

NOVEMBER 2021

Dear Community Members,

South Florida's fall season is officially here! As the weather cools down and our nights get longer, I'm grateful that we can share more time together this year during the holiday season. Many will be able to enjoy holiday events in the community or with their families this year due to the major decrease of COVID-19 cases. Let's celebrate this wonderful time of year by checking in on each other, our family members, the senior community, and all essential workers that helped us get through the past 20 months!

New Mayor & Vice-Mayor

At the November 16th, Commission Meeting, Mayor Steve Geller gave his State of the County address in which he detailed the county's struggles and success of the last year. Additionally, the Broward County Commission chose Vice-Mayor Michael Udine as your

new Mayor, and I have been chosen as your new Vice Mayor. I'm incredibly honored and grateful to have been selected as your new Vice-Mayor by my colleagues. I'm excited and look forward to working with our new Mayor, the Commission and most importantly our communities, as we continue to build on Broward County's successes for a bright future.



Guy Harvey & Deerfield Beach

Recently, the Broward County Commission unanimously approved a license agreement with the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation to utilize a portion of Deerfield Island Park for a marine sciences and environmental education program mainly geared for school children, to include capital improvements on the island. I'm excited for this project to come to life, as it will provide school aged children and park visitors the opportunity to learn about fragile

South Florida Ecosystems and the marine environment, sea level rise, and climate change through educational program and services.



Rental Assistance Program

Broward County's Rental Assistance Program has gone through a recent transformation with a series of enhancements to accelerate the process of applications and make sure we get the much-needed financial assistance to tenants and landlords who have suffered economic hardship due to the pandemic. Some of these improvements include, assembling a lead strike team to take over the previously outsourced processing of applications, adding additional call center specialists to assist with questions, application portal periodic closings to allow staff time to process applications, and increasing the number of in-person intake centers from 2 to 4. For more information, please visit Broward.org/RentAssistance.



Beach Renourishment Project Update

Construction has begun on the Segment II Beach Renourishment project. The current schedule calls for work to be conducted Monday through Friday 7 AM – 6 PM; however, weekend work may occur if required to stay on schedule. No work is currently planned on major holidays, which include, Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. For more specific details of where the project is right now, please visit



<u>Broward.org/BeachRenourishment</u> and for questions/concerns please email resilience@broward.org.

Broward County Coastal Dune Grant



Broward County's Natural Resources Division Dune Grant Program is currently accepting new applications through midnight on December 31, 2021. The Division provides new grant opportunities to civic associations, coastal property owners, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to conduct dune restoration and enhancement projects. For more information or to request an application, please contact the Coastal Dune Grant Program at: CoastalDunes@broward.org or (954) 519-1452

Sea Turtles and Manatees

Sea Turtle Season has ended with record breaking numbers! Leatherback sea turtles had a surprising local record-breaking year, historically nesting patterns suggested that 2021 should have been a high nesting year for green sea turtles but leatherbacks took local biologists by surprise. The record nearly doubles the number of nests since the last record year in 2012 which had 46 leatherback nests. Check out where in our community our turtles are nesting below.



Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program: Current Nesting Totals

Species	Deerfield/ Hillsboro	Pompano	Fort Lauderdale	Dania/ Hollywood/ Hallandale	Broward County (all beaches)
Leatherback	32	16	22	9	79
Loggerhead	864	403	848	176	2291
Green turtle	352	20	52	6	430

^{*}As of 10/22/21. Broward County (all beaches) reflects 24 miles of Broward County's coastline, excluding the Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park. Data are preliminary.

Additionally, we are now on the lookout for manatees. Manatee season has officially started as of November 15th. If you are enjoying our waterways, residents and visitors are encouraged to download the 'I Spy a Manatee' mobile app to report sightings, view manatee protection and boating safety zones. Although, manatees have recently been reclassified from endangered to a threatened species, we must continue to monitor and care for these beautiful water animals that move into our warm waterways this time of year. For more information, visit Broward.org/Manatees.



Cruising from Broward County

Port Everglades cruising is back in full force! The Port has gone from three cruise ships starting in June and July, to more than 20 ships sailing in November. Saturday, November 6th was the busiest Port Everglades has been since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Six cruise ships sailed with passengers on board, putting six of the eight cruise terminals in use. Even more exciting, our Port Director recently



advised us that they have completed the agreement with Disney Cruise Line! Families will be able to enjoy cruising on one of Disney's incredible cruises by the Fall of 2023. The agreement provides for one ship to be homeported in Port Everglades year-round, joined by a second seasonal ship in 2025. We are overjoyed that our community and tourists from around the world will be able to visit our facility and get an experience of a lifetime! More information is forthcoming.

Traveling this Holiday Season

Fort Lauderdale's International Airport (FLL) is seeing pre-pandemic levels of travelers. Overall, FLL welcomed nearly 20.7 million visitors this year through September, a 71% increase over the same nine-month period in 2020. If you plan on traveling for

Thanksgiving or the upcoming holidays, I suggest the following few tips to make sure you get to your destination safe and hassle-free; review travel plans, arrive early, review baggage requirements, follow guidelines and most importantly be kind. For more information or tips please visit <u>FLL.net</u>.



- 1. Guy Harvey Mural Unveiling at Deerfield Beach
- 2. Lauderdale by the Sea Veterans Day
- 3. Broward Sheriff's Office Memorial Service (honoring coworkers lost during the past 2 years due to COVID-19)



- 1. Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show
- 2. Panel Discussion at Commercial Real Estate Symposium
- 3. Pompano Beach High School's Fallen Heroes Ceremony

Happy Thanksgiving! I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4 and to serve all in Broward County as your new Vice-Mayor. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or LFisher@broward.org. Also, follow me (@LamarPFisher) on Twitter and Facebook (@ViceMayorLamarFisher).

Best regards,

Lamar P. Fisher

Broward County Vice-Mayor

Commission District 4