

GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER 2015



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BEACH FIXE

By Eric Berkowitz



Soft Landing or Dead End?

Once again, the Galt Mile community is anxiously awaiting the long-delayed Segment II Broward Beach Renourishment. Every non-comatose Galt Mile resident knows the project is scheduled to begin in November 2015 - just days away. Given the shrinking beach's critical importance to the neighborhood's economy and their quality of life, Galt Mile homeowners - and their associations - have passionately pursued its rescue for more than twenty years. 50 years - if you harken back to a 1965 entry in the Federal Register, when the 89th U.S. Congress appropriated a then whopping \$1,093,000 to flesh out Broward's severely eroded coast (Section 301 of Public Law 89-298, October 27, 1965).

More importantly, Impact Statements filed by the Army Corps of Engineers confirm that a healthy beach is their only real protection against catastrophic Hurricane damage. In addition to saving thousands of lives, the Corps concluded that a renourished beach would preserve fast-eroding nesting and foraging habitat for a litany of species cited as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act while buffering both public infrastructure and private property against the devastating impacts of cyclonic storm surge and high category windstorm events. Coastal engineers admonished that broadening Broward beaches would protect more than \$4 billion in otherwise vulnerable upland property.

For decades, Broward officials annually assured Galt Mile residents that their disappearing beach would be renourished "next year." As these promises systematically proved empty, enthusiasm for the project gave way to a numbing cynicism. Not surprisingly, Galt Mile residents are currently waiting for an all too familiar second shoe to drop. As the start date draws near, hundreds of residents who fought for the project both here and in Tallahassee, and thousands more who signed petitions and attended meetings to overturn political & regulatory roadblocks, grow increasingly apprehensive about the prospect of facing another crushing disappointment.

Stakeholder Preparations

Following approval of the Federal Permit by the Army Corps of Engineers earlier this year, Galt Mile officials have been monitoring the project's progress. Regular updates were solicited from District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca, Broward Natural Resource Administrator Nicole Sharp and City of Fort Lauderdale officials. Although a County-managed project, since Fort Lauderdale's beaches

anchor its tourism economy, the City Commission and City Manager have ardently supported the project.

With State and Federal permits in hand, the County began drafting a Project Participation Agreement (PPA) in April, which will serve as a Federal reimbursement blueprint once the project is fully farmed out. While seeking Federal regulatory approval of their PPA (from the Army Corps of Engineers), the County also had to configure ILAs (Interlocal Agreements) with the three municipal stakeholders (the Cities of Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach and the Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea), optioning estimated funding formulas.

Last June, LaMarca remarked "The County is gearing up with the three cities to be ready for the procurement process so that we have a contractor and we are ready for November." The County will outsource transporting 750,000 cubic yards of sand from the upstate mine to beachfront staging areas. Broward will also contract out the distribution of sand across the 5.2 mile project limits. The contract terms will provide the basis for a project timetable, useful for determining when each section of beach will be rehabilitated.

On September 22, 2015, County Administrator Bertha Henry observed in a Segment II Beach Renourishment Commission memo "Based on most recent conversations with Corps staff at various levels, receipt of the PPA is expected sometime in November. As stated previously, this document is required to award the project to a contractor." Concerned about the incomplete PPA blocking a scheduled November project start, leery Galt Mile officials asked LaMarca if Henry's comment cloaked a delay. LaMarca confirmed that the project would commence in November.

Fort Lauderdale & Broward County Tap Dance

At the October 5th Presidents Council meeting in Ocean Club Condominium, City Manager Lee Feldman announced having recently received a proposed ILA from the County. While lamenting a funding ratio which he characterized as unfair to the City, Feldman promised to support the project, as did City Commissioner Bruce Roberts. However, Feldman admonished that City Commissioners may opt to slug it out with their counterparts on the County Board. By waiting until the

Continued on page 5



Commissioner Chip LaMarca's SEPTEMBER 2015 Newsletter

sioner Mark Bogen proposed revisions to the County Motor Carrier ordinance that Uber characterized as a non-negotiable prerequisite to servicing Broward customers. When Bogen's motion was approved by the County Board, Uber public policy director Trevor Theunissen said he was confident that some residual issues could be resolved before the County finalized the law at the September 17 commission meeting.

On September 16, Uber sent a six-page missive to the Commission, objecting to a litany of remaining terms in the watered-down law. Surprisingly, they rejected a proposed ban on hiring convicts released from prison in the last seven years, or drivers who "pose a threat to public safety" because they committed crimes of "moral turpitude". In short, Uber objected to precluding felons who've "paid his or her debt to society," and opposed empowering a County employee to adjudicate morality (specifically, Director Leonard Vialpando of the Environmental Licensing and Building Permitting Division). That said, Uber conceded that murderers, rapists, pederasts and those convicted of violent crimes against police officers should be barred.

The Commission switched gears - instead of enforcing regulations governing the drivers, insurance and vehicles, the County would pass that torch to the companies - whether a TNC or a traditional livery business. The County could verify if self-regulating companies were holding up their end of the deal by randomly auditing company records. Uber was adamantly opposed to including its drivers in any public database, since insurers could void standard policies for vehicles performing undisclosed commercial services. Such exposure was also anathematic to a sizable segment of its driver pool, whether or not former felons. Since the TNC business model's fiscal health is largely dependent on driver availability, regulatory obstacles that diminish the pool threaten their bottom line.

Uber also objected to the County's proposed random audits, insisting that they be limited to two annually, and that the company be afforded the right to black out names, which would relegate driver verification - and reduce the audit's credibility to that of a coffee break. After seven hours of debating each of the issues raised by Uber, among those left unresolved were; the inspection of vehicles by county-approved mechanics, 2 annual inspections for vehicles more than five years old, and allowing ex-cons behind the wheel if they did time in the joint during the past seven years. The County Board closed up shop just after midnight, and postponed voting on the proposed ordinance until the October 13th Commission meeting. For another humiliating chapter of this ethically bankrupt soap opera, tune in again next month.

Convention Center Lotto

On August 25, the County launched its fourth attempt in 20 years to replace an eclectic patchwork of nearby hotels with a Headquarters resort fully integrated with its Convention Center. The five developers referenced by LaMarca as competing to design, build, finance, operate and maintain an AAA 4-Diamond rated Headquarters hotel (as defined in the official request for qualifications issued by the County in May) are Fort Lauderdale Convention Center Hotel LLC (a partnership between RIDA Development and Ares Management), Hensel Phelps Development LLC (a unit of employee-owned Hensel Phelps Construction), Matthews Southwest Holdings INC. (dba Matthews Southwest), Omni Hotels Management Corporation (dba Omni Hotels and Resorts), and The Related Companies L.P. & PRH Investments, LLC (dba The Related Group). The selection process is projected for completion by October 2016 and each candidate coughed up a \$250,000 bond guarantee for a seat at the table. At stake is an opportunity to turn 40 acres of prime municipal waterfront real estate into a printing press for US currency.

Early Dividend at Port Everglades

Having successfully navigated an 18-year regulatory gauntlet hampered by foot-dragging Federal bureaucrats and Congressional gridlock; Port Everglades is racing to realize structural improvements that will cement its future as a regional economic powerhouse. Partnering with the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC), last year the Port opened an on-site Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) - enabling the seamless transfer of international containers between ship and rail. In January 2015, Port officials completed a \$24 million remodeling of Cruise Terminal 4 - critical to the unimpeded traffic flow of cruise passengers. In February, the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Review Board approved dredging the channel to 48 feet (50 feet with allowable overdepth) and expanding the Southport turning notch, thereby adding Port Everglades to the short list of East Coast and Gulf pit stops for monster post-Panamax vessels that will soon plow across the Panama Canal.

SeaLand - an ocean freight shipping company that recently opened its headquarters in Miramar - was acquired in 1999 by Maersk Line, the world's largest container shipping company (14% global market share). APL (American President Lines Ltd.) - the world's fifth-largest container transportation and shipping company - is a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore-based Neptune Orient Lines, a global transportation and logistics company. Port officials and industry pundits perceive the joint SeaLand/APL service relocation to Port Everglades as an early dividend of the self-funded Master Plan improvements, and a preview of things to come. LaMarca agrees. For the District 4 Commissioner's September 2015 message, Read on... - [editor]"

Continued on page 8

"In his September 2015 Newsletter, Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca probes the 2016 Broward spending plan (later approved by the County Commission), summarizes the most recent chapter of the County's political tug-of-war with Uber and Lyft, describes how five deep-pocketed developers armed with political capital hope to bag the Convention Center Hotel, welcomes an early taste of the windfall fueled by the competitive improvements to Port Everglades, and underscores September's designation as "National Preparedness Month" with events conceived to protect property owners from meteorological mayhem. The following may help fill in some of the blanks.

Galt Mile Budget Impacts

Despite a frozen 5.723 millage rate, the County will reap a \$55.4 million tax increase from the average 8.08% jump in Broward property values. Ordinarily, the Galt Mile receives nothing for its huge annual Ad Valorem contribution to County coffers - which instead subsidizes projects in neighboring communities. Although historically shortchanged by the County's skewed budget process, Galt Mile residents had several dogs in the FY 2016 balancing act. Most importantly, the County fleshed out its \$18.2 million share of the \$55 million Segment II Beach Renourishment. Also, supporters of the Galt Mile Library led a successful campaign to reclaim operational cutbacks mandated by the recession. When the Commission threatened to close 4 branch libraries to save money during the economic downturn (including the Galt Mile Reading Center), the neighborhood association successfully lobbied an alternative measure to keep the doors open - slightly crimping the operational hours at every local branch. Pressuring the Commission to transfuse a \$60.5 million Library appropriation from the \$1 billion General Fund will enhance depressed salaries and begin adding back the lost hours of operation.

County Commission vs. TNCs: Dodge Ball

Following its July 31 departure from Broward, Uber unleashed an assiduously choreographed crusade to reclaim the market. As outlined in the Sun-Sentinel, the company uploaded an online petition to "Bring Uber Back" while directing its minions to pressure recalcitrant commissioners, filling their inboxes with abusive complaints and phoning in a steady stream of anonymous threats spiced with invective. Since Uber privately negotiated with Commissioners over the summer hiatus, several disclosed that Uber promised to return if the commission dispensed with fingerprinting its drivers, diluted the insurance requirement and limited County oversight to auditing Company records. A disappointed Chip LaMarca, Uber's most ardent Commission supporter, was aghast when the company broke its promise, admonishing "Its mind boggling to me, I think they should be careful how they run their business."

Overnight, Commissioners palpably altered their positions. Those heretofore staunchly committed to public safety were suddenly consumed with nurturing innovation. On September 1, Broward Commis-

eleventh hour to distribute the municipal ILAs, Feldman intimated that the County had deliberately afflicted the cities with a negotiating deterrent, as the fast approaching November start date is anathematic to the siege mentality that often belabors negotiations between Fort Lauderdale and Broward County.

Project costs for the Segment II renourishment were initially estimated at \$45,343,805. In the past few years, the County spent an additional \$6,886,719 circumventing heavily obstructed regulatory gauntlets while chasing the State & Federal Permits. To address concerns raised by environmental watchdog agencies with regulatory standing (i.e. FDEP, NOAA Fisheries, etc.), County planners agreed to enhance safeguards against adverse impacts to the nearshore hardbottom and protected species of coral (i.e. Elkhorn and Staghorn). These additional mitigation & monitoring measures are projected to cost \$2,330,000 in 2016, and \$500,000 annually in 2017 and 2018. As such, the total estimated cost of the Segment II project is actually \$55,560,524.

The municipal ILAs distributed by the County depicted funding scenarios with and without Federal participation. If the Federal Government snubbed the \$55.6 million project, the State would ante \$10.43 million; the County would pay \$23.76 million, while the three municipalities would collectively chip in \$11.31 million. In short, the County would pay a bit more than twice the cities' contribution, which Lee Feldman cited as less than the County share in past projects. However, the County also agreed to toss in an incremental \$10.1 million recently collected by Broward from the City of Hollywood for a prior project.

As defined by a 2014 Limited Re-evaluation Report cost sharing formula, up to 55% of the project cost is federally reimbursable. If the Feds kicked in their anticipated 55% project reimbursement (\$30.58 million), the County share would drop to \$2.26 million (plus the \$10.1 million reimbursed to the County by Hollywood), while the 3 municipalities would cough up \$2.23 million (of which Fort Lauderdale would shoulder \$1.61 million).

He Said, She Said

After the October 5th meeting, Galt Mile President Pio Ieraci contacted LaMarca about the proposed County-City cost-sharing formulas, and requested verification that the project would not be delayed by PPA negotiations between the Corps and Broward County. On October 9, 2015, LaMarca shot off the following response.

"I have very positive news about our beach renourishment project. The US Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to the financial terms of our project and they are in the process of signing off on the federal participation of 55% of the total project. This changes the financial cost for the local participation, requiring less money from the cities. As you can see, the City of Fort Lauderdale portion of the project is \$1.61M in total. This will not be required until the year following completion of the project, and it can be paid over the next three years. I have included the breakdown of the federal, state and local funding so that you are able to see the details.

We have already collected the state share listed, as well as the \$10.1M from the previous Segment III project in Hollywood. The county will be contributing those dollars to the project to lower the overall cost to the cities and the county.

The timing of the project is also still on track and we are getting bids for the work now in order to line up the contractor for the project. The kick off date for the project is still set for November 2015, and we will have a more precise date once we have the contractor ready to go. We will be able to provide an overall timeline for the project so that you can inform each building of the estimated timing of the impact of the project to their particular location.

I hope that this information is helpful for the residents of the Galt Mile and I appreciate your work on this project. Best regards."

When LaMarca's message to Galt Mile officials was forwarded to the City of Fort Lauderdale, skeptical City officials thought it prudent to verify LaMarca's missive. Fort Lauderdale Environmental Services Manager Todd Hiteshew contacted Broward Beach Administrator Nicole Sharp to assess LaMarca's perspective. Sharp responded with the following message.

"The information provided below [sic - LaMarca's message] is in need of clarification. The County has completed negotiating the terms of the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA); however, this does not ensure or commit the Corps to upfront reimbursement of 55%. Only until the PPA is executed can we confirm that the Corps has agreed to a cost-share ratio of 55% of project costs. In the meantime, the municipalities should budget for the no reimbursement column over the span of three years. As reimbursements are received, future payments will either be reduced, or if they are received after the payment period, they will be paid to the municipalities. As for the table, it was the same provided to all municipalities in our July meeting and is a current estimate of potential project cost scenarios."

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The Sun Trolley Thanks You for Your Feedback!



In September, we asked you to complete a 10-question survey to provide feedback on the FREE Sun Trolley Galt Link that currently runs Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additionally we had the opportunity to meet many of you and obtain your feedback in person at our community meetings that were held on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Library.

We thank you for participating and providing your input, so that we might be better able to serve you and ensure that the Galt Link continues to meets your needs.

If you would like to view the results of the survey, please visit www.suntrolley.com/galt-link.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sun Trolley!

Stay Connected with the Sun trolley!

Sign up to receive information and alerts about the Galt Link via email at www.suntrolley.com, follow the Sun Trolley on Facebook or call 954-TROLLEY for more info.



SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE...SOME TH

NOV/OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
11 Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436 South Florida Italian Culture & Heritage Festival ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Noon to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-825-1027	12 Community Services Board City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 7 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5911	13 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	14 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 15th Annual Fall Triton Expo Lauderdale Marine Center 5 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-270-2229
18 Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436 Smoke on the Water BBQ Feast Esplanade Park 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-468-1541 X 205	19 Stranahan Stories: "Collecting Presidents" with Christopher Bigney Historic Stranahan House Museum 11 a.m. Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	20 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	21 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
25 Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	26	27 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	28 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 The South Florida Women's Summit (Through 10/29) The Bonaventure Resort & Spa Info.: 321-303-5924
1 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 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622	2 Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	3 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Election Day	4 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
8 Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436 14th Annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival Markham Park Noon to 9 p.m. Info.: 786-361-1103	9	10 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	11 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Veteran's Day

OCT 16-17: Haunted Nights at Flamingo Gardens, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Info.: 954-473-2955

OCT 17: Craftoberfest Outdoor Street Festival, Downtown Saloon, Noon-Midnight, Info.: 954-463-9800

OCT 17: Octoberfest Las Olas 2015, Bubier Park, 2 to 10 p.m., Info.: <http://www.octoberfestlasolas.com/contact-us>

OCT 17: Glomathon Glamapalooza - Bikes for Boobs, Esplanade Park, Registration: 8 p.m.; Pedals Up: 8:30 p.m., Info.: 954-298-5607

OCT 17: 4th Annual Brazilian Festival of Pompano Beach, Pompano Beach Community Park, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Info.: 305-803-0338

OCT 18: 20th Annual Down Syndrome Buddy Walk & 5K Run, Markham Park, 8:30 a.m., Info.: 954-577-4122

OCT 24: Fall-O-Ween, Jaco Pastorius Park (Oakland Park), 4 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-630-4507

OCT 24: Making Strides of South Palm Beach Walk-a-thon, Mizner Park Amphitheater, Registration: 6:30 a.m., Walk: 8 a.m., Info.: 561-650-0142

OCT 31: Halloween Spooktacular 5K, TY Park (Hollywood), 5K Run/Walk - 7:15 a.m.; Kid's Dash - 8 a.m.; Youth Mile - 8:15 a.m., Info.: 954-461-5515

OCT 31: 2nd Annual Delray Marketplace Art & Craft Festival, Delray Marketplace off West Atlantic Ave., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-472-3755

NOV 6: Bacon Bash 2015, Esplanade Park, 7 to 10 p.m., Info.: 954-468-1541

NOV 7-8: 4th Annual Delray Beach Wine & Seafood Festival, East Atlantic Ave., Delray, Info.: 561-279-0907

NGS DO! CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOIN' ON.

THU

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SAT

LOTS HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER!

15 An Evening with Buddy Guy Hard Rock Live 8 p.m. Tix.: 800-745-3000 G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting Nick's Italian Restaurant, 11 a.m.	16 42nd Annual Oktoberfest (Through 10/18) 5111 Lantana Rd., Lake Worth Info.: 561-966-6464 Friday Night Tunes Ladies of Soul (LOS) - (Top 40, Motown) Carter Park 7 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-828-PARK	17 Lantern Festival: In The Spirit Of Obon Morikami Museum 3 to 8 p.m. Info.: 561-495-0233 8th Annual Glam Doll Strut Esplanade Park, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info.: 954-298-5607
22 Big Fish (Through 11/8) Broward Center for the Performing Arts Tix.: 954-462-0222	23 West Palm Beach Fall Home Show (Through 10/25) South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB Info.: 855-523-5311 Ft. Lauderdale Fall Home Design & Remodeling Show (Through 10/25) Broward Convention Center Info.: 305-667-9299	24 American Diabetes Association Step Out Fort Lauderdale Huizenga Plaza Info.: 954-772-8040 X 3011 Mills Pond Fall Fest Mills Pond Park 3 to 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-8943
29 Spooky Halloween Dance Party Bass Park (2750 N.W. 19th St.) 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: 954-828-8498	30 rock the dock: freaky friday Shooters Waterfront Cafe Info.: 954-566-2855 Haunted Full Moon Party Atlantic Hotel & Spa 7 to 10 p.m. Info.: www.society8.com	31 Croissant Halloween Party Croissant Park, 4 to 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-6154 Trick-or-Treat on Second Street Esplanade Park 1 to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-828-7275
5 56th Annual Fort Lauderdale Intl. Boat Show Locations and Times: 954-764-7642	6 West Palm Beach Antiques Festival (Through 11/8) South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB Info.: 941-697-7475 American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) (Through 11/7) Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation Info.: 863-902-1113	7 Ft. Lauderdale Intl. Film Festival (Through 11/22) Info.: 954-525-FILM 44th Annual Miami International Auto Show (Through 11/15) Miami Beach Convention Center Info.: 305-981-1448
12 American and Three Dog Night Hard Rock Live, 8 p.m. Info.:	13 Pompano - Music Under the Stars Pompano Beach Great Lawn 6 to 9 p.m. Performer: Poor Life Decisions Info.: 954-786-4111	14 Everyday Green Expo Quiet Waters Park 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: greenexpo@broward.org SwampFest Bluegrass Music Festival 3750 S. Flamingo Road, Davie 11:30 a.m. Info.: 954-473-2955

November 14 - 15
Florida Gun & Knife Show
South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB
Info.: 321-777-7455

November 14 - 15
Camelot Days Medieval Festival
T.Y. Park (3300 N. Park Rd., Hollywood), 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Info.: 786-332-0047

November 15
13.1 Half Marathon & KARHU 5K - Fort Lauderdale
START: 17th Street near the Broward Convention Center
FINISH: South Beach Park on A1A
6 to 10:30 a.m.
Info.: 305-278-8668

November 15
German Classic Car Show 2015
Weston Town Center, Weston, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Info.: 954-553-5336

November 19 - 29
9th Annual Broward County Fair
Festival Flea Market (Sample Rd.)
Info.: 954-214-2457

November 20
Friday Night Tunes
Performer(s): The Legends Band (Blues, Old School)
Carter Park, 7 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-828-PARK

November 21
Citywide Yard Sales
Jaco Pastorius Park (4000 N. Dixie Hwy.), Oakland Park
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-630-4507

November 22
Winterfest Family Fun Day
Riverside Hotel Lawn, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Info.: 954-767-0686

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

NOV 7: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Drop-off Events, Community Park (Pompano), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-828-8000

NOV 7: Miami - Fort Lauderdale Pet Expo, War Memorial Auditorium, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Info.: 1-800-977-3609 X 104

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, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, 1100 Seabreeze Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info.: 954-593-8501

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, Open to the Public, Info.: 754-779-7519 or 516-840-1455

LaMarca's Letter

Dear Broward County Residents, I am honored to serve as a County Commissioner, representing our coastal communities from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale. Here are some recent highlights from Broward County.

Public Hearings Set for Broward County Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

Members of the public wishing to comment on the proposed Broward County Fiscal Year 2016 budget will have an opportunity to do so on Thursday, September 10th and Thursday, September 17th. Budget Public Hearings begin at 5:01PM and are held at the Broward Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave, Room 422 in Fort Lauderdale.

The FY 2016 recommended total budget, which includes tax supported and non-tax supported funds, is \$4.1 billion. The recommended budget continues Broward County's long standing tradition of financial stability, multi-year planning and responsible stewardship. Overall, the total budget increases by \$54 million due to an increase in the operating budget and decreases in the capital and debt service budgets. This represents an increase of slightly more than one percent in the total \$4.1 billion budget.

Based on the Broward County Commission's direction, the proposed total millage rate will remain the same as Fiscal Year 2015. The proposed combined millage rate for FY16 is 5.723 per thousand dollars of taxable value. A homestead property with the Save Our Homes differential and an average taxable value of \$128,000 will experience an estimated increase in taxes of \$6.00. A non-homestead residential property, with an average taxable value of \$153,000 will experience an estimated increase of \$63.

It's important to note that Broward County taxes consist of less than one-quarter of the overall tax bill, which also includes city taxes, school district taxes and special taxing districts. County Commissioners are expected to approve a final budget after the second budget hearing on September 17th. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget takes effect on October 1, 2015.

September 17th Public Hearing Set for New TNC Ordinance

Broward County Commissioners will finalize a new ordinance for transportation network companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft at a public meeting set for September 17th. The new rules include requirements for background checks, vehicle inspections and liability insurance, but shift the procedural responsibility for enforcement to the TNCs with strict County oversight.

TNCs use an internet application to match up drivers in private vehicles to customers who are seeking transportation. Commissioners have continued to work toward laws that provide adequate consumer protections and at the same time create a regulatory framework that promotes expanded transportation services to meet public demand. The amended transportation network company ordinance allows TNCs to contract with drivers and certify that safety requirements have been met before allowing the driver onto a company's internet platform. Background checks are required, but can be processed through the County or a third party without the need for fingerprinting. Vehicle inspections will also be required and TNCs will have to accommodate disabled passengers. Fees for dropping off and picking up passengers at Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Broward County's Port Everglades will need to be negotiated.

Commissioners also agreed to a proposal that requires TNCs to file a certificate of insurance demonstrating blanket liability coverage that meets state standards. The new law allows the County to audit TNC records to ensure full compliance.

Commissioners approved the proposed ordinance with a majority vote. Commissioners Lois Wexler, Barbara Sharief and Dale V.C. Holness voted against the ordinance.

The Public Hearing, set for Thursday, September 17th takes place at 2 p.m. at the Broward Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 422 in Fort Lauderdale.

Continued on page 12

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Budget Bilge

Having recently completed another agreement with the Corps – a measure to sufficiently deepen the Port Everglades channel to accommodate huge Post-Panamax shipping vessels – County negotiators know that any understanding is subsequently rubber-stamped by Jo-Ellen Darcy - Assistant Secretary of the Army. In her response, Sharp was unclear about whether the Feds said they would or would not participate, or if the agreement was simply awaiting Darcy's signature. To demystify the negotiated outcome, and ascertain if the Corps had acceded to inclusion in the PPA, Sharp was asked point blank whether or not the Corps had agreed to the 55% cost-sharing ratio. The Broward beach boss responded "The PPA does include the 55% cost-share ratio, but we cannot confirm approval of the cost-share ratio until the document is signed off on by the Assistant Secretary of the Army and executed." The Feds were on board.

Sharp's admonitory suggestion that the City prepare for a worst-case funding scenario would mean appropriating \$2.8 million annually for 3 years (total \$8.38 million) – which would be reduced (or repaid) – by as much as \$6.77 million when Federal reimbursements are recovered. If City planners decide against Sharp's conservatively tentative budget gymnastics, the annual appropriation for 3 years would drop to \$540,000 and the City's net expense would be \$1.61 million.

In the Works

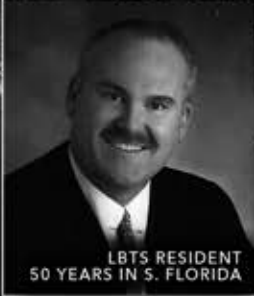
While preparing to raise the curtain on Segment II, the County is in the design and engineering phase of another Segment III project to renourish South County beaches. The \$53.7 million plan will combine sand dredged from the ocean bottom with sand trucked in from upstate mines. An estimated 980,000 cubic yards of sand will be distributed across the beaches of John U. Lloyd State Park, Dania, Hollywood, and Hallandale.

Also on the menu is the Port Everglades Sand Bypassing Project. Since 85% of the tidal erosion in Florida occurs at coastal inlets like Port Everglades, sand that naturally migrates south along the coast detours seaward at the Port, and never replenishes the sand-starved South County beaches. The project is intended to pass along 50,000 to 80,000 cubic yards of sand annually from the north to the south sides of the Port Entrance, re-establishing the disrupted sand migration, diminishing the need for future renourishments.

As observed by legendary beach Guru Stephen Higgins, "Unless the entire Broward coast is treated and maintained like a single structural entity, this project will fail." – simple – but elegant. •

"Unless the entire Broward coast is treated and maintained like a single structural entity, this project will fail."

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COMMISSIONER BRUCE ROBERTS



"In his September 2015 Newsletter, City Commissioner Bruce Roberts updates his Galt Mile constituents about the improvements currently underway along their section of State Road A1A, applauds Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue for its recognition as a "Class 1" agency by the Insurance Services Organization (and for completing accreditation through the Commission of Fire Accreditation International), explains how the City's upgraded credit rating will lower the tax bite for debt repayment, reviews a controversial Vacation Rental Ordinance crafted to quell concerns about abusive tenants without financially crippling responsible and compliant landlords, announces the inaugural implementation of "sharrows", an infrastructure design feature that may help abate a danger to cyclists (and pedestrians), invites constituents to fill vacancies on City Boards or Committees and welcomes their attendance at his twice-monthly pre-agenda meetings.

While exclaiming how New Bicycle Signage "fulfills the City's vision of being a more walkable, bikeable, fully connected, sustainable city with safe streets that are accessible to everyone," Roberts' concern for safe streets derives (in part) from the need to improve the city's shamefully high pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic fatality rates. To benchmark progress of an administration campaign to make Fort Lauderdale's development responsive to those who live here - and foot the bill - the City has published a steady stream of "top ten" achievements on its website.

In his May 2015 newsletter, Commissioner Roberts popped the cork on a "top ten" rating that spoke to one of the city's humiliating deficiencies, a U.S. Department of Transportation Fatality Analysis Report affirming that Fort Lauderdale in 2014 had the second highest per capita pedestrian fatality rate in the United States - and the nation's fifth highest traffic fatality rate. The Sunshine State also tops the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration list of States most plagued with bicycle fatalities - revealing that 5% of those killed in traffic accidents - or 6.32 of every 1 million Floridians - buy the farm from a bicycle seat. In a related "top ten" list compiled by News-Press.Com - 2014 Florida Bicycle Crashes by County - Broward's 852 bike crashes and 9 fatalities in 2014 took second place statewide to Miami-Dade's 985 collisions and 15 deaths.

Consistent with the data from earlier studies, 67% of the fatally injured cyclists weren't wearing helmets, and 25% of the adult victims were legally inebriated. However, the drivers involved in these fatalities weren't those commonly stereotyped as likely to mow down cyclists. Instead of 91 year-old arthritic snowbirds with failing eyesight, the greatest damage was done by 20 - 24 year-old locals. Almost as many cyclists were hit by 45 - 49 year-old drivers. Highway safety pundits who vetted the statistics blamed driver immaturity for the younger motorists and diagnosed the older group with driver complacency.

To mute the global perception that Fort Lauderdale drivers win "Thank You" points for taking out bicycles and accrue airline miles for popping pedestrians, the City began working with Broward County, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and others to develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan, drawing heavily on the Vision Zero initiative first adopted in Sweden in 1997. Integrated with the Complete Streets Program, the plan identifies the underlying reasons for these unacceptable tragedies and cultivates action strategies for their prevention, including education campaigns, infrastructure improvements, targeted enforcement, policy & legislative changes and altering the way projects are designed.

As outlined in Roberts' September 2015 Newsletter, the City is experimenting with "sharrows" or "shared-use arrows," in FDOT's U.S. 1 Improvements Project, placing them along the new parallel bike route to the north and south of Sunrise Boulevard/U.S. 1, between Sears and the Gateway Intersection. Popular in Canada, the Czech Republic and France, sharrows have stirred controversy in the U.S., as motorists fear they impede traffic, and State Transportation or Highway authorities have demonstrated a clear preference for bike lanes - if structurally possible. However, when roads are insufficiently wide to accommodate bike lanes (or even sidewalks); FDOT has alternatively approved the use of sharrows.

When the city initially asked for bike lanes on the Sunrise Boulevard section of U.S. 1, FDOT rejected the request. By creating an alternative bicycle route on the surrounding local streets, Transportation and Mobility Director Diane Alarcon set up the first real test for these hybrid lanes. It's no secret that drivers often break 70 mph on 25 or 35 mph side streets - especially after sundown. Hopefully, the cyclists who share these travel lanes will serve to slow these lunatics - and not become additional targets. Admittedly a baby step, the City and its regional partners have a long way to go in fleshing out strategies that will surgically destigmatize its reputation as a wonderful place to live, a great place to visit, but a deadly place to ride a bike - or take a walk. For Commissioner Roberts September 2015 Newsletter, read on... - [editor]"



SEPTEMBER 2015 DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER
COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS

State Rd. A1A From Oakland Park Blvd. To Flamingo Ave. Construction: The FDOT began construction of the \$13.4 million SR A1A Greenway project between Oakland Park Blvd. and Flamingo Ave on July 26, 2015. The project consists of the reconstruction of the roadway to include new wider sidewalks, landscaping for shade along the sidewalks, a new pedestrian crosswalk located in proximity of the CVS pharmacy, buffered bike lanes, and a business access drive to increase safety for the patrons who currently must back out onto SR A1A. The City partnered with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (Broward MPO) and FDOT to create a project that meets the needs of business owners, residents and guests utilizing this

corridor, and they will continue to showcase SR A1A as an attraction within the City. The hardscape portion of this project is expected to be completed in May 2017, with the landscaping portion immediately following to complete the overall project. The Maintenance of Traffic Plan includes maintaining one lane of traffic in each direction at all times. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations will be maintained throughout construction as well as bus stops. Business access signage will be installed to direct customers to businesses during construction. A public meeting was held on July 22, 2015 at the Beach Center as FDOT wanted to conduct outreach to the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses.

It has also been brought to our attention by FDOT, that the State Road A1A project (north of Sunrise), which was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015, is now anticipated to be completed prior to Thanksgiving!

Ft. Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Receives Prestigious ISO "Class 1" Status: Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue has just been notified that they are now recognized as a "Class 1" Fire Rescue agency by the Insurance Services Organization. The department was previously ranked as a "Class 3" agency. However, under the direction and leadership of Fire Chief Robert Hoecherl, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue was able to advance to the highest rating. This rating of "Class 1" represents "superior property fire protection." The ISO program recognizes the efforts of communities to provide fire protection services for citizens and property owners. A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Insurance companies use ISO information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance — generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection. In Fort Lauderdale, homeowners could see a savings up to 2%, and commercial businesses could see substantial savings from 3 – 12%. ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. They then assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria. ISO has extensive information on more than 47,000 fire-response jurisdictions. Currently, there are only 61 fire departments in the United States with an ISO rating of "Class 1."

Effective August 26th, 2015, our Fire Rescue Department also completed accreditation through the Commission of Fire Accreditation International. There are only 120 accredited agencies. Only 32 agencies out of 47,000 are both Accredited and ISO 1 rated. Congratulations to our Fire Rescue Department! These achievements are a true testament to their professionalism. Please click (or copy) the link below to see the presentation Command Staff made to the Commission on 9/1/15.

<http://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=1695d2df-7f32-4aef-b79b-f1af6e49e731.pdf>

Improved Financial Ratings: Wall Street's leading credit rating institutions are signaling continued confidence in the financial health of our City! Standard & Poor's recently raised its rating on our General Obligation Bonds to AA+ citing "strong budgetary performance" and "very strong management, with strong financial policies and practices." Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Service affirmed its Aa1 rating on our General Obligation Bonds and raised its outlook noting that revenues have been "growing at a far more rapid pace than the City's expenditures during the past 6 fiscal years." We also received high marks for our large and improving local economy and tax base, balanced financial operations, and low debt burden. Our favorable bond ratings enable us to borrow money at reduced rates, which saves our neighbors and businesses millions of dollars in interest costs, while allowing us to continue to address community priorities and enhance quality of life.

Update on Vacation Rentals: The City will require people renting out homes to vacationers to register and adhere to new regulations, however, at this time, has backed off imposing a 10-guest maximum on vacation rentals in single-family neighborhoods. Your commission agreed to set the guest limit at two people per bedroom plus two additional people. A one-bedroom house could be rented to four people, a two-bedroom to six and a 10-bedroom to 22. It was also decided that the number of vehicles used by guests would have to fit legally on site and not be parked on the street.

Continued on page 13

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Broward County Commissioners Choose Qualifying Developers for Convention Center Hotel/Expansion in Broward County

Five nationally renowned and highly accomplished developers have been chosen after meeting the qualifications necessary to build a new upscale flagship Convention Center headquarters hotel and expand the current Convention Center in Broward County.

The five developers will compete for the \$550 million dollar project to expand the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center by 300,000 square feet and build a hotel ranging in size from 750 to 1,250 rooms. The expansion and new headquarters hotel will create a combined effect with public spaces and waterfront amenities and will bolster the local economy, attract more Convention Center and trade show business, increase tourism and create jobs in Broward County. In September the five developers will introduce their design, build and financial team members as the selection process continues.

Broward County's Port Everglades Selected for Services to Latin America

Broward County's Port Everglades became the first and last U.S. calls for Sealand and APL's North American Express Service (NAE/ACX) to Latin America on August 27. Sealand APL selected Florida International Terminal, LLC (FIT) at Port Everglades to provide cargo handling and stevedoring services. The new service is expected to generate more than 20,000 container moves annually.

Port Everglades is investing more than \$600 million in waterside improvements, and in the last year celebrated the opening of a 43-acre intermodal rail container transfer facility and a multitude of road improvements. Sealand/APL's NAE/ACX service will arrive in Port Everglades every Thursday from Manzanillo, Panama, before sailing to other U.S. East Coast ports and returning on Sundays before sailing to Cartagena, Colombia. Port Everglades serves as an ideal point of entry and departure for products shipped around the world.

September is National Preparedness Month

Broward County is participating in a national awareness campaign throughout September to increase resident and community preparedness for all potential emergencies. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners proclaimed September 2015 "National Preparedness Month" during their September 10th meeting.

Broward County recently received another three-year recognition as a Storm Ready Community through the National Weather Service Storm Ready Program. September is the most active month for hurricane activity here in South Florida. Here are a few steps to help residents get prepared:

- Know if you live in an evacuation zone
- Prepare a family/business emergency plan that includes your pets
- Assemble an emergency supply kit - enough to last 72 hours per person
- Stay informed about potential hazards and local emergency plans
- Sign up for Broward County Emergency Updates

Here are upcoming preparedness events:

- Be Ready Florida presents the BRACE for the Storm Workshop on Monday, September 21st from 7-9PM. This is a FREE internet based workshop designed to provide information to homeowners on disaster mitigation techniques that can reduce damage to their homes from hurricanes and other disasters that threaten Floridians. For more information, contact Be Ready Florida at 850-241-3565.
- Residents are encouraged to sign up in September for an upcoming SKYWARN Storm Spotters Training Class, hosted by Broward Emergency Management on October 17th, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Broward Emergency Operations Center.

L'Shanah Tovah! to our friends of the Jewish faith. We wish you a meaningful high holiday and sweet and happy new year!

Contact Us

The Resident's Guide to Government provides a convenient resource to help people stay connected to their local government. It includes contact information for County officials and Federal, State, and local agencies. Visitors can stay connected by subscribing to E-news and social media sites. Sign up at Broward.org/District4 to receive email updates from our office. 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.

As always, it is my honor to serve you. Have a wonderful summer with family and friends.

Chip LaMarca

Broward County Commissioner, District 4 •

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As most of you know, the neighborhoods, along with the City, have been frustrated since 2011 by a state law that restricted cities from prohibiting the rentals, from limiting how many times a property could be rented each year and from setting a minimum length for the rentals. This new City law will take effect November 1, 2015. At the commission meeting held on August 18, 2015, the commission reacted to numerous complaints from residents who say their peace and quiet is being disrupted by vacationers who overwhelm neighborhoods, party late, have little regard for neighbors and whose cars create parking nightmares. We also listened to the pleas of vacation rental property managers who agreed with the need for greater regulations, but feared the proposals could put them out of business. Commissioners unanimously approved the law after raising the cap, but asked staff to meet with property manager representatives to see what additional changes might be needed before the law takes effect. We do not want to penalize the group that is doing it right while we are going through this transitional period. I would like to see tougher consequences for those who violate the rules, a concern raised by many residents whose lives have been upended by nearby vacation rentals. The new City rules follow the occupancy standards of the Florida Building Code and have other health and safety requirements that are in place for transient establishments. The law follows a similar one passed in Flagler County that has already withstood an initial court challenge. The properties will have to meet City codes and owners will have to show proof they are paying the appropriate county and state taxes and fees. The rules require a local contact for emergencies and allow the City to temporarily suspend a rental license for a week after a third violation. Each additional violation would add another 30-day suspension, up to a one-year maximum. We will vote on the City registration charge ordinance at the Commission Meetings of September 1st and September 15th. The City Manager has proposed charging \$750 to register a property plus requiring a \$250 compliance inspection fee. The proposed annual registration renewal would be \$500 per property and a \$250 inspection. It is still recommended that neighbors call either the police for noise violation (954-764-4357) or code (954-828-8000). Also, please join Commissioner Trantalis and myself on Thursday, 9/17/15, 6pm, Commission Chambers – for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss this new ordinance. The meeting is open to the public and will include opportunities for input on the regulation and requirements contained in the ordinance.

New Bicycle Signage: Thanks to negotiations led by our Transportation and Mobility Department (TAM), new signage, pavement markings, and a

parallel bike route (north and south of Sunrise Blvd., between Searstown and Gateway), are part of FDOT's US 1 Improvement Project. The parallel bike route provides a safer, alternate route around the construction area for bicyclists. Among the key features of the bike route are the new pavement markings, referred to as "sharrows" or "shared-use arrows," which inform users that the street is shared by both bicyclists and motorists. As opposed to designated bike lanes, sharrows indicate that bicyclists may ride on the street using the full lane by following the middle of the arrow on the pavement markings. They also alert motorists to expect bicyclists on the street. TAM's Community Builders deserve tremendous credit for working with FDOT and our neighbors to ensure roadway safety is a critical component of future improvement projects. This initiative not only addresses our neighbors' priorities, it also fulfills the City's vision of being a more walkable, bikeable, fully connected, sustainable city with safe streets that are accessible to everyone.

Several Opportunities to Volunteer: We have many boards and committees that are in need of members. If interested in serving on one, please go to <http://fortlauderdale.gov/departments/city-clerk-office/board-and-committee-information> where you can find the different boards/committees, the vacancies and another link to apply on line. There is also the Riverwalk Ambassadors. Riverwalk Trust and the City are looking for energetic, outgoing and enthusiastic volunteers to serve as Riverwalk Ambassadors. An Ambassador will have the opportunity to welcome neighbors and visitors, answer questions, and hand out brochures from a Riverwalk Kiosk; provide information about restaurants, shops, events and activities in downtown and along the Riverwalk; enhance Riverwalk's identity as a vibrant, engaging, downtown Ft. Lauderdale destination; and earn community service hours for your school, nonprofit or philanthropic organization. Volunteer days are Saturday and Sunday from 11 am-5pm (3-hour shifts). For more information: JoAnn Smith (club10@aol.com; 954-298-5607) or Jorg Hruschka, Chief Service Officer (jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov; 954-828-5569).

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.

Email List: If you would like to be on our email list so that you receive information pertaining to the City – especially District 1 (i.e. news releases, meeting notices, events), please let Robbi know and she will add you. •



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RSVP not necessary. Refreshments will be provided.

Topics for October-December 2015

Meetings are at 11:30am on the second Tuesday of every month.

October 13:

Improving Quality of Life in your 60's, 70's, 80's and Beyond!

Speaker: Heather Guthrie from John Knox Village

November 10:

Staying Healthy during the Holidays

Speaker: Bonnie Petrie, LCSW

December 8:

Wholeness and the Spiritual Path

Speaker: Pastor Rich Hasselbach



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