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DECEMBER 2010

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GMCA

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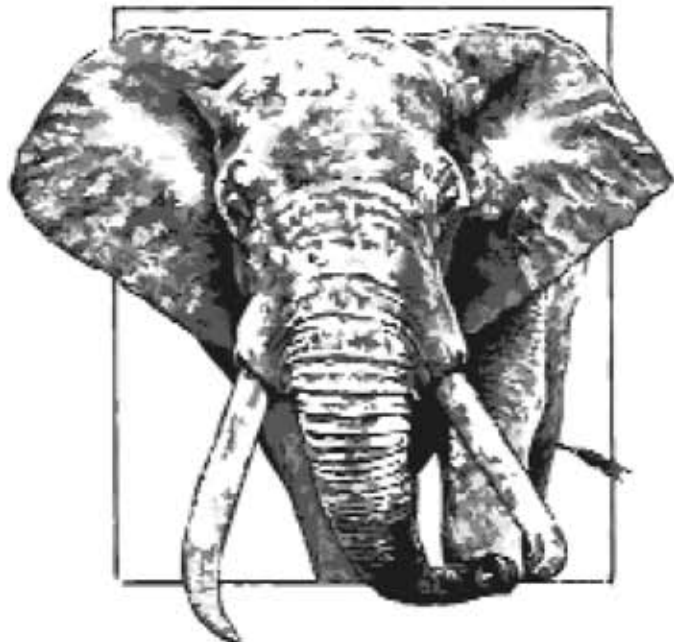
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**PUBLISHER**

Second Studio, LLC  
954-292-6553  
2ndstudios@gmail.com

**EDITOR**

Eric Peter Berkowitz

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Broward District 4 is a political wild card. Unlike the 2:1 Democrat majority in the rest of Broward County, District 4 Democrats and Republicans maintain a numerical equilibrium that varies annually by 3 to 4 points. Adding to the District's political volatility is the fact that about one third of the neighborhood's voters are registered Independents. Ironically, the last two County Commissioners selected by this unique electoral configuration, Jim Scott and Ken Keechl, were deposed for almost identical reasons.

Scott, a former President of the Florida Senate, was probably the most accomplished Commissioner on the Broward Board when he lost his District 4 seat to Ken Keechl in 2006. The County Commission's sole Republican, not only did Scott use his Tallahassee ties to protect state Beach Renourishment funding and land use sovereignty from a series of attacks by upstate Republican lawmakers (who would have been successful absent Scott's efforts), but he single-handedly fended off similar attacks in other Broward Districts on behalf Democrat Commissioners who lacked a voice in the Republican State Capital. While staunchly opposed to raising taxes, Scott insisted on upgrading Port Everglades and the area's airports to insure Broward's ability to compete with similar transportation hubs in Miami and Palm Beach. Whenever the Galt Mile needed something from

Broward County, Jim Scott delivered. When the 2006 elections became a referendum on President Bush's failed foreign and domestic policies, Scott was caught in the pro-Obama Democratic tidal wave and sent to the cornfield.

Suddenly, the Galt Mile was represented by a political neophyte with strong ties to the County's Democrat Machine. In short order, Ken Keechl demonstrated that he was a fiscal conservative, supported popular environmental preservation issues (like beach renourishment), stonewalled property tax increases and would actively champion his constituents' causes. During his four-year tenure, he spearheaded the \$380 million reduction in recurrent County property taxes (dragging along most of his Commission peers against their will), sponsored the Broward Commission's Resolution against the Calypso gas works, helped revive the lapsed beach renourishment project, twice saved the Galt Mile Reading Center from extinction, shepherded the ordinance against sacrificing Broward's few remaining large land tracts (such as golf courses) to developers planning to build mind-numbing McMansions, forced the County to finally replace Galt Mile traffic signals and street signage lost to Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma and staunchly supported ethics reform. When the 2010 elections similarly evolved into a referendum on President Obama's "recovery" policies, Keechl was caught in the anti-Obama Republican tidal wave, and joined Scott in the cornfield.

Now, the Galt Mile is represented by a former Lighthouse Point City Commissioner who used to run Broward's Republican Machine. On September 16th, Charles John LaMarca told the Galt Mile Advisory Board that he intends to vigorously represent our interests on the County Commission. Facing the same credibility obstacles that Keechl had to overcome four years ago, we will soon know if Mr. LaMarca deserves the seat he was handed by a favorable Republican political environment and a 50% District 4 voter turnout. On the Galt Mile, LaMarca beat Keechl by 23 votes. For the benefit of those Galt Mile residents who know little or nothing about LaMarca, the following extracts are from his campaign Bio.

#### Who is Charles "Chip" LaMarca?

When his father passed away, LaMarca's Mother moved the family from Winchester, Massachusetts to the Coral Ridge Isles neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale - right here in District 4. He attended Floranada Elementary School and Rickards Middle School before graduating from Northeast High School in 1986. He spent his college years in Broward Community College and Boston University before returning to Broward County and going into construction - his dad's field.

After marrying Eileen Dorrego in 1995 and moving to Lighthouse Point, LaMarca spent 2002 to 2005 serving on City boards for traffic calming, community appearance, code enforcement, and an architectural committee created to tailor the City's Fire/Police/EMS Station. Following his election to the Lighthouse Point City Commission in 2005, LaMarca opened LaMarca Construction Corp. one year later on September 26, 2006. LaMarca is a past president of the Exchange Club of Pompano Beach where he currently serves on the board while also supporting Hugs for Kids and the Broward Children's Center. In 2007, he won the punishing job of serving as Broward's top Republican.

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# ENTER: THE CHIPSTER



New District 4 Commissioner Charles "Chip" LaMarca with wife Eileen.

# THE CHEPO FILES

## MAY - NOV 2010

By Eric Berkowitz

When Galt Ocean Drive residents voluntarily assessed themselves in 1995 and funded the broad range of civic upgrades known as the Galt Mile Improvement Project, the City agreed to maintain the many improvements in "a Disney-like manner." Whenever the Parks Department dropped the ball, Galt Mile association officials would meet with our City Commissioner and Parks Department Director Phil Thornburg to elicit assurances that civic maintenance would improve. As a result, frustrated residents watched their landscaping cycle through 12 years of intermittent green and brown periods.

On December 18, 2008, the Galt Mile Community Association Advisory Board unanimously appointed Commodore resident José "Chepo" Vega to perform ongoing oversight of the hardscape and landscape features along Galt Ocean Drive and the surrounding area. Working with Parks Department officials, Commissioner Bruce Roberts and the neighborhood association, this self-styled squeaky wheel engineered a steady stream of structural and aesthetic neighborhood improvements.

Last April, Chepo spearheaded an effort to remove "Utility Graffiti" from local streets and sidewalks. These color-coded markings, used by contractors to identify and protect buried utility elements from subsequent demolition damage, ordinarily outlast the project for which they were applied by many years. In short order, streets resemble multi-color concrete drop cloths. When the 2009 Florida Legislature passed Bradenton Senator Michael Bennett's Senate Bill 982, which provides that marking materials should be chemically confected for easy removal, Chepo placed his campaign on hold. Since then, our block maintenance watchdog has been busy.

On April 23, 2010, Chepo fired off this heads-up to Advisory Board members: *"As we are all aware, great improvements have been happening in our Galt Mile neighborhood but there is still more work to be done. The pavers and the sidewalk curbs at the pick up and delivery area in front of the buildings are getting very badly damaged. This is due to the steel roller wheels of the dumpsters parked there during renovations. At this time I must ask all of you for your help to make sure that the dumpsters are sitting on wood at all times protecting the pavers as shown on the pictures since this is the only way the pavers will be protected. By doing this it will help make the Galt maintenance easier."*

Within two weeks, five contractors' dumpsters parked on or adjacent to Galt Mile association properties were underlain with the wooden supports - as recommended by Chepo. He regularly patrols the neighborhood and records observations for submission to City Park or Public Works officials responsible for community landscaping and hardscape maintenance. On June 7th, Chepo sent the following email to Fort Lauderdale Beach Foreman Mark Almy, detailing his latest "walk through" assessment.

*"Good morning Mark,*

*Here is my "walking" list.*

*Silver Buttonwood tree in front of Playa del Sol is dying the same way as the one replaced at Playa del Mar not too long ago.*

*The following benches need to be refurbished: Playa del Mar, Ocean Riviera, Playa del Sol, Plaza East, Plaza South, Southpoint.*

*Please let me know who I have to talk to about moving back the sidewalk trash containers to their original place on the curb. Maybe we can take advantage of the areas where there are some holes that need to be patched. By doing this the patched holes won't be visible.*

*Tomorrow I will be tagging some trees still leaning towards the street that are in the pedestrians' way. Maria (\* a veteran Parks Department employee with a long history of service on the Galt Mile) and I talked about the tree grids hurting some tree trunks and she mentioned that they will be taken care of soon. We talked about the severe pruning close to the fire hydrant on 35 St. and I hope we can do something about it since we haven't had any problem with the Fire Department with the other fire hydrants.*

*I will call you this week to touch base. Thanks for your help,*

*Chepo"*

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Chepo with City of Ft. Lauderdale Block Maintenance Crew



On July 1, 2010, Chepo made a pictorial record cataloguing a broad range of municipal maintenance failures. It depicted sidewalk tripping hazards; an indecipherable tangle of parking space markings in the strip mall on Galt Ocean Drive and 35th Street; unacceptable sidewalk patch repairs using black asphalt instead of matching aggregate; severely eroded handicap parking logos, street traffic lines and directional arrows along with an overgrown corner hedge at 35th Street that blocked visibility for drivers turning onto Galt Ocean Drive.

The flags raised by Chepo's pictures sparked a blizzard of correspondences between Commissioner Bruce Roberts, Assistant to the City Manager Julie Richards and Public Works Director Albert Carbon. An earlier walk-through by Chepo and City Park officials produced a punch list of "emergency" repairs that included the manual grinding of tilted sidewalk panels along Galt Ocean Drive. However, tripping hazards resulting from heavily extruded lengths of sidewalk cannot be corrected by simply trimming some aggregate; the severely distorted sections must be replaced. Once the less egregious cases were leveled by manual grinding, Julie Richards sent this interim progress report to Commissioner Bruce Roberts: *"Please note the acknowledgment from Public Works that the additional replacement of the sidewalks will need to be a future CIP ('Capital Improvement Project) project. Staff confirmed that the outstanding work agreed to from the walk-thru with the horizontal saw cutting (trip and fall hazards) was performed. Thank you."*

With "encouragement" from Roberts, Al Carbon drafted the funding application for the required sidewalk replacement. On July 27th, he reported to Roberts:

*"Sidewalk repairs are requested in the 2010/11 CIP Budget to be approved during the budget public hearings in September. Once the funding is approved, we will put the projects on our project list to be worked on. We normally bid our annual concrete contract in Jan/Feb time frame; the contractor will be ready in April 2011, if funded."*

While Carbon and Roberts were following protocols for the sidewalk repairs, Chepo turned his attention to the faded road markings in this July 23rd email to Roberts:

*"As we all know our neighborhood is a walking neighborhood enjoyed by residents and guests every day. So we are trying to make it pleasant, clean and inviting in a 'Disney like Manner' at all times. The faded pavement markings are not helping us reach our goal. Please let me know how I should proceed in getting these maintenance items taken care of since it is part of our refurbishing program."*

After circulating through several City Departments, Chepo's message was forwarded to the Broward County Traffic Engineering Division, which provides lane markings per an agreement with the City. To preclude the issue from sinking into a jurisdictional black hole (a fate common to issues complicated by overlapping City and County ordinances), Public Works Director Albert Carbon contacted Broward County Traffic Engineering Technician Bob McKibbin and asked him to examine Chepo's pictorial evidence of dramatic lineage deterioration. On August 6th, McKibbin answered Carbon:

*"We will reinvestigate the pavement markings and report back with our findings. As you are probably aware, Broward County does not install or maintain any pavement markings associated with on-street parking, which would include the handicap symbols shown in image 83. Additionally, Broward County does not install or maintain white edge lines on streets with a pavement width of 30-39 feet, unless total volumes exceed five-thousand vehicles per day."*

Continued on page 8



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Undeterred by McKibbin's measured caveats, Chepo pressed the issue. On August 27th, McKibbin relented and emailed the following message under the subject line "striping/pavement markings on Galt Ocean Mile."

*"Based on our investigation, work orders will be issued to refurbish the stop lines at the following locations:*

- On the westbound approach at the traffic signal at SR 1A and NE 41 St.
- On the northbound approach at Galt Mile and NE 41 St.
- At the mid-block traffic signal at the south end of Galt Mile, which appears to be in an operational mode.

*However, the mid-block signal on the north end is in flash mode with the WALK/DON'T WALK signals covered. Since both of these signals are maintained by the City and not by Broward County, we would ask that City staff provide an operational status for the one on the north end.*

*Please refer to the below-stated County policy for the maintenance of white edge lines. Since the centerlines are in reasonably good condition, they will not be refurbished at this time.*

**Bob McKibbin**  
*Broward County Traffic Engineering Studies Section  
Engineering Technician II"*

While Chepo didn't get the whole ball of wax, it was a step in the right direction. Since the Broward budget is encased in a fiscal straight jacket, most County form letters begin with "We regret to inform you..." When forwarding McKibbin's accession to Robbi Uptegrove (Bruce Roberts' Commission Assistant), Julie Richards added:

*"Please note the work orders that will be completed by the County, subsequent to being asked to revisit the request from the Galt. Thank you."*

*A delighted Robbi emailed Chepo "This is good news!!!!"*

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Chepo stoically pocketed the victory and moved ahead. On September 11th, while the nation mourned, Chepo scouted a decomposing paved crosswalk on Galt Ocean Drive. He snapped some pictures of the damage and sent them to Commissioner Roberts – captioned with the following note:

*"Galt Ocean Mile Pedestrian Crosswalk in need of repairs where an accident is waiting to happen. A repair was done some time ago and black pavers were introduced making the areas look like a patched up job since they were never used before. Please make sure that no black pavers are used on these repairs. We live in a walking neighborhood and we would like to keep enjoying it without patching areas. Thanks."*

In August, an angry Galt Mile resident notified Chepo about vehicles parked on the lawn across the street from the Ocean Manor Hotel and Condo. After fielding several subsequent complaints, he grabbed his camera and headed to the site. At the next Advisory Board meeting, Chepo distributed pictures of parked cars and trucks jutting 3 to 4 feet into Galt Ocean Drive's southbound traffic lane. As a courtesy to a member association, the Advisory Board voted to notify Ocean Manor management about the traffic hazard and thanked Chepo for his diligence.

On August 27th, while walking on Galt Ocean Drive, Chepo observed an idiot flying down the sidewalk on a bicycle nearly hit an elderly couple. The pea-brain turned his head and gestured with his middle finger. Having received several complaints about similar incidents, Chepo looked into the local ordinances governing bicycles. Bicycles aren't allowed on city sidewalks where "No Bicycles on Sidewalk" signs were previously approved by the City Commission. Such signs affixed along the Galt Mile were taken down during the 1994 – 1995 improvement project and never replaced. On further investigation, the City Clerk's Office discovered that signage approved again at the October 5, 1999 City Commission meeting mysteriously disappeared (perhaps eviscerated by hurricane winds) and was also never replaced.

Since Resolution No. 99-137 prohibits riding bicycles on Galt Mile sidewalks, these signs have since been reinstalled. When the neighborhood association inquired about marking a bike lane in the street, the County measured Galt Ocean Drive and declined, claiming that the street was too narrow. Like other vehicles, bicycles must be registered. Following Chepo's report at the October 15th Advisory Board meeting, Acting District 1 Major Michael Gregory agreed to organize bike registration events at two local sites; the Galt Mile Reading Center and the Beach Community Center (to better service the Coral Ridge Towers complex). When the events are scheduled, associations will be notified and notice will be posted on the Galt Mile web site.

In late October, Chepo and Beach Foreman Mark Almy scheduled a list of landscaping improvements for the winter season. In their revised scope of work, Chepo wanted Almy to address trees along Galt Ocean Drive that he previously identified and marked as "severely bent towards the street." He characterized the eye-level low hanging branches as pedestrian threats.

A few days later, Almy's crew began fixing problems on the list. Aware of Chepo's primary concern, he directed his Park maintenance personnel to prioritize the severely bent trees. On November 10th, the Beach Foreman popped off the following email to Chepo:

*"We attempted to straighten some of the trees that you recently marked. They were able to straighten to some degree about half of them. The others are so well established though, that we will not be able to cut the roots without likely losing the tree. These will need to be continually trained through trimming. We started sodding some of the tree rings today. We will be gradually working on our winter list that we formulated together a couple weeks ago."*

**Thanks,  
Mark"**

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### The Campaign

Discouraged by the lack of viable County Commission candidates available to his Republican Election Committee, LaMarca decided to personally ride the current anti-Democrat wave into Broward's Government Center by challenging Ken Keechl for his District 4 Commission seat. On May 20, 2010, The Lighthouse Point Commissioner threw his hat in the ring with a seriously over the top speech. Likening Broward County to a swamp that he would drain, LaMarca said "Under the leadership of Ken Keechl, the Broward County Government has amassed one of the worst records of corruption this state has ever seen and was one of the reasons the Governor requested and the Supreme Court approved, the convening of a Special Statewide Grand Jury to probe this serious problem."

Of course, this was colorful campaign hogwash. The Governor asked the Supreme Court for a statewide Grand Jury following the October 2009 indictment on corruption charges of a Broward County ophthalmologist who had served on the governor's transition team. Shortly after denying the Governor's October 14th request, Attorney Scott Rothstein was busted for running a \$1.2 billion ponzi scheme on December 1, 2009. It was no coincidence when the Supreme Court finally approved Crist's amended request on December 2nd, appointing Broward Chief Judge Victor Tobin of the 17th Circuit to preside over the grand jury. High profile scandals that actually involved Broward Commissioners included Josephus Eggleston's imprisonment for a Bahamian money laundering scheme and Commissioner Diana Wasserman-Rubin's involvement with her husband's (Richard Rubin) grant plundering in county municipalities.

A savvy politician, although LaMarca knew that the wrongdoing in every one of these cases preceded Keechl's November 2009 appointment as Broward Mayor, he needed to provoke Keechl into a political brawl to generate some badly needed District-wide name recognition. To the average Broward voter, LaMarca was better known for his brief commission service in Lighthouse Point than for his alter-ego as "the man behind the curtain" in Broward Republican politics. Keechl took the bait. He returned LaMarca's blasts by impugning his opponent's character for a 1989 DUI arrest while he was attending college. Keechl also accused LaMarca of forging signatures on Building Permit applications and secretly siphoning construction business from a former employer. The virulent last-minute attack ads boomeranged on Keechl when he was pounded in the local media for launching a desperate eleventh hour mudfest.

### The Allegation

The charges against LaMarca were previously investigated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The case (BR-14-0017) was opened on November 1, 2006 when Robert L. Morgan, CEO of MGI Morgan General Mechanical Group in Deerfield Beach, accused former MGI Operations Manager LaMarca of forging and notarizing permit applications to mask remunerated work he performed without his employer's knowledge. After a 3-year investigation, FDLE sent its findings to Chief Tim Donnelly of the Broward County State Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Unit. A year earlier, on September 1, 2008, Donnelly expressed concern about the "political ramifications" of criminally charging LaMarca and described the case as "a 'he said, he said' situation."

On September 15, 2009, Donnelly told FDLE Special Agent James Futch that "it would be difficult to prosecute Charles LaMarca" since signing Morgan's name and/or notarizing a forged signature was "common practice within MGI Morgan Mechanical." Proving fraud and theft would require segregating instances of "forgery" ordinarily practiced by the company to expedite its business interests from those used to allegedly facilitate work surreptitiously negotiated and performed by LaMarca for company clients. As Donnelly grew discouraged by the looming investigative obstacles to securing high profile fraud or forgery convictions, he also lost interest in pursuing notary infractions and possible violations of the grand theft statute.

Although Donnelly indicated that "Florida Statutes 117.051, 117.105 and 117.1079 deal specifically with unlawful use of a notary commission to acquire funds one is not entitled to," a third degree felony, the allegation would first have to funnel through the Notary Section in the Governor's Office - friendly territory for LaMarca. Crist's Office confirmed the complaint and Notary Education Coordinator Heather Slager issued a formal reprimand to LaMarca, but they shielded his notary commission from suspension.

Continued on page 10

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If LaMarca had defrauded the company of funds, the complainant should have filed a civil case, not criminal allegations with FDLE that involved the State Attorney's Office. Since a June 9, 2008 FDLE report includes LaMarca's statement that he was stiffed by MGI for about \$72,000 owed on his employment contract, whether Morgan files separate theft charges is 6 to 5 and pick 'em. When Donnelly rolled up the 3-year case file and sent FDLE packing, LaMarca emerged unscathed.

**Twitter**

LaMarca's Twitter page offers some insight into the new District 4 Commissioner. Repeatedly celebrating his single-parent Mother, on Father's day, he tweets "Happy Father's Day to all of the amazing dads out there...especially to my Mom, for doing it all!" He actively supports the Dallas Cowboys, is starry eyed for "America's Mayor: Rudolph W. Giuliani", and calls himself "The Chipster". Firmly planted in the Christian Right, LaMarca regaled a rainstorm as "God's way feeding our beautiful landscapes" and at Easter, he testified "HE has risen...Alleluia! Happy Easter." One reporter called LaMarca a classic Republican from Central Casting.

**A Classic Republican**

LaMarca shoots from the hip. On March 25, 2009, while laying the groundwork for his run at Keechl, he faulted the Broward Commission for naming the Ilene Lieberman Botanical Gardens for a sitting District 1 County Commissioner, insisting that "Anybody who is alive should not have a park named after them while they are serving." He later discovered that Ilene Lieberman Park is not a Broward County Park. It was created by the City of Lauderhill and so named to honor their former mayor.

As Chair of the County Republican Party since February 26, 2007, LaMarca developed effective media skills, honed by strategically issuing press releases that bashed indicted Democrat public officials. During monthly meetings of the Broward Republican Executive Committee (BREC), LaMarca made rousing speeches to the GOP faithful. Although LaMarca's 244,000 registered Broward Republicans were outnumbered 2 to 1 by local Democrats, it represented the second largest GOP voting bloc in the State. While his impact on local races was limited, LaMarca was well known in Tallahassee, where his help was solicited by GOP hopefuls for State office. LaMarca was a staunch supporter of Charlie Crist - until the Governor renounced his Republican credentials.

BREC membership and fundraising, which flourished under Crist ally George

LeMieux, suffered under LaMarca. When he stepped down to run for the County Commission seat, the 335 members were unable to effectively cover the roughly 800 Broward precincts. In October of 2009, LaMarca's membership chair resigned under heavy criticism following a controversial meeting at the Pembroke Gun & Range in Pembroke Park. Attending Republican Congressional candidate Robert Lowry shot at a target affixed with the initials of Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. As a parting shot, after describing having blasted away at the Congresswoman's initials as a "joke", Lowry reassessed it as a "mistake", possibly because the incident also blew his political credibility - and campaign aspirations - to hell.

As a result, LaMarca raised less than \$3000 during his last two quarters. Bob Wolfe, the Media Director and Government relations guru for the Broward County Property Appraiser's office and a good friend to the Galt Mile community, was a regular at BREC meetings. The longtime Republican activist lamented the Committee's priorities under LaMarca, complaining "The focus ought to be on raising money and supporting candidates - both of those two things are lacking right now. We don't have the war chest necessary to support local candidates."

While preaching pan-Republican inclusion, LaMarca denied a welcome mat to fringe red county phenomena-such as the Tea Party. Referring to the weekly Tea Party protest at Oakland Park Boulevard and Federal Highway, LaMarca remarked "Some activist groups - God bless them - they are activists, but the idea of standing on a street corner every Saturday - the same street corner - with a sign is not going to be as productive than if you are working on precinct training."

After his Election Day upset, he cruised the District, thanking voters for their support. With the campaign rhetoric fading, LaMarca's first task will be to mend fences and reassure a splintered constituency that he represents all the District's residents. During the next few months, our rookie commissioner will have to strike a balance between familiarizing himself with the respective concerns of the District's many neighborhoods and the broader interests of Broward County.

Representing the coastal communities of District 4 is no walk in the park. As an experienced Republican insider, LaMarca knows that while reactionary blow-back from Washington and/or Tallahassee can temporarily tilt the political landscape, it has little impact on the District's problems. Following Scott and Keechl, LaMarca also knows he has some big shoes to fill. More to come...•

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\*Editor's Note



Chepo Briefs GMCA President Pio Ieraci (left), Parks Department Operations Supervisor Brian Hopper, and Beach Foreman Mark Almy

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# SPRINKLER CONFUSION

## IT'S Time To Act

By Eric Berkowitz



After eight years of sweating out a dreaded \$million plus statutory assessment (2 or 3 times that for larger associations) for retrofitting association hallways and unit foyers with sprinkler heads, the Governor finally signed the recently passed opt-out bill (SB 1196) into law. Although delighted and relieved, since few Galt Mile high rise condo and co-op owners actually read the few paragraphs that house the statute's flagship sprinkler provision, there is some confusion over how to best use the new law's tools to protect their rights. If an association doesn't carefully follow the legislation's statutory road map, it could inadvertently actualize its unit owners' long-feared assessment for standpipes and sprinkler heads.

### The New Law

The new Sprinkler Retrofit Relief bill did not repeal the existing statute. Unless high-rise association buildings (75 feet or more above grade) provide residents with two egresses to ground level, State law still requires them to be fully retrofitted with sprinklers. The statute previously provided association members with the right to "opt-out" of a full sprinkler retrofit by voting to install an "Engineered Life Safety System" wherein sprinklers are limited to common areas and unit foyers. While less onerous than retrofitting the entire building, this "Engineered Life Safety System" (AKA "Minimum Alternative Life Safety System") is also a budget buster. This alternative no longer exists. By amending certain provisions in the existing statutes (s. 718.112(2)(l) for condos and s. 719.1055(5) for co-ops, F.S.), the new law simply gives condo and co-op owners the right to vote for opting out of retrofitting sprinklers anywhere on association property, defined as "common elements, association property, or units."

This provides association members with three options. If they do nothing; by 2016 they must apply for a permit to retrofit the entire premises with sprinklers and complete the installation by 2019. Alternatively, they can perform a partial retrofit or none at all. If an association decides to partially retrofit the premises or forgo any retrofit, they must hold a full membership vote to opt-out of the full sprinkler installation.

The relief legislation has fostered a debate within associations about the timing and methodology for this important vote. The vote can be taken by limited proxy or ballot at a duly called membership meeting or by written consent. Notice of the meeting at which the opt-out vote will be held must be mailed or hand delivered to each owner at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting. To prove that the notice requirement was satisfied, an affidavit must be filed in the association's official records.

Once the vote is taken, a certificate attesting to its result must be filed with Broward County, whereupon it becomes effective. Within 30 days of the vote, notice of the outcome must be mailed to all of the owners. Association members who plan to sell or rent their units must provide a copy of the voting results to potential purchasers or tenants. Finally, the association must report the voting results to the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes as part of the annual association information collected by the Division.

### Voting Confusion

To avoid extremely aggravating complications, associations should adequately prepare for this event. To insure that the vote isn't subject to challenge, the language used on ballots and proxies should be drafted by the association attorney. As a rule, the ballot language must relate to the language used in the statute. Since the statute was drafted in standard "legi-speak", this has proved to be an unfortunate source of confusion. The statute doesn't allow the association members to vote for or against

a sprinkler retrofit. Instead, it provides that the members vote for or against "opting out" or "forgoing" a sprinkler retrofit.

Associations that are unsuccessful in explaining this distinction have encountered some disconcerting dilemmas. When faced by a ballot with the options FOR and AGAINST, association members that oppose the retrofit (and the large assessment) might intuitively check AGAINST. THIS IS A MISTAKE. Since the statute requires that members vote on whether their association should "opt-out" or "forego" the retrofit, by voting AGAINST, the member is actually opposing the opt-out, which could force the association to install the sprinklers. It is critically important to carefully read the ballot language. If you're not sure, don't hesitate to contact your association office for clarification.

Even when associations include voting instructions to help clarify the counter-intuitive nature of this vote, it is sufficiently problematic to include the telephone number of an association member and/or office staffer capable of addressing any member confusion. Since the fiscal health of most associations will be heavily impacted by this vote, these precautions might save the expense and effort of having to reballet members who admit to accidentally voting against their own interests. While there is no limit on the number of opt-out votes that an association may hold, an association that has already opted out may only reverse itself and opt back in (and install the sprinklers) once every three years. The process requires that 10% of the members petition the association for a full membership opt-in vote at a dedicated members meeting. If approved by at least a majority of the members, the opt-in will become effective when filed with the Division.

### Vote Now... OR...

Before the new law was passed, associations facing the decision between full or partial retrofits deliberately postponed the required vote because voting for either option triggered a deadline to pay a fire safety engineer for drafting a retrofit plan and filing it with the County. Since passage of the new opt-out law, the landscape has changed. Upon learning that their new voting deadline was 2016, many associations placed this issue on the back burner. Several expressed concern about alienating local fire marshals. Over the past eight years, it was uncovered that certain current and former fire marshals have direct financial relationships with sprinkler associations. Some condos and co-ops feared that opting out would elicit retribution from local fire marshals who may have inappropriate ties to these trade organizations and/or their corporate members. While the Fort Lauderdale Fire Marshal's moral compass appears intact, associations in other jurisdictions have been abused by public servants seemingly more interested in a free trip to Jamaica or a "Holiday" bonus than their constituents' safety or legal rights.

At the November 1st Galt Mile Presidents Council meeting, Executive Director Donna Berger of the Community Advocacy Network (CAN) – a well-known association attorney who was instrumental in passing the relief bill – warned of a far more dangerous potential threat. After years of recommending that associations postpone any action, the new law prompted Berger to reverse herself. Since every association's voting

Continued on page 17



results are filed with the County and the State, Sprinkler Association lobbyists will have access to this data. If too many condo and co-op associations drag their feet in scheduling this vote, these lobbyists plan to use the tentative response to convince lawmakers at the 2011 legislative session that most condo owners actually want to fund their huge payday.

Unwilling to leave \$billions in projected revenues on the table, the deep-pocketed Sprinkler Associations, whose membership includes corporate juggernauts Tyco and Allied Signal-Honeywell, successfully kept their \$multi-billion self-styled stimulus package alive for eight years and convinced two Governors to veto relief bills that were overwhelmingly passed by the legislature. Make no mistake; they know how to play political hardball.

These highly motivated special interests are also keenly aware of significant changes to the Florida Legislature's political landscape. Former Statehouse legislative gatekeeper (and relief bill sponsor) Elyn Bogdanoff is now a first-term District 25 Florida Senator and former Senate President (and relief bill supporter) Jeffrey Atwater is now the Florida CFO (Chief Financial Officer) and State Fire Marshal. These two staunch proponents of the relief bill no longer occupy the key legislative leadership positions that helped insure the bill's success. Additionally, now that every major race has been decided, constituent concerns will temporarily lose some traction in Tallahassee. You do the math.

It's time for associations to schedule their opt-out votes. By registering our intentions prior to the legislative session, we can join with thousands of other Florida common interest communities and deter any attempts to revive this expensive burden. When the original sprinkler statute was passed in 2002, condo and co-op associations first learned about it from fire marshals hired by the Sprinkler Associations to "help facilitate" the \$million plus sprinkler installations. If we fall asleep at the wheel and hand these high-powered lobbyists the leverage they need on a silver platter, when legislative session closes in June, history could repeat itself. Happy Holidays!•

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age	rate	age	rate	age	rate	age	rate	age	rate	age	rate
54-56	5.0%	65-66	5.5%	72	6.0%	77	6.7%	82	7.5%	87	8.6%
57-58	5.1%	67	5.6%	73	6.1%	78	6.8%	83	7.7%	88	8.9%
59-61	5.2%	68	5.7%	74	6.3%	79	7.0%	84	7.9%	89	9.2%
62-63	5.3%	69-70	5.8%	75	6.4%	80	7.2%	85	8.1%	90+	9.5%
64	5.4%	71	5.9%	76	6.5%	81	7.4%	86	8.3%		

These rates are from the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) effective April 28, 2010.

**For more information, call 954-201-7699.**

Please be sure to consult your tax and financial advisors before implementing any charitable gift plan.

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**2011**

JAN/DEC

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
<p><b>12</b> Light Up Lauderdale (Through 1/14/11) Downtown Fort Lauderdale Info.: 954-468-1541</p> <p>Sunset Blue: Miracle on 33rd St Galt Ocean Village Shoppes 6 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-687-2840</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Garden of Lights (Through 12/31) Flamingo Gardens Info.: 954-473-2955</p> <p>Citizens' Crime Alert City Hall, 7 p.m. Info.: 954-763-7863</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Holiday Fantasy of Lights (Through 1/2) Tradewinds Park, 6 - 10 p.m. Info.: 954-623-6556</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> Sunset Blue: Miracle on 33rd St Galt Ocean Village Shoppes 6 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-687-2840</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p><b>20</b> Santa on the Beach S Beach Parking Lot North to Sunrise Blvd. © Noon</p> <p>Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Cardinal Gibbons High School, Media Room 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p><b>21</b> First Day of Winter</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> Dwtwn Delray Beach Holiday Art &amp; Craft Fair (Through 12/27) Pineapple Grove, Delray 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-472-3755</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Ft Lauderdale Holiday Antiques Show (Through 12/29) War Memorial Info.: 954-563-6747</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Sunday Jazz Brunch</b> Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985</p>	<p><b>3</b> Orange Bowl National Championship Sun Life Stadium, 8 p.m. Tix.: 305-341-4700</p> <p>Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Cardinal Gibbons High School, Media Room 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> Mommy and Me Tea Fairchild Tropical Garden 3 p.m. Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org</p> <p>5th Annual Open Car &amp; Truck Show Ed Morse Sawgrass Auto Mall 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-980-2670</p>	<p><b>10</b> Citizens' Crime Alert City Hall, 7 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5377</p>	<p><b>11</b> CAI - SEFL Annual Day of Education &amp; Trade Expo Signature Grand Hotel, Davie Info.: 954-816-0661</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Winter Concert Series Emma Lou Olson Center, Pompano Beach 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Info.: 954-786-4111</p>



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## UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

January 18 - 30  
 Les Miserables, Broadway  
 Broward Center for the Performing Arts  
 Tix.: 954-462-0222

January 20  
 Linkin Park  
 BankAtlantic Center  
 Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com

January 21 - 23  
 5th Annual International Chocolate Festival  
 Fairchild Tropical Garden, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

January 27 - 28  
 Trawler Fest  
 Bahia Mar Yachting Center  
 Info.: 410-990-9086

January 28  
 Barry Manilow  
 BankAtlantic Center, 8 p.m.  
 Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com

January 29 - 30  
 21st Annual Nautical Flea Market  
 Pompano Beach Amphitheater  
 Info.: 954-786-4111

January 29 - April 25, 2011  
 Vatican Splendors: Art and Faith  
 Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale  
 Info.: www.moafnsu.org



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

BINGO  
 Southpoint's North Lounge  
 (3400 Galt Ocean Dr)  
 7 p.m.  
 \$5/person for 3 boards

**17** Jazz on the Square  
 The Village Grille  
 Commercial Blvd. & ATA  
 7 p.m.

**18** Winter Nights & Lights Celebration  
 (Through 12/30)  
 Miami Seaquarium  
 Info.: www.miamiseaquarium.com

The Nutcracker  
 (Through 12/19)  
 Parker Playhouse  
 Tix.: 954-462-0222

**23**

BINGO  
 Southpoint's North Lounge  
 (3400 Galt Ocean Dr)  
 7 p.m.  
 \$5/person for 3 boards

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

**25** Christmas



**30**

BINGO  
 Southpoint's North Lounge  
 (3400 Galt Ocean Dr)  
 7 p.m.  
 \$5/person for 3 boards

**31** Jazz on the Square  
 The Village Grille  
 Commercial Blvd. & ATA  
 7 p.m.

International Gem and Jewelry Show  
 War Memorial Auditorium

New Years Eve Downtown Celebration  
 Downtown Fort Lauderdale  
 Midnight

**1**

Las Olas Art Fair  
 (Through 1/2)  
 Las Olas Blvd  
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Info.: 954-472-3755

**6**

BINGO  
 Southpoint's North Lounge  
 (3400 Galt Ocean Dr)  
 7 p.m.  
 \$5/person for 3 boards

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

Ft Lauderdale Art, Antique, & Jewelry Show  
 Broward Convention Center  
 Info.: 561-822-5440

Ft Lauderdale Collector Car Auction  
 War Memorial Auditorium  
 Info.: 561-533-7945

**8** Scottish American Festival  
 Ft Lauderdale Stadium  
 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
 Info.: 954-460-5000

24th Annual Boca Fest  
 (Through 1/9)  
 The Shops at Boca Center  
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Info.: 954-472-3755

**13** 2nd on 2nd Thursdays Block Party  
 200 Block SW 2nd Street  
 5 to 9 p.m.  
 Info.: 954-468-1541

BINGO  
 Southpoint's North Lounge  
 (3400 Galt Ocean Dr)  
 7 p.m.  
 \$5/person for 3 boards

**14** Jazz on the Square  
 The Village Grille  
 Commercial Blvd. & ATA  
 7 p.m.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Show  
 (Through 1/16)  
 War Memorial Auditorium  
 Info.: 954-563-3548

**15** White Elephant Sale  
 Coral Ridge Towers South  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Family Fun Series:  
 If You Give A Cat A Cupcake  
 Miramar Cultural Center  
 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.  
 Info.: 954-602-4500

### ADDITIONAL EVENTS

JANUARY 14: Ft Lauderdale Bus Loop, 6 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-260-6194

JANUARY 15: Downtown Delray Beach Festival of the Arts, 1111 East Atlantic Ave., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-472-3755

# COMMISSIONER ROBERTS' LATE OCT NEWSLETTER



*In his late October Newsletter, District 1 City Commissioner Bruce Roberts updates the City Commission's search for a new City Manager, promotes the City's Centennial celebration, details the embattled Sun Trolley's evolution, outlines a city plan to maximize use of diminished Gas Tax revenues dedicated to street repairs and reorganizes protocols for his twice monthly pre-agenda meetings.*

*At an October 12th Workshop to find a replacement for George Gretsas, the public input was dominated by resident efforts to impact the selection process in a manner that would best serve their various agendas. Several recommended that Acting City Manager Allyson Love be considered for permanent retention. One nervous speaker advised Love to watch her back, given the fate suffered by her predecessor for ticking off two vindictive commissioners.*

*Commissioners Roberts and Dubose expressed a preference for the selection model used to choose the police chief, primarily because it relied heavily on community participation. While willing to hire a consultant and appoint a selection committee, Mayor Seiler characterized a body representing a larger cross section of the City as "unwieldy". When Dubose explained that Roberts' model insured community input while Seiler's model did not, Seiler disagreed, pointing out that the public will be allowed to "watch the meetings and provide feedback."*

*Obviously, watching and commenting on the process is a far cry from community input. Seiler ultimately admitted that he was leery of crusading activists hijacking any community venue to promote self-serving agendas. In contrast, Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom wants to create a road map that the consultant and a small selection committee would be forced to follow, insuring the Commission's absolute control over every aspect of the process.*

*The "former elected official" meant to "guide" the search committee is John Aurelius, who was chosen as our District 1 City Commissioner in a 1991 special election when former Commissioner Doug Danziger resigned following his involvement in a sex scandal. Aurelius was integral to actualizing the Galt Mile Improvement Project, a \$3.8 million facelift that gentrified the Galt Mile by adding new landscaping, paved crosswalks, legacy streetlamps, antiqued benches, traffic cutouts and in-terred power lines. Aurelius helped community activists Earl Lifshy and Bob Rozema convince roughly 6000 Galt Mile unit owners to fund the project in return for City promises to maintain the improvements.*

*To help the Centennial Celebration Committee beef up a pool of locals whose contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale are noteworthy, Roberts asks constituents to propose potential nominees for special recognition.*

*Lifted from Alexandra Roland's article in the May edition of Go Riverwalk Magazine, Roberts distilled an accurate Sun Trolley history from what was originally marketing fluff. For the past few years, the newest incarnation of Fort Lauderdale's community bus service has been actively dodging the budget axe. A joint project by the Downtown Ft. Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (DFLTMA) and Broward County Transit, among the routes threatened with extinction is the one servicing the Galt Ocean Mile neighborhood. Unfortunately, the service suffered near-terminal neglect when entrusted to former Sun Trolley Executive Director Les Hollingsworth, who spent a good deal more time solidifying his own future than that of the community bus service.*

*Within a few months of Hollingsworth's inconsequential departure, District 1 Commissioner Bruce Roberts and DFLTMA Executive Director Chris Wren met with GMCA officials Pio Ieraci and Eric Berkowitz to politely disclose the Galt Mile route's impending funeral. Ieraci, Berkowitz and Roberts convinced Wren to issue a temporary reprieve, and agreed to broker a series of meetings intended to identify new revenue sources. The concept was simple. Businesses along or near the route that want Galt Mile customers would be asked to contribute towards bringing them to their front door. Instead of carrying riders to the usual touchy-feely tourist traps, if the*

*routes were tailored to service the shopping agenda of Galt Mile residents, the vendor beneficiaries could redirect a small portion of their marketing dollars to bringing in this new business. First stop - Galleria. If they extended the Galt Mile route to access this superior shopping venue, it would equip Sun Trolley marketing reps with adequate leverage to squeeze Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Dillard's and scores of smaller stores trying to survive a faltering customer base.*

*At the May 4th Commission meeting referenced by Commissioner Roberts, Public Works Director Al Carbon bore bad news for some communities anticipating road repairs. In a letter he wrote to City Engineer Peter Partington, Carbon explained that a recessionary reduction in driving and the use of more fuel-efficient vehicles left the City with a \$685,000 shortfall in gas tax revenues. To offset the deficit, Carbon recommended postponing a \$200,000 lineage project at Sunrise Boulevard and NE 15th Avenue and a \$75,000 lane extension at SE 17th Street and Andrews Avenue. He also shrunk the streetlight repairs budget from \$109,636 to \$69,636 and reduced funding for an Annual Asphalt Resurfacing contract from \$1,170,000 to \$800,469.*

*When Commissioners questioned Partington, they learned that the \$1,170,000 budgeted to fund eight resurfacing projects was \$370,000 less than the actual cost. Since the City's rudimentary street maintenance database was structured on an inflexible fourteen-year cycle, it ignored the cost impact of project delays that ran up to seven years.*

*Commissioner Bobby DuBose lamented "the lack of rhyme or reason as to how areas are prioritized," disparaging the "squeaky wheel" policy of basing approvals for street repairs on the number of complaints received from the affected neighborhood (calls). The City's obsolete street maintenance database ignored numerous variables that shorten a thoroughfare's surface lifespan, such as increased vehicle weight and heavy traffic. DuBose's revelation prompted a consensus approval for implementing an accurate and comprehensive street maintenance tracking system. With updated tracking software installed by Public Works, Roberts' 3-year schedule outlines how staffers plan to input the program data, a project that will dramatically improve how repair revenues are allocated.*

*What about those "squeaky wheels" who complain about local road defects? While matching available resources to a reliably updated street conditions database should save a bundle, conflicted Commissioners would have to choose between informing constituents that their potholes scored a lower priority than those currently being repaired in some adjacent neighborhood or circumvent protocols by requesting a variance. Not exactly a tough choice for a public servant with a functioning survival instinct. — [editor]"*

## FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS

**City Manager Search** City Manager Search: As you know by now, the City Commission decided to appoint former Assistant City Manager Allyson Love to an Acting City Manager position effective August 1, 2010. On October 12th, the Commission conducted a public workshop to determine the process for selecting a new city manager.

*Continued on page 21*



After public input, it was decided that we would hire a consultant to conduct a search for a new manager and that a seven member committee would be appointed to assist the consultant in the search and in narrowing the field to a number of finalists. The committee will be comprised of one appointee from each Commissioner (the Mayor will not make an appointment), and three consensus appointments; one of these latter three appointments will represent our neighborhoods and be selected by the Council of Civic Associations, another will represent the business community, and the last will be a former elected official (commissioner). Overall, the process is anticipated to last nine months. I am interested in hearing from you about "what we should be looking for" in our next city manager. While the Mayor and each Commissioner will provide the consultant with direction, your input would be appreciated.

At our last Commission Meeting on October 19, 2010, it was unanimously agreed upon to keep Allyson as the Interim City Manager and to begin the process to search for a new manager. Coupled with that decision, I am confident that Allyson's strong background in developing our City's budget will now enable us to begin the overdue process of developing a Five Year Plan. That initial step will take place at a public budget workshop on October 27, 2010, 7:00 p. m. at City Hall with our Budget Advisory Board. On November 9, 2010 at 7:00 p. m., another public workshop will be conducted at the International Swimming Hall of Fame with the Beach CRA and the Beach Redevelopment Board.

**Centennial Committee Update** The Centennial Celebration will showcase Fort Lauderdale's rich cultural heritage through a series of exciting events and educational programs. The Committee is compiling a list of residents that made the most significant contributions to Fort Lauderdale and they are asking for suggestions from the public. The nominees can be from any period of Fort Lauderdale's history. Please send us e-mail with your nominations to [centennial@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:centennial@fortlauderdale.gov). Residents are encouraged to participate in the Centennial by providing input at a Centennial Celebration Committee meeting. Meetings typically take place on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the 8th floor conference room of City Hall. To confirm the date for the next meeting, please call (954) 828-4743. To provide suggestions, or to learn more about the Centennial Celebration Committee, please contact the Centennial Celebration Committee staff liaison, Shannon Vezina, at (954) 828-4743 or [svezina@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:svezina@fortlauderdale.gov). The City will host several free events to commemorate Fort Lauderdale's 100th Birthday. To see these events please go to <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/centennial/index.htm>.

**Sun Trolley** This quaint mode of transportation, instituted by the Downtown Ft. Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (DFLTMA), weaves through the veins of Ft. Lauderdale and has been doing so for quite some time. Formerly known as "Lolly the Trolley" and the "City Cruiser," this community bus system was instituted by the DFLTMA in the early 1990s. In the mid-2000s a new red and yellow biodiesel fleet, now on the street today, was introduced to the Ft. Lauderdale public. With a total of 5 different routes, the Sun Trolley provides both a practical and eco friendly way for visitors and locals to get around in style. From the inner city residential area of the northwest to Fort Lauderdale's famous beaches, from the classic Las Olas strip to the bustling courthouse spot, the Sun Trolley serves its community and serves it well. The mission of the trolley is two-pronged, focusing on ecotourism development and increasing the mobility of Ft. Lauderdale's residents in a safe and efficient way. The buses run on biodiesel fuel and each vehicle comes equipped with a bike rack so even after disembarking the trolley, commuters can continue with their eco friendly way of traveling. This transit system also boosts underserved communities. The northwest route travels north of Broward Blvd., hitting stops like the African American Research Library on Sistrunk and the main bus terminal near

Continued on page 22

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Andrews Ave just east of the train tracks. Downtown office workers also find the Sun Trolley time saving and practical – instead of using their cars to travel to area restaurants, employees beat the noontime rush and ride the Sun Trolley to and from local lunch spots. Attorneys also use the system to return to their offices after court. The Las Olas route was cut within the last few years and only runs with limited hours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Funding is limited and hard to obtain, however, board members remain optimistic and feel once community residents become more aware of the various routes, and ridership will increase. From tourists to students, senior citizens to business professionals, from the Riverwalk to the beach, the 17th Street Causeway to Powerline Road, the Sun Trolley's impact is far-reaching and exemplary – it makes a unique statement about our little Fort Lauderdale village!! Recent expansion has been planned to include the Galleria Shopping Center, which will serve as hub connecting several routes to the Galt Ocean Mile route. We continue to work with businesses and health care facilities, not only to be added to the routes, but for help with future funding. For a complete schedule and a listing of contributors, please go to [www.suntrolley.com](http://www.suntrolley.com) - many of the routes are free or cost as little as 50 cents to ride.

**Annual Street Maintenance (ASM) Program** At the May 4, 2010 Commission Conference Meeting, Commissioners discussed the City's ASM Program and the reduced gas tax revenues the City is receiving to fund its resurfacing program. Staff was directed to review the ASM Program and develop criteria that includes more than the roadway age. Staff also reviewed tracking software programs that take additional funds and time to populate. Common Street Criteria used on multiple programs include age; ride quality (potholes, rutting, utility trenches, etc.), traffic volume and cracking. Staff is recommending a multi-year development program to include the following:

**YEAR 1:** research records to determine which streets have not been recorded as having been fully resurfaced or reconstructed for at least 20 years; visit and document condition of every street; prepare a spreadsheet summarizing streets that have been evaluated ranking them from worst to best; propose the roads/areas to be resurfaced

based on available funds for 2010/2011; develop a database on City maintained streets by segment to assist in maintaining an accurate inventory of condition of streets; review package software models to use and make recommendations to the Commission on the purchase of one of these packages; review street maintenance alternatives; and at the end of the year report to Commission on the results of review of street maintenance alternatives and recommend which alternatives to move forward with.

**YEAR 2:** Starting with roads last resurfaced (19 years ago) and working forward to the roads resurfaced most recently, staff will visit, evaluate and add the condition of each street segment to the database; based on results of the conditions survey, street segments will be listed from worst to best – then based on availability of funds, staff will recommend the road segments and areas to be resurfaced.

**YEAR 3:** Starting where staff ended the survey in Year 2, the survey will go through to the most recently paved streets. Based on results of the conditions survey, street segments will be listed from worst to best – then based on availability of funds, staff will recommend the road segments and areas to be resurfaced.

All subsequent years will follow this process. Also, staff will update the City street database after each year.

ALSO, don't forget the Riverwalk's Urban Market every Saturday from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Along the Esplanade, across from the Museum of Discovery and Science - shop for fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, cheeses, pastas and more! 954-205-9648.

As a reminder, I host two Pre-agenda Meetings per month in addition to attending homeowner meetings at your request. The pre-agenda meetings focus on items of interest as well as the upcoming agenda. They are held the Monday before a Commission Meeting, 6p.m., at either the Beach Community Center (11/15; 12/20) OR Imperial Point Hospital AUD A&B –south side of hospital entrance towards the back (11/1; 12/6). A new schedule will be established each year.

Office Contact: Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: [ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov) •

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