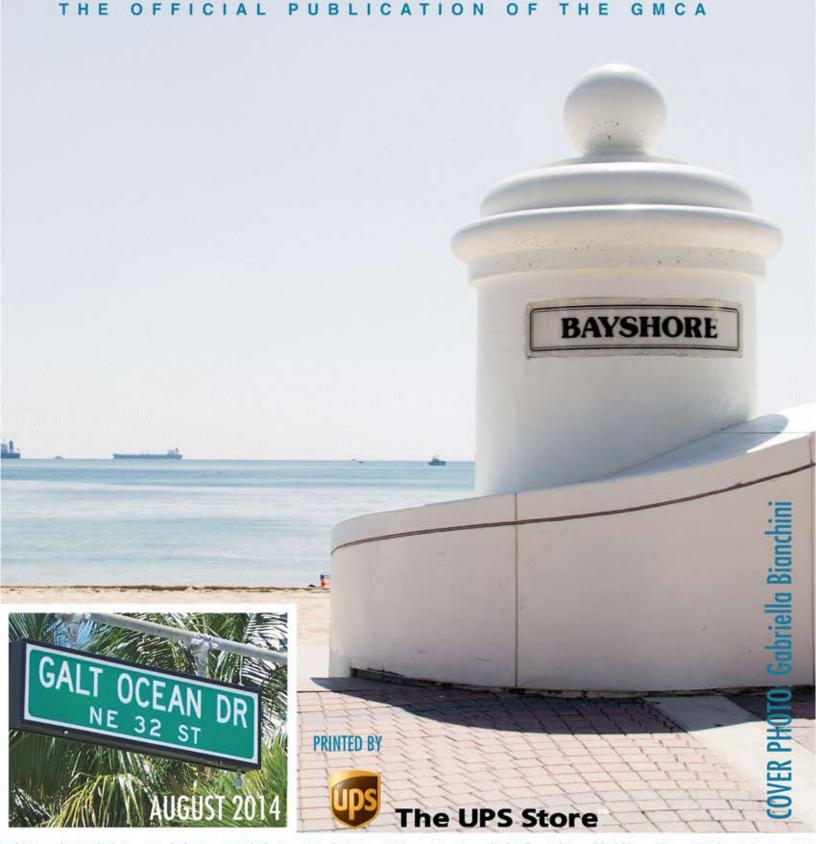
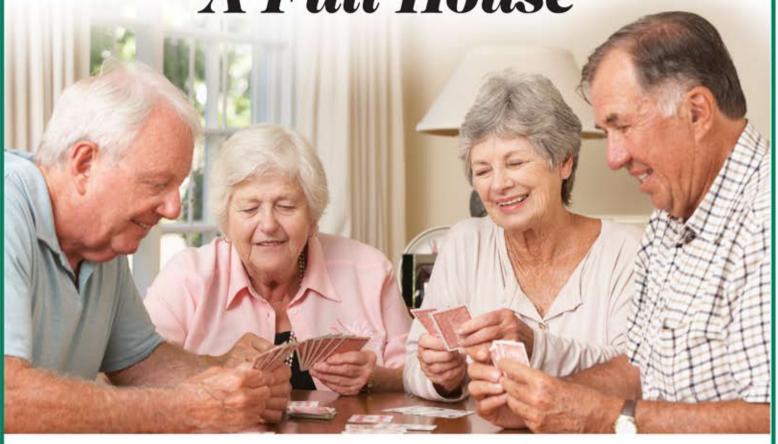
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Demystifying a Galt Mile Secret Weapon: The President's Council Wage & Salary Survey By Erit Bakkumitz Every year, the dedicated employees who work for Galt Mile associations help keep as safe, maintain the structural intentity of our

Every year, the dedicated employees who work for Galt Mile associations help keep us safe, maintain the structural integrity of our homes and struggle to address our needs without breaching the tough fiscal constraints of our annual spending plans. As a rule, they are polite, competent, diligent, respectful, and take pride in fulfilling

their responsibilities. Equally important, an overwhelming majority care about the people whose lives they touch each day. When a hurricane emergency is declared, although State Law allows them to head home, many will voluntarily stick around to help frightened and/or at risk owners. In most well-managed associations, staffers are considered family.

Turnover is unavoidable in any business. A variety of factors contribute to an association's rate of turnover. However, if the economy isn't knee-deep in crushing unemployment and the association is well-managed, the stability of an association's staff will largely depend on whether or not it provides a competitive and balanced wage scale. To that end, researching the Bureau of Labor Statistics is a futile endeavor. Even authoritative community association resources, such as payroll suggestions from the Community Associations Institute (CAI), are of marginal value.

Wages – and labor costs in general – vary by job title, any required credentials and/or licenses, location, industry, the size of an organization and the current economic environment. Unless association officials are familiar with what neighboring associations are paying for security personnel, maintenance staffers, bookkeepers, receptionists, department supervisors, general managers, landscapers, etc., the association risks allocating too much or too little to fill open positions.

By draining resources from other association needs, an overly generous pay scale will prematurely deplete the annual budget, threatening an otherwise unnecessary special assessment. Conversely, since underpaid staffers "resign" during or shortly after a tight-fisted association fruitlessly expends training resources, a deficient pay scale fosters perpetual operational dysfunction. Ironically, the "Crisis Management" damage control required to survive chronic instability ultimately costs more than supporting an overpaid staff. In either case, every competent association Treasurer is keenly aware that poorly managed compensation will skyrocket annual unit owner maintenance assessments.

In 1996, Galt Mile Community Association (GMCA) officials explored the benefits of building a database that member associations

could use to better manage labor costs. If they could document how much each member association paid its employees, they could calculate an average cost per employee. If the data were sorted by job title, it could additionally yield the average cost for a security staffer, a maintenance employee, a bookkeeper, even a manager. With this information, any well-managed association could confidently assemble a stable labor force.

Former Presidents Council Chair, the late Dick Tymeson, surmised that he would need someone conversant with association payrolls, adept at managing statistics and comfortable with computers. The computer illiterate Tymeson charged then GMCA Vice President Pio Ieraci with exploring trustworthy prospects with these skills. Ieraci discussed the planned objective with bookkeeper Norma Schaeffer of Galt Ocean Club condominium, where Ieraci also served as association President. Schaeffer suggested that Ieraci speak with her sister Darlene, who was the bookkeeper at the Ocean Manor Resort, a statistical whiz, and knew her way around a hard drive.

At that time, although the best off-the-shelf IBM, Apple, Compaq or Dell products featured less computing power than today's mid-level cell phones, those early Windows and Mac operating systems were newly adapted to managing Oracle's pioneering database programs. After pounding out the project's digital blueprint with Darlene Schaeffer, leraci was convinced that she could compile the solicited payroll data and flush it through the database software to generate a wage and salary study tailored to the Galt Mile.

To protect the confidentiality of each association's payroll information, the data was collected anonymously and presented by employee category (job title). While all the accumulated wage data was displayed in the final report, the "Average" and "Median" salary amounts for each category were also indicated for comparison purposes. Average values were rounded up or down using the standard + or – 50% as the determining factor.

Continue on page 5

THE GALT MILE NEWS

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Annual Wage...Continued

Despite sketchy participation, random omissions and serious collection difficulties, that initial final report was a home run. For the first time, Galt Mile associations had an accurate breakdown of wage and salary data for most job titles they needed to fill. Tymeson and leraci were besieged by calls from Galt Mile association managers and board members pleading for an updated copy of the report every year. To insure that the competitive dividend would solely accrue to GMCA condos and co-ops, member associations unanimously voted to protect the work product as proprietary. Awash in positive feedback, the project quickly evolved.

While small and medium-size associations hire maintenance personnel to perform a wide variety of tasks, the division of labor in larger associations yield specialized job titles for pool maintenance, landscaping, painting, housekeeping, etc. In the following years, input was expanded to include these additional job titles and data was additionally sorted by association size (number of units). To insure "apples to apples" compensation comparisons, benefit packages were fiscally diagnosed, ascribed values and salted into the data.

The program was also adapted to parse data for outsourced services, supervisory personnel and independent contract employees (including staffers provided by management companies). Compensation packages were abutted with tenure terms and promotion rates. Soon, every association job title on the Galt Mile was statistically supported, from housekeeping supervisors to receiving clerks or guards outsourced from a security company.

Association Operating Budgets were also collected anonymously, enabling line item percentage comparisons for per unit operating costs. In contrast, actual maintenance charges are derived from a unit-specific mathematical coefficient based on square footage and often adjusted for height above grade (increasing as floors ascend). Later, the database was again expanded to include Insurance Appraisals, Accounting costs (in-house or outsourced) and Reserves. Comparative data for hurricane damage (useful for insurance claims) was added during the serial hurricanes of 2005. By retaining the data from earlier years in subsequent annual reports, the survey was engineered to offer chronological comparisons as well - such as the annual percentage difference in operating budgets, contributions to reserves, labor costs, CPA & audit expenses, insurance appraisals, etc.

In addition to managing compensation, by 2009, the survey could also be used to accurately vet nearly 50% of an association's budgetary resources, including reserves, auditing costs and insurance outlays. By comparing their association's spending plan to the annual survey, any association official could quickly determine where they were spending too much or too little, equipping them with relevant questions for the association Treasurer.

Since the parsed analytics were annually growing in scope and complexity; in 2009 the project was turned over to Phase One Computing, a firm that specializes in adapting custom accounting software to client needs. Since then, Proprietors Dave and Darlene Smith have added waste removal cost comparisons, hiring and discharge rates, and dedicated statistical data for part-time employees, full-time employees and contract workers, Initial and accrued employee benefits were additionally differentiated by allocations for job-related or convenience amenities (cell phones, gas allowance, housing, etc.). The survey's 25 pages of data were enhanced with grayscale graphic representations.

The annual survey has evolved into an indispensible tool for every Galt Mile Board of Directors and their association Managers. Not surprisingly, yearly requests for a copy of the report from community associations in Broward and other counties are politely declined by the neighborhood association. Ironically, despite its significant impact on the fiscal health and operational stability of their homes, most Galt Mile residents know little or nothing about the survey.

Since the statistical accuracy of real-time analytics depends primarily on the size of an input database (big data), the neighborhood association unanimously passed a rule to insure greater participation. To receive a copy of the final report, a member association must contribute its anonymous data by a predetermined hard deadline. This rule, while indispensible to delivering an accurate and timely report, gave rise to an unexpected

Almost every year, one or two of the Galt Mile's 28 member associations fail to submit their data by the deadline. Inevitably, upon facing a staffing shortage three or four months later, the building manager or a board member will call the neighborhood association and frantically request a copy of the survey, usually accompanied by marginally credible excuses for not having participated. Closer scrutiny by the neighborhood association and the production of the survey would suddenly ciation revealed why associations that religiously participated for years would suddenly request special dispensation after enigmatically "dropping the ball".

Continue on page 8

EASILY REMOVE AND PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
H	Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	11	12 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	13 Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
<u>D</u>				Music in the Park Featuring: Cachet Latino The Village at Gulfstream Park (Champions Plaza: \$01 S Federal Hwy), Hallandale 8 to 11 p.m. Info.: 954-378-0900
E	Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	18	19 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-	Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
~	20th Annual Hollywood Beach Latin Festival Boardwalk at Hollywood Boulevard and ATA 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Info.: 954-536-4515	Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.	Fort Louderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	Michael McDonald and Toto Hard Rock Live, 7 p.m. Tix.: 954-797-5531
	24 Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.; 954-426-8436	25	Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
2	4th Annual Animal Adoption Fair War Memorial Auditorium 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tix.: 305-519-0877		W	Featuring: Dee Dee Wilde Band The Village at Gulfstream Park (Champions Plaza: 501 S Federal Hwy), Hallandale 8 to 11 p.m. Info.: 954-378-0900
	31 Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	Labor Day Bird Festival Flamingo Gardens 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 954-473-2955	2 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
9	4	Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.	Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	
N	7 Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	8	Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
A	Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622			South Florida Fall Business Expo Broward County Convention Center (Hall A) Biz to Biz Networking: 3 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-838-9644

AUGUST 16-17: Buckler's 24th Annual Craft Fair, Americraft Expo Center, WPB, Info.: 386-860-0092

AUGUST 17: Miami Jewish Film Festival presents Wagner's Jews, Aventura Arts & Cultural Center in Aventura, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: www.browardcentec.org

AUGUST 20: Music in the Park Featuring: Terry Cooper Band, The Village at Gulfstream Park (Champions Plaza: 501 S Federal Hwy), Hallandale, 8 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-378-0900

AUGUST 23: Music in the Park Featuring: Jessie Thompson Project & Mari Mari, The Village at Gulfstream Park (Champions Plaza: 501 S Federal Hwy), Hallandale, 8 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-378-0900

AUGUST 30: Music in the Park Featuring: Salsa Express, The Village at Gulfstream Park (Champions Plaza: 501 S Federal Hwy), Hallandale, 8 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-378-0900

AUGUST 30: Music in the Park Featuring: Salsa Express, The Village at Gulfstream Park (Champions Plaza: 501 S Federal Hwy), Hallandale, 8 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-378-0900

SEPTEMBER 7: Run For The Rescues SK Walk/Run, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, 8 a.m., 954-294-6859

SEPTEMBER 7: Firefighter's 5K Run, Hollywood Beach Broodwalk, Registration: 7 a.m./Runners Start: 8 a.m., 954-292-1130

SEPTEMBER 10-14: 2nd Annual Baby Love & Family Expo, Fort Lauderdale Museum of Discovery & Science



ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

THU	FRI	SAT
14	15	16 Ft. Lauderdale Gun & Knife Show (Through 8/17) War Memorial Info.: 954-828-5380
Galt Library Open House Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center 2 to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-357-7853	13th Annual Hispanic Women of Distinction Signature Grand, Dovie 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-822-7879	Music in the Park Featuring: The Castaways The Village at Gulfstream Park (Champions Plaza: 501 S Federal Hwy), Hallandale 8 to 11 p.m. Info.: 954-378-0900
Broward Business Development Workshop Topic: Broward County Certified Agency Buyers (CAB) Reverse Trade Show South Regional/Broward College Library (7300 Prines Blvd., Pembroke Pines) 1 to 4 p.m., Info.: 954-357-6400	22	Relay For Life on the Runway Ft: Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, 5 p.m. Info.: 954-564-0880 Ronin Pro Wrestling War Memorial Auditorium Tox.: 954-828-5380
28	29 Fight Time Promotions MMA #20 War Memorial Auditroium 8 p.m. Info.: 786-543-1177	Repticon West Pulm Beach (Through 8/31) The Box Expo Center, WPB Info:: 863-268-4273
4	5	(Pompano Open Water Extreme Race) A1A and Atlantic Blvd., Pompano, 8 a.m. Info.; 954-822-0903
	West Palm Beach Antiques Festival Americraft Expo Center , WPB Info.: 941-697-7475	Davie Pro Rodeo Davie Pro Rodeo Arena 9 a.m. to Noon Info.: 954-680-8005
11	12 Music Under the Stors	Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Drop-off Event 4800 W. Copans Rd., Coconut Creek 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-4732
Rockstar WWA Wakeboard World Championships Mills Pand Park 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Info : 407-375-7187	Great Lawn (Intersection of Pompano Beach Blvd & Atlantic Blvd), Pompano 7 to 9 p.m. Info.: 954-786-4111	4th Annual Tunnel To Towers 5K Run & Wolk Huizenga Park 7:30 a.m. Info.: 718-987-1931

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 14

20th Annual Hollywood Beach Latin Festival Boardwalk at Hollywood Boulevard and A1A 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Info.: 954-536-4515

SEPTEMBER 14

Your Next Step is the Cure

The Parrot Lounge 6 to 9 a.m., 7 a.m. Start Info.: 954-568-7916

SEPTEMBER 18-21

Disney on Ice BB&T Center Tix.: 305-448-4536

SEPTEMBER 20

Broward Business Development Workshop

Topic: Labor Laws and Tax Advice for Your Business African-American Research Library and Cultural Center

10:30 a.m. to Noon Info.: 954-357-6400

SEPTEMBER 20

5k Run Against Violence & Crime

Charnow Park (Garfiled Street - Broadwalk), Hollywood

7:30 a.m.

Info.: 954-357-6400

SEPTEMBER 20

Ocean Conservancy's Coastal Cleanup

7:30 a.m. to Noon

Register.: coastalcleanup@broward.org

https://www.broward.org/NATURALRESOURCES/BEACHANDMA

RINE/Pages/BeachCleanup.aspx

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

Tuesdays/Saturdays: Sunrise Paddleboard Bonnet House Eco Tour, 928 NE 20 Ave., 10 a.m., Info.: 954-440-4562

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

Mondays: Food Trucks at Artspork, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Youngs Circle in Hollywood

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
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.

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- AUTO ACCIDENTS
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Annual Wage...Confinued

In short, every association will occasionally make wholesale changes to its governing board and hire a new manager. Unless the new administration takes steps to bridge any gap in their association's institutional memory, it will be predisposed to costly operational oversights. If an incoming Manager or Board President is unaware of its purpose or value, when the annual wage data collection form arrives at their building office in early summer, it's ignored. A few months later, the same official who blew off the request for data will call the neighborhood association and ask why they hadn't received a copy of the wage and salary survey.

Neophyte administrations can avert this scenario by actively participating in the neighborhood association. Every association is entitled to appoint two unit owners or administrative employees to the GMCA Advisory Board. These representatives act as a conduit for information to and from each association. When condos or co-ops bump heads with the City, County or State, the neighborhood association is far better equipped to resolve these dilemmas than individual member associations.

While serving as advocates for their homes, Advisory Board members are also responsible for keeping their respective associations up to speed on concerns shared by neighboring condos and co-ops, whether a developing community problem, an impending legislative threat or proven remedies to operational obstacles. More specifically, they are expected to inform their Board members and managers about the wage and salary survey.

As such, when an association is deprived of this critical compensation barometer for failing to submit the current payroll data, it either suggests a breakdown in communication between its Advisory Board appointees and their association's administration - or the failure of an inexperienced administration to appoint representatives to the Advisory Board. Whatever the reason, the association's neglect will ultimately squeeze its members' family budgets.

2013 was a banner year, as every member association timely submit-ted its data and benefitted from the survey. Faced with an improving economy and declining unemployment, no association could afford to be cavalier about budgetary appropriations to increasingly fluid labor costs. As a result, last year's survey helped many association Treasurers effectively harness this keystone expense - and postpone threatened assessment increases for another year. Those associations that succumbed to ever-tightening inflationary pressure utilized the survey to help minimize the fiscal hit absorbed by unit owners.

No Galt Mile association can afford to be deprived of this budgeting bazooka because of an administrative oversight. For nearly two decades, officials in Galt Mile condos and co-ops have been cloistering the annual survey in association panic rooms, fueling eerie local myths about its purpose, history and content. Its proprietary status can be safeguarded without borderline manic immersion in code orange paranoia.

While our member associations achieved a laudable benchmark in 2013, there's no guarantee of a repeat performance this year - or next. If Galt Mile residents understood the survey's objectives and evolution, no newly elected association officials would be blindsided by a deadline that they never knew existed. Also, Advisory Board members wouldn't need to explain the simple guid pro guo that entitles any Galt Mile association to a copy of the annual survey in exchange for anonymously submitting its payroll data. It's time to let in some sunshine. After all, it's your wallet in the crosshairs!

Since you are now newly equipped with hand-waving knowledge about this below-the-radar budget breakwater, "Here is your mission, should you decide to accept it." Whether at a board meeting or in the elevator, when you see your manager or a board member over the summer, ask if your association is eligible to receive the annual Presiden's Council Wage & Salary Survey Report. If the expression on his or her face goes blank, followed by a resounding "Huh?"- YOU'RE IN TROUBLE. •





In his July 2014 Newsletter, County Commissioner Chip LaMarca laments a spike in the number of local children who drown every summer - simply because they never learned how to swim — and cites a newly expanded County program conceived to reverse this seasonal tragedy. Turning to his older constituents, LaMarca warns against being lulled into paralysis by a decade of cyclonic calm (Superstorm Sandy excepted), and promotes utilizing Broward's recently enhanced online Hurricane preparedness resources.

After reviewing a litany of summertime family activities described on the Deerfield Island Park web page, LaMarca lists a series of "Let's Talk Transit" meetings (that you already missed) and harkens to new art and performance projects that celebrate the upcoming Broward Centennial (which you haven't missed). He concludes by applauding how a healthy federal grant will fund new County homeless initiatives.

The homeless initiatives should resonate with Galt Mile residents, especially those forced to confront the slime balls who took up residence on the beach next to L'Hermitage earlier this year. By toggling the First Amendment, these shadowy scofflaws shifted seamlessly between extorting money from intimidated residents and relieving themselves in the adjacent dunes.

When L'Hermitage I Manager Patricia Quintero asked the Galt Mile Advisory Board's FLPD representative to quash this daily threat to her residents, the officer explained how a revolving door in the legal process turns an arrest into a 4-hour guided tour of the jail and a free meal, after which the released panhandler can make a bee-line back to the urine-soaked flophouse carved from the beach.

One "model citizen" intercepted a passing L'Hermitage septuagenarian and threatened to kill her dog. When the police finally responded, they evidently overlooked the open bottles of booze being soaked up in public as they cruised by without stopping. Another disgusted resident grabbed her camera, approached the intoxicated celebrants and bravely announced "Smile for your local City Council," and snapped a photo which she sent to Commissioner Bruce Roberts — who then added his name to the growing list of complainants. Although the police made two arrests, the panhandlers continued threatening anyone within earshot — for weeks. Roberts agreed with Quintero and other Advisory Board members that little would change without sustained police sweeps.

Making rounds in a daily itinerary that includes the gas station on the corner of Oakland Park Boulevard, the Mills Corner (Walgreens) strip

Commissioner Chip LaMarca's Summer 2014 Update

mall, the Galt Mile Reading Center, the Winn-Dixie dumpsters and the Galt Ocean Marketplace parking lot, another homeless person who "works" the Galt Mile explained why his aggressive "colleagues" selected the L'Hemitage location to set up shop, since any of the City's public beach access streets would provide them with a steady stream of cash-flush visiting tourists. Once assured that he would not be identified, he remarked "Everyone knows that Galt Mile people are a soft touch. We follow the money."

Although the City's new "No Soliciting" ordinance has helped reclaim City parks that recently served as bedrooms for both native and visiting homeless vagrants, neighborhoods are a different animal. Ignoring repeated pleas by Police Officials to divert their contributions from local panhandlers to organizations that address the root causes of homelessness, a handful of chronic Galt Mile donors inadvertently painted a target on the neighborhood. Pressured by the neighborhood association, FLPD teamed with the Galt Mile security patrol and L'Hernitage officials to finally depopulate the beachside ashram.

While the 48 additional beds funded by the County's planned Homeless initiatives will help address the larger problem, whether or not these predators return will depend on the future tithing habits of well-intentioned Galt Mile residents. As FLPD Major Michael Gregory observed, "People confuse members of the homeless community with the predators who exploit them. Those that prey on the homeless won't hesitate to prey on your families." For LaMarca's summer message, read on... - [editor]*

July 2014 Newsletter By Commissioner Chip LaMarca

Stay Safe This Summer

Every year an average of eight children drown in Broward County. What makes that number so tragic is that these deaths are preventable. Now SWIM Central is part of Water SMART Broward, a new initiative to get all organizations in the County that emphasize water-safety working together toward a common goal of preventing child drowning. That goal entails providing educational resources for parents and guardians. While SWIM Central has been extremely successful providing over a million lessons since 1999, Water SMART Broward will take it to an even larger scale – to reach more people and save more lives. Already dozens of partners have joined the cause. For more information, call SWIM Central at 954-357-SWIM (7946), or visit WaterSMARTBroward.org.

Hurricane Season is Here. Don't be Complacent!

Hurricane Wilma in 2005 was the last major hurricane to hit Florida. Now is not the time, however, to become complacent over hurricane preparedness for your home or business. By planning ahead and being prepared, you will substantially lower your risk of personal injury and property damage. Log on to Broward.org/Hurricane for more information on hurricane preparedness. Review the County's Hurricane Preparedness Guide, signup for Ready Broward Twitter Alerts on Twitter.com/Ready-Broward, and consider the recommendations outlined in our Shopping Guide, a convenient way to spread the cost of your hurricane kit supplies over eight weeks. Don't be complacent this hurricane season! Be "Ready. Set. Safe."

Family Fun
Deerfield Island Park

Deerfield Island is a 53.3-acre nature-oriented park offering outdoor recreational opportunities and environmental education. Accessible only by boat, this roughly triangular park is bordered by the Intracoastal Waterway and the Hillsboro and Royal Palm canals.

A free boat shuttle transports park patrons from the dock at Sullivan Park to the island on the hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends only. The last shuttle returning to the mainland departs the island at 4:30 p.m. Minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to ride the shuttle. The shuttle is dependent on weather conditions, so please call 954-357-5100 to confirm the shuttle is operating if the weather looks questionable.

Marina: There is a marina with six slips for boats no longer than 25 feet and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The park is wheelchair accessible at high tide only.

Continued on page 10



LaMarca...Continued

Intracoastal Dock: A new 170-foot-long dock is now open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis for park visitors who travel by boat. Docking is not permitted during the week, and overnight mooring is not allowed.

Nature Trails: The island has two main trails. The half-mile Coquina Trail includes an observation platform overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway. The trail explores the eastern side of the island, meandering through what was once a pineland. The three-quarter-mile Mangrove Trail, which includes a 1,600-foot boardwalk, passes through a mangrove swamp along the park's western shore.

Programs and Hikes: There are various programs and hikes held at Deerfield Island Park every month. For more information on programs and how to preregister for them, visit the park's Quarterly Calendar page, located on the left navigation menu.

School Groups: This natural area abounds with learning opportunities for students of all ages. From outdoor laboratory experiments to group learning exercises, we can ensure that students receive the information they need while having a fun experience. Come explore our natural areas.

Picnic Shelter: There is one small picnic shelter (capacity 40), available by reservation, with tables, grills, water, electricity, an area for volleyball, and a horseshoe pit. Other picnic tables and grills are located along the boardwalk and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Deerfield Island Park 1720 Deerfield Island Park, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441 Phone: 954-357-5100 (phone inquiries taken at Quiet Waters Park) Fax: 954-357-5101 Email: QuietWatersPark@Broward.org

"Let's Talk Transit" Invites Residents to Give Feedback

In an effort to gain community feedback on the benefits of transit and the community's vision for future transit services, Broward County Transit (BCT) will host, "Let's Talk Transit," a series of community outreach meetings. This month meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Monday, July 7, at the African-American Research Library & Cultural Center (Seminar Room No. 1), 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale; Tuesday, July 15, at North Regional Library (Auditorium – Room 154), 1100 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek; and Wednesday, July 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Miramar Branch Library, 2050 Civic Center Place, Miramar. Meetings are free and open to the public. Visit Broward.org/BCT.

News from "Broward 100: Celebrating the Art of Community"

Broward 100 will commemorate Broward County's centennial with bold, innovative art and performance projects that attract visitors and bring Broward residents together using our arts, sports and recreation venues, natural attractions and incredible diversity to creatively bridge, bond and build their community. Broward 100 is framed by four distinct cornerstones of community engagement: VisualEYES, Inside Out Broward, Calendar 100 and the Grand Finale. http://www.broward100.org. The public is also invited to help name the concluding event in October 2015.

Broward County Receives Grant of Nearly \$9 Million to Assist Homeless Population

The Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership has been awarded a grant of nearly \$9 million by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant award funds 18 renewal projects that will aid supportive services, 12 are for permanent housing projects funding 684 beds, five are for transitional housing projects funding 428 beds and one is for supportive services projects serving 40 clients in permanent supportive housing. Most importantly, the renewal funds created 48 new and permanent supportive beds for the area's homeless.

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. You can also stay up to date by viewing our website Broward.org/District4, where you can sign up to receive email updates from our office.

As always, it is my honor to serve you.

Best regards, Chip LaMarca Broward County Commissioner, District 4.



COMMISSIONER **BRUCE ROBERTS**



*In his July - August 2014 Newsletter, District 1 City Commissioner Bruce Roberts savors municipal accolades bestowed on the City of Fort Lauderdale by the National Civic League. The League's 1953 Chair, pollster George Gallup, characterized the All-America City Award as "A Nobel Prize for constructive citizenship." All-America City Award finalists help define their homes by submitting three outstanding community projects. Specifically, the city was recognized for anticipating that a Chinese Menu of neighborhood improvements would ameliorate the failed culture of a school annually distinguished by an illiterate graduating class and transitioning a diurnal commercial storage district into a 24/7 Arts Center -"FAT Village".

A third project, entitled "Northwest Gardens Healthy Places" glorifies a reclaimed neighborhood's "walkability", while deliberately omitting how the creative bartering of contractor tax credits was leveraged to build a thriving neighborhood in the heart of a decaying ghetto. Although the City was recognized for these impressive improvements, the League affirms that they were earned by its citizens and/or merchants, either as individuals or as participants in civic groups or committees.

For instance, the "Dillard Innovation Zone Promise Neighborhood" is a series of programs synergized by an on-line portal devised for fundraising, recruiting mentors, marketing and promoting investment in the Dillard Ele-mentary school and its students - created in partnership with Paradise Bank and Ranger Technological Resources. The resulting collaboration of parents, healthcare providers, students, merchants and mentors dropped Dillard Elementary School from the list of 100 lowest performing schools in Florida.

Flagler Arts and Technology (FAT) Village is the brain-child of Doug McCraw, a local businessman and Native Alabaman who purchased rundown properties (neglected dumps reminiscent of shadow sets in a Stephen King movie) in a crumbling commercial neighborhood. To flesh out his vision for an Arts Village, McCraw filled them with the type of Arts industry vendors who perceive unfinished loft-style space as an indispensible asset (a puppet theater, a photography studio, an advertising agency, a theater company, an architecture firm, etc.). Galt Mile

residents will appreciate how the implementation of monthly Art Walks helped define the new identity of this compet-ing Art District (our art walks fall on the first Saturday of the month while theirs take place on the last).

The evolution of Fort Lauderdale's blighted Northwest Neighborhood from a municipal armpit into a thriving community is largely a result of a unique business model used by the Carlisle Development Group. Until last year, Carlisle was the largest affordable housing developer in Florida and the third largest in the United States. With more than 80 projects valued at \$1.4 billion, Carlisle's portfolio of assets included LEED-certified, mixed-use, transit-oriented, urban infill, historic rehabilitation, as well as mixed-income and market-rate housing developments. A multi-stage affordable housing development that triggered a neighborhood reincarnation, Northwest Gardens was named 2012 Project of the Year by the City.

However, no mention is made of Carlisle in the Awards Summary. Last year, while bathing in adulation from deferential Housing Authority bureaucrats, complimentary civic leaders and grateful Public Officials, the wheels popped off the company's wagon. Carlisle executives - and certain business associates - allegedly couldn't keep their mitts off the cookie jar - and the Feds were watching. Federal prosecutors suspect that while padding construction costs of rental apartments to jack up entitlements for government-issued tax credits, Carlisle officials allegedly split the bilked booty with their contractor. In an awkward maneuver to recognize a remarkable transformation of the City's worst neighborhood without making reference to its now-tainted developer, the award saluted a less impressive related achievement - how resident-designed walkways provide connectivity to neighborhood schools, health care, shopping, public transportation and tasty vegetables grown in community gardens. Hhhmm...

That aside, the award is one of two dozen accolades racked up by the City in the past few years. While some are less than memorable (i.e. a March, 2014 study by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation that pegged Fort Lauderdale as having the third fastest growth rate for immigrant tech entrepreneurship???), most of the awards cite features that meaningfully contribute to our quality of life. They include:

All-America City - National Civic League

Top 10 Best Downtowns in 2014 - Livability.com

Top 10 Most Exciting Places in Florida - Movoto National Real Estate

Top 10 Most Exciting Mid-Sized Cities in America - Movoto National Real Estate

Top 10 American Dream Cities - Xavier University and The Burghard Group

Top 10 Greenest Mid-Sized Cities - MyLife.com

Top 10 Best U.S. Cities for Small Businesses - Biz2Credit.com

Top 10 Best Cities to Move to in 2014 - SML National Moving

Top 10 Small American Cities of the Future - Foreign Direct Investment Magazine

Top 10 Best Places for Veterans to Live - Best Places for Veterans Report
 Top 10 Best Cities for Parking - NerdWallet.com
 Top 10 Great Cities for Family Vacations - Vacation Critic Travel Planning Guide

Top 10 Most Affordable Summer Destinations - GoBankingRates.com

Top 10 Best Fourth of July Fireworks Shows - USA Today

Top 10 Best Places to Retire - Money Magazine
 Most Popular U.S. Beaches - The Daily Beast

Favorite Winter Destination of Canadians - FlightNetwork.com
 Most Outstanding Green Government — U.S. Green Building Council South Florida

Happiest Cities for Young Professionals - Forbes Magazine

Top 100 Best Cities to Start a Business - WalletHub

Best Places for Business and Careers - Forbes Magazine
 Certified as a Florida Green Local Government - Florida Green Building Coalition

Complete Streets Policy Ranked #1 in Florida and #3 Nationally - Smart Growth America

Not too shabby for a City trying to shake off decades-long multiple stereotypes - as the bedroom for America's gateway to the Caribbean and South America, a seasonal flop-house for dysfunctional teenagers or ground zero for pill-mills that anchor the East Coast street drug trade. Some would say we've come a long way in the past decade. For Commissioner Roberts' summer 2014 constituent update, read on... - [editor]*

FROM COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS JULY/AUGUST 2014

FORT LAUDERDALE NAMED ALL-AMERICA: The City of Fort Lauderdale has captured the prestigious All-America City Award! The official announcement honoring Fort Lauderdale with the 2014 national title was made by the National Civic League at its annual conference in Denver, Colorado. Established in 1949, the All-America City Award recognizes cities, counties, towns, neighborhoods, and metropolitan areas across the country for exemplary community-based problem-solving and civic engagement efforts that involve public, private, and non-profit entities. For two days, groups of civic leaders and community activists from 25 cities met in Denver to present their stories of positive change to a jury of civic experts and to network and exchange ideas and insights. Continued on page 12

The National Civic League commended Fort Lauderdale for numerous projects that demonstrate outstanding civic engagement, cross sector collaboration, inclusiveness, and innovation. An array of Parks and Recreation programs that promote healthy active lifestyles were recognized including Wise Kids, Presidential Challenge, First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Campaign, Fit Kidz Club, and the City's after-school programs and youth camps Three major initiatives taking place in the community were highlighted as examples of positive meaningful change:

- The Dillard Innovation Zone Promise Neighborhood, an initiative of the Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC), that is cultivating community and business collaborations to support school improvement, health service interventions, mentoring, enhanced classroom technology, reading and literacy initiatives at Dillard Elementary School and initiating innovative solutions to reinvigorate a neighborhood in need.
- The redevelopment of Flagler Village, a downtown neighborhood that has been transformed from a desolate and abandoned warehouse district into a vibrant center for arts and culture. The revitalized area features unique businesses including a master puppeteer, media and photography company, event planning and marketing business, advertising agency, theatre troupe, and an innovative landscape architecture firm. Flagler Village's popular monthly Art Walks are a celebration of the neighborhood's innovation, vision and urban lifestyle, as well as a strong sign of the area's rebirth.
- Northwest Gardens, a neighborhood development located in the City's Northwest Community Redevelopment Area, is a model affordable housing project that showcases social, environmental, health, engagement, and economic sustainability. Spearheaded by the City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority in partnership with community members, private sector developers, and non-profit organizations, Northwest Gardens was the first LEED-ND Certified Neighborhood in Florida. The project promotes healthy living by providing residents with places to walk and bike safely, community gardens and fruit trees, energy efficient housing, solar streetlights, self-sufficiency training, job training, and cultural activities.



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^{*\$5.00} for each notary

^{**3} Months Free is for NEW Mailbox Rentals Only with a 12-month rental contract.

Fort Lauderdale was also lauded for its Complete Streets policy, which was recently ranked #1 in Florida and #3 in the nation; a wheelchair tennis program at George English Park; a walking club at Carter Park; and the hundreds of sports, programs and community activities that have taken place during the past year at the new Orange Bowl Field at Carter Park.

FY 2015 COMMISSION ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: The City Manager presented this proposed Annual Action Plan to the Commission for approval at the 7/1/14 Commission Meeting. This action plan includes the City's highest priority strategic initiatives for FY 2015. The steps and foundation used to develop this plan include:

Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale, Our City Our Vision 2035;

Press Play Fort Lauderdale, Our City, Our Strategic Plan 2018, which incorporates 42% of the Vision Plan ideas;

The city-wide statistically valid Neighbor Survey conducted in

November and December of 2013;

 Department Performance Analysis and Outlook, developed by each Department and their staff; highlighting the current and upcoming strategic initiatives, successes, challenges, an environmental scan, and a three to five year outlook;

A meeting with the Directors and Assistant Directors of the Commu-

nity Building Leadership Team; and

 Two prioritization workshops with the Commission on April 17th and June 5th.

Project plans (including scopes and milestones) are being developed by key staff in an interdepartmental approach. Preliminary funding has been allocated through the proposed budget. These initiatives will be integrated as the main priorities of each Cylinder of Excellence team's annual work plan. (Teams: Infrastructure, Public Places, Business Development, Neighborhood Enhancement and Public Safety.) Top priority on policy agenda for the Commission: 17th Street Mobility Plan; Stormwater Management Plan; Comprehensive Homeless Strategy and Beach Renourishment. High priority on policy agenda for the Commission: Traffic flow and Signal Synchronization Analysis: Moving Cars and People; Comprehensive Canal Dredging Master Plan; Riverwalk District Plan; Las Ólas Marina and Tunnel Pedestrian Plaza and Intersection Improvements. Top priority on the management agenda: All Aboard Florida Passenger Rail and Station Area Plan; Soccer and Lacrosse Athletic Fields; Public Private Boathouse for Crew; Central Beach Master Plan and Marine Industry Strategy. High priority on the management agenda: Wastewater Infiltration and Inflow; Shared Use of School Facilities; Code Compliance Improvements; Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Emergency Preparedness. The management agenda items are currently in progress but need to be completed. Quarterly progress reports of the plan will continue to be provided to the Commission.

FY 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET: The City Manager's proposed budget recommendations were submitted to the City Commission July 1st and the Commission takes action at the public hearings on September 3rd and 10th. Also on July 1st, the Commission Kept the FY 2015 operating millage rate at 4.1193, and maintained the Fire Assessment Fee at \$225 per residential dwelling. The proposed General Fund Budget of \$293,765,001, while 2% higher than the current FY budget, exceeds policy with total fund balances of \$65.7 million or 23.7%. A special thank you is in order to our Budget Advisory Board; these volunteers have devoted countless hours to improve the budget process by working hand in hand with all City Departments and by conducting several public budget workshops with your Commission. The Budget Advisory Board concurs with the City Manager's proposed budget. The City is committed to providing accurate and transparent reporting, and focusing on the results which the commu-nity requested in the Vision Plan, the Strategic Plan, the Annual Action Plan and in the two Neighborhood Surveys.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE: The City has partnered with neighboring communities to provide convenient, new options for residents to dispose of household hazardous waste and electronics (proof of residency required with driver's license or utility bill). The drop-off events are critical to protecting the environment by reducing the volume of

waste in landfills and preventing the contamination of ground water.

August 2: City of Fort Lauderdale/Mills Pond (2201 NW 9th Ave), 9a.m.- 2 p.m.

September 13: City of Coconut Creek (4800 W. Copans Rd.), 9a.m.-2 p.m.

 November 8: City of Pompano Beach in Community Park (1660 NE) 10th St.), 9a.m.- 2 p.m. December 6: City of Tamarac (6011 Nob Hill Rd.)

NEW BUSINESSES IN FORT LAUDERDALE:

Fresh First (4520 N. Federal Hwy.) Restaurant

A1 Total Marine Management (401 NE 8th St.) Self-Storage Facility

Fish Window Cleaning (621 SW 21st Ter.) Cleaning Service
Certified Aircraft Management (1805 NW 51st Pl.) Aircraft Repair
Bayview Animal Clinic (2900 E. Commercial Blvd.) Veterinary Clinic
Garden of Eden Nursery (2301 NW 19th St.) Nursery
Aircraft Turbine Repair (729 NW 1st St.) Aircraft Repair
Florida Community Bank (1501 SE 17th St.) Bank
Transwestern (450 E. Las Olas Blvd.#740) Property Management
Fort Lauderdale Collision (5050 NW 12th Ave.) Vehicle Repair

Fort Lauderdale Collision (5050 NW 12th Ave.) Vehicle Repair

Trader Joe's announced it will bring a store to Fort Lauderdale in 2015. The popular grocery franchise will open at 1590 N. Federal Highway, north of Sunrise Boulevard, within the existing Office Depot plaza. Trader Joe's recently opened a store in Wellington and Boca Raton.

OFFICE CONTACT: Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov

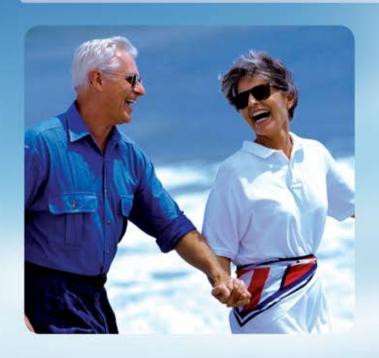
In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule.

NOTE: Although the Commission is on recess from July 2nd through August 15th, there will be a special meeting on July 10th at 2 p.m. to discuss the finalization of the Schlitterbahn Project Lease. Office staff will be here to assist with any concerns or issues you may have. Scheduled meetings will resume August 18th.





A new monthly safety education program DESIGNED FOR SENIORS.



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present the

Senior Life Safety Program

A **NEW, FREE MONTHLY CLASS** presented by a professional Life Safety Educator that aims to teach and empower our senior citizens to better protect themselves in their day-to-day lives.

Schedule of Safety Topics

Every Fourth Thursday of the Month
3pm - 4pm

(except November & December)

2014 Schedule

July 24 • Hurricane Preparedness

August 28 • General Home Safety

September 25 • Fire Safety

October 23 • Medication Safety

November 20 • Safety Around the Holidays

December 18 • Electrical Safety

2015 Schedule

January 22 • Fire & Burn Safety

February 26 • Slip & Fall Safety

March 26 • Food Safety

April 23 • General Health & Fitness Safety

May 28 • Internet & Drug Scams: Safety in the 21st Century

June 25 • Kitchen Safety

Location

Broward Health Imperial Point 6401 N. Federal Highway Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308 Cafeteria – 1st Floor

Tea, coffee, finger sandwiches and scones will be served. Bring a guest or come alone to meet other like-minded individuals.

Door prizes will be available.

Please RSVP by calling the Broward Health Line at 954.759.7400. Attendance is limited to the first 50 callers.





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