

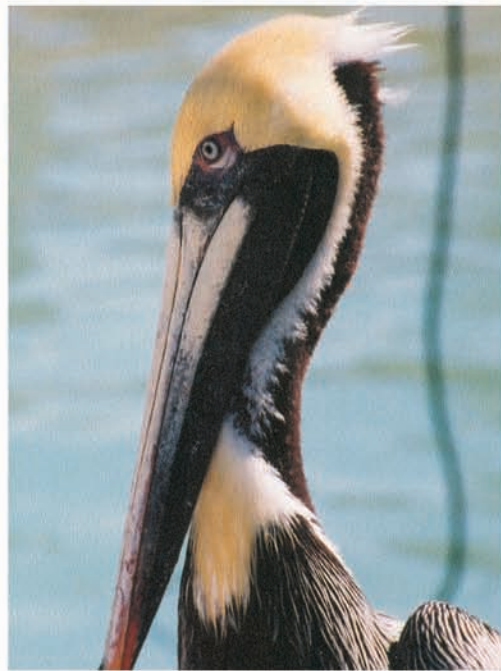


# GALT MILE NEWS

OCTOBER 2009

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GMCA

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In their August 7, 2009 report to the White House, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) distinguished between the effects of the seasonal and H1N1 strains of influenza. Chaired by John Holdren, the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology, Eric Lander, the head of the Broad Institute of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Harold Varmus, the chief executive officer of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, the 21-member group of scientists and engineers reported that while the seasonal flu averages 200,000 annual hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths, the 2009 Swine flu variety is expected to place 300,000 victims in intensive care and produce up to 90,000 fatalities.

On the bright side, University of Maryland researchers discovered that since the H1N1 influenza virus grows much faster than seasonal flu viruses, it is unlikely to recombine or exchange genetic material. The studies also confirmed findings by other researchers that the swine flu virus is able to grow deeper into the victim's lungs, crediting it with a predisposition to viral pneumonia. That may be why some victims with underlying medical conditions are more likely to develop severe illness from infections that are ordinarily symptomatically mild. The severity of these cases appears to be proportional to the strain placed on the victim's immune system.

Continued on page 7

# THE 2 FLU BLUES

By Eric Berkowitz

**U.**S. health officials are readying an unusual flu vaccination campaign for this fall, but the initiative is already dogged by public confusion, experts' doubts and a raft of unknowns. 2009 is the year of the "two-flu" blues, requiring what Health Department honchos believe will be 3 inoculations to properly protect against this year's deadly influenza onslaught. Along with the seasonal flu vaccination, we have the unique distinction of facing possibly 2 more to insulate ourselves from the effects of the H1N1 Swine Flu.

## The Swine Flu

First identified in April 2009, the influenza A virus subtype H1N1, referred to as the "novel H1N1", is thought to be a reassortment of four known strains of influenza A virus. While one of the four varieties normally infects humans, one is endemic in birds, and two endemic in pigs (swine). Transmission of the new strain is human-to-human, so eating cooked animal products presents no danger since the virus cannot be transmitted by eating foods. After the Mexican government closed down

most of Mexico City's public and private offices and facilities to help contain the initial attacks earlier this year, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak to be a pandemic in June. As the virus spread globally, WHO noted that most illnesses were of moderate severity. When the Southern Hemisphere entered its flu season, the disease burned through a largely unprepared South America, especially in less developed countries with limited healthcare systems.

In July 2009, the CDC confirmed that most infections were mild (similar to seasonal flu), recovery tended to be fairly quick, and deaths to date had been only a tiny fraction of those annually ascribed to the seasonal flu. However, the real danger derives from the reported instability of the new virus strain, rendering it capable of mutating into a more virulent strain. The CDC pointed out that the 1918 flu epidemic – which killed hundreds of thousands in the United States – was preceded by a wave of mild cases in the spring, followed by more deadly outbreak in the autumn.

# GALT MILE RESIDENTS RESCUE READING ROOM

By Eric Berkowitz



On September 22, 2009, the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center dodged a bullet. Arguably the community's most popular local asset, the mini-library has been under the County budget gun for months.

Although regarded as a convenient and useful amenity by many residents along the Galt Mile, a large group of indomitable seniors view the library as indispensable to their independence, quality of life and peace of mind. They inspired their friends, neighbors and public officials to see through the engineered budgetary spin and prevent the library from falling prey to county politics.

Since the City of Fort Lauderdale provides our Police and Fire Protection, the 26% of our tax dollars paid annually to Broward County actually subsidizes neighboring jurisdictions that use BSO services. We enjoy no local county parks or recreational resources and even fund our own maintenance and security for a beach that is admittedly one of Broward's main economic engines. The only County resource dedicated to enriching life in our community is the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center.

In April 2009, Galleon resident Herman Gardner considered his options. While elected president of the Friends of the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center in 2004, his 2006 priorities focused primarily on salvaging the snake-bit expansion plans for the storefront Reading Room. Broward County leasing specialists neglected to check the space they rented to accommodate an expansion prompted by the increasing demand on the existing facilities. The discovery of asbestos in the floor and one of the two ceilings forced Gardner and Broward Libraries Director Bob Cannon to revise their expectations for the tainted adjacent space. Gardner grew flustered as Broward authorities spent the next two years fumbling through a series of planning miscues and construction delays.

Fed up, Gardner called on District 4 Broward Commissioner Ken Keechl to investigate the County's disarming incompetence. Enraged and embarrassed by Broward's numerous gaffes,

Keechl met with County Administration staffers and Director Cannon, who responded with an apology and an exclamation of gratitude for Gardner's patience. Keechl tasked former Commission Aide Kathy Singer with soliciting regular updates from Cannon about future progress.

As the Broward budget battle heated up, seven satellite libraries sited in locations leased by the County became political budget fodder. To demonstrate their commitment to "making the hard fiscal decisions", Commissioners Lois Wexler and John Rodstrom served up the small neighborhood libraries as offsets to the \$108 million budget deficit, insinuating a county savings of several million dollars. Newly seated as Vice Mayor, Keechl gave Gardner the bad news.

Shedding his ordinarily soft-spoken and accommodating persona, Gardner saw red. He contacted Galt Mile Community Association (GMCA) officials Pio Ieraci and Eric Berkowitz, requesting assistance with saving the besieged Reading Center. Along with Commissioner Keechl, the neighborhood association looked into the prospective budgetary benefit of closing the small libraries. Scrutiny of the Galt Mile facility's financial records revealed the claimed savings to be a fabrication. They also noted that the Commissioners behind the budget recommendation had none of the threatened libraries within their districts.

Since the terms of their union contract (Local 1591 of the Amalgamated Transit Union) would simply rotate the unit's 5 staffers to other County positions and/or agencies at full pay if the Galt location was defunded and the inventory maintenance costs would continue unabated irrespective of a potential relocation of the books, tapes, computers, etc., the budget savings was a negligible few thousand dollars.

Continued on page 12





Flu...Continued

After studying the mapped genetic sequences of H1N1 samples received from the CDC, University of Maryland Bioinformaticist Steven L. Salzberg confirmed that the 2009 H1N1 pandemic strain is a swine-origin influenza virus that resulted from a reassortment of two previously circulating strains – a “triple-reassortant” swine influenza that has been circulating in North America since 1998 and an H1N1 strain that has been circulating for decades in swine populations of Europe and Asia. Neither of the two strains has ever proven contagious in humans. Of the genes inherited from the Eurasian strain, one codes for a neuraminidase enzyme – the N1 in H1N1 – which controls the expansion of the virus from infected cells (the speed with which it proliferates). More importantly, it has reportedly never been seen in humans, thereby precluding any developmental immunity. Shazam! Salzberg resolved why the H1N1 virus has been able to slice through human populations like a hot knife through butter.

#### Unprecedented Immunization Campaign

In response, government health officials are mobilizing to launch a massive swine flu vaccination campaign this fall that is unprecedented in its scope – and its potential for complications. To defend against the second wave of the Northern Hemisphere’s first influenza pandemic in 41 years, the campaign aims to vaccinate at least half the country’s population within months. Although more people have been inoculated against diseases such as smallpox and polio over a period of years, the United States has never tried to immunize so many so quickly. Unfortunately, when the new wave of infections begins peaking in mid-October, only about a third of the expected vaccine will be available.

What health officials don’t yet know is exasperating. They don’t know how many shots need to be administered for an effective series. They don’t know the proper dosage to recommend. Although the single dose vaccinations under development by Switzerland’s Novartis and China’s Sinovac would relieve the strain on supplies caused by manufacturing delays, neither is likely to elicit U.S. approval by the seasonal deadline. Health pundits are also desperately trying to formulate a strategy to help the average person distinguish between the annual campaign against influenza and overlapping efforts to combat the

swine flu pandemic.

The dilatory deliveries of swine flu vaccine stem from several obstacles. A production bottleneck is plaguing factories that infuse syringes with the H1N1 vaccine. Instead of the 120 million doses promised by mid-October, only 45 million will be available for inoculations, although the pipeline will grind out an additional 20 million doses each week until the CDC’s entire 195 million dose order is fully distributed by December.

Another obstacle inures to the actual vaccine recipe required to combat the H1N1 strain. The ingredients that reactively enable vaccines are grown within eggs. The procedural chemistry underlying development of these ingredients has become another bottleneck. Manufacturer’s laboratories are extracting far fewer doses per egg for the swine flu vaccine than for vaccines addressing the regular annual outbreak. When French manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of the Sanofi-aventis Group, took longer than expected to finish brewing their regular complement of winter flu vaccine, the low-dose dilemma came to light.

Health Department officials are interceding to help offset production impediments as they surface. Department of Health and Human Services chief of vaccine procurement Dr. Robin Robinson surmised “Hopefully there are ways to bring that number up.” To enhance the “per egg” dose production rate, the CDC has delivered new “seed strains” of the virus to the impacted manufacturers. As to the logjam caused by the problematic packaging of the vaccine into syringes, Robinson asserted “We’re trying to bring on more manufacturing.” His plan is to pressure manufacturers who’ve fulfilled their orders to share their facilities with those encountering delays.

An expected jurisdictional gadfly added to the prospective delays when Australia’s CSL Biotherapies notified the U.S. that its shipments would arrive later than promised because the company is mandated to first complete filling a 21 million dose vaccine quota for corporate home Australia, where the flu season is winding down. Although the U.S. signed a \$180 million contract with CSL first, Robinson admitted, “There was always the possibility they could do that. Our laws can do the same thing. We don’t, but we could.”

Lastly, health authorities ran into a snag while attempting to ascertain the dosage values and the number of doses comprising an effective course of treatment. It took far longer than anticipated to create the reagents necessary to accurately measure the strength of the vaccine, without which an effective dose cannot be established.

#### New Seasonal Flu Strategy

Although seasonal Influenza uniformly slices through communities without regard to sex, race, national origin or other traceable census sort categories, it poses a grisly threat to two specific groups. While babies and infants are certainly highly vulnerable to influenza, a vast majority of the 36,000 victims succumbing to flu-related deaths each winter are people over age 65. Despite the CDC’s annual implementation of comprehensive elderly vaccination programs, instead of realizing a commensurate lowering of death rates, the effectiveness of protection strategies against the flu for the elderly has enigmatically plateaued.

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While flu vaccine protects 75 to 90 percent of healthy young people, studies suggest that protection appears to plummet to 30 percent among persons 65 and older. Through 2008, CDC policy for addressing this inexplicable obstacle centered on research probing whether increased doses or adding immune-boosting compounds would intensify protection for the elderly. Last year, the flu gurus at CDC noticed a Harvard study that altered their prevention strategy.

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

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

The study statistically confirmed what most parents have intuitively known for generations, that their offspring spread germs with uncanny efficiency. Although older children are less impacted by the effects of flu than infants, the 30 million school-age kids included in the ramped up vaccination policy are a huge target pool with a massive potential for incubation. The schoolchildren weren't targeted for vaccination primarily to protect their health, but to prevent their becoming "Vectors", or people for whom infection is of less consequence than their potential for spreading the flu to more vulnerable groups such as the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

"The impact of kids and the flu is clear," says study co-author John Brownstein of Children's Hospital Boston. "It doesn't mean the areas without kids are protected from flu. It just means they experience flu later and at lower rates." He considers crowded schools, preschools and day-care centers to be disease distribu-

tion centers, locations that foment and/or perpetuate local epidemics. By defusing these distribution hotbeds, many prospective local infestations will never achieve the critical mass necessary to spread the disease epidemically.

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

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

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

### Policy Targets Schools

In preparation for an expected outbreak of H1N1 influenza this fall, South Florida health departments are setting the first line of defense in area schools. In these scholastic bullrings, health care matadors armed with cases of loaded syringes will match forms signed by parents with battalions of screaming adolescents. To combat the threatened swine flu epidemic in Broward County, the schools are implementing unprecedented policy preparations in deference to last year's CDC prevention revelation. Since the strain has exhibited a statistical predisposition for people whose age ranges from 5 to 24, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended a host of new precautions for Broward and Miami-Dade public schools. They include:

- Doors, railings, tables and other items often touched by children will be cleaned regularly, and hand-sanitizing stations will be in many locations.
- If teachers, staff or students come to school with obvious flu symptoms, they will be isolated in a separate room until they can be sent home.



Government distributed surgical masks to protect Mexico City subway riders from Swine Flu.

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Flu...Continued

- A student who stays home sick with swine flu may return to school 24 hours after symptoms, including fever, subside.

The new policy of creating a hygienic firewall in the schools to insulate the larger community from a potential epidemic manifested a variety of other preventive measures. Strong teacher admonition for students to wash their hands will anchor the assault on spreading the virulent disease. Students will be made to stay home when sick and use their sleeves to catch coughs and sneezes, not their hands. (Good luck on achieving that!)

Should a local outbreak intensify, the CDC said schools should urge healthy siblings of flu victims to stay home while screening students and staff daily for symptoms. To reduce close contact contagion rates, schools can hold classes outdoors or in larger rooms, sequester students in one room all day, and cut back on busing.

When the first scheduled delivery of swine flu vaccine arrives in Broward by mid-October, school clinics will be among the first official dispensaries. The schools have prioritized efficiently immunizing the student body, save those individuals burdened by compromised immune systems or groups for whom the vaccine portends other medical complications. As a matter of policy, schools will remain open despite an outbreak unless mounting teacher and/or student absences cripple the institution's ability to function.

In South Florida, at least 24 of the 36 children who died from Swine Flu through August 8, 2009 were additionally afflicted with serious ailments such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, lung disease, heart disease, developmental delays or cancer - and usually more than one, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Among the 12 who suffered no apparent chronic illness, eight developed severe bacterial infections along with flu, giving health officials a possible reason that otherwise healthy children succumbed to H1N1 flu.

CDC Director Thomas Frieden said "When you get the flu, your immune system can be weakened and you become susceptible to other infections. We have seen this in the past with the seasonal flu." In a message to parents, Frieden exclaimed, "Most children who get swine flu recover just fine with little treatment, but families and doctors should be cautious if high-risk children get sick, or if a sick child seems to get better and then gets another fever that may indicate a second infection."

So far the virus has proven symptomatically mild with an abbreviated term of illness - lasting only a few days on average. More importantly, it hasn't laid claim to the high number of lives that ordinarily define the severity of a pandemic. Of the one million people in the U.S. that were infected by early September, only 556 fatalities were reported nationally, 66 in Florida, seven in Broward County and five in Palm Beach County.

### Vaccine Priority Swap for the Elderly

The high priority groups differ statistically for the two flu threats. For the seasonal flu vaccine, target groups include children aged 6 months to 19 years, pregnant women, adults 50 and over, residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, anyone with a chronic medical condition, health-care workers and people in close proximity to high-risk individuals.

For the swine flu vaccine, federal officials have added young adults aged 19 to 24, who have been disproportionately affected by the swine flu. Surprisingly, health authorities have also lowered the vaccination priority of older adults (unless they have an underlying medical condition) because they've demonstrated a greater resistance to the infection. In all, swine flu vaccine priority groups comprise about 160 million people nationwide.

Dr. Len Horovitz, a pulmonary specialist with Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, first defined the confusion surrounding the CDC's seemingly counter-intuitive priority adjustment for the elderly, admonishing "In the seasonal flu, the priority is the elderly but they're at the bottom of the ladder for H1N1, so that's a change the public will have a problem with." He then shed some light on why the elderly were able to more effectively resist the disease, stating "People seem to have some partial immunity to the swine flu if they are born before 1957," referring to the natural immunity that a prior exposure would have cultivated.

Dr. Christine Mhorag Hay, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, described how this lowered priority would impact the elderly, explaining "This doesn't mean that older people shouldn't get the swine flu shot, just that they won't be first in line."•

# REPRESENTATIVE ELLYN BOGDANOFF

# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

*"In late 2003, fate handed former District 91 Statehouse Representative Connie Mack IV an opportunity to expedite his planned pursuit of political stardom. When President George W. Bush appointed District 14 Congressman Porter Goss to head the Central Intelligence Agency, Mack closed up shop in Fort Lauderdale and elbowed his way to Goss's vacated Congressional seat in Fort Myers, where Mack grew up.*

*Despite being outgunned in name recognition and political support by most of the 6 other candidates for Mack's abandoned House seat, Ellyn Bogdanoff eked out a 12-vote margin of victory, slipping by 8-year Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Mayor Oliver Parker in the January 6, 2004 Special Election. Within two years, the rookie lawmaker blossomed into a Statehouse staple, squaring out a formidable reputation for unrelenting tenacity, fiscal diligence, natural networking skills and a disarming facility for achieving consensus. Few of her Tallahassee peers were surprised when Statehouse Speaker Marco Rubio named Ellyn as his Majority Whip, thereby enabling her to shepherd through the Statehouse every major component of Governor Crist's property insurance and tax program. She also singlehandedly revamped and rescued the State's broken No-Fault insurance legislation just days before its intended dissolution would have burdened every vehicle owner with an additional insurance expense.*

*When lawmakers confronted last session's intimidating \$6 billion budgetary shortfall, the Statehouse leadership again summoned Bogdanoff, installing her as Chair of the Finance and Tax Council and Vice Chair of the Rules & Calendar Council - the legislative gatekeeper. In August, House Speaker Larry Cretul asked Florida Tax Watch and concerned legislators to research as yet unexplored cost-cutting measures in preparation for another recessionary budget. Cretul exclaimed "We need to identify efficiencies, where they can be found, maybe some systemic and process changes. I know it's a high-altitude description, but that's on our radar screen. I'm going to ask Representative Bogdanoff to be very involved." When Senate President Jeffrey Atwater threw his hat into the ring for CFO Alex Sink's job, Ellyn concomitantly targeted Jeff's District 25 Senate seat. Given the significant political capital she's amassed in her brief but meteoric legislative career, other prospective candidates for Atwater's vacated senate seat will be hard pressed to convince voters that they are better positioned to represent district interests than Bogdanoff.*

*In her Autumn Newsletter, Bogdanoff describes some of the challenges undertaken during the 2009 legislative session and measures their success from several objective perspectives. One such outlook heralds from the American Legislative Exchange Conference (ALEC), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to "Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty." In a report entitled "State Winners and Losers", the ALEC measures 15 policy variables that have a proven impact on the migration of capital - both investment capital and human capital - into and out of states. Explaining that the 15 factors are influenced directly by state lawmakers through the legislative process, they are 1) Highest Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate, 2) Highest Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate, 3) Personal Income Tax Progressivity, 4) Property Tax Burden, 5) Sales Tax Burden, 6) Tax Burden From All Remaining Taxes, 7) Estate Tax/Inheritance Tax (Yes or No), 8) Recent Tax Policy Changes 2007-08, 9) Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue, 10) Public Employees Per 1,000 Residents, 11) Quality of State Legal System, 12) State Minimum Wage, 13) Workers' Compensation Costs, 14) Right-to-Work State (Yes or No) and 15) Tax or Expenditure Limit. In stark contrast with the waves of ominous decline that emanate daily from virtually every media source, the study concludes that the State's 2009 legislative changes have improved its economic outlook, moving Florida's national rank from number 16 to number 11 out of 50. In essence, the report postulates that overtaxed Northeasterners will discharge across the country, motivated by the prospect of "living better for less." Insofar as Florida's favorable tax climate fits their vision, it will likely be one of their primary relocation destinations.*

*Statehouse Tax Committee Chair Bogdanoff contends that this year's increase in Florida Sales Tax revenues is evidence that tourism is flourishing and Floridians are spending more-key recovery prerequisites. She also offers evidence that the state's increased budgetary appropriations to education are yielding measurable benefits. Her admonition that how the money is spent is as important as the amount made available should touch a nerve in Broward residents. Having learned that their school board cycled out hundreds of \$millions for the construction of tens of thousands of new classrooms in*

*districts where they can't fill the existing classrooms, Broward taxpayers are rightfully leery about pumping more money into the system before the political rat's nest undergoes a thorough housecleaning.*

*Nevertheless, Ellyn takes pride in the findings of an authoritative scholastic evaluation conducted by Education Week magazine, which celebrates the qualitative enhancement of education in Florida. Over the past three years, the State's national educational ranking in the journal's "The 50 State Report Card" improved from number 31 to number 10. Given the State's painful 10.7% unemployment rate, feeling job growth remains a legislative priority. Characterizing local input as the centerpiece of her legislative policies, our Statehouse Representative invites constituents to sign on for legislative email updates. Read On! - [editor]"*

Continued on page 11



Representative  
Ellyn Bogdanoff



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Bogdanoff...Continued

**Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff on the Budget  
Economy and Education**

Dear Neighbor:

This has been a difficult budget year. Starting with a 6 billion dollar shortfall, we took a measured approach that protected our core priorities and worked to reduce government spending. As the Chair of the Finance and Tax Council, I also believe that it was imperative that we considered the long-term best interests of the state's financial future. By holding government to the same standard as hard-working families and businesses that are required to live within their means each month, we put ourselves on the right path to significantly improving our state's economy.

As challenging as this budget was, not all states did as well as Florida. Twenty states are now considering furloughing workers or shutting down government offices, including Rhode Island, which will shut down state government for 12 days in the hopes of balancing their state budget. The situation in Rhode Island could easily have happened in Florida if we didn't make the difficult decisions that enable Florida to maintain government services and will help create a stable financial environment for our economy to rebound.

The American Legislative Exchange Conference ranks State Economic Outlook each year based on 15 variables such as tax burden, debt service, and corporate tax rates. Due to ac-

tions that we took to lower taxes and attract industry, Florida has improved our outlook in 2009 from 16 to 11, out of 50.

Because we have required a pay as you go model, Florida has not promised public employees retirement benefits that we can't possibly pay for. In fact, Florida is among a small handful of states that has more equity than liabilities in their pension plans at the time of the last report.

Sales tax collections for the last quarter of the past fiscal year are slightly ahead of estimates, and August collections, which are still being counted, appear to be over estimate by more than \$30 million. This means that Floridians are spending more money, and more tourists are coming to visit Florida.

Finally, the budget for the current year continues to place a priority on classroom spending and making sure Florida's children receive a world-class education. Crafting an education budget with limited state resources was challenging, and the House and Senate responded to this challenge by prioritizing education spending, responsibly utilizing federal funds to lessen the impact of our budget shortfall on education spending and giving school districts increased budgeting flexibility.

The budget for the current fiscal year raises per-student funding by \$32 to a statewide average of \$6877. With this year's increase in per-student funding, we will have increased funding for K-12 students by over 43%, or over \$2070 per-student, over the past ten years. The average per-student increase over the past ten years is over \$207 per-student, per-year.

Continued on page 18

Even the meager rental savings would be burdened by moving and storage costs and moving damage losses to the inventory. Additionally, the County would remain on the hook for \$53,000 of the \$70,854 annual rental expense if they pulled the plug.

Following a unanimous May 21st vote by the Galt Mile Community Association Advisory Board empowering Gardner to represent the community's interest in the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center, a committee was empanelled to help protect the storefront neighborhood asset. After accepting Commissioner Keechl's offer to help save the facility, the committee convened 4 open meetings at the library and formulated a strategy based on the Vice Mayor's input. The committee organized a community-wide petition, created and distributed a "resolution of support" template to the 26 member associations and local civic organizations, and initiated a letter writing and email campaign targeting all nine County Commissioners.

Nearly 5,000 petition signatures and 33 pro-Reading Room resolutions (associations, Houses of Worship, Civic groups, etc.) were forwarded to Commissioner Keechl's office, where they were copied and distributed to his Commission peers. Hundreds of supportive emails and letters simultaneously flooded the Commission chambers. Within a few weeks, the Commissioners that favored closing the local libraries were suddenly more receptive to alternative budget fixes. At the final Budget Workshop in Mid-August, several commissioners told the Vice Mayor that they would support holding safe the 7 threatened leased libraries, especially the Galt Mile facility.

Notwithstanding, the Vice Mayor advised that the Reading Room would remain "at risk" until the final budget is approved on September 22nd, at the second of the two scheduled Broward Budget Meetings. The reason for his admonition soon became clear. During the first Budget Meeting on September 10th, when County Commissioner Lois Wexler unexpectedly revived her recommendation to close the Reading Room, Commissioner Keechl rallied sufficient support to temporarily fend off her "sneak attack". The event underscored Keechl's warning to the committee that "This is politics and the Commission members are under pressure. Despite any claims or statements made prior to the final budget meeting, there are no guarantees."

While the Library Committee meetings were underway, hundreds of residents expressed their intention to attend the final budget meeting and verbally pummel the Broward Commission. Planned statements ranged from carefully measured fiscal, cultural and civic justifications for the library's survival to markedly less cogent expressions of fear, disgust, frustration and anger.

When asked for his input, Keechl said, "The final budget meeting is likely to be a marathon event, with scores of residents speaking about dozens of issues. After a time, anyone within earshot of largely repetitive complaints, supplications and comments will tend to become numb to the proceedings." Since the Commission members had already been made aware of the community-wide scope of this issue by the tidal wave of petition signatures, resolutions and correspondences, the Vice Mayor recommended that the group be limited to a highly identifiable contingent of about 30 residents rather than swamping the chamber with hundreds of angry supporters. He also suggested that it would be more effective if one person summarized resident concerns on behalf of the group.

Taking a page from the strategy implemented to oppose the Calypso gasworks, L'Hermitage I Manager Patricia Quintero ordered tee shirts scripted with "Save our Library" and Playa del Mar's Fred Nesbitt secured matching buttons to identify group members at the County budget meeting. GMCA President Pio Ieraci was selected to deliver the committee's message. The only remaining obstacle was transportation.

Fortunately, our District 1 City Commissioner and Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts (that's right, we are represented by Vice Mayors in both the City and the County) learned about the Committee's efforts while attending a GMCA Advisory Board meeting. When apprised of the problem, he offered to sponsor a bus to carry concerned residents to and from the meeting at the Broward Governmental Center.

On Friday, September 18th - four days before the event - each of the 26 GMCA member associations were informed about the plan and posted notices inviting concerned residents to reserve a seat on the bus. By Tuesday morning, more than 40 seats were snapped up, somewhat exceeding Commissioner Keechl's recommended quota of 30 attendees. The over 90 additional applicants that called through 3 PM were informed that although the bus was full, they could still attend via alternative means of transportation.

"Nearly 5,000 petition signatures and 33 pro-Reading Room resolutions . . . were forwarded to Commissioner Keechl's office, where they were copied and distributed to his Commission peers."



Although Vice Mayor Roberts was called away to address a Tuesday afternoon emergency, his Commission Assistant Robbi Uptegrove met the bus at 2:30 PM with GMCA officials Pio Ieraci, Eric Berkowitz and Fern McBride. At 3 PM, the bus left Southpoint with a sizable group of L'Hermitage, Commodore, Coral Ridge Towers complex and Southpoint residents-including the irrepressible octogenarian, Sara (Sally) Sobel. The bus headed north up Galt Ocean Drive, stopping to board one or two individuals from some associations and larger groups from Edgewater Arms, the two "Regencys", Ocean Club, The Galleon and Plaza South (led by the indefatigable Terry Claire). The passenger list was unexpectedly swelled by a half dozen extra friends and/or family members of registered riders. En route to the meeting site, passengers wiggled into their tee shirts and buttons.

Upon arriving at the Government Center, GMCA Secretary Fern McBride expedited the County registration protocol for the 50 Galt Mile residents disembarking the bus. They were soon joined by several carloads of additional Galt Reading Room supporters. By the 5:01 PM start time, the entire center section of the Commission Chamber was filled with white and red tee shirted library proponents. Within an hour, the Commission called on Pio Ieraci, who launched into the reasons why the Reading Room should never

have been threatened with closure. After clarifying the Vice Mayor's strategy to spare the Commission hours of redundant concerns, he summoned the group, whereupon the entire center section simultaneously rose to their feet.

The Commissioners were visibly relieved when Ieraci disclosed that he was speaking for the attending Galt Mile residents. In closing, he reminded the Commissioners that the neighborhood demonstration was "dialed down" by design, intimating that they should think twice before repeating their threat again next year. Two library supporters who insisted on personally addressing the Commission briefly punctuated Ieraci's remarks. Seemingly appreciative of his abbreviated presentation, Mayor Stacy Ritter responded by guaranteeing that the Galt Mile Reading Center would remain open. When she followed with an observation that 118 people had signed up to address the Commission about other issues, the Galt Mile group cut short their standing ovation and headed for the exits.

Within minutes, the center section was empty. As the locals exited the building, swarming reporters interviewed Ieraci, Herman Gardner and randomly solicited comments from anyone in a tee shirt. Savoring the successful outcome of a summer-long campaign, the participants' return trip spontaneously evolved into a celebratory party. Prior to being dropped off at their respective buildings, the residents thanked Robbi Uptegrove for her

invaluable help and asked that she convey their appreciation to Vice Mayor Roberts for providing the bus and standing by his constituents.

Commissioner Josephus Eggelletion joined Kristin Jacobs on the losing side of the after midnight 7 vs. 2 vote approving the final budget. Insisting that the budget was tainted by the 52 County jobs sacrificed to avoid a tax hike, Eggelletion issued an ominous warning to his peers "The direction that you take determines your destination." Eight hours later, headlines were plastered across every South Florida media outlet alleging that Eggelletion's part in a Bahamian money laundering scheme led the FBI to slap on the cuffs. Hmmm...?•



"Save Our Library" T-shirt adorns Galt Mile Resident at Broward Budget Hearing.

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<p><b>11</b> Sunset Blue Block Party NE 33rd Street Galt Ocean Village Shoppes 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Info.: www.galtmile.com</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p><b>12</b> Columbus Day</p> <p>Fiddler on the Roof (Through 10/18) Broward Center for the Performing Arts Tix.: www.browardcenter.org</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Frank Lloyd Wright (Through 2/7/2010) Fort Lauderdale History Center Info.: 954-463-4431</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>The 8th Annual L-B-T-S Fish Fry Anglin's Fishing Pier on the Ocean 5 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-776-1000</p>
<p><b>18</b> Hollywood Beach Clambake Hollywood Beach &amp; Broadwalk 5 to 11 p.m. Info.: 954-926-3377</p> <p>Sunset Blue Block Party NE 33rd Street Galt Ocean Village Shoppes 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Info.: www.galtmile.com</p>	<p><b>19</b> Gun and Knife Show (Through 10/20) War Memorial Info.: 954-828-5380</p> <p>Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Cardinal Gibbons High School, Media Room 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p><b>20</b> The Allman Brothers Band Hard Rock Live Tix.: 800-745-3000</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Robin Williams (Through 10/22) Hard Rock Live Tix.: 800-745-3000</p>
<p><b>25</b> Sunset Blue Block Party NE 33rd Street Galt Ocean Village Shoppes 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Info.: www.galtmile.com</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>1</b> Sunset Blue Block Party NE 33rd Street Galt Ocean Village Shoppes 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Info.: www.galtmile.com</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time ends (2 a.m. becomes 1 a.m.)</p> <p><b>Sunday Jazz Brunch</b> Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985</p>	<p><b>2</b> Ft Lauderdale Home Design &amp; Remodeling Show Broward Convention Center Info.: 888-353-3976</p> <p>Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Cardinal Gibbons High School, Media Room 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p><b>3</b> Election Day</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> 
<p><b>8</b> Sunset Blue Block Party NE 33rd Street Galt Ocean Village Shoppes 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Info.: www.galtmile.com</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Fall Business Expo War Memorial Auditorium Info.: 561-245-8985</p>	<p><b>11</b> Veteran's Day</p>

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, TO TO THE CALENDAR AT  
**WWW.GALTMILE.COM**



# ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

THU

FRI

SAT

15

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

16

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

17

Cat Show  
(Through 10/18)  
War Memorial  
Info.: 954-572-2126

22

23

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

24

Buckler's 19th Annual Craft Fair  
S. Fl Fairgrounds, WPB  
Info.: 386-860-0092

29

Glackens as Illustrator Lecture  
with Jorge Santis, Curator  
& Head of Collection Research  
Museum of Art  
6 p.m.  
Res.: 954-525-5500 X 20320

30

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

31

22nd Annual Las Olas Art Fair  
(Through 10/25)  
Las Olas Blvd.  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-472-3755

11th Annual LBTS Craft Festival  
(Through 11/2)  
A1A & Commercial Blvd.  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-472-3755

5

**Ft Lauderdale Int'l Boat Show**  
(Through 11/2)  
Info.: 954-764-7642

6

CAI-SEFL Annual Golf Tournament  
Bonaventure Country Club  
11 a.m. Registration  
Info.: 954-816-0661

7

Palm Plant Show and Sale  
(Through 11/8)  
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**\$5 Off Coupon:**  
[www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org)

Light The Night Walk-a-thon  
Huizenga Plaza  
6 to 9:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-744-5228

12

2nd on 2nd Thursdays Block Party  
200 Block SW 2nd Street  
5 to 9 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541

13

Jazz on the Square  
The Village Grille  
Commercial Blvd. & A1A  
7 p.m.

14

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

November 15

13.1 Marathon

Starts: Port Everglades

Info.: [www.131fortlauderdale.com](http://www.131fortlauderdale.com)

Register: [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)

November 17 - February 7, 2010

American Chronicles: Norman Rockwell  
Museum of Art

Info.: [www.moaflnsu.org](http://www.moaflnsu.org)

November 28 - 29

Downtown Delray Thanksgiving Weekend Art Fest  
Pineapple Grove in Delray, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Info.: 954-472-3755

December 6

Family Fundays on Sundays at Fairchild  
Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Noon to 4 p.m.

Info.: [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org)

December 6

Holiday Music at Fairchild  
Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 6 to 10 p.m.

Info.: [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org)

December 11 - 13

The Nutcracker - Miami City Ballet  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Info.: [www.browardcenter.org](http://www.browardcenter.org)

December 12

Winterfest Boat Parade

Starts: Downtown Fort Lauderdale on the New River, 6 p.m.

Info.: 954-767-0686



# BROWARD VICE MAYOR KEN KEECHL'S CORNER



*"Constituents who engage Broward Vice Mayor Ken Keechl in conversation come away from the experience with two new insights. In addition to any information gleaned from the discussion, they are unambiguously convinced that Keechl is passionately consumed with his Commission*

*responsibilities. Whether initiating some long-needed improvement or reacting to an unanticipated County dilemma, Keechl's actions are often predictable. They are guided by a credo that he publicly proclaimed three years ago, while running for the Commission seat that he's ably filled.*

*As a Commission candidate, Keechl described what he would do if elected and explained exactly how he would accomplish each task. The only omission was the timeline. Since then, following his progress has become reminiscent of ticking off items in a shopping list. Every month or two, constituents can simply cross off another of Keechl's promised achievements.*

*His September 2009 Newsletter enumerates some of his major accomplishments. In fact, each of the items described in this three-year summary correspond to a prior newsletter topic he published to keep constituents abreast of his progress. Following his election victory in November 2006, Keechl said "The overwhelming local issue of the 2006 campaign season was property taxes. They are too high – period." Three years later, he accurately exclaims, "Broward's annual budget is \$300 million smaller today than it was when you elected me. That's \$300 million dollars in property taxes every year that's staying in your families' checkbooks."*

*In that same November 2006 Newsletter, Keechl said "Preservation is a cornerstone of smart growth – we cannot stop development, but we can grow in a way that meets the needs of our increasing population and at the same time fosters a distinct and inviting environment in the County." The current Newsletter describes how an adjacent strand of Mangroves were "held safe" during the rehabilitation of Port Everglades and how the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport expansion was delimited primarily by the projected environmental impact.*

*One of the Vice Mayor's original campaign platform planks – that precluded construction of mediocre "McMansions" on the American Golfers Club in Coral Ridge – evolved into a post-election crusade to protect Broward's few remaining large green spaces from uncontrolled development. He subsequently sought to amend the Comprehensive Land Use Plan by infusing the developmental prerequisites with a "poison pill". Since golf courses are traditionally treated with pesticides and arsenic-laden herbicides, the amendment (which passed unanimously) acts as a deterrent by requiring pre-development Phase I and Phase II environmental status reports showing the absence of environmental contamination. The cost of detoxifying an entire golf course will make prospective development a highly unprofitable experience. Also, Keechl's approval of 4,392 additional County boat slips was contingent on the simultaneous passage of a Manatee Protection Plan and the reservation of 513 boat slips for future public use.*

*When investigators revealed how Broward County's animal shelter buried bagged animals that may not have always been dead in a landfill, left other animal carcasses rotting in maggot-infested bags for days, ignored food shortages, permitted shelter employees to set aside dogs with high resale value for friends and/or profit, left pharmaceutical stockpiles unlocked (in vio-*

*lation of state standards) and failed to check for microchip implants, tattoos and other identifying elements ordinarily used to reunite pets with their owners, Keechl led the charge to reverse the abuses and permanently prevent their recurrence.*

*Since 57% of the Broward electorate demanded the creation of a "Broward County Ethics Commission" to formulate a Code of Ethics against which actions of Broward Commissioners can be measured, each of the 9 Democrat commissioners was charged with appointing a panel member. Keechl reached across the aisle and selected Republican Bob Wolfe to provide the panel with a modicum of ideological balance.*

*During a County Commission meeting hiatus, Keechl traveled to Tallahassee and lobbied lawmakers to reject counterproductive legislation designed to circumvent County Land Use requirements. In his spare time, he promotes economic growth in the Broward Alliance, addresses local transportation obstacles with the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Authority (DFLTMA), works with the Public Safety Coordinating Council to facilitate local law enforcement issues and resolves property assessment dilemmas through service on the Value Adjustment Board. This spring and summer on the Galt Mile, Keechl developed the strategy followed by the GMCA's "Save the Library" committee, ultimately securing a reprieve for the embattled Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center. It's been rumored that sometimes, he eats and sleeps. Read on... - [editor]"*

## "Third Year Report"

by Broward County Commissioner and Vice Mayor Ken Keechl

I can't believe that it's been almost three years since you elected me to be your Broward County Commissioner. And I can't believe that it's been almost a year since my colleagues elected me to be Broward's County's Vice Mayor. I still pinch myself every single day. Yes, being a County Commissioner is a time consuming endeavor, but there isn't a better job in the world. Seriously.

From my first day on the dais, I have championed our "shared vision" for a different Broward County. And over the past three years, the direction of the County Commission has changed—for the better. I like to think that my advocacy has been partially responsible.

First and foremost, I have been an ardent advocate for lower property taxes and decreased spending. At my constant urging, in the last two years we have decreased spending by \$200,000,000.00; this year we are on course to reduce our budget by another \$100,000,000.00. As a result, Broward's annual budget is \$300,000,000.00 smaller today than it was when you elected me. That's \$300,000,000.00 dollars in property taxes every year that's staying in your families' checkbooks. I have also advocated for an environmentally sensitive, yet business friendly approach to running Broward County. Many successful results can be seen in a number of initiatives over the past three years. For example, we have expanded our seaport to remain competitive—without destroying in the process a precious mangrove strand located in the port.

Continued on page 17



# INJURED?

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Keechl...Continued

We have finally agreed to a much needed expansion of our southern runway at Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Int. Airport. I sponsored a Comprehensive Land Use Plan amendment which strongly discouraged golf course conversions into residential developments and my amendment requires environmental contamination inspections. I supported a "boat siting" plan which added 4,392 boat slips throughout Broward, but only after the plan contained a strong manatee protection element. And I made sure that it was funded by the users of the boat slips, and not your property taxes. I have consistently advocated for "green" buildings for all new capital projects as well.

You asked me to be your eyes and ears on the Commission. As a result, I demanded an outside investigation of Broward's animal control department when I learned of employee animal abuse and negligence. These practices have been stopped. I have supported sensible ethics reform for the Broward County Commission. I have successfully argued that all budget meetings should be televised so that you see how your tax dollars are being spent.

Over the final year of my first term, I will continue to be your advocate for our shared vision for Broward County. I will continue to be your environmentally sensitive, business friendly, fiscally conservative Commissioner. And I will continue to be your eyes and ears on the Broward County Commission. After all, you and your families deserve nothing less.

Broward County Commissioner and Vice Mayor Ken Keechl  
954 357 7004  
[www.broward.org/kkeechl](http://www.broward.org/kkeechl) •



American Golfer's Club - Where Vice Mayor Keechl thwarted unwanted development of proposed rubber stamp "McMansions."

"I sponsored a  
Comprehensive Land Use Plan  
amendment which strongly  
discouraged golf course con-  
versions into residential  
developments"

Also, to provide additional funds for education during these challenging economic times, the Legislature transferred funding that has been previously designated for capital costs to be used for operating costs and giving school districts flexibility to move those funds back to capital expenditures if needed for debt service payment or urgent construction needs.

Our efforts are working because it is not only how much we spend that matters, but how we spend it.

In January, Florida was ranked 10th in the nation by Education Week in its annual report card ranking education quality for the 50 states. The rankings, based largely on six categories, including school finance, achievement, the teaching profession, standards, assessments and accountability, showed that over the last three years, Florida has risen from number 31 to number 10 in education quality.

No doubt we are moving in the right direction, but there is always room for improvement. Our budget will continue to be a challenge over the next two years. This Session, I will be focused on reducing government spending without compromising our core priorities and establishing tax policies that will allow businesses to thrive so that we increase the number of jobs available to our citizens. With a 10 percent (plus) unemployment rate this is a critical goal.

Your ideas have been invaluable to solving the challenges our state faces, and your perspective continues to shape our agenda. We are on the right path. A path that many people expect government to always be on; which is how do we provide the services to the citizens of this state faster, better, and cheaper.

Please stay in touch and email me anytime at [ellyn@ellynbogdanoff.com](mailto:ellyn@ellynbogdanoff.com). If you would like me to add you to my email list and receive weekly updates from the Capitol, please let me know by emailing me at [Ellyn.Bogdanoff@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Ellyn.Bogdanoff@myfloridahouse.gov) or by calling our office. Thank you for your continued support and for allowing me to serve as your representative in the Florida House.

Until next time...  
Ellyn Bogdanoff  
District 91  
Florida House of Representatives •



State House Representative Bogdanoff chairs Finance and Tax Council

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# GALT MILE NEWS

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2805 E. Oakland Pk. Blvd.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304  
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## Strategic Moves

Make sure your move is a smooth one by following these simple do's and don'ts:

**DON'T** use unsuitable boxes left over from the grocery store.

**DO** use moving boxes from The UPS Store made specifically for moving.

**DON'T** use newspaper to wrap your precious cargo.

**DO** use bubble cushioning to protect fragile possessions.

**DON'T** try to move the big stuff yourself.

**DO** trust the experts at The UPS Store to get it there on time and intact.

**See our ad on page 3  
for some great money  
saving coupons!**

**Remember: We do MUCH, MUCH more than shipping at The UPS Store!!! Come visit us anytime!**

**The UPS Store®**

