fast the ships can move under their own power, and where would they seek refuge? Too many unanswered questions. Remember, The Galt Ocean Mile and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea are directly inshore with a population of about 25,000.

17. The Bahamas has flatly rejected this project being located in their waters. You, as governor, should do the same.

18. During part of the year, Calypso will operate in "open loop" mode, not "closed loop" as widely promoted. During the open loop operation, seawater intake is about 5 times greater than with closed loop and the resultant mortality of fish eggs, larvae, and zooplankton would increase 5 times ( see item #8).

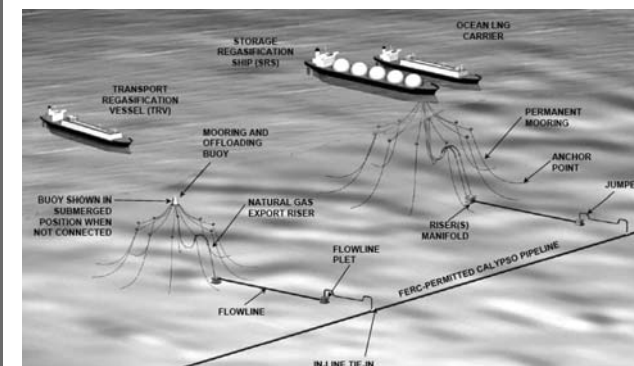
19. The possibility of ship collisions either intentional or unintentional is analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The possibility is very real and frightening.

20. Calypso officials try to assure us that the possibility of a major catastrophe is unlikely. However, it was unlikely that New Orleans would be submerged, it was unlikely that the World Trade Center would crumble to dust, and unlikely that the Titanic would sink.

I urge you to veto this project.

Sincerely,

Michael Leech  
Retired President, International Game Fish Association •



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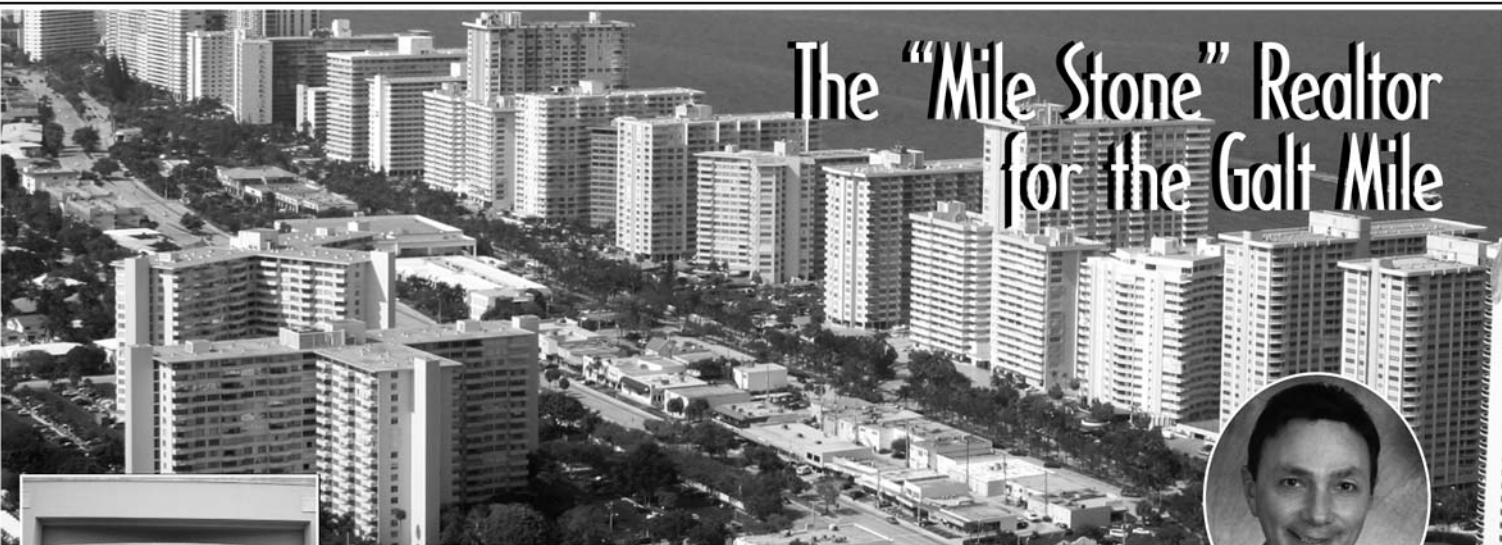
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Obit...Continued

In 2003, Dr. Leeds transformed a \$15,000 capital improvement program grant received from the City of Fort Lauderdale into a viable and exciting Master Plan designed to morph the Galt Ocean Village Shoppes into a vibrant tourist magnet and an exemplary commercial success. The Master Plan serves to heighten the aesthetics, functionality, and economic viability of the area bounded by the Intracoastal Waterway on the west, A1A on the east, Oakland Park Boulevard on the south, and NE 34th Street on the north. Created by the Architectural Alliance under the guidance of City Project Engineer Hal Barnes, the potpourri of storefront, streetscape, and waterfront improvements was carefully designed to enhance the catchment area.

After overseeing the plan's creation, Alex negotiated with participating merchants to commence implementation. Given the transitory merchant population, he was forced to alter his strategy. Alex worked with the late GMCA President Robert Rozema to attract three major project components deemed necessary to enervate the Master Plan. They successfully lobbied City Hall to build the Beach Community Center in the Galt Ocean Village Shoppes neighborhood. Rozema and Leeds convinced the neighborhood association Board of Directors and Advisory Board that two additional major developments would be needed to help fund some of the Master Plan's critical offerings. Several years later, Il Lugano's developer upgraded aspects of 34th Street. When developer Opus South bought the former La Reserve property on the Intracoastal Waterway just north of the Oakland Park Boulevard Bridge, Alex negotiated their enhancing the 32nd Street side of the neighborhood. Unfortunately, a corporate policy change precipitated their withdrawal from the project last year, prompting Alex to immediately commence hunting for a viable replacement.

Continued on page 23

Obit...Continued

This year, the irreplaceable Dr. Leeds consummated a deal with the city to permanently improve some of the area's lighting deficiencies and install an entry portal to the Galt Ocean Village Shoppes neighborhood. The Galt Merchants Association and the Galt Mile Community Association cooperatively applied to access matching grant funds to help stimulate commercial interest in the area. While stricken and unable to attend Advisory Board meetings, Alex pursued the improvements via telephone and Marilyn made monthly progress reports. Tragically, Alex ultimately encountered the only obstacle capable of stopping this force of nature that brightened our lives for so many years.

As the beloved & adored husband of Marilyn, devoted son of Gertrude, loving brother of Rebecca, loving and worshiped father of Karen, Francene, Mark & Stacy, Robert & Mary, Daniel, Tifini and cherished Papa of Zachary, Victoria, Rachel, Emily, Harmony and Jessica, Alex filled the hearts of fortunate friends and 4 generations of a close-knit nurturing family.

Upon learning of his passing, L'Hermitage II Manager Paul Moore notified friends, neighbors, association and civic leaders that a Chapel Service would be held on Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 2:15 p.m. at Star of David Funeral Chapel (7701 Bailey Road) in North Lauderdale, FL 33068 (Tel: 954-722-9000). Services would be followed by a gathering in the L'Hermitage II Ocean Room at 3200 North Ocean Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. Contributions may be made to Sylvester Cancer Center. •



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