Great news for the Lockhart Stadium site! Earlier this month, the City Commission took a major step toward redeveloping this important property. We unanimously voted to enter into an agreement with Miami Beckham United, a group led by soccer legend David Beckham, on a visionary project for the 64-acre site.

The Beckham group is ready to invest up to $60 million to transform the property into a “soccer-centric community destination.” Preliminary plans call for the construction of a new state-of-the-art 18,000-seat soccer stadium where Beckham’s Major League Soccer (MLS) team, Inter Miami CF, would play its first two seasons. An interim agreement is currently being negotiated that will allow the Beckham Group to expediently move forward with site preparation and demolition so that the stadium can be completed by February 2020 in time for the start of next year’s MLS season.

In addition to the stadium, the Lockhart site would serve as Inter Miami’s base of operations, main training center, home to a United Soccer League (USL) farm team, and headquarters for a youth soccer academy that would groom the next generation of elite soccer players. The complex would also include team and administrative offices, locker rooms, weight rooms, classrooms, dining facilities, medical and rehabilitation facilities, and practice fields.

The Beckham group would bring millions of dollars in public enhancements to the property including the development of a public park, dog park, playground, public multi-purpose fields, and a walking/jogging/fitness trail. The Commission is also committed to building an additional stadium that our local public schools could use for football and other athletic activities.

I’m excited about partnering with the Beckham group to bring significant improvements to the site and expand public access to new facilities and amenities in our community. The group’s investment, coupled with the recent passage of the Parks Bond, will provide additional options to fund even more enhancements and amenities on the property, like the new community center. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime project that offers our City a unique opportunity to create a family-oriented destination on one of our largest remaining unused tracts of land, and in doing so, leave a lasting legacy for future generations to use and enjoy.

I have already had numerous meetings and discussions with many of you, regarding the community amenities and I plan to continue to seek your input, thoughts, and ideas as this project moves forward. Please keep an eye out for more details and further updates in the months ahead!

Sincerely,

Heather Moraitis
Uptown 5k on the Runway

Trustbridge Hospice Foundation partnered with the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport to host a 5k on the airport's runway, and for the first time in FXE's history, people, not planes took off from the runway during this inaugural run/walk event!

Congratulations WA Men's Basketball Team

The WA Men's Varsity Basketball Team accomplished a historic feat yesterday afternoon, with a 77–73 win over Seffner Christian in Lakeland. The victory was the third consecutive FHSAA Class 4A Basketball State Championship for the team.

This marks the first time in WA school history that a team sport has won three straight state championships. It is also noteworthy that this has only occurred one other time in the sport of men's basketball by a Broward County school.

There was a large contingent of students and fans that made the trip to Lakeland to support Coach Ehren Wallhoff and the team. Those who remained in school were able to view the game at an all-school “watch party” in the Kennedy Fellowship Hall.

It was fitting that the Lions were led yesterday by seniors, Sam Griffin and Chase Johnston. Sam tallied 24 points to lead the team and Chase totaled 19. Freshman Ben Middlebrooks contributed 18 points on perfect 8 for 8 shooting. The Lions finished with an amazing 25-4 record after a rigorous regular season schedule. The season also included extraordinary accomplishments, such as Chase Johnston surpassing the national record for total three-pointers made in a career and Sam Griffin breaking the 1,000 point mark for his career.

Coach Wallhoff's program has indeed reached “dynasty” status! Congratulations to our players and coaches on the three-peat. You are forever in the record books!
Access the link below for information on the District 3 schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Wilton Manors and Oakland Park.
https://www.browardschools.com/Page/35216

Special thank you to the Law Firm of Kelley/Uustal for their generous contributions and support of the St. Patrick’s Parade and Festival!

The City proudly welcomed Consul General of Japan Kenji Hirata!

Thank you to Bayview Elementary student council for leading the Pledge of Allegiance at our commission meeting.

Thank you Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce for inviting me to attend and briefing your Board of Directors on the plan for Lockhart Stadium.

It was a pleasure to attend the celebration of the new 20-acre Northside Hanger Complex and Banyan Air Service’s upcoming FBO at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

Had a blast at the Imperial Point Spring Fling!

I joined the Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International and Florida Turkish American Association to present a Proclamation declaring April 23, 2019 as International Children’s Day in the City of Fort Lauderdale. As part of the celebration, the group recognized the winners of the annual “If I Were Mayor” student essay contest! The students then took over the dais!
April as Water Conservation Month

The City has declared April as Water Conservation Month to increase awareness about the importance of conserving water. As such, we would like to promote the Broward Water Partnership’s (BWP) Conservation Pays program through the Commissioners’ newsletters this month.

The BWP was formed in 2011 as a regional water conservation initiative among Broward County and 18 municipalities, including the City of Fort Lauderdale, to implement the Conservation Pays program which offers rebates for installing high efficiency toilets and free water saving devices such as showerheads and aerators. To learn more about the program, please visit www.conservationpays.com.

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