

# GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

*Happy  
2014!*



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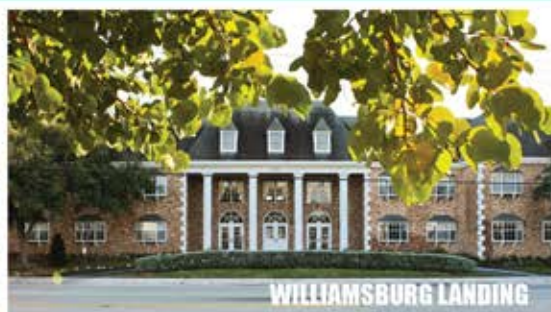
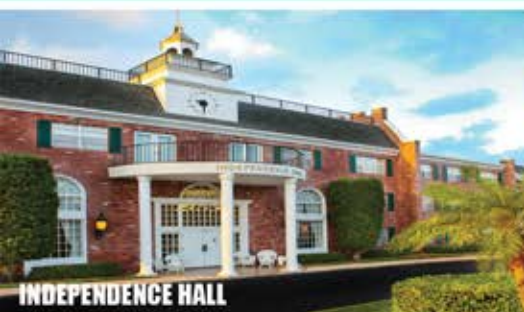


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# ANTERIOR HIP REPLACEMENT YOU HAVE A CHOICE

Every day, people with limps, walkers, canes and wheelchairs come to an important realization - the pain is just too much. Choosing to have any elective surgery is no easy decision; even when you know the end result is saying goodbye to your pain and hello to your life. While total hip replacements have been one of the most successful surgeries since they began, deciding to have the procedure has always come with its costs, until now.

Orthopedic surgeons at the Joint Replacement Center at Broward Health North offer an innovative new approach to hip replacement surgery - anterior hip replacement using the specially designed hana<sup>®</sup> table. Patients who choose the anterior approach to hip replacement as opposed to the traditional posterior approach don't just say goodbye to the pain, they say goodbye to the restrictions as well.

Patients receiving anterior hip replacement experience none of the precautions related to traditional hip replacement, including no post-op dislocation precautions, no restriction of post-op activity, immediate use of normal toilet height, no post-op abduction pillow (between the knees) required, cross legs as desired, no shoe lift requirements and no post-op sexual activity limitations.

"Approximately 375,000 Americans undergo hip replacement surgery each year," says Dr. Bruce Janke, Medical Director of the Joint Replacement Center at Broward Health North. "With this number expected to almost double over the next 25 years due in part to the aging population, it is important that people know they have a choice in the type of procedure they undergo."

With the anterior approach, a small four inch incision is made just below and to the outside of the groin. Two muscles are then pushed aside, giving the surgeons access to the hip socket to perform the replacement. No muscles at

any time during the procedure are split or detached. For the patient, that results in a faster recovery, less pain, smaller incision, less blood loss and less scarring.

"The outcomes are incredible," says Dr. Steven Naide, Medical Director of Orthopedic Trauma at Broward Health North. "Within weeks our patients are getting back to golf, tennis, yoga, whatever it is they enjoy doing that became impossible due to pain."

The Joint Replacement Center is the recipient of the Florida Hospital Association 2011 Celebration of Achievement in Quality and Service award for Innovation of the Year in Patient Care. The Center is also first in Broward County to be Joint Commission Certified for Hip and Knee Replacement.

**Broward Health North has  
performed more hip  
replacements than  
any other hospital  
in Florida.**

as seen in the Dec 2012

**U.S. News & WORLD REPORT**



**Steven Naide, MD, Medical Director of  
Orthopedic Trauma & Bruce Janke, MD, Medical  
Director of the Joint Replacement Center.**

**1201 E Sample Road, 2nd Floor  
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HEALTH<sup>®</sup>  
NORTH**

**To find out more about anterior hip replacement, call 954.786.6635 or go to [BrowardHealth.org/BHN](http://BrowardHealth.org/BHN)**





## Oceanfront entertaining



Expect to do a little more entertaining when word gets out that you're living in Broward's premier beachside senior community. Your guests will love strolling the beach and watching the boats go by on the Intracoastal. You'll just love that the living is so easy. With no cooking or cleaning to worry about, you can focus on more entertaining pursuits – from exercising in the beachside fitness center to scheduled outings or even just joining the gang in the piano lounge.

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A 2007 Pre-Season Baltimore Oriole's Game at Ft. Lauderdale Stadium

# A WATER PARK TO RISE FROM THE ASHES OF FT LAUDERDALE STADIUM

By Eric Berkowitz

When the City of Sarasota hijacked the Baltimore Orioles spring training program in 2008, the vacated Fort Lauderdale Stadium wound up in the City Commission's lap. They could have either held a garage sale to attract another club, which would mean fixing it up and taking a beating on the rent, or consigning the once proud facility to a slow death hosting little league finals. In his June 2010 Newsletter, Bruce Roberts reviewed a preferable alternative to watching the Stadium succumb to recessionary neglect.

Of four proposals to redevelop the property, a plan to morph the Stadium into a

64-acre world class Water Park enticed City Commissioners attending the June 15, 2010 Commission meeting. After mulching the eroding shell of Fort Lauderdale Stadium - former Spring home of the New York Yankees and later the Baltimore Orioles, Dallas-based Schlitterbahn Development Group (SDG) would renovate and transform the adjacent 18,500-seat Lockhart Stadium into a state-of-the-art tournament-sized multi-use athletic field that would house the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, while building four additional public soccer fields that meet eligibility criteria of the National Federation State High School Association (NFHS) and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The revamped Lockhart Stadium would become a lynchpin for a Sports Village and water park featuring a computer-controlled, endless river with adjustable wave action, an uphill water coaster powered by water-injection technology and an Aqua Veyer-based downhill compliment to the coaster. The athletic facilities would be

capable of accommodating virtually any sports venue and serve as a permanent home for The Broward County Sports Hall of Fame - recognizing inductees Angelo Dundee & Rocky Marciano (Boxing), Edward "Whitey" Ford & Earl Weaver (Baseball), Chris Evert (Tennis), Andy Granatelli (Auto Racing), Dan Marino & Michael Irvin (Football). With three award-winning Texas water parks in Galveston, New Braunfels, and South Padre Island, Schlitterbahn is expanding its 4th U.S. park in Kansas City, adding the world's tallest water slide. Out of the country, they are developing a petro-dollar financed water park in Dubai and expanding the Atlantis Paradise Island tourist magnet in the Bahamas. Schlitterbahn projects characteristically excrete money!

A Preview of Things to Come—  
A Small Part of the Aquatic Infrastructure  
in Schlitterbahn's New Braunfels, Texas Water Park



Continued on page 6

Bordering Commercial Boulevard to the south and Cypress Creek Road to the north, the property is adjacent to Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. That's also why the \$110 million project has been languishing on the back burner for 3 years. In 1947, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ceded the property to the City with certain fiscal and structural caveats. In addition to enforcing code compliant height constraints appropriate to air traffic safety, the Agency refused to allow the City to lease the property at a below market rent – the primary factor behind the Orioles relocation to the West Coast of Florida. As recently explained by Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler "The FAA has had issues with any developments in and around the apron at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport going back years. It's the reason the Yankees left many, many years ago, it's the reason the Orioles left just a few years back, and I think it's the reason this got delayed."

While Fort Lauderdale wasn't opposed to financially "incentivizing" popular entertainment venues (taxpayers annually funded police, fire and sanitation services for Mickey Markoff's Air and Sea Show before his nocturnal antics as a Peeping Tom induced Title Sponsor McDonalds to bolt - forcing Markoff to cancel future events after a futile search for a replacement Golden Goose), the FAA doggedly blocked City efforts to "relax" rental payments for the major league ball club or expand the facilities. Since the cramped stadium couldn't accommodate minor leaguers that ordinarily train along side the big league team, they had to commute 200 miles between Ft. Lauderdale and Sarasota where the organization's minor league players practiced. In addition to enabling the Orioles to consolidate their training operations, Sarasota brazenly emersed their new tenant in a perquisite porkfest.

When the City sent the FAA an April 9, 2010 request for permission to proceed with building the Water Park, a month later the FAA refused. In a May 5, 2010 response, the agency took issue with the proposed 30-year lease term, the property's land-use designation and the City's perception of the property's "Fair Market Value". The FAA pointed out that the Executive Airport Master Plan affirms adequate onsite resources to sustain growth for twenty years. The City and Schlitterbahn had agreed to a 30-year lease with two 5-year extensions, encumbering the property for 40 years. To protect planned development of a thriving airport under their governance, FAA endorsed a reduced lease term of twenty years and "four five year extensions subject to a determination of no aeronautical need for the parcels." Over the next year, agency and City negotiators engaged in an uninterrupted staring contest.

The City finally broke the deadlocked negotiations by forwarding a series of appraisals comparing the property's value if used for lucrative airport activities (\$16.8 million), if used for the recreational purposes anticipated by Schlitterbahn (\$7 million) and a third assessment reflecting prospective use for generic parks and recreation activities (\$9.2 million). To punctuate his decision to move the project forward, Mayor Jack Seiler announced his intention to take charge of the stalled FAA talks.

The city also conceded to a longstanding agency request to change the property's land-use designation from park to airport use, a provision required in the original 1947 conveyance agreement. Unfortunately, since mitigating potential traffic impacts on land designated for airport use is a far more expensive proposition than for land zoned as a park, County land-use regulations could potentially cost the City an incremental \$660,000 for altering the land's zoning status. On the bright side, it also softened FAA resistance to the project. Having revived the dormant project, City staffers and Schlitterbahn set about updating the park's design features.

Under the new plan, a maze of rapids, drops, slides and stretches of calmly rolling river will wind past a series of wave pools and beaches. A "Sports River" will encircle the Stadium while some water rides are designed to pass under the Stadium's bleachers. Accommodations include tree-top cabins that conceptually draw on luxury resort lodgings in African Game Parks that cater to ecotourism. After likening the rugged exterior of Schlitterbahn's planned "Treehaus Resort" to something "two kids put together," President Joe Cerone of project developer Recreational Design & Construction (RDC) noted "You go inside and it's a four-star resort." Based on renderings released to the media, Schlitterbahn plans to preserve one section of the condemned Fort Lauderdale Stadium's traditional facade, creating a main entrance that's architecturally consistent with the company's patented castle motif.

Since Roberts, Seiler and the other City Commissioners avidly support transforming the rotting Stadium into a proven tourist destination, the City and Schlitterbahn tailored a formula amenable to FAA officials. To address FAA concerns about fair market lease terms, in October Schlitterbahn and the City agreed to increase the plan's monthly rental to \$810,000, an amount consistent with the higher property valuation accepted by the agency. City spokesman Chaz Adams announced "We've submitted a term sheet to the FAA, an outline with all the particulars they need to know."

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## THE GALT MILE NEWS

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# Chip LaMarca: Report to the Galt Mile

seamless cloud system that enables corporate employees to wirelessly access networked data on mobile devices, Citrix Systems is actively courted by technology parks across the country. LaMarca credited the Alliance with incentivizing the tech company to remain in Broward, "instead of heading to the North Carolina Research Triangle." With their Strategic Headquarters in Santa Clara, California and Operational Headquarters at 851 West Cypress Creek Road in Fort Lauderdale, Citrix was recently recognized as a Best Place to Work for 2014, a Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award. A classic South Florida lifestyle contributed to their fourth straight year on this iconic list.

## Beach Fix & Dirty Tricks

LaMarca enshrines our beaches as Broward's most important natural resource, crediting them for "protecting lives and property while anchoring a vital tourist economy." He observed that 61% of the \$10 billion generated by local tourist activity takes place in his coastal District 4 - from Deerfield Beach to Port Everglades, and 51% within the City of Fort Lauderdale. Updating the status of the long awaited Segment II beach renourishment, LaMarca said that the County is currently working through permitting obstacles in Tallahassee. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) baited a draft permit agreement with language that would box Broward into assuming responsibility for unanticipated problems that are unrelated to the renourishment effort.

FDEP Division of Water Resource Management Director Mark Thomasson laced the Draft Permit with "31 d. In the event additional impact from the project is documented, the Applicant shall be required to mitigate for the impacts, through compliance and enforcement action, with the amount of mitigation determined according to the Department's Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM)." Tantamount to demanding a taxpayer-funded blank check, the regulatory spin would force Broward to mitigate impacts outside the scope of the project and - absent any time constraint - until the sun went red giant. Unwilling to empower FDEP as judge, jury and executioner, on December 19, Broward Beach Boss Eric Myers diplomatically answered Thomasson, "Following issuance of the permit we would apply for a modification to address the quantification of liability which the County believes should have been a part of the original permit. Specifically, we are requesting that Specific Condition 31 d. be struck in its entirety."

Throughout the permit process, FDEP (and Florida Fish and Wildlife) have held the Segment II beach renourishment hostage, threatening endless regulatory roadblocks if the County or its coastal cities pursued local policies that rankled agency officials. As such, City and County officials have been walking on eggshells, quietly moving potentially contentious issues to a back burner. However, once the beach is fixed, the State "hammer" will disappear - unless FDEP can plant some post-project "leverage" in the permit agreement. After citing Eric Myers for repelling a surreptitious attempt to saddle Broward with virtually unlimited liability, LaMarca assured Advisory Board members that the remaining permitting ripples would soon be resolved.

## Bagging the Big Jets

Turning his attention to the critical transportation hubs that deliver tourists to county beaches, hotels and restaurants, LaMarca reviewed both planned and in progress improvements to Hollywood/Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL) and Port Everglades. Finally supported by noise-leery neighborhood residents, the Airport expansion will reduce delays and facilitate services to visiting tourists and business travelers. Although the airport currently has a long runway to accommodate larger jets, its two alternative runways are significantly shorter, creating delays when several Dreamliners descend simultaneously. In addition to correcting its stunted functionality, provisions in the airport's Master Plan would fast forward a 1980s facility into an aesthetic and architectural monument.

In 2003, planners decided to lengthen one of the short runways and decommission the other small intersecting "crosswind" strip (Runway 13-31). Unfortunately, since highways and rail tracks that encircle the facility's 1380 acres would block an 8000 foot strip required for larger aircraft, engineers drafted a "work around".

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In the spring of 2012, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca hired John Newstreet as his new District Director. The eloquent bureaucrat was a more than adequate avatar for LaMarca at hundreds of meetings, celebrations and assorted neighborhood events during the past year, enabling our County representative to effectively double his community outreach. Newstreet just took a new position as President/CEO of the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce, a testament to his skills as a political gymnast.

With the departure of Newstreet, LaMarca recently added two new Legislative Aides, Ryan Reiter (a loquacious Marine veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom) and Kate Wesner (a realtor who served as former Congressman Alan West's District Director and worked for the ill-fated Romney and McCollum campaigns). Until they are fully conversant with their boss's local agenda, LaMarca is personally attending an expanded lineup of regular community events - including those on the Galt Mile.

## Broward Battles Back

At the December 19 GMCA Advisory Board meeting, our County Commissioner scrutinized the economic engines spearheading Broward's recovery. While applauding a slide in the State's unemployment rate to 6.4% (in contrast with the national rate of 7%), LaMarca noted that the jobless rate in Broward County had dropped to 5.3%. He attributed the promising job stats to new construction fueled by the rebounding real estate market and 49 consecutive months of increasing tourism. LaMarca observed "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 billion here." To best exploit regional and county economic resources, LaMarca has long advocated enhancing the County's critical infrastructure, including transportation hubs, a convention center and our shrinking beaches.

LaMarca is the County Commission's liaison to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, a countywide Public-Private economic development panel. Its mission priority is attracting new business while retaining existing enterprise. Having recently developed a uniquely effective



# JAN/FEB

## EASILY REMOVE AND PLA

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TUE

WED

**12** Las Olas Outdoor Green Market  
433 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-426-8436

2014 Florida Fast Expo Car Show  
Miami Airport Convention Center  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Info.: 954-647-6610

**19** Las Olas Outdoor Green Market  
433 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-426-8436

**26** Las Olas Outdoor Green Market  
433 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-426-8436

Riverwalk Sunday Arts  
Esplanade Park along the New River  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541

**2** Downtown Delray Beach  
Craft Festival  
4th Ave. & Atlantic Ave., Delray  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-472-3755

Las Olas Outdoor Green Market

**Sunday Jazz Brunch**  
Riverwalk, Downtown FL  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-396-3622

**9** Mandy Patinkin  
Broward Center, Au-Rene Theater  
7 p.m.  
Tix.: www.browardcenter.org

Las Olas Outdoor Green Market

3rd Annual Ride with Heart  
Harbor Shops, 1815 Cordova Rd.  
7 to 11 a.m.  
Info.: pinkiesevents@yahoo.com

**13**

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

**27** Fort Lauderdale Special  
Magistrate Hearing -  
Waterworks 2011  
City Commission Meeting Room - City Hall  
10 a.m.  
Info.: 954-828-5225

**10**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

South Florida Business Expo  
Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel  
(Empire Ballroom)  
5 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-838-9644

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

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

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

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

Community Appearance Board Meeting  
City Hall, 8th Floor Conference Room  
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-6321

JANUARY 12: 6th Annual Jazz Picnic in the Park, Ilene Lieberman Botanical Gardens (3801 Inverrary Blvd., Lauderdale), 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Info.: 954-730-3000

JANUARY 12: Oshogatsu New Year Celebration 2014, Monikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 561-495-0233

JANUARY 18: 2nd Annual Sunshine Music & Blues Festival, Mizner Park Amphitheatre in Boca, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Info.: 1-800-745-3000

JANUARY 18: Snyder Park Air Potato Round-Up, Snyder Park, 9 a.m. to Noon, Info.: 954-828-4341

JANUARY 18: Come Downtown and Dance the Night Away, Esplanade Park, 6 to 10 p.m., Info.: 954-828-4341

JANUARY 18 - 19: 25th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Festival of the Arts, 1111 E Atlantic Ave., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-472-3755

JANUARY 24 - 26: 8th Annual Chocolate Festival, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Info.: 305-667-1651

JANUARY 25: JA World Uncorked!, JA World Huizenga Center (Broward College), 6:30 to 9 p.m., Info.: 954-979-7120

FEBRUARY 4 - 9: 18th Annual American International Fine Art Fair, Palm Beach Convention Center, Info.: 239-949-5411



# CE ON YOUR FRIDGE

THU

FRI

SAT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16

9th Annual Fort Lauderdale A1A Marathon  
401 SW 2nd St. at NW 5th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, 5 a.m. to Noon  
Info.: 561-241-3801

February 20 - 23

13th Annual South Beach Wine & Food Festival  
South Beach, Miami, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Info.: 877-762-3933

February 21

Friday Night Tunes (Sassy Singz (R&B and Top 40))  
Joseph C. Carter Park, 7 to 10 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-5363

February 22

2014 Secret Garden Tour  
Tour private gardens at several of Ft. Lauderdale's most prestigious homes  
Tix.: www.FLGC.org

February 22 - 23

7th Annual Ocean Adventure Expo 2013  
Broward County Convention Center  
Info.: 561-715-0247

March 1

2nd Annual Galt Mile Wine & Food Festival  
Galt Ocean Mile Shoppes, 4 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 561-338-7594

March 1

24th Annual Walk For The Animals  
Huizenga Plaza, 8 a.m. to Noon  
Info.: 954-266-6817

March 1- 2

37th Annual Pridefest - 2014  
War Memorial Auditorium & Holiday Park  
Info.: 954-561-2020

March 1- 2

The 31st Annual SE Florida Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Snyder Park, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Info.: 754-368-0614

March 7 - 9

Fairchild's 12th Annual International Orchid Festival  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

16

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

23

3rd Annual Red Hot & In Style  
B Ocean Hotel  
7 to 11 p.m.  
Info.: 954-564-3512

30

6

13

Miami Yacht and Brokerage Show  
(Through 2/17)  
Indian Creek Waterway at Collins Ave.  
Info.: 305-532-0692

17

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

24

CAI-SEFL Annual Golf Tournament  
Plantation Preserve  
11 a.m. Registration  
Info.: 954-816-0661

31

Big Cypress Shootout  
Billie Swamp Safari - Big Cypress Reservation  
Info.: 1-800-949-6101 X 12125

7

15th Annual Delray Beach Garlic Fest  
(Through 2/9)  
Downtown Delray Beach  
Info.: 561-279-0907

14

Valentine's Day

Riverwalk Blues and Music Festival  
(Through 2/16)  
Esplanade Park, 10 a.m. to Sundown  
Info.: 954-829-4173

18

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

25

Miami National Antiques Show & Sale  
(Through 1/26)  
Miami Airport Convention Center  
Info.: 239-732-6642

1

Household Hazardous Waste &  
Electronics Drop-off Event  
4181 NW 121 Ave., Coral Springs  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-4732

8

Renaissance Festival  
(Through 2/9)  
Quiet Waters Park  
10 a.m. to Sundown (Weekends)  
Info.: 954-776-1642

15

Renaissance Festival  
(Through 2/16)  
Quiet Waters Park  
10 a.m. to Sundown (Weekends)  
Info.: 954-776-1642

FEBRUARY 14: Valentine's Day Concert, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 7 p.m., Tix.: 305-667-1651, ext. 3391

Daily: Yoga on the Beach, Ocean Manor Resort (4040 Galt Ocean Dr.), 9:30 a.m. (weather permitting), Mats supplied, \$10 donation, Info.: 754-779-7519 or 516-840-1455.

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

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

Saturdays: Fairchild Farmers' Market, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

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They selected the 5300-foot landing strip (Runway 9R-27L) located just south of the existing long runway that runs parallel to Griffin Road. At roughly 2400 feet from its western end, the runway will gently tilt upwards and over US 1 and the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway tracks, slowly rising over a distance of nearly twenty football fields before terminating at a 60-foot high man-made embankment at its new easternmost end.

The \$791 million project would accompany a \$250 million bailout for neighborhood residents driven nuts by living with scores of daily brain rattling landings and takeoffs – for decades. As ever-larger jets landed and disembarked at an annually accelerating pace, residents living in the adjacent Dania Beach community increasingly complained about noise impacts that exceeded levels medically verified as hazardous. To protect homeowners incrementally endangered by the anticipated increased air traffic, 2073 nearby Dania residences will be fitted with sound-cancelling new roofs, heavily insulated impact glass windows, extensive weather stripping and central air/ventilation systems to achieve an interior noise level of 45 DNL (Day-Night Sound Level - a weighted decibel-based noise metric used by the FAA to describe 24-hour average sound levels).

"The terminals will also be modernized," said LaMarca "as new restaurants and shops will reflect local flavor." A second \$800 million rehabilitation of the airport's 4 terminals was planned in tandem with the runway expansion. Terminal 4, which is already being rebuilt, will double in size as the number of gates will be increased from 10 to 14, 12 of which will be able to handle both domestic and international flights. While the other three terminals will be refurbished, terminal 4 is being redesigned as a facility centerpiece to stimulate more international flights, both to and from Fort Lauderdale.

LaMarca said "While currently ranked the 21st busiest airport in the United States, once fitted with two runways capable of managing the big Boeing 777s and 787s, FLL will become one of the nation's top air hubs." To illustrate how the improvements impact growth, he added "An agreement was recently signed with Norwegian Air, which has already added 8 of the large 787 Dreamliners to their fleet." Europe's third largest budget airline after Ryanair and easyJet, fast-growing Norwegian Air is the only budget airline flying transatlantic routes. As if to punctuate LaMarca's illustration, on December 13, Southwest Airlines announced that FLL would serve as its new hub for international flights.

When the vaulted runway is completed in September 2014, motorists, trains and pedestrians will pass underneath through a series of tunnels. The projected 50% increase in capacity will enable the airport to accommodate about 450,000 landings and takeoffs annually. LaMarca summarized the immediate and long term benefits, "This will add 11,000 temporary jobs and a \$1.4 billion boost to the regional economy."

**Port Preps for Panamax**

Recently named the world's number 1 cruise port, Port Everglades annually hovers between 1st and 3rd (along with Port Miami and Port Canaveral) in the number of passengers that use the Port, at almost 4 million a year. LaMarca observed "We have the 2 largest cruise ships in the world and will be getting another very soon," referring to when the two giant Royal Caribbean sister ships Oasis of the Seas and Allure of the Seas will be joined in 2015 by the company's newest Quantum-class vessel, Anthem of the Seas. After a 16-year bureaucratic rain dance by Federal and State regulators, when the Army Corps of Engineers approved the Port's Draft Environmental Impact plan in June followed by the October passage of

the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRDA) in the U.S. House of Representatives, it kick-started a series of Master Plan improvements that eluded Port officials for decades.

Noting that Miami is also racing to improve its Port facilities, LaMarca told Advisory Board members, "Along with widening and deepening the seaport's navigational channels to handle deep-draft Post-Panamax ships, other improvements will set us apart from ports to the south and north." He explained that the additional cargo managing capabilities created by enlarging the turning notch will allow the Port to simultaneously berth and service five more cargo ships, not just accommodate the larger next generation monster vessels. The Port's most significant competitive advantage will be an Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF). LaMarca clarified "This rail project will get containerized cargo right off the ships onto rail - and out of Port Everglades without ever coming into contact with our South Florida traffic issues."

With funding seeded by Federal tax dollars, Miami is building a \$1.1 billion Port Tunnel to inject Port cargo into the highway system. Since Port Everglades' onsite rail system will be faster and safer, it's a less expensive cargo management option, the single most important factor when shipping commodities. LaMarca added that the ICTF doesn't burden taxpayers, unlike the Miami project. The Port is contributing the 42.5 acres of land and Florida East Coast Rail (FEC) is paying the bill – drawing on a grant, an FDOT bank loan and their corporate coffers.

**Panthers with Nine Lives**

When asked about the long troubled BB&T Center - a County-owned sports arena that houses the cash-strapped Florida Panthers, LaMarca said that New York businessman Vincent "Vinnie" Viola recently purchased the Florida Panthers from a loose-knit conglomerate headed by Cliff Viner with minor pieces held by local heavyweights H. Wayne Huizenga, Alan Cohen, Mike Maroone and Jordan Zimmerman. As if scripted by an old school Hollywood screenwriter, after securing National Hockey League (NHL) approval and buying the team from these dispirited "Masters of the Universe", Viola announced on Friday, September 27, that he was committed to giving the Panthers "the resources needed to win the Stanley Cup."

Continued on page 12



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# Commissioner Chip LaMarca's November 2013 Constituent Update

*\*Along with promoting beach renourishment, salvaging the Galt Mile Library and lobbying projects that enhance Broward's competitive infrastructure, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca has passionately advocated on behalf of Port Everglades. While announcing a follow-up series of "how to" workshops for vendors stalking county business and celebrating approval of his pilot program to provide a free bus pass to eligible veterans, LaMarca's November 2013 constituent update applauds Congress for throwing Port Everglades the key to its future as a regional economic powerhouse.*

After 17 years of bumping up against foot-dragging Federal bureaucrats, Congressional gridlock and play for pay politicians while waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers to pop the clutch on deepening Port Everglades, Port officials were recently handed an early holiday gift by Congress. On October 23, 2013, the U.S. House of Representatives convincingly slam dunked the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) by a vote of 417-3, setting the stage for appointment of a conference committee to mitigate differences between the Senate and House versions of the legislation. The bill will authorize Broward County to fund the groundwork necessary to widen and deepen Port Everglades while awaiting federal reimbursement contingent on future Congressional approval.

Beginning in 1997, Broward officials have been begging the Army Corps of Engineers to approve funding for deepening Port Everglades' channel to accommodate the anticipated explosion of Post-Panamax vessels from Asia and the Pacific when the \$5.25 billion Panama Canal expansion is completed in 2015. Post-Panamax ships that are 25% longer, 50% wider and have a deeper draft than the largest vessels currently able to navigate the canal - a configuration called "Panamax" - will rebalance the worldwide economy by significantly lowering hemispheric transportation costs.

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 Post-Panamax adapted Gulf and East Coast seaports tax revenue windfalls and thousands of new jobs. The Panama Canal Authority has estimated that five or six operational ports on the U.S. East Coast could handle the resulting tornado of cheaper goods, triggering frenzied construction by East Coast seaports competing for a piece of the Post-Panamax cornucopia.

For years, whenever Port Everglades officials satisfied operational, environmental and/or financial reporting requirements, the Corps altered them, burying Port officials in a seemingly endless regulatory rat race. Understandably frustrated, Port Everglades Director Steven Cernak complained to Florida members of Congress last March "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?"

On June 28, 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finally released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for "Navigational Improvements to the Port Everglades Harbor," the inexplicably elusive regulatory prerequisite for hosting Post-Panamax ships. The project will ultimately deepen Port Everglades' channel from 42 feet to 48 feet (plus two feet of allowable overdepth for a total of 50 feet). Widening the navigational channels will allow entering and departing ships to safely pass cargo and cruise ships docked along the Intracoastal Waterway inside the Port. The cost of the expansion project is estimated at \$313 million, which will be paid for through a combination of federal funds, port user fees and - if fate smiles - state funds. As with expansion of the Southport Turning Notch and completion of the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility, not one cent will be drained from the necks of taxpayers.

Until last month, the federal resources needed to catalyze the improvements were on deep lockdown. For more than seven years, Congress has been unable to pass legislation authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' civil works program, which constructs critical navigation and water infrastructure projects across the nation. Specifically, enacting the WRRDA will provide long-awaited access to roughly \$7 billion squirrelled away and collecting dust in a Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. As long as Congressional savants appointed to the WRRDA Conference Committee don't succumb to the popular Washington whimsy of enshrining gridlock while speaking "in tongues", funding the Corps' newly cited competitive improvements to the Port will insure its future as a regional economic powerhouse.

*Port Everglades is one of the world's busiest cruise ports, one of the nation's leading container ports and South Florida's main gateway for an international litany of critical commodities, fossil and alternative fuels, and consumer goods. A self-supporting Enterprise Fund of Broward County government, the Port Everglades Department featured operating revenues of approximately \$143 million in Fiscal Year 2012. Fueling annual economic activity currently valued at roughly \$26 billion, Port Everglades generates more than 201,000 Florida jobs.*

While meeting with lawmakers during the 2013 Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Washington DC Summit, Commissioner LaMarca commented "What we're looking at today is 2,197 acres of pure Port power. The push is on in Broward County. Our delegation, business representatives, and lobbyists drove home the message that we need to move this project forward to create jobs and prepare Port Everglades for the future. It was a collaborative effort focusing on what's best for Broward County, the region and South Florida and together we got the job done." On balance, LaMarca's exuberance was justified. Read on for the Commissioner's cursory November 2013 constituent update. - [editor]"

## Current Events

The United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 3080, The Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA), which authorized Broward County to prefund the preliminary activities necessary to deepen and widen Port Everglades with federal reimbursement. Our Members of Congress; Lois Frankel, Mario Diaz Balart, Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Ted Deutch, Alcee Hastings, and Frederica Wilson were among the nation's lawmakers pushing for passage of the amended WRRDA bill.

In Tallahassee, Governor Scott urged the State Legislature to approve a \$14.7 million investment for Port Everglades in a parallel effort to make Florida competitive worldwide and to also create more Florida jobs. The Port Everglades expansion is expected to create over 7,000 direct jobs and more than 135,000 jobs around the State of Florida.

At the November 12th county commission meeting, I was honored to present and pass the V.E.T. Pass, a 6 month pilot program to provide Veterans in need with a free BCT Bus Pass. This is a project that I have been working on for nearly my entire time in office and I am always pleased to pass meaningful policy that gives back to those who gave so much to our country.

## Coming This Month

The Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development (OESBD) will begin the new year by launching a 2014 Business Development Workshop Series, an update to the annual 12-part "How to Do Business with Broward County" series. These events are designed to expound on accessing opportunities with county government procurement and contracts. To better accommodate busy schedules, the workshops will be held at varying time and locations every month on Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the county. For additional information, contact OESBD at 954-357-6400 or visit [Broward.org/EconDev](http://Broward.org/EconDev)

My main goal is to help you foster your American Dream. If there is anything that we can do to assist you with your vision for a better Broward, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954.357.7004 or by email at [clamarca@broward.org](mailto:clamarca@broward.org). You can also stay up to date by viewing our website [www.broward.org/district4](http://www.broward.org/district4), where you can sign up to receive email updates from our office. As always, it is my honor to serve you.

*Chip LaMarca*  
Broward County Commissioner, District 4 •



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Report...Continued

A West Point graduate who served in the 101st Airborne Division and rooted for the New York Rangers while growing up in the pre-gentrified Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, the 57-year old Viola is a former chairman of the New York Mercantile Exchange and CEO of his high-frequency electronic trading firm Virtu Financial. Along with sole minority owner and longtime associate Douglas Cifu - who is also the new Vice Chairman and Alternate Governor of the Panthers - Viola shunned a traditionally luxurious owner's box in favor of watching games a few rows up from the glass near the red line (the ice hockey equivalent of a mid-court sideline seat).

LaMarca's confidence in the new owner's credibility was bolstered by plans to empower sons John, Michael and Travis with key roles in a new family business (25-year old Travis is already working as a Panthers executive). Viola will buy a house in Broward (wife Teresa spent premarital summers in her grandparents' Pompano home), commute to business interests in New York and Texas, and keep the team here. "We are firmly committed to South Florida," said Viola. "My wife has commanded we move here, so we are moving here." The \$250 million purchase price includes the whole Florida Panthers dog and pony show, including: the NHL team; Sunrise Sports & Entertainment; an operating agreement with the Broward County-owned BB&T Center that extends through 2028; the three-rink Saveology Iceplex in Coral Springs; and the development rights for acreage surrounding the arena.

Delighted that Viola dispelled rumors about relocating the arena's primary tenant, LaMarca surmised that Viola sought to offer some upgraded shopping venues with ties to Sawgrass Mills - the 2nd most visited destination site in Florida (after the Disney Cosmo). In fact, Michael Yormark, who oversees business operations and was promoted from Team President to CEO by Viola, is maneuvering to land a "destination" casino on the arena grounds. The team had previously announced a partnership with Boyd Gaming to mutually lobby for relaxed Florida gaming laws. When asked about a prospective casino windfall that could substantially outpace the fiscal expectations of a borderline sports franchise, Viola dodged the issue like a Federal bureaucrat with a corporate marker in his back pocket, exclaiming "We're all about hockey and are very singularly focused people. That's what we're about, the Florida Panthers. We will do everything we can and we will win here. We're excited about that." Hhhmm... Anyway, if a Casino Resort somehow emerges adjacent to the arena, no one will complain if the County snags a taste of the gate.

### Bus Pass for Vets

LaMarca wrapped up his report with good news about a pet project. Expanding on an item in his November 2013 Newsletter, LaMarca reiterated that the County Commission finally approved his long-planned pilot program to equip Veterans who meet low-income criteria with a free 30-day bus pass renewable on a month to month basis for six months (Commission peers Kiar and Holness were granted a request to co-sponsor the measure during the November 12th Commission Meeting).

Despite efforts by the United Way and Broward's Elderly and Veteran Services Department to match Veterans with available programs and services, LaMarca lamented a lack of public transportation options that creates barriers to Veterans seeking employment, medical services, and the ability to successfully reintegrate with the community.

Since 184 Veterans currently enrolled in Elderly and Veteran Services have incomes that fall below the \$26,000 program cap and no reliable means of transportation, data on usage and need captured by his Veteran Enabled Transportation Pass (VET Pass) pilot program could justify supporting a more permanent version of this benefit, both here and in other jurisdictions. LaMarca believes that the \$32,000 to \$64,000 fiscal impact projected by the Broward Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is dwarfed by "our debt to those who gave so much to our country."

### LaMarca's Footprint in the Sand

Following a Q & A that further probed the issues he addressed, Advisory Board members and officials thanked LaMarca for closing the year with an impressively comprehensive report. In the next few days, LaMarca forwarded documentation supporting his beach renourishment disclosures, including hard evidence of the war of nerves playing out between FDEP and the County. If Myers and LaMarca can ring in a regulatory catharsis without letting the wolf into the henhouse, Broward's beaches will be fixed - and its beach-based economy will flourish. Given the myriad excuses fed to local residents during the decades already wasted on bureaucratic dogma, some Galt Mile residents have reasonably questioned whether their County officials have the stones to go the distance. As such, this message accompanied the Commissioner's post-meeting correspondence, "I make this commitment that I am dedicated to getting this project done, no matter where I have to go to advocate or sell our story." More to come... •

Having also allayed FAA fears that the project would burden airport operations or hamper its planned development, Seiler commented "It's a tough issue. The executive airport is one of the top ten in the country. But there's room for both out there. They want to make sure when the deal is done that the agreement is a fair market value. No one is getting a sweetheart deal." With the FAA on board, the City can close the Schlitterbahn deal and rake in an annual \$9,720,000 in rent - with no maintenance responsibilities for the facility. Since the park is projected to accommodate a daily 10,000 visitors, the anticipated direct economic impact of \$267.4 million a year, will inflate City coffers with a lucrative tax dividend. No taxpayer revenues are at stake!

Its closest South Florida competition is the 30-acre Rapids Water Park in Riviera Beach, which will be dwarfed by Schlitterbahn's planned 64-acre facility. In 1992, the popular Six Flags Atlantis Water Park in Hollywood closed after less than a decade when the real estate bubble convinced investors that it would be far more profitable to replace the hurricane-damaged park with the 800,000 square foot Oakwood Plaza shopping mall.

After the final term sheet is presented to the City Commission for approval on January 22, 2014, the City Attorney will begin drafting Schlitterbahn's lease. The completed lease will be forwarded to the Aviation Advisory Board on March 27, 2014 and submitted for final City approval at the April 15, 2014 Commission meeting. After navigating the City and County regulatory gauntlets, the Schlitterbahn Water Park will begin to rise from the Stadium's ashes - right down the block on Commercial Boulevard! •

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# Safe Choice for Surgery



Broward Health Imperial Point recently received an 'A' in a national Hospital Safety Score<sup>SM</sup> by *The Leapfrog Group*<sup>®</sup> which graded hospitals on their ability to keep patients safe from infections, injuries, and medical and medication errors. That's good to know when deciding on a hospital for your surgery. With the resources of Broward's largest health system and the highest level of patient safety, Broward Health Imperial Point is a smart, safe choice.

**To find a physician, call 954.759.7400 or visit [BrowardHealth.org/physicians](http://BrowardHealth.org/physicians).**

Surgical Services  
Inpatient • Outpatient  
Minimally Invasive • Robotic



The [Leapfrog] Hospital Safety Score<sup>SM</sup> grades hospitals on data related to how safe they are for patients. For more information, visit [HospitalSafetyScore.org](http://HospitalSafetyScore.org).



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