

GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

AUGUST 2016



FIRE SAFETY: SPRINKLER SCAMS...PAGE 3

PRINTED BY



The UPS Store™

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

Independent and Assisted Living Communities



*We take care of
life's details so you don't have to.*



Your life is meant to be celebrated...celebrate with us at



Independence Hall

Independent Living / Assisted Living Community

954-563-6232

1639 NE 26th Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305



Williamsburg Landing

Assisted Living Community

954-566-1775

1176 NE 26th Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305



Margate Manor

Independent/Assisted Living Community

954-972-0200

1189 West River Drive

Margate, FL 33063

Extraordinary Places You'll Love to Call Home

FIRE SAFETY: Sprinkler Scams

DBPR: Enforcing a Phantom Law

By: Eric Berkowitz

In the past few months, Florida community association homeowners have been perplexed by an unexpected regulatory bear trap. A requirement to retrofit condominiums and cooperatives with a budget-busting automatic sprinkler system, which has plagued high-rise associations for fourteen years, has suddenly evolved into a mandate for every association in the State, regardless of size.

Travis Keels, deputy director of communications for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), recently announced "Generally speaking, the fire sprinkler requirement applies to all residential condominiums." Six years after the 2010 Florida legislature amended Chapters 718 and 719, F.S. (the Condominium and Cooperative Acts), empowering cash-strapped unit owners in high-rise associations to forego a sprinkler retrofit by a majority vote, DBPR suddenly awoke to another 2010 statutory tweak – removal of a provision that limited the sprinkler mandate to high-rise buildings.

The Office of Florida Fire Marshal disagrees with the DBPR's knee-jerk policy. However, since the DBPR's Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes is charged with enforcing the common interest community statutes, tens of thousands of Florida associations peppered with fixed-income retirees are scrambling to determine if they must vote to forego a sprinkler retrofit before the December 31, 2016 opt-out deadline.

Hoping to quell the growing confusion, association advocate Donna Berger recruited assistance from Broward Senator Jeremy Ring, Senate sponsor of the 2010 legislation. In a July 28, 2016 letter to DBPR Director Kevin Stansfield, Ring clarified that his removal of the reference to high-rise buildings wasn't meant to expand the retrofit requirement to every Florida association, explaining, "It was not my intent, nor the intent of the Legislature, to obliquely impose a substantial economic burden on a large segment of condominium owners."

Questioning why DBPR waited six years before using a newspaper article to reveal their enigmatic interpretation "a mere 5 months before the opt out deadline expires," Ring requested "that the Division issue a press release consistent with the intent of the Legislature." In other words – back off. The Florida Bar has also notified DBPR that the agency is about to enforce a law that doesn't exist. Fortunately, Galt Mile associations that already completed the opt-out process won't be affected. Unfortunately, we have another problem.

Stalking a \$Billion Payday

In 2002, the Florida Legislature quietly passed a clandestine bill requiring every Florida Association housed in a structure 75 feet above grade to install a Full Sprinkler System or, alternatively, establish an acceptable Engineered Life Safety System (ELSS). An Engineered Life Safety System is a fire protection plan customized by a registered professional fire safety engineer that variably combines partial sprinkler protection, smoke detection, smoke control, compartmentation, and other approved life safety systems.

Scrutiny of the new law revealed it to be a \$multi-billion payday for certain vested interests instead of effective fire protection. Drafted by the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) and the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) with input from the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, glaringly absent from this "midnight legislation" were any studies or research clarifying its impact on community associations and their unit owners.

To infuse a bill designed by industry lobbyists with credibility, certain representatives from the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association (FFMIA) called on legislators to "pass this bill as a testament to our heroic firefighters." Instead of presenting authoritative documentation demonstrating that a variety of different fire safety solutions should be tailored to a structure's material composition; size; occupancy and use; structural elements; proximity to the fire station; the number and type of egresses, adjacent structures and existing fire safety features (as recommended by Fire Safety Engineers), the impressively uniformed lobbyists convinced key lawmakers that sprinkler retrofits were a one-size-fits-all fire safety panacea for every high-rise condominium.

The Fire Marshals who lobbied the lawmakers weren't motivated by altruism and public spirit. Those who directed this strategy had been pulling private sector paychecks for years - and were financially vested in the outcome of this legislation. Chuck Akers, the former Executive Director of the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association was also the Executive Director of the American Fire Sprinkler Association, an industry trade group responsible for boosting sprinkler sales. Other high-ranking officials in the Fire Marshals union were employed by the National Fire Sprinkler Association, another nationwide sprinkler trade organization behind the original legislation. An FFMIA past President, the late Steven Randall, was also the South Central Regional Manager of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (locally AKA Florida Fire Sprinkler Association) until he retired on July 16, 2009. FFMIA lifetime member Buddy Dewar is the National Fire Sprinkler Association's Vice President of Regional Operations, and the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association's Lobbyist and Legislative Liaison. In a nutshell, they make a bundle selling sprinklers.

Retrofit Relief: Opting Out of a Bad Law

Following a State-wide outcry against the suspect expenditure, in 2003, the Galt Mile Community Association contacted former District 91 State-house Representative Connie Mack IV and sophomore Senator Jeffrey Atwater, requesting legislative relief. The original legislation was subsequently modified to allow condo owners to "Opt Out" of retrofitting their associations with either a full automatic sprinkler system or an Engineered Life Safety System "by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all voting interests". The opt-out provision was added to Mack's House Bill 165 and Atwater's Senate Bill 592, co-filed with former Hollywood Senator Steven Geller over the virulent objections of lobbyists for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union and the Fire Sprinkler Associations.

As a concession to the powerful sprinkler lobby, the legislation still required sprinkler retrofits in the association's common areas, including any enclosed hallway, corridor, lobby, stairwell, or entryway. Sprinkler lobbyists successfully preserved the most important aspect of their corporate clients' agenda, the \$billion windfall sale of sprinklers, standpipes, etc. - and the costly connective plumbing. The sprinkler retrofits were mandated by the end of 2014.

In 2006, House Bill 391 by Representative Carl Domino aspired to extend the sprinkler retrofit deadline for high rise projects from 2014 to 2025. The extra decade would have afforded unit owners an opportunity to recover from the 2004 and 2005 hurricane repair assessments, mega-deductibles and huge windstorm insurance increases that often required long and/or short term financing. Unit owners in these leveraged associations sought to first amortize their bloated debt service before paying an enormous retrofit assessment.

Continued on page 8

COMMENTARY: Bi-Partisan Budget Love Fest

By: Eric Berkowitz

In his June - July 2016 Newsletter, District 93 Statehouse Representative George Moraitis reviews how the 2016 State Budget will impact constituents. Moraitis takes pride in a State contribution to planned improvements in Port Everglades, asserts that legislative leaders are conversant with the importance of Beach Renourishment, outlines a sizable appropriation to Everglades Restoration, cites a controversial tax cut package - capped by a "Back to School" sales tax holiday, describes a "historic investment" in Florida schools and applauds a \$500,000 award benefitting Homeless participants in the City of Fort Lauderdale's Rapid Rehousing Program.

Our District 93 Representative apparently drew his data from a mid-session iteration of a Statehouse Budget - one of three circulated during the legislative session. While Budget bills were also filed in The Florida Senate, Governor Scott's handlers spent \$millions promoting his "Florida First" budget. After consigning Governor Scott's fiscal handiwork to an organic landfill, a conference Committee comprised of House and Senate appointees crunched their respective spending plans - vaporized a \$billion discrepancy - and cobbled together the final 2016 Florida Budget.

For insight into our elected officials plan to burn through your money, the Florida House and Senate websites provide links to the budget documents, appropriation bills and Conference Reports relating to House Bill 5001 (HB 5001), the FY 2016-17 General Appropriations Act. Along with implementing and conforming companion bills, HB 5001 houses the \$82.3 billion state budget [\$30.3 billion placed in General Revenues (GR) and \$52.1 billion socked into Trust Funds (TF)].

In contrast with last year's dysfunctional session, when feuding lawmakers were forced to return and complete the controversial budget in a special session after prematurely bolting from the State Capital, this year was a Love-In. In part, lawmakers sought to avoid the puerile histrionics that anger the home folks - since all 160 seats in the House and Senate are up for grabs in November. Featuring a \$4 billion increase over the 2015 budget, this year's spending plan garnered unanimous Senate approval and only one "no" vote in the house - cast by Statehouse Representative John Tobia (R - Melbourne), who nurtures a reputation for spitting into the wind.

The 2016 budget benchmarked an unprecedented political phenomenon - a Republican spending plan approved by every Democrat in both houses. Worthy of a three-episode Twilight Zone, this cosmic inconsistency was largely provoked by Governor Scott, whose heavy-handed fiscal intentions for education, health care and the environment fueled a heated battle with House and Senate Republican leaders - which bubbled across the aisle.

Having spent \$millions on TV and print ads promoting the \$1 billion tax cut promised for the first two years of his second term, Scott was furious when lawmakers capped tax cuts at \$129.1 million in House Bill 7099 (HB 7099). Scott was further enraged by Republican leaders' refusal to fund nearly \$800 million in business tax cuts for manufacturers and retailers. They also ignored the Governor's top legislative priority, a proposed \$250 million corporate feedbag for the Florida Enterprise Fund.

To help fortify the legislature against gubernatorial retribution, House budget chief (and incoming House Speaker) Richard Corcoran (R-Land O'Lakes) actively included the Democratic minority in the budget process. Corcoran later told celebrating Democrats, "We listened to what you said."

Observing how the Governor's regressive public policies served to unify angry lawmakers, Senate Democratic Leader Arthenia Joyner (D - Tampa) jumped on a rare opportunity to applaud how Democrats impacted an ordinarily partisan Republican budget process, commenting, "We reclaimed our place in the checks and balances of our democracy by reining in a governor who's out of touch with the people." Corry - but on point.

Recalling how Scott struck \$461 million from last year's budget, lawmakers promised a Special Session veto override if Scott used line item vetoes to strip funding for education and/or the environment. It worked. Instead of widening the breach, Scott offered an olive branch - and expressed support for the new budget.

Lawmakers were also pleased when Scott intimated that he would restrict his vetoes to the elimination of redundant appropriations, although their relief wasn't limited to budgetary concerns about education or the environment. To help campaigning lawmakers in their home districts, the new budget was packed with "Member Projects" - legislative spin for pork. Since many of last year's vetoes eviscerated similar pork projects, when Scott renounced a heavy veto pen this year, lawmakers had a clear field to deliver dozens of museums, aquariums, statues and festivals, along with improvements to courthouses, town halls and water management districts.

For Representative Moraitis' June - July 2016 Newsletter, read on...
- [editor]*

WANNA ADVERTISE IN THE GALT MILE NEWS?

Reach The Beach

954-292-6553

2ndstudios@gmail.com





STATE REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE MORAITIS

JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbor,

I consider it a great honor to represent you in the Florida House of Representatives, and am very proud of the results we accomplished this Session. I would like to share with you some of our accomplishments during the 2016 Legislative Session, which just concluded in Tallahassee. Perhaps more than in any other year, we involved our local constituents in the process to bring more accountability to Tallahassee. I remained focused on advancing the economic engines and job creators in our region, funding education, cutting taxes, and keeping our communities and citizens safe.

This year the Legislature passed a fiscally responsible, bipartisan budget that prioritizes our state's greatest needs. This balanced budget provides meaningful tax relief, invests in our students' success, and supports greater achievement in local schools with record education funding. We tackled the critical tasks of spurring economic development and made Florida #1 in job creation. Our fiscally sound, long-term approach will keep our state on a path to continued economic prosperity.

With all the competing interests in Tallahassee, I continue to take the lead in the legislature on behalf of the Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, and Broward County beach renourishment. At the same time, I have championed initiatives to protect our fragile Florida environment, create new jobs, improve our economy, and improve our quality of life. It is hard work - but rewarding, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve you every single day.

As always, my door is open to you. Our office is very active in helping our constituents with a variety of needs on a daily basis, and I welcome your feedback as we consider legislation to improve our great state. It is an honor to be your advocate in the Florida House of Representatives, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,
Representative George Moraitis, District 93
2132 East Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite 2
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306
(954) 762-3757 District Office
Email: George.Moraitis@myfloridahouse.gov

Port Everglades

Port Everglades is among the busiest cruise ports in the world, and one of Florida's leading container ports. It is also South Florida's main seaport for receiving petroleum products including gasoline, jet fuel, and alternative fuels. As one of South Florida's leading economic engines, Port Everglades indirectly supports 202,700 Florida jobs, including 11,433 people who work for companies that provide direct services to the Port.

As we commemorate the completion of the Panama Canal expansion this year, the Florida Legislature understands the vital importance our region plays in international trade and the stability of South Florida's economy, and is committed to doing what is necessary to improve Port Everglades. I am proud to announce that working with the Florida Department of Transportation, Broward County and Port Everglades, our House 2016 Budget includes over \$12 million towards the crucial expansion projects currently underway at the Port. Congratulations to Broward County, Port Everglades and the Port Everglades Action Team as together we made a great case for the further allocation of state resources in support of these goals.

This widespread support of this project will ensure Port Everglades remains an international trade center that attracts thousands of long-term private sector jobs to the area. The deepening and widening of the Port Everglades, together with the development of additional piers, is estimated to create 7,000 new jobs and support an additional 135,000 jobs statewide over the next 15 years. Port Everglades anticipates \$653 million in new infrastructure investment upgrades between 2015 - 2019 as part of this initiative. I am making sure the Legislature understands the key role it must play in making this investment a reality, and we anticipate funding a total of \$122 million for Port expansion between now and 2021 to complete this historic project, bring more jobs to our area, and maintain the Port Everglades as a world class port.

Beach Restoration

Our state leadership understands how vitally important the beaches are to our economy and this commitment is reflected in this year's budget. Tourism remains a substantial part of our local and state economies, and studies have shown that the majority of tourists come to enjoy our world class beaches. For this reason, and to protect the property values in our coastal community, I have made funding for the renourishment of our beaches a top priority, and as a result over just the past three years the state has dedicated over seven million dollars to Broward County beach renourishment efforts. The result? We are making tremendous progress, with over 600,000 cubic yards of sand being added to nearly four miles of the beaches in Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, and Pompano Beach.

Everglades' Restoration

Your Florida Legislature has made great progress during this session to protect Florida's delicate environmental resources and preserve them for future generations. Florida is blessed with over 51,000 miles of rivers and streams, 7,700 lakes, and over 900 springs. The rare and beautiful Florida Everglades is a unique treasure to our ecosystem, and its protection is of the utmost importance to our state's environmental and economic wellbeing. This year, the Florida House budget put into action the desire of Floridians to continue Everglades' restoration and improve our environment. We passed a comprehensive water policy bill and a dedicated funding source for Everglades' restoration and preservation, and under the House Legacy Florida proposal, \$198 million will be provided for Everglades' restoration to preserve its beauty and protect this vital environmental resource for future generations. This responsible plan allocates \$100 million for comprehensive restoration, \$32 million for the regional water quality plan, and \$66 million for Northern Everglades and estuaries protection. Contained within the proposal is funding to help restore the Indian River Lagoon. High levels of toxic algae blooms as well as harmful bacteria that have been detected are posing a crucial threat to several species of fish, birds, and mammals dwelling in the rich habitat. Flourishing natural environments are vital to Florida's ecosystem, economy, the tourism industry, and the sustainable development of each region.

Tax Relief Package

We are providing meaningful tax relief for individuals and small businesses while also infusing more money directly into our economy, and this year's tax package will not only help Florida's businesses create jobs, but make Florida a more affordable state to live and raise a family. This Session, the Florida Legislature passed over half a billion dollars in tax cuts in order to help Florida's families and job creators. In fact, over the last two years, we have brought a total of \$1 billion in common sense tax relief. Major tax cut initiatives in the package include \$428 million in property tax relief for Florida homeowners, removal of sales tax on purchasing of manufacturing equipment, "Back to School" sales tax holiday from August 5-7, and removing the sales tax on food and drinks sold to members of veteran organizations.

Continued on page 14

AUGUST/SEPT

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622 Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436 | 8 | 9 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 | 10 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Gallery Tour Morikami Japanese Museum, 1 p.m. Info./Res.: 561-495-0233 |
| 14 6th Annual Animal Adoption Fair War Memorial Auditorium 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Info.: 954-971-4432 Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436 | 15 Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033 | 16 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall Regular Agenda: 6 p.m. | 17 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Gallery Tour Morikami Japanese Museum, 1 p.m. Info./Res.: 561-495-0233 |
| 21 Asia America Trade Show Miami Beach Convention Center Info.: 305-266-5700 Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436 | 22 | 23 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 | 24 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Gallery Tour Morikami Japanese Museum, 1 p.m. Info./Res.: 561-495-0233 |
| 28 Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436 | 29 | 30 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Telephone Town Hall Meeting with Commissioner Roberts YOUR HOME 7 to 8 p.m. To join: 888-410-3427 Info.: 954-828-4743 | 31 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Gallery Tour Morikami Japanese Museum, 1 p.m. Info./Res.: 561-495-0233 |
| 4 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622 Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436 | 5 Labor Day Bird Festival Flamingo Gardens 3750 S. Flamingo Road, Davie 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-473-2955 Labor Day South Florida Auto Food Fest The New Miami Stadium 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | 6 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 | 7 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Gallery Tour Morikami Japanese Museum, 1 p.m. Info./Res.: 561-495-0233 |

AUGUST 7: 25th Anniversary Summerfest, Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 6 to 8 p.m., Info./Tix.: www.fauvents.com

AUGUST 12: Friday Night Sound Waves Live Music Series, Performer(s): David Morin (Elvis), Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas and A1A, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Info.: ari@frswwfb.com

AUGUST 12: Fight Time Promotions MMA #32, War Memorial Auditorium, 8 p.m., Info.: 786-543-1177

AUGUST 12-14: 21st Annual South Florida Tattoo Expo, Coral Springs Marriott (11775 Heron Bay Blvd.), Info.: 954-868-7040

AUGUST 13: Warfield Park Painting and Cleanup Project, Warfield Park, 8 a.m., Info.: 954-828-5005

AUGUST 13: Crockett Foundation 8th Annual Community Health Festival, Pompano Civic Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: www.goriverwalk.com

AUGUST 13: Hollywood West Concert Series, Performer(s): Bushwood (Reggae/Funk), Boulevard Heights Community Center (6770 Garfield Street), Hollywood, 7:30 to 9 p.m., Info.: 954-967-4235

AUGUST 13-14: South Florida Monster Jam, BB&T Center, Tix.: 866-248-8740

AUGUST 20: Broward Center for the Performing Arts' Fall Classes Open House, Rose Miniaci Arts Education Center (201 SW 5th Ave.), 12:30 to 4 p.m., Info.: 954-414-6904

AUGUST 13-14: Florida Gun & Knife Show, South Florida Fairgrounds (9067 Southern Blvd.), WPB, Info.: 321-777-7455

AUGUST 27-28: Repticon, BankUnited Center at the University of Miami, Info.: 863-268-4273

AUGUST 27-SEPT 11: 21st Annual International Ballet Festival of Miami, Hispanic Cultural Center for the Arts of Miami (111 SW 5th Ave.), Info.: 305-549-7711

ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

THU

FRI

SAT

LOTS HAPPENING IN TOWN!

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>11</p> <p>Hook, Wine & Sinkers Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center, Boca 6 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: 561-391-4874</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Pompano - Music Under the Stars Pompano Beach Great Lawn 6 to 9 p.m. Info.: 954-786-4111</p> <p>15th Annual Hispanic Women of Distinction Signature Grand - 6900 State Road 84, Davie 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-709-1622</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep Fort Lauderdale Beach Park (1100 Seabreeze Blvd.) 7 to 11 a.m. Info.: 954-593-8501</p> <p>Citizens Volunteer Corps Event Warfield Park (1000 N. Andrews Ave.) 8 a.m. Info.: 954-828-5005</p> |
| <p>18</p> <p>Seal Hard Rock Live!, 8 p.m. Tix.: www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com</p> | <p>19</p> <p>The Symphonia with Jeff Kaye Mizner Park Amphitheater 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Friday Night Sound Waves Live Music Series Performer(s): SOSOS Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas and A1A 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: ari@fnsfwfb.com</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Drink Like a Local Himmarshee Village 6 to 9 p.m. Tix.: www.goriverwalk.com</p> <p>Dance Party Mills Pond Park 6 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-828-8942</p> |
| <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Music On Main Street Performer(s): Karina Iglesias & The Nu-Thang Oakland Park City Hall 6 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-630-4251</p> <p>Friday Night Sound Waves Live Music Series Performer(s): Celebration Band Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas and A1A 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: ari@fnsfwfb.com</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Skate-Off Stan Goldman Memorial Skate Park (800 Knights Road), Hollywood 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-921-3404</p> <p>Extreme Kayak Fishing Summer SLAM Series Pompano Beach Fishing Pier & Public Beach 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: joe@extremekayakfishing.com</p> |
| <p>1</p> <p>Art of Wine & Food "Italy in the Fall" NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale 5 p.m. Info.: nsuartmuseum.org</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Miami Fall Home Design & Remodeling Show (Through 9/6) Miami Beach Convention Center Info.: 305-667-9299</p> <p>Friday Night Sound Waves Live Music Series Performer(s): Woody and the Longboards Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas and A1A 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: ari@fnsfwfb.com</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Music in the Park Saturdays at Gulfstream Park Gulfstream Park 8 to 11 p.m. Info.: www.gulfstreampark.com</p> |
| <p>8</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Sushi & Stroll Summer Walk Morikami Japanese Garden 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: morikami.org</p> <p>Friday Night Sound Waves Live Music Series Performer(s): Pocket Change Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas and A1A 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: ari@fnsfwfb.com</p> | <p>10</p> <p>Davie Pro Rodeo Davie Pro Rodeo Arena (4271 Davie Road) 7:30 p.m. Info.: 954-680-8005</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste/Electronics Drop-off City Hall (4800 West Copans Rd.), Coconut Creek 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-8000</p> |

SEPTEMBER 12

Fort Lauderdale Job Fair

The Westin Fort Lauderdale (400 Corporate Dr.), Fort Lauderdale
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Info.: 1-866-838-5111

SEPTEMBER 12

Fall Business Expo 2016

Broward Convention Center
4 to 8 p.m.
Info.: 954-838-9644

SEPTEMBER 16

Friday Night Sound Waves Live Music Series

Performer(s): Uproot Hootenanny
Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas and A1A, Fort Lauderdale
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Info.: ari@fnsfwfb.com

SEPTEMBER 17

Fine Food and Wine

Hillsboro Club (901 Hillsboro Mile), Hillsboro Beach
7:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-941-2940

SEPTEMBER 17-18

Fort Lauderdale Gun & Knife Show

War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 954-828-5380

SEPTEMBER 23-25

8th Annual Florida Marine Flea Market and Seafood Festival
South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB
Info.: 954-205-7813

SEPTEMBER 23-25

South Florida Fall Boat Show
South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB
Info.: 954-205-7813

**FOR A COMPLETE
LISTING OF EVENTS,
GO TO THE
CALENDAR AT**

WWW.GALTMILE.COM

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

HB 391 was unanimously approved in the House and Senate. Having failed to convince lawmakers that investing scarce association resources in limited sprinklers would yield a more productive safety benefit than a comparable investment in hurricane protection, retrofit lobbyists turned up the political pressure on lame duck Governor Jeb Bush, who vetoed the bill.

Responding to persistent entreaties by angry homeowners in tens of thousands of Florida community associations, including her Galt Mile constituents, on January 16, 2009, former Statehouse Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff filed House Bill 419. Its sister bill, Senate Bill 714 filed by Senator Dennis Jones, was ultimately substituted for HB 419 as the session wound down. Filed to correct a host of poorly drafted, contradictory or unworkable association regulations governing insurance, board elections, Timeshare Condominiums and back-up generators for elevators, this association "glitch" bill would also postpone the multi \$million fire sprinkler retrofit from 2014 to 2025 - similar to the bill vetoed in 2006. On April 27, 2009, SB 714 passed a vote in the Senate by 38 Yeas vs. 0 Nays. On April 29th, the bill passed a House vote by 114 Yeas vs. 2 Nays.

To thwart a delay to their windfall, Sprinkler Association lobbyists threw a carrot to the Governor's handlers, who coveted a juicy campaign contribution and an endorsement by the Fire Marshals to jump-start his ill-fated run for the US Senate seat vacated by Mel Martinez. Bartering the welfare of cash-strapped association homeowners for political capital, Crist vetoed the bill.

Retrofit bids solicited in 2008 by associations with 200 - 300 units ranged from \$1.4 million to \$4.76 million, depending primarily on whether demolished floors, walls and ceilings were seamlessly restored or emulated installations in public housing, with hundreds of yards of exposed steel, copper and CPVC permeating the structure.

Bogdanoff vs. Sprinkler Lobby

On January 4, 2010, Representative Bogdanoff filed House Bill 561 (HB 561), which not only revived the insurance fixes and other glitch repairs napalmed by the Governor, it improved on the fire sprinkler retrofit relief proposed in the previous year's vetoed Senate Bill 714. Instead of postponing the retrofit deadline, HB 561 would amend the opt-out provisions enacted in 2003, enabling associations to forego a sprinkler retrofit. Bogdanoff's HB 561 and Senate Bill 1222 (SB 1222) - a companion bill filed in the other chamber by Broward Senator Jeremy Ring - were later merged into Senator Mike Fasano's Senate Bill 1196 (SB 1196).

The bill eliminated the 2003 exemption of common areas from an opt-out vote, reduced the percentage of voting interests required to approve an opt-out from two-thirds to a simple majority, and extended the retrofit deadline from 2014 to 2019. Additionally, by December 31, 2016, associations that lacked a fire sprinkler system and hadn't voted to forego a sprinkler retrofit must initiate a building permit to install a sprinkler system by December 31, 2019.

In vetting committees, Association Attorneys Donna Berger and Yeline Goin explained that when every other state incorporated the NFPA life safety code provisions into State law, they exempted existing structures from retrofit compliance. Berger testified, "Florida is the only State that didn't grandfather compliance for existing high rise buildings when the statute was implemented." When sprinkler lobbyists echoed a litany of "towering inferno" style anecdotal horror stories in both chambers, Representative Bogdanoff rebutted "In 30 years, not one injury resulted from an association's failure to perform a sprinkler retrofit."

On April 16, the Senate approved the bill by a vote of 38 Yeas vs. 0 Nays. On April 28th, the bill passed a vote in the House by 107 Yeas vs. 4 Nays. On June 1, 2010, Crist signed the legislation into law. Over the next few years, tens of thousands of Florida associations voted to opt-out of the sprinkler retrofit, as their unit owners breathed a deep sigh of relief.

The deep-pocketed Sprinkler Associations, whose membership includes corporate juggernauts Tyco and Allied Signal-Honeywell, had successfully kept their \$multi-billion self-styled stimulus package alive for eight years and hoodwinked two Governors to vetoing relief bills that were overwhelmingly passed by the legislature. Former Governor Charlie Crist admitted to having mistakenly believed lobbyist assurances that insurance savings would offset installation costs. A DBPR insurance study ordered by the Governor in his veto message later revealed the claim as without merit.

Continued on page 9

FIRE SAFETY: Sprinkler Scams

Circumventing a Statute

Make no mistake; sprinkler lobbyists know how to play political hardball. They also had no intention of leaving \$billions in projected revenues on the table. After biding their time for six years, the Sprinkler Associations devised a plan to circumvent the statutory relief. Once the 2016 legislative session ended on March 11, 2016, a high-ranking official in the Fire Marshals union put the plan in motion.

On March 17, 2016, Boca Fire Marshal David Woodside – current President of the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association – petitioned the Florida Office of State Fire Marshal for a response to 3 questions about how high-rise buildings are affected by the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC). As per state law, the responses comprise an official opinion, also known as a Declaratory Statement.

To enable better understanding of Woodside's questions - and the subsequent responses – NFPA 1, NFPA 101 and FFPC code provisions that are commonly characterized by long strings of numbers and letters (i.e. FFPC/NFPA 101 section 31.3.5.11.3 or FFPC 101:31.3.5.11.1) are instead expressed in plain English. As shown below, four provisions in the Florida Fire Prevention Code (Chapter 101, section 31 or FFPC 101.31) govern the sprinkler system requirements for high-rise buildings:

1. FFPC 101:31.3.5.11.1 All high-rise buildings shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system unless alternatively equipped with an Emergency Life Safety System or an exterior exit access (a second means of egress) in every dwelling unit
2. FFPC 101:31.3.5.11.2 An automatic sprinkler system shall not be required where every dwelling unit has exterior exit access
3. FFPC 101:31.3.5.11.3 An automatic sprinkler system shall not be required in buildings having an approved, engineered life safety system
4. FFPC 101:31.3.5.11.4 If required by provision #3 (31.3.5.11.3), an engineered life safety system shall be developed by a registered professional engineer experienced in fire and life safety system design, shall be approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and shall include some or all of the following: partial automatic sprinkler protection, smoke detection systems, smoke control systems, compartmentation, and other approved systems.

Declaratory Statement Q & A

In his first question, Woodside asks if an Engineered Life Safety System is required in existing high-rise buildings that aren't protected throughout by an approved automatic fire sprinkler system or an exterior exit access from each dwelling unit.

Answering Woodside, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Jay Etheridge said, "Yes. Existing high-rise apartment occupancies, including residential condominiums and cooperatives, that are not protected throughout by an approved automatic fire sprinkler..., or that do not have an exterior exit access..., must complete an engineered life safety system approved by the AHJ..."

Woodside also asked if a high-rise building is not protected throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system pursuant to the statutory opt-out in Chapter 718.112, is it exempt from providing an Engineered Life Safety System as required in provision #3?

Etheridge responded, "No." The statutory opt-out "expressly restricts the requirements of automatic fire sprinkler systems to high-rise buildings utilized as residential condominiums or cooperatives pursuant to sections 718.111 and 718.112, Florida Statutes, and specifically supersedes the NFPA base code. However," provision #3... "clarifies that, if the entire building is not protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system, it must comply with the" FFPC provisions for sprinklers in high-rise buildings, which "requires that... the existing high-rise building have either an exterior exit access for every dwelling unit... or have an engineered life safety system approved by the AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction)..."

Finally, Woodside asked, "If the answer to questions #1 is yes, what is the deadline for an existing high-rise occupancy..." to install an engineered life safety system?

Etheridge answered "The deadline for an existing high-rise occupancy to comply with the provision of... the engineered life safety system is December 31, 2019..."

Having functionally neutered the statutory opt-out, Etheridge concluded, "Based on the foregoing, apartment occupancy, specifically a condominium and cooperative, are exempt from installing an approved automatic fire sprinkler system if every dwelling in the occupancy has FFPC compliant exterior exit access, or if the occupancy has an engineered life safety system that is approved by the AHJ. The building is required to be protected by an approved automatic fire sprinkler system by December 31, 2019, or it must comply with the requirements of FFPC 101:31."

The Statute provides that "Notwithstanding chapter 633 or of any other code, statute, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation, or any interpretation of the foregoing, an association, condominium, or unit owner is not obligated to retrofit the common elements, association property, or units of a residential condominium with a fire sprinkler system in a building that has been certified for occupancy by the applicable governmental entity if the unit owners have voted to forego such retrofitting by the affirmative vote of a majority of all voting interests in the affected condominium."

Despite recognizing that the statute supersedes Florida-specific code, Etheridge concludes that the statutory prohibition against enforcing "any other code, statute, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation, or any interpretation of the foregoing" that requires the installation of sprinklers does not apply to FFPC 101:31.3.5.11.3. While conceding that it is a Florida-specific code, he believes it exempt because it requires fewer sprinklers – and a piñata stuffed with detection, alarm and suppression goodies.

Continued on page 12



COMMENTARY:

Chip LaMarca's JUNE 2016 Newsletter

By: Eric Berkowitz

"The June 2016 message from Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca opens with a Property Tax primer, tracking an Ad Valorem dollar through the FY 2016 - 17 budget process. An ardent fan of Broward transportation infrastructure, our District 4 Commissioner recounts events at an FDOT-hosted Wave Streetcar Industry Forum and commends Port Everglades for helping client shippers comply with safety-based container weight verification requirements. After explaining how a joint Broward / Palm Beach water reclamation project will benefit both counties, LaMarca invites participation in the Broward Academy's ten-week educational series exploring the panoply of County Government services.

The Wave: Developmental Crapshoot

As reviewed by LaMarca, the Wave Streetcar Industry Forum took place on Friday, May 20, 2016 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts (Riverview Ballroom). The meeting was convened by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to inform candidate Design-Build teams about the elements and considerations that comprise a participating vendor's contractual obligations. On May 25, a Wave Streetcar Public Information Workshop was also held at the Broward Center, enabling interested residents, business owners and vendors to solicit additional information, ask questions, and offer comments. Both meetings were earmarked by prayerful pot shots at an elephant in the room – as officials dropped hints about why a slow, expensive and intermittently reliable transportation experiment was justified by mythic economic development dividends.

The project's inaugural phase is a 2.8 mile segment spanning the New River that will link the hospital and courthouse districts on the south side with the downtown business core on the north side (i.e. it will ping-pong between from Southeast 17th Street and Sistrunk Boulevard). A circulator/distributor service with connections to regional bus and rail systems, its five (5) streetcars will make stops at 13 stations along the route.

The federal government currently subsidizes roughly half the project costs, and the balance is shared by the state, Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA); the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPD) and nearby property owners. State funding is appropriated annually by the Legislature.

On July 9, 2013, the City Commission approved a special taxing zone in adjacent neighborhoods, where residents and businesses signaled strong support for the project. Soon afterwards, property owners within a half mile of the streetcar service paid the first of 25 annual \$99 assessments. By 2038, more than 8200 taxpayers will have each paid roughly \$2500, pumping \$20,500,000 into the project.

The project has been dogged by discouraging delays and a fiscal quagmire. The escalating cost of construction materials and a series of project tweaks have added \$53 million to the original \$142 million price tag, exploding the bottom line to \$195.3 million. On October 21, 2014, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission voted to pay for a newly added \$7.5 million loop at the northern end of the system in Flagler Village. Running along N.E. 6th Street, the loop was conceived to expedite the redevelopment of both Flagler Village and Sistrunk Boulevard to the west.

Broward County kicked in an additional \$5.8 million to fund an improved supervisory control system for the streetcars, which the county will operate and maintain. A residual deficit of \$22.6 million will be funded according to a formula for cost overruns: 50% of unanticipated expenses will be paid by FDOT, 25% by the County and 25% by the City.

When the Feds chipped in \$71.21 million to cover half the original project cost in 2012, the operational kickoff date was projected for 2016. It has since been postponed to 2020, as construction is now expected to begin in late 2017. In part, the project was delayed when the planned Vehicle Maintenance and Storage Facility was relocated from Broward Boulevard to SW 18th Street and SW 1st Avenue at the southern end of the route. The structure will be perched on a two-foot base to mitigate flooding and hardened against Category 5 hurricanes.

Other delays are attributable to a change in management. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) – which operates the Tri-Rail – recently ceded control of the project to the Florida Department of Transportation, a transition that requires approval by the Federal Transit

Administration (FTA) and the execution of new Interlocal agreements. FDOT District 4 Secretary Gerry O'Reilly informed stakeholders that the revised timetable is reliable. When queried about the new cost estimates, O'Reilly assured the County Commission, "We're really confident in this number."

A secondary Wave project would add 5 miles to the initial route, extending the system east to Port Everglades and the Broward County Convention Center, and south along Andrews Avenue and Federal Highway to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Noting that FDOT wouldn't have been interested in managing the development of a simple downtown loop, O'Reilly observed, "This region needs a transportation system it can grow on," and characterized the Wave as "the fundamental backbone for a transportation system for this county and this region." While FDOT and the County envision streetcars as mainstays of a regional transportation system, other stakeholder aspirations are less ambitious. The Broward Board has expressed an intention to provide the western suburbs with Wave service, a plan endorsed by FDOT. In contrast, if the system simply helps expedite development in Flagler Village and the Sistrunk Corridor while pleasing some visiting tourists, City officials & the DDA will be delighted.

In 1996, after voting to create a dedicated taxing district, thousands of Galt Mile homeowners assessed themselves \$690 or \$390 apiece (depending on proximity to the project) to pay for neighborhood improvements. If you ask any of those residents to prioritize the specific enhancements they voluntarily funded, everyone's top three answers will include "We buried the utility lines."

Since streetcars are typically powered by overhead electrical lines, locals will have to suppress this instinct. The vehicles will also be equipped with batteries, which will power the streetcars for short distances without the overhead wire, such as over the Third Avenue New River Bridge.

Not surprisingly, the installation of overhead wires has become a growing source of consternation. In addition to tarring communities along the route with an infrastructure earmark suggestive of a factory town, many of the existing trees that interfere with the wire are targeted for removal. Among those angered by the impending revival of overhead lines is outgoing Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler, who remarked "I keep picturing Las Olas with overhead wires and trees coming down to accommodate streetcars. I'm frustrated by this, too. It drives me nuts."

When FDOT vehemently supported a regional streetcar plan, it triggered a sub-rosa conflict among transportation industry Gurus and government spending watchdogs. If measured by the factors ordinarily used to judge transportation infrastructure, streetcars are a dud. These rolling carbuncles are slow, expensive to build and operate, and difficult to schedule. However, if implemented properly, they appear to provide a backdoor cure for certain varieties of urban blight. With a few glaring exceptions, cities all over the country that have recently added streetcars to their transportation arsenals have reported economic development dividends in the billions. In short, streetcars are a trade-off.

Unlike the dozens of Heritage streetcar systems that serve as mobile tourist attractions, cities like Seattle, Portland, Tucson and Atlanta integrated modern streetcar systems into their primary transportation infrastructure. Although their marginal impact on congestion – and the carbon footprint – has been disappointing, these systems earned recognition as developmental assets.

In Atlanta, when a nearly identical 2.7 mile downtown loop with 12 stations opened a few years ago, ridership was marginally viable until they began charging a dollar fare, after which it plummeted to less than 1000 passengers per day, reducing projected 2016 fare income to less than 6% of operating costs (break-even). Despite triggering Federal scrutiny and repeated warnings about inept management and a pathetic safety record, the streetcars won modest praise from builders and local vendors.

Claims by city officials that the streetcar generated \$1.5 billion in real estate investment were debunked in an Atlanta Journal Constitution exposé, which disclosed the actual amount as far less, although still sufficiently substantial to merit a subsidy. For example, Atlantic Seafood Market proprietor Kim Seak reported realizing a 10% increase in business following the start of service and co-owner Octavian Stan of Condesa Coffee said his company moved to the Atlanta World Building to be close to the line. CEO Jay Clark of Southeast Capital Companies credited the streetcar for his decision to build a \$50 million residential housing complex near Edgewood Avenue.

Continued on page 11

Tucson's 4-mile route connects 40,000 students in the University of Arizona to the downtown core. Running every 10 minutes during peak hours, last year it had about 4,000 daily passengers – mostly students. City officials attribute a downtown economic development boom to the streetcar. Their \$100 million streetcar investment in 2014 returned more than \$1 billion – almost overnight. Nearby Scottsdale is exploring a similar project. Within two blocks of what is arguably the most successful streetcar system in the United States, Portland officials estimate incremental development at \$3.5 billion. Since Seattle opened its South Lake Union Streetcar, \$2.56 billion was invested into the neighborhood.

Conversely, the outlook for new projects in Dallas, Washington D.C. and Salt Lake City is bleak (having spent more than \$20 million to install less than a mile of track in the Anacostia neighborhood, Washington DC officials stopped cold – and moved the project to Union Station). Of course, other local factors influence the extent to which these systems catalyze community investment, including the availability of commercial or government subsidies, pre-existing utility infrastructure, a supportive regulatory environment for public/private partnerships, government tax incentives and more importantly, the primary source of ridership – whether the system will transport tourists to Rodent World or actually help residents shop, play and/or go to work.

*Whether the Wave takes a page from the whiz kids in Tucson or the whack jobs in Washington DC is a crap shoot. Either newly flush beneficiary neighborhoods will attract ever-relocating Yuppie Troglodytes or a stretch of Las Olas Boulevard will pointlessly be permanently imprinted with the industrial ambiance of an airport perimeter road. 6 to 5 and pick 'em. For LaMarca's June 2016 constituent message in its entirety, read on... – [editor]**



Dear Broward County Residents,

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

Property Tax Break Down

The Broward County Fiscal Year (FY) 17 budget process is well in progress. In March, the Board held a pre-budget workshop to discuss preliminary general fund projections for the upcoming year, with subsequent meetings on May 17, June 7, and June 21, 2016. Additional workshops will be held throughout the process, and the budget timeline for FY 17 will conclude with two public hearings later this year. With a nearly 8 percent increase in overall property values in Broward County, the total value has increased to \$150.4 billion. It is my thought that it is time to cut taxes, reduce the millage rate and return some of the tax dollars back to the people who know best how to spend it for the needs of their families. Having gone through a very difficult recession, the economy has recovered substantially and there are sufficient funds to run the necessary services of Broward County Government.

The property taxes that residents pay, also known as ad valorem taxes, along with miscellaneous fees, transfers, fund balances, and sales tax amount to a County General Fund budget of approximately \$1.1 billion dollars. This represents approximately 26 percent of the County's overall \$4.2 billion budget. The property tax revenues are allocated to fund several different areas. Every \$1 from Broward County taxpayers is distributed in the following manner: 24 cents to County Government, 33 cents to the School Board, 23 cents to cities, and 20 cents to special districts. The County then divides its 24 cent portion: 12.34 cents to Sheriff's Office and other Constitutional and Judicial offices, 8.77 cents to County Commission pro-

Chip LaMarca's JUNE 2016 Newsletter

grams, 1.31 cents to mandated payments to cities and the state, 1.04 cents to voter approved debt service, and .54 cents to capital projects.

The budget process for FY 17 will continue with a Workshop in August and two Public Hearings in September. For more information regarding the Broward County Budget process please visit Broward.org/Budget/

Wave Streetcar Update

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced the completion of the Wave Streetcar's project design phase last month at the Wave Streetcar Industry Forum with partners such as Broward County Transit, the City of Fort Lauderdale and many other Wave Streetcar partners. FDOT will start a Design-Build procurement process for Design-Build teams to bid on the project. It is expected to be advertised in July 2016, which will lead to an opening of the construction bids in the spring of 2017. Funding is now in place to advance the project to the next stage.

The Wave Streetcar will be a pivotal addition to the community by providing transportation and economic development. This transit system will encourage significant private investment, estimated at approximately \$4 billion of new development by 2030, with an estimated \$70 to \$80 million in new tax revenue. It will create hundreds of engineering and construction related jobs, 40 new permanent streetcar system jobs and new office and retail employment from new development. The Wave Streetcar will also provide environmental benefits such as reduced carbon emissions, reduction in per person utility consumption and a reduction in vehicle miles travelled. The system will promote a more efficient usage of mass transit opportunities.

Port Everglades and New International Container Weight Verification Requirements

Broward County's Port Everglades ongoing capital improvements and expansion ensures that it continues to handle future growth in container traffic. The Port is considered a world-class cargo handling facility which serves as an ideal point of entry and departure for products shipped around the world. Most recently, the availability of on-port scales are already in place to handle the new international container weight verification requirements which will go into effect on July 1, 2016. These certified scales are available at several locations in Port Everglades in order to weigh export containers and should help shippers meet the new requirements without providing for service delays. In order to ensure compliance with the new verified gross mass (VGM) requirements, ocean shippers are encouraged to confirm availability and fees with their contracted marine terminal operators.

Continued on page 14

PUBLISHER/ADVERTISING SALES

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

EDITOR

Eric Peter Berkowitz

PRINTER

The UPS Store®
954-568-1990

GMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL**

Pio Ieraci
(954) 561-9795

VICE PRESIDENT

Eric Peter Berkowitz
(954) 564-4427

TREASURER

Fred Nesbitt
(954) 564-4329

DIRECTORS

Ralph Hamaker
(954) 568-4146

Leah Glickfield
(954) 563-1001

Andrew Surdovel
(954) 568-0191

SECRETARY

Fern McBride*
(954) 561-2965

ADVISORY BOARD

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

Frances Konstance
Robert Korn
Linda LeDuc
Don Larson
Laurie Madenfort
Lois Mancke
Ilan Matsas
George Mayer
Fern McBride*
Madeline Mercado
Jean Miller
Charles Morton
Dr. Alex Moyyad
Kate Mullan
Patrick Oser
Ulli Parker
John Pescosolido
Richard Pohan
Everett Pyatt
Patricia Quintero
Glenn Rollo
Carol Schmidt
Mary Short
Richard Solewin
Nicolette Soucy
Frank Talerico
Gary Tripoli
Huey Vanek

The publisher accepts no liability and will not be held responsible for erroneous, incorrect, or omitted information, or for the accuracy of statements made by association members, outside contributors, third party articles, or advertisers. The publisher accepts advertisements from businesses believed to be reputable, but cannot guarantee it.

Although we may disagree with Etheridge's questionable interpretation - it will provide local fire marshals with a basis for ignoring the statutory opt-out, and mandating the installation of sprinklers in conjunction with an ELSS. Instead of using their best judgment to assess the adequacy of each association's fire safety protection, many of our less scrupulous Fire Marshals will simply enforce the purchase of \$multi-million sprinkler retrofits, cementing some post-retirement private sector benefits - on your dime.

Back to Square One

Here's the problem. In the 2003, 2006 and 2009 retrofit relief bills, it plainly states that the legislation applies to a full sprinkler retrofit and the ELSS. In Bogdanoff's successful 2010 statutory amendment, although the language describes how an association that votes to opt-out "is not obligated to retrofit the common elements, association property, or units of a residential condominium with a fire sprinkler system," it fails to specify that the opt-out also applies to an engineered life safety system - leaving just enough wiggle room for the slippery interpretive gymnastics performed by Etheridge.

On Thursday, May 5, Fort Lauderdale Fire Marshal Jeff Lucas forwarded a copy of Woodside's Declaratory Statement to the Neighborhood Association, and informed GMCA President Pio Ieraci "As this DEC statement reads, the (ELSS) Engineered Life Safety System would be required if the condos do not have any fire sprinklers." A few weeks later several Galt Mile officials met with Lucas to solicit his input and discuss the huge toll this will take on homeowners. After suggesting that a full sprinkler retrofit may be less expensive than an ELSS (debunking a common misconception), Lucas cast doubt on the official interpretation embodied in the Declaratory Statement, observing "I would think if you opt out, then you opt out of all." Aware of how the skewed interpretation conflicts with the legislative intent, Lucas clarified his expectation that associations will "pursue this issue with the State."

When contacted about this backdoor relegation of State Law, Florida CFO and State Fire Marshal Jeff Atwater regrettably admitted that his hands were tied. Although this is a rank attempt to rip off association homeowners for \$billions, it appears that the only recourse is a return trip to Tallahassee. Although we are back at square one, it isn't our first time at the dance. Stay tuned.♦

Your One-Stop Service!



10% Off Window & Sliding Glass Door Repairs*

*Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must mention coupon at time of scheduling appointment. Expires 12/31/16.



Repair & Installation

- More than 30 years experience
- Family-owned and operated
- Licensed and insured
- Certified YGreene Energy Fund Financing Contractor*
- A+ rated with the BBB

954-421-0390
Call today for a free estimate!

* This financing is only available on New Impact Product Installation










gulfstream
windows & sliding doors

BLINDS & SHADES

WE BEAT ALL ESTIMATES
ALL BRANDS, ALL STYLES

Lifetime Warranty On All Blinds & Shades

FREE

SHOP
AT HOME
SERVICE

FREE

MEASURING
AND
INSTALLATION

REPAIRS

**WE REPAIR ALL VERTICALS,
BLINDS & SHADES**

**VERTICALS & SHADES
REPAIRED & CLEANED**

MOTORIZED SPECIALIST

305-469-8162 • 954-237-4208



INJURED?

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



FREE CONSULTATION

954-749-3330

WE WILL COME TO YOUR HOME OR HOSPITAL

CHARLES COHEN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL • NOU PALE KREYÓL

SUMMER WAVE 'N' RIDE GIVE-A-WAY PROMOTION



Free give-a-ways will be handed out when you ride the Sun Trolley's Galt Link from August 15 - September 30, 2016. While supplies last. One gift per passenger.

Galt Link Destinations:

Galt Reading Center | Galleria Mall | Coral Ridge Mall | Beach Community Center |
Coral Ridge Towers | Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Visitor Center |
Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Town Hall | Anglin Fishing Pier

Galt Link Hours of Operation:

Monday-Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SUNTROLLEY.COM | 954-TROLLEY

Under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) the International Maritime Organization approved the new container weight verification rules. The new rules require the shipper of a packed container, regardless of who packed the container, to verify and provide the container's gross verified weight to the ocean carrier and port terminal representative prior to it being loaded onto a ship.

More information about Broward County's Port Everglades is available at Porteverglades.net/

Partnerships for Regional Solutions to Reuse and Conserve Water

A new regional partnership has been formed between Broward County Water and Wastewater Services and the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department. The cooperative project that will be constructed will utilize reclaimed water and conserve drinking water supplies in South Florida. Both County Boards have approved an inter local agreement (ILA) that will be implemented and provide for the initial steps of engaging in the preliminary design of the project.

The project consists of three sections: expansion of the existing Broward County North Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant's reuse capacity from 10 million to 26 million gallons per day, installation of approximately 5.8 miles of a 42-inch reuse transmission piping as the source pipe for the reclaimed expansion into Palm Beach County and also the North Springs Improvement District, and expansion of the reclaimed system into the southern portions of Palm Beach County. This regional solution provides significant benefits to customers in both Broward County and Palm Beach County. The project is expected to be completed by 2020 in Broward and additional distribution components are set to continue to be enhanced in Palm Beach County beyond 2020.

2016 Broward County Academy

Broward County provides a community education outreach series that provides residents of Broward the opportunity to learn about County government and the many available services that the County provides to residents, businesses and tourists. The Broward County Academy is a ten week interactive program that helps create public awareness about County programs and services while also increasing community involvement in local government.

The curriculum highlights the Airport, Seaport, Human Services, Emergency Management, Water and Wastewater, Cultural, Libraries, Parks, Community Wellness, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Enterprise Technology Services, Animal Care, Transit and several other County Agencies. Broward Academy will give participants a better understanding of what Broward County Government is, who it serves, how it serves residents, and what it does to improve the quality of life for all who live, work, and play here.

The 2016 Academy sessions will be held on ten consecutive Thursdays from 6-9PM beginning September 8 and concluding with graduation ceremonies on November 10. Classroom lectures will be combined with behind-the-scenes tours and interactive experiences. Applicants must be age 18 or older and reside in Broward County. The deadline for applying is August 5, 2016. Applications for the Broward County Academy are available here, by e-mailing BrowardAcademy@Broward.org, or by calling the Broward County Office of Public Communications at 954-357-6990.

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 Broward's 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.

Best regards,

Chip LaMarca
Broward County Commissioner, District 4 •

"Back to School" Tax Holiday


Your state legislature also approved the popular "Back to School" sales tax holiday to give Florida's families the opportunity to save more of their hard-earned money, while ensuring our students have the tools they need to succeed in the classroom. The three-day sales tax holiday will take place on August 5-7, 2016. Sales tax will not be applied to clothing and shoes priced \$60 or less per item, and school supplies priced \$15 or less per item. Improving the education of our children is very important to our state's legislature, and helping families spend less on school supplies is a great way to start the school year!

Education

Together we have shown our commitment to the promise of an outstanding public education for our students and a better future for the children of our state. During this session, the Legislature worked on several important bills with respect to education. The Florida House showed its commitment to providing a quality education for Florida's students by making historic investments in our state's education system in this year's budget. The PreK-12 Education budget contains the highest amount of state funds ever, totaling \$14.2 billion, which is a total of \$7,231.57 per student. The House budget also includes \$20 million for Preeminent State Universities and \$10 million for Emerging Preeminent State Universities to encourage our universities to strive for academic and research excellence, and offer more high-quality educational opportunities to Floridians. We have also included \$75 million in additional State University Performance to reward our universities that prepare students to get good jobs after graduation, not just framed degrees. I am thankful for my colleagues in the House who passed this bill favorably with significant bipartisan support.

Rapid Rehousing Appropriation

On any given day there are hundreds of men, women, and children that call the streets of Fort Lauderdale home. This is both heartbreaking and unacceptable. This legislative session, I had the honor to support the fight to end homelessness by requesting state funding for the City of Fort Lauderdale's Rapid Re-Housing Program. The program provides financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. In addition to this, the program helps those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. Not only is rapid rehousing more cost-effective than other programs, it also produces long-term results from one-time costs since it is effective at keeping rehoused individuals from returning to homelessness. Directly funding the Rapid Rehousing Program strengthens and supports the Broward County Continuum of Care Plan to End Homelessness. This initiative is one of the single most important interventions in the fight to end homelessness, and I am pleased to announce our Florida Legislature awarded \$500 thousand from this year's budget to the City of Fort Lauderdale's Rapid Re-Housing Program. It is my hope that these funds will both prevent people from becoming homeless, and help the hundreds who are experiencing homelessness move quickly into their own stable housing. •

A surgeon in blue scrubs and a surgical cap is seated at a console, operating a da Vinci Xi robotic surgical system. The robot's arms and grippers are visible, holding surgical instruments. Other medical staff in blue scrubs are in the background. The scene is set in a modern operating room with bright overhead lights.

Robotic Surgery

The surgery of the future is here now. Broward Health Imperial Point offers a wide range of minimally invasive surgical services, including the use of robotics.

By combining the precision of advanced robotics with the steady hand of our top-notch surgeons, patients may experience less pain, less scarring, a shorter hospital stay, and a quicker recovery.

In short, robotics aren't just better for our surgeons. They're better for your surgery.

To learn more call 954.759.7400 or visit BrowardHealth.org/BHIProbotics

Robotic surgery. Faster recovery.



GRAND OPENING
JUNE 23, 2016

RELAX REVIVE REJUVENATE

Complimentary
Wine & Champagne
w/ SERVICE

Prestige
Salon & Spa

MANI-PEDI COMBO \$29 • CUT & COLOR \$79+

KERATIN TREATMENT \$99+ • MASSAGE \$49 HR

WALK-INS WELCOME

954-541-5507

222 Commercial Blvd. L.B.S, FL 33308

(NEXT TO PRONTO RESTAURANT)

WWW.PRESTIGENAILANDHAIR.COM

Diamonds & Doggies
"The only store of its kind"



111 Commerical Blvd.
Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, FL
(954) 765-6078

NO
PUPPY
MILLS



/DiamondsandDoggies
DiamondsandDoggies.com

USDA
LICENSED
BREEDERS

\$100 OFF

Any Puppy in Stock

plus \$1000 worth of FREE goodies!

- FREE Airline Approved Travel Bag (Choice of Colors)
- FREE Wellness Visit with our Local Veterinarian
- FREE State of Florida Health Certificate with all Up-to-Date Shots
- FREE Lineage and Pedigrees (if applicable)
- FREE 30 Days Unlimited Trupanion Insurance (AAA Rated)
- FREE Week of Doggy Day Care at our Local 4 Star Retreat
- FREE 1st Grooming with our Local Professional Groomers
- FREE 1 Hour Consultation with our Trainer at your Home
- FREE Photoshoot with Munoz Photography Studio
- FREE Starter Bag of Nutrisource Puppy Food
- FREE Double Diner Food and Water Bowl
- FREE Can of Wet Puppy Food
- FREE Signature Bling CZ Collar or Harness
- FREE Personally Engraved Doggy I.D. Tag
- FREE New Puppy General Care Guide

Puppies on sale are not included in this offer.
Limit one puppy per customer per visit. Valid for one time use only.
Cannot be combined with any other offers.

Must show coupon to redeem. Expires 8/30/16.