

GALT MILE NEWS

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OCTOBER 2016



DANCING WITH ZIKA...PAGE 3

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DANCING WITH THE

ZIKA VIRUS



By: Eric Berkowitz

Absent the existence of a preventive vaccine or curative medications, the State of Florida and Broward County embarked on a campaign to choke off the slippery Zika Virus. After racing across South America and the Pacific, this mystery pandemic surged into South Florida, where health authorities worldwide know little more than we do about stamping it out. For insight into its discovery, medical impact and breakneck planetary penetration, read on.

Rockefeller and the Monkey Bugs

On May 14, 1913, Master of the Universe John D. Rockefeller, his son John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Rockefeller's principal advisor for oil and gas matters and philanthropic endeavors - Frederick Taylor Gates, chartered the Rockefeller Foundation in New York State. A fiscal midwife for scores of medical keystones, the \$3.4 billion lunch bucket funded the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom. In the U.S., the Foundation established the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Harvard School of Public Health, annually ranked numbers 1 and 2 nationally for such institutions. In Canada, it opened the School of Hygiene at the University of Toronto.

With more government funding cascading through this multi-headed medical research juggernaut than any other family of institutions, it's no surprise that their medical benchmarks include the 1937 development of attenuated live vaccine "Stem 17D" by South African virologist Dr. Max Theiler, which prevents Yellow Fever. A graduate of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Theiler directed the virus laboratory at the Rockefeller Institute. A year before Theiler developed his Nobel Prize-winning vaccine; the Rockefeller Foundation funded the Yellow Fever Research Institute in Entebbe, Uganda. Later renamed the East African Virus Research Institute, it was nationalized in 1977 after winning regional acclaim and reorganized as the Uganda Virus Research Institute.

In 1947, the Institute's scientists caged a rhesus macaque at a field station in a nearby forest. The monkey developed a fever, and researchers finally isolated a transmissible agent from its serum in 1948. The new virus was named Zika after the site of the field station near Entebbe, the Zika Forest. Other noteworthy arboviruses discovered at the institute include Chikungunya virus, West Nile virus, Bwamba virus, Semliki Forest virus, O'nyong'nyong virus, and Kadam virus.

Measuring the Damage

Like dengue, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, and West Nile viruses, Zika virus is a member of the virus family Flaviviridae and the genus Flavivirus, and is primarily spread by the mostly diurnal female

Aedes aegypti mosquito. Researchers later found the virus in other arboreal mosquito species of the *Aedes* genus, such as *A. africanus*, *A. apicoargenteus*, *A. furcifer*, *A. hensilli*, *A. luteocephalus*, *A. vittatus* - each with an incubation period of about 10 days.

Causing mild symptoms or none at all, in most cases, the infection known as Zika fever or Zika virus disease is similar to a very mild form of dengue fever. Symptoms generally last for less than seven days, and may include fever, conjunctivitis (red eyes), malaise, joint pain, headache, and a maculopapular (bumpy red) rash. While the illness cannot be prevented by medications or vaccines and there is no specific treatment, acetaminophen (Tylenol) and rest may relieve the symptoms. In rare cases, Zika infections in adults have been linked to Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Zika can spread from a pregnant woman to her fetus, potentially resulting in microcephaly (an underdeveloped brain and skull), severe brain malformations, and other birth defects. In January 2016, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued travel guidance for enhanced precautions in affected countries, and a recommendation that pregnant women consider postponing travel. When detected locally, health officials in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Jamaica advised women to postpone pregnancy until more is known about the risks. Zika virus can also be transmitted through sexual contact or blood transfusion.

Prevention is currently limited to decreasing mosquito bites in areas where the disease occurs (and proper use of condoms). Efforts to prevent bites include the use of insect repellent, pesticides, larvicides, mosquito nets, covering much of the body with clothing and eliminating the carrier mosquitoes' breeding habitat (getting rid of standing water where they reproduce).

Through the 1950s, Zika had been restricted to a narrow equatorial belt from Africa to Asia. Like Yellow Fever, the vertebrate hosts of the virus were primarily monkeys in a so-called enzootic mosquito-monkey-mosquito cycle, with only occasional transmission to humans. From the first reported human spillover in 1952 until 2007, there were only 14 confirmed human cases of Zika infection from Africa and Southeast Asia. From 2007 to 2016, the virus spread eastward, across the Pacific Ocean to the Americas, leading to the 2015-16 Zika virus epidemic.

Continued on page 8

2016 Proposed Constitutional Amendments:

By: Eric Berkowitz

Given the political fireworks launched during Presidential elections, most voters would rather flip a coin than self-educate about Ballot questions or proposed Constitutional Amendments. As a result, unscrupulous politicians and industrial juggernauts religiously use them as vehicles for realizing outrageous measures that would otherwise wither under marginal scrutiny.

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

To place a proposed Constitutional Amendment on the November 8, 2016 Ballot, a Citizen's initiative had to petition the signatures of 683,149 registered Florida voters by the February 1, 2016 filing deadline. In contrast with the rigorous eligibility burden mandated for citizens, for lawmakers in the majority party, bagging the 60% approval in both chambers required for a joint resolution is often easier than breathing.

Although five (5) Proposed Amendments were certified for the ballot, one of them – Amendment 4 – was approved by more than 72% of voters participating in the August 30 Primaries. The proposed amendment was added to the August 30 ballot by the Legislature, ostensibly to avoid voter confusion between Amendment 4 and Amendment 1, which both address solar energy issues. Amendment 4 is extremely useful – while Amendment 1 is a devious attempt to hoodwink voters. .

Before the approval of Amendment 4 on the August ballot, the Florida Constitution exempted renewable energy source installations on residential properties from ad valorem taxation. Business and commercial properties were not included. Amendment 4 not only exempted solar energy devices from property tax valuation for homes, but for commercial and industrial properties that fall under the tangible personal property tax bracket. The exemptions granted by Amendment 4 would begin in 2018 and continue for 20 years. Good stuff.

The other four (4) proposed Constitutional Amendments will appear on the November 8, 2016 general election ballot. The penny sales tax Broward Ballot Question that is also placed on the Broward Ballot was covered in the September Newsletter. For another look, check the Galt Mile website for Commissioner Bruce Roberts September Newsletter commentary. For insight into the three legitimate prospective statewide constitutional amendments and a fourth hop-toad created for the sole purpose of draining your wallet, read on:

Proposed Amendment #1

Ballot Title: Rights of Electricity Consumers Regarding Solar Energy Choice

Reference: Amendment #1 would add Section 29 to Article X of the Florida Constitution; Sponsored by Consumers for Smart Solar; Citizen Initiative

Official Ballot Summary: This amendment establishes a right under Florida's constitution for consumers to own or lease solar equipment installed on their property to generate electricity for their own use. State and local governments shall retain their abilities to protect consumer rights and public health, safety and welfare, and to ensure that consumers who do not choose to install solar are not required to subsidize the costs of backup power and electric grid access to those who do.

What you need to know

Whatever else you do with your ballot - you need to kick this one to the curb. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, "Florida - the sunshine state - ranks third in the nation for rooftop solar potential, but all the way down at 14th for cumulative solar capacity installed. Florida's solar policies lag behind many other states in the nation: it has no renewable portfolio standard and does not allow power purchase agreements, two policies that have driven investments in solar in other states."

It's no accident that Florida lingers behind largely overcast states like New Jersey (#4), Massachusetts (#6) and New York (#7) for the amount of solar panels installed in the state as of December 2015. Anti-solar laws crafted by Florida utility lobbyists and their minions in the PSC have throttled solar energy expansion. For example, Florida is one of a handful of states that ban the third-party sale of electricity. Floridians must purchase their power from the utilities that drafted this anti-consumer law. Seeking to ensure their monopoly on the sale of power to Floridians, the utilities sponsored Proposed Amendment #1 to constitutionalize these anathematic laws. Hoping to slow the growth of inexpensive solar power – which will cost them hundreds of \$billions – utilities have waged a nationwide campaign to block productive solar laws in every state.

Unlike the Legislature, where industry lobbyists have been purchasing statutory impairments for decades, slipping them into the Florida Constitution would require a massive flimflam of voters across the state. Since voters naturally crave cheaper power, the industry hires local think-tanks to strategically undermine the spread of solar power by cloaking anti-solar measures in pro-solar rhetoric - especially in states like Arizona, New Mexico, California - and Florida.

On October 18, the Miami Herald reported that vice president and policy director Sal Nuzzo at the James Madison Institute in Tallahassee admitted complicity in crafting a utility industry effort to deceive voters into supporting restrictions on the expansion of solar "by shrouding Amendment 1 as a pro-solar amendment." While addressing a State Energy/Environment Leadership Summit in Nashville on October 2, Nuzzo called the amendment, "an incredibly savvy maneuver." As per an audio recording of the event supplied to the Herald/Times, Nuzzo observed how it would cripple pro-solar interests, saying the plan "would completely negate anything they would try to do either legislatively or constitutionally down the road."

Continued on page 5

The Devil is in the Details

In March, Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente admonished "let pro-solar energy consumers beware. Masquerading as a pro-solar energy initiative, this proposed constitutional amendment, supported by some of Florida's major investor-owned electric utility companies, actually seeks to constitutionalize the status quo." After considering arguments by industry lawyers, the High Court Justice characterized the amendment as a "wolf in sheep's clothing."

Amendment #1 asserts three actions. It opens by claiming to establish "a right under Florida's constitution for consumers to own or lease solar equipment installed on their property to generate electricity for their own use." First - consumers already have the right to own or lease solar equipment installed on their property. They also have the right to share the solar energy or sell it back to the grid. Decentralized rooftop solar electricity provides net benefits by reducing the stress on the grid during the daytime, cutting expenditures on fossil fuels, and making privately funded clean energy available to all. By adding the words, "to generate electricity for their own use," the amendment seeks to remove the right to sell or share the cheaper electricity - quashing a strong incentive to install solar while eliminating threatened competition and preserving industry profits. Secondly, in declaring that "State and local governments shall retain their abilities to protect consumer rights and public health, safety and welfare..." the measure adds nothing, since that is what governments already do.

Third and last is the payoff - "ensure that consumers who do not choose to install solar are not required to subsidize the costs of backup power and electric grid access to those who do." In short, there are no subsidies or inequities created by the installation or use of solar power. Consumers who use alternative energy sources like wind or solar also plug into the grid. At night, solar users pay their local utility for power; during the day, they sell it back. This provision would clear the way for the utility industry to charge a fee for using the grid. Implementing a capricious fee will drive up the cost of using solar energy, and impair its proliferation. Of course, if approved, such a fee could be levied on anyone who uses the grid - every energy customer in the state.

Although virtually every environmental agency, conservation organization, energy watchdog and consumer advocate strongly opposes

this utility-backed Amendment, along with State lawmakers, Mayors, City Commissioners, and local Chambers of Commerce, it may pass because voters have been hoodwinked into mistakenly believing that it promotes solar energy. Needless to say, Sergeant Bilko would be proud.

Proposed Amendment #2

Ballot Title: Use of Marijuana for Debilitating Medical Conditions

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

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

What you need to know

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

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

Continued on page 9

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for January 1st effective date**

NOV/OCTOBER

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

<p>9 ArtRageous: Boca Raton Arts & Crafts Festival 171 E. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-472-3755</p> <p>Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Columbus Day</p> <p>Ft Lauderdale Orchid Society Orchid Auction Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall (1955 E. Oakland Park Blvd.) 7:30 p.m. Info.: 954-764-1239</p>	<p>11</p> <p>BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Erev Yam Kippur</p>	<p>12</p> <p>BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p>16 Palm Beach Condo & HOA Expo Boca Beach County Convention Center, WPB 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info.: 952-881-5030</p> <p>Erev Sukkot</p> <p>Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p>18</p> <p>BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall Regular Agenda: 6 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>A Garden Party at "Helen's Garden" Hugh Taylor Birch State Park 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-566-0660</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p>	<p>24</p> <p>15th Annual Spook-Tacular Party! The Signature Grand, Davie 7 to 11:30 p.m. Info.: 954-390-0493</p>	<p>25</p> <p>BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p>30 Delray Marketplace Art & Craft Festival Delray Marketplace off W Atlantic Ave. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 472-3755</p> <p>Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p>1</p> <p>BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall Regular Agenda: 6 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Day of the Dead Celebration Huizenga Plaza 4 to 10 p.m. Info.: info@dayofthedeadflorida.com</p>
<p>6 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622</p> <p>Las Olas Sunday Market 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-426-8436</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>ELECTION DAY VOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>	<p>9</p> <p>BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>

OCTOBER 14: Rockin' & Reelin', Movie: Kung Fu Panda, Provident Park (1412 NW 6th St.), 8 p.m., Info.: 954-828-5363
 OCTOBER 14-17: Jewelers International Showcase Miami, Miami Beach Convention Center, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 1-800-840-5612
 OCTOBER 15: Making Strides of Palm Beach, Meyer Amphitheater (WPB), Registration: 7:30 a.m., Walk: 9 a.m., Info.: 561-650-0136
 OCTOBER 15-16: Harvest Fest & Super Heroes Weekend, 3750 S. Flamingo Road (Davie), 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Info.: 954-473-2955
 OCTOBER 15-16: Buckler's 26th Annual Craft Fair, South Florida Fairgrounds (WPB), Info.: 386-860-0092
 OCTOBER 16: 21st Annual Down Syndrome Buddy Walk & 5K Run, Markham Park, 8:30 a.m., Info.: 954-825-0400
 OCTOBER 19: Fort Lauderdale Career Fair, Marriott Fort Lauderdale North, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 702-614-9537
 OCTOBER 21-23: West Palm Beach Fall Home Show, South Florida Fairgrounds (WPB), Info.: 855-523-5311
 OCTOBER 22: All Stars vs. Fort Myers Derby Dames - Roller Derby, War Memorial Auditorium, 6 p.m., Info.: 954-401-8712
 OCTOBER 22: South Florida Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes, Huizenga Plaza, 7:30 to 11 a.m., Info.: 954-772-8040 X 3011
 OCTOBER 22: 5th Annual Brazilian Festival of Pompano Beach, Pompano Beach Community Park (820 NE 18th Ave.), 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Info.: 305-803-0338
 OCTOBER 22-23: Harvest Fest & Fairy Tale Weekend, 3750 S. Flamingo Road (Davie), 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Info.: 954-473-2955
 OCTOBER 30: Halloween Spooktacular 5K, TY Park (Hollywood), 5K Run/Walk - 7:15 a.m.; Kid's Dash - 8 a.m.; Youth Mile - 8:15 a.m., Info.: 954-461-5515

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

THU

FRI

SAT

LOTS HAPPENING IN TOWN!

13

14

Friday Night Sound Waves
Live Music Series
Performer(s): Full Moon Party feat. The Tom
Sartori Band
Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas /ATA
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Info.: ari@fnswwfb.com

Oktobefest

(Through 10/16)
Festival Flea Market
Info.: 561-967-6464

15

10th Annual Glam Doll Strut
Esplanade Park
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

Lantern Festival: In The Spirit Of Obon
Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens
3 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Info.: 561-495-0233

20

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

21

Friday Night Sound Waves
Live Music Series
Performer(s): Big City Dogs Band
Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas /ATA
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Info.: ari@fnswwfb.com

4th Annual Red Shield ReDesign Bash
Galleria Mall
6:30 to 9 p.m.
Info.: 954-712-2431

22

29th Annual Las Olas Art Fair
(Through 10/23)
600 East Las Olas Blvd.
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-472-3755

New Times Broward-Palm Beach Beerfest
C.B. Smith Park, Pembroke Pines
2 to 6 p.m.
Info.: 305-571-7543

27

28

Friday Night Sound Waves
Live Music Series
Performer(s): Blues Brothers Soul Band
Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas /ATA
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Info.: ari@fnswwfb.com

Music On Main Street
Performer(s): Slam Allen Band
Oakland Park City Hall
6 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-630-4251

29

MODS Masquerade —
A Venetian Fantasy
Museum of Discovery and Science
6 p.m.
Info.: 954-713-0906

West Palm Beach's Moonfest -
World's Biggest Halloween Party
531 Clematis St., WPB
8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Info.: 561-288-1322

3

57th Annual Ft Lauderdale Int'l Boat Show
(Through 11/7)
Various Locations in Ft Lauderdale
Info.: 954-764-7642

4

Friday Night Sound Waves
Live Music Series
Performer(s): Mr. Nice Guy Band
Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas /ATA
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Info.: ari@fnswwfb.com

American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC)
(Through 11/5)
Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Info.: 877-902-1113

5

Denim & Diamonds Gala
Ft Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach
Resort & Spa
6 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-564-3512

7th Annual Boca Raton Wine & Food Festival
(Through 11/6)
Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Campus
Info.: 561-338-7594

10

11

Friday Night Sound Waves
Live Music Series
Performer(s): The Fabulons Ft Lauderdale
Beach Hub at Las Olas /ATA
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Info.: ari@fnswwfb.com

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Fall Garden Festival
(Through 11/13)
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: 305-667-1651

12

SwampFest Bluegrass Festival
3750 S. Flamingo Road, Davie
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-473-2955

NOVEMBER 12-13

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

NOVEMBER 12-13

Camelot Days Medieval Festival
T.Y. Park, Hollywood
Info.: 786-332-0047

NOVEMBER 13

13.1 Half Marathon & Life Time 5K - Fort Lauderdale
Start: 17th St. near the Broward Convention Center
Finish: South Beach Park on A1A
6 to 10:30 a.m.
Info.: 305-278-8668

NOVEMBER 13

15th Annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival
Markham Park
Noon to 9 p.m.
Info.: 786-361-1103

NOVEMBER 19

11th Annual Riverwalk Mutts & Martinis
The Downtowner
Noon to 3 p.m.
Info.: 954-468-1541 x 205

NOVEMBER 19

39th Annual Broward County Fair
Festival Flea Market
Info.: 954-214-2457

NOVEMBER 24

6th Annual Fort Lauderdale Turkey Trot & Paddle
DC Alexander Park
Start Paddleboarders and 5K Run/Walk: 7:30 a.m.
Info.: 954-767-8866 x 25

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

NOVEMBER 5: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Drop-off Events, Community Park (1660 NE 10th St., Pompano), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-828-8000

NOVEMBER 5-6: Miami - Fort Lauderdale Pet Expo, War Memorial Auditorium, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Info.: 1-800-977-3609 ext. 104

First Saturday of Every Month: Beach Cleanup, Commercial Blvd. & the Beach LBTS (Meet at Pavilion), 9 to 9:30 a.m., Info.: 954-776-1000

First Saturday of Every Month: North Beach Art Walk, 3280 NE 32nd St. 7 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-537-3370

Second Saturday of Every Month: Beach Sweep, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, 1100 Seabreeze Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info.: 954-593-8501

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

Sundays: Tour-the River Ghost Tour, Stranahan House & Water Taxi, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: 954-524-4736

Saturdays: Saturday Night Under the South Florida Stars, Fox Astronomical Observatory at Markham Park, Sunset to Midnight, Info.: 954-384-0442

Daily: Yoga on the Beach, Ocean Manor Resort (4040 Galt Ocean Dr.), 9:30 a.m. (weather permitting), Mats supplied, \$10 donation, Open to the Public, Info.: 754-779-7519 or 516-840-1455

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Zika...Continued

Racing across the Planet

In April 2015, the outbreak began in Brazil, where an estimated 1.5 million people were infected by Zika, triggering a case cluster of Guillain-Barré syndrome and over 3,500 cases of microcephaly reported between October 2015 and January 2016. It spread to other countries in South America, Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, prompting the Pan American Health Organization to publish a list of countries and territories that experienced "local Zika virus transmission." The list included Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Martinique, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Saint Martin, Suriname, and Venezuela.

By August 2016, more than 50 countries had experienced active local transmission of Zika virus, including the United States. According to the CDC, more than 3,000 people were diagnosed with Zika across the U.S.; 731 were pregnant women. Of the 17,000 cases reported in the territories – mostly in Puerto Rico – more than 1,000 were pregnant women.

Local transmission in Florida was initially confined to two small areas in Miami-Dade County. With no evidence of active transmission for 45 days, on Monday, September 19, 2016, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) – the lead agency for repelling the pandemic – lifted an alert from the one-square mile Wynwood arts District just north of downtown Miami. Following the discovery of 4 new cases on Friday, September 16, the second active transmission zone was expanded from 1.5 square miles to 4.5 square miles in Miami Beach between 8th and 63rd Streets. Aerial insecticide spraying to combat mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus started in Miami Beach on Friday, September 9. By September 17, 93 locally transmitted cases were reported in Florida (35 in Miami Beach) along with 670 travel-related cases.

By mid-September, the department was conducting 17 active investigations, including 13 in Miami-Dade, one in Pinellas and three in Palm Beach counties. The department continues door-to-door outreach and targeted testing in Pinellas, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties while conducting mosquito abatement and reduction activities in neighborhoods under investigation. As of September 17, the 109 reported cases in Broward are supposedly travel-related – and there are conflicting reports about the number of infections that were locally transmitted. On October 13, the CDC reported that Zika spread to an additional 1 square-mile area in Miami-Dade, the third in that County.

Neutering Broward Mosquitoes

Two of the carrier mosquito species (AKA vectors) thrive in Broward County, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* (the Tiger Mosquito). Neither species breed in the lakes, canals, roadside ditches or retention ponds that cover the county; opting instead for artificial containers that hold standing water – such as uncovered buckets, flower pots, fountains, ornamental ponds, children's toys, planters, gardening equipment, pet bowls and discarded tires.

Broward County periodically performs preventive aerial spraying during daylight hours, targeting mosquito larvae with a commercial product called VectoBac WDG. Unlike the pesticide Naled used for aerial spraying in Miami Beach, where it was rumored by neighborhood protesters to cause birth defects, VectoBac WDG features impressive safety credentials. Its active ingredient – the AM65-52 strain of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) – is a naturally occurring, biodegradable bacterial mosquito larvicide which is not harmful to humans, pets, aquatic habitats or environmentally sensitive areas. The product is certified by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), registered for use by the US Environmental Protection Agency and listed by the World Health Organization as a recommended formulation for control of mosquito larvae.

In addition to disseminating FDOH Zika Updates, the City of Fort Lauderdale has dispatched a Code Enforcement Special Response Team and crews from Parks and Public Works to eliminate mosquito breeding habitat citywide. As directed by FDOH, Broward County and Fort Lauderdale are requesting help with control and prevention from homeowners and merchants. Associations can cooperate by emptying water from outdoor trash containers, garden and pool equipment, buckets, ash trays, and equipment or vehicle tarps that catch water. Discard container tops, cans and bottle-caps. Sedentary decorative fountains should be drained. Active fountains and swimming pools that are properly maintained pose no threat. Assigning a maintenance staffer to these tasks for 10 minutes each morning will help protect our families for pennies a day. •

To quash the amendment, Governor Rick Scott sent Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi to spearhead a legal team that insisted using the term "diseases" instead of "conditions" in the ballot summary would confound the average voter. Disparaging the summary's failure to sufficiently detail possible Federal repercussions, dissenting Justices argued that the ballot title and summary inadequately specified the conditions required for physician approval, and "obscure the breadth of medical issues that would qualify for medical marijuana." The Majority disagreed, stating "We conclude that the use of 'diseases' instead of 'conditions' in the ballot summary will not reasonably mislead the voters." The measure failed, receiving 58% voter approval instead of the 60% required for passage.

Key proponent and largest donor Attorney John Morgan teamed with initiative sponsor United for Care to rehabilitate any confusing language and close loopholes that alienated opponents. Since 2014, the Legislature has legalized some strains of marijuana for patients with seizures or severe and persistent muscle spasms. Later, lawmakers legalized full-scale medical marijuana for the terminally ill. By the February 1, 2016 deadline, the secretary of state verified the collection of 716,270 signatures (683,149 were required) and certified the proposed amendment for the ballot.

The revised 2016 proposal clarifies requirements for parental consent when prescribed for minors, further defines what is meant by "debilitating" illnesses that qualify for marijuana as a treatment option, specifying glaucoma, cancer and chemotherapy, multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Parkinson's disease. It adds that doctors who are negligent in prescribing marijuana would be subject to malpractice claims and limits how many patients a caregiver can treat with marijuana. Also, the Florida Department of Health will issue ID cards to patients and caregivers. Unlike 2014, both Scott and Attorney General Bondi have remained mute.

Producing videos comparing the measure to a failed California experiment and predicting the creation of 2000 marijuana shops statewide, staunch opponent "Drug Free Florida" once again resorted to specious claims about the measure's impact – seemingly sourced from cult film "Reefer Madness" – intimating how using marijuana will transform seriously ill medical patients into rabid junkies.

The bogus indictments had been systematically debunked by physicians and medical researchers. In fact, since medical marijuana is an alternative therapy to the heavily addictive opioids that are currently prescribed for debilitating diseases (i.e. Oxycodone, Oxycontin, Percocet, etc.), the exact opposite is true. Among the safest known therapeutically active substances, no one ever died from an overdose of marijuana.

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

A few opponents offered an objection that actually had merit, arguing that legalizing marijuana is a function more appropriate to the state legislature, as a Statute can be readily improved if necessitated by actual experience, while comparable adaptations to the constitution are far more difficult. Supported by most medical associations throughout the U.S. and Florida, the American Medical Association stated, "Effective patient care requires the free and unfettered exchange of information on treatment alternatives and that discussion of these alternatives between physicians and patients should not subject either party to criminal sanctions." Voters can make Florida the 26th State – along with the District of Columbia – that allows physicians to treat seriously ill patients with Medical Marijuana.

Proposed Amendment #3

Ballot Title: TAX EXEMPTION FOR TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED FIRST RESPONDERS

Reference: Amendment #3 would amend Section 6(f) of Article VII and add a new section to Article XII of the Florida Constitution; Referred by the Florida Legislature.

Official Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize a first responder, who is totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty, to receive relief from ad valorem taxes assessed on homestead property, if authorized by general law. If approved by voters, the amendment takes effect January 1, 2017.

What you need to know

This amendment recognizes the sacrifices regularly made by our first responders in the line of duty while protecting our liberties and way of life. The State of Florida and its citizens are, by the very nature of the services performed by these men and women, forever in their debt. Our state can collectively express appreciation by approving Amendment 3, offering these permanently afflicted heroes property tax relief.

Florida's Constitution already grants a property-tax exemption to the spouses of first responders who die in the line of duty. Amendment 3 authorizes the Legislature to extend that exemption to first responders who are "totally and permanently disabled" from injuries received in the line of duty. Existing law defines first responders as police and correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics. State officials did not estimate how much the new exemption might cost local governments from lost property tax revenue.

Amendment #3 was introduced by Representative Larry Metz in the Florida House of Representatives on December 18, 2015. House Joint Resolution 1009 passed the House unanimously on February 11, 2016, and the Senate unanimously on March 9, 2016. If approved by voters, the Legislature must still decide whether the exemption should provide full or partial relief from property taxes and approve the measure to become law (effective on Jan. 1, 2017). This should be a cakewalk.

Proposed Amendment #5

Ballot Title: HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN SENIOR, LOW-INCOME, LONG-TERM RESIDENTS; DETERMINATION OF JUST VALUE

Reference: Amendment #5 would amend Sections 10 and 11 of Article V of the Florida Constitution; Referred by the Florida Legislature.

Official Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to revise the homestead tax exemption that may be granted by counties or municipalities for property with just value less than \$250,000 owned by certain senior, low-income, long-term residents to specify that just value is determined in the first tax year the owner applies and is eligible for the exemption. The amendment takes effect January 1, 2017, and applies retroactively to exemptions granted before January 1, 2017.

What you need to know

In 2012, voters approved a Constitutional Amendment allowing cities and counties to grant a full property-tax exemption for Floridians 65 and older living in a home with a just (market) value of less than \$250,000 for at least 25 years, with an annual household income of \$28,448 in 2015 (income limits are adjusted annually for inflation). The exemptions were also made available to permanently disabled veterans aged 65 or older and surviving spouses of veterans or first responders who died in the line of duty.

However, if the value of the home increases above \$250,000, eligibility would be lost, and the taxes would have to be paid as assessed – a catastrophic impact for a senior on a fixed income. By clarifying that the home value is set when residents first apply, Proposed Amendment #5 locks in the exemption permanently once a senior qualifies, correcting the troubling pitfall.

Amendment 5 was introduced by Representative Bryan Avila in the Florida House of Representatives on October 1, 2015. House Joint Resolution 275 passed the House unanimously on February 11, 2016, and the Senate unanimously on March 9, 2016 (effective January 1, 2017). Since the amendment is retroactive to 2013, a senior who qualified for the exemption in 2013, but lost it, would regain the exemption. Like Amendment #3, it's a no-brainer. •

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY: Chip LaMarca's AUGUST 2016 Newsletter

In his August 2016 Newsletter, Broward District 4 Commissioner Chip LaMarca congratulates eleven County departments named by the National Association of Counties for Achievement Awards (four snagged by the Risk Management Division); notes that Port Everglades rated Green Marine Certification and won German-based Hapag-Lloyd as a new customer; cites Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) for a Green Practices Program that earned the J. Bryan Cooper Environmental Award for its Sustainable Strategic Initiatives in Terminal 4 and newly opened Concourse G; warns constituents to prepare for Hurricane Season and introduces a new mobile access to online tax data. LaMarca also details State and County efforts to choke off the slippery Zika Virus. After racing across South America and the Pacific, this mystery pandemic surged into South Florida, where health authorities worldwide know little more than we do about stamping it out. For insight into its discovery and breakneck planetary penetration, see the accompanying article in this newsletter.



Chip LaMarca's AUGUST 2016 Newsletter

Means Business," which promoted County, state and federal programs that help mentor and finance Broward County businesses.

The overall winning Division was Risk Management with four awards. The first was for Safety and Occupational Health for providing an Exceptional Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Program Enhancement. Next was an award in the Liability Claims Section for providing innovation in a liability video that demonstrates a more timely and efficient way to handle claims. The Risk Management Division was also recognized for an innovative Property Insurance Premium Savings Program and a Workers' Compensation Medical Cost Reduction Program. The services provided by Broward County divisions and departments are a great example of residents' tax dollars at work providing the best quality of life for residents in our community.

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.

Broward County Receives Innovation Awards

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has awarded Broward County eleven Achievement Awards recognizing several effective and innovative county government programs. The Broward County Human Resources Division received two awards, one award for an employee assistance program and another for an educational roadshow for County employees. The Office of Economic and Small Business Development was recognized for developing the Technical Assistance Training program which provides certification and training for local small businesses to boost their ability to bid on Broward County projects. The Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division was awarded for developing hydrologic models that help bridge the communication gap between scientific research and policy makers to provide a more proactive response to future climate scenarios and sea level rise. This department was also recognized for the County's commitment to enhancing community resilience and protecting the environment. The Libraries Division was awarded for creating a year-long program of events and education outreach in support of a mayoral initiative "Broward

Port Everglades Update

Broward County's Port Everglades has recently earned its first Green Marine certification. Green Marine is the largest voluntary environmental program for the maritime industry in North America. The Port earned this certification by benchmarking specific environmental performance indicators including air emissions, water standards, community impacts and environmental leadership.

Port Everglades recently welcomed a German-based shipping line as part of its Mediterranean Gulf Express (MGX). Hapag-Lloyd has announced the addition of Port Everglades to its MGX rotation from Valencia, Spain. It is expected to add approximately 300 to 400 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units, the industry's standard container measurement) weekly at Port Everglades providing additional shipping options for customers. More information about Broward County's Port Everglades is available at PortEverglades.net

Fort Lauderdale International Airport Update

Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) received the J. Bryan Cooper Environmental Award for its Sustainable Strategic Initiatives. Broward County's Aviation Department (BCAD) successfully implemented Sustainable Strategic Initiatives at FLL to help conserve and protect our natural resources. A Green Practices Program and a Water Resources Protection Program were implemented in the maintenance facility. The expansion and modernization project of Terminal 4 also included numerous green design and construction elements. The features reduce water use by 40 percent and provide 90 percent natural light, which reduce electric energy usage. The building also used reflective roofing materials to reduce heat and workers recycled more than 50 percent of the construction debris. Recognition was also given to the Aviation Department for its use of electric cars and the new "Park Assist" system in the parking garages that helps reducing idle time, fuel consumption and air emissions.

FLL has also opened Concourse G in Terminal 4 with new concession areas and five new gates. The next phase of the expansion and modernization project will include an Interactive Walkway and nine new gates. This project is expected to be completed by mid-2018 which will include 12 international gates and two domestic gates. Additionally, construction at Concourse A is currently underway in

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EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

Chip LaMarca's SEPTEMBER 2016 Newsletter

In his September 2016 constituent update, Broward District 4 Commissioner Chip LaMarca announces having helped realize a six-year political objective central to his ideological zeitgeist – a tax cut. Sweetened by the fact that the 1% millage reduction will take place in Broward County, where LaMarca recently observed how voters “never met a tax they didn't like.” Exercising his longstanding advocacy on behalf of local and regional economic engines, LaMarca applauds a property purchase that will expedite complementing the County's Convention Center with a Headquarters Hotel and adjacent campus, notes how implementation of new technology and a consultant's recommendations may smooth contentious stakeholder issues that hamper our slowly improving Countywide E-911 service, describes how grant funding will help facilitate kitten adoptions and announces the opening of the new Animal Care and Adoption Center in October.



Chip LaMarca's SEPTEMBER 2016 Newsletter

International Airport and Water and Wastewater services. It is also important for me that you know that both Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport are enterprise operations and they are not funded with property taxes. They are businesses that create their revenues through customer fees to operate at the port and airport. The FY2017 budget won't be final until the public has a chance to comment. Public hearings are set for September 15th and September 27th, beginning at 5:01 p.m. at the Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Avenue-Room 422 in Fort Lauderdale. Final budget approval is expected after the second public hearing. The fiscal year 2017 budget takes effect on October 1, 2016.

Moving Forward with Convention Center Hotel and Expansion

This past month we took a major step forward in the plans to expand our existing Broward County Convention Center and build a new Convention Center Headquarters Hotel. We are advancing with developer Matthews Southwest Holdings, a Dallas-based developer with expertise in hotel and convention center development, with the addition of Balfour Beatty Construction to the development team, a leading U.S. commercial developer with their state headquarters located in Broward County. The Commission also approved a pre-development agreement for the design and build the project. Another major component of this project was the approval of the purchase of development rights for over four acres of land adjacent to the current convention center known as the Portside Yachting Center. This \$30.3 million investment provides Broward County additional development entitlements for the overall project and will allow for better access to the Convention Center campus and expand design options to meet the needs of the City and the County.

The planned expansion and new on-site hotel at Broward County's Convention Center is expected to bring economic benefit not only to the local community, but also throughout the state which will include more annual events, as well as new, permanent full time jobs. It will also create over \$96 million in future annual tax revenues (in present value) – over \$70 million to the State of Florida and \$21 million to Broward County and \$2 billion in recurring economic impacts over a 20-year period. Incorporating a convention center hotel and expanding our current convention center will allow Broward County to become a leading destination for conferences and expositions of all sizes.

For more information and updates on the Convention Center expansion and hotel project, please visit www.broward.org/CCExpansion.

Broward County Regional 911 System Update

Broward County's Office of Regional Communications and Technology has been working extensively to ensure that the Regional Consolidated Communications System is efficient, effective and performing to meet and exceed the national standard. Recently, Phase one of a two phase consultant's report highlighted that the Regional 911 system is meeting and exceeding the national standards quantitatively.

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 Taxes Decrease in FY2017

As your County Commissioner I have always advocated strongly for the need to reduce the millage rate for Broward County residents. After six years of advocating this issue, the County Commission has finally agreed that they could support a reduction, while still maintaining the high level of services that Broward County residents have come to expect from their county government. The proposed one-percent reduction sets the FY2017 millage rate at 5.669. Based on this recommended budget and millage rate reduction, the average median-priced homesteaded property taxpayer will see no increase in County property taxes. The median homesteaded value in Broward County this year is \$214,100. I believe that this is still too high, but I am grateful to my fellow commissioners that we are starting the process of reducing the cost of government.

The total recommended budget for FY17 is \$4.7 billion, which includes all tax supported and non-tax supported funds. Overall the total budget increases by \$505 million with substantial funding provided for large projects at Port Everglades, the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood

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Terminal 1. This addition will include a Customs Inspection Facility with five gates handling both international and domestic flights, to be completed May 2017.

Zika Virus

Zika virus cases have recently been confirmed in South Florida. According to the Florida Department of Health, some of these cases have been transmitted locally. The Broward County Mosquito Control Division is working closely with the Florida Department of Health and Code Enforcement partners in Broward's 31 municipalities. The Mosquito Control Division is also actively involved in the effort to reduce breeding sites. These efforts include: conducting door-to-door back pack spraying, draining standing water where possible, treating standing water with long-lasting larvicide, eliminating mosquito habitats, setting up mosquito traps and sampling adult mosquitos to gauge effectiveness of the above-mentioned treatments.

Residents are also encouraged to help reduce the mosquito nuisance by remembering to drain and cover. You can also contact the Mosquito Control Division and request spraying in your neighborhood by calling 954-765-4062 or completing the online Mosquito Spray Request Form. For more information on protecting yourself from mosquito-borne diseases, visit Broward.Org/Streets/Mosquitos.

Hurricane Season: Are You Prepared?

While summer is almost behind us, South Florida residents should still be on alert since we are in the height of hurricane season. For the months of August and September, it is important to continue to use the Broward County Hurricane website in order to be informed during hurricane season. Resident are also encouraged to be prepared for any emergencies that might occur. Being prepared means having a plan and knowing what to do before, during and after a tropical storm or a hurricane. Testing your hurricane preparedness knowledge can also help you become more prepared for hurricane season. Test your hurricane preparation knowledge by clicking on the link and check to see if you can identify proper evacuation procedures, shelters, supplies, and notifications that can keep your family safe during this hurricane season. For more information please visit Broward.org/Hurricane.

Mobile-Friendly Property Taxes Website

The Broward County Records, Taxes and Treasury Division recently launched a mobile-friendly version of Broward.County-Taxes.com. The website now offers citizens a more efficient and easily accessible way to print receipts and bills, pay bills, and do searches by name, address, or account number. All the functions that can be accessed through the original website format can now be accessed by tablet or mobile devices. The County continues to make strides in offering more easily accessible options for all Broward County citizens. For more information, visit the County's Records, Taxes and Treasury website or call 954-831-4000.

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.
Best regards,

Chip LaMarca

Broward County Commissioner, District 4 •

The report also identified several opportunities for improvement which include; overstaffing issues, defining stakeholder roles, and addressing operations and system improvements. The County has already started to address some of these issues by introducing new policies and procedures, training and investing \$113 million in operations and systems improvements. The new multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency web-based CAD will replace a 22-year-old system the County inherited in 2012 and interface to the E-911 System, Radio System, Regional Law and Fire Records Systems, and Paging and Toning Systems - all systems vital to receiving, processing and implementing rapid response to 911 calls for help. Phase 2 report will include the consultant's recommendations for improvements and we expect that report in the coming months.

Another effort to enhance the quality of service experienced by residents using the Regional System is the launching of a new online feedback form, which is now available at www.Broward.org/911. This new feature will provide residents the ability to submit details about their experience including the location of their E-911 call, a brief description of their call experience, and provide contact information such as phone number and/or email, if they wish to be contacted about the call. By implementing these efforts, we are continuously committed to enhancing public safety in our community in order to keep our residents and visitors safe.

For more information and updates on Broward County's Regional 911 System, visit Broward.org/CommunicationsTechnology.

Animal Care Receives Funding

Broward County's Animal Care and Adoption department has received grant funding from the Community Foundation of Broward. The funding will provide more than 100 Foster Kits for the Foster Care Program. On average, more than 1,300 kittens are fostered each year. Kittens stay in the Foster Program until they are at least two months old, or weigh at least two pounds. At that time, they are placed into adoption. The grant of \$30,000 will help to provide a special Foster Kit to Foster Care parents which includes; a supply of kitten food, feeding bowls, cat pan and liners, litter and a scoop, and a special carrying bag to hold all of the supplies. I am also very pleased to announce that our brand new 40,000 square foot, state-of-the-art Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center will be opening to the public in October. Every kennel in this new facility will be air conditioned and will have the best of creature comforts for our visitors. For more information, please go to www.broward.org/Animal/Shelter2016.

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. Please sign up at www.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 •

No one is more committed to women's health than Broward Health.

Broward Health Imperial Point has recently acquired a new mammography unit. Using the latest 3D technology, it can detect breast cancer in the early stages, a huge advantage when it comes to treatment.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and is a great time to get your annual mammogram screening. It's never too early to make your appointment, you must have a prescription and call the Broward Health Line to make your appointment at [954.759.7500](tel:954.759.7500).



Outpatient Lab and Radiology services will be open Monday through Friday, from 7am – 6pm and Saturdays from 7am – 3pm. Walk-ins welcome, for more information visit BrowardHealth.org/BHIP.



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