



GALT MILE NEWS

MAY 2010

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GMCA

L'Ambrance | Commodore | Coral Ridge Towers | Coral Ridge Towers E | Coral Ridge Towers N | Coral Ridge Towers S | Edgewater Arms | Fountainhead | Galleon | Galt Ocean Club | Galt Towers | L'Ambrance



L'Hermitage 1 & 2 | Ocean Club | Ocean Manor | Ocean Summit | Playa Del Mar | Playa Del Sol | Plaza East | Plaza South | Regency South | Regency Tower | Riviera | Royal Ambassador | Southpoint

Printed by



The UPS StoreSM

Travel light.

Ship your luggage ahead of time using our:

- Affordable and timely shipping options
- Convenient package tracking
- More than 4,400 locations



Ask About the **Galt Mile Specials**

Make getting to your destination easier—stop by today!

Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. is a UPS® company. The UPS Store® locations are independently owned and operated by franchisees of Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. in the USA and by its master licensee and its franchisees in Canada. Services and hours of operation may vary by location. Copyright © 2010 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc.



The UPS Store®

1-UPS-EZ-PICKUP
(877) 397-4258

GALT OCEAN MILE FILLS 10-TON PANTRY

By Eric Berkowitz

The food drive was over. In celebration of another successful effort, Executive Director Scott Woodburn of the Cooperative Feeding Program sponsored an April 9th awards event at the St. Lawrence Gallery on A1A. Earlier in the day, he sent email reminders to team captains, Association volunteers and other local program supporters who were instrumental in delivering the most impressive result in the Galt Mile Food Drive's 4-year history. Although pleased that Galt Mile contributors statistically exceeded his expectations, he was particularly taken aback by their having done so amid this crippling economic environment. Woodburn knew that much of this year's collected food wasn't pulled from donors' shelves, but from their tables!

For those unable to attend the Friday evening awards celebration, Woodburn summarized the event in another email sent the following Monday. The email opened "On Friday evening at the St Lawrence Gallery we congratulated everyone in attendance for an record effort of 19,281 pts surpassing last year total by more than 5,000 pts." Turning the focus to the event's competitive underpinnings, he continued, "We also crowned our 2010 Grand Champion, The Edgewater Arms Community Association. This was the third consecutive food drive the diminutive condo association has won both divisions, total points 3,530 and 41.5 pts per unit."

To assure volunteers who missed the party that their efforts hadn't been overlooked, he said, "We also handed out certificates of appreciation to all our sponsors and community associations. If you were not present, your certificate is in the mail along with the results." Looking ahead, he ended with, "Congratulations on another fantastic effort, we hope you enjoy the rest of the year and we look forward to the 2011 food drive. Hope you and your association will join us again for a great community

project." The email carried two attachments, a letter entitled, "2010 Final News" and an Excel spreadsheet compilation of the final statistical summary - "2010 Final Results". While appreciative of the entire neighborhood's efforts, the letter recognizes some Galt Mile Associations and residents whose contributions were exemplary. He expressed his sentiments as follows:

2010 Galt Ocean Mile Food Drive Final News

Congratulations on an amazing effort. We had another record setting year for the 2010 Galt Ocean Mile Food Drive.

We set a goal of beating the 2009 record setting total of 15,000 lbs and we did it! Super congratulations to all our condo participants for a wonderful record setting effort in our 2010 Food Drive. A total of 6,662.5 lbs of badly needed food and an amazing \$12,619 including the 5K run resulted in a record setting total of 19,281 pts. That total is almost 5,000 pts better than the 2009 Food Drive Total. Congratulations on a great effort.

Our 2010 Galt Ocean Mile GRAND CHAMPIONS for the third year in a row is the Edgewater Arms Condo Association (**[sic] - Edgewater Arms is a Cooperative Association**). What can you say about that wonderful group at the Edgewater Condo Association? The smallest among us, with just 85 condo units, the Edgewater just blew away the competition again this year with an astounding effort accumulating 3,530 total points and averaging a magnificent 41.5 points per unit.

Congratulations to Annemarie Adams, the condo campaign Captain, Gary Tripoli, Association President, the Condo Association Board, and the residents who made the fight against hunger in their community a personal campaign. Three years being Grand Champions is truly remarkable.

Thanks to their benefactor Mary Short and the Mary Jane Harlow Trust, Southpoint and Galt Ocean Club did make a good run on the Edgewater Arms.

A special thanks to Mary Short. Her commitment to helping the poor and homeless in our community resulted in a very generous \$4,000 challenge gift to the campaign. The Galt Community took the challenge seriously and it sure did work with a record setting effort!

A special congratulation goes out to Jennifer Donnelly's Fountainhead Association who for the first time with a great effort joined our 1,000 point club along with the Edgewater Arms, Coral Ridge South, South Point and Galt Ocean Club.

As for the Coral Ridge Group, Geri Boylan's Coral Ridge South hung in there fourth in total points followed by Bonnie Leavitt's Coral Ridge Towers Original and Jim Rainey's Coral Ridge East association all in the overall top ten.

This year's most improved award recognizes the Regency Tower under Christine Rome for their great improvement to 737 points and Ted Rogers's Commodore Association who went from last in each division to a top 10 finish in lbs/pre unit.

And thanks to Cindy Songer, Galt Towers, James Beard at Ocean Riviera, and Lee Lowenthal, Ocean Summit who all improved over their totals from last year.

Continued on page 18



PUBLISHER

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

EDITOR

Eric Peter Berkowitz

ADVERTISING

954-292-6553
galtnews@yahoo.com

PRINTER

The UPS Store™
954-568-1990

GMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

Pio Ieraci
(954) 561-9795

VICE PRESIDENT

Eric Peter Berkowitz
(954) 564-4427

TREASURER

Leah Glickfield
(954) 563-1001

DIRECTORS

Ralph Hamaker
(954) 568-4146

Donna Oppert
(954) 567-2969

Fred Nesbitt
(954) 564-4329

Kevin Songer
(954) 566-3882

SECRETARY

Fern McBride*
(954) 561-2965

ADVISORY BOARD

Jim Abruzzino
Lorraine Alfano
Charles Baldwin
Richard Bazerghi
Ron Bibace
Franci Bindler
Dott Nicholson-Brown
Francis Casier
Dr. Jim Comis
Dr. Robert Drews
Kathleen Freismuth
Richard Gabrielle

Warren Hurley
Marlene Katkin
Frances Konstance
Bob Krey
Herbert Kwart
George Mayer
Fern McBride*
Jean Miller
Daryl Slattery
Richard Solewin
Huey Vanek
Pat Weck

COVER PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

Allison Muss, Second Studio
954-292-6553

The publisher accepts no liability for the accuracy of statements made by association members, outside contributors, third party articles, or advertisers.

reach the
BEACH
7,000 condos - 26 high-rises on the Galt Mile

ADVERTISING SALES

9 5 4 - 2 9 2 - 6 5 5 3

SECOND STUDIO

Newsletters | Magazines | Copywriting

Better Homes. Better Agents. BHG First.

We've GONE GREEN! The best just got BETTER!

- Global Marketing
- Unparalleled Web Marketing
- Area's TOP Real Estate Agents
- #1 in Agent Productivity in Broward
- iPhone app & MORE!



FLORIDA 1ST

3433 Galt Ocean Drive
(954) 525-0088

The Best just got BETTER!

Better Homes & Gardens is now at the Galt!
We Live on the Galt and We Love the Galt!



Florence Jordan
Realtor®

954-629-5999

FlorenceJordan@BHGFirst.com



Tyrone Mendes
Realtor®

954-257-3674

TyorneMendes@aol.com



Dennis Miller
Realtor®

954-629-2120

DennisMiller@BHGFirst.com

Join us for Coffee!



FLORIDA 1ST

3433 Galt Ocean Drive

WILL TALLAHASSEE

CURE UTILITY GRAFFITI? By Eric Berkowitz

In late 2008, the Galt Mile Community Association Advisory Board unanimously appointed Commodore resident Jose "Chepo" Vega to perform an ongoing review of the hardscape and landscape features along Galt Ocean Drive and the surrounding area. Working with Parks Department officials, former Commissioner Christine Teel and later with Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts, Chepo engineered a wide variety of neighborhood improvements. Under his supervision, Parks Department crews trimmed and restrapped trees that were originally inadequately supported or cast atilt due to high winds. The dangerously angled low-hanging branches posed a threat to inattentive pedestrians and bicyclists.

Chepo was also responsible for municipal repairs to cracked or destabilized sections of the pink aggregate sidewalks that line the block, eliminating potential tripping hazards. On his watch, we've seen regular and recyclables trash receptacles upgraded, new newsletter boxes that are substantially less offensive than the former lines of rusting multi-color metallic hulks, replanted and meticulously maintained sidewalk beds and a score of other aesthetic enhancements.

Last winter, Chepo became increasingly irritated with what he characterized as "Utility Graffiti." When contractors anticipate tearing up the street or sidewalk, they must first locate any buried utility lines to avoid disturbing or damaging electrical wiring, telephone lines, broadband

cable, catch basins, gas lines, water lines, drains, sewers and other interred utility components. Prior to commencing excavation, the location of every utility element must be identified and marked with different color paints to distinguish telephone, gas, water, electric, etc. Armed with a map of the buried wires, cables, lines, pipes, ducts and conduits, the contractors can proceed without wreaking havoc on local services. The marking system is in statutory compliance with the "Uniform Color Code for Utilities" of the American Public Works Association.

In preparation for any sub-surface demolition, contractors utilize a State sponsored service known as Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc. (One-Call or SSOCOF). Created and delimited in Chapter 556 of the Florida Statutes, the company enlists membership by public utilities and private companies (operators) with underground facilities, which enables maintenance of a current and comprehensive statewide database of their buried system components. When informed of a planned excavation, One-Call "promptly" notifies all member operators with facilities in the defined area of the proposed excavation or demolition. Within two full business days (except when emergency repairs are indicated), they must apply appropriate marking indicators directly to the target area as well as generate a similarly marked hand-held map useful for planning purposes.

State law mandates that One-Call members "identify the horizontal route by marking to within 24 inches from the outer edge of either side of the underground facility by the use of stakes, paint, flags, or other suitable means." Member operators use a pantheon of electronic detection equipment to perform comprehensive utility mapping over any designated area. Since this information is valid for a 30-day period, if the marking medium fails to withstand the foot traffic, rain, wind or other erosive elements to which the marked surface is ordinarily exposed, the excavator is required to cease demolition and notify One-Call of the necessity to remark. The excavator is liable for damages resulting from misinterpretation of degraded or adulterated markings. However, if the excavator is confronted by fully eroded markings, One-Call risks sharing liability for damage. To avoid such incidents, members prefer using marking materials chemically confected to withstand direct exposure to nuclear fallout.

Not surprisingly, the resulting markings often survive the attendant project. Long after the street or sidewalk is repaired, the markings persist - sometimes for months - or years. Ordinarily, contractors are required by local ordinance to restore an environment to its "pre-construction condition," intimating that the contractor is responsible for removing any residual markings prior to closing out a project. Why, then, must Chepo continue to agonize over this legal vandalism?

When this dilemma was posed to Commissioner Roberts at a GMCA Advisory Board meeting, the Vice Mayor agreed to investigate. Members surmised that some local law was being arrogantly flouted and a series of violation notices would cure the problem. Initially, a response was received explaining that a bill was circulating in Tallahassee to address this issue. Confused, members asked why there was no city ordinance enforcing pre-construction restoration. What the heck did the state have to do with this issue?

The short answer - Since One-Call members operate subject to the tenets of Chapter 556 of the Florida Statutes (also cited as the "Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act"), they are arguably



Utility graffiti marks Ocean Club Condominium driveway apron

Continued on page 7

unaccountable to local governments. Local attempts to force operators to apply for a permit prior to marking a route, pre-mark the target area, specify the types of paint or other marking devices used to identify underground facilities or require the removal of marks have produced a pre-excavation legal grey area and post excavation liability limbo.

On April 12th, Fort Lauderdale's Customer Operations Manager for Utilities, Linda Gee, sent GMCA President Pio Ieraci an email clarifying how Senate Bill 982 is expected to address neighborhood concerns. Since Chepo recently reported that a new set of markings marred the Ocean Club's sidewalk, Gee's correspondence assumed heightened significance. Her message was as follows:

April 12, 2010
Dear Mr. Ieraci,

Commissioner Roberts forwarded to us your concerns regarding the visual impact of underground utility line location marks. The City shares your concern, as do other municipalities throughout the state. There is currently legislation, Senate Bill 982 which proposes changes to the State Statute that regulates underground utility damage protection. The version submitted to the Senate includes the addition of a Section 9 - Low-Impact Marking Practices" - Page 18. The Bill is sponsored by Senator Bennett.

Section 9 - 556.114 - (1) of the new legislation will require the excavator to submit for marking, ONLY areas that will be excavated within 30 days. If the planned work is not completed during that timeframe, or additional work is required, the excavator must initiate a new line location request for only the area where work was not complete.

This is meant to reduce the area being marked. Currently contractors resubmit the original location request - and the entire work area is marked again.

Section 9 - 556.114 - (4) states operators must use temporary, non-permanent paint. This was not part of the previous legislation.

The Bill also requires Sunshine One Call, the state agency that oversees the underground utility markings program, to establish an educational program to inform member operators and excavators about low-impact marking practices.

Another significant provision of the Bill provides exclusive power to regulate underground utility damage prevention to the State. This provision will prohibit municipalities, counties, districts or other local governments from enacting ordinances or rules to regulate any subject addressed in this Bill. Any ordinance or rule in existence, which is in conflict with this bill will not be valid or enforceable after July 1, 2010 (the date this bill will become law if adopted).

Sunshine One Call believes this is a 'first step' toward addressing the issues raised by the City of Fort Lauderdale and others. The Low-Impact Marking Ad Hoc Committee will continue to meet and develop additional recommendations for improving the process.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Linda Gee
Customer Operations Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale - Utilities
949 NW 38 Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Office (954) 828-7896, Fax (954) 828-7897
LGee@fortlauderdale.gov

After being filed in pre-session on December 17, 2009 by Bradenton Senator Michael S. Bennett, Senate Bill 982 was referred to the Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities Committee; the Community Affairs Committee and the Judiciary Committee for review on 1/14/10. A committee substitute was passed in the Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities Committee on 3/4/2010 by an 8 yeas vs. 0 nays vote. On 3/17/2010, it was passed in the Community Affairs Committee by an 11 yeas vs. 0 nays vote. On 4/7/2010, Judiciary passed another committee substitute by a 9 yeas vs. 0 nays vote. On April 12th - the date that Ms. Gee sent her email - it was placed on the Calendar, on 2nd reading. It was engrossed and placed on the Special Order Calendar on April 21st.

Continued on page 8

INJURED?



- AUTO ACCIDENTS
- WRONGFUL DEATH
- SLIP & FALL
- WORKERS COMP.
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- NURSING HOME NEGLECT

FREE CONSULTATION

954-630-8898

CHARLES COHEN 24 YEARS OF ATTORNEY AT LAW EXPERIENCE

WE WILL COME TO YOUR HOME OR HOSPITAL

Handling cases in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties from Ft. Lauderdale. The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask me to send you free written information about my qualifications and experience.

Jasmine Garden

Authentic Chinese Cuisine
Dine In • Take Out • Delivery

\$5 OFF

For orders \$25 or more (before tax & delivery).
May not be combined with other offers.
Offer expires 6/30/2010

954-785-0499
4739 N Ocean Dr.
Sea Ranch Lakes, FL 33308
Open 7 Days A Week
M-Sat: 11 am-10 pm; Sun: Noon-10 pm

A similar bill was filed in the Statehouse on January 15, 2010 by Pensacola Representative Dave Murzin (Co-sponsored by Punta Gorda Representative Paige Kreegel). On January 28th, House Bill 691 was referred for vetting to the Energy & Utilities Policy Committee, the Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee, the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee and the General Government Policy Council. On 3/3/10, a committee substitute was passed in Energy & Utilities Policy by a vote of 13 yeas vs. 0 nays. On 3/22/10 it passed favorably through Civil Justice & Courts Policy in a 14 yeas vs. 0 nays vote. On 3/25/10, the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee unanimously approved the bill by a 13 yeas vs. 0 nays vote. The General Government Policy Council passed it on 4/9/10, by a vote of 12 yeas vs. 0 nays. House Bill 691 was placed on the Calendar on April 13th and placed on the Special Calendar on April 23rd.

Short of a mass affliction stress disorder of the type occasionally experienced by frenetic lawmakers as the session heads to Sine Die, the bills are a lock. Fully greased by SSOCOF Lobbyist Mike Moore, the only remaining variable is the effective date, which Ms. Gee identified as July 1, 2010 despite its characterization as October 1, 2010 in both the House and Senate bills.

Unfortunately, passage of these bills may not address the problem. The bills were not filed to assist disgruntled local governments and communities with their marking removal issues... quite the opposite. One of the primary motives for their filing was to preclude local governments from interfering with One-Call functionality. When originally filed, the Senate Bill 982 prohibited local government from adopting any ordinance or regulation relating to the subject matter of Chapter 556. The final committee substitute replaces that provision with a prohibition on local government adopting any conflicting laws.

The language used to address the graffiti issue is somewhat slippery. As originally filed, the bill created Section 9 – 556.114 (4) – “Member operators shall mark the area described or premarked by the excavator using temporary, nonpermanent paint, flags, stakes, and other acceptable means” (as described in Ms. Gee’s email message). Two committee substitutes later, the provision was relocated to Section 8 and the language morphed into “A member operator shall identify the horizontal route of its underground facilities as set forth in s. 556.105 (5) (a) and (b), and excavators shall premark an excavation site as set forth in subsection (3) using flags or stakes or temporary, non-permanent paint or other industry accepted low-impact marking practices.”

Since the problem can only be cured by requiring that facility operators remove whatever substance they use to mark a designated area, one could be forgiven for doubting Sunshine State One-Call’s assessment that this legislation represents progress “toward addressing the issues raised by the City of Fort Lauderdale and others,” as expressed in Linda Gee’s correspondence. The legislation fails to define “industry accepted low-impact marking practices”, thereby affording One-Call members wide latitude in creatively interpreting this option. The degree of its marking materials’ chemical permanence appears to remain a discretionary call by each member. Since operators have long demonstrated a clear preference for using more permanent marking materials to better protect their underground facilities from inadvertent excavation damage, it is unlikely that they will voluntarily shift to a policy that increases their exposure. Creating a program to educate member operators about low-impact marking practices, as required in Section 8 – 556.114 (6), instead of implementing a straightforward marking removal requirement is a bad joke. One-Call operators are already intimately familiar with the rancor they cause by vandalizing streets and sidewalks. That’s one of the reasons they support the legislation’s protection from local regulations. It is laughable to assume that technologically conversant operators such as FP&L, AT&T, Broward Water, Comcast and Peoples Gas are perplexed by the mysteries of low-impact marking practices. Since the bills’ sponsors needed to marshal the support of program participants to minimize committee obstacles, it doesn’t require an Ouija board to fathom why the problem wasn’t definitively corrected in the current legislation.

Hopefully, the educational program’s curriculum will include a relevant historical component. If the abuses remain flagrant enough to provide the basis for an action against the operator, Section 5 – 556.107 (1) (a) (7.) in the bill characterizes the violation as a “Non-Criminal Infraction” and increases the existing \$250 penalty to \$500. Since it costs substantially more to send a crew to remove the markings, the fine is not likely to elicit more than a raised eyebrow. However, if the facility operators are warned that the communities they are vandalizing will ultimately become adequately incensed to lobby for an amendment with effectively punitive teeth, they may decide that compliance with the new bill’s “spirit” will be less abrasive to their bottom lines. If the bill becomes effective in October, we should be able to evaluate its impact by January. Until then, I regret having to recommend that Chepo hang on to his Excedrin, since he will probably need it.

F.Y.I. – A guide to decipher the abbreviations, symbols and color code used by operators to identify the facility, denote the infrastructure material and describe the underground elements is posted on the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galtmile.com). In the center column of the home page, click on the article headline “Will Tallahassee Cure Utility Graffiti?” Then scroll down to a set of tables and graphics useful for interpreting what could understandably be mistaken for some disaffected youth’s antisocial vehicle for self-expression.



Chepo works with Parks Department crew



Chepo confers with GMCA President Pio Ieraci about Galt Mile landscaping.



WE ARE THE BEST ON THE BEACH !
OVER 2.4 MILLION USER HITS PER MONTH = MORE EXPOSURE FOR YOU!
3 LOCATIONS • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



L'HERMITAGE I 2602
 UNIQUE SUB-PENTHOUSE 2 BEDROOM,
 2 BATH PLUS DEN. GREAT VIEWS OF THE
 OCEAN AND CITY. \$979,900



L'HERMITAGE II 1209
 DIRECT OCEAN CORNER 3 BEDROOMS,
 2.5 BATHS, VERY BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS.
 PET FRIENDLY BUILDING. \$1,599,000.



WHAT A STEAL!
 GREAT 1/1 IN CORAL RIDGE TOWERS
 WITH WOOD FLOORS! INTRACOASTAL VIEW!
 \$79,000.



CORAL RIDGE TOWERS - EAST
 LOWEST PRICED 2/2 WITH LOTS OF POTENTIAL!
 EXTRA LARGE MASTER BEDROOM!
 FINANCING ALLOWED! \$103,000.



L'HERMITAGE I 2504
 BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED SE UNIT, 2 BED,
 2.5 BATHS PLUS DEN WITH MARBLE FLOORING.
 AMAZING VIEWS. \$1,049,000.



L'HERMITAGE I 1002
 BEAUTIFUL 2 BED, 2.5 BATH PLUS DEN,
 2 BALCONIES, NEW KITCHEN AND MUCH
 MORE. CITY & OCEAN VIEWS. \$998,900.



ROYAL AMBASSADOR
 LARGE STUDIO WITH DIRECT OCEAN VIEW!
 HURRICANE WINDOWS! MAKE AN OFFER!
 \$149,900.



BEST DEAL ON THE BEACH!
 2/2 FLOOR-THRU APARTMENT OFFERS
 1800+ SQ. FT., SEMI-PRIVATE ELEVATOR
 AND MORE! \$300,000.



L'HERMITAGE I 1410
 SPECTACULAR 3 BEDROOM, 3.5 BATH W/WRAP
 AROUND TERRACES WITH STUNNING VIEWS.
 MANY UPGRADES. \$1,799,000.



L'HERMITAGE I 2505
 BRIGHT HIGH FLOOR 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH
 PLUS DEN. MAGNIFICENT VIEWS AND HUGE
 BALCONY. \$679,000.



OCEAN SUMMIT
 INCREDIBLE OCEAN VIEWS FROM THIS
 BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATED 3/2 WITH IMPACT
 WINDOWS! \$450,000.



OAKS CLUBHOUSE DRIVE
 WOW! RENOVATED PALM AIRE 3/2
 CORNER UNIT W/STUNNING GOLF COURSE VIEWS!
 \$139,900.



BEST PRICE AT SOUTHPOINT
 NEWLY REMODELED 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH
 CORNER UNIT WITH GRANITE KITCHEN AND
 SS APPLIANCES. \$379,000.



PLAYA DEL MAR
 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH WITH OCEAN AND POOL
 VIEWS. BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED THROUGHOUT,
 ALL AMENITY BUILDING. \$499,900.



POMPANO BEACH CLUB
 22ND FLOOR 2/2 IN PREMIERE BUILDING WITH
 NEW KITCHEN, WOOD FLOORS & GREAT
 AMENITIES. \$215,000.



FAIRVIEW POINT
 UPSCALE 3/2 END UNIT VILLA BOASTS A 2 CAR
 GARAGE, PRIVATE POOL AND MORE!
 BEST DEAL AT \$299,000.



SHIRLEY ATTIAS
954-562-0903
SHIRLEY@LHERMITAGE.COM
WWW.LHERMITAGE.COM



BILL CLARKE
954-804-9400
BCLARKEREALTOR@AOL.COM
WWW.BCLARKESELLSHOMES.COM

State Settles 31-Year Gaming Quagmire

By Eric Berkowitz



Seminole Hard Rock Casino Resort in Hollywood.

Gambling has finally split the psyche of the Florida Legislature. Senators and Statehouse members that passionately emulated Salvation Army bands preaching against the evils of gambling while stationed outside the front entrance of gaming houses are suddenly dreaming of Las Vegas style vacation revenues from beachfront casino mega-resorts. This bizarre, seemingly uncontrollable behavior appears to result from the pressure of a \$3 billion budget shortfall and post-traumatic stress from decades of feigning a search for a coherent gambling policy. In a saga worthy of the directorial zeitgeist of Steven Spielberg, the mythic misdirection of Alfred Hitchcock and the grandiose perspective of Ridley Scott, a thirty-one year struggle to slice up the Seminole Tribe's fertile cash cow is close to consummation.

In a nutshell, the key players were the Governor, the Senate, the Statehouse, the pari-mutuel industry and the Seminole Tribal Council. Waiting in the wings were potential recipients of lucrative Florida gambling licenses, exemplified by the \$2.3 billion deal discussed with the Las Vegas Sands Hotel organization and casino impresario Sheldon Adelson. The Senate wanted to protect and nourish the fragile pari-mutuel industry and research opportunities to attract more conventional gambling icons. House members predisposed to limit gambling activity were more concerned with tourism turf protection for Walt Disney and Universal Studios than the social costs of a widespread gambling addiction epidemic that they repeatedly packaged for media consumption. The pari-mutuel industry wanted tax breaks and an opportunity to expand hours, games and locations. The Seminole tribe dreamed of a statewide gambling monopoly.

After decades of legal and regulatory posturing, on Friday, April 2nd, legislative leaders and Governor Crist's representatives finally cut a \$1.5 billion deal with tribal negotiators. Before being etched in stone, the compact requires official approval by the full legislature, the Governor and the Seminole Tribal Council. While earlier deals executed in November 2007 and August 2009 were torpedoed by

judicial or legislative disapproval, this one was blessed by all the players with standing. It also features the Seminoles' largest up-front payout to the State.

The five year deal gives the tribe exclusive Vegas-style table games at their flagship Hard Rock Casinos in Hollywood and Tampa, as well as smaller casinos in Coconut Creek, Hollywood and Immokalee, just outside Naples. To placate vociferous opposition in the Statehouse, they agreed to sacrifice blackjack, chemin de fer, and baccarat tables at their Brighton casino in Okeechobee and Big Cypress casino in Clewiston. In a simultaneous 20-year deal, all seven of the tribe's Florida casinos would be allowed to continue operating Las Vegas-style Class III slot machines while making payments to the State.

The compact also provided a shot in the arm to the struggling pari-mutuel industry, extending the hours and the poker betting limits at horse and dog tracks and Jai alai frontons. It also enables lawmakers to provide future authorization for expanded games at the 19 tracks and frontons outside of Miami Dade and Broward. The pari-mutuel operators could offer a maximum of 350 video bingo and historic race machines with the proviso that - as defined - the games do not operate like slot machines.

During the first two years of the five-year deal to exclusively operate Las Vegas style table games at their five casinos, the tribe would pay the State \$150 million annually. During the third and fourth years, the annual payout would jump to \$233 million and to \$234 million in year five. Over the last three years of the contract, the tribe will alternatively pay 10 percent of its net revenue to the state (whichever is greater), estimated at an additional \$200 million.

Continued on page 11

Since 2007, the tribe has been parking revenues adherent to a previous deal with Governor Crist that was tossed out in 2008 by the Florida Supreme Court. The \$287 million currently sitting in the bank will be released to the State, bringing the 5-year deal to roughly \$1.5 billion. On Monday, April 5th, the Tribal Council green lighted the agreement. Governor Crist, understandably drooling over a huge cash infusion to partially plug the \$3.2 billion budget shortfall, signed off on April 6th. On Thursday, April 8th, the House's Select Committee on Seminole Indian Compact Review voted 15 Yeas vs. 3 Nays to approve the legislation that the Legislature would ratify to realize the agreement. Both House and Senate leaders had assured the governor that adequate votes were aligned to pass the deal. Committee chairman, Representative Bill Galvano summarized his panel's motivating sentiment, "It's better than anything that has been proposed before - the money is unprecedented."

In 1979, Chairman Howard Tommie of the Seminole Tribal Council oversaw a tribal budget of just \$400 apiece for the descendants of a few hundred Seminoles who had retreated deep into the Everglades in the mid-1800s after three wars with the U.S. government. For those Seminoles still living in thatched-roof chickee huts, federal aid was the main source of revenue. Tommie had a revelation that changed the fortunes of Native Americans across the country - high-stakes bingo.

As established in the Seminole Tribe of Florida's constitution, the Tribal Council is the chief governing body, composed of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and Council Representatives from each reservation. Today, the Council administers the Seminole Police Department, the Human Resources programs, the Tribal gaming enterprises, citrus groves, the Billie Swamp Safari, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the majority of the Tribe's tax waxed cigarette-related enterprises. The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Legal Services Department administers a public defender's office, Water Resource Management, and the Utilities Department.

While bingo games were legal in Florida, State Law limited the maximum jackpot to \$100 and bingo facilities could only operate up to two days each week. The tribe's first high-stakes bingo hall, on State Road 7 in Hollywood, opened on December 14, 1979. Since they are considered a sovereign nation, they could soup up the jackpots and add more days despite the legal prohibitions. After Indian Gambling venues survived relevant legal challenges in Florida and California, the tribe opened a second establishment in 1982 off Interstate 4 in Tampa. A \$4000 super jackpot and the addition of poker and video slot machines guaranteed the success of these facilities while creating the blueprint for a \$28 billion nationwide Tribal Gaming Industry. About 200 of the 562 recognized tribes have since built gaming enterprises in 28 states.

In 1979, Howard Tommie stepped down as Tribal Council Chair, but not before signing a \$12.5 million golden parachute funded by the Hollywood casino. His successor, former Seminole Tribal Council Chair James Billie flew around the state in the \$9-million Falcon 50 jet that once belonged to former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. He also owned a 47-foot yacht, 20 acres of land in Oklahoma adorned by three working oil wells and three helicopters used to travel between his home in the Everglades and tribal headquarters in Hollywood. After the tribal leaders and shady management companies trimmed massive amounts of revenue "off the top", a percentage of the gambling profits were distributed to

the tribe's 2,800 men, women and children.

From 1979 through 1993, the annual dividend for tribal members was less than \$1000. Watching their leaders grow fat and ostentatiously prosperous, tribal members wanted a larger share of the profits. In 1994 the annual dividend jumped to \$12,000. In 1997, the Tribal Council doubled the payout to \$24,000 per person. This was done amid federal legal challenges to the tribe's use of video slot machines, which provided 75% of the gambling income despite having been declared illegal by the Federal Government. Tribal comptroller Ted Boyd warned that raising the dividend to \$24,000 while the video machine issue was being tested in court was "an invitation to financial catastrophe." After four months, the Tribal Council lowered it to \$18,000. In effect, a family of five would receive \$90,000 annually in addition to whatever income they brought in via other means.

Despite exoneration by the Federal Government following an investigation into allegations of infiltration by organized crime, many of the tribe's business decisions disturbed officials in the Native American community. The Seminole Tribal Council retained a private company to finance and build the Hollywood casino. Thereafter, Seminole Management Associates (SMA) was paid untold \$millions in annual management fees. They cut a similar arrangement with Pan American & Associates for the Seminole casinos in Tampa and Immokalee. In 1997, they arranged to buy out the SMA contract for \$60 million.

The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), which regulates Indian gambling, rejected the contract because some disreputable SMA shareholders failed to pass background checks. For similar reasons, the Federal Government's Bureau of Indian Affairs ruled SMA's contract invalid. Michael Cox, a Creek Indian who for six years was general counsel of the National Indian Gaming Commission, pointed out that the tribe could have simply walked away from SMA and save the \$60 million. Enigmatically, Chairman Billie dismissed Cox as probably "kissing somebody else's ass... it wasn't Indians' ass," contending that it was important to honor the deal since "SMA had taken all the risk and the tribe had benefited greatly."

The tribe's sovereignty protected the Tribal Council from governmental interference on many levels. Whenever either federal or State authorities questioned anyone in the tribe about the leadership's questionable financial decisions or the relatively low dividends compared to other tribes with substantially smaller gambling operations, they clammed up. It used to drive former Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth crazy when tribal members openly admitted that they feared loss of their dividend, loss of a child's tuition and other threats of retribution for ratting out the tribal leadership. Since their status as a sovereign nation also shielded them from compliance with consumer protection regulations, no one could question why the percentage winnings for casino patrons were substantially lower than "statistically appropriate".

Continued on page 12



Tribal Council Chair Mitchell Cypress and Governor Crist, Senator Dennis Jones, and Rep Bill Galvano savor agreement on 2010 pact.



Ambassador Health Services, Inc.
Home Care

Quality Staff For Quality Living!

- Home Health Aides
- Skilled Nurses
- Case Managers
- Physical and Speech Therapy
- Transportation
- Personal care, groceries, appointments and pet care.

We can also arrange delivery of equipment, medication and instructions for use of these supplies.

Our employees are licensed and/or certified and all credentials are current and verifiable. Extensive reference and background checks are done prior to employment on each caregiver/professional.

Broward: 954.429.8798
Palm Beach: 561.278.1224
Toll Free: 877.592.1232



State of Florida
District 9 License #HHA29993576
District 10 License #HHA29993575

All Insurances and Credit Cards Accepted!
There is no place like home!

planes, including a \$31 million Gulfstream IV jet once owned by Jordan's King Hussein, huge real estate holdings and - along with each of the five Council members - functionally unlimited discretionary funds.

Casino gambling has changed the fortunes of the tribe overnight; members have grown rich. Health care and college tuition are free. Each of the tribe's more than 3,300 members — from infants to seniors — receives monthly dividend checks totaling to \$120,000 a year - over and above any other income. At age 18, most Seminoles gain access to tens (or hundreds) of thousands of dollars held in trust. Drug addiction, alcoholism, deadly automobile accidents, obesity, stress disorders, gambling addiction, diabetes and many other psychological and pathological dangers that often accompany an environment of expedited excess suddenly threatened the tribe's cultural underpinnings. Ironically, after nearly being wiped out in 1950 by poverty and destitution, the tribe was again at risk, an unexpected consequence of their financial cornucopia.

They developed a dual-purpose survival strategy. They implemented crash therapy programs for drug, gambling and alcohol rehabilitation, classes to edify members about avoiding the social and cultural pitfalls of windfall success and cash-management techniques to fend off financial predators. They also needed to settle the continuous litany of controversial legal challenges to their corporate efficacy. While the Bureau of Indian Affairs staunchly supported the protective sovereignty shielding them from State and Federal regulatory obstacles, they could not preclude the kind of competition that could conceivably threaten current and future profits.

The Indian Gaming and Regulatory Act of 1988 allows Native American gaming institutions to provide games equivalent to those being locally offered on non-tribal lands. In 2005, Broward County voters approved Las Vegas-style slot machines at race tracks, frontons and other endangered pari-mutuel venues, which prompted the Seminole Tribal Council to seek similar improvements for their casinos. Lawmakers from jurisdictions with major recreational facilities (i.e. Disney World, Universal, etc.) opposed any expansion of Florida's gaming venues (including the pari-mutuels) that could cut into their share of the tourist dollar.

Another wrinkle developed in Broward County. Concerned about the anticipated sharpened competition, the four Broward pari-mutuels for which the electorate approved 6000 new Class III slot machines (Gulfstream Park: Thoroughbreds in Hallandale, Mardi Gras Gaming: Greyhounds in Hallandale, The Isle at Pompano Park: Harness Racing at Pompano Beach and Dania Jai-Alai: Jai-Alai at Dania Beach) also opposed allowing the Tribe to comparably upgrade their slot machines. Local lawmakers found themselves in the horns of a dilemma.

Although the Seminole deal would provide additional revenues to the state, County taxpayers would have to fund the incremental social services and public safety costs of accommodating the unavoidable additional recreational traffic spurred by any expansion of the tribe's facilities. Seeking to escape the competing interests exemplified by the referendum, angry taxpayers, political pressure from Tallahassee and troubled pari-mutuel constituents, most members of the Broward delegation dodged any public commitment and took refuge in the legislature's inability to find common ground.

Frustrated by governmental procrastination, the Seminoles filed a January 2007 motion in federal court accusing the Florida legislature of utilizing delay tactics to circumvent the negotiation process and requesting immediate approval for their slot machines by the U.S. Department of Interior.

Continued on page 13

Gaming...Continued

The tribe continued to receive \$100s of millions in federal aid. The Seminole Housing Authority misappropriated untold \$millions by illegally manipulating HUD housing formulas. Instead of charging a tribal client family the HUD mandated 30% of income for rent; they imposed a formula of \$100 per bedroom. A family of four with a \$72,000 dividend (\$18,000 per person) income paid a monthly rent of only \$300 for their three bedroom federally-funded home instead of the \$1800 required by HUD. In 1994, the tribe fired Ann Marie Norøe, who headed their Head Start program for six years, for refusing to apply for \$300,000 in funds for kids that were officially ineligible or nonexistent.

In 1992, the tribe used \$60,000 in Hurricane Andrew FEMA funds to buy three Chevrolet vehicles offered as door prizes at a tribal meeting. In 2004, after Hurricane Francis blew through the State on September 4th, FEMA reimbursed the Seminoles \$103,864 of the \$123,130 they billed taxpayers for guest room stays, movies, alcohol, minibar snacks, valet parking and expensive meals at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, which the tribe listed as a "shelter for the tribe's elderly and special needs population." Charges were sent for 164 rooms for stays up to 11 days. FEMA also paid \$12,140 to move two of the tribe's helicopters and an airplane out of the path of Francis, and picked up the pilots' car rental, meals and lodging expenses.

On March 17, 2003, shortly after the tribe broke ground on their \$300-million Hard Rock hotel-casinos in Hollywood and Tampa, James Billie was removed by the Tribal Council for lying to the tribe and "acting as if the tribal government were his kingdom or his dictatorship." Omitted from the charges were multiple instances of embezzling and misappropriating tens of \$millions in tribal funds - often to himself. By 2005, new Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress presided over a \$billion corporation, a fleet of helicopters and

When Governor Crist asked U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne for a final opportunity to make a deal with the Seminoles, the Federal Government imposed a November 15th deadline for the tribe and the State to arrive at a financial agreement covering the installation of Las Vegas style slot machines and table games at the tribe's seven casinos. Absent any agreement, the tribe could install the new devices without any consideration to the State.

On November 14, 2007, Governor Crist cut a deal that guaranteed \$100 million or more to the state annually, including a minimum 10 percent of gaming revenue on a graduated scale. Once gambling revenue topped \$4.5 billion, the state's take would jump to 25 percent. In exchange, the tribe would secure exclusive rights to operate gaming outside Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Once the deal was approved by the Legislature, the tribe could concentrate on expanding their Hard Rock franchise, newly acquired from the British Rank Group for \$965 million, to China, India and Eastern Europe. Miami Representative Marco Rubio - then Statehouse Speaker - had other plans.

On behalf of the Legislature, he sued the Governor for overstepping his authority in unilaterally negotiating and signing a pact with the Tribal Council. The Florida Supreme Court finally buried the deal in 2008, ruling that the Legislature had to approve any compact. Last year, lawmakers passed legislation spelling out guidelines for a new deal. When it flopped, Crist returned with another agreement that was promptly rejected. The legislature gave the Governor until August 31, 2009 to broker a deal acceptable to all the parties. On the final day, he signed another 20-year compact with the tribe for \$150 million a year.

The deal would have generated State revenues of about \$6.8 billion over the 20 years. However, two thorny sticklers remained buried in the agreement. It allowed the tribe Vegas-style table games at all seven of their gaming houses, instead of the five in Broward, Immola-kee and Tampa that were approved by the legislature. Secondly, the deal entitled the tribe to exclusively operate slot machines outside of Miami-Dade and Broward. Lawmakers wanted to allow those games in pari-mutuel facilities at least 100 miles away from the tribe's casinos in jurisdictions where they were approved by local voters. Until these issues were resolved, the Legislature would withhold ratification.

Representative Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, chairman of the House Select Committee on Seminole Indian Compact Review, and Senator Dennis Jones, R-Seminole, who chairs the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries, spearheaded negotiations to settle these differences. They met together and separately with the tribe's team of gaming attorneys, headed by Seminole tribe attorney Barry Richard (who represented George W. Bush in Florida's controversial presidential recount in 2000). The biggest obstacle to a compact was the Seminoles' desire for exclusivity of banked card games. The state's Northeast Florida pari-mutuel facilities objected to giving Seminoles exclusive rights to operate some games outside of Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Gaming interests in the southern part of the state, particularly those outside of Dade and Broward, were concerned that the deal would give the Seminoles' facilities an unfair advantage, while those north of Interstate 4 feared that the deal could foreclose future opportunities to expand gaming.

To address the outstanding issues, the principles focused negotiations on crafting exemptions to the exclusivity agreement. On April 2, 2010, they announced success. Although Governor Crist originally wanted the gambling revenue to bolster Florida schools, the deal allows the Legislature to configure its allocation. Upon expiration of the 5-year agreement covering blackjack, chemin de fer and baccarat, the state can kill or continue the arrangement. In either case, the tribe will continue operating Las Vegas-style slot machines at all seven facilities for another 15 years - in exchange for 10 percent of its net revenue.

RETIREMENT IS NO TIME TO STOP PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT.

You've spent years saving and investing for the day when you can put work behind you and enjoy the things you love. But the only thing that should change on that day is your strategy.

At Edward Jones, we can create a strategy to help ensure the money you've saved will be there for you throughout your retirement. So you may look forward to a steady, stable income for years to come.

To find out why it makes sense to talk with your Edward Jones financial advisor about your retirement savings, call today.



LeAnn J Barber
Financial Advisor

1719 E Commercial Blvd
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33334
954-493-8651

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

The state's 27 dog tracks, horse tracks and jai-alai frontons will also benefit. The state tax rate on the Vegas-style Class III slot machines located in Broward and Miami-Dade racetracks and frontons will be slashed from 50 percent to 35 percent. Outside Broward and Miami-Dade, pari-mutuels will get a chance to raise betting limits and expand operating hours for poker games, while being allowed to install up to 350 electronic bingo machines, vending machines that dispense lottery tickets and "historic racing" machines at each of their facilities. Since they currently violate Florida law, the legislature must craft a bill that legalizes blackjack, baccarat and chemin de fer - at least for the five year compact term.

Dan Adkins, president of Mardi Gras Casino and Gaming in Hallandale Beach, expressed relief "I'm happy with it. I view it as a way to start to deliver what we promised. We've had our hands tied with this tax rate." Jim Allen, CEO of the Seminole's Hard Rock Casino near Hollywood, said "When the tribe is committing this type of money, it's important to know the scope of gaming." To help circumvent one of the pact's most anathematic obstacles, Allen proposed the five-year limit on a table games agreement, defusing concerns about its future impact. Although a substantial concession, it still afforded the tribe adequate time and stability to proceed with its multimillion-dollar expansion plans while giving lawmakers the flexibility they wanted to reevaluate priorities and accordingly adjust objectives.

Continued on page 17



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

16

Florida Marlins Vs. NY Mets
Sun Life Stadium
1:10 p.m.
Tix.: www.sunlifestadium.com

Urban Gourmet Market
1201 E. Las Olas Blvd.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Info.: 954-462-4166

17

Commissioner Bruce Roberts:
Pre-Agenda Meeting
Cardinal Gibbons High School, Media Room
6 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5033

Florida Marlins Vs. Arizona Diamondbacks
Sun Life Stadium, 7:10 p.m.
Tix.: www.sunlifestadium.com

18

Florida Marlins Vs. Arizona Diamondbacks
Sun Life Stadium
1:10 p.m.
Tix.: www.sunlifestadium.com

19

Jeff Dunham
BankAtlantic Center
Tix.: 800-745-3000

23

Urban Gourmet Market
1201 E. Las Olas Blvd.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Info.: 954-462-4166

24



25

Florida Marlins Vs. Atlanta Braves
Sun Life Stadium
7:10 p.m.
Tix.: www.sunlifestadium.com

26

Florida Marlins Vs. Atlanta Braves
Sun Life Stadium
7:10 p.m.
Tix.: www.sunlifestadium.com

30

Urban Gourmet Market
1201 E. Las Olas Blvd.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Info.: 954-462-4166

31

Memorial Day

Commissioner Bruce Roberts:
Pre-Agenda Meeting
Cardinal Gibbons High School, Media Room
6 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5033

1

Fort Lauderdale
City Commission Meeting
City Hall
6 p.m.

2

Moonlight, Seaturtles, & You
(Through 7/31)
Museum of Discovery & Science
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Info.: 954-713-0930

6

Sunday Jazz Brunch
Riverwalk, Downtown FL
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5985

7

GMCA Presidents Council Meeting
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Location TBA

8

Urban Gourmet Market
1201 E. Las Olas Blvd.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Info.: 954-462-4166

9

Mary Poppins
(Through 6/27)
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Tix.: 954-462-0222

13

Urban Gourmet Market
1201 E. Las Olas Blvd.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Info.: 954-462-4166

14

Commissioner Bruce Roberts:
Pre-Agenda Meeting
Cardinal Gibbons High School, Media Room
6 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5033

15

Fort Lauderdale
City Commission Meeting
City Hall
6 p.m.

16

MAY / JUNE

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

THU

FRI

SAT

20 Tax-Free Investing:
It's Not What You Make,
It's What You Keep
By Edward Jones
Galt Mile Reading Room, 2 p.m.
Info.: 954-493-8651

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

21 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.

Shrek: Forever After
(Through 6/17)
IMAX Theater
Info.: 954-467-6637

22

Plant Sale Presented by the American
Bougainvillea Society
(Through 5/23)
Fairchild Tropical Garden
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

27 Florida Marlins Vs. Atlanta Braves
Sun Life Stadium
7:10 p.m.
Tix.: www.sunlifestadium.com

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

28 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

Where The Boys Are Anniversary Celebration
Beach (A1A and East Las Olas Blvd.)
10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5346

29 Florida Marlins Vs. Phillies
Sun Life Stadium
7:10 p.m.
Tix.: www.sunlifestadium.com

Delray Beach Craft Festival
(Through 5/30)
201 W Atlantic Ave.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Info.: 954-472-3755

3

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

4 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
7 p.m.

Home Design & Remodeling Show
(Through 6/6)
Broward Convention Center
Info.: 888-353-3976

Burger Battle
The Lawn on Las Olas, Riverside Hotel
5:30 to 8 p.m.
Info.: 954-468-1201

5 The Blue Wild Ocean
Adventure Seminar & Expo
(Through 6/6)
Broward County Convention Center
Info.: 561-715-0247

Carole King/James Taylor: Troubadour Reunion
BankAtlantic Center
Tix.: www.bankatlanticcenter.com

10 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

11 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.

"Investment Coffee Club"
By Edward Jones
Galt Mile Reading Room
9:30 a.m.
Info.: 954-303-6750

12 Gun and Knife Show
(Through 6/18)
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 954-828-5380

Dig the Beach Volleyball Series
(Through 6/13)
South Beach Park, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Info.: 561-241-3801

17 "Focus on Fixed Income"
By Edward Jones
Galt Mile Reading Room
3 p.m.
Info.: 954-303-6750

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

18 Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.

19

Stonewall Street Festival and Parade
Wilton Manors
Info.: 954-564-8707

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

June 20
Reptile Expo & Sale, Fathers Day Special
Flamingo Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-473-2955,

July 4
July 4th Family Celebration and Fireworks Show
Fort Lauderdale Beach, 9 to 9:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-396-3622

July 4
Lauderdale-by-the-Sea July 4th Beach Blast
El Prado Park (East of A1A at El Mar Drive), 9 to 9:30 p.m.
Parade: 10 a.m., Beach Blast: 11 to 3 p.m., Fireworks: 8:30 p.m.
Info.: Marc Furth at 954-772-3336, Ext. 0

July 10 - 11
The 18th Annual International Mango Festival
Fairchild Tropical Garden, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

July 15
Ringo Starr and His All-Star Band
Hard Rock Live, 8 p.m.

July 24-25
Buckler Craft Fair
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 954-828-5380





BROWARD MAYOR KEN KEECHL'S NEWSLETTER

"Within hours of being appointed by his peers to spearhead the County in 2010, Broward Mayor and District 4 Commissioner Ken Keechl declared next year's budget his overwhelming priority. Keechl has long lamented

an imbalance between the staggering consignment of Broward tax dollars that travel north to fuel state and federal enterprise and a significantly less impressive ration of reciprocal resources. Our fiscally disciplined, "Blue Dog" Mayor spent a healthy part of March and April lobbying Tallahassee and Washington D.C. officials, primarily to insure that we receive at least as much as we shovel into state and federal coffers.

Panning for federal dollars, Keechl met with a bi-partisan who's who of elected officials we exported to Washington. Since the keys to the vault are entrusted to Congress, he touched base with Senator George LeMieux; Congress Persons Ron Klein, Alcee Hastings, Kendrick Meek, Debbie Wasserman Schultz and some of the key staffers behind our lawmakers' legislative agenda. An expansion of the funding requests described in his newsletter follows.

The long-delayed Shore Protection Project has been a study in frustration for Galt Mile residents. Broward's Biological Resources Division must update the environmental impact data required by State and Federal regulators prior to implementing the repeatedly rescheduled 2011 Segment II beach renourishment. In the interim, Keechl requested a \$6 million partial reimbursement to Broward County for construction and monitoring outlays associated with the South County Segment III component of the project.

When shipbuilders began grinding out unprecedented behemoths during the 1980s, facilities such as Port Everglades lacked the navigational clearances required to manage these larger classes of ocean-going vessels. Since undergoing the time-consuming preliminary studies prerequisite to federal funding eligibility would have delayed the port's ability to remain competitive, Port Everglades used \$15 million in Port funds to widen and deepen the Southport Channel and construct a new Turning Notch. Keechl dunned lawmakers for a partial reimbursement of \$3 million, recapturing some liquidity for future improvements. The Mayor also requested \$5 million to restore structural stability to the South Jetty. After all, the \$18 billion generated by the self-supporting Port Everglades Enterprise Fund pays \$7 billion in wages for 185,000 Florida jobs and plies the treasury with \$623 million in annual state and local taxes.

To improve wireless interoperability among Broward's 33 municipalities and 39 municipal public safety agencies that currently utilize 5 different obsolete radio systems, the county must expand communications capacity into the 700 MHz spectrum to connect public safety services countywide. The Broward Sheriff's Office must therefore purchase 2,612 new expanded-spectrum radios (700/800 MHz frequency band capability) at about \$5000 apiece for a total of \$13,060,000. Mayor Keechl hopes to abate some of the Phase 1 cost of this initiative with a \$5.7 million contribution from the feds.

To encourage utilization of public transportation, the County intends to develop park and ride lots along existing limited-stop routes that cross county lines and connect with Tri-Rail. Mayor Keechl applied for \$5 million to enable locations at Turtle Creek and Sample Road in Coral Springs, Hollywood Boulevard and I-95 in Hollywood, and Broward Boulevard and University Drive in Plantation. Retrofitting these sites for mass transit connectivity will create 54 jobs.

The Mayor solicited \$500,000 in federal funds to ascertain whether a desalination plant will provide a virtually unlimited water supply capable of addressing both consumption and irrigation demands for the foreseeable future. The Mayor also took steps to insure that a threatened cutback in Customs and Border Patrol staffing levels doesn't undermine economic growth projected for the airport and Port Everglades. He asked for help with several other impending initiatives, including \$5 million for environmentally-friendly, energy efficient hybrid-articulated and hydrogen buses. After picking out the loose change from the Congressional sofa, the Mayor moved his budget-driven resource excursion to Tallahassee, where planned visits with members of Broward's Legislative Delegation were tailored to enrich State appropriations to the

County and generate the legislative underpinnings for planned County initiatives. Mayor Keechl promises to summarize the results of his trip to the State Capitol in next month's newsletter. Read on - [editor]"

"Lobbying in Washington D.C. for Broward County: Bringing Home Our Federal Tax Dollars"

by Broward County Mayor Ken Keechl, District 4 Commissioner

One of the more interesting jobs of your Mayor is to travel to Washington D.C. and to Tallahassee each year to lobby both state and federal legislators on behalf of Broward County. This month's newsletter will discuss my recent visit to Washington D.C. to lobby for federal appropriations. Next month's newsletter will discuss my recent visit to Tallahassee to lobby on state issues of importance to Broward.

My trip to Washington D.C. was productive. While there, I met with U.S. Senator George LeMieux, U.S. Representatives Ron Klein, Alcee Hastings, Kendrick Meek, and Debbie Wasserman Schultz. I also met with Governor Crist's Beach Funding Advisor, and Legislative Directors for Senator Nelson, and Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

We discussed Broward's Federal Appropriations Agenda for the upcoming year. Our tax dollars go to Washington D.C. every year; we deserve more of that money back in Broward County. If we are going to continue to keep property taxes dropping, then we need to be aggressive in locating money from other sources. Washington D.C. is a good place to start.

I'm thrilled to report back that each and every legislator I met with was supportive and optimistic. I sought their support for \$6 million toward beach re-nourishment in Broward; \$3 million toward dredging Port Everglades and an additional \$5 million to repair our damaged south jetty at the Port. I explained the importance of receiving \$5.7 million toward a new Public Safety Emergency Communications System. It is without doubt that we desperately need to upgrade our obsolete radio technology. The County's radio system is the hub of emergency communications for 25,000 users including our police, fire rescue, cities and school buses.

Additional Broward County requests included \$5 million toward Broward Transit Park and Ride lots. By creating more of these lots, we will encourage more residents to use more mass transit. And I sought \$500,000 toward a feasibility study to consider constructing a desalination plant as an alternative water supply resource for our families in the future. Exploring desalination, to me, is a no-brainer and long overdue.

Lastly, I spoke with each legislator about a potentially serious problem at our airport and seaport: inadequate Customs and Border Patrol staff. South Florida's economy is in a highly fragile state and the airport and seaport are major economic engines. Both already have business on the books that will grow them by at least 5 percent next year, while the Custom and Border Patrol staff is slated to be cut by 5 percent. While staffing is currently adequate, it won't be for long. As a result, and on behalf of Broward County, I requested several amendments to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill in an attempt to address this potential problem.

I've been your Broward County Commissioner for almost 3.5 years. It never gets boring. Thank you for the honor. And, as always, my best to you and your families.

Broward County Commissioner and Mayor Ken Keechl
954 357 7004, www.broward.org/kkeechl •

Don't Put Your TRUST In Only One Company



"Protecting the lifestyle to which you are accustomed"

DUNHAM INSURANCE SERVICES

has over 20 quality companies to choose from.

Let us shop your insurance for YOU!

DUNHAM INSURANCE SERVICES

is an Independent Agency offering the best home, condo, auto, umbrella and commercial insurance throughout Florida. As an Independent Agency, we place your policy with the company offering the BEST coverage at the LOWEST price.



Don't Wait To Be Dropped! Secure Your Insurance Today!

DUNHAM INSURANCE SERVICES

954-564-7772 • 888-564-7772

www.DUNHAMINS.com

Gaming...Continued

Closer to home, Statehouse Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff has come full circle. Originally opposed to expanding South Florida gambling venues due to the lack of a financial offset for taxpayers who would have to fund additional public services for a growing gaming patronage; she also expressed reservations about inviting the adverse social repercussions that often afflict newly established "gaming" communities. Since then, she has redrawn her priorities to better address the economic quicksand engulfing Florida.

Chair of the Statehouse Finance & Tax Council and diehard pragmatist, Bogdanoff is preoccupied with expanding the tax base and creating jobs by attracting new business. Since Florida gaming is a bell that can't be "unrung", she favors going all out. "Right now, we have all this gambling and we're getting no revenue from it," laments Bogdanoff. She recommends the type of comprehensive gambling legislation that would attract casino-based mega-resorts comparable to the Bellagio or The Venetian in Las Vegas; vacation complexes that offer theaters, shopping, restaurants, hotels, spas, convention space and every type of gaming format. She observed "There's one place that could compete with Las Vegas: South Florida."

Bogdanoff doesn't discriminate among the available venues, "As far as I'm concerned, baccarat, blackjack, roulette, craps - what the heck is the difference? Once you're in the building and you're gambling, I

don't care what you do. The one game that's probably the most addictive is slots - and we've given that to everyone." Although her tone betrays residual concern about the social encumbrances ordinarily wrought by gambling, Bogdanoff recently summarized her current

outlook, "If we're going to do it, we should do it right; do it with class." Although the prospect of birthing a "Sands Fort Lauderdale" is scintillating, to paraphrase Jim Carville, "It's the tax rate, stupid!" Gaming superpowers go where governments don't heavily graze on profits. Broward Commission candidate and former Hollywood State Senator Steve Geller has served as president of the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States. He explained "At 5 percent, you get Bellagio. At 30 percent, you get a very nice Hilton convention hotel. At 70 percent, you get slot machines at the Magic Mart." •

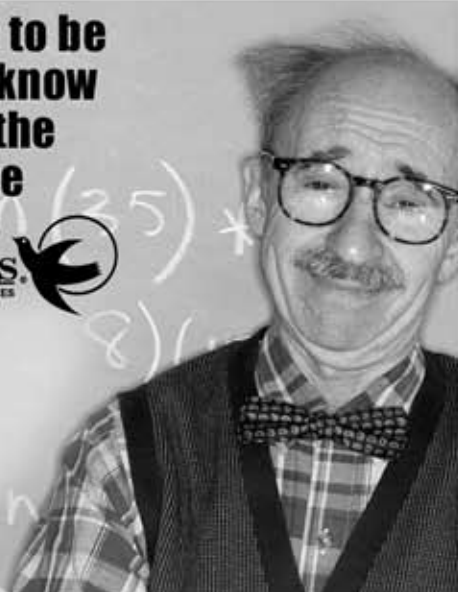


GulfStream Park in Hollandale

You don't have to be an Einstein to know who provides the best home care



- Emergency Response
- Up to 24 Hour Care
- Assistance in Hygiene
- Meal Preparation
- Light Housekeeping
- Errands/Shopping
- Respite Care for Families
- In-Home Fall Prevention
- Select Your Caregiver®



Nursing facilities aren't the only option for care. Visiting Angels® in-home care allows your parents to continue living in their home while receiving experienced, quality assistance with the activities of daily living.

954-462-1233

www.visitingangels.com/fortlauderdale

NR 30211267

Food Drive...Continued

In the points per unit category, the Galt Ocean Club improved from .7 to 10.3 lbs/unit, and Fountain Head 5.1 lbs/unit to 8.13 lbs /unit both associations showed the biggest improvement. Others that improved in the per unit category include Southpoint, Coral Ridge Towers South, Ocean Riviera, the Commodore, all finishing in the top ten.

Thank you for a great effort in making this Food Drive effort the best yet. Your efforts and donations will make a difference. Your donations will change lives. Your donations will save lives. What a great gift to your neighbors and community.

Imagine the difference we can make when we work together. We can work magic. Thanks for making this year's food drive a record success.

Scott A. Woodburn
CFP Development
954-629-7381

*The Galt Mile community contributed the equivalent of almost 10 tons of food and sundries to local families that are suffering through a tough time. For competitive purposes, a formula was devised that allots one point for each pound of food and/or sundries donated as well as one point for each dollar contributed. Most remarkable is the fact that the record breaking donations were made despite the terrible financial stress faced by many of our own families. Your contributions will be held up as an example to other Broward communities, hopefully engendering an epidemic of generosity. The entire Galt Ocean Mile neighborhood is entitled to a communal warm and fuzzy feeling. * [editor].

The Cooperative Feeding Program is headquartered at NW 33rd Terr in Fort Lauderdale (on the N. W. corner of Broward Blvd. and NW 33rd Terr). Call them at 954-792-2328, fax them at 954-792-9982 or send an email to info@FeedingBroward.org. Office and Emergency Pantry hours are Monday - Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. The Community Kitchen serves from 9 to 11 am, Monday - Saturday and Sundays from 11 am to 12:30 pm.



Collection Results

(21 Participating Associations)

Total Lbs & \$\$\$ (Points)

Association	Total Points
Edgewater Arms*	3,530.0 points
Southpoint	2,611.0 points
Galt Ocean Club	2,245.5 points
CRT South	1,605.5 points
Fountainhead	1,924.0 points
CRT Original	956.0 points
Regency Tower	737.0 points
CRT East	614.0 points
Galt Towers	544.5 points
Ocean Riviera	500.0 points
Commodore	464.5 points
Ocean Club	432.5 points
Plaza South	322.5 points
Playa del Sol	317.0 points
Ocean Summit	289.5 points
Playa del Mar	276.0 points
Caribé	239.0 points
R. Ambassador	200.0 points
Plaza East	198.5 points
The Galleon	198.0 points
Regency South	190.5 points

Subtotal 17,490.5 points

5K Walk 1,791.0 points

Total Points 19,281.5 points

*Grand Champion

Lbs & \$\$\$ per Unit

Association	Points/Unit
Edgewater Arms*	41.50 pts/Unit
Galt Ocean Club	10.30 pts/Unit
Fountainhead	8.13 pts/Unit
Southpoint	6.50 pts/Unit
CRT South	4.70 pts/Unit
Regency Tower	3.60 pts/Unit
CRT Original	2.80 pts/Unit
Ocean Riviera	2.50 pts/Unit
Commodore	2.40 pts/Unit
Galt Towers	2.10 pts/Unit
Ocean Club	2.10 pts/Unit
CRT East	1.80 pts/Unit
Caribé	1.60 pts/Unit
Ocean Summit	1.30 pts/Unit
Regency South	0.90 pts/Unit
The Galleon	0.90 pts/Unit
R. Ambassador	0.90 pts/Unit
Plaza South	0.90 pts/Unit
Playa del Sol	0.80 pts/Unit
Playa del Mar	0.70 pts/Unit
Plaza East	0.70 pts/Unit



GALT MILE NEWS

reach the
BEACH

7,000 condos, 26 high-rises on the Galt Mile

ADVERTISING SALES

9 5 4 - 2 9 2 - 6 5 5 3

SECOND STUDIO
Newsletters | Magazines | Copywriting

Moving out of your P.O. Box? We have plenty of room.



Come to The UPS Store® and get a mailbox that offers these great features and more:

- We sign for packages from any carrier
- We'll send you a text or e-mail when you have a package to pick up*
- When you're out of town, we'll hold your mail and packages so they're secure



*Additional fees may apply. Available at participating locations. Restrictions and limitations apply.

Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. is a UPS® company. The UPS Store® locations are independently owned and operated by franchisees of Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. in the USA and by its master licensee and its franchisees in Canada. Services and hours of operation may vary by location. Copyright © 2010 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. 41027840310

The UPS Store®

The UPS Store Bayview
2805 E. Oak Park
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
33306
(Oakland & Bayview)

Tel: 954-568-1990
1-ups-ez-pickup
www.florida-ups.com

The UPS Store Gateway
1007 N Federal Hwy.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
33304
(Sunrise & Federal)

Tel: 954-764-6245
1-ups-ez-pickup
www.florida-ups.com

The UPS Store
Hollywood
4302 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood, FL 33021
(just w. of Pres. Cir.)

Tel: 954-963-8558
1-ups-ez-pickup
www.florida-ups.com

The UPS Store Miami
19821 NW. 2nd Ave.
Miami Gardens, FL
33169
(441 & Ives Dairy)

Tel: 305-653-4700
1-ups-ez-pickup
www.florida-ups.com

3 MONTHS FREE

**WITH A 1-YEAR MAILBOX SERVICES
AGREEMENT (New Box Holders Only)**

Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Restrictions apply. Valid and redeemable only when presented at a participating location. The UPS Store centers are independently owned and operated. © 2010 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc.

The UPS Store®