



**November 2024**

**Dear Community Members,**

It’s a wonderful time of year in South Florida, as temperatures begin to lower slightly, the nights become longer, and friends and families begin to gather. This month we casted our votes on Election Day, honored our Veterans for their sacrifices and next week, we’ll give thanks while spending time with our families and friends. This is also a great opportunity to check in with your friends and neighbors that may not have family nearby.

**New Mayor and Vice Mayor**



On Tuesday, November 19, the County Commission elected a new Mayor and Vice Mayor. Commissioner Beam Furr, who represents District 6, is your new Broward County Mayor and Commissioner Mark D. Bogen, who represents District 2, is your new Vice Mayor. Additionally, we also held swearing in ceremonies for incumbent Commissioners Nan H. Rich (District 1), Michael Udine (District 3), Steve

Geller (District 5), and Hazelle P. Rogers (District 9); and swore in new Commissioner Alexandra P. Davis (District 7) to the Board. Congratulations to our new Mayor and Vice Mayor as well as those that have been re-elected and newly elected to serve on the Broward County Commission. I look forward to a successful year ahead!

**Homelessness**

The Board of County Commissioners recently held a workshop to discuss homelessness and provide direction to County Administration in response to Florida House Bill 1365 that went into effect on October 1, 2024. The Bill prohibits overnight camping or sleeping in public spaces. As I’ve reported before, the County takes a housing first approach to homelessness. We fund about \$26 million through our General Fund which provides for the County’s shelters, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing and transitional housing. This funding also supports outreach efforts including, the street outreach team, airport and transit teams, medical respite, mobile sanitation, case management and more. Additionally, the County receives about \$18 million in grant funding that also supports the program described above.

Broward County also funds a homeless prevention services funding through the Family Success Division of about \$36 million from the General Fund. These funds assist with crisis assistance such as rent, mortgage, utilities and/or security deposits, financial capability programs, case management, eviction and foreclosure prevention and more. An additional \$32 million is received through grants for the support of the programs described above.

Conversations continue for the best path forward. Administration and the Board recently had a lengthy discussion regarding Pallet Shelter Villages and the possibility to create the first ever village in Broward County. The most difficult decision is location. After much deliberation, unfortunately the Commission could not come to a consensus. I believe we should continue with our short-term goals at this moment. This includes, restoring and increasing shelter bed capacity at the North and Central Homeless Assistance Centers and the Salvation Army. The County should also continue using best practices that already exist in the continuum of care, that assist in serving the unhoused individuals and families through the existing network of services. To learn more about the services provided by the County to residents either on the brink of homelessness or already there, please visit, [Broward.org/Homeless](http://Broward.org/Homeless).

**If you or anyone you know are experiencing homelessness, call the Homeless Helpline at 954-563-4357, 8AM to 7PM daily.**

### **NatureScape Emerald Award Applications**

Calling all nature lovers! NatureScape Broward is now accepting NatureScape Emerald Award applications through January 3. Homeowners, businesses, municipalities, schools and government facilities that have created and maintained model Florida-friendly landscapes or completed exceptional projects demonstrating visible ecological practices should apply. The application process can be accessed through the NatureScape website provided below. Winners will be recognized at the 23rd Annual Water Matters Day event held March 8, 2025 at Tree Tops Park in Davie. If you have any questions, contact Anthony Gross at [NatureScape@broward.org](mailto:NatureScape@broward.org). For more information, please visit [broward.org/NatureScape/EmeraldAwards](http://broward.org/NatureScape/EmeraldAwards).



### **Port Everglades Cruise News**



Port Everglades recently welcomed the arrival of Princess Cruises' newest ship, *Sun Princess*. Being one of the three busiest ports in the world it is always exciting welcoming these gigantic water vessels to our community. Port Everglades beat its own cruise passenger record with a preliminary

count of 4,010,919 guests embarking and disembarking during Fiscal Year 2024, which ended September 30, 2024. We anticipate seeing a record of 4.4 million cruise passengers during Fiscal Year 2025.

Gaining national attention, during the American Association of Port Authorities' Annual Convention, the Port received the Lighthouse Award for "Excellence in Cruise Practices - Large Port" for its innovative digital [cruise guide](#). I want to personally congratulate the entire Port Everglades team on their tremendous effort in growing the Port's cruise portfolio. As the holiday season comes and

goes, this is a great opportunity for residents to start planning your 2025 vacation! Visit [PortEverglades.net](http://PortEverglades.net) for more information.

In other excellent Port news, as the sponsor for two marine terminal operators, Port Everglades was notified that it will receive a \$53.357 million grant for an emissions-reduction project from the U.S. Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program. The Port applied for the grant on behalf of two of its largest terminal operators: Crowley Maritime Corp. and Mediterranean Shipping Company/Port Everglades Terminals, LLC. The grant funds will accelerate the decarbonization at the Port by paying for new electric zero-emissions cargo-handling equipment and retiring diesel-powered equipment in use for 10 years or more. A tremendous thank you to our Congressional Leadership who provided incredible support in pushing this grant award forward.

### **Broward County's Shoreline Resiliency Programs**

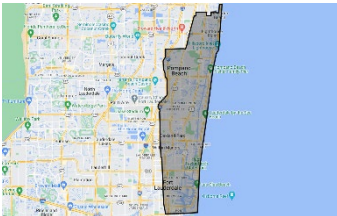


Broward County is proud of our beautiful Broward beaches and we continue to maintain strategies that promotes healthy, sustainable beaches. Broward County maintains its beaches through the Broward County Shoreline Protection Project, which is a partnership with the federal government to address coastal erosion. Additionally, the County offers funding through its Dune Grant Program and the Artificial Reef Program.

Through the Dune Grant Program, \$50,000 in annual funding is offered to local beachfront property owners, municipalities, and non-profit organizations.

Funds are typically available starting in the fall and applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 per project. Grant funds can be used for removal of invasive dune species, planting of native species, installing protective post and rope barriers, etc. The Artificial Reef Program is a new addition to Broward's shoreline resiliency toolbox, which provides \$50,000 in available funding to support artificial reefs. Through the Artificial Reef program, the County is not only creating additional habitat for various marine organisms and fish but is also providing protection measures to alleviate user pressure on the natural reefs. To learn more about these programs and everything that Broward County is doing to protect our beaches, please visit [Broward.org/Beaches](http://Broward.org/Beaches).

### **Reminders:**



#### **Municipal Holiday Events**

With the holiday season here, many municipalities have several holiday events planned. Check out your municipal website for the latest information on events near you. For a full list of the District 4 websites, visit [Broward.org/commission/district4](http://Broward.org/commission/district4).



#### **Manatee Season**

November 15 marked the beginning of the state-wide manatee season which runs through March 31. Seasonal speed limit zones and manatee protection zones are implemented throughout the state as air and water temperatures drop.



**Thanksgiving in Greater Fort Lauderdale: A Foodies Guide**  
With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, Visit Lauderdale has compiled [a list of restaurants offering traditional holiday meals.](#)



**Small Business Saturday is November 30.** Remember to shop local! [Check out 12 Top Farmers Markets in Greater Fort Lauderdale.](#) Find resources for small business [here.](#)



**Holiday Fantasy of Lights** starts November 23 to January 4 at Tradewinds Park & Stables. This drive-through show offers larger-than-life holiday light displays. Tickets are available online. For more information, visit [HolidayLightsDriveThru.com.](#)

As always, I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4. If I can ever be of assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or [LFisher@broward.org](mailto:LFisher@broward.org). Also, follow me [@LamarPFisher](#) on X (Twitter) and on [Facebook](#).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lamar P. Fisher".

Lamar P. Fisher  
Broward County  
Commissioner  
District 4

**Additional Resources:**

- Libraries: [Broward.org/Library](http://Broward.org/Library)
- Parks: [Broward.org/Parks](http://Broward.org/Parks)
- Business Assistance: [Broward.org/EconDev](http://Broward.org/EconDev)
- Broward's Official Hurricane Site: [Broward.org/Hurricane](http://Broward.org/Hurricane)
- Mosquito Control Services: [Broward.org/Mosquito](http://Broward.org/Mosquito)
- Fort Lauderdale International Airport: [Broward.org/Airport](http://Broward.org/Airport)
- Port Everglades: [PortEverglades.net](http://PortEverglades.net)