



GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA
AUGUST 2018



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HURRICANE SEASON HAS BEGUN

TO EVACUATE OR NOT TO EVACUATE...THAT IS THE QUESTION: PAGE 3

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HURRICANE PLAN PITFALLS

Hurricane Season began on June 1, 2018. Every Galt Mile association crafted a Hurricane preparedness plan to protect its residents - and their homes. Some tailored plans borrowed from neighboring associations, adapted plans crafted by Broward County or the American Red Cross, or implemented corporate plans offered by contracted Management Companies such as First Services, Associa or Campbell Property Management.

Irrespective of the plan, prior to a storm, association staff completes a prescribed set of lock-down procedures on the premises and oversees the removal of unit owner balcony furnishings that might otherwise become wind-borne projectiles.

Evacuation Exemptions

If authorities order an evacuation, the association advises residents of the need to depart, immobilizes the elevators at a floor midway to the roof, turns off the pool pump and other nonessential amenities and dismisses employees. Associations typically announce the imminent shut down of the cooling tower and the domestic water system. However, depending on the circumstances, they may not follow through. While some residents drive inland or head to the airport and fly to safety, many stay in their homes.

Association employees are entitled to clock out when a declared evacuation begins, providing them an opportunity to prepare for the storm. In many Galt Mile associations, some employees request permission to remain on the job. There are differences in how Associations treat these requests. Some welcome the help while others are leery about the prospect of uncertain liability consequences.

When asked why she would elect to stay at work instead of going home, a security staffer in a Galt Mile association said, "The peo-

ple here treat me like family, and some of the older ones who can't leave could need my help." As a post script, she added "Also, I live alone, and I feel safer here than in my house."

The refusal of many owners to leave their homes is nothing new. Some feel safer in their apartment - protected by impact glass windows in a building rated to withstand a category 4 hurricane. In contrast, many cash-strapped elderly retirees living on fixed incomes have nowhere else to go - and can't afford to either travel or book an inland hotel room. Fearful for their safety, many shun the poorly supervised bedless shelters made available by the county. In every association, there are also some residents - often elderly - who are afflicted with medical issues that cannot be properly managed in the County's Special needs shelters.

Unless martial law is declared, evacuation orders are virtually unenforceable - comparable to a strong recommendation. This has fueled a controversy in some associations. Whether or not those who remain behind are forced to by circumstances, association officials must weigh their dilemma against the need to protect the garage-level equipment from potential damage by storm surge flooding. If the seawall is breached and motors that drive the pool equipment, the domestic water pump, the cooling tower and the elevator are left running, they could burn out or otherwise sustain systemic damage if flooded, creating a hardship for every resident until long after the storm passes.

The Irma Lesson

Broward County has two Evacuation plans. Plan A is for Category 1 or 2 Hurricanes, with winds ranging from 74-110 MPH. Coastal residents and those in mobile homes or low-lying areas - including the entire barrier island - are ordered to evacuate. If the wind speed

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

Chip LaMarca's JUNE 2018 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

**In his June 2018 LaMarca Letter, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca cautions constituents to actualize plans for the recently begun Hurricane Season and provides a list of useful online Hurricane Preparedness resources; describes having signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between Port Everglades and the Port of Limon, Costa Rica - one of four Port Everglades' International Sister Seaports - to mutually promote trade, modernization and marketing initiatives; cites statistics released by The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau that underscore substantial growth of the County's tourism economy during 2017; reviews "Passport to Broward", a 10-week Broward Academy program designed to enlighten college students as to how local government can productively impact the lives of residents and about their rights and responsibilities as citizens. LaMarca closes with a plea to participate in resurrecting the suspended Galt Mile Sun Trolley by completing a survey soliciting input useful for equipping a relaunched route with improved services, scheduling and destination sites.*

Reconfiguring the Galt Mile Sun Trolley

It appears that our City and County Commissioners released some of the same monthly messages to their shared constituencies in June, although couched in different contexts. While both of their June 2018 Newsletters open with urgent Hurricane Season exhortations, LaMarca delivers a list of preparedness resources while City Commissioner Heather Moraitis extolls FPL officials for having implemented a storm hardening plan, despite the misdirected project's failure to prevent Irma's record number of statewide power outages. They both close with a request that should resonate with Galt Mile residents - hanging on to our local community bus service - the Galt Sun Trolley

After maintaining respectable ridership statistics for years, the Galt Mile link was abandoned by local residents. The Galt Mile route was defunded by Broward County Transit (BCT) in June 2017 when ridership dipped below the official "7.1 riders per revenue hour" funding threshold. The City of Fort Lauderdale picked up the entire cost for the next six months, as notices posted on association bulletin boards intimating "use it or lose it," were apathetically shrugged off. Since Fort Lauderdale's six Sun Trolley routes collectively add a \$475,813 deficit to the current budget, on December 1, 2017, the service was frozen when an 18-month suspension was declared by the Fort Lauderdale City Commission on November 21st.

Sun Trolley officials launched a campaign to reclaim the lost patrons. As explained by Executive Director Robyn Chiarelli of the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (DFLTMA) - the Sun Trolley's parent agency, "Over the next eighteen months, the existing route as well as different route alignments and service schedules will be analyzed. The ultimate goal is to meet the unique needs of this community and to make the trolley the first choice when it comes to the trans-

portation options of our neighbors."

To that end, Chiarelli's team is harvesting feedback from Galt Mile residents to hopefully learn the adjustments needed to fatten up ridership. In March, they collected information at two Galt Sun Trolley Public Workshops held at the Beach Community Center and the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center, but the sample size was statistically negligible. If enough people complete the brief survey, that insufficiency will be remedied. Among new proposed destination sites are Trader Joe's, The Whole Foods Market, Fresh Market and other locations.

Upgrading destination sites may not reverse plummeting utilization. Often accommodating a family budget, those typically dependent on the Galt trolley were shoppers, kids, visitors, patients, students and neighbors who hate parking problems, lack a vehicle - or no longer drive. Having relinquished their driver's license (either voluntarily or otherwise) due to failing vision, slowed reflexes or lagging self-confidence behind the wheel, many elderly Galt Mile residents could still remain sufficiently mobile to assert their independence by using the Sun Trolley.

In observing "The Galt Link has historically served the senior citizen population that depends on the Sun Trolley for transportation," Chiarelli may have inadvertently stumbled on why the ridership inexplicably declined along the Galt Mile. Some years ago, the Sun Trolley began distributing a Sun Trolley Tracker App, enabling riders with smart phones, tablets and other online devices to pinpoint the exact location of every Sun Trolley city-wide.

Patrons would approximate where and when they could intercept, flag down and board any passing trolley, virtually dispensing with the need for scheduled stops. While most residents have grown comfortable using cell phone apps over the past decade, these digital utilities remain an enigma to many of our elderly neighbors. For people who spent a lifetime using a print bus schedule to time their arrival or departure to or from familiar bus stops, this new technology might have proven an insurmountable obstacle. Not surprisingly, Chiarelli is bouncing "Wave & Ride" and reimplementing fixed bus stops.

A former Vice Chair at TMA Council of Association for Commuter Transportation, Sun Trolley boss Chiarelli played leadership roles in FDOT, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA), Tri-Rail, and the South Florida Education Center Transportation Management Association. If she can somehow blend the high-tech improvements and new destination stops with the low-tech comfort zone of older residents, she may pull it off. We'll assess changes made to the Galt link when Chiarelli releases her recommendations after crunching the new data. Read the June 2018 LaMarca Letter in its entirety elsewhere in this edition - [editor]"





Chip LaMarca's

JUNE 2018 Newsletter

tional Sister Seaport Program encourages new business and trade between seaport organizations.

Along with my colleague, I had the honor of signing the MOU on behalf of Port Everglades. The MOU outlines joint initiatives the two parties will undertake and states that it is within "their mutual interest to establish an alliance of cooperation aimed at facilitating international trade and generating new business by promoting the all-water routes between" the two ports. These key joint initiatives include marketing activities, market studies, modernization and improvements, and training.

For more updates on Broward County's Port Everglades please visit PortEverglades.net.

Broward County's Tourism

Last month, I highlighted two of Broward County's major economic engines, Port Everglades (PEV) and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). Both PEV and FLL have the common asset of providing a valuable service to Broward County's third economic engine, tourism. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau has released tourism statistics for 2017.

In 2017, Broward County had an increase of 4.61 percent in visitors over 2016, with 12.8 million visitors. More than 1 million visitors overnighted in 2017, excluding Canada. This is an increase of 5 percent over 2016. Visitors stayed an average of 7.4 nights and spent more than \$2 billion in 2017. Notably, 32.5 million passengers traveled through FLL in 2017, an increase of 11.3 million over 2016, and 4.1 million cruisers visited Port Everglades in 2017, the second highest number in history.

Broward Academy VII

Broward Academy is a free, 10-week Thursday evening program (September 13th - November 15th) for college students that will help them develop a greater understanding of how local government works and makes a difference in the quality of life for residents. A civic component will be incorporated so students can better appreciate their rights and responsibilities as citizens. This year's theme is Passport to Broward - and students will get to go behind the scenes to many Broward County destinations where the public typically does not have access like the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Port Everglades, Emergency Operations Center, Medical Examiner's Office and more! Dinner is included in the program. Students can go online to learn more and complete the application. The deadline for consideration is July 27th.

Sun Trolley

After 25 years of providing Sun Trolley service to our neighbors and guests, the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA) are working together to re-imagine the City's community bus service and update it to better meet the needs of all users. The City and the TMA are conducting outreach to our neighbors within the Sun Trolley's Galt Link route to better understand the needs. This information, along with several public meetings and additional analysis, will be used to draft route recommendations that will be presented to the community for feedback in the future.

Please take a few minutes to complete a brief SURVEY to help us plan the future Sun Trolley Galt Link. For more information, call 954-TROLLEY (954-876-5539) or visit the website. Thank you for participating, your feedback is important to us.

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

Chip

The Broward County Commission meets generally on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in Room 422 of the Broward County Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. (Commission Meeting Schedule and Agenda are listed here: Broward.org/Commission/Pages/Meetings.aspx) Residents can view live coverage of the Commission meetings on Comcast Cable channels 12 and 77; Advanced Communications channels 64 and 25; AT&T U-verse channel 99, and through the County's website at broward.org/video/ The County Commission meetings are rebroadcast at 5:30 p.m. each Friday following a Tuesday Commission meeting.

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 cities, towns and villages in between. Here are some recent highlights from around Broward County:

Hurricane Season is Here!

June 1st was the official start of hurricane season and if you have not already done so, now is the time to begin preparing for any major weather event that may come our way. Broward County encourages everyone to take responsibility for your safety and that of your family, pets, and property by developing a hurricane plan now. Provided below are helpful links and information that can assist you in planning for this year's hurricane season.

- Get important public safety information before, during and after a tropical event, including readiness tips, boil water alerts, curfews, transportation updates, trash pick-ups, recovery assistance services and more by visiting Broward.org/Hurricane.
- Sign up for AlertBroward, Broward County's Emergency Alert Notification System.
- At risk residents should visit Broward.org/AtRisk for shelter options, pre-registration services, arrangements for animals and more information.
- Find out if you live in an evacuation zone.
- Find out if you live in a flood zone.
- Visit our comprehensive emergency preparedness website at Emergency.Broward.org.
- Call the Broward County Call Center at 311, or 954-831-4000, for updates and general preparedness information.

It is crucial to begin this process now before we have a major weather event in Broward County. Please be sure to use these helpful resources to keep your families and pets safe this hurricane season.

Port Everglades Update

Broward County's Port Everglades recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Port of Limon, Costa Rica, as part of its International Sister Seaport Program. Port Everglades has International Sister Seaport agreements with four seaports in Europe, Asia, and South America, and an MOU with the Panama Canal Authority and now the Port of Limón, Costa Rica. The Interna-

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AUGUST/SEPT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
			1 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4061 International Ballet Festival of Miami (Through 8/19) Hispanic Cultural Center for the Arts of Miami (111 Southwest 5th Ave.), Miami Info.: 786-747-1877
5 Dream Car Classic Downtown Hollywood 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info.: 954-825-1027 SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622	6	7 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	8 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4061
12 Farmers Market El Prado Park, LBTS 9 am to 2 p.m. Info.: 561-714-2745	13	14 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Alzheimer's Support Group BHIP Hospital 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration: browardhealth.org	15 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4061 Sea Watch Cocktails & Conversation Sea Watch Restaurant (6002 N Ocean Blvd, LBTS) 5:30 to 7 p.m. Registration: info@lbts.com
19 Farmers Market El Prado Park, LBTS 9 am to 2 p.m. Info.: 561-714-2745 Sado: Tea Ceremony Class Morikami Museum 10:15 a.m. Registration: morikami.org	20 Commissioner Heather Moraitis: Pre-Agenda Meeting Broward Health Imperial Point, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033 Palm Beach Biz Tech Expo Hilton Palm Beach Airport 1 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-838-9644	21 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	22 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4061 Dog Days at the Galleria The Galleria Mall 6 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: 954.564.1036
26	27	28 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Parkinson's Support Group BHIP Hospital 2 to 3:30 p.m. Registration: browardhealth.org	29 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4061

AUGUST 1: Caregiver and Stroke Survivor Support Group, BHIP Hospital, 11 a.m. to Noon, Registration: browardhealth.org

AUGUST 3: Friday Night Soundwaves, Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub, (Las Olas & A1A), Performer: JM & the Sweets, 6 to 9 p.m., Info.: fridaynightsoundwaves.com

AUGUST 10: Culinary Arts Showcase & Moonlit Movie: Movie: Cars 3, Jaco Pastorius Park (Oakland Park), 6:30 to 10 p.m., Info.: 954-630-4507

AUGUST 10: Friday Night Soundwaves, Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub, (Las Olas & A1A), Performer: Fireside Prophets, 6 to 9 p.m., Info.: fridaynightsoundwaves.com

AUGUST 10-12: 23rd Annual South Florida Tattoo Expo, Coral Springs Marriott, Info.: 954-868-7040

AUGUST 11: Orchid Care-Diagnosing Pests and Diseases, Bonnet House, 10 a.m. to Noon, Info.: bonnethouse.org

AUGUST 11-12: Back to School Weekend, Flamingo Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info.: flamingogardens.org

AUGUST 21: Art Roundtable-Onajide Shabaka, NSU Art Museum, Noon to 1:30 p.m., Info.: 954-525-5500

AUGUST 24: Friday Night Soundwaves, Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub, (Las Olas & A1A), Performer: Electric Piquete, 6 to 9 p.m., Info.: fridaynightsoundwaves.com

AUGUST 25: Extreme Kayak Fishing Summer SLAM Series, Pompano Beach Pier, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info.: joe@extremekayakfishing.com

AUGUST 25: Borowski at Night, Flamingo Gardens, 8 to 10 p.m., Info.: flamingogardens.org

ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

THU	FRI	SAT
2 Art of Wine & Food Series: Constellation of Wines NSU Art Museum 6 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-525-5500	3 First Friday Food Trucks Flamingo Gardens 5 to 9 p.m. Info.: www.flamingogardens.org Bank of America Starlight Musicals Performer: Brass Evolution (Classic Rock with Horn Section) Holiday Park 7 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5363	4 "Abstractions" Exhibit Broward Art Guild 6:30 to 9 p.m. Info.: 954-564-3512 Dig The Beach Volleyball Pompano Beach (Through 8/5) (222 N Pompano Beach Blvd.) Sat: 7 a.m.; Sun: 6 a.m. Info.: 561-241-3801
9 3rd Thursday Art Stroll Green Turtle Plaza, LBTS 5 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-909-2200	10 Summer Series: Turnstiles A Tribute to Billy Joel Mizner Park Amphitheatre, Boca Doors: 7 p.m., Show: 8 p.m. Bank of America Starlight Musicals Performer: Shane Duncan (Ultimate Party Band) Holiday Park 7 to 10 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5363	11 South Florida Monster Jam (Through 8/12) BB&T Center Info.: 703-448-4000 Florida Department of Health Back to School Immunization Health Fair Lauderdale Mall 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-467-4700 Ext. 4034
16 3rd Thursday Art Stroll Green Turtle Plaza, LBTS 5 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-909-2200	17 Friday Night Soundwaves Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas & A1A) Performer: Fireside Prophets 6 to 9 p.m. Info.: fridaynightsoundwaves.com Def Leppard & Journey BB&T Center 8 to 11 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	18 Rock the Dock Shooter's Waterfront 3 to 10 p.m. Info.: shooterswaterfront.com Paddle with a Purpose Rev Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park 9 to 11 a.m. Info.: 917-652-1050
23 Fort Lauderdale Career Fair Marriott Fort Lauderdale North 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 702-614-9537	24 Chefs Up Front W Fort Lauderdale Reception: 6 p.m.; Dinner: 7:30 p.m. Info.: 954-636-2388 17th Annual Hispanic Women of Distinction Signature Grand, Davie 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Info.: 954-709-1622	25 Miami Fall Home Design And Remodeling Show Miami Beach Convention Center Info.: 305-667-9299 Sunshine SUP Series Kayak Race 1 2018 Pompano Beach Pier 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 415-766-7223
30 Fort Lauderdale Career Fair Marriott Fort Lauderdale North 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 702-614-9537	31 Friday Night Soundwaves Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas & A1A) Performer: The Boss Project 6 to 9 p.m. Info.: fridaynightsoundwaves.com Amy Schumer & Friends Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 8 to 11 p.m. Tix: ticketmaster.com	1 Cool Saturdays Summer Special Bonnet House Museum & Gardens 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: bonnethouse.org

LOTS HAPPENING IN TOWN!

SEPTEMBER 6

Art of Wine & Food Series: Colors of Fall
 NSU Art Museum
 6 to 8 p.m.
 Info.: 954-525-5500

SEPTEMBER 8

25th Annual Celebrity Chefs Food Tasting & Auction
 Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
 6:30. to 10:45 p.m.
 Info.: 954-584-8000 ext. 361

SEPTEMBER 8

Davie Pro Rodeo
 Davie Pro Rodeo Arena
 7:30 p.m.
 Info.: 954-680-8005

SEPTEMBER 14-16

West Palm Beach Fall Home Show
 South Florida Expo Center - South Florida Fairgrounds
 Info.: 855-523-5311

SEPTEMBER 14-16

Asia America Trade Show
 Miami Beach Convention Center
 Info.: 305-262-3200

SEPTEMBER 15

Naked Feet 5K
 Fort Lauderdale Beach Park
 8 a.m.
 Info.: 402-218-6966

SEPTEMBER 15

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

SEPTEMBER 22

Riverwalk Fall Festival
 Esplanade Park
 Noon to 4 p.m.
 Info.: 954-468-1541, Ext. 208

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

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

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

Second Saturday of Every Month: Beach Sweep, Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub, 300 S. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info.: 954-709-3197

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

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

Sundays (through May): Farmer's Market at El Prado Park, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 561-714-2745

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

exceeds 111 MPH, as in Hurricane Category 3 or higher, a Plan B evacuation impacts all residents included in Plan A, plus those in properties east of U.S. 1 (Federal Highway). To offset unavoidable compliance delays caused by traffic jams and clogged airports, evacuations are declared five or six days before a hurricane might reach the County line.

Since National Hurricane Center (NHC) predictions about a Florida hurricane's behavior released five days before the storm's possible arrival include several prospective paths, and widely divergent wind speeds that significantly vary with the storm's possible passage over land or water, threatened jurisdictions must issue evacuation orders based on a statistically dubious worst-case scenario.

When Broward County ordered mandatory evacuations for people who live east of Federal Highway and on the barrier islands on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, thousands of Galt Mile residents fled west or north to escape Hurricane Irma, only to find themselves in the storm's shifting path, as their neighbors who remained behind were relatively unmolested. Many of those who sought sanctuary in mainland hotels, motels, or the inland homes of friends or relatives, were victimized by power outages when above ground power lines were snapped by fallen trees and hemmed in by streets made impassible by debris.

Evacuation Coin Flips

According to a Mason-Dixon poll conducted October 17 to 19, 42 percent of Floridians ordered to evacuate for Hurricane Irma stayed home. When thousands of Floridians who were mandated to evacuate were inadvertently steered into the storm, many lost confidence in government-ordered evacuations. 24 percent of those who did comply with an evacuation order said they would not do so again. Unfortunately, for those living or working in storm-threatened structures inadequately fortified against the impacts of windstorm and storm surge, this recalcitrance could prove disastrous.

Many of the problems that plagued the largest hurricane evacuation in U.S. history were rooted in fear, reporting inaccuracies and misconceptions about the danger that a hurricane actually poses to Florida homes. As observed by Palm Beach County Emergency Management Director Bill Johnson, "We have an over-evacuation problem." Of the 7,000,000 Floridians that spent an average \$1000 to seek shelter and safety elsewhere (about a third of the state's population), nearly half bolted from areas that were not under an evacuation order. While this unnecessarily intensifies traffic jams and prematurely exhausts sheltering opportunities, it doesn't explain a widely perceived disconnect between mandated evacuations and actual danger.

Since hurricanes strengthen when traveling over water and weaken over land, meteorologists agree that the greatest danger posed by Florida hurricanes is to structures in coastal communities – from storm surge – not high winds. Hurricane storm surge flooding causes more deaths than the combined impacts of windstorm and fresh water flooding (cyclonic rainfall). Storm surge is largely determined by the pre-landfall size of a storm, the speed that it's traveling, the shape of the coastline and the depth of the coastal waters.

Enigmatically, every Florida jurisdiction (including Broward County) orders evacuations based on the category of a hurricane as indicated by the Saffir-Simpson Scale, which is solely determined by wind speed. When asked how wind speed affects storm surge, James Brinkley of the National Hurricane Center's surge unit said, "There is no relationship." In 2012, Category 1 Hurricane Sandy walloped the coast with a 14-foot storm surge, while Category 4 Hurricane Charley packed less than a 7-foot storm surge in 2004.

Despite the vagaries inherent in predicting the impact of a storm 5 days before it arrives, there is no reasonable alternative, as evacuations require sufficient time for compliance. However, when jurisdictions order evacuations based on a storm's wind speed, which mischaracterizes the real threat, they justify the waning public confidence in the credibility of mandated evacuations.

For instance, in summarizing the County's basis for mandating evacuations, the online Broward County Storm Surge page states "Evacuations are needed to keep people safe from storm surge." If a storm's primary danger to residents is from water, not wind, why are evacuations triggered by a hurricane's category (wind speed)? Evidently, when the NHC altered its format to dispel the misconception that wind speed was an indicator of threatened

storm surge, most Florida jurisdictions ignored the change, and perpetuated a myth rejected by the NHC.

For years, National Hurricane Center (NHC) storm warnings bracketed the estimated range of storm surge for each hurricane category in their Saffir-Simpson Scale. Following a decade of embarrassing inconsistencies that demonstrated the irrelevance of wind speed to storm surge, the NHC eliminated those estimates in 2010. "We evacuate for storm surge, not wind," said NHC Team Leader Jamie Rhome. Although the NHC has since made available independent storm surge watch and warning advisories for underscoring evacuations, many Florida counties continued to use the boilerplate NHC Saffir-Simpson Scale wind speeds – absent storm surge estimates – to unnecessarily empty low-lying neighborhoods. When taken together with the millions of Floridians who bolt by epiphany, and typically leave safe areas to clog evacuation routes – as the man said – an over-evacuation problem.

Protecting the Association & the Vulnerable

Management companies rigidly adhere to corporate protocols when an evacuation is declared. Owners have a day or so to get out before the onsite manager dismisses the staff and cuts off the water, AC, the elevator and any amenities, leaving those who remain to their own devices through the arrival of the storm – four days later. One Galt manager disagreed with his company's inflexible Hurricane policy, claiming it states, "If owners are too arrogant to get out when ordered, they deserve what's coming to them."

Assured of anonymity, he observed, "The only reason to shut down these services is to preserve the equipment's functionality, not to punish residents who don't follow the company's orders. Turning off the equipment is the right thing to do when the building is in danger; but denying these services to people who need them even when the storm turns away and is no longer a serious threat – just because an evacuation order was given four days earlier – is just wrong."

Active storms are closely tracked by NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC). Unfolding events are recorded online within minutes, and compiled into

Continued on page 11

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Hurricane...Continued

official reports every few hours, providing those at risk with a far better perspective of the actual danger, as opposed to the five-day old threat assessment that prompted an evacuation order.

In some self-managed associations, after buttoning down the premises and announcing the evacuation order, the Administration may temporarily delay curbing the critical services. When the Broward evacuation order was declared on Wednesday, September 6, Irma was approaching Puerto Rico with 170 MPH winds and predicted to wreak havoc along Florida's east or west coast. However, since it was drained of energy by its post-landfall overland path through Collier and Miami-Dade Counties, the wind speed was cut by half, the National Weather Service dropped its storm surge assessment to 1-2 feet in Broward and Palm Beach and although still massive in scope, Irma was reduced to a Tropical Storm with occasional hurricane force gusts before hitting Broward County on Sunday, September 10.

While many association officials got out of Dodge on Wednesday and Thursday - some made arrangements to leave on Saturday - the day before Irma would reach Broward County. By delaying their departure, they could consider options based on the storm's current status, not a stale, four-day old threat assessment. It only takes a few hours to clear and lock down the elevators, shut off a domestic water pump and safely disable any cooling towers. Since they could still shut down critical services and head to shelter if the threat persisted, neither they nor the association's equipment were placed at risk by this strategy.

When one well-respected Galt Mile Board President ascertained that she was no longer obliged to interrupt critical services upon learning of Irma's deflation to a Tropical Storm, those in residence were never deprived of elevators, A/C and drinking water, unlike thousands of their Galt Mile

neighbors. As observed by Broward County Mayor Barbara Sharief after Irma passed by, "Broward County has made it through the worst of Hurricane Irma with undetermined impact, but much less than any of us would have imagined just a few days ago."

The controversy will continue, as association officials debate the viability of altering hurricane plans if and when the danger dissipates - in a manner that protects both the association and its most vulnerable residents. That said, the event may induce some association hurricane committees to take another look at their pre-storm preparations - and explore vehicles to abort disabling critical equipment resources when the NHC reports that a threat no longer exists.

Having observed how unclear city and county messages led millions of Floridians in safe areas to unnecessarily evacuate their homes, Florida Division of Emergency Management Communications Director Alberto Moscoso exclaimed "The Division strives to learn from every event," adding that state officials were looking at ways to improve evacuation plans. If this sounds familiar, it's because you've heard it before, so don't hold your breath. Next month - FPL screws the pooch. •

“ The controversy will continue, as association officials debate the viability of altering hurricane plans if and when the danger dissipates — in a manner that protects both the association & its most vulnerable residents. ”

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

District 1 City Commissioner HEATHER MORAITIS' JUNE 2018 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

**In her June 2018 Newsletter, District 1 City Commissioner Heather Moraitis commemorates the June 1st beginning of Hurricane Season by reminding residents to execute hurricane preparations while applauding an FPL plan to prevent or quickly recover from power outages. She once again encourages constituents to download the Neighbors application by Ring, a sort of community bulletin board that enables neighbors to enhance security through shared information - along with the Lauderserv App to contact the city. Moraitis asks residential waste collection customers to separately put out yard waste and bulk trash on their respective pick-up days; recruits participation in a Sun Trolley survey to configure the future Galt Mile route; and announces that City Commission meetings will resume on August 21, after the annual Summer hiatus.*

Costly FPL Fiasco

Having harvested corporate spin during her visit to the Florida Power & Light Company, Moraitis credits FPL for implementing a Storm-hardening project in response to a 2006 order by the Florida Public Service Commission - funded with \$3 billion siphoned from ratepayers. Designed to expedite the restoration of power after an outage, the FPL plan was widely criticized for not focusing on reducing the grid's vulnerability to power failures by relocating transmission lines underground. When Irma danced up the Florida peninsula, it left 90% of FPL's clientele without power, the most widespread outage in

Florida history. The FPL plan failed miserably. In a planned second bite at the apple, FPL will hammer ratepayers and municipalities for \$billions more to finally bury their power lines. Read the whole sordid story in next month's edition.

Nabbing Crooks with Neighbors App

Repeatedly recommended by Moraitis, the Neighbors App by Ring interconnects a neighborhood by providing residents with real-time security, crime alerts and safety information. Allowing for push notifications to generate alerts, the app can also display a map with info published by fellow neighbors, the Ring team, and/or law enforcement. As such, if a package was stolen from a nearby house, you would know about it. Users can post text, photos, and videos of an actual crime - or anything else they find suspicious. While helping with crime prevention, this collective information resource might also provide local police with pictures of perpetrators and/or information about their vehicles. Of course, like any social media tool, it can also be abused. An unsuspecting neighbor can be maliciously victimized by a vindictive user who manipulates input to engineer the appearance of suspicion where there is none.

Galt Sun Trolley Rescue

*After learning that Sun Trolley Executive Director Robyn Chiarelli notified Galt Mile officials that Broward County Transit (BCT) had defunded the Galt Mile Route in June of 2017, enraged residents accused BCT of malicious retribution for the neighborhood's vocal opposition to an unnecessarily prolonged, abusive BCT bus layover. While the notion resonated with many of our Galt Mile neighbors, it wasn't true. Rules governing funding eligibility for the local Community Bus Service require a minimum ridership of 7.1 passengers per revenue hour. When Galt Mile Route ridership suddenly dipped below the funding threshold, and BCT whacked its contribution, the entire burden was carried by the City until November 21, 2017, when the City Commission temporarily suspended the Galt Link through May 30, 2019. Since the Galt Sun Trolley is critically important to scores of our elderly neighbors on fixed incomes, Sun Trolley officials are working to reconfigure the route to better meet the needs of local residents. We will then either use it or lose it. To help preclude its loss to another neighborhood, please take 60 seconds to fill out the survey. Read District 1 Commissioner Heather Moraitis' June 2018 message to constituents elsewhere in this edition. - [editor]**



From the Desk of Commissioner **HEATHER MORAITIS**

June 2018

Preparing for Hurricane Season

I recently met with Florida Power & Light Company to discuss the investments they are making in our city and to discuss the importance of communication during a hurricane. FPL is ready to respond to hurricanes and severe weather, and it is important that all residents make a plan and prepare for themselves and their families, as well. Hurricane Irma was a stark reminder of why it's important to do so.

FPL coordinates storm preparation with partners across Florida to make sure there is a unified front in its storm response. Its "Ready to Respond, Together" approach to storm preparation and response is designed to help restore power to all customers safely and as quickly as possible to help get the whole state back to normal. Investing more than \$3 billion to build a stronger and smarter energy grid paid off for customers during Hurricane Irma – shaving days off the restoration. The company restored service to 1 million customers before the unprecedented hurricane even exited Florida. After one full day of restoration, it had restored service to 2 million customers.

That said, FPL understands that it learns from each and every storm and has worked on ways to improve how it communicates to customers regarding restoration information, which includes estimated times of restoration. Additionally, the company continues to work with counties, cities, communities and customers to help them understand the importance of planting the right tree in the right place. Please note that the number one cause of outages in Irma was trees falling and debris blowing into power lines. FPL also reports that underground power lines performed better than overhead power lines during Hurricane Irma. As another lesson learned, the company has begun a pilot program to cost-effectively underground portions of neighborhood power lines to enhance reliability in good weather and bad.

Throughout the year, the company provides information to customers to help them prepare for storm season and communicates with them throughout a severe weather event. FPL.com/storm features storm checklists and other information to help customers prepare and develop their own storm plans. When a real storm strikes, FPL will provide updated restoration time estimates and other progress reports in the locations listed below:

- FPL Storm Center (www.FPL.com/storm)
- Twitter (www.twitter.com/insideFPL)
- Facebook (www.facebook.com/FPLconnect)
- FPL's Power Tracker (www.FPL.com/powertracker)
- Download the FPL mobile app in the Apple App Store or Google Play, or by texting the word "app" to MyFPL (69375)

Please take the necessary precautions to prepare for storm season. Visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/hurricane to learn more about preparing an emergency plan; assembling a disaster supply kit; steps to take before, during and after a storm; preparations to protect property, boats, and pets; generator safety; procedures for those with special needs; and much more. Stay in touch throughout the season by calling 954-828-5900 for updates on operations.

Sincerely,
Heather Moraitis

Neighbors App by Ring

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department encourages our neighbors to download the Neighbors application (iOS/Android), join their neighborhood and discover the power that can emerge from combining neighbors, cameras and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. Visit www.flpd.org/ring to learn how to download the Neighbors app by Ring.

City of Fort Lauderdale 24-Hour Customer Service Center 954-828-8000

The City of Fort Lauderdale is here to serve our neighbors 24-hours-a-day, and now you can easily contact us right from your smartphone or other mobile device when you are on-the-go.

You can report a streetlight outage, clogged stormdrain, pothole, or broken waste cart; find out your sanitation pick-up days or how to pay your water bill; and more. Download the FREE Lauderserv app from the Apple App Store or Google Play today.

Sun Trolley

The City of Fort Lauderdale and the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA) are working to re-create the City's transportation service so that it would better fit the needs of the community. The City and the TMA are reaching out to our neighbors within the Sun Trolleys Galt Link route to understand what their needs might be. All the information that we receive will be used to draft a route recommendation that will be presented to the community for any feedback.

Please take a few minutes to complete a brief SURVEY to help us plan the future Sun Trolley Galt Link. For more information, call 954-TROLLEY (954-876-5539) or visit the website. Thank you for participating, your feedback is important to us.

Commission Break

The commission will break from July 11th through August 20th. District 1 office assistant, Melissa Coningsby, will be available to meet with anyone about any constituent concerns until Commissioner Moraitis returns to the office on Monday, August 13th.

Telephone Town Hall Meeting

District 1 City Commissioner Heather Moraitis hosts a Telephone Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, August 22nd from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. If you do not receive a call, or would like to dial into the Telephone Town Hall Meeting from your cell phone, simply call the designated toll-free phone number (844-881-1317) at any time during the Meeting.



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