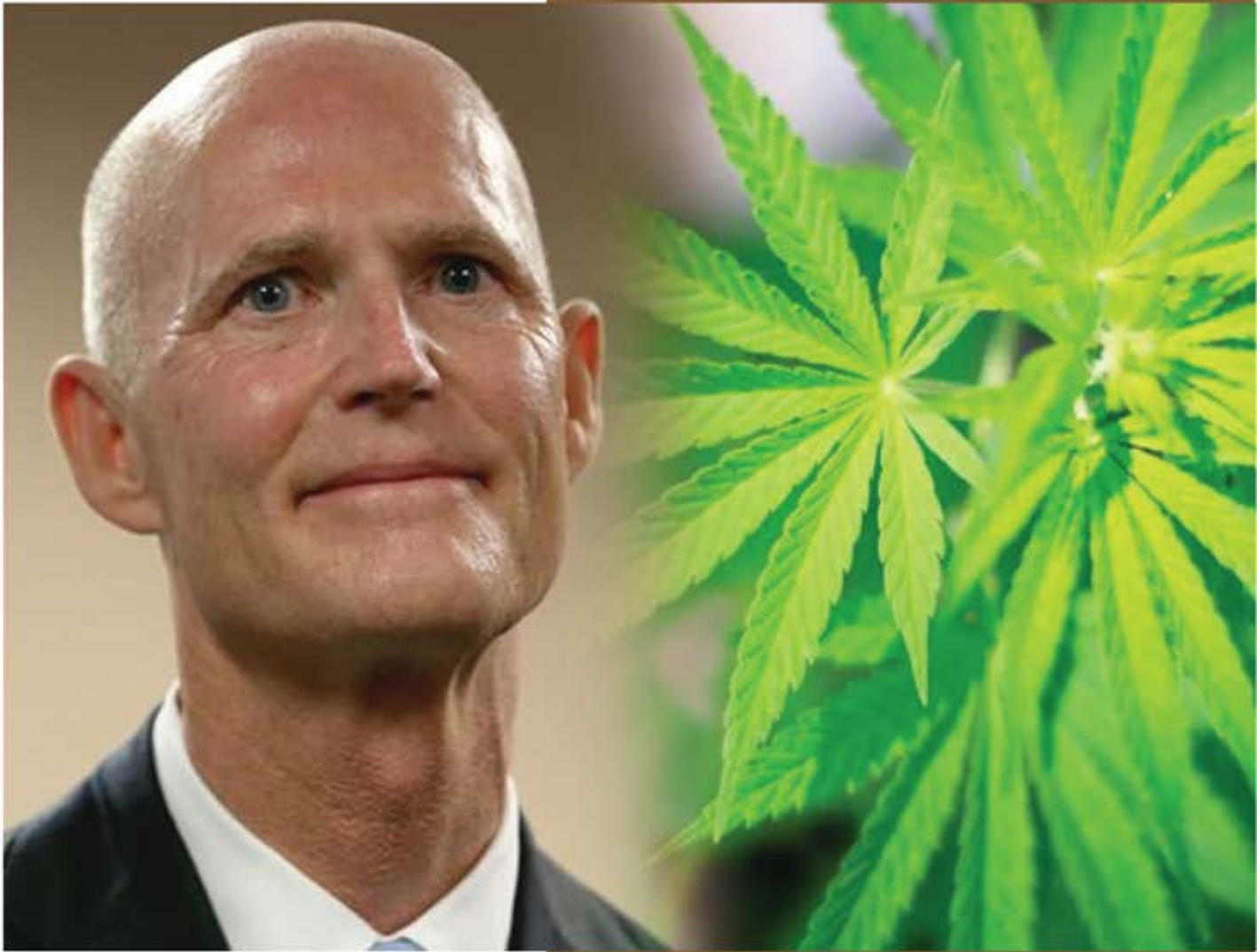


# GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

**INSIDE: THE 2014 PROPOSED  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS...**



**THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS**

OCTOBER 2014

**The UPS Store<sup>SM</sup>**  
**954-568-1990**



Caribe | Commodore | Coral Ridge Towers | Coral Ridge Towers E | Coral Ridge Towers N | Coral Ridge Towers S | Edgewater Arms | Fountainhead | Galleon | Galt Ocean Club | Galt Towers | Il Lugano | L'Ambiance | L'Hermitage 1 & 2  
Ocean Club | Ocean Manor | Ocean Sky | Ocean Summit | Playa Del Mar | Playa Del Sol | Plaza East | Plaza South | Regency South | Regency Tower | Riviera | Royal Ambassador | Southpoint | The Tides at Bridgeside Square

# Lunch Alone or Dine with Your Friends?



**There's Always Room at Our Table  
Stop By...Have Lunch...Start Smiling**

*Caring For Seniors For Over 48 Years.*



*Margate Manor*

Assisted Living Facility #6649

1189 W River Drive  
Margate, FL 33063



*Williamsburg Landing*

Assisted Living Facility #7172

1776 NE 26th Street  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305



*Independence Hall*

Assisted Living Facility #4416

1639 NE 26th Street  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305

**(954) 372-6388**

**Independent & Assisted Living**



# ADVERTISE IN THE GALT MILE NEWS

*& Reach The Beach*

## THEY'RE BAAAAAACK!

TARGET THE LOCAL MARKET WITH AN AD IN THE GALT MILE NEWS. WITH A READERSHIP OF NEARLY 14,000, THESE NEWSLETTERS CAN BE A VALUABLE PR TOOL FOR YOU & YOUR BUSINESS, EITHER AS A SUPPLEMENT TO YOUR CURRENT AREA AD CAMPAIGN, OR AS THE ONLY ADVERTISING THAT YOU DO ON THE AFFLUENT GALT OCEAN MILE.

NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR THE  
2014-2015 WINTER SEASON  
NOVEMBER - APRIL

## "\$500 for \$500" SPECIAL

Get a full-page B&W ad in the November edition for \$500, then get a full-page COLOR ad for the same \$500 in the December edition! That's a savings of \$275!

**SECOND** STUDIO  
Newsletters | Magazines | Copywriting

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

# 2014 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

## The Devil is in the Details

By Eric Berkowitz

Galt Mile residents have a sizable stake in the November 4, 2014 general election. Floridians will select either Rick Scott or Charlie Crist to run the state, weigh in on Pamela Bondi or George Sheldon as State Attorney General and ponder if Willy "Will" Rankin should supplant former Galt Mile State Senator Jeff Atwater as Florida CFO. Closer to home, Galt Mile voters will decide if Chip LaMarca or Ken Keechl should speak for them on the County Board, if Maria Sachs or Ellyn Bogdanoff is sent to the Florida Senate from District 34 and whether George Moraitis or Scott Herman deserve the District 93 Statehouse seat. Incumbent Congresswoman Lois Frankel faces Republican Primary survivor Paul Spain and write-in Raymond Schamis.

In 2014, many Galt Mile residents will pack an unusual reference resource for sorting out two important local contests. Since Chip LaMarca and Ken Keechl were consecutively elected to the District 4 County seat, firsthand experience will guide how many Galt Mile residents shape their candidate expectations. Similarly, Maria Sachs and Ellyn Bogdanoff both served as our State Senator, enabling constituents to compare how they respectively benefitted the Galt Mile while at bat. In contrast, most other local races pit productive (or unproductive) incumbents with untested hopefuls. After tapping candidates for the County Commission, the Statehouse, and the State Senate, we'll be asked to review prospective Judges as well as open seats on District or Regional Boards and Commissions.

Given the limited impact they have on our lives, most voters would rather flip a coin than self-educate about filling more obscure elected positions (certain local judgeships, the Water Board, etc.). Unfortunately, since this also holds true for most Ballot questions and proposed Amendments, unscrupulous politicians use them as vehicles for realizing outrageous measures that would otherwise wither under minimal scrutiny.

Of the five methodologies available to amend the Florida Constitution, citizen initiative petitions and legislative Joint Resolutions (SJR, HJR) are the most common. When stonewalled by lawmakers in the majority party (who control the legislative spigot), citizens can place an amendment on the ballot by collecting petition signatures equal in number to 8% of the votes cast in the last Presidential election and sourced from at least one-half of the State's Congressional Districts.

To place a proposed Constitutional Amendment on the 2014 Ballot, a citizen's initiative must have petitioned the signatures of 683,149 registered Florida voters by the February 1, 2014 filing deadline. In contrast with the rigorous eligibility burden mandated for citizens, for lawmakers in the majority party, bagging the 60% approval in both chambers required for a joint resolution is often easier than breathing. Shortly after the Majority Leader issues an order to dance, the Majority Whip calls to check if your tap shoes are laced up. Note: In 2014, one of the three proposed amendments is a legislative hop-toad cooked up in a Senate office building on South Monroe Street in the State Capitol.

The following 3 proposed Constitutional Amendments (along with 2 Broward County Ballot Questions) will appear on the November 4, 2014 general election ballot.

### Proposed Amendment #1

**Ballot Title:** WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION – Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands

**Reference:** Amendment #1 would add a Section 28 to Article X of the Florida Constitution; Sponsored primarily by Florida's Water and Land Legacy, Inc.; Citizen Initiative

**Official Ballot Summary:** Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years.

### What you need to know

Created by the Florida Legislature in 1963 to offset damage from overdevelopment, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) was designed to fund the Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Program, which purchased land for parks and recreation areas. Since the original funding mechanism, a five percent tax on outdoor clothing and equipment (like bathing suits), proved wildly unpopular with tourists (disparaged as the "bathing suit tax"), it was abandoned in 1968, when the legislature opted to fund LATF through the sale of recreation bonds paid for by a documentary stamp tax on real estate transactions and financial documents (i.e., mortgages and other loans, stocks, bonds, etc.) See Chapter 201, Florida Statutes.

To safeguard an environmental legacy that fuels critical tourism revenues, it was supported by every Florida Administration since its inception (including Governors Claude R. Kirk, Rubin Askew, Bob Graham, Bob Martinez, Lawton Chiles, Buddy MacKay, Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist). Since Governor Rick Scott gutted appropriations for the fund (and virtually all environmental preservation), the initiative aspires to restore a revenue source for the LATF.

While funding issues are ordinarily managed in the state budget, no one anticipated that a Florida Governor would toss the State's wetlands, beaches, the Everglades, and other unique natural resources under the bus. Amendment 1 is strongly supported by both liberals and conservatives (amendment campaign chair is J. Allison DeFoor II, former vice chair of the Republican Party of Florida and environmental advisor to former Governor Jeb Bush). It has also been endorsed by every environmental organization in the State.

As expected, it was disparaged by Senate President Don Gaetz (R-Destin) and House Speaker Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), largely as a matter of turf protection, since they would no longer control the acquired lands or the tax dollars used for their purchase. Not surprisingly, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam (R) apologetically voiced his opposition as well. One of Scott's finger puppets, Putnam commented, "I've certainly demonstrated my support for buying easements and accomplishing water and wildlife benefits from the use of acquisition programs. But I'm troubled by writing into the constitution elements of the budget." What a shock!

This is a no-brainer, and should sail into the Constitution, thereby shielding the State's environmental legacy from partisan agendas and future rogue administrations.

Continue on page 5

**PUBLISHER/ADVERTISING**

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

**EDITOR**

Eric Peter Berkowitz

**PRINTER**

The UPS Store®  
954-568-1990

**GMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL**

Pio Ieraci  
(954) 561-9795

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Eric Peter Berkowitz  
(954) 564-4427

**TREASURER**

Leah Glickfield  
(954) 563-1001

**DIRECTORS**

Ralph Hamaker  
(954) 568-4146

Fred Nesbitt  
(954) 564-4329

Andrew Surdovel  
(954) 568-0191

**SECRETARY**

Fern McBride\*  
(954) 561-2965

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Jim Abruzzino  
Annmarie Adams  
Lorraine Alfano  
Richard Bazerghi  
Eileen Bendis  
Diane Berghem  
Ron Bibace  
Franci Bindler  
Anda Bloom  
Francis Casier  
Theresa Claire  
Dr. Jim Comis  
Alyse Correa, PCAM  
Holly Custer  
Robert Dally  
Doug Dawson  
Lisa Edwards  
Kathleen Freismuth  
Richard Gabrielle  
Arnulfo "Ray" Garcia  
Michael Gonzalez  
Ed Hashek  
Amanda Hawkins-Vogel  
Warren Hurley  
Elaine Jaffe  
Marlene Katkin  
Michael Katz

Mel Kessler  
Frances Konstance  
Robert Korn  
Linda LeDuc  
Lisa LaMarca  
Don Larson  
Laurie Madenfort  
George Mayer  
Fern McBride\*  
Madeline Mercado  
Jean Miller  
Charles Morton  
Ulli Parker  
John Pescosolido  
Richard Pohan  
Everett Pyatt  
Patricia Quintero  
Glenn Rollo  
Carol Schmidt  
Hussein Shehata  
Mary Short  
Daryl Slatery  
Richard Solewin  
Helen Swinghammer  
Frank Talerico  
Gary Tripoli  
Huey Vanek

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

**Reference:** Amendment #2 would add a Section 29 to Article X of the Florida Constitution; Sponsored primarily by People United for Medical Marijuana; Citizen Initiative

**Official Ballot Summary:** Allows the medical use of marijuana for individuals with debilitating diseases as determined by a licensed Florida physician. Allows caregivers to assist patients' medical use of marijuana. The Department of Health shall register and regulate centers that produce and distribute marijuana for medical purposes and shall issue identification cards to patients and caregivers. Applies only to Florida law. Does not authorize violations of federal law or any non-medical use, possession or production of marijuana.

**What you need to know**

On January 24, 2014, when a petition supporting proposed constitutional amendment #2 exceeded the 683,149 voter signatures required for ballot placement, the ballot language was challenged by the Governor and Republican Legislative leaders. Three days later, on January 27, 2014, the Florida Supreme Court issued a divided, 4-3 opinion approving language used in the Amendment's ballot title and summary.

The Ballot Summary clarifies its authorizing "the medical use of marijuana for individuals with debilitating diseases as determined by a licensed Florida physician." The language differs slightly from that used in the Amendment's actual text, in which "Debilitating Medical Condition" is defined as cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C or "other conditions for which a physician believes that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for a patient."

To quash the amendment, Governor Rick Scott sent Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi to spearhead a legal team that included lawyers for House Speaker Will Weatherford and Senate President Don Gaetz, who insisted that using the term "diseases" instead of "conditions" in the ballot summary would confound the average voter. Disparaging the summary's failure to sufficiently detail possible Federal repercussions, dissenting Justices Charles Canady, Ricky Polston and Jorge Labarga argued that the ballot title and summary inadequately specify the conditions required for physician approval, and "obscure the breadth of medical issues that would qualify for medical marijuana."

In their Majority opinion, Justices Barbara Pariente, Fred Lewis, Peggy Quince and James Perry disagreed, stating "We conclude that the use of 'diseases' instead of 'conditions' in the ballot summary will not reasonably mislead the voters." In a fit of melodramatic paranoia, Weatherford bashed the decision, cynically commenting "This is about the Coloradofication of Florida, where the end game is a pot shop on every street corner." Since the measure tasks the Florida Department of Health with issuing detailed regulations specifying qualification requirements for dispensaries, Weatherford's street corner pot shops can only exist if approved and licensed by the Florida Department of Health, an unlikely event given their recent experience with Pill Mills.

Five months later, Scott's pollsters convinced the Governor to reverse course. On June 16, 2014, Gov. Scott signed Senate Bill 1030, entitled the "Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act of 2014." The legislation legalized low-tetrahydrocannabinol cannabis, such as the strain commonly called Charlotte's Web, for medical patients "suffering from cancer or a physical medical condition that chronically produces symptoms of seizures or severe and persistent muscle spasms." The law, which also requires physician approval, will become effective on January 1, 2015. Upon signing the bill into law, Gov. Scott explained his new position, "As a father and grandfather, you never want to see kids suffer. I am proud to stand today with families who deserve the ability to provide their children with the best treatment available."

Staunch opponent "Drug Free Florida" released a series of specious claims about the measure's impact, such as using marijuana will turn seriously ill medical patients into rabid junkies. The bogus indictments were systematically debunked by physicians and medical researchers. In fact, since medical marijuana is an alternative therapy to the heavily addictive opioids that are currently prescribed for debilitating diseases (i.e. Oxycodone, Oxycontin, Percocet, etc.), the exact opposite is true. Among the safest known therapeutically active substances, no one ever died from an overdose of marijuana.

Marijuana provides relief from nausea and appetite loss for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, AIDS victims ingesting anti-AIDS medications as well as patients undergoing treatments for hepatitis C. By reducing intraocular (within the eye) pressure, marijuana alleviates the pain and slows – and sometimes stops – damage to the eyes from Glaucoma (the leading cause of blindness in the United States). Marijuana can limit the muscle pain and spasticity as well as relieve tremors and unsteadiness of gait in victims of multiple sclerosis (the leading cause of neurological disability among young and middle-aged adults in the United States). Marijuana can prevent seizures in some patients suffering from epilepsy. Marijuana can alleviate chronic, often debilitating pain caused by myriad disorders. Since 2007, three published clinical trials concluded that marijuana effectively relieves neuropathic pain.

Continued on page 8



# NOV/OCTOBER

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

<b>12</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436  24th Annual Open Water Bermuda Round the Sound Swim 2615 NW 99 Avenue, Coral Springs 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-821-3294	<b>13</b> Columbus Day  Festival of Chocolate (Through 10/14) Nova Southeastern University Arena Info.: 954-262-5551	<b>14</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	<b>15</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
<b>19</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436  7th Annual Florida 5K Run/Walk for a Sarcoma Cure Central Park, Plantation Race Start: 7:30 a.m.	<b>20</b> 7th Annual Florida 5K Run/Walk for a Sarcoma Cure Central Park (9151 NW 2nd Street), Plantation 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. Info.: 386-860-0092  Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.	<b>21</b> 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.	<b>22</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
<b>26</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	<b>29</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
<b>2</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436  Daylight Saving Time ends 2 a.m. becomes 1 a.m.  <b>Sunday Jazz Brunch</b> Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622	<b>3</b> Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.	<b>4</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268  Election Day!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	<b>5</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
<b>9</b> Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436  13.1 Half Marathon & KARHU 5K Start: 17th St near the Convention Center Finish: South Beach Park on A1A 6 to 10:30 a.m. Info.: 305-278-8668	<b>10</b> Icarus Florida Ultrafest (Through 11/16) Start: Snyder Park Finish: South Beach Park on A1A 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Info.: 865-414-0362	<b>11</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	<b>12</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

OCTOBER 18: South Florida Walk for Farm Animals, Huizenga Plaza, Check-in @ 10 a.m., Walk from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Info.: 305-979-7905

OCTOBER 18: 4th Annual "Meet Me On the Promenade" Antique & Classic Car Show, East Palmetto Park Rd. & US 1, Boca, Info.: 954-410-5536

OCTOBER 18-19: 20th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Craft Festival, 330 E Atlantic Ave., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-472-3755

OCTOBER 18-19: Buckler's 24th Annual Craft Fair, South Florida Fairgrounds, Info.: 386-860-0092

OCTOBER 19: Halloween Spooktacular 5K, TY Park, 7:15 a.m., Info.: www.gflrc.org

OCTOBER 25: American Diabetes Association Step Out Walk, Huizenga Plaza, Reg: 7:30 a.m., Walk: 9 a.m., Info.: 954-772-8040 X 3011

OCTOBER 25: Making Strides of South Palm Beach Walk-a-thon, Mizner Park Amphitheater, Boca, Info.: 561-394-7751 X 5309

NOVEMBER 7-9: 5th Annual Boca Raton Wine & Food Festival, Boca Corporate Center & Campus (5000 T-Rex Avenue, Boca), Info.: 561-338-7594

NOVEMBER 8-9: Florida Gun & Knife Show, South Florida Fairgrounds WPB, Info.: 321-777-7455

NOVEMBER 8-9: 3rd Annual Delray Beach Wine & Seafood Festival, E Atlantic Ave., Delray, Info.: 561-279-0907

# ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

THU

FRI

SAT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 19

South Florida Winter Business Expo  
Broward County Convention Center (Hall A)  
Biz to Biz Networking: 3 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-838-9644

NOVEMBER 20

Fall Riverwalk Get Downtown  
YOLO Plaza (333 East Las Olas Blvd.), 5 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541 X 205

NOVEMBER 22-23

Buckler's 39th Annual "The Harvest Festival" Expo  
Dade Fair Expo Center, Miami  
Info.: 386-860-0092

NOVEMBER 27

Fort Lauderdale Turkey Trot & Paddle  
Fort Lauderdale Beach (ATA and SE 5th St.)  
Info.: 954-767-8866 X 25

NOVEMBER 29-30

Downtown Delray Beach Thanksgiving Weekend Art Festival  
330 E Atlantic Ave., Delray, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-472-3755

DECEMBER 2

52nd Annual Christmas on Las Olas  
Las Olas Blvd., 5 to 10 p.m.  
Info.: 954-258-8382

DECEMBER 5-7

Flamingo Gardens - Garden of Lights  
Flamingo Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

DECEMBER 6

Jingle Bell Jog 5K  
Sawgrass Tech Park, 8 a.m.  
Info.: www.gflrcc.org

DECEMBER 7

Palm Beaches Marathon & RunFest  
S. Flagler Dr at Banyan St., 6:30 a.m.  
Info.: 305-278-8668

DECEMBER 11-14

Palm Beach Food & Wine Festival  
Various locations in WPB, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Info.: 561-389-1222

**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, GO TO THE CALENDAR AT [WWW.GALTMILE.COM](http://WWW.GALTMILE.COM)**

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

Broward Business Development Workshop  
Broward County Governmental Center  
Topic: FY2015 Capital Projects  
& Contracting Opportunities  
2 to 4 p.m.  
Info.: 954-357-6400

**23**

**30**

Ft Lauderdale International Boat Show  
(Through 11/3)  
Locations vary throughout Ft Lauderdale Beach  
Info.: 954-764-7642

**6**

**13**

5th Annual Light Up Lauderdale Begins  
Esplanade Park, 5:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541 X 205

**17**

**24**

**31**

West Palm Beach Antiques Festival  
(Through 11/2)  
South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB  
Info.: 941-697-7475

**7**

**14**

5th Annual Boca Raton Wine & Food Festival  
(Through 11/16)  
Boca Corporate Center & Campus  
(5000 T-Rex Avenue, Boca)  
Info.: 561-338-7594

**18**

**25**

**1**

Crew 4 Yachts Annual  
Captain & Crew Appreciation Party  
Sails Marina Lot  
7 to 11 p.m.  
Info.: 954-235-8235

**15**

Broward Business Development Workshop  
Topic: Finding Business Financing - Uncover Funding  
Options for Startup and Growth  
West Regional Library  
10:30 a.m. to Noon  
Info.: 954-357-6400

27th Annual Las Olas Art Fair  
(Through 10/19)  
600 East Las Olas Boulevard  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Glam-A-Thon: Glam Doll Strut  
Esplanade Park  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Info.: 954-299-5799

LBTS Craft Festival  
(Through 10/26)  
ATA and Commercial Blvd., LBTS  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-472-3755

New Times Broward-Palm Beach  
17th Annual Beerfest  
Esplanade Park  
6 to 11 p.m.  
Info.: 305-571-7579

Lung Force Walk  
Huizenga Plaza, 9:30 a.m.  
Info.: 954-524-4658

SwampFest & SwampFEAST  
3750 S. Flamingo Rd, Davie  
11:30 a.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

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 Artspark, 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.

# INJURED?

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



## FREE CONSULTATION

# 954-749-3330

WE WILL COME TO YOUR HOME OR HOSPITAL

## CHARLES COHEN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL • NOU PALE KREYÒL

Don't mess with the rest, call the **BEST!**



**Intracoastal View 1/1.5 \$220,900**

Awesome view from this 4th floor corner apt. in a boutique building located directly ON the intracoastal

open kitchen • tile throughout • updated • impact windows/  
sliding doors • large open balcony to enjoy the daily parade of boats  
• security entry • heated pool • storage • and much more

Call Deb for more info. and a private showing



Deborah M. London, PA ~Realtor®, GRI, SFR  
"List with LONDON, the 'Deb-icated' Professional"



**954-396-3174**

RLTRDEB@bellsouth.net

2810 East Oakland Park Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306 - USA  
Deborah-London.com



Proposed...Continued

Campaign manager Ben Pollara of amendment proponent United for Care observed "When it comes to the credibility of anything that comes from Drug Free Florida, it's best to consider the source. The organization is chaired by Carlton Turner, a former Reagan-era drug policy aide who had to abandon his position following his statements on marijuana leading to homosexuality. If his views were too extreme for the Reagan administration in 1986, how can we take anything he or his organization says seriously?"

A revenue-neutral fiscal impact is projected, although the exact balance between regulatory expense and sales tax income is unknown. More than a dozen polls confirm that 70% to 80% of Florida voters in all political parties support the amendment. Supported by most medical associations throughout the U.S. and Florida, the American Medical Association stated, "Effective patient care requires the free and unfettered exchange of information on treatment alternatives and that discussion of these alternatives between physicians and patients should not subject either party to criminal sanctions." Voters can make Florida the 23rd State - along with the District of Columbia - that allows physicians to treat seriously ill patients with Medical Marijuana.

### Proposed Amendment #3

**Ballot Title:** PROSPECTIVE APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN JUDICIAL VACANCIES

**Reference:** Amendment #3 would amend Sections 10 and 11 of Article V of the Florida Constitution; Referred by the Florida Legislature via a party-line vote.

**Official Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution requiring the Governor to prospectively fill vacancies in a judicial office to which election for retention applies resulting from the justice's or judge's reaching the mandatory retirement age or failure to qualify for a retention election; and allowing prospective appointments if a justice or judge is not retained at an election. Currently, the Governor may not fill an expected vacancy until the current justice's or judge's term expires.

### What you need to know

Prior to general elections, lawmakers seeking vengeance for Judicial decisions that undermined a partisan agenda systematically ply the ballot with proposed constitutional amendments designed to surreptitiously provide the Legislative or Executive branches of government with control of the Judiciary, thereby turning the balance of power on its head.

Angry with the Florida electorate and the Judiciary for approving the redistricting amendment that returned control of elections from the majority party to the voters, former Statehouse Speaker Dean Cannon engineered proposed Amendment 5 on the November 2012 ballot, which sought to place the Judiciary under control of the Legislature, and more specifically, House Speaker Cannon!!! Fortunately, until now, these outrageous schemes have been religiously euthanized by Florida voters. Proposed amendment #3 on the 2014 ballot is the latest screwball attempt to hijack the Judiciary.

During his tenure as Florida Governor, the late Reubin Askew voluntarily gave up his sole authority to appoint judges in favor of a nonpartisan merit selection system based on his belief that "the judiciary is too important to be left to partisan patronage." As a result, Florida became nationally acclaimed as a model system for the appointment of fair and impartial judges based solely on merit.

Responding to a query from former Governor Jeb Bush in 2006, the Florida Supreme Court issued an Advisory Opinion detailing how judicial nominating commissions could begin interviewing prior to a judicial vacancy occurring, but an appointment by the governor could not be made until after the justice's term expired. The court stated, "There is a specific constitutional provision that expressly provides that a vacancy in a merit retention judicial office does not occur until the end of the judge or justice's term," citing the constitution as "clear and unambiguous" on the matter. Since judicial vacancies may occur on the same day that a new governor takes office, the court's ruling essentially authorizes the newly sworn-in governor to fill those vacancies, rather than the outgoing governor.

Continued on page 12





# BROWARD BALLOT QUESTIONS

## A JOURNEY INTO THE BLACK FOREST

The 2014 General Election Ballot contains two questions raised by Broward County, one sponsored by the Broward Board of County Commissioners and one sponsored by the Broward School Board. Given the ethical tar pit that serves as the Broward County Commission's historical bioniche (along with numerous County agencies); approving these initiatives without some measure of insight is tantamount to shooting oneself in the foot. Inasmuch, the below review contains the official title and ballot summary (as featured on the actual ballot) – along with a brief diagnosis of the issues surrounding each voter "inquiry".

**REFERENDUM FROM BROWARD COUNTY COMMISSION;**  
Passage requires 50% plus 1 vote

**Title:** REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY

**Official Ballot Summary:** Shall the Children's Services Council of Broward County, which provides early learning and reading skills, after school programs, developmental health, preventive, and other children's support services in Broward County, be reauthorized to continue in existence as a district with voter-approved taxing authority, with independent oversight and accountability as required by law, and shall not be subject to reauthorization by referendum.

### Below the Radar

In short, the Children's Services Council of Broward County is asking whether taxpayers should assume that the Council will always perform productively; and therefore allow the agency to be automatically funded in perpetuity free of statutory oversight. In the Ballot Summary, the Council claims to provide early learning and reading skills, after school programs, developmental health, etc. This is misleading. In fact, it provides money to projects, groups or agencies that actually provide these services. To successfully fulfill its mandate, the Council must accurately forecast which of these enterprises can best deliver cost-effective sterling results – and match them to client needs.

In politics, the expression "The squeaky wheel gets the grease," alludes to the chronic neglect suffered by voiceless (disenfranchised) populations, exemplified by the largest such demographic, our kids who haven't yet reached voting age. Not surprisingly, since local elected officials realize negligible political capital from addressing the litany of threats to kids, local programs designed to protect school-aged children and their families had been endemically underfunded across the State.

Since local public officials had little incentive to adequately fund desperately needed assistance programs, in 1986, Florida lawmakers enacted Section 125.901, Florida Statutes, which authorizes each county to create a Children's Services Council (CSC) and an independent special taxing district to provide funding for children's services. The statute additionally mandates that each local Council include the County's Superintendent of Schools, a local school board member (chosen by the board), the HRS district administrator or designee, a member of the County Commission, the judge assigned to Juvenile Cases, and 5 members appointed by the Governor to serve 4-year terms.

When independent studies repeatedly revealed gross inadequacies in how services were delivered to Broward children and their families, the Broward County Commission placed the issue on the September 2000 ballot, whereupon voters approved the special taxing district for Broward County. For the next ten years, the Broward Children's Services Council, and those approved in other Florida counties, enjoyed automatic and unobstructed funding, until events uncovered a systemic "monkey wrench".

In 2010, state lawmakers passed a bill supported by Sen. Joe Negron (R-Stuart), mandating that children's councils demonstrate to voters that they are deserving of reauthorization every 12 years (starting in 2014 for the Broward Council). On learning that the Martin County children's services

council planned to build a \$4-million headquarters, Negron went ballistic since the agency doesn't actually provide services, but simply funnels public funds to worthy projects.

Skull-blocked by their intention to divert resources allocated to help kids into a monument to bureaucratic megalomania, Negron decided that these self-important "Yahoos" needed oversight. Two years later, the Executive director of the Hillsborough County Children's council got the boot in 2012, when news reports disclosed insupportable spending "eccentricities", including \$450,000 blown on no-bid contracts.

The 2010 statute also allows the eight Florida counties with approved CSCs to request that voters change the 12-year reauthorization timeframe – or completely eliminate periodic reauthorizations. Make no mistake; the Broward agency has cultivated a stellar reputation. Its administrative costs are \$2.6 million, less than four percent of its budget (actually 3.7%). It funds 150 wide-ranging programs among 100 non-profits, accounting for 2,300 jobs and helping 150,000 children, with everything from swim lessons to anti-delinquency and anti-abuse programs.

Last year, the council helped place more than 9,000 disadvantaged children in after-school and summer programs, delivered subsidized child care for 1,230 children from working-poor families, and sent 2,600 families at risk for child abuse to family-strengthening programs. Funding such critical programs for struggling children and moms is a service that merits both approval and support.

However, as observed by the Sun-Sentinel Editorial Board, "a periodic public review – an amplified public accounting – is a good thing for such unelected taxing authorities." If the agency toes the line, there is little chance that it will be denied reauthorization. Since taxing authorities mostly fly below the radar, an agency shielded from public scrutiny can easily fall prey to inappropriate or destructive operational practices, prompting bloated staffs, no-show jobs, fairy tale salaries, golden parachutes, no-bid contracts and – as Negron discovered – a propensity to spend tax dollars on property rather than services.

Since the 2014 budget for the Broward Children's Services Council weighs in at \$69 million, touching base with taxpaying voters every 12 years is far from onerous and serves as an invaluable deterrent to bureaucratic mischief. As concluded by the editorial board "It's not too much to ask that children's services councils be held accountable to their benefactors – the voters – every now and then."

The Broward Commission had to decide whether the proposed ballot language should enable voters to intermittently reauthorize the Council or eliminate the need for future reauthorizations. In Palm Beach County, a similar ballot initiative requests that voters enable their council to tax homes and businesses in perpetuity without occasionally checking the books.

Leery of politicizing the Council and considering how the legislature ignored 1600 other local Florida boards and districts with taxing authority – many tarred by multiple incidents of proven fraud and theft – and only burdened CSCs with costly voter reviews because of a single case of suspected monkey business in Martin County, the Broward Commission drafted a reauthorization request that precludes future voter referendums. Although denied an opportunity for oversight every 12 years, Broward voters must still decide whether they should reauthorize an agency that frugally delivers desperately needed services for kids and families while consistently achieving excellent results. With a current millage rate of 0.4882, it costs less than 2 cents of every dollar on your tax bill.

Continued on page 10

# YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO NOT HEAR.

Introducing an  
invisible\* hearing aid you can afford.

**\$1500** A PAIR



**Only \$1500**  
for a limited time

For more information call  
**954-563-4226**



A Atlantic Hearing Aid Center  
2310 E. Oakland Park Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306

\*Individual results may vary. Invisibility may vary based on your ear's anatomy.  
© 2011 All Rights Reserved NPAD1317-00-EE-XX 1/11

Questions...Continued

QUESTION FROM BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD;  
Passage requires 50% plus 1 vote

**Title:** SCHOOL BOARD BOND ISSUE FOR FACILITIES

**Official Ballot Summary:** Shall the School District of Broward County fund improvements to and replacement of public school facilities throughout the District, including safety enhancements and instructional technology upgrades, by issuing general obligation bonds in total principal amount not exceeding \$800,000,000 to be issued in multiple series, bearing interest at not exceeding maximum legal rates, maturing within thirty years, and secured by the full faith and credit and ad-valorem taxing power of the District?

## Below the Radar

The Broward School Board is infamous for oafish incompetence and a history steeped in fraud. Ferreting through a rat's nest of corrupt Broward School Board officials in 2010, the Feds convicted and incarcerated long-time member Beverly Gallagher and arrested Stephanie Kraft (on the board since 1998) and husband Mitch for unlawful compensation, bribery and conspiracy; while additionally charging her with official misconduct. Repeatedly postponed for three and a half years after the 2010 arrests, Kraft's trial was last docketed for September 15, 2014.

In February 2011, a Florida Supreme Court grand jury issued a scathing 51-page report about the school board's unconscionable mishandling of construction funds, concluding "The evidence we have been presented concerning the malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance of the Broward County School Board (Board) and of the senior management of the Broward County School District, (District) and of the gross mismanagement and apparent ineptitude of so many individuals at so many levels is so overwhelming that we cannot imagine any level of incompetence that would explain what we have seen. Therefore we are reluctantly compelled to conclude that at least some of this behavior can best be explained by corruption of our officials by contractors, vendors and their lobbyists. Moreover, many of the problems we identified in our inquiry are longstanding and have been pointed out by at least two previous Grand Juries. But for the Constitutional mandate that requires an elected School Board for each

District, our first and foremost recommendation would have been to abolish the Broward County School Board altogether."

Their pathetic notoriety doesn't alter the fact that Broward Schools are collapsing. Subsequently recruited to the sinking District to help reverse slipshod policies, rebuild credibility, and rehabilitate severely eroded infrastructure, Superintendent Robert Runcie described the advanced deterioration, stating "It's well documented in the district what our needs are. Schools like Northeast [sic - High School], where the ceiling leaks and caves in, and the kids probably have to go across campus in a canoe when it rains because of the drainage problem. Or Stranahan, which has such a laundry list of issues that it's a good candidate for replacement. Look at Plantation High School or Western High School. They don't have sufficient cafeteria space, so they have to go to tents and makeshift canopies outside. And we've got technology in the schools that is more than a decade old. Some computers are running Windows 98."

Before 2008, Broward schools received \$2 for every \$1,000 in taxable property value. When the state Legislature responded to the economic downturn by mandating that local taxing authorities cut Ad Valorem rates, Broward Schools had to make do with \$1.50 for every \$1,000. According to Runcie, the \$800 million request would raise that rate back to about \$1.80 for every \$1000 in property value. While acknowledging past mismanagement, Runcie contends "If we want to live in the past and not look at the future of our kids, I just don't think that's fair. I don't think it's fair to say we're not going to invest in the future of our communities - we're not going to invest in the future of our kids - because of what a couple of people did."

Runcie was drafted from Chicago, where he engineered impressive improvements in the nation's 3rd largest school district while serving as Chief of Staff to the embattled Chicago Board of Education. In Broward, Runcie hit the ground running, and was recognized as "Superintendent of the Year" by Florida Virtual School last September. Inflaming Runcie's problems is the sad - yet unsurprising - fact that the foul-ups haven't abated. This past May, the school board settled a dispute with disaster-recovery firm AshBritt for work performed after Hurricane Wilma in 2005. Although the district's chief auditor concluded in 2009 that the District was overbilled \$765,608 by AshBritt, the district agreed to walk away from the table with only \$210,000. Also, the district paid security firm U.S. Security Associates \$129,000 for unnecessary security guards long after their contract expired in 2009 and frittered \$1 million to Royal Concrete Concepts of Jupiter for a 2012 Pembroke Pines construction project that Runcie had previously cancelled.

When the Fort Lauderdale City Commission discussed the School Board's planned Bond Issue at the June City Commission meeting, Commissioners were leery about whether the funds would be allocated to improve Fort Lauderdale schools. Despite Commissioner Bobby Dubose' belief that Stranahan and Northeast High Schools would be beneficiaries of the anticipated \$800 million chestnut, Commissioners refused to schedule a workshop to address the issue until the Broward School Board submitted a written list of projects they pledged to fund. Dubious about the Bond Issue's prospects, Mayor Jack Seiler commented "It's a very difficult bond issue on this ballot. I don't know if enough time has passed. I am concerned they rushed this thing."

Given the Broward School Board's lamentable lack of credibility, this is a mind-numbing decision for Broward voters. Unfortunately, Broward students are being penalized for actions taken by arrogantly corrupt officials, asinine policies and crippling fiscal decisions. Although the dilapidated schools desperately need resources, Broward residents are understandably fearful of throwing good money after bad. The fate of this measure hinges on public willingness to trust a new Superintendent ostensibly equipped with the skills and determination to reclaim the sinking district. While Runcie is promising unprecedented transparency, squeezing out an \$800 million bond issue guaranteed by Broward taxpayers may require divine intervention. Amen. •





# Commissioner Chip LaMarca's Autumn 2014 Update

room of \$28.5 million. Although anticipating that this modest increase would unnecessarily burden the average tax bill in his September message to constituents, LaMarca is far more concerned by the Board's propensity for underwriting spending with tax increases instead of economic growth – a keystone of the Commission's notorious pre-recession fiscal footprint.

## Broward County Transit Fare Hike

According to Broward County Transit, the FY14 service improvements that enhanced ridership and on-time performance also boosted transit revenues. Agency plans for additional service enhancements will require incremental funding in order to increase utilization and farebox recovery (income that a transit agency receives from passenger fares to help finance operating costs). Having successfully capitalized on the improvements and lucrative new services – such as the popular Breeze Service and Express buses to Miami – Broward County Transit is on a roll. As ridership continues to increase, so should revenues.

Facing blue skies and immersed in optimism, BCT enigmatically decided to shoot itself in the foot, a reaction congenitally practiced by most County agencies. Instead of building a growth plan that funds infrastructure improvements with growing revenues, BCT decided to squeeze it's newly won customers. Over a 2-year period, the proposed FY 2015 Broward budget will raise the monthly (31-day) pass price for seniors, kids and the disabled from \$29 to \$40 (a 38% increase). For other adults, the monthly pass would increase from \$58 to \$70, and the cost for a seven-day pass would jump from \$16 to \$20. A one-way ticket would increase from \$1.75 to \$2, and the \$4 all-day passes would cost \$5. BCT claims that they are only catching up with higher transit fares in Miami and Palm Beach, but the all-day pass price for seniors, the disabled and youth will increase from \$3 to \$4; while a comparable ticket in Miami is \$3.50 and only \$2.80 in Palm Beach.

Although Broward Transit Director Tim Garling said he believes ridership would "rebound after dipping slightly," most transportation aficionados disagree, citing how nothing dampens ridership like a fare hike. Accusing the County Board and the BCT of sending mixed messages, Broward Commissioner Tim Ryan spoke against the increase, remarking, "We're always trying to drive up ridership. One of our big themes is trying to increase use of mass transit. You seem to be going in the other direction when you talk about increasing fares." Complaining that the issue causes him "heartburn", Commissioner Marty Kiar opposes the large increase in monthly fares proposed for disabled, seniors and youth, commenting "Like libraries and parks, public transportation will always be subsidized by taxpayers as a whole, but they're important services to provide." Garling declared that the system needed the extra \$5.5 million projected by the increase because "County Taxpayers subsidize 66 percent of the cost of the average bus ride in Broward." Since the national average is about 72 percent, his observation seems somewhat less than relevant.

The fare hike must also pass Federal regulatory muster. To comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which addresses discrimination in most areas of public life in the U.S., the fare increase cannot "disproportionately burden" or create a "disparate impact" on low-income riders (defined by BCT as reporting an annual household income of less than \$25 thousand). Commissioned by the Broward County Human Services Department on June 14, 2014, a study entitled "A Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment" by private consultant "Public Works, L.L.C." reported that Broward has higher levels of poverty and a higher cost of living than most of the State, while providing "Insufficient Affordable Public Transportation."

Repeatedly referenced in BCT-sponsored "Let's Talk Transit" community meetings held throughout the summer, the study observes that "Transportation remains a constant issue for those struggling to remain self-sufficient while working in low-paying jobs, as well as for those who must travel to sites around the county to receive services. Participants in every consumer focus group noted they are often not able to afford transportation to apply for benefits and take advantage of on-going support services. Older adults in particular in the focus groups expressed difficulty in affording transportation. Three-quarters of E-Survey respondents noted transportation as a major barrier to services."

Prepared in accordance with the requirements specified in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Circular 4702.1B, "Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients," dated October 1, 2012; the BCT drafted a Title VI Fare Equity Analysis, which notes that 66% of the impacted BCT ridership is from low-income homes. How does the BCT circumvent this regulatory obstacle? On page 8, the agency concludes that the two-stage fare increases "do not cause disparate impacts or disproportionate burdens on Title VI protected populations. No additional analysis or alternatives are necessary to implement this fare change proposal." Shazam! Problem solved.

Aside from a universal fee increase, how do the planned service changes impact Galt Mile residents? In keeping with the historical County perception of the Galt Mile as cash cow for subsidizing County programs we neither use nor benefit from, BCT plans to discontinue U.S. 1 Breeze bus service north of Broward Boulevard while increasing service to the south. If nothing else, these Bozos are consistent. For LaMarca's autumn message, read on... - [editor]

Continued on page 14

In his September – October 2014 Newsletter, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca laments ill-conceived plans by the Broward Commission and Broward County Transit to stick it to Taxpayers – and fare payers. The Broward County Commission annually pays lip service to tax relief. Just before they tackle the budget, Commissioners announce the need to attack waste and abuse, trim the governmental bureaucracy and cut spending. That is usually where it ends, except in the media. When the recession vaporized the seemingly bottomless property tax windfall, it forced a temporary suspension of irresponsible county spending.

## County Commission Tax Plan

In 2007, following a month of spinning the need to cut the budget, the County Commission increased it from \$3.043 billion to \$3.159 billion. In 2008, tax reform legislation passionately demanded by former Governor Charlie Crist and passed with unanimous bi-partisan support mandated a 5% statutory tax rollback for local governments, forcing Commissioners to choke back long ingrained tax and spend instincts. In 2009, when Florida voters passed Constitutional Amendment 1, the additional Homestead exemption slashed property tax revenues statewide, further pressuring Commissioners to control spending.

Having watched Federal Prosecutors systematically fine and/or incarcerate a parade of Broward Commissioners for fraud, kickbacks, and other ethical or financial indiscretions, by 2010 Broward taxpayers seemingly awoke from a stupor. Fed up with the Commission's poor stewardship of public funds, in November of 2010, 57% of the Broward electorate voted to create a "Broward County Ethics Commission" and formulate a Code of Ethics to better regulate the actions of those elected to the Broward Board (a similar 2002 referendum calling for an ethics panel was virtually ignored by Commissioners). Serving as a wake-up call, this line in the sand seemed to have a sobering effect on the Commission, although short-lived. As tanked property values annually prompted commission members to press for a millage rate increase, enraged Broward taxpayers characterized any millage increase as a tax hike, convincing a temporarily deflated County board to back off.

As the housing market rebounded last year, the expected increase in property tax revenues would provide the Broward Board with additional resources, enabling restored funding for critical services thinned by the recession. A 7.2% increase over 2014 revenues projected in the FY 2015 tax roll should fatten County coffers by \$51 million. Marketing their strategy as a "proactive, outcome-oriented approach to budgeting," Commissioners plan to freeze the 5.7230 millage rate. However, increases of \$68.7 million in the operating budget and \$24.4 million in debt service were partially offset by a capital budget decline of \$64.6 million, leaving a budgetary mush-

Governor Scott and Republican Legislative Leaders hatched a harebrained scheme to pack the Court with conservatives after the Governor's tenure expires. Due to mandatory age requirements (judges must retire at the end of the term during which they turn 70), Justices R. Fred Lewis, Barbara Pariente and Peggy Quince (considered the moderate to liberal wing of the court) will be forced to step down on inauguration day in 2019. As per the Constitution, the incoming Governor will appoint three jurists to fill their vacated seats.

If this ill-conceived amendment is approved, on January 8, 2019 (inauguration day), the departing Governor could name those three replacements before the incoming Governor is inaugurated later in the day. Of course, if Scott is not reelected to a final term in November – and their half-baked connivance goes down the tubes – the State of Florida would still be saddled with a constitutionally crippled Judiciary.

In a legal diagnosis of proposed amendment #3, Harry Lee Anstead, justice of the Florida Supreme Court from 1994 to 2009 and a renowned constitutional authority, explains "The current legislative majority is seeking to accelerate a partisan political power grab of Florida's judiciary at the highest level. They want to vest a lame-duck outgoing governor with the authority to fill three seats on the Supreme Court that become vacant after the governor's term expires. The sponsors of Amendment #3 say they are trying to eliminate confusion and an imaginary future constitutional crisis in the delay of a new governor making the appointments. Those claims are thin cover for continued improper political interference in our courts.

The scheme proposed in Amendment #3 gives a departing governor the power to tip the scales of justice for partisan reasons on the way out the door – with impunity. And, therein lies the easily identified real intent of this amendment. Partisan advocates, frustrated by the public's rejection of their attempt to remove three (sic - liberal leaning) Florida justices in their retention elections in 2012 (vicious Tea Party smear campaigns backfired), have audaciously found another scheme to achieve their goals of stacking the court politically.

It is a one-time gamble and a shortsighted strategy on multiple levels. First, it presumes Gov. Rick Scott is re-elected so that he can make the appointments at the end of his second term. More importantly, it cynically ignores the possibility that an informed Florida public will reject this blatant attempt to politicize the judiciary."

In characterizing the amendment as a "one-time gamble" and raising the prospect of Scott's defeat in the upcoming election, Anstead reminds "shortsighted" proponents that the measure would also allow a liberal-leaning Governor to similarly stack the Court with liberal judges during a subsequent Governor's tenure, achieving the opposite of their intended objective.

The amendment was introduced to the legislature on February 21, 2014 by Senator Tom Lee (R - Brandon), the Deputy Majority Leader. Snagging a spot on the ballot would require a 60 percent majority vote in both legislative chambers. Senate Bill 1188 was approved by the Florida Senate on April 3, 2014 (26 YEAS vs. 14 NAYS) and approved in the Florida House on April 30, 2014 (74 YEAS vs. 45 NAYS) - along strictly partisan lines.

As outlined in a Tampa Tribune editorial, by vesting the departing Governor with the power to appoint Judges during the incoming Governor's term of office, the measure usurps the authority of the individual who was chosen by the voters. Conservative and liberal constitutional watchdogs vehemently oppose the measure for providing the Executive Branch with partisan control of the Judiciary, playing havoc with the separation of powers that grounds the checks and balances of tripartite government. Voters should send this amendment back to the legislative cornfield, where disaffected lawmakers can begin preparing exploding Judicial piñatas for the 2016 elections.

#### Broward County Parlor Tricks

The November 4, 2014 general election ballot also houses two proposals from Broward County, one sponsored by the County Commission and one sponsored by the Broward School Board. Addressing them productively requires some insight into their placement on the ballot. Given pathological County designs on your wallet, before heading to the polls, take a look behind the curtain. •

# ADVERTISE IN THE GALT MILE NEWS *& Reach The Beach*

SEASON IS HERE!!!!

CALL FOR AD SPECIALS  
**954-292-6553**



THE NOVEMBER EDITION IS A  
GREAT PLACE TO ADVERTISE YOUR  
HOLIDAY PLANS!

**SECOND** STUDIO  
Newsletters | Magazines | Copywriting



# NOW OPEN!

# STARBUCKS

GALT OCEAN MARKETPLACE

**3704 N. OCEAN BLVD**  
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33089

**OPEN: 6:00AM - 10:00PM**  
**EVERYDAY**



Broward County Transit Breeze Bus Service on Federal Highway

## September 2014 Newsletter

By Commissioner Chip LaMarca

### Public Hearings Planned for County's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

Members of the public wishing to comment on the proposed Broward County fiscal year 2015 budget will have an opportunity to do so on Tuesday, September 23rd, starting at 5:01 p.m., at the Broward Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave, Room 422 in Fort Lauderdale. The FY 2015 recommended total budget, which includes tax supported and non-tax supported funds, is \$4.1 billion. Overall, the total budget increases by \$28.5 million due to an increase in the operating and debt service components and a decrease in the capital budget. The \$28.5 million represents an increase of less than one percent in the total \$4.1 billion budget. Under the current proposed budget the total property tax rate will remain the same as this year. Most taxpayers will see a small increase in their county taxes, which comprise approximately 23 percent of their overall property tax bill. A homestead property owner, with the average taxable value, whose value goes up 1.5% can expect to pay approximately \$17 more in county property taxes in FY 15. Now is not the time to increase taxes or fees on taxpayers. I will work hard to encourage the other commissioners to roll back the tax rate so that Broward residents see a savings instead.

### Public Hearing to be Held September 23rd on Proposed Bus Service Adjustments and Increases to Bus Fares and Passes

The Broward County Commission will hold a public meeting at 2PM on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, at the Governmental Center, Room 422, 115 South Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, to receive public comments on Broward County Transit (BCT) proposed bus service adjustments and bus fares and pass increases. If approved, the proposed increase to bus fares and passes would become effective over two fiscal year periods: October 1, 2014 and October 1, 2015. The proposed bus service adjustments will become effective October 13, 2014 for the 595 Express Bus Service, and in January 2015 for the US 1 Breeze. For more information, including details on the proposed bus fare and service changes, call the BCT Customer Service Center at 954-357-8400 or visit [Broward.org/BCT](http://Broward.org/BCT) Again, now is not the time to increase the cost of such vital transportation services for those most in need.

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 [Broward.org/District4](http://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*

Chip LaMarca  
Broward County Commission  
District 4

# Visit The UPS Store<sup>®</sup> and the U.S. Postal Service<sup>®</sup> in one quick trip.

- Priority Mail Express<sup>™</sup> Service<sup>\*</sup>
- Priority Mail<sup>®</sup> Service<sup>\*</sup>
- First-Class Mail<sup>®</sup> Service
- Stamps
- International Shipping Services

## **Bayview Location**

2805 E. Oakland Pk Blvd  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306  
Tel: 954.568.1990



**UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE<sup>®</sup>**

*Approved Postal Provider<sup>®</sup>*

## **Gateway Location**

1007 N. Federal Hwy  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304  
Tel: 954.764.6245

**The UPS Store<sup>®</sup>**



\*Commitments are based on the U.S. Postal Service's cut-off times at the Post Office<sup>®</sup>. See center associate or the U. S. Postal Service<sup>®</sup> website (usps.com<sup>®</sup>) for more details.

**The UPS Store may apply surcharges on top of Postal Service pricing.**

Postal Service<sup>™</sup> products and services are provided by the U.S. Postal Service<sup>®</sup>. Neither The UPS Store, Inc., nor The UPS Store<sup>®</sup> franchise network are affiliated with the U.S. Postal Service<sup>®</sup>; and no sponsorship or endorsement is intended or implied. The UPS Store<sup>®</sup> locations are independently owned and operated by franchisees of The UPS Store, Inc. in the USA. Services, pricing and hours of operation may vary by location. Trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Copyright © 2014 The UPS Store, Inc.  
88491



# HIGH TEA & TRIVIA

**EAT. DRINK. THINK.**

Another in a series of monthly senior get-togethers for those age 65 and older.

Please join us for an afternoon of fun, food and friends.

Bring a guest or come alone and meet other like-minded individuals.



A prize will be awarded to the general knowledge quiz winner.

Tea, coffee, finger-sandwiches and scones will be served.

**Third Tuesday of each month  
(September - May)**

**3-4:30pm**

**Broward Health Imperial Point**

**Cafeteria**

**6401 N. Federal Highway**

**Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308**

*Physician Lecture or Guest Speaker. Call to inquire.*



RSVP is required. Please call **954.759.7400**



# The beginning of a beautiful small business relationship



**Valeria Frejlin**  
Owner, Prime Trade, Inc.  
Orange County, CA



A relationship with The UPS Store® can do wonders for your small business. Whenever Valeria needs professional brochures and business cards, she turns to her local The UPS Store where they help with printing and whatever else she needs. See how a relationship with us can help grow your small business.

## **Services at The UPS Store**

- Printing
- Mailbox Services
- Packing
- Shipping
- Notary
- Professional Presentations

**The UPS Store Bayview**  
2805 E Oakland Park Blvd  
(Bayview & Oakland)  
954.568.1990