

GALT MILE NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GALT MILE

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Comcast® ON THE GALT MILE 2012

This year, about 20% of the Associations along the Galt Mile will renew their bulk television contract. Whether conducted by a committee, some board members or a building manager to whom the task was delegated, the association representatives handling this responsibility are in for some surprises. They will not be surprised by Comcast's paper thin competition. Alternative bulk television service providers DirecTV and Dish Network are still using a contractual format that requires executing an additional (second) agreement with one of several broadcaster-authorized local vendors to perform maintenance services. These small companies deftly cycle in and out of business, often resurfacing as some virgin enterprise that carries no liability for agreements executed under their previous incarnation. It's a non-starter.

AT&T has been courting Galt Mile associations for years, promising to challenge Comcast with its first viable competitor since the AT&T Broadband cable juggernaut merged with Comcast in 2003. Formed in 1999, AT&T Broadband was the largest provider of cable television services in the country. Spirited from IBM in 1997, new CEO C. Michael Armstrong hoped to recapture AT&T's former corporate clout by morphing it into a communications supermarket. He spent close to \$100 billion buying John Malone's TeleCommunications, Inc. (TCI) and MediaOne - which made AT&T the nation's largest cable provider.

In 2002, the embattled CEO restructured the company, spinning off AT&T Wireless, AT&T Business, AT&T Consumer, and AT&T Broadband into separate companies. After rejecting Comcast's 2001 purchase offer of \$44.5 billion, a general Wall Street perception that AT&T lacked the managerial skill to effectively converge the company's communication assets convinced the AT&T Board to abandon Armstrong's vision. They finally agreed to a \$29 billion stock transaction with Comcast for AT&T's broadband division. By gobbling up its larger competitor, Comcast became the nation's largest cable company - leaving AOL Time Warner a distant number 2. Capitalizing on the fiscal clout that accompanies its frontrunner status, in January 2011 Comcast coughed up \$30 billion for content goliath NBCUniversal.

In 2005, Baby Bell SBC Communications spent \$16 billion to consume its former

By Eric Berkowitz

parent's corporate skeleton (reconstituting AT&T's long-distance division and 10 of the 22 Baby Bells) and re-branded itself as AT&T, Inc. One year later, the reincarnated AT&T acquired BellSouth for \$86 billion, adding Cingular Wireless and Yellowpages.com to the AT&T asset base. A failed \$39 billion bid in 2011 to acquire T-Mobile from Deutsche Telekom would have made AT&T and Verizon the sole mobile platforms for megaportals like Google, the Microsoft Network, Yahoo and eBay, who blocked the sale.

AT&T Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Randall L. Stephenson refocused corporate resources to hawking the company's Uverse brand, which it first conceived in 2006 as a vehicle for combining high-speed internet (HSI), IP telephone, and IPTV services. Hoping to maximize their share of an exploding "triple play" market built on bandwidth-intensive bundled products, it went head to head with Comcast. Ironically, their greatest obstacle was AT&T Mobility's pitch black reputation for delivering cellular services as AT&T Wireless. In December 2010, Consumer Reports named AT&T as the worst wireless provider in the country, an infamous distinction repeated in 2011.

As AT&T's Uverse and Comcast's Xfinity began a multi-year media mudfest, denigrating one another's competing products, Comcast had difficulty exploiting AT&T's disreputable cellular service history. Like the pot and the kettle, their shared vulnerability immunized each to the other's anti-consumer indictments.

In 2004 and 2007, the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey affirmed that Comcast had the worst customer satisfaction rating of any company or government agency in the country, including the Internal Revenue Service. On October 1, 2008, J.D. Power's annual customer satisfaction survey for the nation's top 10 largest cable and satellite television providers scored Comcast in the bottom 5 for each region of the country - and dead last in the East. In 2010, the iconic web based consumer-

review service - RateItAll.com - reported the average rating for Comcast as 1.7 out of 5 stars, underscoring the chronic failure of its customer service policy. Despite Comcast CEO Brian Roberts' creation of a "Comcast Cares Digital Team", the cable giant's reputation remained fetid.

From local headquarters in Coral Springs, AT&T Account Executives dragged association board members and managers from all over Fort Lauderdale to upbeat private presentations meant to bolster confidence in the company's Uverse brand and mute the customer service fiascos of their wireless division. Promises that service would be forthcoming within weeks were never kept.

Years later, when U-verse finally began providing internet services to Galt Mile consumers, they were still not equipped to offer bulk television services to associations along Galt Ocean Drive. When asked why bulk television services were available to Associations on the west side of A1A, like Coral Ridge Towers, a commercial development official admitted to a financial impasse with Comcast. While Comcast is legally bound to allow AT&T paid access to their proprietary cable conduit buried along the Galt Mile beachfront, until Comcast lowers the gateway charges, AT&T plans to ignore the bulk television market along Galt Ocean Drive. When might this happen? As per a Comcast account executive, "when hell freezes over."

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COMCAST...CON'T

Squaring off over a "triple play" bonanza that was expanded to a "quadruple play" Holy Grail by the addition of mobile broadband, these two corporate leviathans had an epiphany while swimming in debt from their respective evolutions into behemoth megacartels. Instead of building costly voice and mobile broadband networks across the country, Comcast teamed with Verizon earlier this year to compete with Uverse in Seattle, Spokane, San Francisco and a dozen other markets. Rather than financing a nationwide residential DSL-based broadband network inherently inferior to Comcast's fiber footprint, AT&T is eyeing a similar pact with AOL Time Warner. Once comfortable with their new dance partners, only the FCC has the juice to enjoin one or both corporate gluttons from succumbing to instinctive "Black Widow" behavior and devouring their mates.

Associations that recently renewed Comcast contracts learned about changes in the telecommunications industry that impact how Comcast delivers services. When the "Digital Transition and Public Safety Act of 2009" forced broadcasters to transition from analog to digital transmissions on June 12, 2009, a corporate feeding frenzy ensued. Since every analog channel reclaimed by federal law unshackled enough bandwidth for 3 new High Definition digital channels, or 15 new standard digital channels, the telecommunications law squeezed out enough virgin wavelength for federal bureaucrats to hold a multi-\$billion bandwidth auction.

Although the public legally owns the airwaves, elected officials who appointed themselves to manage "our asset" traded bandwidth for campaign contributions, no-show jobs for friends and relatives or condos in Palm Beach or Lake Tahoe. Tainted by collusive bidding, the auction only brought in \$19.592 billion for more than \$50 billion worth of bandwidth. Of that, only \$7.3 billion was transferred to the general fund of the Treasury (i.e. to the public).

Despite a Federal order to begin digital broadcasts by June 12, 2009, cable and satellite providers continued transmitting both analog and digital signals until they could develop, test and install the significantly less costly Digital Transport Adapters (DTA). Since the adapters (DTAs) were ostensibly designed to interpret basic digital signals, broadcasters would save truckloads of cash by omitting the interactive capabilities inherent in more costly digital set-top boxes. After further tweaking its DTAs to only decipher its unique proprietary signal, each cable or satellite company forced its customers to install them on any television not already affixed to one of its more expensive interactive digital cable boxes.



COMCAST
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DIE! (dot com)

Since the technologically simplistic devices were built for the sole purpose of carrying signal for basic cable channels, transmissions for premium services and/or an in-house channel could only be accessed by one of several more advanced digital set-top boxes or by inserting specialized adapters into the local system's control panel. These "inserts" currently enable bulk service customers – like many Galt Mile associations – to watch HBO, Showtime, Starz, The Movie Channel, Cinemax, an in-house channel and other premium offerings on televisions fitted with DTAs. This is coming to an end.

The same legislation that enabled federal bureaucrats to fire sale our bandwidth also mandated "enhancements" to broadcasting consistency and consumer content control. Since the rudimentary DTAs are not equipped with programmable parental controls, premium content providers (i.e. HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, Starz, etc.) have prohibited Comcast from transmitting their signal to televisions fitted to DTAs. As a result, whenever a Comcast bulk services contract comes up for renewal, the "inserts" that enable DTAs to deliver these premium services must be removed from the main panel.

A small minority of Galt Mile associations fund lavishly expensive bulk television services for members. Since their televisions are connected to one of several premium digital channel lineups using interactive digital set-top boxes instead of DTAs, they are largely unaffected by these changes. However, a vast majority of Galt Mile Associations have historically controlled costs by tailoring a basic or extended channel lineup with an in-house channel and possibly one or two premium channels.

While the inserts that provide access to in-house channels will remain intact as well as the full array of basic cable channels, bulk service customers that contract for limited premium services, such as two HBO channels or one Starz channel, will no longer be able to receive them on televisions connected to DTAs. The only exceptions are contracts renewed by an automatic renewal clause, since they legally preclude alteration by either party.

As such, many Galt Mile associations will be faced with a choice upon renewing a contract. They can eliminate the one or two premium channels from their package, thereby saving each unit owner a few dollars every month for their association-assessed television services. Unit owners who still want the premium channels can purchase them directly from Comcast, although at a much higher cost.

For associations that want to hang on to their low-cost premium channels, Comcast has agreed to a variety of compromises. For example, instead of a basic cable plan accessed by up to 2 or 3 free DTAs, in certain cases Comcast agreed to replace one of the DTAs with a digital set-top box and upgrade a basic channel lineup to one of their premium digital plans (i.e. their entry level "Digital Starter" plan) - under the same financial terms.

To offset the loss of their one or two premium content channels on sets affixed to DTAs, a television connected by a digital set-top box will receive the full family of channels offered by their premium content provider. For instance, for the same price, unit owners receiving two Showtime channels on every set would trade off those channels on their DTA-connected TVs and receive all 8 Showtime channels on any television attached to the digital set-top box; along with hundreds of free movies, free Showtime On Demand broadcasts, a substantially expanded premium channel lineup and the full complement of interactive On Demand services. The formula is applicable to any premium content provider (HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, Starz, etc.)

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In associations that make the trade-off, unit owners who previously paid extra for a "Digital Starter" premium channel lineup or rented a digital set-top box to access premium services will no longer have to pay the monthly rental charges or service fees for these upgrades once included in their association cable package. However, the monthly costs for unit owners who subscribe to additional premium services or rent additional boxes will be unaffected by this agreement. Conversely, owners who have heretofore chosen to forgo paying for the additional features delivered by a digital set-top box will receive them at no additional cost.

A few years ago Comcast and AT&T began offering associations financial incentives for initiating or renewing a bulk services contract, a marketing tactic that flourishes in communities where an embedded monopoly is confronted by a viable competitor. Several communications consulting companies have carved out a niche market by representing preferred customers - like associations - in their negotiations with cable and satellite providers for these incentives. As a rule, the broadcaster writes a check to the association, which then pays the consultant's fee. That fee depends on the scope of financial benefits the consultant extracts from the provider.

Converged Services, Inc. (CSI), among the nation's largest cable consulting companies, has been active in the Galt Mile neighborhood. Targeting associations with expiring cable contracts, company CEO Jim Adams explains to prospective clients that his consultants' intimate knowledge of Comcast's business model and those of other cable and satellite companies affords them unique negotiating advantages. Adams and members of his entourage offer to negotiate on behalf of the association in exchange for a healthy percentage (usually one

third) of whatever financial considerations they elicit from Comcast. Of several Galt Mile associations that contracted for these "consulting" services, for each one that seemed satisfied, another expressed regret for not having negotiated directly with Comcast and keeping all the cash.

Also known as a right-of-entry (ROE) or door fee, the cash disbursement is technically compensation for access rights provided to Comcast by the association. While the FCC prohibits cable companies from requiring exclusive ROE agreements with multi-dwelling unit (MDU) properties (Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MB Docket No. 07-51 - rel. Nov. 13, 2007, the "Exclusivity Order"), associations can negotiate de facto agreements that recognize the value of access to their properties. In addition to providing Comcast with space, security and power for their equipment and the cable wiring that permeates common areas, associations provide their technicians with ROE to service that equipment. It also enables Comcast to explain and implement required or optional service upgrades to association members.

To comply with the FCC Exclusivity Order yet still reflect contract value, fees paid (to the association) to access wiring or equipment and facilitate service upgrades can be based on the anticipated monthly or quarterly revenue paid by the association or the number of units covered by the agreement. For instance, if a 200-unit association negotiates an all-cash signing incentive for \$24,000, it would technically receive a door fee of \$120 per unit. A signing incentive can also be partially applied to contract rates, thereby directly benefitting unit owners.

As point people in Comcast's marketing division, account executives visit associations heading into the final stretch of a Comcast contract. In the past, these field representatives developed personal relationships

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BACK TO HEALTH

TIPS FOR A HEALTHY BODY AND MIND

The U.S. Department on Aging lists four components to good physical health: strength, flexibility, balance and aerobic capacity. At Back to Health Physical Therapy, we recommend yoga. Yoga can help you accomplish all of these things. In addition, it improves circulation and breathing and calms and focuses the mind.

Yoga offers a true whole body workout that is accessible to nearly everyone.

We offer yoga on Wednesdays at 5:45 P.M. and Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. as well as **therapeutic yoga programs** such as our "Happy Back" series and a program for bone health for those with osteoporosis or osteopenia.

Coming this December, Yoga Nidra: A meditative yoga series clinically proven to help with chronic pain, anxiety, depression and insomnia. The class is taught by clinical psychologist and Yoga therapist, Anne Davies. Space is limited, call now to reserve.

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Back to Health is easily accessible to Galt Mile residents, located just over the Oakland Park Blvd. bridge between the Intracoastal and Bayview Drive and offers physical therapy and exercise in a warm and welcoming environment.

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with association officials, managers and committees charged with negotiating bulk service contracts. The representative became a critical contact person, bridging Comcast's chronic servicing failures. As confidence in the company's servicing promises soured, the credibility of these veteran field personnel – like 27-year account executive Bill Talley on the Galt Mile – became a safety net for renewing associations.

Account Executives answer to a regional Director or Manager of Commercial Development. In her capacity as the company's Broward Manager of Commercial Development, Maggie Hutter is currently at the vanguard of Comcast's local association business strategy. Hutter and her account executives (such as Miriam Decker on the Galt Mile) plan to work with the GMCA in addition to its individual member associations. Along with tailoring a television package to an association's needs and addressing servicing concerns, Hutter and her account staffers are prepared to barter "door fees". If association officials choose to negotiate on their own behalf, Hutter assures them of equal footing with professional consultants.

Hutter knows that her company's call centers are perceived as spin centers, where customers who patiently waited from 10 am to 2 pm for a tech to revive their lost service are later told that there's no record of their existence. Corporate call centers – seemingly based on other planets – have historically shaped outrageously implausible excuses for servicing or billing snafus.

Offering the prospect of improved service, Hutter said "Comcast is currently staffing specialized call centers," explaining that personnel are being trained to more efficiently manage service problems on a local basis. By meeting with the neighborhood association, Hutter hopes to address problems that impact every association (a pioneering concept for Comcast). She also plans to clarify the company's policy objectives and build a credible vehicle for reliable critical input. If successful, Hutter will realize an unanticipated benefit. The company may see a modest reduction in local traffic on the popular nationwide internet blog "Comcastmustdie.com." •



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COMMISSIONER BRUCE ROBERTS



"In his November 2012 message to constituents, District 1 City Commissioner Bruce Roberts snapshots municipal and district issues heading into the holiday season. Along with important contact info., upcoming events, and a half-dozen tidbits that impact our quality of life, two of the commissioner's offerings warrant clarification. Roberts updates an in-progress Galt Mile experiment that may resolve a statewide controversy over street marking abuses. He also cites a recent skirmish between the State and a local pill mill, bringing focus to the tediously slow process of shutting down an industry that kills 14 Floridians each and every day.

Leonard's Lost License

In Florida, pain clinic operators troll the medical rolls for licensed physicians who are down on their luck, drowning in debt, or otherwise unable to carve a living from the practice of medicine. In his November 2012 Newsletter, Commissioner Bruce Roberts describes how Dr. Leonard Haimes was recently separated from his license. The 84 year-old Internist was medical window dressing for the Wellness and Pain Center of Broward (located at 5459 N. Federal Hwy in Fort Lauderdale). Although the medical practice is owned by Haimes, the business is owned by Joel Shumrak, and pumps huge amounts of prescription narcotics into a drug pipeline that services a dozen states. When federal pressure on distributors choked Shumrak's drug supply and limited Haimes to writing prescriptions, Shumrak's plan to recapture the lost income by opening a pharmacy next door was tanked by federal agents. Shumrak complained, "The business is drying up in South Florida. It's not like it was before."

Shumrak was referring to tough new drug laws passed over the Governor's objections. In 2010, Florida Doctors bought 89% of the oxycodone sold to practitioners nationwide. Taking off the gloves, then Palm Beach State Attorney Michael McAuliffe brought murder charges against prescribing doctors and clinic owners when patients overdosed. Since pills brokered through Florida pain clinics fuel the street drug trade across the country, the crackdown doubled the local street price for oxycodone from \$8 to \$15 per pill.

Anthony Accetturo, Jr. is a soldier in the Luchese LCN crime family's New Jersey crew and is the son of Anthony "Tumac" Accetturo, Sr., a former caporegime of the same crew. On February 12, 2010, Accetturo, Jr. launched two companies: Accetturo Films, LLC and Like Father Like Son, LLC. Listed as a member/officer in both corporations — along with convicted felon Ronald Mark Marino — was clinic owner Joel Shumrak.

At first glance, Haimes appears as an elderly healer tweaked by fate into the sordid world of pill mills. On October 15, 2012, State Surgeon General Dr. John Armstrong issued an "Order of Emergency Suspension of License" to undermine clinic operations. Medical records for six of Haimes' patients were reviewed by the Department of Health (FDOH) and an independent Board Certified expert in Pain Management and Anesthesiology. Despite exhibiting mild or non-existent pathology, Haimes dished out thousands of doses of the painkillers oxycodone (Percodan) and hydrocodone (Vicodin) along with the anti-anxiety drugs diazepam (Valium) and alprazolam (Xanax). Finding no medical justification for the prescriptions, Armstrong signed the order.

This was not his first dance with medical or law enforcement authorities. On July 5, 2011, 10 agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, FDOH and the Broward Sheriff removed a huge cache of controlled pharmaceuticals from Haimes' clinic. Earlier, Haimes was reprimanded and fined \$1500 by the State of Florida Board of Medicine for failure to keep adequate medical records; he was also "censured and reprimanded" by New York medical authorities.

In 2008, Haimes diagnosed Boca Raton Fire Union President John Luca with elevated antimony levels, blaming his fire-retardant uniform. Upon rendering 29 similar diagnoses for Luca's fellow firefighters, nationwide concern about the uniforms spread epidemically. After urine testing for "toxic metals", Haimes began treating 23 more firefighters for mercury poisoning. After charging 30 firefighters \$15,000, a subsequent CDC investigation revealed that Haimes' tests were bogus and his \$500 therapies unnecessary.

Two days before the October 15 license suspension, the clinic was beset by protesters from STOPPNOW (Stop the Organized Pill Pushers Now), an anti-pill-mill group. Angry about official inaction after a May 2012 demonstration at Haimes' clinic, protester Maureen Kielian viewed the license suspension as a hollow victory, predicting, "In short order, there will be another doctor who will answer a Craig's List ad to pocket easy money by becoming a drug dealer in a white coat." Within days, Shumrak was back in business.

Galt Mile Utility Graffiti

In outlining a dilemma that angers communities across the State of Florida, Roberts refers to a process underway that may ultimately resolve the abusive overmarking of underground utility elements prior to excavation. Six Galt Mile residents who serve on the neighborhood Advisory Board underwent training to identify the markings. When found on the street or sidewalk, they will call one of several confidential telephone numbers to ascertain whether the marking is justified. After receiving a camera phone picture of the suspicious marking and its exact location, a marking specialist in the relevant utility will scour a statewide database to determine its legitimacy.

If found to be in violation of Statutory marking rules, the utility will contact Sunshine 811 (AKA Sunshine State One-Call), a quasi-state corporation created by the legislature to protect communities from prolonged loss of services, crippling neighborhood floods and violent explosions caused by excavators who unknowingly mangle interred telephone cables, gas lines and water mains. Despite the critical need to prevent the inadvertent demolition of underground utilities, garish markings that outlast the purpose for which they were applied fuel public outrage against all utilities.

Fed up with taking the rap for rogue markers who abuse the system, Sunshine 811 officials and a vast majority of utilities and markers who follow the rules have been desperately trying to stop unnecessary or improper marking by a few bad apples. Observing that a statutory penalty of \$500 is meaningless to companies bidding on \$multi-million jobs, Fort Lauderdale City Manager Lee Feldman drafted an amendment to City contracts that will blackball deliberate or chronic violators from bidding on future municipal projects, finally providing neighborhoods with enforcement teeth.

Although Feldman resolved the enforcement issue by upping the ante for marking violators, there was still no vehicle for uncovering these violations. One-Call officials solicited assistance from the sleepy retirees on the Galt Mile, given the neighborhood's reputation for overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles (maybe something in the water?). If this handful of volunteers succeeds in slaying this dragon, the process will be repeated throughout the City and State. If not — like all senior and middle aged superheroes — they return home for a mid-afternoon siesta. Read on... — [editor]"

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FROM COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS
NOVEMBER 2012

Budget Update We approved a balanced budget and tax rate on September 18th. The City's property tax rate for operating expenses did not change; however, residents will see a 1.1 percent overall rate increase because of debt service on voter-approved bonds. The new rate is \$4.33 for each \$1,000 of assessed value. For example, if you own a \$150,000 home with a \$50,000 homestead exemption, City taxes would be \$433, about \$7 more than last year. The City of Fort Lauderdale has the second lowest operating millage rate among Florida's 25 largest cities.

Update On Pain Clinics Most of you may be aware that the doctor who owns and operates the Pain Center of Broward located at 5459 N. Federal Highway, was served an Emergency Suspension Order for suspension of his license. The Department of Health, along with the help of the Drug Enforcement Agency, served the suspension order to Dr. Leonard Haimes. Roughly 20 patients were turned away the day the doctor was served. This clinic has been on the radar for some time. Dr. Haimes is appealing the license suspension, and, in the meantime, he has apparently hired another doctor to reopen the clinic. Please know that our task force's efforts to close these clinics continue.

FLPD Police Explorer Program The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is proud to announce the return of the police explorer program. This is a program for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21 who are interested in Law Enforcement as a career. It is a nonprofit organization that evolved from the Police Youth Auxiliary, which was founded in June of 1967. When this program began, it was led by full-time police officers of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. Applicants interested in this program should be aware of the following requirements: must be 14-21 years old; must have a 2.0 GPA; must have a valid identification card; must be a current resident of the City; must be able to attend weekly meetings; must pass a background check and an oral interview; must be able to work special assignments, details and events that are usually held at night and on the weekends; must have 3 references; and must have permission from legal guardian if under 18 years of age. Applicants accepted into this program will receive a variety of training and invaluable experiences through ride-alongs, which will assist them in making a career choice within the law enforcement. Many of our current officers were members of our explorer program. Anyone interested in joining should contact Sergeant Darren Ogden via email at dogden@fortlauderdale.gov.

Phone Numbers To Remember Below you will find the contact numbers for quick reference for questions/issues/concerns you may have especially after hours.

Police Non-Emergency	954-828-5700
Fire Non-Emergency	954-828-5320
Animal Care & Regulation	954-359-1313
Beach Patrol	954-468-1595
Broward County Mass Transit	954-357-8400
Buildings	954-828-5207
(Abandoned, damaged/derelict structure, work w/out a permit)	
Code Enforcement	954-828-5207
Damaged Street Signs	954-484-9600
Damaged trees/landscaping in median/right of way	954-828-5784
Dead Animal	954-765-5124
Drug Sales/Usage	954-828-5661
Parking Passes, Fines and Info	954-828-3700
Special Events Hotline	954-828-5363
Traffic Signal Out	954-484-9600
Trash	954-771-0880
(Recycling, bulk trash, trash carts, etc.)	
Utilities Services	954-828-8000
(Streetlights, damaged sidewalks, signs, fences, potholes, vandalism, broken sprinkler, hydrant, water main, sewer line, water billing, trash and debris)	
Vehicles	954-828-5207
(Abandoned, parked in right of way)	

Utility Markings I am sure you are all aware of the utility markings that

seem to be everywhere throughout the City. These markings are usually bright in color, and sprayed along the street and/or lawn/sidewalks to mark any underground line that is directly in the way of construction, or even near it. State statutes require the markings for safety and liability issues and regulate the marking process. Reasons for the markings include neighbors planning remodeling work; a utility operator planning maintenance or repair; construction and redevelopment projects; or the City/County planning excavation work. Red denotes electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables; orange telecommunication, alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit; yellow natural gas, oil, steam, petroleum or other gaseous or flammable material; green sewers and drain lines; blue potable (drinkable) water; purple reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines; and white proposed excavation limits or route. Regulations dictate that these markings be in place within a 30 day time frame prior to initiating work and that they last no more than 30 days. Unfortunately, they seem to be of more permanent nature. City staff, utilities representatives, 811 Sunshine and code/police have been working with the Galt Ocean Mile Association to develop a better oversight process which adheres to statutes, regulations and ordinances. These markings can definitely take away from the appearance of your neighborhood, but with all of us working together, hopefully this problem will become part of the past. Thanks goes to the Galt Ocean Mile Association and all involved for pursuing this issue.

Important Dates For Your Calendar

- New Year's Eve Downtown Countdown: 12/31: This event takes place on SW 2nd St. between SW 2nd Ave. and SW 4th Ave. At the stroke of midnight, a lighted ball drops from the sky.
- Upcoming Commission Dates: 12/18; 1/3 (could be changed) & 15
- Upcoming Pre-agenda Dates: 12/17 and 1/14

Annual Street Resurfacing Program The City is responsible for approximately 600 miles of paved surfaces, which include streets and alleyways. Annually, the City budgets a portion of the revenues it receives from the State Gas Tax Funds to fund this program. The current process to resurface streets is based on a two-fold approach: 1) when the street was previously resurfaced – the current standard is to resurface at a frequency of 14-16 years; 2) visual observations made by staff, safety issues, need to resurface due to an ongoing project (e.g. utility trenching), or due to recurring complaints from the neighborhood, etc., regarding the condition of the paving surface and rideability. In an effort to be able to obtain an objective view of the streets resurfacing needs, and in turn, to better identify the need, prioritization, budget and implementation of the street resurfacing program, the City is in the process of implementing the use of the MicroPAVER Pavement Management System (PMS). It was developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers for road and airfield pavement maintenance and management on military bases. It will allow for a standardized way of rating streets within the City. If you would like to have more information, please let me know and I will have my assistant send you the entire memorandum and backup information from our City Manager, Lee Feldman.

Update on Abandoned Homes At the 10/2/12 Commission Meeting, the Commission adopted an ordinance amending the City Code to include a Registration Program for Abandoned Residential Property to "promote, protect and improve the health, safety and general welfare of our residents and visitors." This will require institutions holding mortgages in default on properties that have become abandoned, to register these properties with the City. Properties that have been abandoned and are allowed to become overgrown, and those structures that are left open and unsecured, not only have a negative impact on community value, but also create conditions that invite criminal activity and foster an environment that is unsafe and unhealthy for our community. It is for these reasons that abandoned properties must be maintained so as not to create these nuisance conditions. This Registration Program will insure communication between the lender and the City in regards to any potential or existing code enforcement violations and give the City contact information for the property management company retained by the lender to abate such violations. Ordinance highlights include:

Continued on page 9

- The ordinance would apply to Mortgagees of abandoned residential real property holding a mortgage that is in default.
- The Mortgagee would be required to provide the City with, among other things, the name and contact telephone number of the local property management company responsible for the maintenance of the property.
- The Mortgagee would be responsible for posting a sign on the property, clearly visible from the street, containing the same contact information.
- The Mortgagee would pay a registration fee of \$200 per property to offset the administrative and inspection costs related to this program.
- The Program would require the Mortgagee, or designee, to inspect the abandoned property on a bi-weekly basis and to correct certain code violations, which may exist. The Program details a list of Specific Maintenance Requirements for which the Mortgagee would be responsible.
- The Program would be a start date 90-days following adoption of the ordinance to allow for completion of the RFP process, proper community outreach, and staff preparation for successful implementation.

At \$200 per registration fee, with \$100 going to the vendor, this would net approximately \$300,000 in annual revenue to the City, which could be used to augment the proactive efforts of the City's Code Enforcement Division in dealing with vacant and neglected properties.

Office Contact Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov.

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Chip...Continued

We all know too well that storms are unpredictable. While it is very important for us to remain vigilant, there is one area where we cannot prepare in the short term and that is our beaches. You have heard me mention the importance of our beaches before and it is something I cannot stress enough, not only because 75 percent of Broward's coastline is in my district, but because our beaches along with the Everglades are our greatest natural resource. They are also our greatest economic driver in Broward County. I have the pleasure of representing the coastal Cities, Towns and Villages of Deerfield Beach, Hillsboro Beach, Pompano Beach, Sea Ranch Lakes, Lauderdale-By-the-Sea, and Fort Lauderdale. All of whom will benefit from the Segment II Beach Renourishment Project.

If you have been following the process you know that the "Segment II Project" has been extensively studied and is currently on schedule to begin in December of 2013. Our beaches in Segment II area are in greater need of sand following Hurricane Sandy. We are all familiar with the images of sand piled up along A1A on Fort Lauderdale Beach.

After much debate and review, our county staff has concluded that the use of an upland sand source (from a commercial upland sand mine) is the preferred and most likely feasible sand source for the Segment II project. While this is more expensive, it is the opinion of all concerned that the environmental constraints, known regulatory difficulties and community concerns with offshore sand justify this approach. It is our hope to continue to make this a federally reimbursable project. This means that Broward County would have to front the money for the project. Our County Administrator and staff have prepared for this and these funds currently exist in a protected Beach Renourishment Reserve Fund within the Convention and Visitor Bureau, a process in which this commissioner worked hard to protect and the County Commission supported unanimously.

Continued on page 14

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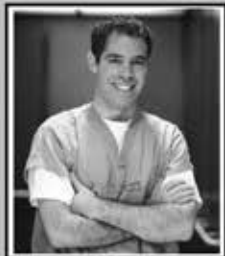
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16

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9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Info.: 954-462-4166

23

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

30

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

6

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

Sunday Jazz Brunch

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

13

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

Fort Lauderdale Gun & Knife Show
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 954-828-5380

17

Commissioner Bruce Roberts:
Pre-Agenda Meeting
Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5033

24

31

New Year's Eve Downtown Countdown
SW 2nd St (Between SW 2 & SW 4)
3 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Info.: 954-396-3622

7

Commissioner Bruce Roberts:
Pre-Agenda Meeting
Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5033

14

Pinkalicious The Musical
10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center
Tix.: www.browardcenter.org/

18

BINGO
Galt Towers Social Room
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)
7:30 p.m.
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

25

BINGO
Galt Towers Social Room
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)
7:30 p.m.
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

1

BINGO
Galt Towers Social Room
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)
7:30 p.m.
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

8

BINGO
Galt Towers Social Room
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)
7:30 p.m.
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

15

BINGO
Galt Towers Social Room
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)
7:30 p.m.
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

Agatha Christie's BBC Murders
(Through 2/3)
Parker Playhouse
Tix.: www.browardcenter.org/

19

BINGO
Regency South Party Room
7 p.m.
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

26

BINGO
Regency South Party Room
7 p.m.
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

2

BINGO
Regency South Party Room
7 p.m.
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

9

BINGO
Regency South Party Room
7 p.m.
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

16

BINGO
Regency South Party Room
7 p.m.
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

12/21: Santa on the Beach, Fort Lauderdale Beach (600 Seabreeze Blvd. heading north to Sunrise Blvd.), 12:45 p.m., Info.: 954-828-5363

12/22: Jungle Bell Jog 5K, Sawgrass Technology Park in Sunrise, 7 a.m., Info.: www.gflirc.org

12/29 - 30: Fort Lauderdale Holiday Antiques Show & Sale, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 954-563-6747

12/29 - 30: 6th Annual Downtown Delray Beach New Years Weekend Craft Festival, 330 East Atlantic Ave. in Delray, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 952-472-3755

1/4 - 6: West Palm Beach Antiques Festival, Aircraft Expo Center WPB, Info.: 941-697-7475

1/5 - 6: 25th Annual Las Olas Art Fair - Part I, Las Olas Blvd., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 954-472-3755

1/12: 5K 4 Kids, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Reg: 5:30 a.m./Run: 7 a.m., Info.: 954-600-8070

1/12 - 13: 26th Annual Boca Fest, The Shops at Boca Center in Boca, Info.: 954-472-3755

1/19 - 20: 24th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Festival of the Arts, 1111 East Atlantic Avenue, Delray, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-472-3755

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

January 23

Business Education Seminar Series:

TOPIC: Small Business Expo

War Memorial Auditorium, 6 to 8 p.m. (free)

Speakers: Bank of America Metro Broward, Accion, Partner's For Self-Employment, Sba, & South Florida Regional Planning Council

Info.: 954-828-4752

January 25 - 27

Miami National Antiques Show & Sale

Miami Airport Convention Center

Info.: 954-563-6747

January 25 - 27

Fairchild's 7th Annual International Chocolate Festival

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, 9:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org/

January 27

ING Miami Marathon®

American Airlines Arena, 5:55 a.m.

Info./Reg.: www.ingmiamimarathon.com/

February 27

Hillsboro Lighthouse Tour

Sands Harbor Hotel, Pompano Beach

8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Info.: 954-942-2102



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

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

Art Walk Las Olas
Las Olas Blvd, 5 to 9 p.m.
Info.: 954-258-8382

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

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

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

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

17 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.

An Evening With the Stars Astronomy Series
Fern Forest Nature Center, Coconut Creek
7 to 9 p.m.
Info.: 954-357-5198

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

International Gem & Jewelry Show
(Through 12/30)
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: www.intergem.com

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

Fort Lauderdale Beach Collector Car Auction
(Through 1/6)
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 561-533-7945

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

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

2013 International Orchid Show
(Through 1/20)
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 954-563-3548

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

The Nutcracker
(Through 12/23)
Broward Center
3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Tix.: 954-462-0222

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

Greater Ft. Lauderdale Road Runner's Club -
33rd Annual Resolution 5K
Hugh Taylor Birch State Park
7 to 11 a.m.
Info.: 954-461-5515

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

North Beach Art Walk
Broward Art Guild (A1A & 32/33 Streets)
7 to 11 p.m.

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

2nd Annual Stone Crab & Seafood Festival
The lawn at Riverside Hotel, Las Olas
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Info.: 954-468-1541 (Ext. 203)

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

JA World Uncorked!
JA World Huizenga Center - Broward College
6:30 to 9 p.m.
Info.: 954-979-7100

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Project considerations have included:

- **Sand Quality** – Upland sand is higher quality in terms of composition, average grain size (larger than offshore), less fine materials (silts and clays) and color. Higher quality sand should lead to reduced environmental impact (turbidity and sedimentation), greater durability, and a longer lasting beach.

- **Regulatory Feasibility** – Obtaining permits for use of offshore sand is expected to be more difficult than for an upland source. Using an upland source reduces to risk that the planned action would be challenged, which result in time delays, higher cost and ultimately a possible denial of the permits.

- **Project Construction** – Using the upland source sand will be brought in by truck to the nourishment site. We are working with staff on the possibility of using rail to move the sand south, and truck from a closer location. Construction of Segment II must occur during non-nesting season for marine turtles.

- **Project Costs** – Initial cost estimates are \$38M vs. \$44M for an offshore vs. upland sand source project, however these are converging because tighter regulatory requirements for offshore projects are increasing project

costs and an upland project requires less material.

- **Funding** – The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers may conclude that the use of upland sand is a locally preferred alternative. If so, this could reduce the amount of reimbursement for which the County may be eligible. However, there are State funds that can be used for this type of project, if appropriated. In the past two legislative sessions, I have been working with the Florida Legislature to make sure that this project is included in that funding. Each of the three Segment II Cities (Pompano Beach, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, and Fort Lauderdale) have also pledged to appropriate dollars towards the effort.

Our target is still to start the project following the end of sea turtle nesting season next year (December 2013). The regulatory agencies are processing the permit applications and the target for obtaining the

permits is next summer. We are working through the Federal coordination process to enter into a Project Participation Agreement providing for Federal reimbursement, and have applied for state funding for the project. The consultant is currently developing plans and specs for the project.

Obviously this is a priority for me as the District Commissioner and I have received unanimous support from my fellow commissioners in moving this project forward. This project has been stalled for far too long and our beaches have suffered greatly.

I never lose sight of what is important. That is you the residents of our beautiful district. If there is anything that we can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954.357.7004 or by email at clamarca@broward.org. You can also stay updated by viewing our website www.broward.org/commission/district4, as well as sign up to receive email updates from us.

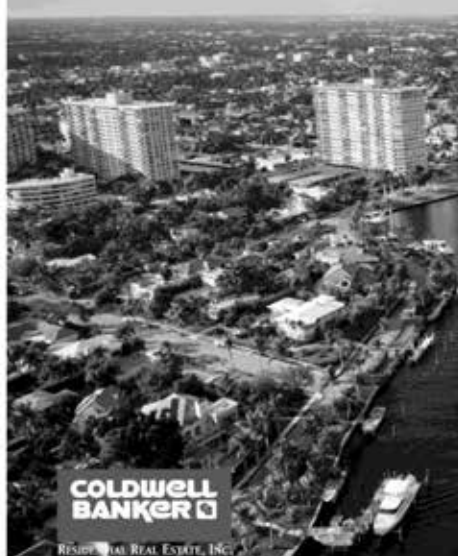
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Chip LaMarca

County Commissioner, District 4 •

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SOLD	3430 Galt Ocean Dr. # 1701	2/2	\$358,000	NW Corner
SOLD	3750 Galt Ocean Dr. # 511	3/2	\$470,000	NE Corner
SOLD	3750 Galt Ocean Dr. # 307	2/2	\$318,000	NW Corner
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SOLD	3430 Galt Ocean Dr. # 612	2/2	\$397,000	Remodeled to Perfection
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