

GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

congrats
L'Hermitage



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OF EXCELLENCE



JULY 2013

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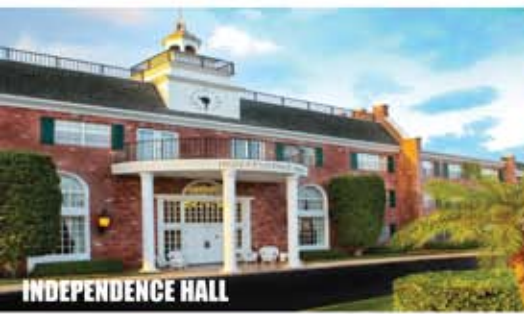
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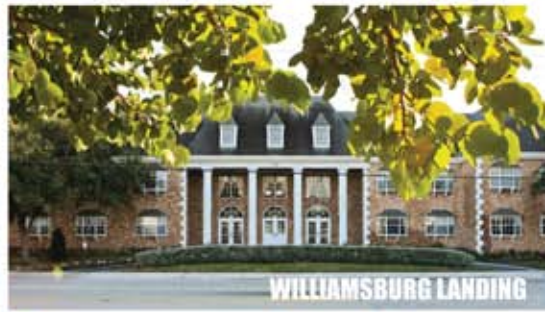
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FLPD: bogus website or bogus alert?

By Eric Berkowitz

On May 8, 2013, the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department issued a Press Release entitled "Bogus Website Victimizes Community". A website called "FindSportsNow", which claims to be "the first and only centralized location for sports and recreational listings in the United States," explains as its mission "to connect you to the leagues, teams, clubs, pickup-games and classes that interest you most." Posted by Detective DeAnna Greenlaw in the Public Information Office, the Press Release is as Follows:

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

Detective DeAnna Greenlaw
Public Information Office
(954) 828-5464
dgreenlaw@fortlauderdale.gov

May 8, 2013

BOGUS WEBSITE VICTIMIZES COMMUNITY

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating a possible fraudulent website that is offering registrations for some City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation activities and classes.

Personnel at the City's Parks and Recreation Department were notified of the website by members in the community. Victims logged onto the site, registered for a program, and later contacted City officials when they failed to receive follow up information. Detectives have learned that the victims' financial and personal information may have been compromised after mistakenly using this website.

The Police Department would like to warn the public of this fraudulent website (<http://findsportsnow.com>).

Anyone interested in participating in a program, offered by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, is encouraged to visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/life/ for more information.

Anyone who may have used this website to register for an activity or class, or has further information is urged to contact Detective Michael Berndt at 954-828-5513.

(End of press release)

The FindSportsNow.com website claims to be "100% free of charge," and invites users to "make use of all services and features. No trials. No demos. No strings attached." However, in its appeal to the event sponsors, it offers online registration as an enticement to "attract more participants for your activities!" Summarizing their online registration protocols, they explain "Once activated, the public will be able to sign up for your activities through FindSportsNow! We will collect all the funds for you and transfer them to you bi-weekly. You have full control over the registration process and can turn registration on and off for each of your listings at any time. You can use this as your primary online registration system or in addition to your current online registration platform."

The Parks and Recreation Department neither agreed to participate on the website nor signed up for the company's optional online registration. Like most internet scams, data harvesting was automated by website software. After selecting a class or event offered by the Parks Department, end-user victims are forwarded to a web page that elicits personally identifying information, including credit card numbers. They are then directed to pay a \$2 processing fee for each transaction. The Findsportsnow website claims that this registration information is then passed to the host agency. It wasn't.

Fort Lauderdale area victims are not alone. On April 25, The City of Boulder issued a News Release stating "The City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department was notified by the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) that there is a possible fraudulent website offering registration for some Boulder Parks and Recreation activities and classes. Findsportsnow.com, is believed to be posting city programs and offering registration through their site, however, the city has no business relationship or agreements with this entity."

Continued on page 11

A Home Run at L'Hermitage I

By Eric Berkowitz



Over the years, current or former board members, property managers and engaged residents from every Galt Mile association have contributed to the neighborhood's success. Occasionally, one association provides more than its fair share of civic sparkplugs. The four Galt Mile Advisory Board members from L'Hermitage I have been chronic contributors to community causes. They made their bones during the Calypso crisis. Since then, L'Hermitage I President Diana Bergheim, Vice President Frances Konstance, Secretary Virginia "Jean" Miller and Property Manager Patricia Ivette Quintero have been on a roll.

During a December 3, 2007, meeting of the Galt Mile Presidents Council, former City Commissioner Christine Teel referenced a mysterious project conceived to diversify delivery options for natural gas - ostensibly to protect local energy accessibility during or after catastrophic weather events.

Two years earlier, the French corporate goliath GDF Suez (Gaz de France Suez) was covertly licensed by Federal bureaucrats to install a deepwater port (AKA Calypso) across from the Galt Mile Beach wherein liquefied natural gas (LNG) would be transferred from specialized tankers, vaporized and pipelined to Port Everglades - en route to the highest bidder (belying corporate spin that it would flesh out local reserves). Enthusiasm for the project was additionally dimmed by its potential for obliterating the Fort Lauderdale coastline.

A 1977 Oxnard, California Environmental Impact Report determined that a LNG accident in which a full tanker's contents were discharged would send an ignitable gaseous vapor cloud some 30 miles before dissipation defused the threat of ignition. Since the energy content of a typical 125,000 cubic meter LNG tanker (small by today's standards) is equivalent to seven-tenths of a megaton of TNT, or 55 Hiroshima bombs (as per a 1982 Lovins & Lovins Pentagon study entitled "Brittle Power: Energy Strategy for National Security"), any miscalculation inherent in this erratic technology might have instantly

transformed Fort Lauderdale into a Kuiper Belt object - not unlike Pluto.

An onshore version of the projected Suez LNG facility incinerated one square mile of Cleveland in 1944, killing 131 and leaving 680 people homeless. In 1973, 40 Staten Island workers repairing an out-of-service LNG tank were incinerated when liquefied natural gas that had leaked through the tank liner into the surrounding soil and tank wall berm was ignited by a spark from one of the irons used during the repair. More recently, 27 people were killed and 72 injured when a 2004 explosive fireball ripped through a liquefied natural gas plant in the port city of Skikda, Algeria.

Since the Presidents Council meeting at which Teel disclosed this imminent threat was hosted by L'Hermitage I, no one was surprised when it's Manager and three Board members joined with neighborhood leaders to ultimately euthanize the planned floating beachfront gasworks. Despite the \$130 million seeded by Energy Industry lobbyists to cultivate amenable Federal and State lawmakers and bureaucrats, on February 8, 2009, former Governor Charlie Crist traveled to the Galt Mile to announce his veto of the project - marking the first time in the United States that a federally approved LNG plant was beaten back by a local community. Empowered by having shared in this unique success, the L'Hermitage I leadership has since been at ground zero of every neighborhood struggle.

From 2007 through 2011, when the Galt Mile Library was repeatedly offered up as fodder for the Broward budget axe, the four stalwarts from L'Hermitage I helped collect thousands of signatures on "Save the Library" petitions, prompted their Board to enact one of the 17 supportive association and civic resolutions sent to the Broward Commission and helped organize demonstrations at the Beach Community Center and the Broward Government Center - while adorned in "Save the Library" tee shirts. Not surprisingly, the Galt Ocean Mile library's doors are still open to grateful residents.

Continued on page 5

The ladies from L'Hermitage I also fought vehemently to renourish our dwindling beach. Like every other Galt Mile resident, they became embittered by decades of disingenuous commitments spun by local politicians. Over the years, L'Hermitage I Vice President Frances Konstance evolved into an unofficial spokesperson for veteran Advisory Board members disgusted by the incessant delays.

At the February 6, 2012 Presidents Council meeting in The Fountainhead, a flustered Konstance visibly steamed while listening to a beach renourishment update from Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca. LaMarca had been instrumental in providing critical political support for the project when Deputy Director Eric Myers of Broward's Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department stepped up in 2011 and rescued the Segment II beach renourishment plan (which encompasses the Galt Mile beach) from oblivion. When LaMarca finished, Frances leaped to her feet and blasted the District 4 County Commissioner, exclaiming "For years politicians have been promising to fix our beach. Why should we believe you?" In response, LaMarca brought Myers to a meeting in the Galleon two months later, where the Broward Beach Administrator detailed the comprehensive County plan for the upcoming Galt Mile beach fix. As elements of the Segment II plan subsequently rolled out on schedule, LaMarca and his District Director John Newstreet dispelled residual longstanding doubts with monthly project progress reports to association officials.

Presidents' Council venues rotate subject to invitations from member associations. When the monthly meeting cycled back to L'Hermitage I on June 3, 2013, Frances Konstance stunned LaMarca by blending gratitude with an apology. Acknowledging that LaMarca had performed as promised, Konstance thanked the nonplussed commissioner for keeping his word. The impromptu accolade also dumbfounded attending officials from more than twenty member associations, and buoyed some diehard skeptics. After all, if Frances Konstance believed that the revived renourishment plan was genuine, and that LaMarca's reports were on target, why shouldn't they?

Having placed their substantial thumbprint on a boxcar of community & civic challenges for nearly a decade, these proven neighborhood assets recently demonstrated why they enjoy staunch support from friends and neighbors who comprise their constituencies in the L'Hermitage I Condominium Association.

In 2009, iconic Florida law firm Becker & Poliakoff teamed with the Florida Community Association Journal and Pen Group Communications to create the "Florida Communities of Excellence Awards," a statewide recognition program for Florida condominiums, cooperatives and homeowners associations. By promoting the accomplishments of participating association boards and property managers and documenting their success, the program identifies and embraces innovative solutions and best practices in maintaining and improving the quality of life for community association residents across the State.

The independently adjudicated awards are open to all Florida Community Associations (Condominium, HOA, and Cooperative). Judges are drawn from state, county and local government agencies (including law enforcement), association-savvy journalists, as well as companies and non-profit organizations (i.e. AARP, The League of Women Voters, Volunteer Florida, The Community Associations Institute, Citizens Crime Watch, etc.) that either specialize in key aspects of association operations or service association residents. There is no cost to submit an entry and communities may compete in multiple categories.

Separated by size into communities comprised of more or fewer than 400 residents, some 350 candidate associations (with more than 300,000 residents) vie for recognition in four areas (environmental, engagement, safety, financial) covering ten specific categories. The winners are chosen from three finalists in each of the 20 respective categories (10 larger and 10 smaller) that then compete for recognition as "Community of the Year."

Continued on page 6

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Beginning in 2011, the program was expanded to include a Managers of Excellence award, recognizing professional community managers in those Florida associations that either received an award or had been finalists in two or more years.

Prompted by unit owners, L'Hermitage I opted to throw its hat in the ring and participate in the fifth annual "Florida Communities of Excellence Awards." Board members Don Powell, Bob Bronfman, Ben Boodman and Saul Epstein joined Bergheim, Miller and Konstance – and Property Manager Pat Quintero – in approving a decision to compete in two categories - Safety & Security and Disaster Preparedness. Following a strident vetting process, award winners were announced at a Conference & Awards Gala attended by 400 candidates at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront Hotel on April 5, 2013. While achieving finalist status for Safety & Security, L'Hermitage I took all the marbles for Disaster Preparedness, winning the award for associations with less than 400 members.

Like most Galt Mile associations, L'Hermitage I developed a comprehensive storm response plan after being slammed by the serial hurricanes of 2004 and 2005. Manager Pat Quintero also implemented comparable procedures for medical and Fire-Rescue emergencies. Exceeding the statutory requirements for Phase II firefighter service, Quintero explained "When they arrive, emergency service personnel are escorted by employees to pre-secured elevators and directly up to the distressed unit."

When a Hurricane emergency is officially declared, Federal and State laws entitle association employees to hit the road. Quintero organized a team of unit owners and staffers who voluntarily remain on site and assist "at risk" residents after securing the premises. Employees who participate as "team members" are CERT trained and certified in CPR and first aid. The L'Hermitage complex entrance gate guardhouse is automatically alerted when assistance is en route, facilitating unimpeded access to the emergency by EMS, Fire-Rescue or the police.

Although many Galt Mile associations practice similar response protocols, these protective measures are unfortunately lacking in thousands of associations across the state. While insuring that balconies are cleared of potential projectiles is a standard pre-storm mandate for most Galt Mile Associations, Quintero has additionally implemented a notification system that reaches out to residents in each the association's 238 units within 15 minutes. In short order, she can prioritize her oversight resources and guide her volunteers to those residents most in need of their assistance.

After nailing a first place finish in one of its two chosen categories and a "top three" spot in the other, L'Hermitage I knocked the ball out of the park, winning the statewide designation as "Community of the Year," the program's most coveted honorarium. The cherry on top went to Pat Quintero, one of four association Property Managers in the state distinguished by the judges as 2013 "Managers of Excellence".

The L'Hermitage I officials didn't enter this competition for bragging rights or an ego boost. While Property Appraiser Lori Parrish recently announced that recovering property values are firming up the Broward housing market, associations must still successfully compete for homebuyers in order to stabilize budgets pressured by vacant or otherwise "noncontributing" units. By raising the association's profile, the positive press generated by this achievement will enhance unit values, benefitting every L'Hermitage I resident. Since realtors understandably relish pitching "Community of the Year" properties, time will tell whether or not L'Hermitage I will face some of its neighbors in next year's event. As for the rest of us, we could do worse than to live down the block from Florida's Community of the Year – ask your realtor. •



L'Hermitage I team cleans up at awards gala.

THE GALT MILE NEWS

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AUGUST/JULY

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<p>7 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p> <p>Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Beyoncé: The Mrs. Carter Show World Tour BB&T Center, 8 p.m. Tix.: 800-745-3000</p>	<p>10 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Film Series The Notorious Bettie Page Museum of Art, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Info.: 954-262-0227</p>
<p>14 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p>	<p>17 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p>21 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p> <p>Blue Door String Quartet: "Vienna After Dark" Josephine S. Leiser Opera Center, 7 p.m. Info.: 954-522-8445</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p>	<p>24 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p>28 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>30 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>31 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Cirque du Soleil: Quidam (Through 8/4) BBT Center Tix.: www.thebbtcenter.com</p>
<p>4 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p> <p>Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p>	<p>7 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>

JULY 9 - 13: Women's Ringside National Golden Gloves Tournament, Hilton Fort Lauderdale Airport, Info./Tix.: 561-542-1331

JULY 12: Concacaf Gold Cup, Sun Life Stadium, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Info.: www.goldencup.org

JULY 13 and 20: Saturday Nite Alive, ATA from Bubba Gumps north to the Ritz Carlton Hotel, 7 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-564-8300

JULY 13 - 14: Int'l Mango Festival: Mangoes of Mexico, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Info.: www.fairchild.org

JULY 20 - 21: Fort Lauderdale Antiques & Collectors Faire, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 954-563-6747

JULY 25: Everyday Wines From Around The Globe, Museum of Art, 6 to 8 p.m., Info.: 954-262-0249

JULY 26: Bugfest-By-The-Sea Beachfront Lobster Cookout, El Prado Park LBTS, 7 to 9 p.m., Info.: 954-491-2340

JULY 27 - 28: Buckler's 7th Annual Craft Fair, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 386-860-0092

AUGUST 3: South FL Bike Expo, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 954-977-2806

THU

FRI

SAT

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

August 2
Starlight Musical
The Weedline (Classic Rock), 7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

August 24
The Fort Lauderdale Bus Loop
300 SW 2nd Street, 6 to 11 p.m.
Info.: 954-260-6194

August 30 - September 3
Miami Home Design & Remodeling Show
Miami Beach Convention Center
Info.: 305-667-9299

September 21 (Tentative)
International Coastal Cleanup
9 a.m. to noon
Info. & Site Locations: 954-519-1270



**FOR A COMPLETE
LISTING OF EVENTS,
GO TO THE
CALENDAR AT
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11 BINGO
Southpoint's North Lounge
(3400 Galt Ocean Dr), 7 p.m.
\$5/person for 3 boards

12 Jazz on the Square
El Mar Drive & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

13 Music-By-The-Sea
A1A & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-2900

Starlight Musicals
Shadow Creek (Country)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

2nd Annual Boca Burger Battle
Sanborn Square Park
6:30 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 561-338-7594

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

19 Jazz on the Square
El Mar Drive & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

20 Music-By-The-Sea
A1A & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-2900

South Florida Business Expo
Broward County Convention Center
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Info.: 954-838-9644

Starlight Musicals
Brass Evolution (Show Band)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

Flamingo Gardens Wet-n-Wild Weekend
Flamingo Gardens
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-473-2955

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

26 Jazz on the Square
El Mar Drive & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

27 Music-By-The-Sea
A1A & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-2900

Bagfest-By-The-Sea
Master Chef Lobster Competition!
El Prado Park, LBTS
(on the ocean across from town hall)
6 to 8 p.m.
Info.: 954-640-4209

Starlight Musicals
Jimmy Stowe & the Stowaways
(Tropical Rock)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

Dig The Beach Volleyball Ft Lauderdale Open
South Beach Park (1100 Seabreeze Blvd.)
7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Info.: 352-742-0080

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

2 Jazz on the Square
El Mar Drive & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

3 Music-By-The-Sea
A1A & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-2900

Starlight Musicals
The Weedline
(Classic Rock)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

West Palm Beach Antiques Festival
Americraft Expo Center
(South Florida Fairgrounds WPB)
941-697-7475

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

9 South Florida Tattoo Expo
(Through 8/11)
Coral Springs Marriott
Info.: 954-343-5585

10 Music-By-The-Sea
A1A & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-2900

Starlight Musicals
Shadow Creek (Country)
Holiday Park
7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-5363

Sea Turtle Walks (July 8, 9, 10, 15, 16): Museum of Discovery and Science, 9 p.m., Reservations: 954-713-0930

Fridays: Aruba Beach Café's Friday Fun Fest Pig Roast, 4 to 7 p.m.

First Saturday of Every Month: Beach Cleanup, Commercial Blvd. & the Beach LBTS (Meet at Pavilion), 9 to 9:30 a.m., Info.: 954-776-1000

First Saturday of Every Month: North Beach Art Walk, 3280 NE 32nd St, 7 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-537-3370

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

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

Tuesday-Saturday: Gentle Yoga (All Levels), North patio behind Tiki Bar (Ocean Manor Resort 4040 Galt Ocean Dr.), 9:30 a.m., Info.: 754-779-7519

Sunday/Thursdays: Beginner Pilates, North patio behind Tiki Bar, Sun: 9:30 a.m.,/Thurs. 10 a.m., Info.: 754-779-7519

Saturdays: Saturday Night Under the South Florida Stars, Fox Astronomical Observatory at Markham Park, Sunset to Midnight, Info.: 954-384-0442

Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca's May 2013 Newsletter

Transportation Infrastructure & Tourism Stoke Broward's Economy

*Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca opens his late May 2013 Newsletter for District 4 constituents by shaping an "Old Blue Eyes" seasonal classic into a metaphor for Broward's recovering economy. Not only are Port Everglades and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport gateways for growing tourism revenues that flood into Broward "from across the sea", their development as economic engines has deflated the ominous 2010 10.1% unemployment rate to a much less intimidating 5.7% by March of 2013.

When the Broward Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards (OIAPS) released their 29-page "2013 State Legislative Program" on January 8, 2013, Broward Commissioners lined up behind issues that appealed to them personally or politically. Among LaMarca's priorities were enhancements to Broward's economic infrastructure. Along with competitive improvements to transportation hubs like the Port and the Airport, LaMarca stepped up to spearhead Beach Renourishment, an issue that has long resonated with Galt Mile residents. LaMarca's decision to support legislative proposals that deter texting while driving – an activity that the CDC blames for 3,331 deaths in 2011 – was rewarded when

Venice Senator Nancy Detert's Senate Bill 52 was signed into law on May 28. Beginning on October 1, 2013, texting while driving becomes a secondary non-criminal infraction, meaning motorists could be ticketed (\$30 fine - \$60 for second offense) only if pulled over for some other reason. Since the powerful Tallahassee Communications Lobby had succeeded in marooning every Florida anti-texting bill on the calendar until now – it's a credible start.

In addition to churning out thousands of badly needed jobs, the Port projects reviewed in LaMarca's newsletter are also key to harvesting a reasonable share of the Post-Panamax Golden Goose. The largest vessels currently able to navigate the Panama Canal are up to 965 feet long and 106 feet wide, a configuration called "Panamax". Within two years, a \$5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal will allow Post-Panamax ships that are 25% longer and 50% wider – including enormous container ships from Asia and the Pacific – to use U.S. East Coast and Gulf Coast ports. Since faster and cheaper shipping of goods between the East Coast and Asia will enable American farmers and manufacturers to better compete with South American and European counterparts, the economic cascade will guarantee participating seaports tax revenue windfalls and thousands of new jobs.

In June of 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted a report to Congress – "U.S. Port and Inland Waterways Modernization: Preparing for Post-Panamax Vessels" – which examined options for future modernization of U.S. ports and inland waterways. Major General Michael J. Walsh, the Corps' deputy commanding general for Civil Works and Emergency Operations, summarized the economic stakes: "Post-Panamax vessels today make up 16 percent of the world's container fleet but account for 45 percent of the fleet's capacity. Those numbers are projected to grow significantly over the next 20 years." The report concludes that by 2030, Post-Panamax vessels will comprise 62 percent of the world's container fleet capacity. The Panama Canal Authority has estimated that five or six operational ports on the U.S. East Coast could handle the resulting explosion of cheaper goods.

After evaluating Port Everglades' competitive shortcomings, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers added a three-part construction strategy to the port's Master Plan. The Southport Turning Notch Expansion will lengthen the existing deepwater turn-around area for cargo ships from 900 feet to 2,400 feet. Secondly, instead of hauling containers to and from off-port rail terminals, building an on-site Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) will enable the seamless transfer of international containers between ship and rail. Lastly, the Port's 42-foot deep channel must be widened and dredged to 50 feet to manage the larger ships with heavier loads that will soon transit the Panama Canal.

Continued on page 12



Mirroring how local residents were scammed in Fort Lauderdale, registrants for City programs were bilked of credit card numbers used to pay fees as well as other personal information. Refuting company claims that the data was harvested on behalf of event hosts, the warning stated "THIS has NOT been the case in three instances we are aware of! Several of our CPRA Agencies have been notified by customers that they had registered through this website, only to find out they had been scammed." Other Colorado cities that fielded complaints from victimized residents and subsequently issued warnings are Pueblo on May 3 and Greeley on April 18.

On May 7, a fraud warning was posted by the York Police Department in Maine. York Detective Sgt. Tom Cryan said the phone number listed in contact information goes to a Google voice answering service. No one at the number listed on the website could be reached. On May 3, a similar warning was circulated in the City of Portland, Maine.

Sun Sentinel reporter Ithosvani Rodriguez had better luck than the York cops. When contacted by Rodriguez, website owner Jesse Forrest claimed ignorance about the Fort Lauderdale abuses while acknowledging the controversy in Boulder. A Fort Lauderdale native, after graduating from Florida State University with a BS in Computer Science, Forrest moved to California in 2006 where he worked as a software engineer for Northrop Grumman. He founded Find Sports Now in 2007 and Joimo - a Southern California and South Florida sports registration site - in 2008. He joined a gaming monetization startup called Sometrics in 2011 - which was acquired by American Express in 2012.

On May 10, Broward New Times reporter Deirdra Funcheon said Forrest explained that one Fort Lauderdale complainant "misunderstood the process." He also lamented the subsequent flood of account cancellations. Forrest's claim to have since "cleared up the misunderstanding with Detective Michael Berndt" has not been confirmed by the FLPD Detective. Identity Theft, a \$multi-billion worldwide criminal enterprise, is fueled by the deceptive harvesting of personal data. While Forrest has been trying to extinguish suspicions in markets across the country, he hasn't explained why the account holder's personal information, which is supposed to be forwarded to the event host, was never sent - which seriously clouds his credibility. On May 25, 2013, the fraud alerts in every jurisdiction, including Fort Lauderdale, were still active. •



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Findsportsnow.com website owner, Jesse Forrest.



FLPD detective, DeAnna Greenlaw of the Ft. Lauderdale Public Information Office.



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Other East Coast and Gulf port cities preparing for the expansion include Savannah GA, Miami FL, New York NY, Norfolk VA, Baltimore MD, Jacksonville FL and Houston TX. Every competitor in this race is dogged by two problems. The first is a regulatory maze that can only be circumvented by raw political muscle in Washington. Secondly, sea-ports have spent years struggling with foot-dragging federal bureaucrats and congressional gridlock over access to funds for dredging projects. Specifically, roughly \$7 billion squirreled away and collecting dust in a Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

If and when the House of Representatives passes the Water Resources Development Act – approved by the Senate on May 15, 2013 – dredging funds would become available for port projects. Last July, the Obama Administration issued a Presidential Executive Order to expedite the permitting and review process for five major port projects in Jacksonville, Miami, Savannah, New York, and Charleston; exempting these favored sites from the regulatory rat race. Other competing ports must painfully navigate the regulatory labyrinth and cough up local resources.

In President Obama's State of the Union address, he stressed the importance of building public – private partnerships to stoke the economy. When Obama visited Miami in March, he touted a \$1.1 billion Miami port tunnel project financed by such a public – private partnership built around federal dollars (other participants include the state, regional banks and insider Master of the Universe private financiers) that will link the Port of Miami to the MacArthur Causeway and I-395 (i.e. the interstate thruway system). Governor Rick Scott also staked \$77 million towards Miami's \$180 million project to dredge the port to Post-Panamax depth. While Port Everglades is further along in its preparations, Miami is the closest American port to the Canal Zone, Senator Marco Rubio's hometown and Senator Bill Nelson's birthplace. Earlier, Scott funneled \$36 million to the Jacksonville Port Authority (AKA JAXPORT), the other Florida seaport gifted with a federal regulatory fast-track.

Since 1997, Broward officials have been begging the Army Corps of Engineers to approve funding for deepening Port Everglades' channel to better accommodate Post-Panamax vessels. As soon as port officials satisfy operational, environmental and/or financial reporting requirements, the Corps alters them, repeatedly blistering Broward's competitive aspirations. Continually undermined by the Corps' regulatory rain dance, the latest bureaucratic dredging impediment is over how a cost-effectiveness study should be conducted.

Understandably frustrated, Port Everglades Director Steven Cernak complained to Florida members of Congress "This is how Port Everglades was rewarded for playing by the rules for the past 16 years. The rules change, and we start all over again. Is it any wonder why the study is now more than 14 times the original cost estimates?"

The only help made available to Port Everglades is a \$13 million taste of the \$288 million budgeted by the State Legislature for Florida seaports in the coming year. The Port's Southport Turning Notch Expansion is one of 26 specific port projects for which dedicated State funds were appropriated. Although the Federal government and our illustrious Governor are treating Port Everglades like a red headed stepchild, LaMarca knows that if Port Everglades sticks to its Master Plan, it will share in the Post-Panamax windfall – by its own bootstraps.

At the June 3 Galt Mile Presidents Council meeting, one of the neighborhood's most outspoken Beach Renourishment proponents, Frances Konstance of L'Hermitage I, thanked LaMarca for keeping his promise to help actualize the long-delayed Segment II beach fix. After chewing up South Florida's east coast, a serendipitous impact of Superstorm Sandy was a primer outlining how State, County and City officials should play together. The post-storm emergency repairs to A1A and the adjacent beach served as a test run for the Segment II renourishment, yielding a new sand source and improved staging techniques that could facilitate the planned expansion of Galt Mile beaches while capping costs.

Those of us who worked with him for years are going to miss Ryan Saunders. He added honor to a process ordinarily smothered by spin and always kept his word. Given the depth of his integrity, his transition to the Seminary should be seamless. For LaMarca's take on these issues, read on... – [editor]*



THE SUMMER WIND

By Chip LaMarca, Broward County Commissioner

As that classic song goes: "The summer wind came blowing in, from across the sea." With the summer winds coming in, the kids getting out of school and our families planning vacations, we in District 4 are continuing to work for you. We continue to receive phone calls, emails and requests for information, and continue to monitor the major projects taking place in the heart of the district as well as at Port Everglades and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. A key factor in the continued steady decline in the rate of unemployment is the robust construction activity that is happening throughout Broward County. The newest unemployment number is 5.7%, which is lower than both the state and national rate.

With school breaking for the summer, more drivers will be on the roads. We recently proclaimed the month of May as "Take 5 to Stay Alive" – Don't Text and Drive Month in Broward County. With the passage of Florida House and Senate Bills, it furthers enforces the notion that texting and sending e-mails while behind the wheel is a deadly practice that is responsible for numerous deaths each day nationwide. "Take 5 to Stay Alive" is a campaign that was created through the Regional EMS Council of which I am a member and is sponsored by the

Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities.

Construction and development rears production and growth. The Florida Department of Transportation's Eller Drive Overpass project that leads you into Port Everglades at I-595 is expected to be completed in late summer 2014 just as the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway completes construction of an Intermodal Container Transfer Facility in Southport. A true public/private partnership that will change the way goods are transported out of Port Everglades. The Southport Turning Notch extension, which will add up to five new berths in Southport, is moving forward.

Continued on page 13

Annually, the Port generates nearly \$26 billion in business activity statewide, supports 11,700 jobs locally and over 200,000 statewide, and is responsible for producing \$730 million in state and local taxes. We are also one of the few ports in the country with a trade surplus, totaling \$3.6 billion in 2012. Port Everglades also drives international trade and tourism in Broward County through a robust cruise industry. With more than 3.7 million cruise passengers annually it is one of the busiest cruise ports in the world, supporting almost 12,400 total cruise, airport and tourism related jobs. Port Everglades is truly a powerhouse cruise port.

For every 85 visitors to Broward County, one job is created. If you take into consideration the 12 million visitors in 2012, that's a lot of jobs. Those same visitors spent roughly \$10 million here. All economic indicators point to a banner year, with 39 consecutive months of continued growth. However, none of this would be possible without our greatest natural resource in Broward County - our beaches. The beach renourishment project is nearly fully permitted and we expect to begin putting sand on the beaches by the end of the year. We had great success with the emergency renourishment on Fort Lauderdale Beach and have been able to compile some best practices to use in our overall Segment II Project. As the emergency repairs resulting from the effects of Super Storm Sandy come to a close, we move into the long-term portions of the project with the re-design of A1A. This project will be coordinated through the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Fort Lauderdale.

In continuing our mission to recognize those who have served, are serving, and will serve; last week we celebrated our time honored tradition of Fleet Week with Broward Navy Days. While there was no fleet to be revered, there were plenty of events to attend. On May 5th we recognized twelve Broward County appointments to the US Naval Academy's class of 2017 and the Consul General of France presented the Legion of Honor Award to eleven United States Veterans of World War II who fought at Normandy. In addition to Fleet Week, we were honored to witness nearly 150 Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen enlist into our nation's armed forces with Our Community Salutes on Saturday May 4th, an event that was hosted by Broward College.

Lastly, please join me in saying goodbye to a dedicated employee and friend of District 4, Ryan Saunders. Ryan has made a decision to follow his calling to enter into the seminary to become a Catholic Priest. Ryan has been with me since my first day in this office and he will be greatly missed. I would also like to welcome our new addition to the office, Mr. Ryan Reiter. Ryan will serve as Commission Aide for my office and his role will be working in the office at the Governmental Center. We are very lucky to have Ryan's experience and knowledge on the team, having served our Country in the United States Marine Corp and most recently for Workforce One, working to find employment for our returning veterans. You can contact Ryan at 954-357-7004 or by email at rreiter@broward.org. With the addition of Ryan, veterans now make up 66% of the District 4 Staff.

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 up to date by viewing our website www.broward.org/commission/district4, where you can sign up to receive email updates from our office.

As always, it is an honor to serve you.

Chip LaMarca
Broward County Commissioner, District 4 •

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