

# GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA  
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017



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WHAT'S UP WITH THE SUN TROLLEY?

SEE PAGE 4 TO FIND OUT



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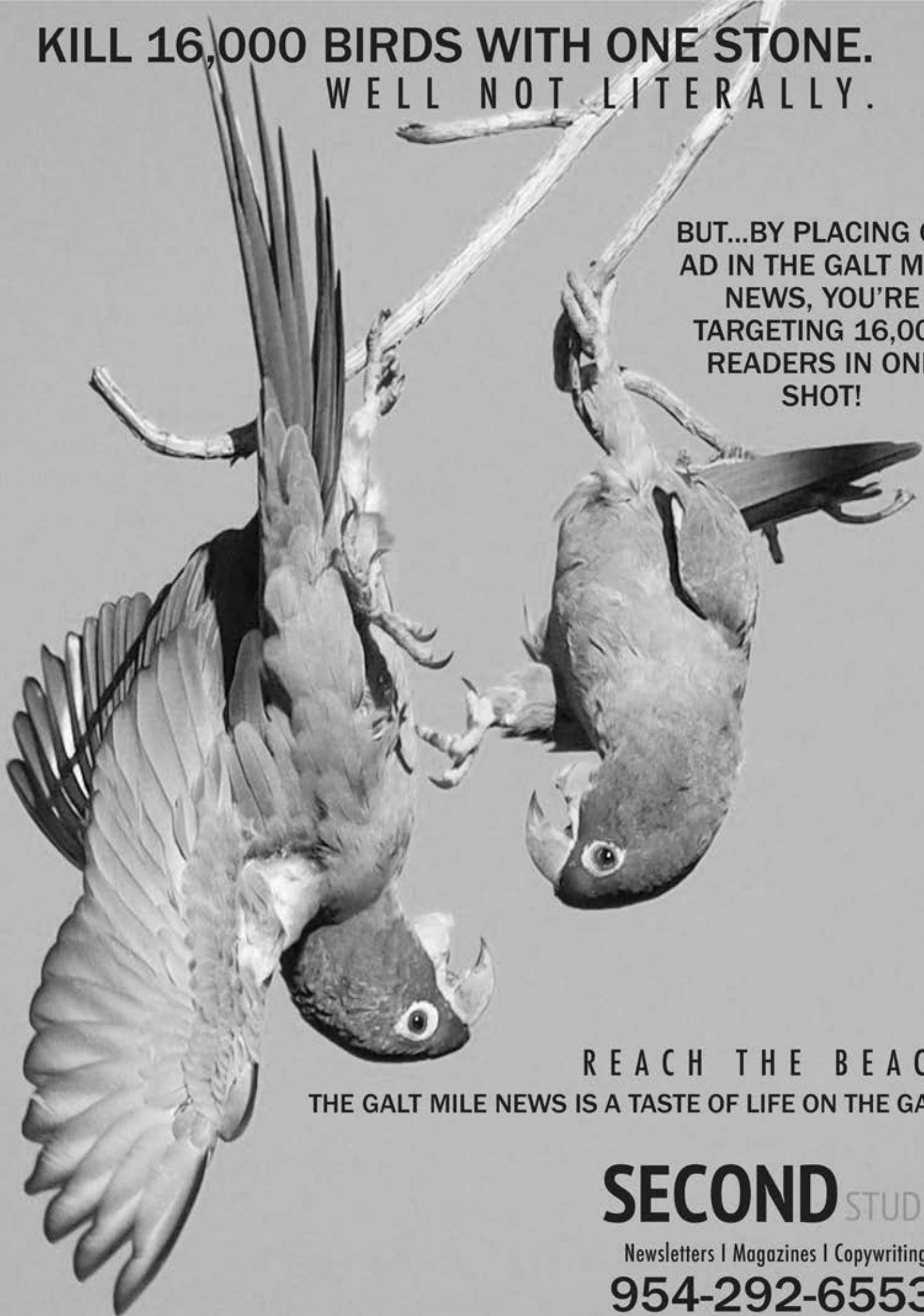
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# Galt Link



## GALT SUN TROLLEY & BCT BUS BUNCO

By Eric Berkowitz

### Lolly Heads South

In 1974, to promote his uncle's Buffalo New York supermarket chain, Jody Perez purchased San Francisco cable car look-alikes which he named for his grandmother, Lolly. After driving Lolly the Trolley down to Fort Lauderdale in 1977, Perez nurtured his niche business over the next two decades. By 1994, Lolly's Trolleys were flourishing in 13 states and 33 cities, including Puerto Rico. In Broward County alone, the bright red and British green fleet of 30 trolleys were hauling 5 1/2 million passengers a year.

In 1992, to launch a long-awaited community transportation service in Fort Lauderdale, the City Commission voted to pay Perez' company - South Florida Trolley Co. - \$28,300 annually for the next three years to unleash Lolly the Trolley along the beach. Amid a growing ridership, Project Manager Linda Flynn of the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (DFLTMA), replaced the elegant 32-seat Trolley with a small inexpensive bus in 1995, initiating the 20-seat TMax Express Shuttle. A few years later, some municipal marketing genius affixed TMax with a catchier moniker - birthing "The City Cruiser". Ditching the shuttle bus concept in favor of reviving the popular trolley, the first red and yellow Sun Trolley vehicles began navigat-

ing City thoroughfares in 2006.

The DFLTMA, parent agency to the Sun Trolley, selected certain neighborhoods for inexpensive or free local shuttle service. Each of its 9 initial routes were designed to relieve traffic congestion in a targeted community. The Sun Trolley is one of 19 Community Bus Services in Broward that receive capital and/or operating assistance from Broward County Transit (BCT). Based on an interlocal agreement, BCT annually provides the Sun Trolley with a \$13,295.20 capital cost allowance per vehicle. Revenue can be supplemented by milking the local option gas tax or from the sale of advertising splashed across the buses, the bus shelters, and bus benches. The Sun Trolley also books in-kind contributions from the private sector.

### The Budget Axe

In 2007, to help beleaguered taxpayers weather the recession, Florida lawmakers enacted a \$31.6 billion tax reform package. Specifically, it forced local governments to roll back FY 2008 property tax assessments to FY 2006 levels. After decades of casually burning through tax revenues with wild abandon, Broward Commissioners were skull-blocked by a statutory obligation to slice \$100 million from the County's \$billion 2008 spending plan.

Continued on page 5



## TMA SUN TROLLEY GALT LINK "B"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

1	Galt Reading Center
8:30 AM	8:35 AM
9:30 AM	9:43 AM
10:30 AM	10:43 AM
11:30 AM	11:43 AM
12:30 PM	12:43 PM
1:30 PM	1:43 PM
2:30 PM	2:43 PM
3:30 PM	3:43 PM
2	SR A1A/NE 21st Street
8:35 AM	8:43 AM
9:43 AM	9:51 AM
10:43 AM	10:51 AM
11:43 AM	11:51 AM
12:43 PM	12:51 PM
1:43 PM	1:51 PM
2:43 PM	2:51 PM
3:43 PM	3:51 PM
3	Galleria Mall
8:43 AM	8:51 AM
9:43 AM	9:51 AM
10:43 AM	10:51 AM
11:43 AM	11:51 AM
12:43 PM	12:51 PM
1:43 PM	1:51 PM
2:43 PM	2:51 PM
3:43 PM	3:51 PM
4	Bayview/NE 26th Street
8:51 AM	8:58 AM
9:51 AM	9:58 AM
10:51 AM	10:58 AM
11:51 AM	11:58 AM
12:51 PM	12:58 PM
1:51 PM	1:58 PM
2:51 PM	2:58 PM
3:51 PM	3:58 PM
5	Coral Ridge Mall
9:03 AM	9:03 AM
10:03 AM	10:03 AM
11:03 AM	11:03 AM
12:03 PM	12:03 PM
1:03 PM	1:03 PM
2:03 PM	2:03 PM
3:03 PM	3:03 PM
4:03 PM	4:03 PM
6	Beach Community Center
9:11 AM	9:11 AM
10:11 AM	10:11 AM
11:11 AM	11:11 AM
12:11 PM	12:11 PM
1:11 PM	1:11 PM
2:11 PM	2:11 PM
3:11 PM	3:11 PM
4:11 PM	4:11 PM
7	Coral Ridge Towers
9:14 AM	9:14 AM
10:14 AM	10:14 AM
11:14 AM	11:14 AM
12:14 PM	12:14 PM
1:14 PM	1:14 PM
2:14 PM	2:14 PM
3:14 PM	3:14 PM
4:14 PM	4:14 PM
8	Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Visitor Center
9:17 AM	9:17 AM
10:17 AM	10:17 AM
11:17 AM	11:17 AM
12:17 PM	12:17 PM
1:17 PM	1:17 PM
2:17 PM	2:17 PM
3:17 PM	3:17 PM
4:17 PM	4:17 PM
9	Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Town Hall
9:20 AM	9:20 AM
10:20 AM	10:20 AM
11:20 AM	11:20 AM
12:20 PM	12:20 PM
1:20 PM	1:20 PM
2:20 PM	2:20 PM
3:20 PM	3:20 PM
4:20 PM	4:20 PM
10	Anglin Fishing Pier
9:24 AM	9:24 AM
10:24 AM	10:24 AM
11:24 AM	11:24 AM
12:24 PM	12:24 PM
1:24 PM	1:24 PM
2:24 PM	2:24 PM
3:24 PM	3:24 PM
4:24 PM	4:24 PM
11	Galt Reading Center
9:30 AM	9:30 AM
10:30 AM	10:30 AM
11:30 AM	11:30 AM
12:30 PM	12:30 PM
1:30 PM	1:30 PM
2:30 PM	2:30 PM
3:30 PM	3:30 PM
4:30 PM	4:30 PM

## TMA SUN TROLLEY GALT LINK "A"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

1	Galt Reading Center
8:30 AM	8:30 AM
9:30 AM	9:30 AM
10:30 AM	10:30 AM
11:30 AM	11:30 AM
12:30 PM	12:30 PM
1:30 PM	1:30 PM
2:30 PM	2:30 PM
3:30 PM	3:30 PM
2	Anglin Fishing Pier
8:36 AM	8:36 AM
9:36 AM	9:36 AM
10:36 AM	10:36 AM
11:36 AM	11:36 AM
12:36 PM	12:36 PM
1:36 PM	1:36 PM
2:36 PM	2:36 PM
3:36 PM	3:36 PM
3	Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Town Hall
8:40 AM	8:40 AM
9:40 AM	9:40 AM
10:40 AM	10:40 AM
11:40 AM	11:40 AM
12:40 PM	12:40 PM
1:40 PM	1:40 PM
2:40 PM	2:40 PM
3:40 PM	3:40 PM
4	Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Visitor Center
8:43 AM	8:43 AM
9:43 AM	9:43 AM
10:43 AM	10:43 AM
11:43 AM	11:43 AM
12:43 PM	12:43 PM
1:43 PM	1:43 PM
2:43 PM	2:43 PM
3:43 PM	3:43 PM
5	Coral Ridge Towers
8:46 AM	8:46 AM
9:46 AM	9:46 AM
10:46 AM	10:46 AM
11:46 AM	11:46 AM
12:46 PM	12:46 PM
1:46 PM	1:46 PM
2:46 PM	2:46 PM
3:46 PM	3:46 PM
6	Beach Community Center
8:49 AM	8:49 AM
9:49 AM	9:49 AM
10:49 AM	10:49 AM
11:49 AM	11:49 AM
12:49 PM	12:49 PM
1:49 PM	1:49 PM
2:49 PM	2:49 PM
3:49 PM	3:49 PM
7	Coral Ridge Mall
8:57 AM	8:57 AM
9:57 AM	9:57 AM
10:57 AM	10:57 AM
11:57 AM	11:57 AM
12:57 PM	12:57 PM
1:57 PM	1:57 PM
2:57 PM	2:57 PM
3:57 PM	3:57 PM
8	Coral Ridge Mall
9:02 AM	9:02 AM
10:02 AM	10:02 AM
11:02 AM	11:02 AM
12:02 PM	12:02 PM
1:02 PM	1:02 PM
2:02 PM	2:02 PM
3:02 PM	3:02 PM
4:02 PM	4:02 PM
9	Bayview/NE 26th Street
9:09 AM	9:09 AM
10:09 AM	10:09 AM
11:09 AM	11:09 AM
12:09 PM	12:09 PM
1:09 PM	1:09 PM
2:09 PM	2:09 PM
3:09 PM	3:09 PM
4:09 PM	4:09 PM
10	Galleria Mall
9:17 AM	9:17 AM
10:17 AM	10:17 AM
11:17 AM	11:17 AM
12:17 PM	12:17 PM
1:17 PM	1:17 PM
2:17 PM	2:17 PM
3:17 PM	3:17 PM
4:17 PM	4:17 PM
11	SR A1A/NE 21st Street
9:25 AM	9:25 AM
10:25 AM	10:25 AM
11:25 AM	11:25 AM
12:25 PM	12:25 PM
1:25 PM	1:25 PM
2:25 PM	2:25 PM
3:25 PM	3:25 PM
4:25 PM	4:25 PM
12	Galt Reading Center
9:30 AM	9:30 AM
10:30 AM	10:30 AM
11:30 AM	11:30 AM
12:30 PM	12:30 PM
1:30 PM	1:30 PM
2:30 PM	2:30 PM
3:30 PM	3:30 PM
4:30 PM	4:30 PM

A City investigation revealed that the problem had less to do with declining ridership than inept leadership - and an obsolete mission protocol. After ousting Hollingsworth, DFLTMA Executive Director Chris Wren stepped in as the Sun Trolley's Interim Director. A few months later, District 1 Commissioner Bruce Roberts and Wren met with GMCA officials to explore a plan to salvage the service by increasing local ridership.

Instead of only carrying vacationers from Port Everglades and beachfront hotels to the usual blood-letting tourist clip joints, by adapting the service to also accommodate the shopping needs of local residents, it would not only boost ridership, but jump-start business for vendors stung by the economic downturn. Wren restructured the Sun Trolley - extending the Galt Mile route south to the Galleria and interlinking it with routes to the Harbor Shoppes and Las Olas Boulevard, enabling Galt Mile residents to access high end shopping without paying for gas or parking.

### Back From The Brink

Over the next five years, new Managing Director Patricia Zeiler and Wren aggressively expanded the service to exploit the annually increasing influx of tourists while transporting locals to and from municipal events, the airport and new shopping venues. The monthly ridership jumped to 32,000 in December, 2012, and reduced the area's carbon footprint by the equivalent of 7000 gas guzzlers.

When Zeiler floated her now-stellar resume in the private sector, she was quickly snatched up by the prestigious Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, where she now serves as Executive Director. Following a frenetic search for Zeiler's replacement, on December 2, 2014 DFLTMA Chairman Alan Hooper announced the appointment of Robyn Chiarelli as Sun Trolley Executive Director.

An acclaimed management virtuoso whose career in public transportation was built on leadership roles with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), Tri-Rail, and a term as Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 4 Project Manager, when Chiarelli supervised a laundry list of State-approved transportation projects in Broward and 4 other Southeast Florida counties.

### Enter Robyn Chiarelli

Since taking the reins, Chiarelli has combined ridership statistics with community input to quash certain under-utilized routes and expand others - while pumping up monthly ridership to nearly 40,000 (with another 10,000 on the Water Trolley). On February 2, 2015, Chiarelli joined City Commissioner Bruce Roberts at the Fountainhead Condominium to address the Galt Mile Presidents Council. She affirmed that ridership was strong on the Galt Mile route section along A1A south to Sunrise, as hundreds of Galt Mile residents mount regular excursions to Las Olas Boulevard and the Galleria. When recounting the disturbing ridership data for the Oakland Park Boulevard route segment, Chiarelli assured attendees that although the route was not in immediate danger, its future was uncertain.

Continued on page 6

Trolley...Continued

In a marathon of turf protection, County Commissioners fought to cut appropriations for services in neighboring districts while fiercely cloistering their own pork projects. When the dust settled, along with cutbacks to libraries, parks and other low hanging fiscal fruit, underutilized local bus venues were fair game for the budget axe. Broward County Transit concluded that Community Bus routes must minimally carry 7.1 passengers per hour to dodge the guillotine. Due to a glitch in compiling ridership statistics, the Sun Trolley's Galt Mile route was placed at risk.

Hoping to insulate the city's local bus service from adverse impacts threatened by the budget carnage, DFLTMA appointed Les Hollingsworth as the Sun Trolley's Executive Director. Hollingsworth pledged to scare up additional funding and stretch available resources sufficiently to preserve the local routes. Unfortunately, Hollingsworth never delivered.

### Surviving Hollingsworth

While promising GMCA officials that he would protect the Galt Mile route from recessionary cutbacks, on October 10, 2008, Hollingsworth furtively filed a termination notice announcing its funeral! When the GMCA discovered Hollingsworth's duplicity, a phalanx of angry residents stormed the October 21, 2008 City Commission meeting and convinced Commissioners to abort the termination. By the time that the DFLTMA Board finally realized that Hollingsworth's management skills were limited to glad-handing at rubber chicken dinners (and learned that he was sending out resumes), the entire enterprise was facing insolvency.

In April, 2016, Chiarelli sent each Galt Mile association hundreds of copies of a confusing 25-question survey for distribution to its unit owners, who were asked to mail back the completed surveys or drop them at the Galt Library by April 18. Since many of the questions were awkwardly personal in nature, the response was negligible. Shortly thereafter, Chiarelli extended the Galt Route into Lauderdale-by-the-Sea for an annual \$25,000 LBTS stipend, while discontinuing marginally utilized access to Holy Cross and Imperial Point Hospitals.

Among the operational changes implemented by Chiarelli was a tracker app that allowed passengers to wave down a Sun Trolley as it approached, thereby obviating the need for route schedules. While the use of smart phone apps has exploded during the past decade, they remain anathema to many elderly Galt Mile residents. Depriving them of the schedules they relied on for decades effectively turned this sizable demographic into ex-passengers - including many of those who used to benefit from the former access to local medical centers. Mitigating this generational disparity should yield a palpable ridership dividend.

### **BCT: A Study in Spite**

Throughout its struggle to survive these evolutionary tripping hazards, the Sun Trolley has provided Galt Mile residents with free transportation to key destinations across the City of Fort Lauderdale. In his June 2017 Newsletter, District 1 Commissioner Bruce Roberts marked the Sun Trolley's 25th anniversary by applauding a litany of new services. Not surprisingly, he failed to mention that petulant bureaucrats at Broward County Transit (BCT) celebrated by defunding the Galt Mile Route. Not to worry - the Galt Link will continue to serve our residents. As observed by Galt Mile President Pioraci "BCT is no friend to the Galt Mile." A BCT Bus layover has been blocking a handicap access ramp near Playa Del Mar ever since construction began along A1A. The busses often park on the sidewalk, and extend into the street, impeding traffic along Galt Ocean Drive.

Prior to erecting their Galt Mile bus barricade, BCT officials secured permission from Lauderdale-by-the-Sea (LBTS) to establish a layover on El Mar Drive between Hibiscus and Palm Avenues (in front of the old Holiday Inn). After causing significant damage to town property, and ignoring repeated official requests to avoid parking on the sidewalk, BCT was evicted from the layover site by the LBTS Town Commission on the recommendation of former Town Manager Connie Hoffmann. At the November 24, 2015 LBTS Commission meeting, Hoffmann advised Town Board members "I have given the County Mass Transit folks the 30 days' notice that we promised them - that we are withdrawing our approval of their use of El Mar Drive as a rest layover for their busses. The reasons for this action are excessive noise, documented damage to our property, and their drivers' failure to follow instructions

on where to park the busses. The County will cease to use that area by December 21st and has promised to repair the damage they have done to light fixtures, our sidewalks, and water meters."

FDOT protocols require that bus layovers be located on thoroughfares with multiple lanes in the direction of traffic, enabling vehicles to bypass busses that are either double parked, or parked a sufficient distance from the curb to accommodate handicap devices. Although the street is too narrow to safely support a layover, BCT moved the ousted Route 72 layover to a Galt Ocean Drive cutout near Playa Del Mar and Regency Tower, where the same BCT drivers duplicated the casual abuse previously perpetrated at the LBTS layover - as busses damaged the curb and sidewalk, trampled sidewalk beds and crashed into a road sign (as witnessed by association security personnel and a dozen Galt Mile pedestrians). When a Fire-Rescue EMT racing south on Galt Ocean Drive was blocked by a driverless double-parked bus, it was forced to circle back to A1A and re-enter Galt Ocean Drive from 35th Street, delaying response to a medical emergency.

Fort Lauderdale City Manager Lee Feldman sent County Administrator Bertha Henry pictures of the damages along with a request to relocate the Galt Ocean Drive layover "to a more suitable location outside the City of Fort Lauderdale." He also complained about the blocked EMT. Henry passed the message to Broward Transportation Director Chris Walton. Precluded from returning the layover to an alienated Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Walton denied BCT responsibility for the damage, ignored the EMT incident and marginalized the nearly flattened road sign as "wear and tear typical on any city street." In selecting the site as a layover, BCT determined that endangering residents was an acceptable collateral consequence of providing bus drivers with convenient access to robust luncheon options (i.e. Dunkin Donuts, DaVinci's Pizza, Winn Dixie lunch specials, etc.). For almost two years, complaints from angry residents (and drivers) have been pouring into the city and county, demanding removal of the bus blockade.

In response, these beacons of public propriety spitefully pulled the funding plug from the Galt Mile Sun Trolley. Sun Trolley Executive Director Robyn Chiarelli has tendered assurances that the service will not be interrupted or reduced. As for the bus barricade, BCT has vowed to relocate the Route 72 bus layover to its original site at 41st Street and A1A when construction along A1A is complete, presumably in September. Given their track record, and a seemingly pathological predisposition to play fast and loose with the truth, we'll believe it when we see it.

### **Use It Or Lose It**

That said; if you haven't tried the latest incarnation of the Galt Mile Sun Trolley, give it a whirl. It's convenient, comfortable, free, and sure beats trying to remember where you parked your car when shopping in Galleria. Additionally, whenever anyone boards the Galt Trolley, they help solidify its survival as a neighborhood asset, a legacy primarily governed by ridership stats. A dozen other Fort Lauderdale neighborhoods would love to inherit our local bus service. Simply put, we either use it or lose it. •





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# EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

## Chip LaMarca's JULY 2017 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

*In his July 2017 LaMarca Letter, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca explores how improvements to Terminal 1 at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) - jointly funded by the County and Southwest Airlines - benefitted both stakeholders and travelers; cites the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance for contributing to the County's regional leadership in job growth; and warns constituents to prepare for the seasonal threat of hurricanes through November and the active transmission of Zika by mosquitoes that proliferate during South Florida's May through October rainy season.*

### FLL & Southwest Terminal 1 Windfall

*LaMarca's airport update welcomes a long overdue opening of the Concourse A passenger facility - a \$200 million renovation project anchoring the \$333 million modernization and expansion of Terminal 1 at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). This springboard for air travelers will primarily serve Southwest Airlines ticket-holders aboard a panoply of new international flights scheduled by the airline this year.*

*These include daily nonstop flights to Montego Bay, Jamaica; Belize City, Belize; Cancun, Mexico and Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands - which all began in June. On November 5, Southwest will begin new daily nonstop service to Providenciales, Turks & Caicos. Flights to San José, Costa Rica and to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic will commence on November 6.*

*Having scored only 18.3 percent of FLL's passenger traffic in March, Southwest has persistently taken a back seat to front running carrier JetBlue Airways (24.6 percent) and was again nosed out by number 2 Spirit Airlines (18.4 percent) - begging the question, "Why did Broward County cough up a third of a \$billion for improvements that uniquely benefit the airport's number 3 airline?"*

*On June 1, while escorting officials from Broward County and Southwest Airlines, the media, and a few tourism representatives from other countries on a tour of the upgraded facilities, FLL CEO and Aviation Director Mark Gale provided the fiscal context. By July, Southwest offered 21 percent of the scheduled available airline seats at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, a capacity increase of 41 percent from July 2016. While JetBlue is the nation's number seven airline, and Spirit number 10, Southwest Airlines is the third largest carrier in North America - with more "Elusive Spondulix" than JetBlue and Spirit combined, so the Broward Board wisely opted to fiscally tweak their cookie jar. It worked.*

*Gale observed, "That's an incredible and enviable statistic for any airline to achieve." In short, the investment re-ranked Southwest as the airport's number two carrier and fueled a windfall dividend for FLL while significantly enhancing the region's tourism economy - an industry four-bagger. Southwest chairman and CEO Gary Kelly echoed Gale's optimism, citing FLL as one of the Dallas-based airline's five most important hubs, and announcing*

*"We do want to grow in this market. I think Fort Lauderdale will continue to elevate itself in terms of the significance to the total Southwest network." FLL is also Southwest's largest international hub. In her choreographed response, Broward County Mayor Barbara Sharief presented Kelly with a proclamation declaring June 1, 2017 as "Southwest Appreciation Day". Reading from the proclamation, Sharief said "Since Southwest began operations in Fort Lauderdale in January 1996, the airline has carried more than 55 million passengers on more than 500,000 flights to and from the airport."*

*During the preview tour, LaMarca focused on the facility's connectivity, exclaiming "My favorite part is that it connects to the rest of Terminal 1 and ultimately Terminal 1 and 2 will connect, just like 3 and 4. So, once you get behind security, as a traveler you will be able to experience all the great restaurants and retail behind security."*

*Hungry passengers can dine at Burger Fi, La Familia Tacos & Tequila, or a super-sized Starbucks. New shops on the Concourse include 5th and Sunset, Tech on the Go (for overpriced electronics), Hudson Book-sellers and a CNN newsstand. In his update, LaMarca neglected to mention a spectrum of new amenities at departure gate waiting areas, where each seat is equipped with an embedded USB electrical charging outlet for mobile devices, A/C and a cup holder.*

*Although an avid animal advocate, LaMarca also omitted how pets will get their own bathroom. As a growing number of travelers are accompanied by pets or service dogs, airports are increasingly adding pet relief areas to comply with Federal law. Artificial turf covers the floor of the pet relief room. Since pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets, don't be surprised if an adjacent onsite merchant drops a \$60 price tag on a \$12 pooper scooper.*

### Dodging Zika

*Mistakenly rumored as a mildly uncomfortable inconvenience, Zika is no joke. This mosquito-borne flavivirus is part of the same viral family as Yellow Fever, West Nile virus, Chikungunya virus and Dengue fever. Spread through the bite of the Aedes aegypti species mosquito, symptoms include fever, rash, and joint pain.*

*In April of last year, the CDC confirmed what had been suspected throughout the 2015 Zika epidemic in Brazil, Latin America and the Caribbean - for the first time in history, a virus transmitted by a mosquito bite was found to cause birth defects (microcephaly), a condition that impedes growth of the baby's head, and can only be diagnosed when the head's size is two standard deviations below the average (less than the 3rd percentile). In other words, if the head is smaller than those of 97 newborns out of 100, the child is technically microcephalic.*

*The CDC has linked microcephaly to seizures, developmental delays (problems with speech, sitting, standing, and walking), intellectual disability (learning and functioning in daily life), problems with movement and balance, feeding problems (swallowing, etc.), hearing loss and vision problems - all ranging from mild to severe and often spanning the lifetime.*



**Microcephaly** may also develop because of a genetic problem, certain environmental exposures during pregnancy (severe malnutrition; harmful substances like alcohol, certain drugs and toxic chemicals while in utero; an interruption of the blood supply to the baby's brain during development), or if the mother was infected with rubella, toxoplasmosis, cytomegalovirus (also called CMV, a type of herpes virus).

A very rare condition according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as state birth defects tracking systems have estimated that microcephaly ranges from 2 to 12 babies per 10,000 live births in the U.S. Even so, pregnant women should take particular care to avoid mosquito bites. The threat is complicated by the lack of observable symptoms in four out of five infected women. As a result, health officials assert that the infected population is roughly three or four times the number of confirmed cases – placing every pregnant woman at risk.

Suspected cases of the virus are being monitored by the Mosquito Control Section of the Broward County Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division in conjunction with the Florida Health Department. While the virus has been confirmed in travelers who recently visited Latin America, there are currently no locally acquired cases in Broward County.

The protective measures described by LaMarca are component to a program known as "Tip! Toss! Treat!" - tipping over vessels that ordinarily collect standing water, tossing out those that aren't needed, and treating those that can't be tipped (i.e. bird baths, rain barrels) with larvicide. For those of us living in associations, these protocols should be incorporated into the daily maintenance regimen throughout the rainy season (May to October).

Broward County periodically dispatches trucks to known mosquito breeding sites – mostly at night - which spray a larvicide called VectoBac WDG about 100 feet into the air. This commercial product features impressive safety credentials. Its active

ingredient – the AM65-52 strain of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) - is a naturally occurring, biodegradable bacterial mosquito larvicide which is not harmful to humans, pets, aquatic habitats or environmentally sensitive areas. Certified by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), registered for use by the US Environmental Protection Agency and listed by the World Health Organization as a recommended formulation for control of mosquito larvae, the product contains spores which produce toxins that specifically target mosquito, blackfly and fungus gnat larvae.

Funded by a \$801,900 grant, this year the County is distributing 5,000 to 10,000 surveillance traps throughout Broward. While killing mosquitoes without chemicals, the traps will feed back data about proliferation sites. In residential areas plagued by mosquitoes, homeowners can request an aerial (airplane) spraying with a CDC endorsed chemical called Bio-mist 3+15. The spraying must be approved by the Mosquito Control Manager after performing tests affirming that state requirements have been met. All residents are urged to protect themselves when outdoors by wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants, and/or using a mosquito repellent containing DEET, PICARIDIN OR IR3535, which are all registered with the EPA and endorsed by the CDC. For information about spraying and other mosquito-related questions, call Broward County mosquito control at 954-765-4062. After all, you paid for this service. Read LaMarca's July 2017 message to constituents elsewhere in this edition – [editor]\*

## Bring Birch Back BENCH CAMPAIGN

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# AUGUST/SEPT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
<b>27</b>          Soulful Jazz Sundays at Gulfstream Park 6 to 9 p.m. Info.: <a href="http://www.gulfstreampark.com">http://www.gulfstreampark.com</a>	<b>28</b>          	<b>29</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	<b>30</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
<b>3</b> Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FTL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622   Sprint Triathlon/Duathlon Tradewinds Park, Coconut Creek 7:30 a.m. Info.: 954-213-6699	<b>4</b>          Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	<b>5</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268   City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	<b>6</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063   Tony Bennett Au-Rene Theater - Broward Center 8 p.m. Info./Tix.: <a href="http://ticketmaster.com">ticketmaster.com</a>
<b>10</b>          Florida Gun & Knife Show South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB Info.: 321-837-9955	<b>11</b> Food Truck Invasion Cultural Plaza, Lake Worth 6 to 10 p.m. Info.: <a href="http://lakeworth.org/calendar/">lakeworth.org/calendar/</a>   Fort Lauderdale Job Fair The Westin Fort Lauderdale 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 1-866-838-5111	<b>12</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	<b>13</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
<b>17</b> Optime 5K Run/Walk Markham Park 7:30 a.m. Info.: 954-217-7085   Naked Feet 5K Fort Lauderdale Beach Park (1100 Seabreeze Blvd.), 8 a.m. Info.: 402-218-6966	<b>18</b> Brazilian Film Festival (Through 9/23) Multiple Locations in Miami Beach Info.: <a href="https://www.everfest.com">https://www.everfest.com</a>   Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	<b>19</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268   City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	<b>20</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063   Erev Rosh Hashana
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268   NHL Preseason - Tampa Bay Lightning at Florida Panthers BB&T Center 7:30 p.m. Info./Tix.: <a href="http://bbt.centersunrise.com">http://bbt.centersunrise.com</a>	<b>27</b> BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

AUGUST 25: Asia America Trade Show, Miami Beach Convention Center, Info.: 305-266-5700

SEPTEMBER 1, 8, 15, & 22: Evening on the Avenue, Cultural Plaza (Lake Worth), 6 to 10 p.m., Info.: [lakeworth.org/calendar/](http://lakeworth.org/calendar/)

SEPTEMBER 3: Downtown Hollywood Dream Car Classic, Hollywood Blvd. between 19th & 20th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Info.: 954-825-1027

SEPTEMBER 6: Adam Ant: The Anthems Tour, Parker Playhouse, Ft. Lauderdale, 8 p.m., Info./Tix.: [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

SEPTEMBER 9: Tunnel To Towers 5K Run & Walk Fort Lauderdale, Huizenga Park, 7:30 a.m., Info.: 718-987-1931

SEPTEMBER 9: 6th Annual Brazilian Beat, Mizner Park Amphitheater (590 Plaza Real), Boca, 6 to 11 p.m., Info.: 561-367-7076

SEPTEMBER 9: Organic Beauty and Wellness Festival, Boca Marriott, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info.: 561-877-1098

SEPTEMBER 9: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Drop-off Events, 4800 West Copans Rd. (Coconut Creek), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-828-8000

SEPTEMBER 9-17: 46th Annual Miami International Auto Show, Miami Beach Convention Center, Info.: 305-981-1448

SEPTEMBER 17: Your Next Step is the Cure: Hollywood, FL, Charnow Park (Hollywood Beach Boardwalk), Shotgun Start: 7:15 a.m.; Celebration: 8:15 a.m., Info.: 650-598-2857

SEPTEMBER 19: Pompano Beach Fine Food and Wine, Pompano Beach Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m., Info.: 954-941-2940

SEPTEMBER 23: Artopia IV, Galleria at Ft. Lauderdale, Info./Tix.: <http://glbx.org>

SEPTEMBER 29: The Fall Bead Mercantile Show, DoubleTree Miami Mart West Hall, Info.: 610-241-8349



# ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

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## LOTS HAPPENING IN TOWN!

OCTOBER 3

**Hillary Clinton Live**

Au-Rene Theater at the Broward Center  
7 p.m.

Info./tix.: [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

OCTOBER 4

**Broward County Condo & HOA Expo**

Broward County Convention Center  
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Seminars begin at 8:30 a.m.)  
Info.: 952-881-5030

OCTOBER 5

**Art of Wine & Food: Bootiful Wine**

NSU Art Museum  
6 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-262-0249

OCTOBER 5

**5th Annual Eat Your Heart Out Culinary Feast 2017**

Galleria Mall  
6 to 8:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-918-3008

OCTOBER 5-8

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 8th Annual Bird Festival**

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Info.: 305-667-1651

OCTOBER 6-8

**12th Annual Oktoberfest**

Jaco Pastorius Park (4000 N. Dixie Hwy), Oakland Park  
Info.: 954-630-4507

OCTOBER 7-8

**Harvest Festival**

Flamingo Gardens  
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

OCTOBER 8-11

**Jewelers International Showcase Miami**

Miami Beach Convention Center  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 1-800-840-5612

**FOR A COMPLETE  
LISTING OF EVENTS,  
GO TO THE  
CALENDAR AT  
[WWW.GALTMILE.COM](http://WWW.GALTMILE.COM)**

<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> Miami Fall Home Design &amp; Remodeling Show (Through 9/4) Miami Beach Convention Center Info.: 305-667-9299</p> <p>Friday Night SoundWaves Performer: Roll The Stones Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas &amp; A1A) 6 to 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>2</b> North Beach Art Walk A1A, 32nd &amp; 33rd Streets 7 to 11 p.m.</p> <p>Lost World Closing Weekend Flamingo Gardens 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 954-473-2955</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Art of Wine &amp; Food Series: Colors of the Fall NSU Art Museum 6 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-262-0249</p>	<p><b>8</b> Friday Night SoundWaves Performer: Adam Uhlan Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas &amp; A1A) 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>LAST Sushi &amp; Stroll Morikami Museum &amp; Japanese Gardens 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: <a href="http://morikami.org">http://morikami.org</a></p>	<p><b>9</b> Davie Pro Rodeo Davie Pro Rodeo Arena, Davie 7:30 p.m. Info.: 954-680-8005</p> <p>Moonlit Movies Movie: Pete's Dragon Jaco Pastorius Park (4000 N. Dixie Hwy), Oakland Park, 3 p.m. Info.: 954-630-4507</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream (Through 9/17) BB&amp;T Center Info./Tix.: <a href="http://bbt.centersunrise.com/">http://bbt.centersunrise.com/</a></p>	<p><b>15</b> Friday Night SoundWaves Performer: Oriente Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas &amp; A1A) 6 to 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Margarita Festival @ Tacocraft 5 to 8 p.m. Info./Tix.: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com">https://www.eventbrite.com</a></p> <p>Citywide Yard Sales Jaco Pastorius Park, Oakland Park 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info.: 954-630-4495</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Art Stroll Green Turtle Plaza, LBTS 5 to 8 p.m. Info.: <a href="http://lbtsevents.com/events">lbtsevents.com/events</a></p>	<p><b>22</b> Friday Night SoundWaves Performer: SOSOS + Friends Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas &amp; A1A) 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>First Day of Autumn</p>	<p><b>23</b> Delray Beach Craft Festival 4th Ave &amp; Atlantic Ave 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 561-746-6615</p> <p>3rd Annual Riverwalk Fall Festival Esplanade Park (32 E Las Olas Blvd.) Noon to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-468-1541 Ext. 205</p>
<p><b>28</b> 2017 March of Dimes Signature Chefs Auction Ritz-Carlton, Ft. Lauderdale 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Info.: 754-300-2614</p> <p>NHL Preseason - Tampa Bay Lightning at Florida Panthers BB&amp;T Center 7:30 p.m. Info./Tix.: <a href="http://bbt.centersunrise.com">http://bbt.centersunrise.com</a></p>	<p><b>29</b> Friday Night SoundWaves Performer: Joel DaSilva &amp; The Midnight Howl Ft Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas &amp; A1A) 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Erev Yom Kippur</p>	<p><b>30</b> Rock the Dock Concert Series Shooters Waterfront 3 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-566-2855</p> <p>Gateway Classic Cars Cars &amp; Coffee Gateway Classic Cars of Fort Lauderdale (Coral Springs) 9 a.m. to Noon Info.: 954-227-4202</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



# Chip LaMarca's

## JULY 2017 Newsletter

Terminal 1 for a seamless and improved passenger experience.

### Broward County Job Growth

Broward County continues to lead job growth in South Florida with 31,100 jobs created in a year and a ten-year-low 3.8 percent unemployment rate. May 2017 was the 82nd consecutive month with positive over-the-year job growth in Florida, indicating the great strength of our local and state economy. Florida's statewide unemployment rate for May 2017 was 4.3 percent, which is 435,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 10,147,000. Florida's unemployment rate is down 0.2 percentage point from 4.8 percent in April 2017, and down 0.6 percentage point from a year ago. Additionally, the state gained 228,000 jobs over the year, an increase of 2.7 percent. Florida's over-the-year job growth rate has exceeded the nation's rate since May 2012.

An unknown fact is that there are over 350,000 unfilled jobs throughout the State of Florida and there is an effort by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and the business community to retrain and equip those in need of a job with the skills needed to fill these high-paying jobs. As a longtime member of the Alliance Board of Directors, this is a major effort that I have been involved with and will continue to stay involved until every willing member of our community is in a great job.

In Broward County, we see year over year job growth and continued improvement in the local economy. The major industry sectors that added jobs over the year in the Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield metro area were professional and business services, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, construction, trade, transportation, and utilities and manufacturing. Broward County, with the assistance of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, continues to help companies create, expand and retain high-wage jobs, which in return help to develop more vibrant communities and improve the quality of life for our residents.

### Hurricane Preparedness

We are officially in hurricane season and now is the time to prepare. The Broward County Emergency Management Division is closely monitoring weather activities in the tropics and it is especially important that residents have their emergency plans in place. Individuals with special needs are also encouraged to make arrangements in advance, for sheltering and evacuation transportation, if needed. Following these 5 simple steps will help you in becoming prepared for this hurricane season.

Consider your shelter options and include information in your plan

1. Pre-register for important services (Vulnerable Population Registry)
2. Make arrangement for your pets (pet registration and shelter options)
3. Prepare important documents
4. Prepare equipment and collect supplies

For more information and tips on becoming prepared this hurricane season please visit [Broward.org/Hurricane](http://Broward.org/Hurricane).

You can also check out this video for even more information on what to do before, during and after a hurricane strikes South Florida.

Continued on page 13

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.

### FLL Update

Broward County and Southwest Airlines partnered to bring a new world-class experience for passengers who use Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport's Terminal 1 is now open. The new Concourse A facility is now open, bringing additional gates and the additional capacity of the world's most modern international processing facility for air travelers. The preliminary construction began in June 2015 and ended at the end of June 2017. The final phase of Terminal 1 construction will be in the summer of 2017 and will be completed by the end of this year.

The overall major goal of the project is to improve the customer experience by offering a more modern terminal that offers more international and domestic destinations through additional gates. Some of the key features include a new Customs Inspection Facility with five gates that can handle both international and domestic flights. The new facility also provides connectors for all three concourses, A, B, and C - post security, which increases concession space both post security and pre security. This project also creates one centralized security check-point for all three concourses on the ticketing level, which enhances the existing restrooms and adds new restrooms near the new centralized security checkpoint. The new facilities will also provide improved and expanded seating areas near the gates in the new Concourse A.

This \$200 million, 307,000-square-foot concourse features moving walkways, new stores and restaurants, as well as public art installations including an interactive sculptural play area. The modernization and expansion plan will eventually connect all three concourses in





### **Zika: Mosquito Control**

The rainy season has officially begun and that means more mosquitos. While there are no areas of ongoing active transmission of Zika by mosquitos in Florida, it is still important to remain vigilant about mosquito bite protection by draining all sources of standing water to keep mosquitoes from breeding and by always wearing bug repellent. The Broward County Mosquito Control Section of the Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division encourages community member to assist in keeping mosquitos from spreading the Zika virus. Besides draining, dumping standing water and covering any areas that may retain water, residents are encouraged to apply larvicide to keep mosquito larvae from developing into flying mosquitos that can bite.

If you need assistance identifying breeding habitats around your property, please contact the Broward County Mosquito Control Division at 954-765-4062, or visit [Broward.org/ZapZika](http://Broward.org/ZapZika) for more information.

The Resident's Guide to Government provides a convenient resource to help people stay connected to their local government. It includes contact information for County officials and federal, state, and local agencies. Visitors can subscribe to E-news and social media sites. Please sign up at [www.Broward.org/District4](http://www.Broward.org/District4) to receive email updates from our office. If there is anything that we can do to assist you with your vision for a better Broward, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954-357-7004 or by email at [clamarca@broward.org](mailto:clamarca@broward.org).

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

*Chip*

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# ELSS RETROFIT: ROUND TWO

By Eric Berkowitz

In furtherance of a scheme hatched by Fire Sprinkler Association lobbyists to circumvent the statutory protection afforded to associations that opted out of a sprinkler retrofit, on May 4, 2016, a state bureaucrat issued a Declaratory Statement authorizing local Fire Marshalls to demand that thousands of Florida high-rise associations retrofit a \$multi-million Engineered Life Safety System (ELSS) - an arbitrary collection of fire safety features that includes a sprinkler system.

Angered by a mercenary ploy to relegate the intent of the legislature, District 93 Statehouse Representative George Moraitis met with association officials last year to plan a response. On February 6, 2017 Moraitis issued a press release announcing his intention to file legislation "to protect condominium residents from overreaching regulation." Later that day, Moraitis filed House Bill 653, which would allow association homeowners to decide whether or not they should install a \$multi-million ELSS (which contains sprinklers) in high-rise association buildings that were code compliant when constructed and annually subjected to rigorous fire-safety inspections. The next day, Senator Kathleen Passidomo filed Senate Bill 744, a companion bill in the other chamber.

The lawmakers were joined by former Statehouse Representative and Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff. Having authored the original 2010 sprinkler opt-out legislation, her assistance as an association advocate proved invaluable. Throughout the session, Bogdanoff fended off a continuous assault by lobbyists for the Fire Sprinkler Associations (including fire marshals on their payroll).

Despite relentless efforts to defeat the legislation by powerful Sprinkler Association lobbyists, the bills were passed favorably by 3 vetting committees in the Senate and 4 in the House. Ultimately, the legislation was approved unanimously in the House and overwhelmingly in the Senate (only one Senator opposed the bill). Moraitis, Passidomo and Bogdanoff delivered on their promise.

When Senator Kathleen Passidomo met with Governor Rick Scott in early April, the Governor promised to withhold a veto if the bills were amended to require approval by 2/3 of the association's voting interests to forego an ELSS retrofit - in lieu of a simple majority. The Governor's approval criteria were immediately incorporated into the legislation. Unfortunately, he didn't keep his word.

On June 26, 2017, without informing Moraitis, Passidomo or Bogdanoff of his intention, the Governor vetoed the legislation, citing the June 14 fire at Grenfell Tower in London for his decision. Ironically, proliferation of the London fire was attributed to combustible aluminum cladding affixed to the building's exterior, which is not protected by the features that comprise an ELSS.

The next day, Bogdanoff sent the following message to the legislation's supporters (including Galt Mile officials): "I received a call last night from Rep. George Moraitis to let me know that Governor Scott vetoed the bill. The London fire clearly played a role in this decision. The loss of life there was a tragedy that gave all of us pause but it should not have had an impact on the opt-out for ELSS. Our opposition seized the moment and in an abundance of political caution, Governor Scott vetoed the bill. We lost the battle but we have not lost the war. We will regroup and press on."

Few bills ever attract the overwhelming legislative support achieved by HB 653 in 2017. Its success was primarily due to quick thinking by Moraitis and Bogdanoff during the

session and impeccable planning beforehand. Within days of the veto, Galt Mile officials received a blizzard of statewide inquiries from concerned association officials and residents, often laboring under the mistaken impression that HB 653 was their last chance to reverse this regulatory rip-off.

At a July 18, 2017 meeting with Galt Mile officials, Moraitis and Bogdanoff discussed refiling the bill for the 2018 legislative session. Although the Gubernatorial veto was a political knee-jerk reaction to the world-wide coverage of the London fire, Moraitis and Bogdanoff outlined several strategies to preclude a potential replay in 2018, including - if need be - a veto override. Although it will require additional resources, Moraitis and Bogdanoff also plan to equip themselves with authoritative substantiation for the legislation (more on this later).

Mirroring last year's successful preparation protocols, after researching the options

Continued on page 15





discussed at the meeting, those measures deemed most effective will be incorporated into the 2018 legislative strategy. To avoid tipping off the opposition, participants agreed to keep the specific meeting details confidential until that strategy is finalized (over the summer).

Here's where affected associations stand. Although the statutory deadline for initiating an ELSS permit application passed on December 31, 2016, local Fire Marshal Jeff Lucas agreed to temporarily suspend enforcing the measure through the legislative session. Since the deadline for installing the ELSS is December 31, 2019, there are two more legislative opportunities to cure this mercenary scam.

Until then, associations can only be required to initiate an ELSS permit application. Although largely undefined, some engineers have charged associations roughly \$15,000 to \$25,000 to craft plans for an ELSS. Each impacted association will also have to determine the extent to which it will help fight this questionable mandate – considering its members' \$multi-million alternative.

Following the meeting, Bogdanoff began soliciting input from lawmakers and stakeholders. In a meeting with Senator Kathleen Passidomo, the Naples Republican expressed concern about the crippling cost of an ELSS, and intimated her willingness to revisit a legislative resolution during the 2018 session. Their discussion prompted Bogdanoff to consider fleshing out the bill with an extension for the express purpose of enabling the formation of a task force charged with studying the cost and exploring alternative options.

Bogdanoff raised the prospect of adding language that bars the required inclusion of sprinklers in an ELSS crafted for an association that legally opted out, asserting that despite the broad discretion afforded to Fire Marshals, doing so arguably violates state law. Bogdanoff also reminds us that committee meetings begin in September. Since working collectively is an indispensable prerequisite for a successful outcome, associations and other supporters should contact her ASAP, especially those with a costly dog in this fight. For additional information, associations can send Ellyn an email at [ebogdanoff@bplegal.com](mailto:ebogdanoff@bplegal.com) or call her at 954-364-6005. Those who contact her will be regularly updated about the campaign's progress. This is a no-brainer – so strap up and weigh in for Round Two. •

**“Few bills ever  
attract the  
overwhelming  
legislative  
support achieved  
by  
HB 653 in 2017.”**

THE GALT MILE NEWS

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