

GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

NOVEMBER 2016



SOAKING FORT LAUDERDALE RATEPAYERS...page 5

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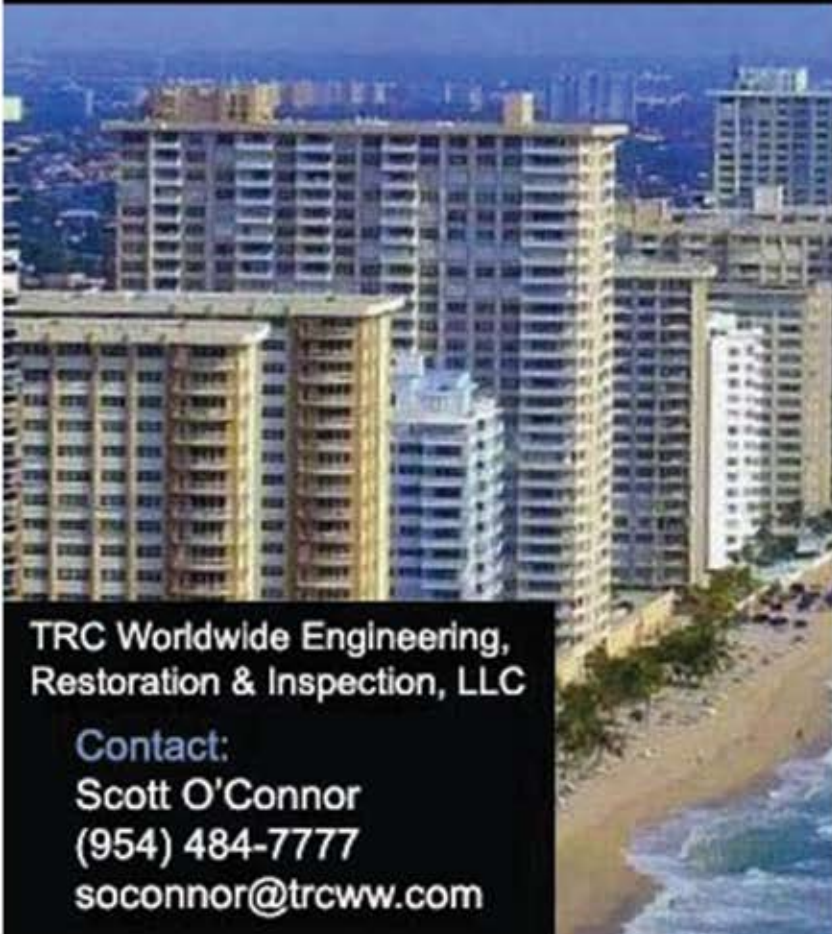
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SOAKING FORT LAUDERDALE RATEPAYERS

By Eric Berkowitz

In July of 2009, the City of Fort Lauderdale announced a new set of water and sewer rates for utility customers. When questioned about its impact on associations, City officials automatically parroted a statistical assertion drawn from the City web site "The rate changes will result in an increase of less than \$10 per month for 72 percent of single family residential customers." Since association homeowners are obviously grouped with the other 28%, Galt Mile Managers, association Board Treasurers and Finance/Budget Committee members reasonably surmised that their share of the burden would be somewhat larger. When members of the neighborhood association's Advisory Board sought to learn how the new rates were applied to the City's water & sewer customers, they were assured that "The rates for single family homes and multi-family residences are identical." To our chagrin, we soon learned that a skewed billing formula inflated charges to association homeowners by up to 90%.

Over the next six months, association water & sewer invoices shot through the roof. After reviewing the new rate schedule, Advisory Board members also discovered provisions in the formula that unfairly burden association members with huge increases spared to single family homeowners. To further cloud matters, association water & sewer invoices were incongruent with the new rate schedule. When building managers called the Water Department to request assistance with reconciling unintelligible invoices, not even department supervisors were able to decipher the seemingly arbitrary charges. For several months, customer service requests were met with unkept promises that "someone" would call back.

Shopping for Money

In 2001, Fort Lauderdale embarked on a mammoth improvement project called "Waterworks 2011". Implemented to modernize the City's water, wastewater and sewer infrastructure, a majority of the upgrades were targeted for completion by 2011 (before the City's Centennial celebration), hence the snappy moniker. Since the City's Water and Sewer Utility is organized as an Enterprise Fund, the project didn't feed on tax dollars. Funding the upgrades with a titanic tax hike during a recession was a non-starter - and serial hurricanes in 2004 and 2005 had emptied the City cookie jar. The \$557 million initially budgeted (\$323 million for improvements to the water system and \$233 million for wastewater upgrades) was drawn from revenues raised through bond issues in 2003, 2006 and 2008. A common practice, many municipalities issue bonds repaid by ratepayers to finance their utilities. In May 2005, the program budget was hiked to \$689 million. Due to extraordinary construction cost increases in 2007; the budget was later increased to \$768 million.

On July 21, 2009, the City Commission approved a surprise plan to boost income from water and sewer services by 20%. The huge increase wasn't required to maintain funding levels for these services. Since revenues paid into an enterprise fund should only be used for fund expenses, the new cash bucket could not be used to offset deficits elsewhere in the City budget. Only a fraction of the projected income would address the fund's operational expenses and the balance couldn't be spent on anything else. Budget watchdogs questioned where the money was going. The consultant who recommended the 20% hike blamed it on "draught conditions and use restrictions."

For years the City waged marginally successful campaigns promoting water conservation as palliative to the environment and the family budget. Finally, the recession prompted consumers to carefully monitor utility meters and conserve electricity, gas and water. Since funding for the whopping Waterworks 2011 project was dependent on how attractive Fort Lauderdale's water business was to potential bond purchasers, the City's municipal bond consultant warned that the 23% drop in water sales since 2005 due to conservation use restrictions threatened to lower the bond ratings - which would skyrocket the cost of money and sour future investment. To engineer the blue chip profit margins required to intoxicate prospective bond investors, the City Commission approved the draconian 20% rate hike, belatedly bleeding customers for the money they saved by conserving water.



Continued on page 8

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE...SOME

NOVEMBER/DEC

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

<p>13 13.1 Half Marathon & Life Time 5K Start: 17th St. near the Broward Convention Center Finish: South Beach Park on A1A 6 to 10:30 a.m. Info.: 305-278-8668</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>14 The Best of Times Senior Expo South County Civic Center, Delray Beach 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 754-246-2874</p> <p>Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p>15 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>16 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Winter Business Expo 2016 Broward County Convention Center, 3rd Floor 4 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-838-9644</p>
<p>20 Flanigan's Rockin' Rib Run 10K Tree Tops Park, Davie 7 a.m. Info.: 954-474-4074</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>21</p>	<p>22 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Alzheimer's Support Group BHIP Medical Library, 2:30 p.m. Info. & Reg.: 954-759-7400</p>	<p>23 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Bob Dylan Broward Center for the Performing Arts 8 p.m. Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com</p>
<p>27 Winterfest Family Fun Day Huizenga Plaza Noon to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-767-0686</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>28</p>	<p>29 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>54th Annual Christmas on Las Olas - 2016 Las Olas Blvd. 5 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-258-8382</p>	<p>30 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>
<p>4 Sunday Jazz Brunch Kiverwalk, 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>5 Fort Lauderdale Job Fair The Westin Fort Lauderdale 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 1-866-838-5111</p> <p>Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p>6 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>7 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Christmas-By-The-Sea Anglin's Square (Commercial Blvd. at El Mar Dr.) 5:30 to 9 p.m. (Tree lighting at 6:15 p.m.) Info.: http://www.lbtsevents.com/events</p>
<p>11 11th Annual Holiday Car Show Festival Flea Market Mall 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-563-4000</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>12</p>	<p>13 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p>	<p>14 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>

NOVEMBER 15: High Tea & Trivia, Broward Health Imperial Point Hospital Cafeteria (6401 N Federal Hwy.), 3 to 4:30 p.m., 65 years+, Info. and RSVP: 954-759-7400
 NOVEMBER 17: Bariatric Educational Seminar: Lecture by Dr. Mike Choi, bariatric surgeon, Broward Health Imperial Point Hospital (6401 N Federal Hwy.), 6 p.m., Info. and Reg.: 954-759-7400
 NOVEMBER 18-JANUARY 2: Holiday Fantasy of Lights, Tradewinds Park, Nightly 6 to 10 p.m., Info.: www.holidaylightsdrivethru.com
 NOVEMBER 19: 5th Annual Merrill Lynch Bull Run, Merrill Lynch Building (450 East Las Olas Blvd.), 7:30 to 9 a.m., Info.: 954-661-2732
 NOVEMBER 19-20: Camelot Days Medieval Festival, T.Y. Park (Hollywood), Info.: 786-332-0047
 NOVEMBER 19-20: Buckler's 42nd Annual "The Harvest Festival" Expo, Dade Fair Expo Center (10901 Coral Way), Miami, Info.: 386-60-0092
 NOVEMBER 29: 15th Annual STILES Light Up Downtown to benefit Jack & Jill Children's Center, 301 East Las Olas Blvd., 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Info.: 954-463-8772 ext 206
 DECEMBER 3-4: Riptide Music Festival, Fort Lauderdale Beach at Harbor Dr. and A1A, Info.: 305-521-5280
 DECEMBER 3-4: Orchid, Garden and Gourmet Food Festival at Bonnet House, Bonnet House, Info.: 954-563-5393 (SEE AD IN THIS EDITION)
 DECEMBER 4: 29th Annual Toys In The Sun Run Car, Truck & Bike Show, Markham Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info.: 954-806-9000
 DECEMBER 6: The South Florida Condo, HOA & Co-op Expo, Broward County Convention Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info.: 212-683-5700
 DECEMBER 9-11: The Nutcracker, Broward Center Au Rene, Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com
 DECEMBER 13-25: Cinderella: The Musical, Broward Center Au Rene, Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com

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

THU

FRI

SAT

<p>17 Avenue Q (Through 11/20) Broward Center for the Performing Arts Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com</p> <p>G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting Nick's Italian Restaurant, 11 a.m.</p>	<p>18 Friday Night Sound Waves Live Music Series Performer(s): PALO! Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas /A1A 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: ari@frswillb.com</p> <p>Ft. Lauderdale Spring Home Design & Remodeling Show (Through 11/20) Broward County Convention Center Info.: 305-667-9299</p>	<p>19 39th Annual Broward County Fair (Through 11/29) Festival Flea Market Info.: 954-214-2457</p> <p>11th Annual Riverwalk Mutts & Martinis The Downtowner Noon to 3 p.m. Info.: 954-468-1541 x 205</p>
<p>24 Better Breathers Support Group BHIP Medical Library, 2:30 p.m. Info. & Reg.: 954-759-7400</p> <p>Ft Lauderdale Turkey Trot & Paddle DC Alexander Park (501 Ft Lauderdale Beach Blvd.) START: 7:30 a.m. Info.: 954-767-8866 ext. 25</p>	<p>25 Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>26 Outdoor Art Show Lake Worth Beach (10 South Ocean Blvd.) 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.</p> <p>17th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Thanksgiving Weekend Art Festival (Through 11/27) Downtown Delray Beach 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-472-3755</p>
<p>1 Holiday Tree Lighting Downtown Delray Beach (51 N Swinton Ave.) 5 p.m. Info.: 561-278-0424</p> <p>10th Annual "Men of Style" The Galleria Mall, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-446-0806</p>	<p>2 Holiday Tree Lighting Cultural Plaza (414 Lake Ave., Lake Worth) 6 to 10 p.m.</p> <p>West Palm Beach Antiques Festival (Through 12/4) South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB Info.: 941-697-7475</p>	<p>3 Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Drop-off Events Public Works & Engineering Division (6011 Nob Hill Rd., Lomax) 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-8000</p> <p>Winterfest Black Tie Ball Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 7 p.m. Info.: 954-767-0686</p>
<p>8 Fort Lauderdale Career Fair Marriott Fort Lauderdale North 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 702-614-9537</p> <p>Palm Beach Food And Wine Festival (Through 12/11) Many Venues Across Town, WPB Info. & Locations: 561-320-2030</p>	<p>9 Boynton/Delray Beach Boat Parade START: Boynton Beach Inlet PROCEEDS to the C-15 Canal in Delray 6:30 p.m. Info.: 561-243-7250</p> <p>Garden of Lights (Through 12/11) 3750 S. Flamingo Rd., Davie 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. info.: 954-473-2955</p>	<p>10 Santos Little Helpers (Through 12/11) Flamingo Gardens 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info.: 954-473-2955</p> <p>Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade Intra-coastal (from New River in Ft Lauderdale to Lake Santa Barbara in Pompano) 6 to 11:30 p.m. Info.: 954-767-0686</p>
<p>15</p> <p>G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting Nick's Italian Restaurant, 11 a.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>

LOTS HAPPENING IN TOWN!

DECEMBER 18

3rd Annual Fort Lauderdale Jingle Bell Jog 5K
Huizenga Plaza
5K Start Time: 7:30 a.m.; Little Elf Dashes: 8:30 a.m.
Info.: 954-661-2732

DECEMBER 23

Beach Bonfire with Music By Jamie Craig & Postcards
Lake Worth (10 South Ocean Blvd.)
6 to 9 p.m.
Info.: <https://www.lakeworth.org/events>

DECEMBER 24

Menorah Lighting
Old School Square, Delray Beach
Sun-down
Info.: 561-278-0424

DECEMBER 31

12th Annual New Year's Eve Downtown Countdown
SW 2nd St., between SW 2nd Ave. & SW 4th Ave.
4:30 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Info.: 954-396-3622

JANUARY 1

SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch
Riverwalk
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Info.: 954-396-3622

JANUARY 6-8

Fort Lauderdale Beach Collector Car Auction
War Memorial Auditorium
Info.: 561-533-7945



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

Thursdays: BHIP Farmer's Market, Broward Health Imperial Point Medical Arts Pavilion (633 N Federal Hwy.), 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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.: 754-701-0197 or 516-840-1455

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Water...Continued

A series 2008 Water & Sewer Bonds Feasibility Report recommended that the City perform and implement a rate study to "stabilize" funding for Capital Improvements. Awarded the project, the St. Augustine firm of Burton & Associates completed the Final Draft Report on May 13, 2009 (FYI - Burton & Associates was acquired in early 2016 by Colorado-based Hawksley Consulting - a subsidiary of engineering mega-firm MWH Global - which was acquired in May by Canadian design juggernaut Stantec - Yikes). The Burton Rate Study was sent to environmental engineers Milian, Swain & Associates, Inc. to vet its environmental soundness and to Fidelity Financial Services to insure that it would meet investor expectations for fund profits. On July 2, 2009, Frank Hall of Fidelity Financial Services wrote to former Director of Public Works Albert Carbon "The City of Fort Lauderdale proposed utility rate structure will be viewed favorably by the rating agencies, assuming that there are no significant operating expenses beyond the amount previously projected."

Ghost Fees

Grounding their rate plan on the Burton and Associates study, the Commission enacted City Ordinance C-09-21, amending the water, wastewater and stormwater rate schedule for 250,000 water & wastewater customers in Fort Lauderdale, Port Everglades, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Oakland Park, Sea Ranch Lakes, Wilton Manors, parts of Davie and Tamarac and parts of unincorporated Broward County. It was initially increased by 10% (5% on August 1, 2009 and 5% on August 1, 2010). Usage rates were also reorganized, that is to say, the financial burden was redistributed to ratepayers in single family homes, multi-family properties and commercial customers. Lastly, a list of bogus new charges was hatched. Since the new rates alone wouldn't adequately fatten the fund's bottom line, the Water Services Department would also bill customers for services they didn't deliver.

Of these "ghost" fees used to jerk profits, the "Service Availability Charge" held a special paradox for snowbirds. Customers who discontinue active service would now incur a monthly charge for the "theoretical availability" of water and/or wastewater service to their property. Since the City incurs fixed costs to maintain a degree of service readiness for a property, they are charging residents for the opportunity to buy water as an offset to this outlay.

Snowbirds that simply turn off their water must still minimally pay \$6.86 a month for water they don't receive and at least \$10.06 a month to discharge the non-existent water (sewer charge). To escape this charge, former or intermittent customers could no longer simply stop using water; they must either prove that they no longer own the property, or remove any toilets, sinks, faucets, spigots and water meters. If they decide to reinstall these fixtures, they are charged \$150 to reconnect. A decade after his home was flattened by Hurricane Wilma, a former customer who later tried to sell the empty lot first had to settle a lien for thousands of dollars that had since annually accrued from this thinly veiled tax.

Whether crafted to satisfy projected annual operating expenses, capital funding requirements, operating and capital reserve targets - or to ensure compliance with the terms of the bond issue - the 2009 Rate Study also recommended annual five percent (5%) Water and Sewer rate increases through Fiscal Year 2014. However, the City Commission balked at approving the future annual increases, anticipating that a planned 2011 rate study might auger a revision to the funding formula.

Shareholders vs. Ratepayers

They were right. Two years later, the City once again recruited Burton and Associates to craft the 2011 rate study. On August 23, 2011, while reviewing the 2011 study at a City Commission Workshop, Burton and Associates' Senior Vice President Andrew Burnham praised the report for successfully balancing water conservation measures with the City's bondholder obligations. A closer inspection of the Bond Issues revealed why the projected income from the exploding Water and Sewer rates far exceeded the system's operational expenses. Buried in each Bond Issue was a Rate Covenant contractually backed by the City.

It states, "The City has covenanted in the Bond Resolution that it will fix, charge and collect reasonable rates and charges for the use of the services and facilities furnished by the Water and Sewer System and that it will adjust such rates and charges from time to time by increasing or decreasing the same or any selected categories of rates and charges as often as it shall appear necessary so that the Net Revenues received in each Fiscal Year..."

Continued on page 10

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... will equal at least one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the Principal and Interest Requirements for such Fiscal Year, on all Bonds then Outstanding plus one hundred percent (100%) of all amounts required to be deposited to the Reserve Account, the Renewal, Replacement and Improvement Account, the Subordinated Indebtedness Account, and the Rate Stabilization Account for such Fiscal Year."

It also provides that if the City collects Impact Fees (which it does), and includes those receipts in calculating its compliance with the rate covenant, "the City further covenants that the Net Revenues received in each Fiscal Year, together with the Impact Fees..., as applicable, will be sufficient to provide an amount in such Fiscal Year at least equal to one hundred thirty percent (130%) of the Principal and Interest Requirements for such Fiscal Year on account of the Bonds then Outstanding." The rate schedule would have to generate sufficient revenues to fund the system's operational needs, plump a Chinese menu of support accounts and reserves, cover 130% of its elephantine debt service while inflating a profit bubble large enough to impress investors. Actually, this was a minimum requirement – the fund cushion usually hovered between 150 to 200% of the debt.

Along with a new Master Meter Volume charge and Non-Residential Impact Fees, the "2011 Rate Study" prompted the City Commission to adopt an annual rate indexing policy for Water and Sewer services. The annual rate adjustment would be scheduled as the greater of (1) the annual change (measured in May of each year) in the United States Consumer Price Index Water & Sewerage Maintenance Series (the "CPI"), or (2) five percent (5%).

Ostensibly due to fast-growing repair and replacement costs, the 2011 Rate Study recommended complementing the annual 5% rate hike with a 1.0% and 1.75% increase for Fiscal Year 2012 and Fiscal Year 2013, respectively. On September 20, 2011, the City Commission enacted City Ordinance C-11-21 (Effective October 1, 2011), once again amending the water, wastewater and stormwater rate schedule. Commissioners adopted a Water and Sewer rate increase of 6.75% for Fiscal Year 2012 (i.e., 5.75% actual change in the CPI for May 2011, plus an additional 1.0%). For Fiscal Year 2013 the City adopted a 6.75% rate increase (the annual 5% increase plus an additional 1.75%). The City Commission also established the 5.0% rate increase for Fiscal Year 2014 that it deferred two years earlier, along with a 5.0% annual increase for each Fiscal Year thereafter. Upping the bond rating from "AA" to "AA+", Standard & Poor's credit analyst Paul Costa cited "...management's demonstrated willingness to adjust rates on a regular, recurring basis."

By 2014, tumbling interest rates prompted City Manager Lee Feldman to buy down the fund's early debt. The steroidal rate hikes wouldn't only address the "fast-growing repair and replacement costs"; they would "quick-fix" a bottom-line boost to the fund's financial projections in preparation for another run at the bond market. On November 4, 2014, the City issued Series 2014 bonds, raising \$121,520,000. Along with minimum fees of \$25,000 and \$20,000 for Bond Counsel Albert del Castillo, Esq. and Disclosure Counsel Steve Bullock, P.A., respectively – the proceeds were directed toward refinancing \$31,865,000 of its Series 2006 Water and Sewer Revenue bonds and \$98,660,000 of its Series 2008 bonds. The buyback netted an estimated value savings of \$9,930,510, with an average annual savings of \$660,651.

On April 19, 2016, the City raised another \$164,609,000 by the sale of Series 2016 Water and Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds. The proceeds were used to knock off the remaining \$53.1 million in Series 2006 Water and Sewer bonds, \$31 million of its Series 2008 bonds, \$72.4 million of Series 2010 bonds along with the outstanding balances of \$5.6 million and \$11.8 million for 2003 and 2004 State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans. The net present value savings is estimated at \$10.2 million.

Rate Rip-Off: Galt Mile Drops the Ball

Fearful of clarifying how each painful boost to water & sewer charges was a gift to investors, officials instead focused on how the financial burden would be equitably distributed across the customer base. To help spin this distortion, the new rate scales for single and multi-family homes were made the same. Unfortunately, how they are applied was not.

The rate ordinance openly punishes residents living in condominiums and

cooperatives. Identical multi-tier rate scales that increase with consumption (water charges) - or discharge (sewer charges) - are applied to water & sewer customers in single family and multi-family homes. Increased by 44% since 2009, in 2016 - 17, the 5 tiers or "rate multipliers" used as water consumption coefficients are \$2.10, \$4.65, \$5.81, \$7.84 and \$11.37. Although these rate tiers were applied across the board (along with fixed commodity charges), the block rate formula used to calculate consumption and discharge costs (1000 gallons per month multiplied by the number of units) force customers in common interest associations to pay more than their single family counterparts (See Tables Below).

Except for customers who use or discharge less than 1000 gallons of water per month, rates from a higher tier (AKA "block rate") are invoiced to multi-family homeowners who use or discharge the same amount of water as single-family homeowners. As a result, an association unit owner can pay up to 90% more than a single family homeowner for identical water consumption and sewer discharge. For example, the block rate for a single family homeowner who uses 2000 gallons per month is \$2.10 for each 1000 gallons (total of \$4.20). A condo owner who consumes the same 2000 gallons is billed at a block rate of \$2.10 for the first 1000 gallons, and at a block rate of \$4.65 for the second 1000 gallons (total of \$6.75) - 61% more than the single family homeowner.

The disparity continues when these 2 homeowners dump their used water. The single family homeowner is charged a sewer block rate of \$3.71 for draining off every 1000 gallons (total of \$7.42). The comparable sewer block rate for our condo owner is \$3.71 for draining the first 1000 gallons, and \$8.22 for the second 1000 gallons (total of \$11.93) or 61% more than the single family homeowner. With every rate increase, the discrepancy widens, as does the tax differential. Since funds budgeted annually by Galt Mile associations for Water & Sewer expenses range from \$50,000 to \$220,000, this inexplicable 45 - 90% "premium" inflates unit owner maintenance charges by tens of thousands, seriously cutting into the family food budget.

When this inequity was posed to City Commissioner Bruce Roberts at the January 21, 2010 Advisory Board meeting, he offered to bring several water department specialists to the February Presidents Council meeting, affording association officials an opportunity to air their concerns to a presumably authoritative resource. At the February 1, 2010 meeting in the Galleon, when queried about the disparity in how the block usage rates were applied to single family homes and associations, the two purported experts from Water Services claimed they were barred from discussing any single family customer's invoices without their express permission. Preoccupied with incessant beach renourishment delays, salvaging the Galt Library from the 2010 Broward budget axe, and battling a mandated sprinkler retrofit – when confronted by the City officials' clumsy dodge, the neighborhood association dropped the ball – and the billing disparity was relegated to the back burner.

Single Family Residential Water		
	Consumption	Rate
Block 1	0 – 3,000	\$2.10
Block 2	4,000 – 8,000	\$4.65
Block 3	9,000 – 12,000	\$5.81
Block 4	13,000 – 20,000	\$7.84
Block 5	>20,000	\$11.37

Single Family Residential Sewer		
	Consumption	Rate
Block 1	0 – 3,000	\$3.71
Block 2	4,000 – 20,000	\$8.22
Block 3	>20,000	N/A

Multi-Family Residential Water		
	Consumption	Rate
Block 1	0 – 1,000	\$2.10
Block 2	2,000 – 3,000	\$4.65
Block 3	4,000 – 5,000	\$5.81
Block 4	6,000 – 8,000	\$7.84
Block 5	>8,000	\$11.37

Multi-Family Residential Sewer		
	Consumption	Rate
Block 1	0 – 1,000	\$3.71
Block 2	2,000 – 8,000	\$8.22
Block 3	>8,000	N/A

Rate Parity Revisited

Six years later, when Galt Mile Treasurer Fred Nesbitt discovered inexplicable spikes in the water bills of a half dozen Galt Mile associations, he asked Commissioner Bruce Roberts to investigate the bills in hopes of revealing some shared rationale for these billing anomalies. At a follow-up meeting with Roberts and City Manager Lee Feldman, Galt Mile officials altered the agenda, and revisited the billing inequity that forces association homeowners to pay more than single family customers for identical services.

Feldman initially suggested that the discrepancy might be ascribed to a higher cost incurred by the city for maintaining the water and sewer lines servicing an association. Galt Mile President Pio Ieraci pointed out that the city must maintain roughly 600 water and sewer lines for 300 single family customers. In contrast, for the 300 unit owners in a high-rise common interest community, the City must only maintain the two or three metered lines (i.e. domestic water, irrigation, etc.) that service the association building. Once the lines enter the structure, maintenance responsibility is assumed by the association and paid for by the unit owners. The city spends far less on readiness expenses for the two or three lines used by association homeowners than for hundreds that service a comparable number of single family customers.

Ultimately conceding that there seemed no justifiable reason for the skewed billing formula, Feldman told the Galt Mile officials that another rate study was in progress, and when completed, would provide an opportunity to explore elimination of the double standard. When Galt Mile V.P. Eric Berkowitz asked if such a correction might be made retroactive, Feldman went mute. If the disparity is quashed, how much unit owners will save on assessments will depend on the degree that consumption rates are decreased for associations or increased for single family homes. To achieve rate parity without eroding Fund revenues, the final formula will likely be calculated by averaging the two block rate scales. If so, the current 50 - 90% premiums paid by associations will be halved, and the savings passed to unit owners. Hopefully, completion of the rate study will end the double standard. If not, we'll be back.

Robbing Peter to Pay Paul

While there is no Florida statute or administrative code that restricts municipalities from using Enterprise Fund revenues for General Fund expenses, such prohibitions are often regulated by bond covenants - or mandated in the Enterprise Fund's Organizing documents as a "best practices" provision that returns profits to customers in the form of a rate reduction. Not surprisingly, local governments have been moonwalking around these restrictions for more than 3 decades, shifting supposedly dedicated funds to remedy bad luck or bad planning.

When a 2011 budget shortfall was pressuring City Commissioners to break a 2009 promise to maintain the millage rate, City Manager Lee Feldman took advantage of a 30-year old Florida Supreme Court decision that allows municipalities to earn a reasonable dividend from a City-owned utility (like any other shareholding investor), which the City could use for whatever purpose deemed in the public interest. Using this loophole, Feldman legally transferred \$5 million from the Water and Sewer Enterprise fund to diminish the General Fund deficit. The modest transfer continued annually until 2016, when Feldman upped the budgetary Band-Aid to \$20 million.

Since the initial 2009 rate increase, the City had annually claimed credit for maintaining water and sewer rates substantially below those of neighboring municipalities. Feldman's large transfer triggered suspicions that the savings was a by-product of infrastructure neglect. These fears were fanned by claims in a March 2016 city report that Fort Lauderdale was only spending \$19 million annually for system maintenance, less than two thirds of the \$32.9 million allocated annually by the average city, especially since 40% of Fort Lauderdale's deteriorating water & sewer lines are more than 60 years old.

When Sunrise Boulevard at N.E 20th Avenue was closed by a ruptured water main on Christmas Day in 2015, City spokesman Chaz Adams announced "The city is not experiencing a significant increase in the frequency of pipes breaking. Unfortunately, when pipes break on a major holiday, it creates the misperception that they are occurring with greater frequency." The March report refutes Adam's Fairy Tale, noting 55 ruptured water mains 3 years ago and 93 last year while extrapolating 156 breaks in 2016.

Rate budget watchdogs, neighborhood leaders and the Sun-Sentinel Editorial Board questioned why revenues were being stripped from the Water and Sewer Fund to subsidize the budget instead of rebuilding the failing infrastructure. To dampen growing anxiety, City officials offered a variety of responses. Mayor Jack Seiler noted that the \$20 million transfer staved off an 18% property tax increase. Spokesperson Chaz Adams said that the City report about underfunded infrastructure maintenance had mistakenly omitted projects financed through a separate wastewater fund. Combining the outlays, Adams inveighed that the City was spending more than \$40 million annually on system upgrades. Irked by the transfer, District 2 Commissioner Dean Trantalis said, "I would want to reverse the policy and start using the money where it was intended." Admitting that the City has been operating without a cohesive maintenance playbook, both Seiler and Bruce Roberts referenced a master plan that was currently being compiled, which would expedite the replacement of aging pipes and planned fortifications against flooding exacerbated by rising sea-levels.

While nobody wants a tax hike, residents are understandably fearful that skimming revenues from the Water and Sewer Fund may short-change infrastructure upgrades required to maintain the system's structural integrity. However, if the City complied with the rate covenant, ratepayers have already funded the system's operational & maintenance requirements, fleshed out the reserve accounts and provided for 130% of its Olympian debt service.

In short, whether the transfer was creative fiscal management or slippery book-cooking depends on the account from which the money was appropriated. If the transferred funds were wholly sourced from the hefty debt cushion forced on ratepayers to protect bondholders, it didn't reduce repair and replacement funding, and fears of bartering the system's future are unfounded. Conversely, if the funds were pilfered from infrastructure maintenance, ratepayers forced to cough up an offset down the road will be paying for the same repairs twice. As a savvy City Manager, it is highly unlikely that Lee Feldman would shoot himself in the foot - but anything is possible in City Hall, so how about 7 to 5 and pick 'em?•

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

In his October 2016 Newsletter, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca announces a resumption of the Segment II Broward Beach Project couched in a "before and after" comparative pictorial, outlines an award winning water main project at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and congratulates airport director Mark Gale for his appointment to the Board Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, applauds Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Division for upping its live release rate and participating in the Perfect Exposure Project - which equips staff with shutterbug skills to facilitate animal adoptions.

As LaMarca reports, the final stage of the Segment II Broward Shore Preservation Project will expand the Fort Lauderdale beach between Hugh Taylor Birch State Park and Terramar Street. Although that beach doesn't qualify as a particularly popular destination site for Galt Mile residents, its renourishment should spin off a fiscal dividend.

The Beach plan's original architect was former Broward Beach Administrator Stephen Higgins. In characterizing the backbone of his beach maintenance policy, Higgins observed, "The sustainability of any beach segment depends on the structural integrity of the adjacent segments." Prior to his 2011 retirement, Higgins hammered home that tidal erosion can be diminished to the extent that the County shoreline is inclusively addressed as a single structural entity.

While subsequent beach bosses Eric Myers and Nicole Sharp reconfigured the Segment II plan as required to meet evolving regulatory concerns, they remained faithful to Higgin's strategy. Simply put, since completing the final leg of Segment II will help stabilize the entire Broward coast and extend the useful life of the beach fill, it will also serve to delay the need to bang taxpayers for the next "shared cost" round of sand, a consequence that should resonate favorably on the Galt Mile. For LaMarca's October 2016 newsletter in its entirety, Read On...



Chip LaMarca's OCTOBER 2016 Newsletter

erdale, which is the northern limits of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park.

Work stopped in front of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park and will resume on November 1, 2016, following the end of sea turtle nesting season. At that time, sand delivery operations will recommence using the NE 18th Street and Sunrise Boulevard access points in Fort Lauderdale. Approximately one mile of beach remains to be completed, from Hugh Taylor Birch State Park at the north to Terramar Street to the south. The remaining portion of the project is scheduled to be completed by mid-January 2017.

With the devastating conditions that we could have experienced from Hurricane Matthew recently, it is essential that we continue the efforts of saving and renourishing our beaches in Broward County. South Florida beaches are an economic engine that attract more than 9.3 million visitors per year, while contributing \$548 million to Broward County's economy and creating 17,700 full time equivalent jobs.

For more information please visit <http://www.broward.org/beachrenourishment>. You can also learn about the importance of beach renourishment by watching Video: Beach Renourishment Explained.

Fort Lauderdale International Airport Update

Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) "FLL West Side Water Main Improvements Project" was recently awarded first place for the Project of the Year Award by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Broward Branch which recognizes projects that demonstrate design and construction excellence. In order to meet the water needs of today and the future development engineers designed, and installed more than 5,000 feet of underground pipes, with minimal disturbance to traffic and airport operation during construction.

In other FLL related news, our very own airport director, Mark Gale was recently appointed by the Broward County Aviation Departments as a Member of the Board Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). The COMTO's mission is to ensure a level playing field and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses and communities of color through advocacy, information sharing, training, education, and professional development. Mr. Gale has been a long time active member and was chosen because of his leadership, efforts and accomplishments.

Animal Care and Adoption Initiatives

Broward County Animal Care and Adoption is dedicated to helping animals in every way possible. Live Release Rate is an important way Animal Care measures success and it is a measure of how many dog and cats are rescued, adopted, returned to their owner or released in a given timeframe. The estimates revealed that several changes implemented this

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.

Beach Renourishment Project Set to Resume

On January 4th, 2016, after nearly twenty years in the making, the Segment II Shore Protection Project commenced. The project was 80% complete by the end of April when it was temporarily halted for the peak of sea turtle nesting season. Nearly four miles of beach were built and renourished with approximately 800,000 tons of sand and miles of protective dune habitat were restored. New dunes were also constructed along the new beach, complete with sea grape and sea oat plantings. 1.4 miles in Pompano Beach and northern Lauderdale-By-The-Sea was completed in full from Southeast 4th Street in Pompano Beach to Sunset Lane in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, north of Anglin's Pier. The southern Lauderdale-By-The-Sea/Fort Lauderdale beach was completed from Datura Avenue, south of Anglin's Pier to NE 14th Court in Fort Laud-

COMMENTARY: Commissioner Roberts December 2016 Newsletter

*In his November / December 2016 Newsletter, after welcoming the Holiday Season, City Commissioner Bruce Roberts makes a pre-Election Day effort to engender approval for the ill-fated penny sales tax - for the third time in 5 months. Building on last year's 8th place ranking in data and technology by Digital Cities, Fort Lauderdale rated Digital Cities 2016 "Best of the Web" recognition by for its new website's bells and whistles. After reporting a Commission decision to decline approval for couching an upgraded Galleria in a massive mixed-use complex laced with condos and poorly planned public use trade-offs, Roberts snapshots progress of a 2014 10-year plan to compensate for rising sea levels with a 3-phase reconfiguration of the City's Stormwater infrastructure. Roberts wraps up his message with some calendar tweaks.

VEXED VOTERS TANK TAX

On Election Day, the Broward electorate rejected a funding source coveted by Broward County and its 31 municipalities. When voters scrapped one of the two half-penny surtax Ballot Questions, the other one died by proxy. Although Broward voters pathologically boot sales tax ballot requests, pundits and stakeholders polled departing voters to help determine whether either proposal should be recycled - or buried.

The County had announced plans to ask the electorate for permission to fund a half dozen Wave-style light rail systems with a seventy-five cent sales tax (ostensibly for "Transportation Infrastructure Improvements"), and split proceeds with its cities on a 70 - 30 basis, but the cities wanted a bigger cut and unfettered spending discretion. When the County balked, the cities threatened to place their own one cent sales tax proposal on the same ballot. The two initiatives would have incrementally driven up the County sales tax to 7.75% (the highest in the state), virtually guaranteeing "Mutually Assured Destruction" - the failure of both ballot questions. Instead - they rolled out a bargaining table.

The County's 31 municipalities, led by Weston Mayor Daniel Stermer, staunchly opposed tethering revenues to transportation infrastructure improvements, each citing a litany of more pressing needs. The cities sought funds to enhance stormwater drainage, upgrade fire and police fleets, fix roads, rehabilitate aging City buildings - and plug other deficits. They also didn't trust the County to fairly administer the distribution of ad valorem resources collected over the proposed 30-year surtax lifespan. Since this Chinese menu of municipal shortfalls also varied by Jurisdiction, eclectic funding objectives were collectively marketed as "infrastructure improvements".

Finally, on June 22 the County and Cities agreed to share the proceeds derived of two separate half penny surtaxes. Although revenues collected in the first 20 years would be divided equally between the County and Cities, during the final ten years, the County would also snag 40% of the Cities' infrastructure income stream, upping its share to 70%. In total, about 59% of the estimated \$13 - \$15 billion combined windfall would be channeled into County coffers (roughly \$8.8 billion) - leaving the Cities to divvy up the remaining 41% (about \$6.1 billion) - based on their respective population demographics. To insure unilateral commitment, unless both measures were approved at the polls, neither would be implemented. In hindsight, perhaps "Victory or Death" was an overly ambitious endgame.

Despite a July 13 memo by County Attorney Joni Armstrong Coffey exhorting that state law prohibits local governments from using public funds to advocate for ballot initiatives, proponents who burned through \$1.1 million in tax dollars to plaster ads across buses, benches and TV screens tip-toed around the statutory prohibition by characterizing the promotional expenditures as "Voter Education". A website called "A Penny at Work" listed the projects that the County and each municipality would fund with anticipated revenues. Adhering to the tenets of Coffey's memo, County and City Commissioners who pumped out constituent newsletters carefully avoided advocacy terminology while de-

scribing surtax benefits - as exemplified by Commissioner Roberts' thrice delivered surtax message.

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

Prior to winning his seat on the Broward Board, Former Hollywood State Senator Steven Geller commented "When somebody tells me what they're going to build in 30 years, I have very little confidence. Those are not even accurate guesses." A staunch advocate of Broward's Transportation infrastructure, County Commissioner Tim Ryan repeatedly voiced doubts about whether Broward voters would deliver a thirty-year supply of blank checks to their respective cities.

For decades, Broward residents watched scores of local officials tried and jailed for monkeying with public funds - and three times as many who dodged the clink by selling out crooked cohorts after being caught and turned by Federal Authorities. Although stakeholders hoped that multi-level oversight would help diffuse the lingering impact of this sustained abuse, thousands of Broward voters remained skull-blocked about showering 30 years of unknown successors with annual truckloads of discretionary cash.

Unlike advocates entranced by the prospect of a bottomless wallet, numerous officials warned that two interlinked half penny surtax proposals would fatally confuse an electorate already distrustful of local government spending. Ryan remarked, "Many, many people will look at it skeptically. Why? ...because government has a long and storied history of wasting money."

Needless to say, the sales tax crashed and burned. Although the county proposal squeaked through by 51 percent to 49 percent, voters crushed the city measure by 38.2 percent to 61.8 percent. The result wasn't unexpected. While some cities made a credible effort to educate residents about the benefits, others took a nap. As a result, a sizable pool of voters descended on the polls with a hand-waving knowledge of the surtax. Despite a widely promoted admonition that both half-penny sales tax proposals would have to pass for either to be enacted, thousands of voters said yes to one and no to the other.

When questioned about why they tanked the surtax upon exiting the polls, some voters complained that attempts to educate the public in their city were disjointed and lacked credibility. Others generally opposed sales taxes as unfair and regressive (creating a greater burden on lower-income residents.) While agreeing with the underlying reason for the tax - and acknowledging the need for infrastructure upgrades, many voters concluded that elected officials were in no position to make promises about how the revenues would be spent over thirty years.

SELLING SNAKE OIL

The only readily available resource for exploring how each governmental beneficiary would disburse its share of the tax revenues was the promotional website "A Penny at Work". Unfortunately, the website created as much confusion as it dispelled. Revenues anticipated by recipient municipalities didn't match with the cost of their planned projects - often by a country mile. For instance, although Davie would have taken a \$330 million bite of the apple, the City listed \$95 million in projects, leaving Davie residents unclear about where Commissioners would bury the remaining \$235 million. Conversely, Hollywood planned to fund \$1.861 billion in project costs with its \$495 million share of the windfall - prompting Hollywood voters to load up on Pepto-Bismol.

Closer to home, the \$147 million in projects listed by Fort Lauderdale is only 25% of the \$588 million earmarked for the County's largest city. Not one City Commission had approved any of the municipal lists posted on the website. The Sun Sentinel Editorial Board opined that the lists were creative writing exercises by City Managers, who merged their respective cities' 5-year Capital plans with long-term wish lists. Although projects listed by the municipalities proved useless for extrapolating how each city would allocate its share of the annual distribution, at least each project was fitted with a cost estimate. The County's fiscal intentions were more obscure.

year could produce a live-release rate of 70% or greater for FY2016. In FY2015 the total live-release rate was 59%. As of this summer, the live-release rate is approximately 76%. Some of these initiatives included the Portable Sterilization Unit, new Spay and Neuter Programs and the creation of a Community Cat Management Program. We are very proud of our progress and are working hard to become a "No Kill County."

Additionally, Broward County Animal Care recently participated in the Perfect Exposure Project in early October in order to enhance the staff's photography and marketing skills. The Perfect Exposure Project is designed to develop the creative and marketing skills of shelter staff and volunteers. The goal is to save more lives through effective photographing and promotion of adoptable pets. Along with hands-on training the Broward County Animal Care and Adoption staff also received photographic supplies at no cost to the county.

For more information on these programs and other animal care information please visit <http://www.broward.org/Animal>.

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 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

County plans to enhance transportation infrastructure were driven by growing public frustration with gridlock and the lack of a countywide transportation system. Since more than 80% of the County share would have been spent for operations and maintenance of existing bus routes and a proposed light rail expansion, the costs were omitted for hundreds of Broward County projects listed on the website with the exception of the \$1.5 billion light rail extension to Port Everglades.

After outlining enhancements to its bus service, Broward County Transit busted out its centerpiece - Streetcar service at Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale / Hollywood International Airport, and a 14-mile extension into West Broward along some unidentified east - west thoroughfare, ultimately linking Sawgrass Mills, Nova University, the BBT Center, etc.. While Streetcars are slow and inflexible - essentially a second rate transportation venue - Commissioners and FDOT officials were sufficiently intrigued by their rumored positive impact on development to gamble \$billions on a handful of initial routes.

County proponents had also promised to quell widespread concerns about gridlock by synchronizing traffic signals, listing eleven "Adaptive Signal Control" projects and fifteen "Fiber Optic Network Improvements" as funding recipients. County traffic engineers recently reported that these projects would have no measurable impact on gridlock since timing of traffic lights had already been optimized. Proponents fishing for votes used this scam to bait the hook.

The sales tax featured one unique fiscal benefit. Since more than 30% of the revenues would be provided by visiting tourists, Broward residents would only have to cough up less than 70% of project costs. Voters had to weigh this subsidy against a clear-as-mud spending libretto, and the eerie prospect that some of those who may ultimately select funding targets were currently exploring the mysteries of Kindergarten.

BACK TO SQUARE ONE

Since the County surtax would have been approved if it hadn't been linked to the City proposal, it may be revisited on a future Broward ballot. The Cities may return to the drawing board, abandon the proposed tax or revive a plan originally crafted by the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, where funds that flow to the County are distributed to the cities - a protocol abhorred by City officials. More likely, they will take a page from 17 other Broward municipalities and address recession-borne infrastructure deficits in the bond market.

In Palm Beach, officials asked for a sales tax capped at \$2.7 billion to fix roads, upgrade schools, fund several new projects in different cities - and sunset after 10 years - or when the cap was reached. It passed. In Broward, officials asked for a Golden Goose and said "trust me". It failed. What a shock. To check out Commissioner Roberts' entire November / December 2016 Newsletter, read on - [editor]*

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COMMISSIONER BRUCE ROBERTS



DECEMBER 2016 DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER

Season's Greetings

The Holiday Season is right around the corner so I would like to wish you all a safe and family-filled time. Our District continues to grow with new neighbors, projects and enhancements. We truly appreciate the opportunity to work with and serve you, as we find solutions that will allow the City to remain one of the most beautiful and best cities in which to live, work, play and raise a family. Be safe and let us all welcome 2017 with high spirits, a vision for the future and a pride in our home - Fort Lauderdale!

Surtax Resolution

This article was in our July/August AND September/October newsletter but I felt it important to repeat: The County Commission held a special meeting on June 24th and took actions to address the Transportation and Infrastructure Surtax issues. The County Commission approved a 2 cent surtax for Transportation and 2 cent surtax for Infrastructure to appear on the November 2016 ballot. If approved by voters, this would raise the sales tax in Broward County from 6% to 7%. According to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), approximately 31% of this increase would be borne by tourists. The framework for distribution and use of the funds were also approved via an interlocal agreement. The major terms of the Agreement include the following:

- 30 year Transportation and Infrastructure Surtax time period
- 1/2 cent Transportation tax is allocated 100% to county
- 1/2 cent Infrastructure tax is allocated 100% to cities (per capita) for 20 years
- Year 21 the infrastructure tax is split between the cities and county with cities receiving 60% and county 40% (10 year split of tax revenues)
- Establishing an independent nine member Transportation and Surtax Oversight Board:
- One former elected official
- One former City or County Manager
- One Certified Public Accountant
- One member of the Florid Bar
- One finance professional
- One urban planning or land use professional
- One engineering or construction management professional
- One professional architect
- One professional environmental scientist

The above Board will be appointed by:

- Designee of the President of Nova Southeastern University
- Designee of the Broward Workshop
- Designee of the Broward County Council of Chambers of Commerce
- The joint designee of the Broward County Auditor and the Broward League of Cities' Auditor
- Director of the Florida Atlantic University Center for Environmental Studies

By the way, one third of all Florida counties have an additional surtax. It is important to note that each ballot question is dependent on the other for passage; voters must approve both or both fail. For additional information, please visit our City website or go directly to www.APennyAtWork.com where an interactive site exhibits all of the proposed projects to be funded by this revenue.

2016 BEST OF THE WEB WINNERS DEMONSTRATE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENTS

The city of Fort Lauderdale website features more than 40 services through its newly redesigned site, which launched in December 2015. The responsive and clean design allows users to navigate through services and the various departments without having to click through cluttered indexes. Additionally the portal is optimized for mobile phones and tablets, and features a feedback option on every

page. A sign language translation option is available on each page and translates Web text to sign language for improved ease of use. A custom-built Ethics Trac application offers better transparency in the city by tracking the details of government/lobbyist interactions. This feature eliminates the need for manual logging and expedites public noticing. The implementation of a citizen request management system lets residents request services and report issues quickly and easily. By using Scorecard, citizens can track progress on key initiatives and look at the city's larger strategic plan.

Galleria Live Project Update

The project was not approved 6-2 at the Planning & Zoning Board on Wednesday, 10/19/16. At this time, we are not aware of their plans for moving forward. I will keep you updated.

Stormwater information

The City Stormwater system includes more than 171 miles of stormwater pipe, 2,324 manholes, 1,258 outfalls, 37 drainage wells, 8,288 catch basins and 4 pumphouses. From Fiscal Year 2011 to 2016, the City has expended just over \$39,207,000 within the Stormwater program. This equates to approximately \$6,500,000 annually. \$7,082,000 has gone towards Capital Project Improvements (new infrastructure) to address flooding issues and improve stormwater operations. \$32,125,000 has gone towards Operations and Maintenance of the stormwater system, to include staffing, vehicles and equipment that provides for cleaning and repairs of infrastructure, responding to stormwater issues, repair/replacement of stormwater components (catchbasins, pipes, etc.), and swale maintenance and construction. Recognizing the impacts of stormwater and tidal-related flooding issues, in April 2014 the City Commission approved development of a comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan, utilizing a three phase approach over the course of ten years (FY 2014 through FY 2024) to address flooding in the City.

- Phase I (FY15 – FY19) consists of 37 localized stormwater projects with known storm or tidal flooding issues at an estimated cost of \$10,027,000. Of these 37 projects, 17 have been completed, 3 are in construction, 9 are in design and 8 are planned for future years. \$2,082,000 has been spent to date, with \$835,000 encumbered and an additional \$3,007,000 available in the FY17 budget.
- Phase II (FY 2015 - FY 2018) consists of citywide modeling and analysis to design projects on an area basis. In April, 2016, the City contracted with Hazen and Sawyer to complete citywide hydraulic modeling with risk-adjusted metrics for project valuation. This \$7M+ effort, scheduled for completion in December 2017, will produce designs of stormwater projects for seven priority neighborhoods with insufficient infrastructure and recommendations for the City Commission for a stormwater bond to fund construction of Phase II project.
- Phase III (FY 2019 – FY 2024) consists of construction of Phase II projects (\$150M - \$200M) and development of citywide standards for long-term stormwater solutions, incorporating proactive measures to adapt to climate change, future sea level rise impacts, and adoption of higher levels of service (acceptable water levels on the street during weather events) for design. Designs for the remainder of stormwater infrastructure within the City will be completed and is estimated at \$750M+.

Save the Dates

- 11/24: 6th Annual Turkey Trot @ DC Alexander Park (501 Seabreeze Blvd.), 7:30am, Register: <http://turkeytrotfl.com>
- 11/29: Fire Bond Committee Workshop with Commission, 8th floor conference room, Noon
- 11/29: Christmas on Las Olas on Las Olas Blvd. between SE 6th & SE 11th Ave., 5 to 10 pm
- 12/14: City Commission Investment Policy Workshop

Officer Contact

Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov
In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule. •

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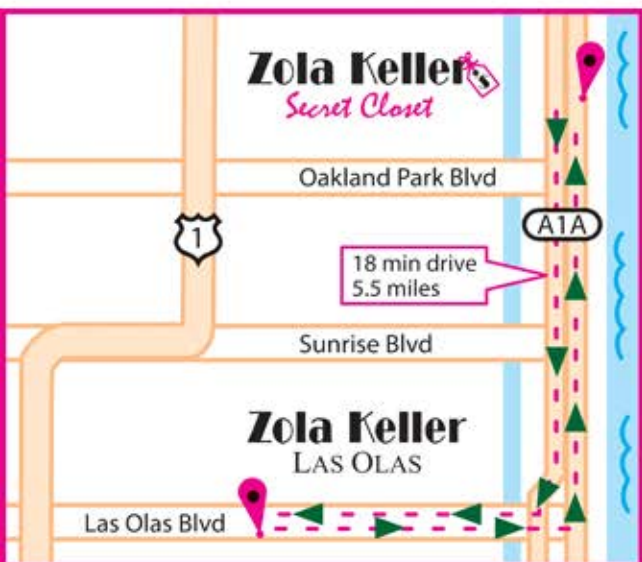
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