

GALT MILE NEWS

JUNE 2012

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GMCA



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Galt Mile Raceway Gets A Pink Slip

By Eric Berkowitz

On May 3, 2012, the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) convened a meeting at the Beach Community Center to inform neighborhood residents about a \$2.1 million FDOT plan to resurface State Road A1A (SR A1A) from Flamingo Avenue to Oakland Park Boulevard. Among the 35 "interested parties" who attended the 6 PM meeting were curious local residents, apprehensive neighborhood vendors and relieved representatives of the Galt Mile Community Association. Financial Project Number 423000-1-52-01 (the preferred identifier for FDOT projects) had banged around on the back shelf since 2007. After 6 years of tweaking, the long-rumored project was reanimated and fitted with a May 7, 2012 start date.

Hosted by information specialist Miranda Iglesias (Public Information Officer at The Corradino Group) on behalf of FDOT, the project was described by Project Engineer Michael Melendez (President of Genesis Enterprises & Engineering Services, LLC) and construction coordinator Sara J. Duffoo (Senior Project Engineer at Target Engineering Group, Inc.). While removing old asphalt and repaving the 1.07 mile stretch of A1A, the triple R project (RRR - FDOT jargon for resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation) will alter the character of the thoroughfare in compliance with objectives defined over the past six years. Among the major roadway improvements are a change in the number of lanes available to vehicular traffic and the addition of new bike lanes in both directions. The six lanes of North Ocean Boulevard that currently serve as a raceway through the Galt Mile neighborhood will be reduced to four lanes abutting new curbs and gutters.

Intersections within project limits will also receive a makeover. ADA compliant curb ramps will be installed and left turn lanes extended. Signalized intersections at NE 32nd Street, NE 34th Street, NE 36th Street, NE 41st Street and Flamingo Avenue will be adorned with new Mast Arm Assemblies and enhanced with video detection capability, further dampening the strip's attraction to weekend & post-midnight speed demons who view traffic signals as course markers. New stripes and traffic lines will map the layout at intersections, delimit the lane reduction and isolate the new bike lanes (in lieu of a physical barrier). The route will benefit from new signage and medians modified from NE 32nd Street to Flamingo Avenue will receive modest landscaping improvements (an FDOT contract provision limits the funds available for landscaping enhancements to 4% of the overall contract amount).

In 2003, when the neighborhood association complained bitterly about their local stretch of A1A devolving on weekends and evenings into a drag strip, traffic checkpoints ordered by then Police Chief Bruce Roberts intermittently slowed the nightly racing by hot rods and Harleys. In 2004, former GMCA President Robert Rozema asked former Mayor Jim Naugle to look into the sky high accident rate at the in-

tersection of Galt Ocean Drive and A1A one block north of Oakland Park Boulevard; a block known as the Galt Mile's "Bermuda Triangle" and ground zero for several major accidents every year and near weekly fender benders. At an April 7, 2005, meeting convened in the Beach Community Center, after fielding scores of dangerous driving and noise complaints (and hundreds more submitted in writing), former Commissioner Christine Teel and former City Manager George Gretsas asked then Chief of Police Bruce G. Roberts to formulate a "Traffic Enforcement Action Plan" aimed at stopping the chronic traffic and noise abuses along A1A.

At a subsequent meeting of the neighborhood association's Advisory Board, Chief Roberts explained, "This action plan was devised in response to numerous citizen complaints concerning unlawful driving practices. There has been a noticeable increase in this activity and local residents and vehicular traffic has been negatively affected. The goal of this high visibility enforcement was to aid in the reduction of crime, reduce unlawful speeding, reduce excessive noise created by unlawful equipment installed on vehicles, educate offenders who are committing violations and to improve the quality of life for residents." Although infractions abated during the following six month period in which 1,361 traffic citations were written by 25 participating Officers and 6 Police Service Aides, they ramped up again when police resources were ultimately "reallocated".

A municipal engineer was also assigned to explore the locally infamous "Galt Triangle", where the southern end of Galt Ocean Drive empties into A1A (North Ocean Boulevard). Inexplicably, drivers heading south on A1A tend to run the traffic light one block north of Oakland Park Boulevard, precipitating repeated collisions with vehicles entering from Galt Ocean Drive and pedestrians crossing A1A. Vehicles turning onto A1A from nearby intersecting side streets also treated pedestrians like pinballs. Community leaders and City officials offered a variety of possible rationales for the light being ignored and the dangerous turns. Some blamed a poorly placed traffic signal or confusing signage while others surmised that anxious drivers heading south on A1A might be preoccupied with the traffic light at the busy Oakland Park Boulevard intersection and inadvertently overlook the preceding light and/or street signs a few blocks north.

While failing to definitively diagnose the enigmatic accident zone or effectively curb the traffic abuses, these preventive actions shed light on the some of the underlying problems. Former Police District 1 Com

Continued on page 5

mander Major Mary Negrey (later promoted to Assistant Chief before entering the private sector as Communications Manager for the Seminole Tribe of Florida) told the Advisory Board in 2006 that until the City Commission passed adequate regulatory tools, A1A's status as a vehicular minefield would continue to claim victims. For instance, due to a poorly drafted traffic ordinance, sound measuring equipment ordinarily used to discourage noise pollution was precluded for use against traffic noise violations, forcing prosecutors to build cases around the subjective judgment of an arresting officer. Hundreds of violators simply waltzed out of court. To deter a spectrum of dangerous and illegal driving practices and the nightly cacophony of aftermarket chopper pipes along the neighborhood's main artery, Negrey looked to other municipalities for guidance in developing recommendations for shoring up local traffic laws. In their wisdom, the City Commission slept through her report.

In 2008, Galt Mile representatives met with City officials to consider implementing a neighborhood Master Plan. Instead of the current patchwork of minor fixes and opportunistic projects targeting relatively isolated problems, the plan would encompass landscaping, structural and aesthetic improvements for the entire Galt Mile neighborhood, and outline an overall strategy for commercial development. It would also enhance the neighborhood's transportation connectivity; address security needs, facilitate traffic flow, clarify expectations for beach and block maintenance, and provide a realistic basis for attracting development consistent with the community's vision.

At the same time, the Florida Department of Transportation was preparing to rehabilitate State Road A1A from Flamingo Avenue to Oakland Park Boulevard. Engineering Consultants bidding on the lucrative project were charged with improving upon a scope of work that would bring the thoroughfare into compliance with State and local regulations, address traffic safety issues and maintain the neighborhood's character. To address the third objective, City officials scrutinizing the mechanics of a Galt Mile Master Plan recommended that aspiring applicants elicit feedback from the Galt Mile Community Association.

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BCPA TO TAKE QUESTIONS & CONFESSIONS ON THE GALT MILE

By Eric Berkowitz

Each month, The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office (BCPA) hosts a series of community outreach events across the County. Deputy Appraisers are provided to help property owners request Homestead, Senior and other property tax exemptions, prepare applications for Portability, and answer questions about property taxes. For the balance of 2012, the Beach Community Center (3351 NE 33rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale) will host these outreach events for Galt Mile residents from 10 am to 11:30 am on the last Friday of each month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, June 29 and is open to the public.

Documents required to file a Homestead Exemption include:

- A current Florida driver's license or Florida identification card, and
- A current voter registration card or declaration of domicile
- Non-US citizens must also provide proof of permanent residency.

Qualified residents 65 years of age or older as of January 1, 2012 may also apply for the additional Senior Exemption. Eligible seniors must have a total household adjusted gross income not exceeding \$27,030. Documents required for the Senior Exemption include a 2011 income tax return or, if one does not file income taxes, a copy of the 2011 Social Security 1099 Form.

It's not too late to file for a 2012 Homestead Exemption, Widow/Widower Exemption, Disability Exemption, Portability, or other exemption. Simply contact the Property Appraiser's office to complete your application by the September 18, 2012 deadline. In the past, procrastinating property owners fill out forms protesting to some "good faith" reason for sleeping through the deadline and squeeze in under the wire. A deadline has since been immunized against excuses (both real and muse-based). If you miss it, get out your wallet.

If you were arrogant enough to file for a bogus exemption, a little soul searching now could save you a three-alarm migraine and a truckload of money down the road. As admonished by Commissioner Bruce Roberts in his recent Newsletter, Fort Lauderdale Police Chief Frank Adderley assigned a City Detective to assist Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Parrish with exposing tax fraud, a strategy which has thus far snagged almost \$300,000 in back taxes and added back more than \$4 million in assessed value to the County tax roll.

Working cooperatively with Broward's municipalities to recover illegally exempted property taxes, BCPA Director of Professional Standards and Compliance Ron Cacciatore has enhanced the County's coffers with \$23 million in previously scammed revenues. When nailed, tax cheats are offered 30 days to either pay the back taxes, a 50% penalty and interest charges amounting to 15% of the debt – or suffer a lien filed on the property. However, after cooking up a semi-plausible sob story, scofflaws who turn themselves in will avoid penalties and interest due on the property, cutting the prospective remittance by about 40%.

Make no mistake, tax scammers will be caught, especially those who red flag their abuses by simultaneously participating in multiple homestead programs, such as double dippers in New York's STAR exemption. Fueled by hundreds of tips from suspicious (or vindictive) nosy neighbors (Homestead Fraud Hotline is 954-357-6900), Cacciatore's investigations also sting homeowners who collect rental income from tenants warehoused in homesteaded properties. Having evolved her office's fraud department from a broken file cabinet managed by two part time secretaries in 2005 to an efficient IT-based investigation unit with a national outreach, Parrish warns "Scammers heighten the tax burden on the rest of us. It's only a matter of time." Tick tock...

For additional information please visit the BCPA website at www.bcpa.net or contact Kelly M. Brown at the Outreach Department by phone at 954-357-5579 or email at kbrown@bcpa.net. Questions posed monthly by Broward residents to the Property Appraiser are available in the "Ask Lori" section of the Property Appraiser page on the Galt Mile website (www.galtmile.com/bcpa.html).



Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Parrish
"Tick Tock"

At a September 2008 meeting with Sr. Project Manager Mike Sherman of H.W. Lochner, an engineering consulting company competing for the FDOT contract, GMCA President Pio Ieraci and Vice President Eric Berkowitz reviewed the project and clarified relevant safety and aesthetic issues that would impact the community. While the discussion helped identify traffic and pedestrian hot spots, it additionally sought to insure that the outcome was aesthetically consistent with the surrounding neighborhood. One month later - after the City handed the FDOT engineering consulting contract to GBF Engineering - GMCA officials met with Michael Melendez, the bid winner's engineering consultant. Melendez explained that an A1A corridor study conducted by project planners had begun evolving solutions to the widespread dangerous and illegal driving practices and the nerve-wracking noise pollution.

To measure how a reduction from six to four traffic lanes would impact traffic volumes and service levels on State Road A1A from Oakland Park Boulevard to the northern City limit, the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Broward County MPO had commissioned Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. to perform a Lane Reduction Feasibility Study on September 5, 2007. While confirming that a four lane A1A could easily manage current and future throughput without burdening adjacent or alternate routes, a subsequent study summary concluded that a lane reduction would curb speeding and reduce the number and seriousness of crashes.

Following the Kimley-Horn Study, the City hired urban planners Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin to prepare conceptual design options that illustrated the roadway segment, pedestrian hardscape treatment, site furnishings and landscaping based upon six and four-lane scenarios. The options included four variations ranging from restriping the existing roadway and incorporating bike lanes, to relocating existing curbs, expanding sidewalks and accommodating new bike lanes, including on-street parking and street tree islands.

To present the new concepts and elicit local input, the City hosted a 6 PM public meeting on May 7, 2009 at the Beach Community Center and provided the design options on the City's website along with an interactive opportunity to comment. Galt Milers overwhelmingly supported an option that offered an expanded 24-foot wide sidewalk on the east side of A1A with a 10-foot pedestrian merchant zone and a 14-foot pedestrian area, a 10-foot bicycle zone, including on-street parking, street trees, landscaping in the median islands and a double row of trees defining the pedestrian area.

Although willing to approve the beautifully designed preferred option, its \$8.7 million price tag spooked FDOT. On November 3, 2009, the City Commission authorized staff to forward it (with revisions) to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for inclusion in a list of projects which are considered annually for funding. Now envisioned as the first of two projects that would morph the dilapidated speedway into a high end thoroughfare, as an interim measure, Melendez and City staff tweaked the project into a 4-lane roadway with buffered bike lanes and peppered with targeted safety and landscaping modifications.

Reducing A1A to 4 lanes would serve to structurally inoculate the roadway against street races wherein competing vehicles require dedicated lanes. Carving out bike lanes would relieve a perceived need by bicycle enthusiasts to illegally vie with pedestrians for sidewalk space one block east on Galt Ocean Drive or risk being pancaked on A1A by a gardener's pickup traveling at 75 MPH. Following an extended debate over project impacts, community & City leaders, local vendors and project planners coalesced around the 4-lane option. With a plan in the works to clean up this mile-long pustulotic parkway, on July 20, 2009, former FDOT Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelouso notified Broward County that its 32 miles of A1A had been designated as a Florida Scenic Highway, satisfying a long-sought neighborhood association objective.

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CTY COMMISSIONER CHIP LaMARCA



SEASONAL STORMS & NEW BLOOD

inherited Newstreet, who Rubio replaced with Susan Fernandez three months later. On May 3, 2011, Ocala Congressman Cliff Stearns named Newstreet as his \$75K District Director. A year later, LaMarca bought Newstreet a one-way ticket to Broward.

While serving as Central Florida Regional Director for Senator Mel Martinez and Deputy State Director for successor George LeMieux, Newstreet earned a reputation for working closely with Democrat Senator Bill Nelson's staffers to support issues and legislation inherently beneficial to all Floridians. In Washington D.C., safeguarding his benefactor's image meant arm wrestling with the press. In local government, the same struggle is waged in the trenches. Until he gets up to speed, seasoned LaMarca Commission Aide D. Ryan Saunders and Administrative Coordinator Mary Pryde should help ease Newstreet's transition. He should have little trouble otherwise adapting to an environment where his value will be measured primarily by what he delivers on the neighborhood streets. Read on for LaMarca's "Summertime 2012" update. — [editor]"

"In the June - July, 2012 edition of his constituent Newsletter, District 4 County Commissioner Chip LaMarca confines his focus to two issues - a new hire and the panoply of Hurricane resources available to Broward residents. Heeding LaMarca's recommendation that disabled and elderly persons participate in the Broward County Vulnerable Resident Registry could save the lives of pro-active registrants. The Commissioner recently rebalanced his staff, installing John David Newstreet as his District Director. Since his responsibilities include interfacing with LaMarca's County constituents, some background is in order.

One of nine siblings, Newstreet was born and raised in Coral Springs. After high school and two years in the United States Coast Guard Academy, he entered Broward Community College and earned an Associate in Arts degree. He moved to Orlando and attended the College of Business Administration at the University of Central Florida, graduating with a degree in Finance.

Following the career path forged in college; from 2001 to 2004 he worked as a Financial Consultant for Chastang, Ferrell, Sims & Eiserman's (CFSE) Wealth Management, Inc. Subsequently serving as the Department Adjutant for the non-profit American Legion, Department of Florida, Newstreet's growing passion for politics was fanned by his Presidency of the Orange County Young Republicans. His calling took a detour.

Beginning in 2006, Newstreet spent three years working for Senator Mel Martinez, rising from Central Florida Regional Representative to Central Florida Regional Director. When former Governor Charlie Crist named George LeMieux placeholder for the seat unexpectedly vacated by Martinez in 2009, Newstreet's stock burgeoned. As a key link to his predecessor's political policies, LeMieux elevated Newstreet to the post of Deputy State Director. In 2011, when Marco Rubio clocked Crist for LeMieux's Senate seat, he

SUMMERTIME

By Chip LaMarca
Broward County Commissioner, District 4

As summer begins, the kids are out of school and families are planning vacations—we in District 4 are continuing to work for you. We continue to receive phone calls, emails, and request for information. Through it all, we never lose sight of what is important. That is you the residents of our beautiful district.

Please join me in welcoming our new addition to the District 4 office, Mr. John Newstreet. He will serve as District Director for my office and his role will be spending time in the district meeting with community and business leaders, as well as you the residents of the district on your issues. John is working to schedule office hours around the district that are convenient for you. We are very lucky to have John's experience and knowledge on the team, having served the last several years on Federal Legislative staffs, both in the Senate and House. You can contact John at 954-357-7004 or by email at jnewstreet@broward.org. I would also like to announce the opening of our new district office at the City of Pompano Beach. Thank you to Mayor Lamar Fisher and City Manager Dennis Beach for accommodating us with space for John to be closer to you the residents. We appreciate it.

As you know hurricane season begins June 1st and runs through November 30th, with September being the peak time for activity in the Atlantic Basin. To stay informed, residents are encouraged to register now for the Broward County Hurricane Update Email. To receive updates on your cell phone or email, follow us on Twitter. To become a follower, visit twitter.com/ReadyBroward. For more information on hurricane preparedness, you can call the Broward County Call Center at 954-831-4000 or call the Broward County Information center at 311, or log onto broward.org/hurricane.

I would encourage you to visit the hurricane preparedness website to prepare your family. Review the A-Z Hurricane guide, subscribe to receive official hurricane updates and review the 10-Step Family Plan. Additionally, if you are disabled, frail or have health issues that may make you vulnerable in the event of an emergency, please register for the Broward County Vulnerable Resident Registry.

If there is anything that we can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954.357.7004 or by email at clamarca@broward.org. You can also stay up to date by viewing our website www.broward.org/commission/district4, where you can sign up to receive email updates from our office.

As always, it is an honor to serve you.

Chip LaMarca
Broward County Commissioner, District 4 •

On January 12, 2010, GMCA officials met with FDOT Project Manager Jim Hughes and Project Engineer Michael Melendez to insure the plan would serve as a stepping stone to elevating the Galt Mile stretch of A1A to a level of excellence worthy of a "Scenic Highway" designation. Although Lauderdale-by-the-Sea had successfully worked with FDOT to develop their segment of A1A into a beautiful transportation corridor, A1A's reputation as the "Ocean Highway" - a tailored picture postcard beachfront boulevard - is exquisitely exemplified by the stretch approaching and adjacent to the Fort Lauderdale beach.

The sleazy road connecting the two is a barren, dreary, dangerous speedway filled with patched and unpatched potholes, extensive spiderweb cracks and sterile landscaping. One block east of A1A, the parallel Galt Ocean Drive is adorned with a luxurious package of aesthetic amenities such as paved crosswalks, pink aggregate sidewalks, interred utilities, landscaping uplights and decorative lamps. Contrasting the Galt Mile neighborhood's blighted stretch of A1A with surrounding well-appointed thoroughfares to the east, north and south serves to emphasize its shared characteristics with a degraded airport perimeter strip.

On August 18, 2010, Melendez and Hughes convened another public meeting at the Beach Community Center to better explain how the plan will address longstanding community concerns while improving the route. With an eye to thwarting the speedway, Project Engineer Melendez remarked "This is not a typical project. You usually don't have many opportunities to reduce the number of road lanes. You can see where people speed up because of the open corridor. One of the benefits will be to slow down traffic, not to the point where it obstructs traffic, but to allow more pedestrians to walk on the sidewalk and bring more exposure to businesses along A1A." Commenting on a planned 6-foot bike lane unique to the neighborhood, FDOT Project Manager Jim Hughes added "There's a lot of bicycle traffic in the area with no bike lanes, so I think the bike lanes will be a big addition."

The design plans were completed in the spring of 2011 and bid packages were sent to contractors the following autumn. Vying against Ranger Construction (headquartered in West Palm Beach), the Hialeah-based Community Asphalt Corporation and Hardrives, Inc. of Delray, on October 7, 2011, the job was snagged by Weekley Asphalt Paving, Inc. The Pembroke Pines contractor appointed Jorge Perez to supervise construction. Not surprisingly, their initial winning bid of \$1,728,489.86 has since been incrementally sweetened by almost \$400,000. Welcome to the Venice of America!

Association officials and local vendors raised some legitimate concerns at the May 3, 2012 meeting. Playa del Mar President Ray Garcia, a partner in the popular Ocean's Grille Restaurant on A1A and member of the neighborhood association's Advisory Board, asked how long access to his establishment would be hampered, noting that the project was scheduled to run through December. Responding that the project would proceed in segments, contractor liaison Duffoo assured him that the inconvenience would be minimal.

L'Hermitage I Manager Patricia Quintero - who also serves on the GMCA Advisory Board - explained that her association's entrance sits at the east end of Oakland Park Boulevard, where the project might impair access. Duffoo explained that construction would travel across the project limit of 1.1 miles over a seven month period. As such, its proximity to - and impact on - any particular location would be relatively brief. GMCA member associations most affected by the project are Coral Ridge Towers South and Coral Ridge Towers East, which both share an eastern border with A1A and whose members have complained for decades about living next to a drag strip. Melendez explained how the lane reduction would help mitigate their quandary.

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COMMISSIONER BRUCE ROBERTS



Code Amendment-Prohibition of Begging, Panhandling and Soliciting on Certain Designated Property On May 1st, the City Commission enacted an ordinance which prohibits the above activities. The new ordinance establishes no-panhandling zones and bans "aggressive" panhandling citywide. Begging, soliciting, and panhandling would be prohibited in designated areas, such as within 15 feet of a sidewalk café, automatic teller machine and entrance or exit of a commercial or governmental building. Violations are classified as misdemeanors, carrying a \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail. For more specific information on this issue, please see www.fortlauderdale.gov/give/index.htm

New Boston Atlantech This 266 unit development on NE 65th St. and Federal Highway has finally been approved to move forward. Originally a Site Level III project approved by Planning & Zoning in November of 2011, it soon became apparent that community outreach had not occurred. As a result, I called the item up for review within the requisite 30-day period. Over the course of the next five months, representatives from the developer, Lauderdale One Condominium, Imperial Point Hospital and Imperial Point Homeowners Association brokered an agreement that alleviated the concerns of all. It was indeed encouraging to observe the professionalism and dedicated desire to solve a neighborhood problem in such a positive manner.

Homestead Exemption Fraud Our Police Chief, Frank Adderley, recently assigned a detective to work with County Property Appraiser, Lori Parrish, to combat this fraud within the City of Fort Lauderdale. During the month of April, Detective Windes' investigations have resulted in \$290,203.96 in back taxes, penalties and interest being recovered. Furthermore, \$4,021,332 of assessed value has been put back on the tax roll.

Sea Turtle Nesting Season It's here through October 31st. Sea turtles are protected under the United States Endangered Species Act of 1973 and Florida Statutes Chapter 370.12, the Marine Tur-

tle Protection Act. These laws provide, "No person may take, harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, kill, trap, capture or attempt to engage in any such conduct to marine turtles, turtle nests, and/or turtle eggs." Violators may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties. If you see someone handling a sea turtle or poaching a nest, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).

Customer Service Center Please remind your neighbors to call the City's 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000 to report emergencies requiring a response from Departments other than Police or Fire/Rescue. Examples would include water or sewer main breaks. For non-emergencies, please visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/customerservice/index.htm. You can also download the City's app *LauderServ* to request assistance or to report issues that need attention.

FPL's On-line Calculator On March 19th, FPL launched a new, online calculator at www.FPL.com/answers so that residential customers can see the impact on their bills of the company's requested rate adjustment. Business customers will also find updated information on this site. Our representative also stated that the website can give updated information throughout the rate making process.

Gene's Green Scene Everyone should check out our City Forester Gene Dempsey's new blog on the City's website. It's called "Gene's Green Scene" and can be found at <http://fortlauderdaleforester.blogspot.com>. Gene offers easy tips for saving gas, caring for your lawn, and other interesting topics and suggestions.

Broward B-cycle (<http://broward.bcycle.com>) Bike sharing makes it economical and convenient to use bikes for trips that are too far to walk but too short to drive. As a member, you can use a B-cycle to run an errand, grab lunch, travel from the bus stop to your office, or just get some fresh air. With your B-cycle bike, you don't have to look for a parking space or bring your own bike with you everywhere you go. Plus, riding a B-cycle is good for your health and for the environment. It's the newest and best way to get around town. The B-cycles are specially designed for both you and the City: B-cycles fit people of all sizes, thanks to an easy-to-use adjustable seat post. A front basket provides a space to stow your belongings while riding. Fenders, skirt guards and chain guards keep your clothes clean. Automatic lights help keep you safe at all times of the day. Three speeds are perfect for the core downtown Broward area. Broward B-cycle is designed to encourage you to use a B-cycle for all your short trips. Once you have paid your modest membership fee, you can take an unlimited number of rides. Please log on to the address above to register - or just to get more information.

Memorial Day Weekend Party The City will host its third annual Great American Beach Party from noon to 10p.m. on May 26th. It will include live music on two stages, skydivers, a classic car show, an art show and a sandcastle-building contest! More importantly, this event intends to recognize the ultimate sacrifice our brave men and women in our armed forces gave in order to continue to ensure our freedom. Also, the City will recognize the contributions made by long time community leaders and install a star in their name on the sidewalk in the "Walk of Fame" at Las Olas and A1A.

New "Mix It. Curb It." Single-Stream Recycling Cart Program Coming Soon In the summer of 2012, the City of Fort Lauderdale is launching Mix It. Curb It., a new program that will make recycling much easier for our neighbors. As part of the Mix It. Curb It. program, the City will be providing residential recycling customers with new, blue, 65-gallon carts that will hold all clean recyclables. Soon, hoisting and lugging those heavy bins full of recyclables will be a task of the past; you will be able to mix all clean recyclables together into one cart and roll it to the curb. Go to www.fortlauderdale.gov/recycle/single-stream.htm for more information - also includes frequently asked questions to help you prepare for the launch of the Mix It. Curb It. recycling program.

Pre-Agenda Meetings A reminder that our meetings are always on the Monday before a Commission Meeting (unless that Monday is a holiday). The agenda is discussed, as well as any other topics that may arise. The first Monday of the month is at the Beach Community Center, and the third Monday of the month is at Imperial Point Hospital (south entrance) - always at 6 p.m. Please call the office if you have any questions or need more information.

Continued on page 11

Evidently oblivious to the project's 6-year planning history, some attendees repeatedly queried panel members about the May 7 start date, intimating some undisclosed agenda to rush into the project. Several residents and vendors also complained about the inconveniences that unavoidably accompany right-of-way improvements. "It is what it is," answered Duffoo, adding "We will gladly meet with any concerned homeowners and local merchants and work to minimize any problems related to the project." After being told that the staging areas as yet hadn't been selected, one homeowner asked when FDOT would begin blocking off local streets.

Information specialist Miranda Iglesias retorted "FDOT must notify the City 14 days in advance when planning to close either a traffic lane or the entire street. As of today, no notice has been given to the City. However, when curtailing traffic becomes necessary, we will give a two-week heads-up." Despite vague criticisms by two seemingly confused homeowners and the understandable expressions of concern by local vendors about the project's short term impact on their businesses, a majority of the audience expressed approval for the May 7 start date, noting that it was timed to commence after "the season". GMCA President Pio Ieraci thanked the project hosts and announced "The vast majority of local residents have been anxiously awaiting the promised improvements and appreciate your efforts."

As the meeting closed, we asked the panel about additional improvements that would create a roadway more aesthetically consistent with SR A1A segments just north and south of the route's project limits and more closely reflect the neighborhood's character. Michael Melendez answered "While the current project lacks the resources required to transform the Galt Mile segment of A1A into a corridor befitting a designated scenic highway, we tailored the plan to serve as the first of two developmental stages en route to that objective."

Although it took almost 6 years, Melendez and City staffers made good on their promise to begin transforming the neighborhood's primary thoroughfare. Nevertheless, if we want to see the second stage come to fruition in our lifetime, the neighborhood association will have to begin convincing Broward MPO to line up stage two funding shortly after the current project's December completion date. After all, other than the few dollars expended to maintain the Galt Mile Library and an annual promise to renourish the beach, we received nothing from the County for the past three decades. Since the Galt Mile is one of Broward's primary sources of tax dollars, some might think we were overdue. •

Bruce...Continued

Office Contact Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov. In addition to hosting the pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule. If you would like to be on our email list to receive information, notifications or general information, please email us and you will be added.

Commentary

District 1 Commissioner Bruce Roberts peppered his May 2012 newsletter with a blend of event alerts and interesting informational tidbits. The listed resources are both useful and easily accessed although some of the issues could benefit from context. For instance, the heartwarming morality play about the New Boston Atlantech Tower will leave his constituents (with the exception of those who participated in the agreement) scratching their heads.



The Atlantech Tower Subscript

Having purchased the largest office building in Broward County, the New Boston Fund sought to enhance the value of their \$63 million investment in the Atlantech Tower by adding residential units.

Continued on page 14


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TUE

WED

<p>10 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p> <p>Israeli Dance Festival Au-Rene Theater Tix.: 954-462-0222</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>La Cage Aux Folles (Through 6/24) Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222</p>	<p>13 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p>17 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p> <p>Father's Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Commissioner Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p>19 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You (Through 7/24) Museum of Discovery & Science 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For Dates.: 954-713-0930</p>	<p>20 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You (Through 7/24) Museum of Discovery & Science 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For Dates.: 954-713-0930</p>
<p>24 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p> <p>Stonewall Summer Pride Wilton Manors 12 to 10 p.m. Parade @ 7 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You (Through 7/24) Museum of Discovery & Science 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For Dates.: 954-713-0930</p>	<p>27 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You (Through 7/24) Museum of Discovery & Science 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For Dates.: 954-713-0930</p>
<p>1 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p> <p>Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Commissioner Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p>3 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You (Through 7/24) Museum of Discovery & Science 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For Dates.: 954-713-0930</p>	<p>4 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>July 4th Family Celebration/Fireworks Show Ft Lauderdale Beach 9 to 9:30 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622</p>
<p>8 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Sanger: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You (Through 7/24) Museum of Discovery & Science 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For Dates.: 954-713-0930</p>	<p>11 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You (Through 7/24) Museum of Discovery & Science 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For Dates.: 954-713-0930</p>

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

JUNE 16: Kayak Against Cancer, Fort Lauderdale Beach Boat Launch, 5 a.m. to 1 p.m., Info.: 954-571-8657
 JUNE 16: Hillsboro Lighthouse Tour, Sands Harbor Hotel (125 N. Riverside Drive, Pompano Beach), 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Info.: 954-942-2102
 JUNE 16, 23 & 30: Saturday Nite Alive, A1A from Bubba Gumps north to the Ritz Carlton Hotel, 7 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-564-8300
 JUNE 16-17: Fort Lauderdale Gun & Knife Show, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 954-828-5380
 JUNE 22: Fort Lauderdale Bus Loop, 300 SW 2nd Street, 6 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-260-6194
 JUNE 22: MMA Fight Time 10, War Memorial Auditorium, 8 p.m., Info.: 954-443-6792
 JULY 4: Lauderdale-by-the-Sea July 4th Beach Blast, El Prado Park (East of A1A at El Mar Drive), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Info.: 954-772-3336, Ext. 0

JUNE/JULY

THU

FRI

SAT

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

July 17, 18, 19, 24

Sea Turtle Walks

Museum of Discovery & Science, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Info.: www.mods.org

July 21 - 22

Fort Lauderdale Antiques & Collectors Faire

War Memorial Auditorium

Info.: 954-563-6747

July 28 - 29

Buckler's 6th Annual Craft Fair

War Memorial Auditorium

Info.: 386-860-0092



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

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

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

15 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
6 to 8 p.m.

Starlight Musicals
Shadow Creek (Country)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

16 Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

Gun and Knife Show
(Through 6/17)
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 954-828-5380

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

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

22 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
6 to 8 p.m.

Starlight Musicals
Curbstone (Rock n Roll)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

23 Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

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

Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You
(Through 7/24)
Museum of Discovery & Science
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
For Dates.: 954-713-0930

29 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
6 to 8 p.m.

Starlight Musicals
Jimmy Stowe & the Stowaways
(Tropical Rock & Jimmy Buffet)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

30 Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

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

Moonlight, Sea Turtles, & You
(Through 7/24)
Museum of Discovery & Science
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
For Dates.: 954-713-0930

6 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
6 to 8 p.m.

Starlight Musicals
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

7 Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

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

USA Swimming Speedo Champions Series
(Through 7/15)
Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-4580

13 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
6 to 8 p.m.

Starlight Musicals
Viva (Classic Rock 'n' Roll)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

14 Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

International Mango Fest
(Through 7/15)
Fairchild Tropical Garden
9:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

First Saturday of every Month: Beach Cleanup, Commercial Blvd. & the Beach LBTS, 9 to 9:30 a.m., Info.: www.lbts.com

Second Saturday of every Month: Beach Sweep, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Info.: 954-474-1835

Wednesdays: Yoga in the Garden, Bonnett House, 8 to 9 a.m., Info.: 954-563-5393 ext. 137

Tuesdays and Thursdays: Yoga with Ali Hecht, Esplanade Park, 6:30 p.m., Info.: 954-732-0517

Mondays and Wednesdays: Cardio Mix with Josh Hecht, Esplanade Park, 6:30 p.m., Info.: 954-732-0517

Sundays: Tour-the River Ghost Tour, Stranahan House & Water Taxi, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: 954-524-4736

Bank of America



When project advocates were applying for mixed-use development of commercially zoned space at the November 17, 2011 City Commission meeting, their claims that the adjacent Lauderdale One Condominium never responded when contacted by the developer were refuted by unit owners and the association manager, who confirmed that they never received any feedback solicitation about the zoning issues. Project proponents and the condominium bickered unproductively for months about flooding in the structure's garage and prospective traffic congestion on adjacent 65th Street - until Commissioner Bruce Roberts met with the parties on March 29, 2012.

In exchange for Lauderdale One's endorsement, Atlantech agreed to relieve any traffic issues by building several roadway improvements on NE 65th Street. While the Tower undergoes renovation, Atlantech will fund preventive maintenance to mitigate the anticipated additional strain on Lauderdale One's HVAC system. Atlantech will also pay up to \$20,000 for traffic calming improvements at nearby Imperial Point Hospital and discourage tenants from circumventing traffic by cutting across hospital property. Since the New Boston Fund sits atop a \$4 billion property portfolio, the settlement will be funded from petty cash. If the Commissioner hadn't provided a neutral environment to mediate the agreement, the parties would still be squabbling over the now resolved issues.

Mix it. Curb it. Greens Profits

Galt Mile Associations contract with private waste services to dispose of both recyclables and ordinary trash, rendering Roberts' update about the City's new "Mix It. Curb It." Single-Stream Recycling Cart Program largely irrelevant to Galt Mile residents. However, since our private disposal services are also turning to Single-Stream Recycling, what is relevant are the reasons for this industry-wide sea change. Outlining the program's financial rationale on the Fort Lauderdale website, the City claims the program "encourages participation by making recycling easier and more convenient. If more people recycle, it increases the amount of recyclables collected, which reduces the amount of garbage the City pays to dispose."

While this mantra sounds good, it doesn't add up. The savings realized by reduced disposal costs doesn't offset the increased cost of separating the newly unified collected recyclables. Industry statistics show a marginal environmental benefit to the new collection strategy. However, industry interests that promoted the changeover are less committed to "greening" the environment than "greening" their bottom lines. To participate in a Single-Stream Recycling strategy, vendors face the initial capital cost of new carts, new single-compartment collection vehicles as well as processing facility upgrades and the increased operational costs of segregating the comingled recyclables by class. Concerned about getting stung by hidden costs, suspicious association officials and leery unit owners have sent dozens of emails asking the neighborhood association why waste vendors are advocating what appears to be a more expensive processing policy.

The vendor's single greatest operating expense is the cost of collections. While the nominal disposal savings doesn't justify the increased processing costs, the decreased cost of collections does. Single-compartment trucks are cheaper to purchase and operate than vehicles fitted with dedicated bays, collection can be automated, and collection routes can be serviced more efficiently. A uniform fleet means a reduction in the number of reserve vehicles needed to compensate for breakdowns or special events that require a temporarily larger inventory.

It also mitigates the "idiot factor"; an inexplicable homeowner predilection to dump the occasional flashlight battery into the bottles bin, prompting the need for vendors to finance a redundant processing step. In short, it's cheaper to collect and process comingled recyclables than to manage separate collection schedules for inadequately segregated classes of waste that ultimately undergo processing anyway.

Broward B-cycle - Where and How Much?

An unusual collaboration among Humana, Trek Bicycle Corporation and advertising loose cannon Crispin Porter + Bogusky, B-cycle should pique the interest of fanatic bicycle enthusiasts. This European-style bike sharing system enables Broward residents to access bicycles at various solar-powered stations positioned throughout the county. The system uses GPS (global positioning system) and RFID (radio frequency identification) technologies to track the distance and duration of each ride by fee-paying members, ostensibly to ascertain calories burned and the ride's positive impact on the local carbon footprint. More importantly, it provides the operator with a basis for generating billing data.

While non-bike riders may have difficulty fathoming the success of this enterprise, it evidently has traction. City's that already offer B-cycle services include Boulder, Chicago, Denver, Des Moines, Honolulu, Louisville, Madison, Omaha, San Antonio and Spartanburg, South Carolina. Since most bicycle enthusiasts are particular about riding their own vehicles and the bike rental market isn't exactly on fire, it should be interesting to monitor how this new offering unfolds.

B-cycle program participants must pay both a membership fee and a usage fee. Required to access the system, the membership fee for one day (24-hour pass) is \$5, for 7 days is \$25 and for one year is \$45. The additional usage fees are charged based on the duration of each ride, typically \$3 for every half hour up to a daily maximum of \$65. Open for business from 5 a.m. through 10 p.m., three of the currently 26 B-cycle Stations in East Broward are located in the Galt Mile neighborhood. At the north end of the Galt, 7 bikes and 3 docks are stationed at 4383 North Ocean Boulevard (ATA) in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. There are another 5 bikes and 4 docks by the Beach Community Center at 3270 NE 34th Street, Fort Lauderdale. At the neighborhood's southern end, 7 bikes and 3 docks are available in Earl Lifshey Park at 3098 North Ocean Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. Another station is planned at the Whole Foods market on Federal Highway.

If you lose your B-card (an identification card fitted with an RFID chip that provides annual members with account access), a replacement card will run you \$5. The charge to replace a lost B-cycle key is \$10. If you misplace the whole enchilada, a new B-cycle will set you back \$1200. The business model blends membership-based DVD rental kiosks with the Zipcar car-sharing service. In fact, it states on the B-cycle website "Think of the user fees as similar to keeping a DVD for an extra day. There's a fee, right? Same with bike sharing: Keep the bike longer if you wish, but there's an added charge." Currently, payment can only be made using a credit card (debit cards may be accepted in the future) which they plan to bang on a monthly basis.

For more information, check out the website offered in Commissioner Roberts' Newsletter, send an email to info@browardbicycle.com or call 754-200-5672. *

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