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The Sun Trolley Has Expanded Service to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea!

As of December 1, 2015, the Sun Trolley's Galt Link route has extended north to Washingtonia Ave. Sun Trolley passengers can utilize the Galt Link service on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

> For more information about this extension visit bit.ly/galt-extended



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By Eric Berkowitz

For the past year, Galt Mile residents have been repeatedly assured that the Segment II beach renourishment would begin following the November conclusion of Sea Turtle nesting season. It didn't. For some veteran Galt Mile residents, two decades of crushing disappointments replaced enthusiastic support for the project with a numbing cynicism – on a hair trigger. After 20 years of flimsy excuses, foot-dragging and bald faced lies, the delay was perceived as evidence that the project would once again be derailed.

The passionate blowback by frustrated residents wasn't unreasonable, considering how protection of \$4 billion in upland property – and the lives of our families – may ride on this project. Only a healthy beach can shield a coastal population from catastrophic storm surge. Also at stake are three local economies, a regional economy and a large slice of the State's tax pie.

Fortunately, the missed deadline didn't veil another bureaucratic shell game, just the delays that ordinarily belabor complex infrastructure projects. To begin with, County and City officials will not casually forgo \$41 million of federal & State sugar allocated to the \$56 million project. Also, planners finally have their ducks in a row. After years of Congressional gridlock and partisan bickering, Congress restored the Army Corps of Engineers' lapsed funding for ports, waterways and beaches in the Water Resources Development Act of 2014. Although Tallahassee loosened renourishment resources, before it could nail State funding, Broward had to revise the Segment II sand source to circumvent the regulatory obstacles that impair dredge projects. After negotiating project terms with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) throughout 2013, Broward beach officials landed State Permit Number 0314535-001-JC on January 31, 2014.

In 2014, the Federal permit process stumbled when a foot-dragging bureaucrat in NOAA Fisheries withheld an opinion letter required by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). With the help of Corps officials from the Palm Beach Gardens Regulatory office, Broward beach boss Nicole Sharp secured the opinion letter and completed the remaining Permit requirements by April of 2015. A few days later, ACOE District Commander Colonel Alan Dodd issued Federal Permit Number SAJ-1999-05545(SP-GGL) in Jacksonville.

Since County officials were hard-pressed to complete project preparations before the anticipated late autumn 2015 start date, they simultaneously entered into cost-sharing talks with the Corps and the three municipal stakeholders – the City of Pompano Beach, the Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and the City of Fort Lauderdale. The County began drafting a Project Participation Agreement (PPA) in April, which details the parties' project costs, responsibilities and objectives, and specifies how the County will meet environmental and financial benchmarks.

The pact also legally obligates the Corps to a negotiated cost-sharing formula. Since vendor agreements are subject to terms spelled out in the PPA, it had to be executed before the County could contract with prospective vendors. Any vendor agreements entered into by the County prior to official execution of the PPA (before it was signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army) would be ineligible for federal reimbursement.

County PPA negotiations with ACOE would also determine how the County and cities budgeted for the \$55.6 million project, although it would proceed whether or not the Feds chipped in the 55% (\$30.58 million) reimbursable under a 2014 Limited Reevaluation Report. The State of Florida had already committed \$10.43 million to the project, a healthy chunk of the non-federal share. Incremental to their regular share, the County also donated \$10.1 million recently collected from the City of Hollywood for a previous project. Of that amount, the County credited 33% to help the cities meet their obligations while the remaining 67% was applied to the County's costs. Since the remaining balance would be shared by the County and the three municipalities (on a 67% - 33% basis) with or without the Federal contribution, in July the County sent each municipality funding estimates for both scenarios.

Without the \$30.58 million in Federal funds, the County's 67% share would come to \$23.76 million, while the 33% due from the three municipalities would total \$11.31 million. If the Feds signed the PPA and shouldered 55% of the \$55.6 million project cost, the County share would drop to \$2.26 million while the cities would collectively pay \$2.23 million. The percentage cost to the municipalities is based on the volume of sand added to their respective beaches - 72.4% for Fort Lauderdale, 22.3% for Pompano Beach and 5.3% for Lauderdale-by-the-Sea (LBTS). However, if the LBTS share exceeded \$350,000, the County agreed to make up the difference. As such, the projected costs to each municipality (with and without Federal Funds), were \$1.61 - \$8.38 million for Fort Lauderdale, \$500K - \$2.58 million for Pompano Beach and \$120K - \$350K for Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE...SOME

28	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	13 Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 13 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.; 954-426-8436	14	15 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.; Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
(1) S	10th Annual Holiday Car Show Festival Flea Market Mall 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-563-4000	Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agendo Meeting Beach Community Center, & p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	Fort Louderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall Regular Agenda: 6 p.m.	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical (Through 12/27) Broward Center for the Performing Arts Info. & Tix.: http://browardcenter.org
2016	Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	21	BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
()	Jingle Bell Jog Huizenga Plaza, 7:30 a.m. Info.: 954-661-2732			
H	2733 E Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	28	29 Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	30 Regency South Party Room 7 p.m., Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
0	Former's Market Town Hall, LBTS 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.			
	Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 333 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	4	5 Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
Z	Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwolk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622	Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beoch Community Center, & p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall Regular Agenda: 6 p.m.	"Wind Down Wednesday" Wine & Cheese Coast Boutique, LBTS 5 to 8 p.m.
Y	Las Olas Outdoor Green Market 33 E Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436	11	Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
	38th Annual Oshogatsu: A New Years Celebration Morikami Museum 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 561-495-0233			
3	DEC 15: The Royal Ballet - Swan Lake, Silvers DEC 16: Encore presentation of The Mogic Flut DEC 19-20: Flomingo Gardens - Garden of Ligit DEC 19-20: Florida Gun & Knife Show, South JAN 1: First Day Walk, Curry Hammack State	te, Silverspot Cinema, 4441 Lyons Rd. in Coco nts, 3750 S. Flamingo Road, Davie, 9:30 a.m Florida Fairgrounds, WPB, Info.: 321-777-745	nut Creek, 6 p.m., Tix.: 954-840-8150 . to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-473-2955	

JAN 1-3: International Gem and Jewelry Show, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 301-294-1640

JAN 1-3: International Gem and Jewelry Show, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 301-294-1640

JAN 10: Oshogatsu: A New Year's Celebration, Marikami Museum, 10 a.m., Info. & Tix.: http://marikami.org/event-calendar

JAN 15: Evening on the Avenue, Cultural Plaza (414 Lake Ave.), Lake Worth, 6 to 10 p.m., Info.: www.lakeworth.org/calendar



INGS DO! CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOIN'

THU	FRI	SAT	LOTS
17	18	19 31st Annual Jingle Bell Jog 5K Sawgrass Technology Park Info.: 461-5515	HAPPENING IN DECEMBER! January 17 Sunshine Music Fest
G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting Nick's Italian Restaurant 11 a.m.	Lake Worth Beach Bon Fire 10 South Ocean Blvd. 6 to 9 p.m.	Inaugural Delray Beach Jingle Bell Jog Anchor Park (340 South Ocean Blvd.), Delray 7:30 a.m. Info.: 954-661-2732	Mizner Park Amphitheatre, Boca; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Info.: www.sunshinemusicfestival.com/boca-raton/ January 17 5th Annual Cool Wheels Benefit Car Show Quiet Waters Park; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
		9th Annual Downtown Delray Beach New Years Weekend Craft Festival (Through 12/27) 330 East Aufantic Ave., Delray 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-472-3755	Info.: 954-410-5536 January 20-24 19th Annual ArtPalmBeach Art Fair Palm Beach County Convention Center Info.: 561-290-8053 January 22-24
New Year's Eve Downtown Countdown SW 2 St. (between SW 2 Ave. & SW 4 Ave.) 4:30 p.m. to 3 a.m.	International Gern and Jewelry Show (Through 1/3) War Memorial Auditorium Info.: 301-294-1640 Resolution 5K TY Park, 3300 N Park Rd. (Pavilion #5), Hollywood 9 a.m.: 5K Run/Walk; 9:45 a.m.: Kd's Dash; 10 a.m.: Youth Mile	Audra McDonald: Broodway Concert Series Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.	10th Annual Chocolate Festival Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info.& Tix.: http://www.tairchildgarden.org/ January 29-3 1 17th Annual Delray Beach Garlic Fest Downtown Delray Beach Info.: 561-274-4663
Info.: 954-396-3622	Info.: 954-461-5515	Info. & Tix.: http://browardcentec.org	The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m. Info.& Tix.; http://browardcenter.org/
		28th Annual Las Olas Art Fair - Port I (Through 1/10) East Las Olas Blvd. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-472-3755	FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, GO TO THE
14	15 39th Annual Art Deco Weekend (Through 1/17) Art Deco Historic District, Miami Info.: 305-672-2014	29th Annual Boca Fest Town Center Mall 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-472-3755	CALENDAR AT WWW.GALTMILE.COM
	2016 International Orchid Show (Through 1/17) War Memorial Auditorium Info.: 954-764-1239	South Florida Fair (Through 1/31) South Florido Fairgrounds, WPB 10 a.m. to 12 Midnight Info.: 561-793-0333	

JAN 16-17: 22nd Annual South Florida Folk Festival, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Tix.: www.southfloridafolkfest.net/SFFF/Tickets.html 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, Stranghan 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, STO donation, Open to the Public, Info.: 754-779-7519 or 516-840-1455





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Beach...Continued

The LBTS cost cap was not a by-product of politically prompted preferential treatment. In 2013, the Army Corps of Engineers approved an LBTS emergency beach fill under its Flood Control and Coastal Emergency program (FCCE) authorized by Public Law 84-99 (PL 84-99), which empowers the Corps to directly provide disaster relief on its own authority, and was implemented to fortify eligible East Coast beaches shredded by Hurricane Sandy. The Corps approved reconstructing 5.1 miles of eroded shoreline in south Pompano Beach and

In November 2013, Corps contractor Eastman Aggregate Enterprises began trucking 126,700 cubic yards of beach quality sand 106 miles from the E.R. Jahan Ortona sand mine in Moore Haven to Pompano and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea beaches. An average of 130 trucks per day made the two-hour trip from the mine to LBTS staging areas, where the sand was delivered for dispersal along the beach. Completed on February 28, 2014 [before the March 1st commencement of Sea Turtle nesting season), the project required about 10,000 de-

Although the newly fleshed out LBTS beaches had little need for Segment II sand, the town's shoreline served to connect beaches in Pompano and Fort Lauderdale that were targeted for renourishment. To structurally integrate the coast along all three north Broward municipalities, the County solicited town permission to taper the LBTS shoreline adjacent to beaches in Pompano and Fort Lauderdale that were planned to receive sand. Since the sand was being placed on LBTS beaches solely to stabilize newly renourished adjacent beaches in Pompano and Fort Lauderdale, the County agreed to limit the town's financial exposure.

As Sharp and ACOE negotiated the PPA cost-sharing terms, each of the three municipalities set about executing Interlocal Agreements (ILA) with the County. The ILAs detailed the parties' respective financial and regulatory responsibilities. On October 6, the County placed the Segment II project out to bid (on Bidsync), citing November 6 as the closing date for beach fill services and artificial reef construction vendor proposals. By starting the bidding process prior to execution of the PPA, County Beach officials would be ready to roll once the PPA was signed, avoiding delays due to vendor scheduling confit.

In soliciting vendor proposals, the County split the project into two groups; the northern beach fill segment in Pompano Beach and part of LBTS was Group 1 and the southern segment for the rest of LBTS and Fort Lauderdale was bid out as Group 2. Dividing the project would allow each segment to move forward independently. By the November 6 deadline, bids were received from Eastern Aggregate Enterprise (the vendor selected by the Corps two years earlier for the emergency LBTS beach fill), MCM, Phillips and Jordan, Inc., Ranger Construction Inc., and an incomplete proposal was filed by the Rio-Bak Corporation.

On October 9, an elated Commissioner LaMarca notified the neighborhood association "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." Later that day, Broward Beach boss Nicole Shap cautioned that they are the description of the project of the projec County had completed negotiating the terms of the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA); until it was signed by Assistant Secretary of the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy - projected for early November – it carried no legal

While addressing Galt Mile officials at the October 5th Presidents Council meeting at Ocean Club condominium, City Manager Lee Feldman enumerated City concerns with the draft ILA received from the County. Citing an unfair funding ratio, potential conflicts with City projections. ects (i.e. Auberge, etc.) and prospective future liability for obligations not clearly defined in the agreement, Feldman also intimated that the County deliberately sent the draft ILA shortly before the projected November start date as a negotiating tactic, suggesting that the abbreviated time frame was meant to pressure City concessions to questionable pact provisions.







During a December 17, 2014 meeting of the Galt Mile Community Association (GMCA) Advisory Board, Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Bruce Roberts advised association officials of a possible threat to the Sun Trolley's Galt Mile route. While serving on the Board of the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (DFLTMA) - the Sun Trolley's parent agency - Roberts learned that the route's ridership statistics had inexplicably tanked. The Galt Mile Sun Trolley (AKA the "Galt Link") is comprised of several legs. The stretch that heads south along A1A and east on Sunrise Boulevard to Galleria is reliably flush with Galt Mile shoppers. A second leg, which carries riders along Oakland Park Boulevard to Federal Highway destinations, including the Coral Ridge Mall, Holy Cross Hospital and Imperial Point Medical Center, was the focus of Roberts' concern.

Following a frenetic search to replace former Sun Trolley Executive Director Patricia Zeiler, on December 2, 2014, DFLTMA Chairman Alan Hooper announced that the Board selected Robyn Chiarelli to fill Zeiler's shoes. Recipient of a Prudential-Davis Productivity Award, Chiarelli was recognized in November 2014 as the WTS (Women's Transportation Seminars) South Florida Chapter Woman of the Year (a prestigious honorarium for Women in Transportation). Having served in leadership roles with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), Tri-Rail, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Chiarelli topped a short list of high-powered prospects.

At a January meeting with Galt Mile officials arranged by Roberts, Chiarelli promised to thoroughly investigate the perplexing stats before recommending any "reallocation of resources" (spin for a service cutback). Chiarelli advised that the troubled Galt Mile Route still exceeded the County survival standard of 7.1 riders per hour, and how underutilization seemed limited to one section of the problematic route leg. Although ridership to the Coral Ridge Mall was strong, far fewer passengers continued to Holy Cross and Imperial Point Hospitals. Leery of an unjustified reduction in the tew municipal benefits provided to Galt Mile residents, Galt Mile officials imposed several conditions on any planned route modifications.

Concerned about the burden it would place on fixed-income Galt Mile patients who rely on the service, including some of the neighborhood's more vulnerable residents, Galt Mile officials proposed an outreach effort to better inform local residents and new association administrations about the service and a campaign to solicit residents to rate the importance of hospital access via the Sun Trolley. If Sun Trolley officials could convincingly demonstrate a fading community interest in bus service to the hospitals, Galt Mile officials would agree to the cutback with two caveats. Impacted residents must be provided with a minimally burdensome alternative - and that any reclaimed resources would be utilized to otherwise benefit the Galt link

In July, Sun Trolley PR Gurus scripted a plan to edify Galt Mile residents about their community bus service benefits with a media blitz in local publications and marketing materials hand-delivered to Galt Mile associations. In September, Sun Trolley officials crafted a survey that generally screened for use frequency, schedule preferences, pricing limits and specifically inquired about access to the hospitals and a prospective route extension to Lauderdale-by-the-Sea (LBTS). The surveys were inserted into the Galt Mile News, distributed to each association and made available in several local establishments as well as popular online social media sites. Once completed, participants were instructed to drop them at the Galt Mile Library, where residents were invited to directly question Sun Trolley officials at an October 1st meeting, when they could expand on their input or vet related concerns. While addressing association officials attending the October 5th GMCA Presidents Council meeting at Ocean Club condominium, Chiarelli recruited member associations to encourage completion the survey by unit owners, admonishing that survey results would impact the route's future configuration.

Chiarelli's interest in extending the Galt Mile route north into Lauderdale-by-the-Sea was ostensibly to facilitate alternative access to the medical center if eliminated as a destination – a prerequisite for neighborhood association approval. To that end, Chiarelli launched negotiations with the Pelican Hopper, the Community Bus Service for Lauderdale-by-the-Sea (LBTS). On weekdays, the Pelican Hopper duplicates three Sun Trolley stops in the Galt Mile neighborhood, at the Beach Community center, the Galt Mile Library and the corner of Galt Ocean Drive and NE 41st Street. Since the Pelican Hopper also connects to Holy Cross Hospital, by creating a service link with the Pelican Hopper, Chiarelli could provide Galt Mile patients with convenient access to the Medical Center from Monday through Friday.

Commissioner

Chip LaMarca's NOVEMBER 2015 Newsletter



*In his October Newsletter, Broward County Commissioner Chip LaMarca updates his District 4 constituents about the impending Segment II Beach Renourishment, applauds Port Everglades for earning LEEDs (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for energy-efficient improvements to Cruise Terminal 4, welcomes the next generation of informational Sea Turtle signage headed for Broward beaches and announces a series of free ACT and SAT preparation courses offered at seven branch Libraries (although not available at the Galt Mile branch).

In the County Commissioner's November Update, LaMarca speaks to the plan for reclaiming Broward's severely eroded beaches, reports how Port Everglades has proceeded with its pre-construction, engineering and design (PED) phase, mentions that TRIM Notices have been mailed to a half million Broward property owners, describes the benefits of participating in the County's "Conservation Pays" program, notes the installation of an interactive display powered by a linked solar canopy inside the Young At Art Museum and County Library, applauds the Broward County Aviation Department's new Maintenance Facility at

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport for earning the LEEDs Silver Certification, advises budding Broward entrepreneurs to enroll in free FastTrac NewVenture courses, and exhorts boating enthusiasts to watch for Manatees that migrate into the intracoastal to forage when the temperatures warm.

Both newsletters open with progress reports about the long-delayed Segment II beach renourishment. A source of unrelenting frustration for nearly two decades, the beach fix is finally at hand. A complete review of events leading up to the project, culminating with a December 16 meeting in which project planners announce a January 4 start date and outline the planned project roll out is summarized in an accompanying article. Learn how LaMarca, Broward Beach administrator Nicole Sharp and project contractor Bernie Eastman plan to reclaim the Galt Mile beach beginning next month. First... peruse Commissioner LaMarca's October and November 2015 constituent updates - [ed-

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

Port Everglades Receives Its First LEED Certification

Broward County's Port Everglades received its first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for Cruise Terminal 4, which underwent many energy-efficient improvements when it was expanded and completely renovated over the past year. Port Everglades also has a port-wide energy management program that includes most of the Broward County-owned buildings and facilities, so many of the Port's other cruise terminals are also 'energy efficient' buildings. Port Everglades recently became the first deepwater port in Florida to join Green Marine, an environmental certification program for the North American marine industry. This environmental program makes it possible for ports, terminal operators, and shipping companies to voluntarily reduce their environmental footprint through a comprehensive program that addresses key environmental issues and criteria using eleven performance indica-

County Receives Grant for Informational Sea Turtle

The Sea Turtle Conservancy has awarded Broward County a grant to design, produce, and install permanent informational sea turtle signs at public beach access points throughout the County. Installing educational signs at known nesting sites will help local sea turtle nesting populations by delivering information directly to beach goers informing those who may unknowingly be impact-ing nests. The signs will also serve as a tool to help reduce human interference with sea turtle nesting sites by promoting safe practices. Municipalities will help identify priority locations based on the amount of pedestrian traffic and nesting activity within the vicinity of the access point. These signs were funded in part by a grant from the Sea Turtle Grants Program. The Sea Turtle Grants Program is funded from proceeds from the sale of the Florida Sea Turtle License Plate. Learn more at www.helpingseaturtles.org, and for more information on how to help create a more sustainable environment for sea turtles, please contact the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program at 954-519-1255.

Broward County Libraries Offers Free SAT and ACT Preparation Courses for College-bound Students

Broward County Libraries will host a series of free ACT and SAT preparation courses for collegebound students. The sessions, which will be held at seven Broward County Library locations, include practice tests and intensive test-taking strategies. Please pre-register by calling the preferred library location. The workshops are sponsored by the Broward Public Library Foundation. Collegebound students can also receive online test preparation assistance from Broward eTutor, a free service that can be accessed with your Broward County Library card. Broward eTutor offers 24/7 access to skills assessments and sample tests as well as live help and test prep for the SAT and ACT. Live assistance, in both English and Spanish, is available every day from 2 to 11PM.

Beach Renourishment Project Slated for Broward Beaches

There are approximately 24 miles of sandy beaches along Broward County's coastline. Broward County's beach management program was initiated in the 1970's. To date, over 10 million cubic yards of sand have been placed on

our beaches. Maintaining our beaches is vital due to the fact that they protect over \$4 billion in upland infrastructure, provide critical habitat to nesting sea turtles and other marine life and provide recreational space for tourists and residents. As beaches are an integral component of the County, it is our goal to maintain healthy, pristine, and wide beaches for tourists, residents, and marine life as our beaches have a \$6.6 billion in direct and indirect fiscal impacts.

The next planned renourishment event is the Segment II Shore Protection Project, which is located along Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Pompano Beach, and Fort Lauderdale Beaches. The purpose of the Segment II renourishment project is to reconstruct areas of eroded beach and increase storm protection to the upland development along portions of the shoreline. The project will place approximately 750,000 cubic yards of sand along 4.9 miles of shoreline along two reaches of shoreline between Hillsboro Inlet and Port Everglades and construct a small dune will also be constructed along sections of the beach. Sand for the project will be obtained from permitted upland sand mines located in central Florida and the sand will be trucked from the upland mine to Broward County and ultimately placed on the beach.

Broward County has currently received a low, responsive and responsible bid from a contractor and construction is anticipated to commence shortly. After many years of dedicated work by our staff and many advocates, Broward County has received per-mits to construct the project from both the State and Federal resource agencies and has currently received the final greenlight by obtaining the Project Participation Agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers. The project is highly supported and ap-plauded by local governments and environmental stakeholders.



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LaMarca...Continued

Port Everglades Update

The Port Everglades Deepening & Widening Project is moving to the Preconstruction Engineering & Design (PED) phase. In order to move forward, it is necessary to complete all required engineering and planning before actual commencement of construction and dredging. With the issuance of the Port's Chief of Engineers' Report in July, the PED phase should take approximately 18-24 months with construction commencing in 2017. County staff and their advocacy team have worked to ensure the appropriate financial agreements are in place between the County and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Current efforts are also aimed at ensuring that work completed by Port staff or its consultants are appropriately credited towards the County's cost obligations for the overall project.

2015 Property Tax Bills Are in the Mail - Taxes Due Beginning November 1st -More than 500,000 property tax bills for 2015 will be arriving in property owners' mailboxes soon. Property taxes must be paid no later than March 31, 2016 to avoid penalties and delinquency fees, but may be paid as early as November 1, 2015 to take advantage of discounts. A four percent discount applies to taxes paid in November; a three percent discount applies in December; a two percent discount in January; and a one percent discount in February. The amount shown on tax bills includes the applicable early-payment discount. Property owners without mortgages, or those who do not make use of an escrow arrangement, may pay their taxes in a variety of ways. Visit broward.county-taxes.com

Water Conservation Pays

Broward County and 18 water utility and municipal partners launched the Conservation Pays program to better support our communities and lead in meeting our shared water conservation goals. Through this program, many Broward residents have enjoyed rebates for high efficiency toilets and free water saving fixtures, including showerheads and faucet aerators. Our residents have been great partners, taking advantage of this program to replace more than 7,600 toilets with high-efficiency models, driving down water bills and maximizing water savings.

Continued on page 15

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Having weathered decades of indefensible project postponements, when angry members inveighed against additional bureaucratic delays as intolerable and heatedly suggested that the City quickly settle any contract impediments, Commissioner Roberts and Feldman assured attendees that the obstacles were being addressed and would soon be resolved. After Feldman's full list of Fort Lauderdale exceptions to the draft ILA was received by the County, a detailed response was returned by County Administrator Bertha Henry on October 30. City and County officials agreed to meet and hash out any remaining differences.

Following the November 6 bid deadline, the \$37,016,422.42 proposal submitted by low-bidder Eastern Aggregate Enterprises was "Recommended for Award" (RFA) by the County and placed on the Purchasing Division website for 5 business days for public review. Since no comments or protests were filed, the County was cleared to enter into a federally reimbursable contract with the Lake Worth-based vendor as soon as the PPA was signed by the Corps.

On Monday, November 9, the Corps finally delivered a signed and executed PPA to exuberant County Beach officials, equipping the Federal cost-sharing commitment with legal teeth. The next day, the Pompano Beach City Commission passed a resolution approving their ILA with the County. Also on November 10th, the County Commission empowered Broward Administrator Bertha Henry to execute agreements integral to the Segment II renourishment, including the municipal ILAs, the PPA and the vendor agreement (Eastern Aggregates).

Suddenly, a lawsuit was filed naming Sea Turtles as plaintiffs, whose right to peaceful enjoyment would be violated by a beach fill project, and named as defendants any entity with project standing, including the participating jurisdictions, their agencies, beachfront homeowners and the Galt Mile Community Association. Ironically, environmentalists and environmental agencies staunchly support salvaging severely eroded nesting habitat for endangered Sea Turtles and foraging habitat for scores of threatened species like the Piping Plover, as documented in the Army Corps' Final Environmental Impact Statement. The Broward Commission had also pumped up environmental protection for the project, adding \$3,364,078 to their existing \$11,155,077 contract with Nova Southeastern University for Segment II reef building and Biological Monitor-

While responsible legal actions occasionally improve a beach project, frivolous lawsuits are designed as a "Hail Mary" deterrent. In the past, project impediments were the brainchildren of lobbyists funded by the Scuba Industry (beach projects temporarily disrupt their members' offshore business venue), self-appointed environmental radicals hoping to return the barrier island to a pristine state by ejecting human beings, failed attorneys exploring a new practice field or a disgruntled resident with a personal agenda.

On November 12, City and County staff met to negotiate final terms of the Fort Lauderdale beach project ILA with Broward County. Acknowledging that the City will receive 550,000 of the 750,000 cubic yards of sand placed on Segment II beaches, the City agreed to pay 72.4% of the \$2.23 million still due from the three municipalities after the Federal, State and County contributions. Fort Lauderdale's \$1.61 million share is payable in three annual installments of less than \$540,000.

Since Bertha Henry had already addressed Feldman's more substantive concerns, most of the remaining items were less than earthshaking. For example, for cities to remain vested in future federally reimbursable beach projects, instead of coughing up "a minimum of 10%," the County will retain a flat 10%. Also, if the City drives up costs by submitting a change order to the contract, instead of the County unilaterally deciding how much the City must pay, the cost "will be mutually determined by County and City."

While a few other tweaks were approved, the City did wangle a valuable "most favored" clause. In short, beach renourishment benefits or terms granted by the County to any Broward municipality would also accrue to Fort Lauderdale. Specifically, any financially preferable changes to the cost-sharing formula for the impending Segment III re-nourishment of South County beaches would be retroactively applied to Fort Lauderdale's portion of Segment II.

Having hammered out bumpy provisions in the County pact, on December 1st, the City Commission passed a resolution approving the ILA with Broward County for the Segment II Shore Protection Project. Fort Lauderdale was officially on board. With contracts between the County and all three municipalities in hand, vendor Eastern Aggregates could finally begin drafting a schedule for delivering sand to the staging areas.

Continued on page 13

THE GALT MILE NEWS

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On December 10, Lamarca notified Galt Mile officials that the vendor, while coordinating with the sand mines, would commence sand placement surveys on Monday, December 14. On December 11, LaMarca sent an email blast to stakeholders, announcing a 6 p.m. project presentation by Eastern Aggregates at the Sonesta Hotel (999 Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard) on Wednesday, December 16.

To host the meeting, LaMarca and Nicole Sharp were joined by contractor Bernie Eastman, founder and President of Eastern Aggregate Enterprises. Representatives from most of the Galt Mile beachfront associations attended the meeting with two major objectives. In addition to confirming the project start date, they sought to learn exactly when the construction team would flesh out the stretch of beach behind their respective properties, and how long it would impair member access to the beach.

After announcing that the project would begin on Monday, January 4, 2016, Sharp did a two-step around the second query. She said that construction progress would be posted on the Broward County Beach Renourishment web page, and invited interested parties to first check the current location of the construction and then calculate how long it would take to reach their stretch of beach. After reading the perplexed faces in the audience, she suddenly blurted, "Please call or email me with questions that specifically relate to your beach."

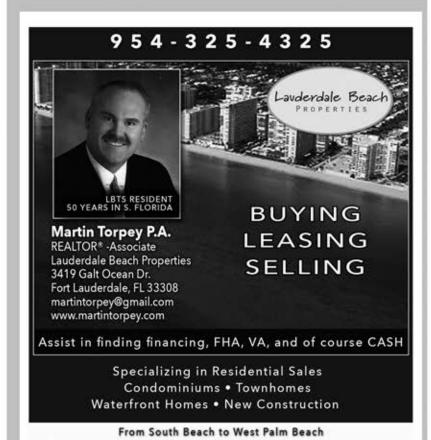
According to Sharp, 750.000 cubic yards of sand harvested from the Ortona Sand Mine in La Belle, Florida (Glades County), an upland commercial mine north and northwest of Broward County, will be trucked 125 miles to Fort Lauderdale. Owned by E.R. Jahna Industries, Inc., a dredge sucks sand from the bottom of an artificial lake, filters out pebbles, extracts water, removes silt or clay and sorts the sand by grain size.

This light yellow silica sand selected for the project typically has a larger average grain sizes and a smaller fines fraction than material found in offshore borrow areas. Due primarily to its imperceptibly larger grain size, the sand is more stable and produces less post placement turbidity in the nearshore environment. Originally deposited 5 million years ago when the shoreline ran up the spine of the state, it also more closely matches the color of our native beach sediments than the grey sand dredged from offshore borrow sites.

The construction methodology for renourishing a beach using mined sand is significantly different from using sand dredged offshore. The sand must be delivered to the beach by truck, stockpiled, transferred to off-road equipment, and placed mechanically on the beach. Traffic on regional thoroughfares and local streets along the route will be temporarily affected by the hauling and placement of material during the construction process. The project will also require several accessible and sufficiently sized dedicated staging areas for the delivery, handling, transfer and temporary stockpiling of sand material.

To allay regulatory concerns about the variability of materials at the source, and enforce Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) protocols throughout the construction period, Sharp explained that the trucks filled with sand will first stop at Lockhart Stadium, home field of the Fort Lauderdale Strikers of the North American Soccer League. Located at 1350 NW 55th Street (next to Fort Lauderdale Stadium and Executive Airport), Lockhart will serve as an initial staging area. When a truck rolls in, after a sample of the sand cargo is tested for consistency and compliance with project standards, the truck will be directed to one of 4 beachfront staging areas.

Each day, trucks will make 120 trips from the mine to the staging areas, collectively carrying 2500 tons of sand. In Pompano, sand will be delivered to a beachfront staging site at SE



Lauderdale by the Sea • Fort Lauderdale "Galt Mile" • Pompano Beach



12th Street, and be dispersed along the beach north of the staging area. In Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, sand will be trucked to the beach at Palm Avenue, and offloaded by conveyer belt to the staging area. The two beachfront staging areas in Fort Lauderdale are at Vista Park in Lauderdale Beach and E. Sunrise Boulevard. Here's the bad news.

Due to regulatory delays that shifted the project start date from November 1 to January 4, 2016, there isn't sufficient time to complete the entire project before the onset of Sea Turtle Nesting Season, when State Law will temporarily freeze construction. Work along various segments will continue through mid-March or late April. Sharp observed that while the smaller northern project area will likely be completed before the regulatory deadline, the larger southern project limits will not. The Eastman crews will roll their equipment back to the company's Lake Worth Headquarters until they return to complete the beach fill after the October 31 conclusion of Sea Turtle Nesting Season.

In Fort Lauderdale, beaches will be widened from 70 to 240 feet. Questioned why the project only included beaches north of Terramar Street in Fort Lauderdale, Sharp cited the need to protect fragile offshore coral beds just south of the project limits. Sharp explained that as construction proceeded along the coast, for the most part, it would not interfere with direct access to the beach from beachfront associations. In cases where the project impeded direct access, since the construction sites are anticipated to be roughly 100 feet in length, signs would direct unit owners around the roped off work sites to the beach.

Since dune building is integral to stabilizing the coast, association officials inquired about the planned size, shape and placement of these structural buffers against tidal erosion. Dunes also mute storm surge damage by helping to absorb the energy created by storm waves. When asked if dunes might serve as obstacles for elderly beachgoers, Sharp assured attendees that the mild elevations wouldn't block access. However, dunes located adjacent to a seawall create security concerns, as they would be abused as springboards for trespassers.

Attendees also asked about beach vegetation, another project component included to blunt erosion. Describing how plants provided by the North Port-based Earth Balance Nursery will help protect the beach, Sharp said that beach grasses and other beach vegetation block the wind, as their roots grab the sand. At an earlier Presidents Council meeting, Plaza East President Glenn Rollo told sharp that the adjacent beach is paper thin, and observed that if the added sand were covered by dunes or vegetation, little or no room would be left for beachagers.

Sharp assured Rollo that areas allocated to dune restoration or vegetation would be balanced with adequate recreational space. When an association official asked how existing beach vegetation would be preserved or integrated with new plantings, Sharp noted that questions about existing vegetation or prospective dune placement on a specific stretch of beach are more productively addressed individually with the property owner. In closing, she invited attendees to contact her with their concerns at nsharp@broward.org

After almost 20 years, this dog learned to hunt. Although we have never been so close to salvaging the beach, longtime Galt Mile residents will tell you, "Until I feel the sand in my toes, I don't believe a word of this." When the construction progress page is uploaded to the Broward County website, we will notify member associations about the construction schedule. Of course, every association can reach out to Nicole Sharp, and get the info directly from the Broward Beach boss. Pinch me; sand is finally on the way.

Trolley...Continued

Unfortunately, Chiarelli's plan hit the skids on weekends, when the Pelican Hopper only extends south to Palm Avenue and A1A and makes no stops along the Galt Mile. In March of 2015, the new Sun Trolley boss cultivated political capital with LBTS officials by adding their Pelican Hopper to the Sun Trolley's popular Tracker App. Developed in 2012, the awardwinning free mobile tracking software enables passengers with smartphones, tablets or computers to track the location of Sun Trolleys in real time across all seven routes – and includes the Riverwalk Water Trolley. By empowering riders to position themselves anywhere along the route to flag down a trolley precisely as it approaches, the Tracker App virtually eliminates the need to wait at a designated stop.

Used effectively by Fort Lauderdale Sun Trolley patrons for the past two years, grateful LBTS officials were delighted when Chiarelli consented to add their Pelican Hopper to the Tracker App, similarly benefitting LBTS residents. To close the weekend gap between Palm Avenue and the Galt Mile, Chiarelli called in her marker to line up LBTS approval for a plan she authored to extend the Galt link into Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, thereby providing Galt residents with weekend access to Holy Cross. Imperial Point is also alternatively accessible by catching the BCT Federal Highway Breeze at the Coral Ridge Mall.

After the survey data was compiled and crunched by Sun Trolley techs, on November 12, Chiarelli outlined the results for Galt Mile officials – and how the input will impact the route. Citing the statistical basis for her decision, Chiarelli said, "Over the last two years, an average of 73 passengers per month boarded at Imperial Point Hospital out of 3,306 total average boardings; this represents only 2.2% of the ridership share." Offering similar ridership statistics for Holy Cross, Chiarelli added, "78.7% of survey respondents indicated they would use the service more frequently if the route were extended north into Lauderdale-By-The-Sea."

Armed with hard feedback from Galt Mile residents, Chiarelli unveiled her plan, "Based on these results, our team is proposing that the US1 leg to the hospitals be eliminated and the route be extended northward to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. These proposed modifications have been approved by the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Town Council and the TMA Executive Board of Directors. The next step will occur on Tuesday, November 17th when the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission will hold a public hearing on the mat-

ter." Since the proposed changes affect more than 25% of the current Galt link, the City-County Interlocal Agreement (ILA) that governs the Community Bus Service – along with Title 49 of the United State Code – required the City to convene a public hearing prior to implementation.

On November 17, the City Commission held Chiarelli's public hearing. Having provided commissioners with the existing and proposed route maps and schedules, an October 13 Resolution by the LBTS Town Commission approving the route modification, confirmation of an October 28 approval by the DFLTMA Executive Board and a stack of supportive letters from neighborhood residents, civic big dogs and local merchants (mostly LBTS vendors drooling over the prospect of new Galt Mile customers), Chiarelli explained how blending extensive outreach with community research yielded her evidentiary data. Not surprisingly, the measure was unanimously approved.

While providing Galt Mile residents with weekend access to Holy Cross Medical Center, Chiarelli's plan to add LBTS destinations to the Galt Link featured a second - less altruistic - objective. In a memo to the City Commission recommending the measure, Fort Lauderdale City Manager Lee Feldman explained that although the Galt Mile route "had been partially funded through a grant that was no longer available," its cost to the City would remain unchanged. Since replacing the hospital route leg with the LBTS extension is a fiscally neutral event, Feldman opted to illuminate this budgetary enigma, explaining "This route modification will allow the Galt Link to continue due to the partnership with the Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, and their contribution of \$25,000 annually for the portion within their town."

When a cash crunch blocked Sun Trolley officials from adding weekend service to the Galt Link in 2012, they used smoke and mirrors to transfer a \$19,918.08 "non-transferable" Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant earmarked for another route. By interconnecting the two routes, Sun Trolley officials used the back door to legally access the grant and fund the Galt Link expansion. Since the protocol won't support a second bite at the apple, without an alternative funding source, the Galt Link would subsequently blister the City budget or face a service cutback.

Absent the Federal relief, newcomer Chiarelli plugged the anticipated annual deficit by lining up the yearly \$25,000 LBTS allocation.

The goal is to save water, money, and the environment, and to sustain the quality of life and community we all enjoy. So far, close to 500 rebates have been issued and replaced with High Efficiency Toilets (HET's) in District 4 from the Conservation Pays rebate program. If you have not yet taken advantage of the Program, see if you are eligible and join your neighbors. You'll find that the immediate savings are impressive, but the long-term savings are infinite. Not only do you get \$100 back for replacing an old toilet with a new HET, but you'll save money each month on your water bill. Commercial and multifamily properties, nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and business owners are encouraged to apply for rebates. Other water saving devices, including showerheads, faucet aerators, and pre-rinse spray valves for commercial kitchens are also available for FREE in participating areas. To see if your community is participating, visit www.ConservationPays.com. Or, call 1-800-270-9794 for more infor-

Broward Starts Construction on New FPL Solar Installation - Solar canopy to generate clean power and showcase the benefits of renewable energy

The future for solar energy is getting even brighter in Broward as construction began today on a new solar installation located at Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library. An interactive display linked to the solar canopy inside the museum will educate visitors on the benefits of renewable energy.

The project is an innovative partnership between Broward County and Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). It is the first solar installation to be built through the FPL SolarNow™ Program, a voluntary-community based solar pilot partnership program designed to bring more solar into local communities. Broward County was the first to sign a partnership agreement with FPL earlier this year. The solar canopy and interactive display inside Young At Art Museum is expected to be fully functional early next year.

LEED Silver Certification for Maintenance Facility at Broward County's FLL

Broward County Aviation Department's new Maintenance Facility has earned the LEED® Silver Certification. The facility opened in February 2015 and it is located at Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The U.S. Green Building Council determined the project achieved 54 points resulting in a Silver Certification level under the New Construction Rating System. The LEED® building is projected to have a 23 percent reduction of electrical use, 35 percent reduction of water use over conventional buildings, and a reduction of operational cost by \$30,000 per year.

Broward County Offers New Program for Aspiring and Early Stage Entrepreneurs Make your business idea a reality! Just because you are an entrepreneur doesn't mean you have to figure everything out on your own. Our free workshop offered in partnership with the Innovation Hub @ Broward College, FastTrac® NewVenture™ can put you on the path to success. With the guidance of successful entrepreneurs and a supportive peer community, FastTrac® NewVenture™ will help you refine your business concept, identify the components of a strong business plan, and access the appropriate resources to complete your launch. The benefits of FastTrac® NewVenture™ will last you long after the workshop has ended and into your role as a start-up business owner.

A NewVenture™ Information Session will provide an overview of the program to prospective participants on Thursday, December 3, 6 to 7 p.m., Innovation Hub @ Broward College Cypress Creek Administrative Center, 6400 NW 6th Way, Fort Lauderdale. To attend the Information Session Register Today!

NewVenture™ is free and open to Broward County residents. Interested participants will need to apply online at http://oesbd.affiliate.fasttrac.org/ during the application period from December 7 - 18 for this competitive process. Please be sure to submit a complete application. Space is limited to 15 participants. New Venture™ courses for accepted applicants ONLY will be held at the Innovation Hub @ Broward College January 7, 2016 through March 31, 2016 from 6 to 9 PM on the following Thursdays: January 7, 14, 21 February 4, 11, 18, 25 • March 3, 10, 17, 31.

Upon completion of NewVenture™, participants' completed business plans will be evaluated and seed money may be distributed to the top three business plans. All students will receive a bonus prize at the end of the course. For more information on the Kauffman FastTrac® program, contact the Office of Economic and Small Business Development at 954-357-6400, Visit our website. Individuals requiring accommodations in order to participate in a workshop must make a request at least 10 business days prior to the scheduled workshop.

Manatee Season Begins November 15th: Boaters advised to honor protection zones November 15th marks the beginning of manatee season. As air and water temperatures drop, manatees begin moving south toward warm water refuges, and seasonal speed limits go into effect. Broward County's Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division (EPCRD) cautions boaters to be on the lookout for greater numbers of manatees moving into the County's waterways. Boaters should be aware that many seasonal manatee protection zones go into effect on November 15th in Broward and throughout the state. For information about manatee protection zones by County, including the seasonal changes and speed zones, visit MyFWC.com/Manatee, and select "Data and Maps." If you see a sick, injured, or dead manatee, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Wildlife Alert Number at (888) 404-FWCC (3922), *FWC or # FWC on a cell phone or with a text to tip@myfwc.com.

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 subscribe 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.

Chip LaMarca Broward County Commissioner, District 4.



Unfortunately, The GMCA demand for an alternative access to Holy Cross provided Chiarelli with an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone. As intimated in Feldman's memo, it also enabled Chiarelli to forgo requesting an incremental annual City subsidy to fund the Galt Link shortfall. At the end of the day, it was all about the Benjamins.

On December 1st, the Galt Mile Sun Trolley will begin making stops at the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Visitors Center, the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Town Hall and Anglin's Pier although it can also be waved down anywhere along El Mar Drive or A1A from Palm Avenue to the Publix Shopping Center by Sea Ranch Village. The route leg to Federal Highway will end at the Coral Ridge Mall.

Although Chiarelli's informal referendum inferred that Galt Mile residents prefer access to LBTS over the Hospitals, survey respondents also suggested expanding the Galt Link to a variety of other prospective Federal Highway destination sites. As a parting shot, Chiarelli mentioned that she is considering venues that scored multiple requests, such as the Whole Foods Market.

In keeping her word, Chiarelli banked the credibility intimated by her résumé. In her first year at the helm of a brutally unforgiving agency (check the 2008 Galt Link bloodletting), Chiarelli won neighborhood approval to modify the Galt Link while nuking a ticking deficit left by her predecessor. Not a bad opening act. •

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Schedule

Gall Reading Center	Anglin Fishing Pier	Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Town Hall	Landerdale-By-The-Sea Visitor Center	Coral Ridge Towers	Beach Community Center	Coral Ridge Mall	Coral Ridge Mail	Bayview/NE 26th Sireet	Galleria Mall	SR A1A/NE 21st Street	Gall Reading Center
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Continued on page 18

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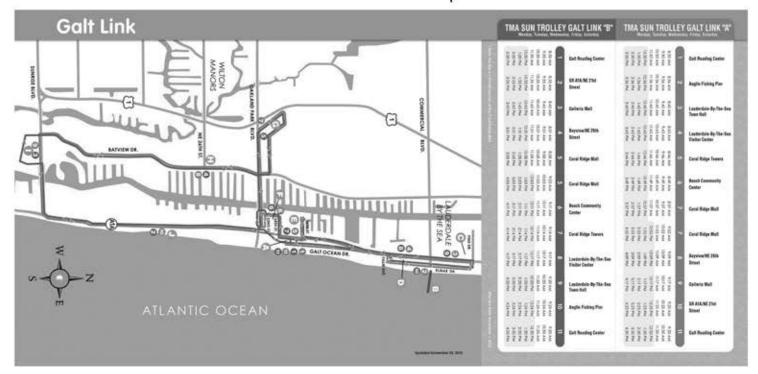


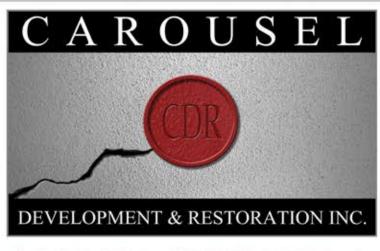












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