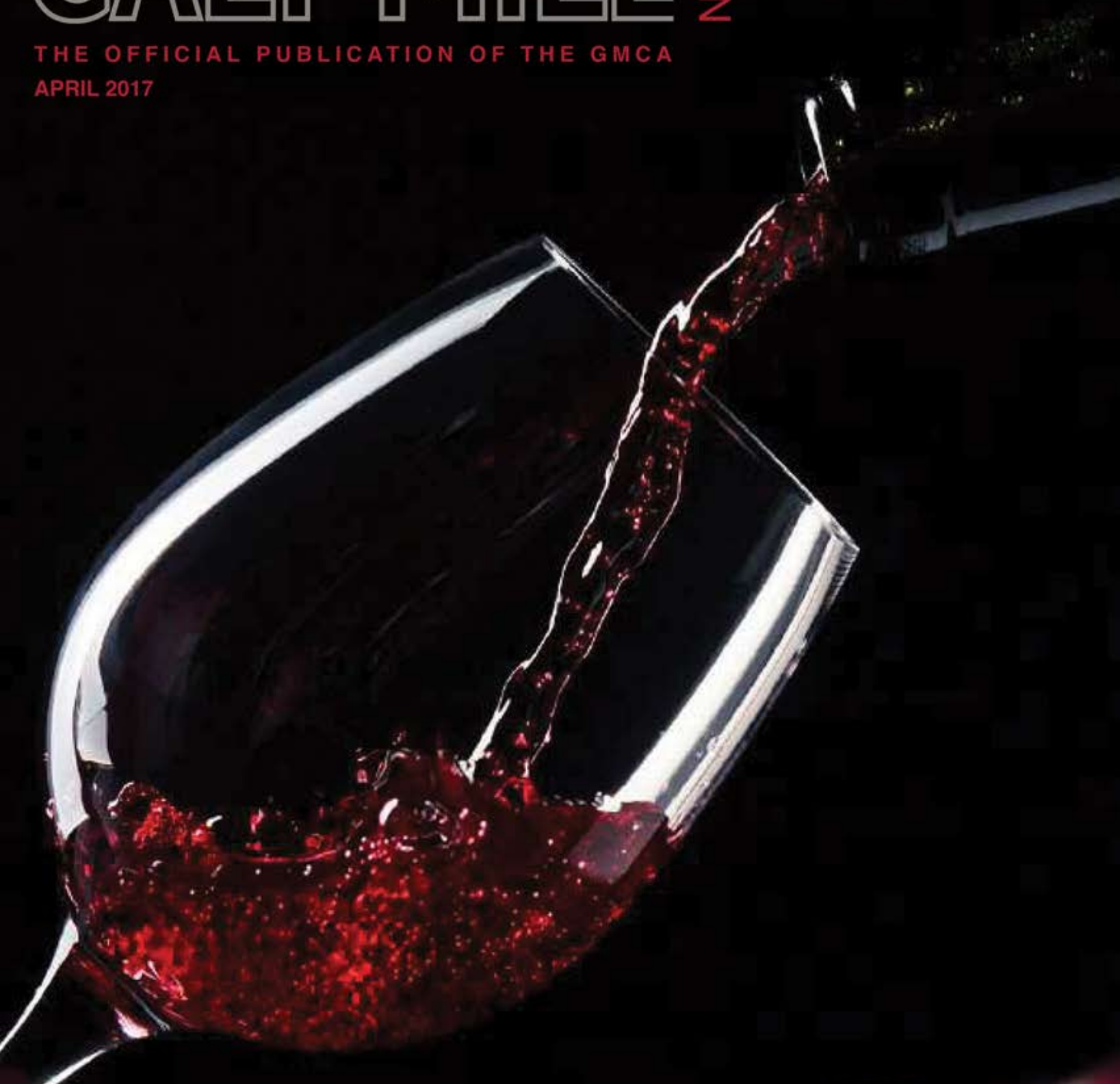


# GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

APRIL 2017



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HALF OFF BOTTLES OF WINE FOR GALT RESIDENTS

SEE AD PAGE 17



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# ELSS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM ELLYN BOGDANOFF

APRIL 8, 2017

*\*When a skewed interpretation of the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC) was implanted in a May 4, 2016 Declaratory Statement, it authorized local Fire Marshalls to demand that thousands of Florida high-rise associations retrofit a \$multi-million Emergency Life Safety System (ELSS). Since an ELSS is an arbitrary collection of fire safety features that includes a sprinkler system, Sprinkler association lobbyists used the Declaratory Statement to circumvent the statutory sprinkler opt-out and realize a \$multi-billion pay-day - at our expense.*

*Angered by a mercenary ploy to relegate the intent of the legislature, Representative George Moraitis filed House Bill 653, which would provide associations with the right to opt-out of the costly ELSS. Since members of the Fire Marshall's union openly employed by the Sprinkler associations are fighting to preserve their anticipated windfall, Association Advocate Ellyn Bogdanoff - who sponsored the 2010 Sprinkler opt-out legislation - is lobbying on behalf of Moraitis' bill. Florida Senator Kathleen Passidomo filed Senate Bill 744, a companion bill in the other chamber.*

*A former State Senator, Bogdanoff regularly updates associations across the State about the legislation's progress, recounting the obstacles that were overcome and those that remain. On April 8, 2017, she sent the following message to GMCA officials to help update thousands of Galt Mile residents threatened with this questionable \$multi-million assessment. - [editor]\**

approach Senator Passidomo and ask for a courtesy amendment. Let's hope. Fingers and toes crossed please.

I will be working on moving the Senate bill through the process clean. We have two committees to go in the Senate. Judiciary, which will meet in week 7, and then Rules, which meets until the end so we are alive and well. The goal is to pass out the Senate bill without the termination language and send it over to the House. It gets a bit complicated because even if Moraitis wanted to amend the termination language out of his bill, which he appears willing to do, he still needs to go to the fiscal committee to do that. However, I have been advised that they will not allow amendments in that committee, which means we still need to go through the fourth committee and amend it there. It just appears that we may run out of time on the House side to get the bill to the floor first, but we still need to get it to the floor.

Continued on page 5

## WEEK 5 OF SESSION

By Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff

Hi members:

This was an exhausting week in Tallahassee. Leadership in the House has its eyes on the Moraitis bill and amended the "association termination" language on to the bill in the last committee. There is a separate bill moving through the process on this issue but as session progresses, members look for all moving legislation to make sure their issue has the best opportunity of passing. The termination language increases the threshold associations need in order to terminate the association. This seems to be a Hillsborough/Pinellas issue. I have spoken to a couple of the House and Senate members from that area and they are very concerned about people losing their homes because of the will of others in the association. What does this have to do with ELSS? Nothing and everything!!

Once the bill was amended, it was referenced to a fiscal committee, which added another committee stop to the bill...ugh!!! This slows down the process and we are fast approaching the end of committee meetings in the House. Next week, because of the holidays, the House is only on the floor to pass out the budget. There will be no committee meetings. It is hard to lobby against this issue (displacing elderly people for progress) but what I can do and did do is address with Senator Passidomo that accepting this language places a fiscal on the bill and doing that this late in the game will kill it. She agreed and has asked me to work with her to move the bill through. She does not have a dog in the hunt on the termination language...yet. Both Senators Young and Latvala are very supportive of the termination language. As mentioned, the stand alone version of this bill appears poised to pass so there may be no reason for them to



\*The "association termination" provision mentioned by Bogdanoff refers to the unintended consequences of a glitch in Condominium law. As of 2007, an investor who buys 80 percent of the condos in a complex can vote to convert the complex into apartments and force the remaining individual owners to sell and get out, unless the condo's governing documents state otherwise.

Before 2007, converting a condominium required the consent of every unit owner. Hurricane-damaged, insolvent and obsolete properties often sat vacant because developers had trouble getting consent from elderly and out-of-state owners who abandoned an uninhabitable property. Unit owners in Condominiums that were no longer functional were stuck with properties they could neither sell nor use, creating a terrible hardship. All it took was one unreachable owner to thwart a much-needed condo termination.

Former Senate Minority Leader Steve Geller (D-Cooper City), currently District 5 Broward Commissioner, began working with the Florida Bar to draft legislation that would lower the threshold for condominium terminations to 80 percent owner approval, unless 10% of the owners objected. When it passed both chambers in 2006, it was vetoed by former Governor Jeb Bush, whose veto message insightfully admonished that it may cloak "unintended consequences." Tweaked and refiled in 2007, after Senate Bill 314 was overwhelmingly approved by lawmakers (only one "Nay" in the House), the measure was signed into law by Governor Charlie Crist.

The termination provision discussed by Bogdanoff seeks to protect unit owners (and their tenants) from predatory bulk buyers by reducing the percentage of association members required to reject a termination plan from 10% to 5%. If rejected, the legislation also extends how long a bulk buyer must wait before submitting another termination plan - from 18 months to 24 months. Since the termination language is patterned after provisions in Senate Bill 1520 by Senator Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) - which should easily be approved - its inclusion in Moraitis' bill is extraneous.

As observed by Bogdanoff, it was originally anticipated that Moraitis' House Bill 653 would precede its Senate companion (SB 744) to the floor, and hopefully to the Governor's desk. However, following its approval by the House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee on March 28 (10 Yeas vs. 4 Nays), instead of heading to its final stop in the House Commerce Committee, HB 653 was diverted on March 31 to the House Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee for a fiscal review mandated by the termination issue. This unforeseen detour prompted Bogdanoff's plan to facilitate the Senate Bill through its remaining committee stops, so if the House Bill runs out of time, the approved Senate version (without the redundant termination language) can be bundled off to the House for a vote, and then to the Governor's desk. More to come... - [editor]\*

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Bogdanoff...Continued

Either way, if we can send the Senate bill over to the House, our goal is for the House to accept the Senate version and send it on to the Governor, which brings me to the last issue.

Senator Passidomo met with the Governor's office, which now has an interest in the bill. I am sure they have been visited by the Fire Marshalls and the Fire Sprinkler folks. We will need to amend the bill for a 2/3 vote in lieu of simple majority to opt out of ELSS to avoid a veto. I know that is not the preferred position but I suspected that we might need to go there, especially after speaking to several members to gain their support for the bill. I am happy to hear your thoughts, but again, unless I have a strong argument to say that a simple majority is good enough, we will need to support the Senator's amendment to make this change in the Judiciary committee. I am all ears. Convince me so I can convince the Governor. Thoughts?

Anyway, this is a typical week in Tallahassee. I can assure you that we will have several more twists and turns with 4 weeks to go in the 2017 Session, but I remain confident that are on track for passage. The good news is that we have two very committed sponsors, a path to avoid a veto, and did I mention a pit bull for a lobbyist. Until next time...

Ellyn



# KEEPING THE GALT MILE BEACH FAT & HEALTHY

By Eric Berkowitz



The recently completed Segment II beach renourishment capped an 18-year struggle to salvage our shrinking beach. For many Galt Mile residents, nearly two decades of crushing disappointments replaced enthusiastic support for the project with a thinly veiled rage. When construction vehicles rolled into north Broward beachfront staging sites on January 4, 2016, the mind-numbing frustration began melting away.

Although virtually every Galt Mile resident and visitor is delighted with their reclaimed beach, few have forgotten nearly twenty years of bureaucratic abuse, an ordeal that provided hundreds of local residents with first-hand insight into the structural consequences of tidal erosion. While watching the new sand migrate south along the coast, many are understandably apprehensive about County intentions to maintain their newly widened beach – without revisiting the dilatory state and Federal regulatory meat grinders.

To this end, Broward beach boss Nicole Sharp is overhauling the County's Beach maintenance protocols, while Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca and Statehouse Representative George Moraitis probe a more reliable funding source in Tallahassee. For the benefit of recent arrivals to our neighborhood – some background...

## Myers Picks Up the Promise

In 1965, the 89th U.S. Congress authorized funding to fortify Broward's shrinking beaches (Section 301 of Public Law 89-298, October 27, 1965). Twenty years ago, former Broward Beach Administrator Stephen Higgins complied with the Congressional intent by designing the Broward County Shore Protection Project.

After beating back unprecedented regulatory obstacles for 14 years, Higgins rehabilitated the Segment III South County beaches in 2005 and was preparing to fix the county's Segment II northern shoreline. When Higgins retired in 2011 amid relentless bickering among Segment II stakeholders, it was mistakenly construed as the project's death knell. A few weeks later,

when Higgin's former boss - Eric Myers – asked Galt Mile officials if they would help revive the Segment II beach fix, they placed him on an upcoming meeting agenda.

At a February 7, 2011 Presidents Council meeting in Coral Ridge Towers (Original), Myers announced his intention to reorganize the dormant project. The project's recovery hinged on two contingencies, a recrafted plan that eliminated the most egregious regulatory obstacles and unilateral cooperation by coastal jurisdictions and beachfront homeowners. A few months later, when Myers pitched the Segment II Beach renourishment at the May 17, 2011 Fort Lauderdale City Commission meeting, Commissioner Bruce Roberts backed his play.

Roberts told the Commission that Galt Mile residents – whose staunch project advocacy was grounded in the belief that a healthy beach grounded the local economy, was critical to the protection of their homes and families – have been waiting since 1998 for the County to make good on promises to renourish the Segment II beaches. As the newly appointed Broward Beach Administrator, Myers spent the next three years convincing stakeholder jurisdictions to merge their political capitol just long enough to accomplish this shared objective.

## Dancing for Dollars

With the backing of Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Myers recruited Chip LaMarca and headed to the State Capitol. After two years of dismantling bureaucratic opposition in Tallahassee, when Myers retired and passed the baton to Nicole Sharp, the fight moved to Washington DC.

After a year of battling with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and an unresponsive Commerce Department, the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Committee finally gave Sharp the green light to negotiate Interlocal Agreements with Segment II Stakeholders and draft a Project Participation Agreement (PPA) that detailed the shared Federal, State and local fiscal obligations.

Continued on page 7

Once the project was farmed out, the PPA became a reimbursement blueprint - a Hefty Bag of open-ended promissory obligations. Funds laid out by the County on behalf of stakeholders were technically secured by the PPA. However, given the County's skeletal leverage in Tallahassee and Washington DC, County officials are forced to discretely beg the respective funding agencies to loosen the State and Federal purse strings. The slow-moving Feds still haven't reduced their \$30 million Segment II obligation. Although Tallahassee already kicked in its \$11.4 million share of Segment II, the County is still seeking \$87,860 to monitor the beach fill's impact on nearby coral reefs.

Since the County is also preparing to fund a long-awaited \$19.2 million sand bypass at Port Everglades, wherein migrating sand accumulating on the north side of the Port's entrance channel is trucked to sand-starved beaches in Hollywood, Hallandale and Dania, Broward bean counters plan to roll over funds due on the Segment II renourishment while tweaking the current legislative session for additional beach revenues.

Hoping to cajole the county's State and Federal funding "partners" into paying their Segment II debt without dampening their predisposition to future projects, LaMarca decided to disguise a dunning notice as a love letter. Recruiting political beefcake from stakeholder jurisdictions (District 3 Broward Commissioner Michael Udine, Mayor Jack Seiler and Commissioner Bruce Roberts from Fort Lauderdale, Commissioner Mark Brown from Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, etc.), Broward officials merged an invoice and a supplication for future funding with a customized "Thank You" card - an aerial beach graphic generated at LaMarca's March 4th "photo op". LaMarca's blended message also housed a request for a reliable funding source for beach projects that fuel the State's tourism economy.

LaMarca's planned photo op was hatched in late February; about the same time that Governor Rick Scott asked lawmakers to approve a proposed \$50 million cash bucket for beach projects, doubling the negligible \$25 million he proposed in each of the past four years. Although the allocation is the largest proposed by Scott since he took office, it's a pittance when compared to the resources needed to rescue more than 410 miles of Florida's critically eroded coast.

**The Trust Fund Rollercoaster**  
Created by the Florida Legislature in

1963 to offset damage by commercial polluters and urban creep, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) was designed to fund the purchase of recreation and conservation lands that would otherwise fall prey to overdevelopment. Since the original funding mechanism, a five percent tax on outdoor clothing and equipment (like bathing suits), proved wildly unpopular with tourists (disparaged as the "bathing suit tax"), it was abandoned in 1968, when the legislature opted to fund LATF through the sale of recreation bonds paid for by a documentary stamp tax on real estate transactions and financial documents (i.e., mortgages and other loans, stocks, bonds, etc.).

Having shifted the cost from the residents and visitors who benefit from conservation, to the polluters and developers who threatened the State's natural resources, lawmakers would later adapt the income stream into a recurring funding mechanism for the 1979 Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program, and the 1999 Florida Forever Program, a conservation catch-all for natural resources. Since the parent legislation also mandated management of acquired conservation lands, a spectrum of management programs were developed to oversee compliance with environmental objectives. Trust funds were established to reverse ecological damage, either by polluters, encroaching development, or Mother Nature (as in the case of tidal erosion).

In 1998, Florida lawmakers dedicated a portion of the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund to restore the critically eroded coast. Funded by the documentary stamp tax, \$30 million was annually allocated to the Beach Management Funding Assistance (BMFA) Program - for cost-sharing projects matched by federal and local contributions.

To safeguard an environmental legacy that fuels critical tourism revenues, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund was supported by every Florida Administration since its 1963 inception - until Governor Rick Scott took office in 2011. To balance the budget, Governor Scott annually gutted appropriations to virtually every State environmental program, including the enforcement of safe drinking water standards. Angry Florida voters approved Constitutional Amendment 1 in 2014, reinstating a funding source for the State's Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

Although the fund was originally created to manage and restore natural systems while enhancing public access and recreational use of conservation lands - LATF conservation projects would now include the aquifer, wetlands, drinking water, the Everglades, clean air, fish and wildlife habitat, rivers, lakes, beaches, forests and a panoply of other natural resources. As an unintended consequence of Amendment 1, eroded beaches would have to compete with water quality projects, wetlands restoration, the Everglades and other environmental projects for funding.

#### EDR Study Turns the Tables

Of the \$50 million in beach revenues proposed by Scott, only \$10 million would be annually disbursed from the trust fund. Since the remaining \$40 million would come from general revenue, it is a one-time allocation. Jurisdictions would still need an annual source of State revenues for beach and inlet cost-sharing projects.

As the sole Republican on the Broward Board, LaMarca is annually charged with carrying the County's legislative wish list to Republican Tallahassee, which typically included a beach funding presentation that addressed its impact on tourism and the threat posed by storm surge to people and property. Last year, LaMarca bulked up his arsenal with a January 2015 study by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR - research arm of the Florida Legislature).

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Entitled "Economic Evaluation of Florida's Investment in Beaches", the EDR report calculated the Return on Investment (ROI) of Beach Restoration, assessed the economic risk of disasters and concluded that beaches are the most important feature of Florida's "Brand". During the study's 3-year review period (covering FY 2011, 2012 and 2013), the state invested \$44 million in the Beach and Management Restoration Program (roughly 30.5% of the total cost shared by Federal, State, and local sources). This investment directly increased State GDP an average \$2.4 billion per year.

By identifying each revenue source and calculating its tax impact, the study tracks how the incremental GDP plumped state revenues by \$237.9 million over the three year period. After crunching complex funding formulas to validate the raw data, the report concluded that \$44 million invested in the State Beach Program "generated a positive return on investment of 5.4", based solely on tangible financial gains or losses to state revenues. Since in-state tourism was not included in the analysis, the actual ROI exceeds 5.4. Apparently, it worked. Even inland lawmakers who disparage beach funds as coastal pork were intrigued. In the 2017 legislative session, lawmakers filed bills that could reinstate reliable funding for beach and inlet cost-sharing projects.

### Legislating a New Beach Wallet

Snatching the Photo and a legislative wish list, LaMarca headed to Tallahassee with President Debbie Flack of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association to lobby lawmakers for a dedicated funding source for beach projects. In order to file the required legislation, they would meet with Statehouse Representatives George Moraitis (R – Fort Lauderdale), Evan Jenne (D – Dania Beach), Joe Geller (D – Aventura), and other members of the County's legislative delegation.

In the Senate, they had an ally in Chairman Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) of the Senate Appropriations Committee, who said that he considers increasing beach funding to at least \$50 million "a top priority". On March 3, 2017, Latvala filed Senate Bill 1590, which revises how Florida prioritizes beach and inlet projects, and dedicates revenues from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to rehabilitate eroded beaches. On March 22, Latvala's bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation (7 Yeas vs. 0 Nays). On April 13, it was unanimously approved by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources (6 Yeas vs. 0 Nays). The bill's final stop is at the Senate Committee on Appropriations, which Latvala chairs.

The companion bill, House Bill 1213, was filed by Representatives George Moraitis (R – Fort Lauderdale), Bill Hagar (R – Delray Beach), and Kathleen M. Peters (R – Treasure Island) on March 3, 2017. On March 20, it was unanimously approved by the House Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee (15 Yeas vs. 0 Nays) and voted favorably by the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on March 28 (14 Yeas vs. 0 Nays). The bill is currently under review by the House

Government Accountability Committee, its final House Committee stop.

The beach bills have excellent prospects for enactment, and lame duck Governor Scott seems to have reversed his tenure-long aversion to salvaging the State's natural resources, having indicated his support for a more stable source of beach funding.

### Two More Turns at the Sand Bank

At a December 16, 2015 pre-project public meeting in the Sonesta Hotel, when Galt Mile officials inquired about maintaining the beach after it was renourished, Broward Beach Administrator Nicole Sharp outlined a sea change in the County's Shore Preservation protocols. Describing the historical "segmented" approach to beach management as "an anachronistic exercise in futility," Sharp adopted a long-term regional plan. Mindful of the accelerated rate that natural resources are degraded by climate change and rising sea levels, Sharp's beach management program proactively meets the growing risks.

The Port Everglades sand bypass should help stabilize the south county beaches. Sand that ordinarily migrates south along the coast collects at the north side of the Port Everglades inlet (adjacent to Point of Americas), where 85% is lost seaward to tidal erosion. As a result, when sand placed along south county beaches during the 2005 Segment III renourishment drifted south into Miami-Dade County, it was never replenished by sand migrating south from beaches in Fort Lauderdale and points north.

Within five years, south county beaches lost two-thirds of the sand received in 2005, as the ocean once again laps against Hollywood, Hallandale and Dania Beach seawalls. To preserve the \$billions they generate in tourism revenues, and resurrect storm surge protection for infrastructure and inhabitants, a second Segment III renourishment is being planned. After installation of the Port Everglades Sand Bypass restores the coastal flow of sand that will naturally replenish those beaches, a \$53.7 million truck haul project will salvage the depleted South County shoreline in 2020.

The Port Everglades sand bypass project would transfer 50,000 to 80,000 cubic yards of sand annually from the north to the south side of the Port entrance channel, restoring the currently disrupted littoral drift. It entails constructing an offshore sand trap to collect alongshore migrating sand for transport to the south side of the inlet. When adjacent Point of Americas residents opposed blasting the sea bottom, the plan was redesigned by raising the lower elevation above the hard rock and widening the trap to maintain sufficient storage capacity.

Continued on page 9





Just as the Port Everglades inlet impedes the flow of sand to South Broward beaches, sand migrating south from beaches in South Palm Beach and Deerfield would be blocked by the Hillsboro Inlet if not for the Hillsboro Beach Sand Bypass. A special taxing district created in 1957 oversees an FDEP management plan to perform regular maintenance dredging of the inlet's navigational channel and sand bypassing to beaches down-drift of the inlet. Following expansion of the exterior inlet channel and sand trap in 2003, the District acquired a new hydraulic cutterhead dredge in 2008 to facilitate in-house maintenance. Without the Hillsboro Inlet sand bypass, newly expanded beaches in Pompano, L-B-T-S, the Galt Mile and Fort Lauderdale would also be back to square one within 5 years. Instead, approximately 120,000 cubic yards of sand will be transferred annually to replenish our Segment II beaches.

#### Tweaking Hot Spots

Sharp outlined how re-establishing the natural southerly flow of sand along the coast would also substantially reduce the frequency and scope of future renourishments, explaining, "It's a cheaper way to put sand into the system on the southern beaches." Instead, occasional beach fills could address "hot spots" along a more stable County coastline. Armed with Federal and State Permits that extend to 2020 and 2029, Sharp can unilaterally repair stretches of beach reduced by accelerated erosion or cyclonic weather events. Federal, State and local parties to the cost-sharing agreements ultimately fund these projects with tax revenues. Taken together with the new energy-absorbing dune system crested with sea oats, Sharp's stabilization plan to triage

emerging "hot spots" with a few truckloads of sand would save taxpayers \$hundreds of millions over the next decade.

The sand bypass was originally proposed by former Broward beach Guru Stephen Higgins, who observed "Unless the entire Broward coast is treated and maintained like a single structural entity, this project will fail. The stability of every segment depends on the stability of its adjacent segments." In 2014, Eric Myers remarked "Every big deep-water inlet is a huge barrier to the drift of sand along the East Coast. It really starves beaches to the south."

Myers' observation begs the question, "Why didn't they first build the sand bypass at Port Everglades," as Higgins' recommended? Since Point of Americas is home to some of the region's "Masters of the Universe", when condo residents hinted to the Fort Lauderdale City Commission that the project would disrupt their Karma, the Sand Bypass was DOA. City officials shrugged off a threatened County legal action, until Myers later explained "Had we built the sand bypass at Port Everglades, beaches in South Broward County would still be healthy," adding that Fort Lauderdale's decision will cost taxpayers another \$50 million. The City Commission sucked it up and relented, as long as the Segment II project preceded the bypass. After once again crawling through Tallahassee's regulatory sewage dump, FDEP finally granted Sharp State Permit 0289308-004-JC on February 3, 2017, authorizing the elusive Port Everglades Sand Bypass.

If enacted, the new legislation will help facilitate Sharp's plan. However, the bills could still wind up in the cornfield. Until Scott pockets his veto pen a few weeks after Sine Die, anything goes. For the endgame... clock in next month.\*

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**16** Spring Fine Art Festival  
Huizenga Plaza  
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Annual International Orchid &  
Bromeliad Show  
Flamingo Gardens  
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

**23** Cheetah Annual  
Classic Car & Truck Show  
Cheetah Gentlemen's Club, Hallandale  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Info.: 305-214-2277

2017 Broward Heart Walk  
Nova Southeastern University  
Check-In: 8 a.m.; Start: 9 a.m.  
Info.: 954-364-5008

**30** Walk Like MADD  
& MADD Dash Fort Lauderdale 5K  
Huizenga Plaza  
7:30 a.m. to Noon  
Info.: 954-448-7880 Ext. 7253

Sweet Corn Fiesta  
Yesteryear Village, WPB  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 561-996-0343

**7** Sunday Jazz Brunch  
Riverwalk, Downtown FL  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-396-3622

**14** Mother's Day Brunch  
Flamingo Gardens  
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

Mother's Day 5K  
Vista View Park  
7:30 a.m. to Noon  
Info.: 954-123-3333

**17** Commissioner Bruce Roberts:  
Pre-Agenda Meeting  
Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-5033

**24** AIDA  
(Through 5/7)  
Broward Center for the Performing  
Arts  
Tix/Info.: browardcenter.org

**1** Commissioner Bruce Roberts:  
Pre-Agenda Meeting  
Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-5033

GMCA President's Council Meeting  
Southpoint Condominium Association  
7:30 to 9 p.m.

**8** Broward Center Spring Spectacular  
Broward Center for the Performing  
Arts  
Tix/Info.: browardcenter.org

**15** Commissioner Bruce Roberts:  
Pre-Agenda Meeting  
Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-5033

**18** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

High Tea & Trivia  
Broward Health Imperial Point Cafeteria  
3 to 4:30 p.m.  
RSVP/Info.: 954-759-7400

**25** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

Alzheimer & Dementia Support  
Broward Health Imperial Point Medical Library  
2:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-776-8961

**2** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

Caregiver's Support Group  
BHIP Private Dining Room (1st floor), 2:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-776-8961

**9** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

Broward Center Spring Spectacular  
Broward Center for the Performing  
Arts  
Tix/Info.: browardcenter.org

**16** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

**19** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

Alton Brown Live: Eat Your Science  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts  
8 p.m.  
Tix.: 954-462-0222

**26** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

Broward Condo & HOA Expo  
Broward Convention Center  
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Info.: 800-374-6463

**3** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

SUNFEST  
(Through 5/7)  
Intracoastal Waterway (Flagler Dr. from  
Banyan Blvd. to Lakeview Ave.), WPB  
Info.: 561-659-5980

**10** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

**17** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

APRIL/MAY

APRIL 28: Dogs, Beaches and Brews, Ft Lauderdale Beach & the Parrot Lounge, 5 to 10 p.m., Info.: myfortlauderdalebeach.com

APRIL 28-29: 7th Annual Fishing for the Dream Tournament, Lighthouse Point Yacht and Racquet Club, Info.: 954-564-3512

April 30: Coffee & Classics, 301 S Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd., 8 to 10 a.m., Info.: myfortlauderdalebeach.com

MAY 5: Rockin' & Reelin' Music and Movies: Performer: Ooh Lala and the Show Band, Provident Park, 7 to 10 p.m., Info.: 954-828-5363

MAY 5: Friday Night Soundwaves: Performer: Shane Duncan Band, Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las Olas & A1A, 6 to 9 p.m.

MAY 5-7: West Palm Beach Antiques Festival, South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB, Info.: 951-697-7475

MAY 6-7: 2017 Fort Lauderdale Air Show, Fort Lauderdale Beach, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 321-395-3110

MAY 6-7: 2017 Intergalactic West Palm Beach Bead and Jewelry Show, Palm Beach County Convention Center, Info.: 888-729-6904

MAY 12: Rockin' & Reelin' Music and Movies: Movie: Are We There Yet? (PG), Provident Park, 7 to 10 p.m., Info.: 954-828-5363

MAY 12: Friday Night Tunes: Performer: All-Stars Band featuring April Raquel (R&B & Soul), Joseph C. Carter Park, 7 to 10 p.m., Info.: 954-828-5363

MAY 13: Mayors' Chess Challenge, Riverland Park, 10 a.m., Info.: 954-747-4600

May 13: The Salvation Army's 11th MOST Amazing Race, Esplanade Park, 7 a.m. to Noon, Info.: 954-712-2432

May 13-14: 12th Annual African Violet Show & Sale Show, Flamingo Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Info.: 954-473-2955

May 20: Citywide Yard Sales, Jaco Pastorius Park, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Info.: 954-630-4495



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MAY 23

### The Great American Beach Party!

Fort Lauderdale Beach & Las Olas Riverfront  
10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Info.: [www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/parks-recreation](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/parks-recreation)

MAY 26

### Music on Main Street

Performer(s): Mr. Nice Guy  
Oakland Park City Hall, 6 to 10 p.m.  
Info.: 954-630-4251

MAY 26-29

### Fort Lauderdale Spring Home Design And Remodeling Show

Broward County Convention Center  
Info.: 305-667-9299

MAY 27

### Kool & The Gang

Pembroke Pines City Center  
Tix/Info.: [www.browardcenter.org](http://www.browardcenter.org)

MAY 27-28

### 28th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Craft Festival

The Delray Beach Tennis Center  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 561-746-6615

MAY 27-28

### Memorial Day KidzFest

Flamingo Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

JUNE 3

### Extreme Kayak Fishing Summer SLAM Series

Pompano Beach Fishing Pier and Public Beach  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

JUNE 10

### Smoke on the Water BBQ Feast & Competition

Esplanade Park, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Info.: 954-630-4507

JUNE 25

### Jon Mellencamp

Mizner Park Amphitheater, 7 p.m.  
Tix/Info.: [www.myboca.us](http://www.myboca.us)

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<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Friday Night Music in the Square Anglin's Square (El Mar &amp; Commercial Blvd). 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Cat Cafe Coaster Origami Morikami Japanese Garden Noon to 3 p.m. Info.: <a href="http://morikami.org">morikami.org</a></p> <p>Ocean Adventure Expo (Through 4/23) Broward County Convention Center Info.: 561-715-0247</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Matilda: The Musical (Through 5/1) Broward Center for the Performing Arts Tix/Info.: <a href="http://browardcenter.org">browardcenter.org</a></p> <p>Miami International Jazz Fest 2017 (Through 4/29) Info.: 305-491-3588</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Pompano Beach Seafood Festival (Through 4/30) Atlantic Blvd. &amp; A1A, Pompano Info.: 954-638-1475</p> <p>Friday Night Music in the Square Anglin's Square (El Mar &amp; Commercial Blvd). 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>The Walls Street Art House of Art (815 NE 13th St.), Ft Lauderdale 1 to 7 p.m. Info.: 305-310-7155</p> <p>The Color Run 5K Riverwalk Huizenga Plaza 7:30 to 11 a.m. Info.: 954-468-1541 X 205</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>6th Annual Delish - 2017 Gallery of Amazing Things (481 S Federal Hwy.), Dania 7 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-746-9400 X 2205</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>PB Antiques Festival (Through 5/7) S Florida Fairgrounds, WPB Info.: 941-697-7475</p> <p>Friday Night Music in the Square Anglin's Square (El Mar &amp; Commercial Blvd). 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste &amp; Electronics Drop-off Events Public Works &amp; Engineering Division Tamarac 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-8000</p> <p>Member's Day Plant Distribution Flamingo Gardens 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. Info.: 954-473-2955</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Bereavement Support Group Broward Health Imperial Point Medical Library 2:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-8961</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Delray Beach Craft Beer Fest Old School Square 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 561-243-7922</p> <p>Friday Night Music in the Square Anglin's Square (El Mar &amp; Commercial Blvd). 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Moonlit Movies - Moana Jaco Pastorius Park, Oakland Park, 3 p.m. Info.: 954-630-4507</p> <p>Covenant House Florida 5K on A1A The World Famous Parrot Lounge, 7 a.m. Info.: 954-568-7914</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Birdies for Birch Golf Tournament Ft Lauderdale Country Club (415 E Country Club Circle) 1 to 7 p.m. Info.: <a href="http://birchstatepark.org">birchstatepark.org</a></p> <p>G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting Place: Nick's Italian Restaurant 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Orange Bowl Food &amp; Wine Celebration Broward County Convention Center 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 305-341-4701</p> <p>Friday Night Music in the Square Anglin's Square (El Mar &amp; Commercial Blvd). 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>3rd Annual Waterway Soirée Bahia Mar Ft Lauderdale Beach 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-728-1040</p> <p>Riverwalk Ft. Lauderdale Burger Battle VIII Huizenga Plaza 4 to 7 p.m. Info.: <a href="http://goriverwalk.com">goriverwalk.com</a></p>

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

Second Saturday of Every Month: Burlock Coast Farmer's Market, Burlock Coast at the The Ritz-Carlton, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Info.: [myfortlauderdalebeach.com](http://myfortlauderdalebeach.com)

Second Tuesday of Every Month: Orchid Greenhouse Tours, Bonnet House, 11 a.m. to Noon, Info.: 954-703-2606

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

Sundays: Las Olas Sunday Market, 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-426-8436

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

# EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

## Chip LaMarca's MARCH/APRIL 2017 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

In his March / April 2017 LaMarca Letter, District 4 County Commissioner Chip LaMarca describes how a staged photo shoot of our recently widened beach will carry multiple messages to the State and Federal agencies charged with funding beach projects, including an expression of appreciation, a polite "past due" notice and a cordial reminder that their investment will yield a whopping tourism dividend, shield \$billions in upland properties from storm surge, and save lives.

LaMarca also details how NEPA surveys mandated by the proposed navigational improvements at Port Everglades will safeguard the environment; notes how a Port pilot program to enhance turn times expedited its first shipment of perishable cargo (Chinese snow peas en route to Europe); welcomes Silversea Cruises' newest luxury cruise ship – Silver Muse – to its new winter homeport; explains how thousands of new parking spaces at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport will accommodate FLL's unprecedented growth in passenger traffic and a worldwide proliferation of destination sites; applauds recognition of Broward's green communities by "Keep America Beautiful"; and announces the expansion of an Animal Care and Adoption Division web portal that facilitates spay and neuter services for "community cats".

### FLL Busts a Move

LaMarca's March / April 2017 newsletter spins the white-hot growth of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). While FLL has always been one of the county's most productive economic engines, its January 2017 stats may foreshadow a banner year.

In January 2016, 2,572,187 passengers arrived at or departed from FLL. In reporting this January's 9.4% increase in total traffic over last January, LaMarca asserts that the 2,803,913 passengers who used the airport this January did so despite a murderous January 6 killing spree by 26-year old Iraq war veteran Esteban Santiago that sent 6 people to the hospital and 5 to the morgue. While such brutal acts ordinarily deter air travel, the combination of FLL's new services, new flights, new infrastructure and a new aviation director seems to have offset the incident's impact.

Featuring one of the world's most formidable fleets, Emirates Airlines commenced a new daily service between FLL and Dubai International Airport on December 15, 2016. Fort Lauderdale was the 11th city in the United States serviced by Emirates Airlines and January was the carrier's first full month of service at FLL. The Emirates inbound load factor was 88 percent, averaging 234 inbound passengers and 197 departing passengers - an outbound load factor of slightly less at 74 percent.

Despite the ominous Zika virus, a recent outbreak of Yellow Fever and the unstable political / economic climate in Brazil, low cost Brazilian carrier Azul Airlines carried an average of 235 passengers in both directions for January, filling an impressive 87 percent of their seats. In fact, five of FLL's ten busiest carriers saw double digit growth in January, topped by Norwegian's huge 61% increase, Allegiant Air's 24% growth and JetBlue Airways' 19% jump in traffic. Passenger traffic on Spirit Airlines was up 16% and United Airlines jumped 12%.

### On the Down Side

Canadian tourism to the region was adversely impacted by the exchange rate (1 Canadian dollar = \$.75 US). While savvy Canadian snowbirds often segregate a float for their US dollars, most visiting tourists are getting clobbered. While load factors were in a healthy 80 percent range for the month, seat capacity dropped 9 percent – commensurate with traffic. Compared to last January, passenger traffic on Air Canada dropped by 4% - from 92,560 to 89,026. Westjet and Sunwing Airlines took much larger hits, with respective declines of 22% and 19%.

Hoping to exploit the first commercial flights to Cuba in more than 50 years, JetBlue, Silver, Southwest and Spirit Airlines offered flights to nine Cuban cities by the end of 2016. Since the anticipated monsoon of visitors to Cuba never materialized, carriers adjusted to the disappointing passenger demand. While maintaining the same number of daily flights to Cuba, JetBlue is using smaller aircraft. Beginning in May, the airline will trim their available seats by 25 percent.

Headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Silver Airways has reduced service to Cuba from an average of four daily departures to three and will go to two in August. Silver is re-evaluating its service, and has stopped selling Cuba flights in September. If Silver pulls out of Cuba, FLL will be down to 12 daily departures by September. However, FLL will still feature more flights to Cuba than any other airport, as competing Miami International Airport will only offer 11 daily departures in September.

### FLL CEO Mark Gale hits the Ground Running

Last year, FLL CEO Mark Gale replaced retiring Kent George as the airport's director of aviation. Looking ahead, Gale said "Based on projections we've done, at annual growth rates of between 4 - 7 percent the airport is poised to welcome 38 million passengers by 2020." Gale characterized his growth estimate as "conservative".

The short-term traffic outlook is even rosier. Based on scheduled available seats, total FLL traffic should increase by 6% in February, followed by monthly growth of 15% through August. FLL is currently ranked the 21st busiest airport in the U.S. To insure the airport's continued growth, Gale said "We must balance four major components: airspace, airfield, terminals and landside facilities including roadways and parking." Explaining how "The new South Runway addressed some of the airfield concerns," Gale expects to now focus on the terminals, roadways, garages and "ultimately on how the airport connects to the outside world."

If Gale delivers, FLL could soon move up the chain, and elbow its way past LaGuardia Airport - currently the 20th busiest airport in the country. From Gale's perspective, surpassing LaGuardia could be a stepping stone. Before taking the Broward job, Gale retired from Philadelphia International Airport after nearly 28 years, seven as its CEO. Since Philadelphia International Airport is currently ranked number 19, outshining his old stomping ground would earmark his career with a story-book milestone while pumping additional \$millions into county coffers. Since Enterprise Fund windfalls help cap the County's Millage – Smile. Read the entire March / April 2017 LaMarca Letter – elsewhere in this issue.\*



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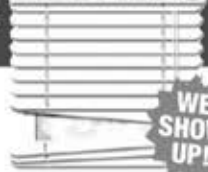
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# Chip LaMarca's

## MARCH/APRIL 2017 Newsletter

county & 33 percent cities.) It's estimated that more than 60 percent of Broward County's visitors come to the beach during their stay, spending an estimated \$13 billion dollars annually. Broward's award winning beaches enhance the quality of life for residents and are vital to our robust tourism industry. Watch this video to learn more about Broward County's beach renourishment efforts.

### Port Everglades Update

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently held two public meetings to update and revise the analysis conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Port Everglades Navigation Improvement Projects. Broward County's Port Everglades supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing efforts to both continue additional surveys as part of the environmental process and to keep the public informed. The studies will not impede the process or delay the project and are consistent with the County's commitment to environmental stewardship. The additional studies will be conducted during the preconstruction, engineering and design phase and will continue into 2018. This project is critical to the community and the region.

Dear Broward County Residents,

I am honored to serve as your county commissioner, representing our coastal communities from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale and all of the amazing communities in between. Here are some recent highlights from around Broward County.

### Beautiful Broward Beaches Thank You Photo Shoot

With the recent completion of the Segment II Beach Renourishment and Shore Protection Project in January, many visitors and residents are appreciative of the investment and commitment from local, state and federal legislative partners. In early March, we brought together thankful residents from Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and Pompano Beach including visitors, business owners, hospitality industry representatives and community leaders, for an aerial photo using drone photography. The photo was sent to show our appreciation and encourage continued dedicated funding to preserve and restore our beaches, save the shoreline and protect our environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected to reimburse approximately \$30 million, more than half the cost of the overall project. The State of Florida has paid \$11.4 million and Broward County and the three cities in the Segment II project will split the remaining 25 percent of the cost (67 percent

In other Port related news, Broward County's Port Everglades was the port of entry for the first shipment of perishable cargo participating in a new program, which was developed in partnership with Crowley Maritime Corp's Miami-based subsidiary Customized Brokers and Miami International Airport. The program allows Central American produce to reach European markets faster by expediting turn times, and expanding customers' distribution.

Additionally, Port Everglades will welcome Silversea Cruises' newest cruise ship Silver Muse October 12-13, 2017, and Port Everglades will continue to serve as the ultra-luxury line's winter homeport for the next two years according to a new agreement between Silversea and the Broward County Commission. The 596-passenger Silver Muse is scheduled for five sailings next year in addition to voyages on Silver Spirit, Silver Whisper and Silver Wind also sailing from Port Everglades.

For more news and information, please visit [PortEverglades.net](http://PortEverglades.net).

Continued on page 15





### Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport Update

On May 15, 2017, Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) will add 3,100 parking spaces for public parking on the top three floors of the Cypress Garage, adjacent to Terminal 1. In order to support Terminal 1's new Concourse A, that is scheduled to open in June of this year, parking will open to the public on the seventh, eighth and ninth floors of the Cypress Garage. Features such as a parking guidance system will be installed in the future. Daily garage parking is \$15. If you pay by the hour, the cost is \$3 with the first 20 minutes free. In 2016, FLL served more than 29 million travelers, a 28 percent increase in traffic. This passenger growth is expected to continue for several years due to the many expansion projects underway.

FLL is one of the fastest-growing airports in the U.S. Based on 2015 passenger traffic, FLL ranked 21st in the U.S. This year is also off to a great start as passenger traffic continues to grow. In January, total traffic was up 9.4 percent over last January. Domestic traffic was up 7.9 percent. International was up by 14.9 percent. Despite an estimated 500 canceled flights on January 6th and 7th, January was the 34th consecutive month of growth in total traffic. It was FLL's 6th consecutive month of double digit international growth.

Many new services are expected at FLL in 2017. Jet Blue is expected to add flights to Atlanta and Long Beach in May. Allegiant added flights to Cleveland in February and is expected to add Louisville and Bellevue, Illinois in May. Southwest began flights to Newark in March and will add Orlando and Washington Dulles in June. The much anticipated launch of their new international service to Cancun, Montego Bay, Belize, and Grand Cayman, will also be added in June. Spirit is expected to add flights to Hartford and Pittsburgh in June. Additionally, British Airways will add flights to London Gatwick in July and Norwegian Air Shuttle is expected to add flights to Barcelona in August.

For more news and information, please visit [Broward.Org/Airport](http://Broward.Org/Airport).

### Broward County Earns Award

The County's Keep Broward Beautiful program received the President's Circle Award for 2016 from Keep America Beautiful. The award recognizes exemplary performance by certified affiliates of the national nonprofit for creating clean, green and beautiful communities. In qualifying for a President's Circle Award, Keep Broward Beautiful has met Keep America Beautiful's standards of merit by conducting an annual Community Appearance Index, calculating the affiliate's cost/benefit ratio, and administering activities in the areas of litter abatement, improving recycling rates, and beautifying Broward County's communities. With the assistance and commitment of volunteers, we continue to keep Broward beautiful.

### BrowardPetFix Expands

Broward County's Animal Care and Adoption Division expanded the online WebPortal to now include a spay/neuter voucher program for unowned feral and community cats. The WebPortal allows colony caregivers or residents who care for unowned cats the ability to go online and create a profile to add information about each cat and then apply for a voucher to have the cat(s) sterilized. The addition of this more convenient and easy way to receive spay and neuter services for community cats helps residents and the cats they care for.

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](http://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](mailto:clamarca@broward.org).

As always, it is my honor to serve you.  
Best regards,

*Chip*





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