

# Fort Lauderdale City News




## FORT LAUDERDALE FACING EXPENSIVE NEW POLICE CONTRACT

**More than half of the cops get over \$100,000 per year**

by Steve Kelley, publisher

It's no secret that Fort Lauderdale's taxpayers are, along with those in other Broward cities, besieged with ever higher property taxes and home insurance costs, gas prices, FPL costs, higher water prices and more. No wonder taxpayers are feeling assaulted at every turn and are angry. The legislature's property tax reduction efforts will give us only minimum relief with the average homeowner saving a mere \$174 per year.

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This billboard on Sunrise Blvd. is a good example of the myth of underpaid police officers. What the sign conveniently leaves out is that many cops make over \$100,000 per year in wages and benefits. Around a third of our police make over \$150,000 per year. The sign is part of a cruel pattern of deceit, misinformation and out right lies to extort more and more taxpayer dollars. If the cops are so poor, where did they get the \$8,000 for this sign?

## AN UPDATE ON TOLL ROADS, HURRICANES, AND WATER CONSERVATION

By Kristin Jacobs  
Broward County Commission –  
District 2

Now is that time of the year when we are bombarded with information on hurricane and emergency preparedness. I would like to add a couple ideas which you may like to include in your emergency plan.



### Provide information now

Following Hurricane Wilma's arrival in Broward County on October 24, 2005, thousands of family members could not reach loved ones. Emergency management personnel were dealing with frantic calls from family members attempting to determine if a love one was well or in need of assistance. It is a great help to our first responders if you make sure your family and friends know you are fine. If you leave your home, let your neighbors or condominium leaders know you have left and let them know how to reach you. Consider providing a family member or friend, living in another area, a phone list of people who need to know you are safe. You can then call one or two people who can in turn let the other people on your list know you are in safe hands, where you are and how to reach you. It is also important you keep your cell phone charged and have a means of recharging the battery. Home phones which connect directly to the phone line and don't go through an answering machine or charger are also very important to your personal safety.

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The Fort Lauderdale City News is published monthly by City News and serves the 176,000 residents of Fort Lauderdale. Stephen M. Kelley, publisher, can be reached at (954) 564-1308.

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# INVASION OF THE IGUANAS – MONSTERS ON THE MOVE!

by M.E. DePalma,  
954-563-2148

A few months ago we featured an article called "Iguanas in the Landscape." The many letters and calls we received from readers besieged by the big lizards have motivated us to take another look at what is now referred to as "The Iguana Invasion."

Green iguanas are not native to



the United States. This places wild green iguanas in the category of "invasive" or "exotic" species - non-native species that have been introduced into a new habitat and which often cause damage to the ecosystem. Think of the invasion as a 4 - point attack – Foraging, Digging, Excrement, and Expansion.

According to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UFIFAS) green iguanas in Florida feed on shrubs, trees, landscape plants, orchids, and fruits such as figs, mangos, berries and tomatoes. One large iguana taking up residence in a yard can decimate ornamental vegetation. If you are a gardener, there is nothing quite like waiting all year for your orchid to bloom and have it disappearing overnight as some iguana's appetizer. There is no effective repellent that will prevent them from devouring an entire hibiscus or rose bush in a day. Neem oil worked for a while. Garlic guard has worked for some but for other iguanas it just gave an Italian flavor to their meal. You're left with planting things they won't eat...yet. Currently, you can safely have gardens filled with milkweed, rosemary, oleander, croton and citrus.

In addition to destroying your landscaping efforts, several residents have written about iguanas digging nesting burrows that can undermine foundations, sidewalks, and sea walls. Because iguanas often prefer to defecate in or around water, it is not uncommon for an iguana to use a private pool as a defecation area. "We seem to be overrun with them", wrote Wilton Manors resident, Carol Wise. "They are ruining my dock and

landscape. My dog has started to attack them, shake them to death and then bring them in his doggy door as a surprise for mommy. Have you any safe and sure way to get rid of these guys", she asked. We asked her to lend us her dog. Then, warned her to tell her dog that the odiferous iguana feces may harbor Salmonella bacteria.

Large adults may be aggressive towards people and pets if they feel threatened. "This is like Jurassic Park, only the dinosaurs are smaller", said Dane Hancock, who lives in the Las Olas Isles.

His observation mirrors that of many other residents who reside on waterfront property in Broward County. The spike in the population

of the iguana is due to its reproductive propensity and the lack of predators. One male can court several females who can each produce up to 50 eggs in each hatch and they are mating like mad! Predators like raccoons, fish crows, vultures, feral pigs, snakes, hawks, owls, and egrets might diet on the eggs or young hatchlings. Yet, many of these are not found in the heart of a city. In their native environment, large predators like ocelots, pumas, jaguars, anacondas, boa constrictors and people eat adult iguanas. We haven't seen any pumas roaming in our yard, which means the only significant large predator we have to help curb the population is human.

Denise Fox, a nine-year resident of the Tarpon River neighborhood, appealed for help to elected officials at a recent Fort Lauderdale City Commission meeting prompting the city to send a letter to the county and state asking for enforcement. "One or two in the backyard nine years ago seems kind of fun," she said. "Now we've got 40 or 50 of them." Mayor Jim Naugle told her that animal control, which includes iguanas, is Broward County's bailiwick. "I don't know what the city itself could do," he said, "Have an iguana patrol or iguana officers?" He told her it's up to individual property owners to take care of the problem. Fox said she is continually referred to trappers, who charge \$25 to \$50 to capture one iguana.

So much for expecting more support in this crusade. What about creating laws that control importation of exotic species? How about requiring iguana owners to spay or

neuter their pets so that if they do get loose, they won't contribute to the feral iguana population? What about funding research for sterilization procedures to curb the population?

We already have some laws in the books that deal with iguanas mostly to protect them. Iguanas are considered exotic unprotected wildlife, so they can be captured and removed from private property at any time without special permits. However, anticruelty laws apply; only live traps and snares are legal in the State of Florida. In addition, it is illegal to release iguanas in Florida\*\* so you will have to find a willing pet dealer to take them. After capturing 20 iguanas off of our dock, our local pet dealer no longer wishes to see us.

How about fining those who FEED them? Feeding them only encourages them to stay around, so don't do it.

Iguanas are getting so prolific that

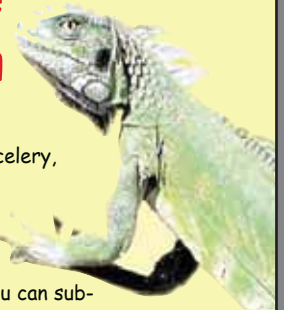
if you go to any waterfront restaurant, you are certain to see them waiting for morsels of your meal. If we cannot get support from the state, maybe it's time to put them on OUR menu.

Also known as "Caribbean Chicken", "the meat of adult iguana and the eggs are eaten and considered a delicacy throughout their native range. In Bonaire the sick and the elderly are encouraged to eat "Yuana Stobá" (Iguana Stew) which is said to have health benefits. It is also believed that if a man eats it, he will have "hopi forsa" (much strength) and it is also rumored to be a cure for impotence. Now, that should get some attention. Here is one of the many recipes you can find on the Internet.

Bon Appétit.

\*\*39-4.005 Florida Administrative Code

## Yes, iguana does taste like chicken



According to Boi, a former chef at one of Bonaire's hotels, the main use of iguana is for "sòpi di yuana" or iguana soup. It tastes just like chicken soup and the meat is very soft and tender. But if you use a

very large, old iguana it will be like using a large, old chicken: tough.

### Iguana for strength

Locals also believe that sòpi di yuana and "yuana stobá" (iguana stew) are good for the health. They encourage sick or old people to eat it to get stronger. There is also the belief that if a man eats a lot of iguana he will have "hopi forsa" or much strength. Contrary to what many people believe, iguana is not an endangered species and "sòpi di yuana" is a traditional food for special occasions on Bonaire.

### Cooking it

You can cook the iguana with or without the skin. But if you leave the skin on, you must clean the iguana like you clean both a chicken and a fish. You dip it in hot water like you would to remove the feathers from a chicken and you must then scrape it to remove the scales, as you would a fish. maybe this is why Boi prefers it without the skin. he says it tastes better, too.

### Boi's recipe

#### Ingredients:

- One iguana (at least two feet (60 cm) long prepare and cut up as described below)
- One can whole Italian tomatoes
- One large onion, chopped

- Three stalks of celery, chopped
- Three tablespoons of Yerba Hole, chopped. you can substitute basil for Yerba Hole which is a local herb
- Three medium potatoes, diced
- Two cups of iguana stock (or substitute chicken or turkey stock)
- About six ounces (200 gm) fine noodles
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### Preparation:

- First**, catch your iguana! This can be done with a long pole with a noose at the end or, if you are quick enough, with your hands.
- Next**, clean it well (see above).
- Cut** the iguana into pieces about two inches (5 cm) long.
- Put** the iguana in a large pot, cover well with water and simmer for about one hour or until the meat becomes soft. Skim the surface several times.
- Add** tomato, onion, yerba hole, celery, noodles and stock.
- Simmer** until the vegetables and noodles begin to soften.
- Add** the potatoes and cook another ten minutes.
- Add** salt and pepper to taste

Serve hot with bread, crackers or funchi (cornmeal pudding).

**Bon appetit!**

© Jong Bonaire 2001



### Database of vulnerable residents

Broward County in cooperation with our cities has launched a Vulnerable Population Registry to help emergency workers better help Broward County residents who are disabled, frail or have health issues. The new Registry is for residents who do not qualify for a Specials Needs Shelter, or choose not to evacuate to a shelter, but consider themselves vulnerable. During previous hurricanes, first responders reacted to calls for help from residents who found coping with an emergency difficult. Some residents were unable to find supplies and were in need of groceries or medications. Others were trapped in multi-story buildings with no working elevators and unable to travel up and down stairs to secure essential provisions. Residents may register online at: <http://www.broward.org/atrisk/> or call 954-831-4000. All your information will be held in strict confidence, as required by federal law. Register now, if this service is important to you; not when a storm threatens. Early registration will ensure you receive the help you requested.

### Privatizing public roads

On a totally separate issue, I thought you would like to know our state officials are planning to pilfer our wallets through a device they are cleverly calling the creation of "managed lanes" on I-95. Plans are moving forward to convert High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) lanes on I-95 beginning at I-595 and continuing south through Miami-Dade County to "managed lanes." The amount of the toll you must pay will vary depending on the amount of traffic on the roadway at any given time. The term "managed lanes" sounds like it should help traffic flow. However, the toll lanes will force even more traffic on to even fewer lanes without tolls. This will further clog our roadway - unless of course you pay the toll. In addition, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has applied for Federal dollars, which if received, will assist in the construction of the new lanes. If that is not enough, FDOT is aggressively proceeding with efforts to privatize portions of our public highways.

On June 19, 2007, Governor Crist signed a bill authorizing the State to

lease our public toll roads to private corporations for up to 75 years.

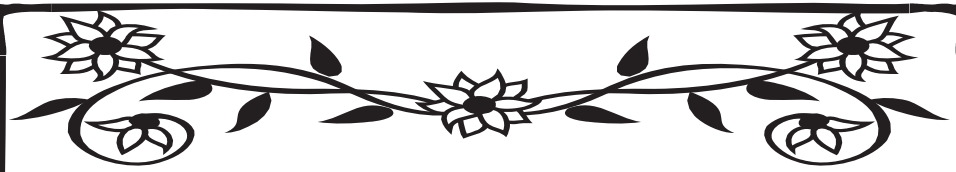
Controversy has followed similar proposals in other states across the nation. Private investment companies, including U.S. firms and international consortiums, find the guaranteed revenue attractive to stockholders. The State usually benefits from an immediate infusion of cash. However, to meet investor demands, California drivers have found tolls often increase at rates far exceeding usual practice by public entities.

Additionally, contracts must be carefully crafted to avoid debacles which kept some states from maintaining existing roads or creating nearby highways which might lead drives away from corporately managed tolls roads. It makes one wonder how a corporation would deal with a loss of revenue if tolls were lifted in the event of a hurricane, which has been the usual practice of state officials in the event of an emergency. I am on the record as adamantly opposed to the privatization of our road system. I urge you to learn more about this issue and share your opinion with state officials too.

### Water Conservation Class

As Broward County is likely to approve permanent year-round limitations on water use to assist in water conservation, you might like to take advantage of a unique opportunity to learn more about collecting this precious resource in rain barrels. A one-day class on "Water Conservation through Rain Barrels" will be held on July 27 beginning at 2 p.m. at the Extension Education Building, 3245 College Avenue, in Davie. The class is free, but restricted to Broward County residents. You can call Gloria Witkus at 954-370-3725 for complete information.

For more information on these issues or any of the services and programs available to residents of Broward County, please give me a call at 954-357-7002 or send an email to: [kjacobs@broward.org](mailto:kjacobs@broward.org).



## Wilton Manors Nursery

Visit us at our great new location at 2430 NE 13th Avenue, right behind Old Florida Seafood on 26th Street.

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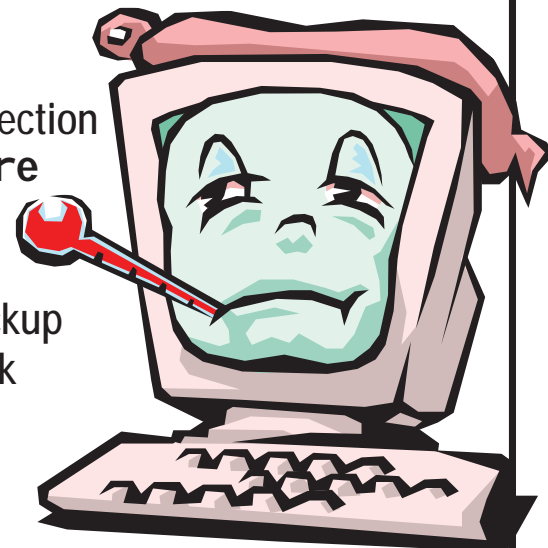


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**Police Contract -**  
*Continued from page 1*

Now, negotiations for a new police contract have begun with the Police Benevolent Association (a nice name for the cop's union) preparing a long list of extravagant demands when our police are already extremely well compensated. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department already gets around 50% of our \$522 million budget.

Wilton Manors is a recent cautionary tale as Mayor Scott Newton, Commissioners Angelo and Galatis completely caved in to virtually all the PBA's demands no matter how outrageous or extreme. The average cop in Wilton Manors now gets around \$135,000 per year in wages and benefits; that's up from around \$100,000 last year. And that's with just a high school education. Overtime drives up compensation even more. Wilton Manors police have been notorious in milking overtime which led to the sorry exit of their police chief in 2006.

Current Wilton Manors' police benefits include generous pensions with 3% annual COLA, all-you-can-eat health care, take home cars and much more. This new contract is literally pushing the city to bankruptcy.

The vote in Wilton Manors reflects a general trend of the racheting up of alarming and irresponsible increases in pensions for government employees in recent years.

A spreadsheet showing police officer's wages and benefits from the 2006 budget can be seen at <http://www.citynewsfl.com/islandcitynews.html>. Take a look and you'll be astonished to see how well their police were paid before the new contract takes effect on July 1, 2007.

What went on in Wilton Manors is important as the city purposely avoided paying their cops more than the police in Fort Lauderdale. Fort Lauderdale police stand to get huge raises if the PBA is successful once again. They hardly ever lose but taxpayers do.

**Negotiations - Just the bucks, ma'am  
How things work.**

The PBA's role is to extract as much money and as many costly benefits as it can from the city. In other words, the PBA's mission is to separate you from as many of your tax dollars as possible. But you should be aware that, due to its innate role, the Police Union is not looking out for you.

The city's role, on the other hand, is to negotiate with the PBA and try to reach agreement on a contract that is fair, reasonable, balanced, and fiscally sound. In other words, the duty of the city officials is to hammer out a contract

that will keep the city's finances sound and not break the bank.

If you followed these "negotiations" you saw some ugly stuff. Wilton Manors residents witnessed many heavy handed and deceitful tactics during the "negotiation" process over the last year and a half.

The PBA sent out a big postcard the showing about 10 cops they depicted as "beggars" and thus deserving of big raises.



In fact, half the police in the photograph were making well over \$100,000. The other half were making \$70-80,000 a year.

Another mailing actually compared Wilton Manors proposed new city hall, and police station, to the Taj Mahal? They said it would be too expensive and, incredulously, that it would take away money from a new police contract. The union did not care if the police remained in their cramped and badly out of date building as long as the police could get the money instead.

At one point in closed door negotiations the union found out that the city would have an extra \$1.3 million in an upcoming budget. The union said, "We want all of that!" They gave absolutely no reason for this demand. They ended up with \$600,000 of the \$1.3 million and, believe it or not, were actually unhappy.

In watching the negotiations, I came to believe the PBA literally did not care what happened to the city, even if it was bankruptcy, as long as they got more and more money and benefits.

Now, these same five negotiators are in Fort Lauderdale eagerly pointing to Wilton Manors and their high contract claiming Fort Lauderdale will lose it cops to better paying cities.

Many of Broward's 31 cities are buckling under the burdensome expense of their police departments. Most recently, Hollywood publicly aired its serious problems involved in paying ever higher police salaries and benefits.

**The Cherry on the Cake:**

New hires at the famous New York City Police Department start at \$25,000 per year. In early June, New York's Suf-

folk County held a recruiting drive to attract police applicants. Known for its high police salaries (similar to Fort Lauderdale), a staggering 29,300 potential recruits paid a \$100 application fee just to take an entrance exam.

Will Fort Lauderdale cops quit if they don't get a fat new contract? I doubt it; where else can you make \$100,000 a year with a high school education?

In the end, I take no pleasure in criticizing the police and their union. We need our police for obvious reasons and we want them to do a good job and be happy in their work. But you, dear taxpayer, need to decide what is fair compensation for our police officers. Most residents feel they are very well paid and undeserving of endless increases in wages and benefits.

Is \$100,000 a year in wages and benefits fair? Is \$150,000 per year better? \$200,000? As you read upcoming articles explaining this new contract and its costs, remember that it's you who pays for it.

**Fun fact #1:** Average household income in Broward County is \$55,000 a year.

**Fun fact #2:** Our young men who are dying in Iraq make under \$30,000 per year.

**Fun fact #3:** Governor Crist makes \$133,000 per year.

Letters to the editor on this subject are invited. Email them to: [letters@citynewsfl.com](mailto:letters@citynewsfl.com)

**OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS SHOULD HOLD THE LINE ON THE HIGH COST OF THE POLICE**

Believe it or not, we have a mayor and a city commissioner who should be protecting the interests of taxpayers.

When you write a letter to your city commissioner, it is copied and all commissioners and the mayor see it in their packets each Monday morning.

Commissioner Christine Teel is busy telling people she's running for mayor in March, 2009.

Others on the commission will either be running re-election or for other office next year.

Tell your Mayor, Jim Naugle and your City Commissioners what you think about the cost of police department. Ask for their help.

They'll want our votes in the next election and should be helping us now.

The mayor and all city commissioners can be reached at:

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**TAKE A SURVEY REGARDING YOUR GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNELS**

As a result of the new Florida cable legislation, Cities and Counties around the State will lose their government access channel unless they increase the amount of programming those channels carry. Wilton Manors for example, does not currently carry any programming on its Access Channel other than messages as to activities occurring within the City and other information for the benefit of residents. Comcast will not be required to carry Channel 78 unless the City creates new programming. Such other programming may include City Commission meetings, programs explaining City services, and other programs dealing with federal, state, and local events and services, public safety, and educational programs. It will likely cost cities more money to produce and to obtain such programs.

**The question we would like you to answer:**

Would you support your City spending money to produce and to obtain programming for its government Access Channel or would you prefer that the City discontinue the Channel?

**Please respond via e-mail to [letters@citynewsfl.com](mailto:letters@citynewsfl.com) and indicate which City you live.**



# Arts Showcase

Dedicated to  
the Arts

## art in time

by Monica Adele Harris

Fine art is generally universal and timeless, with enduring appeal through the ages and across cultures. The works of Michelangelo and Beethoven retain their impact from generation to generation throughout the world.

Advertising art, by contrast, is art set in time: it must capture the cultural psyche of the moment and is demographic-specific.

The relevance of the geico.com campaign, with its walking, talking gecko and insolent cavemen would hardly have made sense to the audiences of the 50's, who responded to commercials for Brillcream, with its slogan, "A little dab'll do 'ya."

Consider our present "hot" ad campaigns. Do you struggle to know what they are selling? This abstract approach must not only be effective in moving product and service, but entertaining as well to the educated, sophisticated, media-savvy consumer of the new millennium.

But despite its sole purpose- to sell- make no mistake, high-end advertising IS art. It must speak directly to the mentality of its intended audience, and it must do so clearly and powerfully to gain attention amidst the glut of media, from broadcast to billboard to bus wrap

Beyond selling every imaginable item, from autos to herpes medication,

advertising art affects our consciousness, informing our vision of who we are (or supposedly should be) what we need, what we ought to aspire to. It provides a sense of identification, promotes racial and ethnic integration and even the occasional humanitarian spin.

Commercial art offers unlimited opportunities for creative talent: graphic designers, illustrators, copywriters, actors. They find, in the vast world of agencies, printing companies, publishing houses and broadcast stations, jobs with incomes and stability most fine artists know nothing of.

Many commercial artists fulfill their financial needs in such positions while practicing their "fine" art on the side, with the secret hope that someday they will match their regular paycheck doing what they really want to do with their talent.

Yet commercial art is not a compromise for everyone. From fashion design to haute cuisine, many gifted creatives find the mercenary application of their talent provides both artistic satisfaction and financial security. The idea of being a "sellout" doesn't disturb them and the idea of being a starving artist holds no aesthetic value for them.

In the glorious array of "creative industries" there exist lucrative and rewarding opportunities for artists with a pragmatic bent.

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### Call to Florida artists for Bus Shuttle ArtWrap Project at Airport

Broward County Commission's Cultural Division Public Art and Design Program is seeking to commission a Florida professional artist to create an original design for the consolidated Rent Car Center (RCC) Shuttle Fleet ArtWrap project at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The deadline for application is August 24, 2007.

The RCC Shuttle Fleet ArtWrap Project is open to professional artists working in any media who reside in Florida. Media includes, but is not limited to, the traditional fine arts, multimedia arts and design arts.

An artist will be selected to create an original and vivid design that is reflective of the unique characteristics of Broward County's community. The selection of themes, colors, and forms shall be inclusive of the values, culture, diversity and history of the many faces in the County. The selected design, which will be featured on buses comprising the shuttle fleet system that transports visitors to and from all airport terminals to the RCC facility located at the east entrance of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, shall serve as a welcoming remark to Broward County visitors. The design will be reproduced to cover the entire length of a standard 40 ft. long, low-floor transit bus.

The total budget for the design phase and implementation oversee of the design is not to exceed \$15,000. The following activities may be required: design, computer design, community interaction and educational outreach. The budget includes all costs, i.e., research, community and agency meeting costs, design, materials, insurance, proposals, travel, sales tax and transportation.

To see the full version of this Call, please visit the Broward Cultural Division's website at <http://www.broward.org/arts/pad/calls.htm>.



# Can You Afford to Buy Art?

What have you spent your discretionary income on in the past year?

Dinners out? Entertaining? Traveling? Going to concerts, movies, the theatre?

Whether you planned these personal "indulgences" carefully or acted on impulse, you did spend a percentage of your financial resources on recreation, rather than necessity.

Why not buy art?

A chosen piece of art brings lasting pleasure. It enhances your home environment for you, all who live there and those who visit. Your selection of art gives insight into who you are for others to contemplate.

When you purchase art, you make a statement about your deepest values; those that reach beyond the mundane or the strictly material.

You support those artists who have the courage to delve into their visions and share them without restraint to enrich the lives of others, and in doing so,

you, too, become a part of their artistic pursuit and are conjoined in the arts "world."

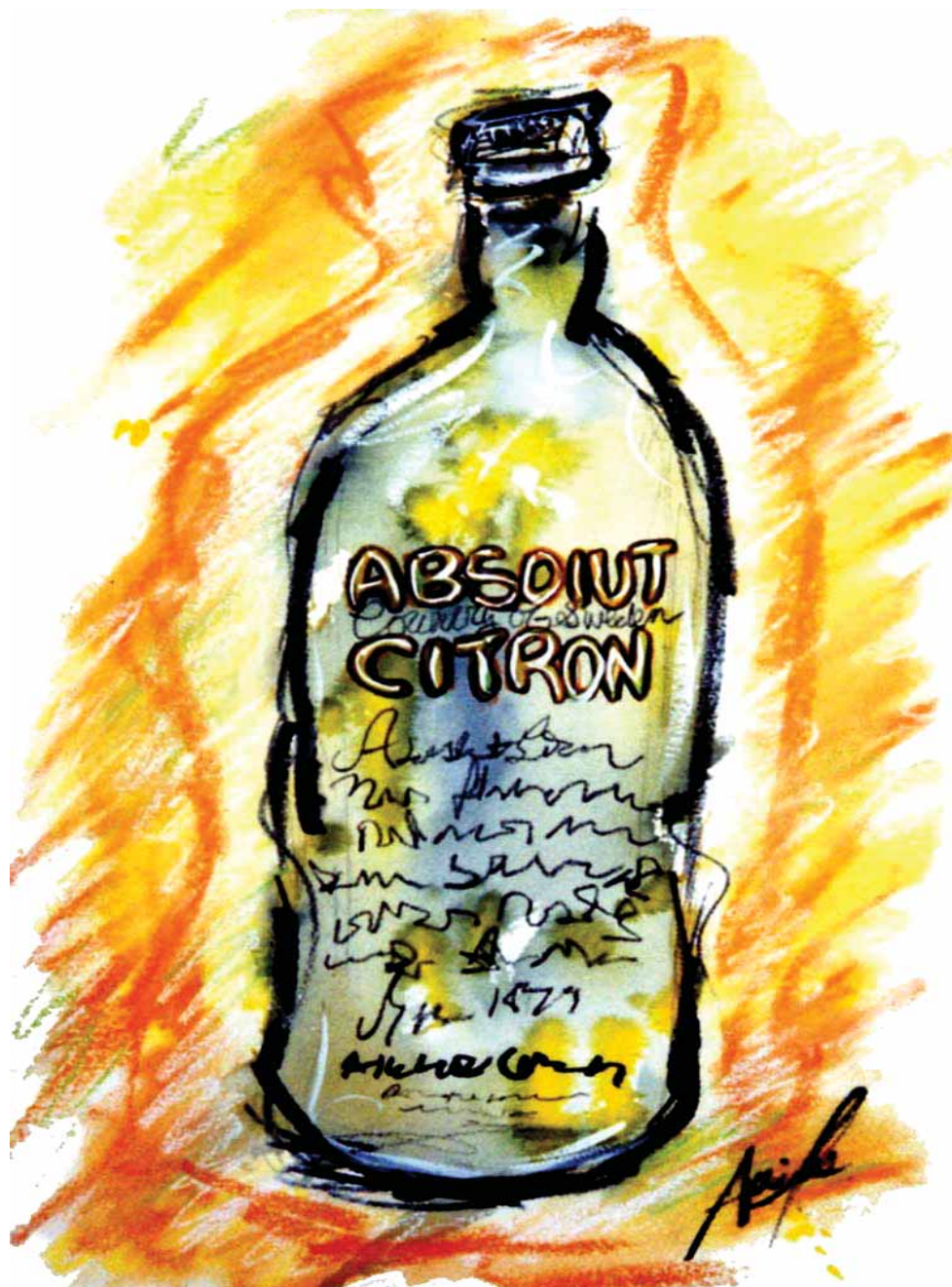
The satisfactions to be derived by purchasing art are significant. But can you afford it?

Whether your budget for "discretionary" purchases this year amounts to three digits or nine, the answer is yes!

So go out this month and visit your local galleries and museums. Attend the events being offered. Ask questions. Define your taste in art.

Purchase. Or plan to purchase. Talk with the artists and gallery owners and get contact information on those artists you love. If you can't buy today, buy tomorrow.

But don't deprive yourself the joy of owning original art. Your lasting treasures will bring you enduring pleasures. The works you possess can be passed along through your family for generations or they might prove a sound investment. Whatever your intention, indulge yourself in art!



Artwork by April Anselona (954) 328-7578

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### Steel, Oil and Legal Precedent

By Monica Adele Harris

The brilliant flash of the plasma cutter penetrated the seeming invulnerable steel, sputtering sparks in all directions of the warehouse.

In this dark area, cluttered with railroad ties, slabs of stone and manicured tools, esquire Frederick Goldstein transforms massive elements into tender renditions of his deep compassion for humanity.

"I hate waste. I hate discrimination. I hate abuse of authority."

Not your average attorney-speak. Not your ordinary lawyer. Or artist.

For decades, Fred Goldstein has practiced law that benefits the disaffiliated while setting precedents that mark the difference between controversy and conviction.

His recent donation to the city of Dania, "Returning Soldier," will become part of the sculpture park of City Hall. It is a haunting tribute to slanders of war.

"...This is an outgrowth of my feelings about those giving their lives and making sacrifices," says Goldstein, his enduring smile compensating for the painful truth of the matter.

In his pristine condo overlooking the blue waters of the Atlantic, towering metal sculptures are contrasted by the muted tones of his oils.

This disparity of form seems incongruous. How can a man shift from the hallways of power, practicing law that benefits the common man, to the cold steel of these looming images, to the soft, patient movements of greens and apricots across their canvas homes?

The Art of Reason. Fred Goldstein.



Lila the Mermaid  
by John Patrick Kelly  
See more at [www.artexpressions.tk](http://www.artexpressions.tk)





# Do You Buy Art?

If you purchase art, contact us to be included in our "VIP Only" Invitation list to be included in upcoming events!

Arts Showcase  
Monica Adele Harris  
(954) 588-4970  
monica@citynewsfl.com



Photography by Ed Regan,  
(561)-706-9999

## "Portraits & Self-Portraits" Exhibit at Broward Art Guild

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## ArtServe Updates:

[www.artserve.org](http://www.artserve.org)

"The Red Eye"  
Runs: July 16th- Aug 10th  
Opening Reception :  
July 27th (6-9p.m.)  
at the ArtServe Gallery  
1300 E. Sunrise Blvd.  
Ft. Lauderdale

## ArtsEXPRESS

FREE Performing Arts Series  
Children's Ballet Theatre  
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Artwork by April Anselona,  
(954) 328-7578, [aprilart@aol.com](mailto:aprilart@aol.com)

## WWW.SOURIS THIS!

[artexplosiononline.org](http://artexplosiononline.org)  
[browardartguild.org](http://browardartguild.org)  
[artexpressions.tk](http://artexpressions.tk)  
[museumofart.org](http://museumofart.org)  
[galleryguide.org](http://galleryguide.org)  
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Arts Beat On Friday  
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# Arts Showcase

## Career College in our Own Backyard!

The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, established in 1968 in the ground floor of the once famous Holiday Inn on Las Olas Blvd. (now a parking lot), is an accredited applied arts college on 17th Street Causeway where for almost 40 years, industry professionals teach design, technology, media arts, culinary arts, and fashion design where career outcomes are measured and graduates are revered. In 2005, 94.4% of the college's graduates were employed in the field related to their program of study within six months of graduation.

A variety of associates and bachelors degree programs, as well as several one-year diploma degrees are offered including Advertising, Animation Art & Design, Media Arts & Animation, Broadcasting, Culinary Arts, Digital Filmmaking and

fashionable garment, an advertising or graphics campaign, a residential rendering, a video game, a digital documentary, a culinary feast, a commercial photograph, an animated short, a car, and much more! Mix, mingle and exchange creative ideas with a diverse student body who share the same passion and excitement in design, media, fashion, and culinary arts.

The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale's mission is to train individuals for careers in the applied arts in an atmosphere that encourages creative endeavor and intellectual pursuit. A member of The Art Institutes system of schools, The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale regularly enhances its curriculum to keep up with industry demands and trends for employment.

Registration is in progress now for Summer and Fall classes. Contact



John Bowen, artist, Monica Harris, Arlene Wites

Video Production, Fashion Design, Fashion Merchandising, Game Art & Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Industrial Design, Interactive Media Design, Interior Design, Photography, Visual Effects & Motion Graphics, and Video Production. Imaginative and artistic individuals seek skills and experience to enter a creative career, whether it's their first time or a career change. There are opportunities for students to give back to the community working on designs for non-profits and community organizations such as Broward General Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Shoes for the Soul, and Bonnet House.

Design an interactive web site, a

954.463.3000 or [www.aifl.edu](http://www.aifl.edu).

If you've got the passion...

The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale can help you make a career of it.

Contact:

Arlene Wites  
Director of Communications  
The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale

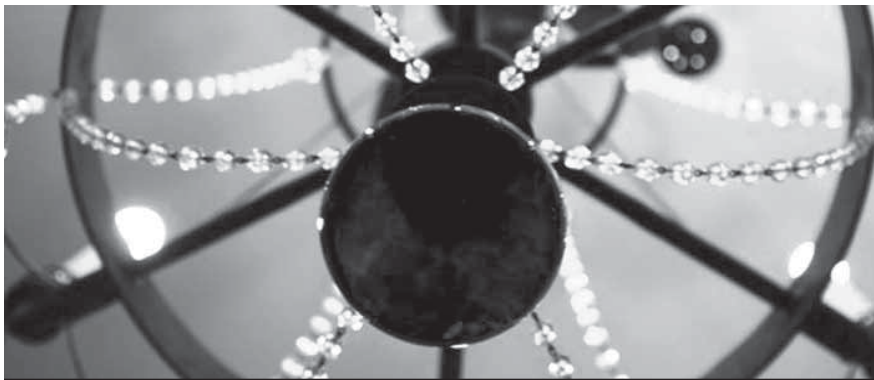
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"White Wicker" Watercolor by John Bowen (954) 370-2061



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# Another Day in Paradise

## Yin-Yang of Life.

by Dan McCarty

The ancient Chinese had a philosophy known as Yin-Yang, where the world is made up of two conflicting energies. It is the interaction of these energies that cause everything to happen. In other words, for every good thing there is an offsetting bad thing and vice versa. In the philosophic circles I travel in, sometimes known as the Church of Jerry Seinfeld, we refer to this as the Even-Steven principle. The reason I mention this is because South Florida is lousy with examples of Even-Steven.

For example, in the winter we get to enjoy gorgeous seventy degrees days with balmy breezes and cool nights. The counter, of course, is the month of July, where we get to enjoy humidity approaching being underwater and heat capable of burning asbestos. See? Even-Steven.

Another example of this principal is the crowd factor. In the winter, we are mashed together with snowbirds from

every civilized country in the world, and also Quebec. In the summer, we each have our own personal mall. Even-Steven.

In the winter, our favorite trendy restaurants get to treat us like peas-



ants, chuckling sarcastically upon learning we did not make a reservation two weeks in advance. In the summer, we can show up at Mark's without a reservation on Saturday night with no shirt, no shoes and get 50% off our dinner.

Even-Steven.

In the winter, a room right on Fort Lauderdale beach, if you can find one, goes for around \$600 per night. In the summer, that same room goes for about five dollars and the manager will kiss you night-night on the forehead. Even-Steven.

The concept works with people, too. For every beautiful, buxom twenty-five year old blond I ogle at the beach in a thong bikini, I have to also look at a sixty year old European guy in a speedo. (At least I think there was a speedo under there). Even-Steven.

Government is also run by the principle. We have permanent residents who have lived here forty years and pay real estate taxes of \$10, complaining bitterly about the 3% increase every year. And we have part-time residents living next door who must personally fund the Fort Lauderdale police department. Even-Steven.

Finally, for every wonderful person in the world who does charitable works and tries to think kindly of others, we have people like my editor yelling at me

for missing deadline. As a matter of fact, his name is Steven. I think he may have invented the concept. Just kidding, boss.

Editors note: For every smart-alecky columnist who pokes fun of his editor we have a withheld paycheck. Even-Steven.

### About the Author:

Dan McCarty retired from corporate America to devote his life to important causes, such as global warming and keeping fat guys from wearing speedos on the beach. He can be reached at danmccarty1@comcast.net.



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# TALES FROM THE GALT GULAG

## Horror stories abound at the condo towers on Galt Ocean Mile

by Grayson Walker, Ph.D.

Gulag is an acronym for the former Soviet Union's penal system. Since then, it has come into common use to describe any repressive system. I named my column the "Tales From The Galt Gulag," because I write about the repression of unit Owners on the Galt Ocean Mile.

This column marks the eighth month of my column. In previous issues, I have written about general issues of graft and corruption along the Galt Ocean Mile. We consider the Galt as the "biggest crime scene" in Broward County. In this issue, I change the format, and publish some of the stories from my readers.

Because of space limitations, some of the letters were edited.

### Parker Plaza Estates

At the Parker Plaza Estates, \$1.44 million is alleged to have been stolen in kickbacks. Four people are awaiting trial for felony charges of organized fraud. These are the former board president, the CAM Manager, the Maintenance Supervisor, and a plumbing contractor. The former Condominium Manager was granted immunity in exchange for her testimony.

### Southpoint

The Parker Plaza Estates story reminds me of the Southpoint story, when in February 2005, Attorney Inger Garcia served much more extensive allegations to Southpoint. These included the illegal payment of cash to the President, use of a "Holiday Fund" to avoid payment of income tax, kickbacks, unlicensed contractors, extensive work without permits or inspections, slander by the board, violence, and selective refusal to enforce rules. The Southpoint board ignored the 33 pages of allegations. However, subsequent meetings with the State Attorney and Police were encouraging.

From a Southpoint Owner. "Most of the owners that I speak with are tired of the name-calling and soap opera tactics. The board stoops to a very low level and seems to thrive there. We need an audit by an outside, independent auditor that does more than attest to the accuracy of the books, but examine expenses, bids, contracts, purchases, salaries, etc. Equally important are a Code of Ethics for the board members; better communication with Owners; and open, democratic meetings."

### Regency South

What happens when unit Owners ask questions about money, projects, contracts, or other non-trivial matters? Following the Southpoint model, the

Board makes public statements designed to discredit the individuals. The dissenters receive anonymous, threatening letters. There are other issues, including the Galt Mile Association falsely representing them as a member.

### Islandia

I am an Owner in what was called Islandia. Many of the condo laws in place now were the result of activities that took place here in the 80's and early 90's. Our President absconded with between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 in reserve funds, and charged personal trips and lingerie for his mistress.

I did not envision the vindictiveness of the petty people on the board. We removed them and installed a board that kept everything open and honest. All records are available to Owners on the Internet. Our Special Assessment process requires a pre-assessment meeting. All Owners can question the need for the assessment, and provide feedback. We made arrangements for Owners with hardships to have a 5-year payment plan.

### Letter One

I extend my praise to you for your heroic stand on the condominium issue. As a native Floridian and a woman who has seen many changes in Florida, I congratulate you on your work with the Fort Lauderdale City News. We have needed such a newspaper since the Gores sold the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel.

You have brought to the public the great problems many have in condominium ownership and all should appreciate this fact. You have brought out the recent laws which have been passed, and which will help protect all condominium owners. Thank you again!

### Letter Two

Wonderful reading your letter about abuses in your condo. Wonderful because we have now found companionship to the scenario of Board abuses of power. We also have untold stories that we could go on and on about, but the most vivid is our financial condition.

After a recent audit, our auditors were so concerned that they called our attorney, and insisted on a meeting with him. The board made this a closed meeting. When the Owners protested, they moved the meeting to the President's apartment.

The ombudsman's site saddened me. The number of problems reported will take years to address, yet more complaints come in daily. Is there any hope? Can we organize condominium

owners? We only think we live in a democracy!

### Letter from the Gulag

I have read your last three issues of the Galt Gulag. Thank you for including me in your circulation list! It is very hard for me to read what I am reading regarding all the problems with the Boards, as highlighted by Fort Lauderdale City News, along the Galt Mile condos. Allow me to borrow the American expression "it boggles my mind" to accept that the described situation is allowed to exist in the United States of America.

The behavior of the Boards reminds me of the Soviet Union, where the proletariat referred to a similar lopsided situation as the "Funnel Law," with the wide part of the device for the establishment and the narrow one for the oppressed Soviet citizens.

Some of the excuses of the Boards are that they are not paid for their work. Pay has nothing to do with performance. By the way, life in the real Gulag was not that bad.

### Dangerous Unpermitted Work

Unpermitted and uninspected renovation work, replacement windows, etc. put you and your entire building at great risk. Your building's insurance company be invalid. Your Owner's insurance policy could be invalid. Confirming that all work on your building is lawful. Go to [www.fortlauderdale.gov/building\\_services/onestop/kioskopt.asp](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/building_services/onestop/kioskopt.asp) and look up your unit, association, and Board members. Check all permits and inspections. Protect yourself.

### Help For Owners

Attorney Inger Garcia can be reached by telephone at 954-894-9962 or at [Attorney@IngerGarcia.com](mailto:Attorney@IngerGarcia.com).

Jan Bergemann of the Cyber Citizens For Justice can be reached at 386-740-1503 or at [Jan@ccfj.net](mailto:Jan@ccfj.net).

The Southpoint Condominium website is at <http://www.Southpoint-Condominium.org>

### Bill Of Rights For Owners

The AARP's Bill of Rights for Homeowners is available online at [http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/consume/2006\\_15\\_homeowner.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/consume/2006_15_homeowner.pdf).

### Government Officials

Governor Charlie Crist can be reached at 850-488-7146 or at [Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com](mailto:Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com).

Contact State Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff at 954-767-9850 or at [Ellyn.Bogdanoff@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Ellyn.Bogdanoff@myfloridahouse.gov).

State Representative Julio Robaina can be reached at 305-442-6868 or at [Julio.Robaina@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Julio.Robaina@myfloridahouse.gov).

Harold Hyman of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation can be reached at 954-202-3982 or at [Harold.Hyman@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:Harold.Hyman@dbpr.state.fl.us).

Condominium Ombudsman Dannille Carroll can be reached at 954-202-3234 or at [Dannille.Carroll@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:Dannille.Carroll@dbpr.state.fl.us).

Fort Lauderdale Police Chief Bruce Roberts can be reached at 954-828-5700.

State Attorney Michael J. Satz can be reached at 954-831-6955.

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle can be reached at 954-828-5003, or at [MayorJames@aol.com](mailto:MayorJames@aol.com).

The Galt Gulag City Commissioner Christine Teal can be reached 954-828-5003 at [CTeal@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:CTeal@fortlauderdale.gov).

Fort Lauderdale City Manager George Gretsas can be reached at 954-828-5013 or at [GGretsas@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:GGretsas@fortlauderdale.gov).

Code Enforcement Head Cate McCaffrey can be reached at 954-828-4989 at [CMccaffrey@FortLauderdale.gov](mailto:CMccaffrey@FortLauderdale.gov).

### About the Author

I own an apartment in the Galt Gulag, at the Southpoint condominium, on the Galt Mile in Fort Lauderdale. Many people do not realize how many rights they give up when they buy an apartment in a condominium association. I have taught American Government, Constitutional Law, and Ethics for over twenty-years, but I was not prepared for life in the Galt Gulag.

At the June 2005 Board meeting, Board President Marty Glazer called the critics of the Board "insurgents." I am an insurgent in the Galt Gulag. You can reach me at [AGWill@comcast.net](mailto:AGWill@comcast.net) or 954-567-0520.





# MARGE'S MUSINGS . . .

by Marge Anderson,  
(954) 467-8641

## Editors note:

In the May issue of Fort Lauderdale City News, Marge Anderson discussed Social Service Residential Facilities (SSRF's) invading our neighborhoods. These facilities look like apartment buildings and serve as halfway houses for drug addicts, convicted felons and other problematic individuals. They are often blights on our neighborhoods and cause great problems for those who live next to them.

SSRF's are often secretly established and expanded while pretending to be a "normal" neighbor. Given the scale of new construction, they appear to have a lot of money. Do they get taxpayer money to "privatize" some government program? If you know anything about their funding, call (954) 564-1308.

She also emphasized that ordinances had been enacted to oversee the placement of these facilities so that some neighborhoods would not be burdened with too many facilities.

Why the secrecy? Are the ordinances not being enforced? In this issue, she tries to get some answers from our elected officials and Code Enforcement.

## Can You Identify The SSRF In Your Neighborhood?

### A Victoria Park Facility

Some weeks have passed, and the property at 715 NE 6 Street, Victoria Park, is still a problem. The only information forthcoming from the City of Fort Lauderdale Licensing Staff is that the property is licensed as an apartment house. A contact number was given for someone at the State level in Tallahassee if more information was required. Now, what has appeared on the property? It's a bright red Hazardous Waste Dumpster with a substantial lock on it. This was placed



in plain view, outside the high fence. Someone in the parking lot of 715 definitely did not want a picture taken of the dumpster, and shouted, "What are you doing here? This is private



property! What do you want?" when pesky residents stopped by. It was a relief to see that the angry protester was reaching only for a cell phone!

Answers would be nice. Several phone calls to the contact number were not answered. Not even a message machine came on. This cannot be the number of a government licensing agency. Wouldn't they have at least an answering machine?

Questions are all that remain, even after visits by the Police Department and Code Enforcement. Why the daily announcements? Why the protests at picture-taking? Above all, why the Hazardous Waste Dumpster?

An email to Commissioner Rodstrom yielded a quick response from her. She contacted Code and the Police Department. The Police Department promised a follow-up visit as City News went to press.

Code replied, "We have had a case working on this for a while ... They supposedly stopped dispensing meds once we cited them for operating an SSRF and we have not seen any evidence to the contrary. This is

one of those cases where we all know what is happening there, but to prove it is another story." Code promised a visit to the property as City News went to press. Maybe, just maybe, the photograph shown could be considered some proof.

### Is This Property In Middle River Terrace Another SSRF?

Now about that other property in Middle River Terrace; the one on 9th Avenue, that "doesn't have anything to do with" the Social Service Residential Facility across the street, and is licensed as an apartment house: It's



a strange coincidence that just following the renovations at the SSRF, there now appears a huge construction dumpster at the "apartment house." More unanswered questions! More ugly stuff on the street.

### About Power Failures

June 1, 8:30 p.m., first day of hurricane season: Yes, there was some rain. But a power failure? Good chance to check to see if old batteries work, I said to myself. When I reported the outage to FPL, I heard from them (automated, of course) that a main line was down, affecting approximately 2500 households, and would be fixed by 10:15. Not only that, but if my number was a working land line, FPL would phone me with automated updates until 10 p.m.! About twenty minutes later, the power came back on. I turned off my lanterns. The phone rang. "FPL is sending a crew out to repair the main line. Your power should be on shortly." I had a good laugh, and then.....the power went off again. Hmmm, I wonder if FPL is really ready for hurricane season. I think I am.

### Thoughts on Global Warming

Say, President Bush and Mayor Naugle have the same song and dance regarding global warming. They both believe that voluntary efforts to reduce carbon gas emissions will be effective. Both have proposed what Tony Juniper, head of Friends of the Earth, called "vaguely expressed objectives."

Remember the Mayor's words? "Where possible and feasible." Some folks give Mr. Bush and Mayor Naugle credit for tenacity. Others call it sheer stubbornness.

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The Fort Lauderdale City News is a new home for your voice to be heard in the city. If you have an article you want to write about life in the city call me, Steve Kelley, at (954) 564-1308 and let's discuss it. Or, simply email it to the address shown below.

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please call Steve Kelley at (954) 564-1308



# A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF A FORT LAUDERDALE TAXI

## The road to hell is paved with . . .

Frank Marshall is in over his head yet again. Nothing ventured...

We went to the most raucous joint on the beach, The Elbo Room. We took our drinks upstairs and leaned against the railing of the terrace. The breeze skimming the whitecaps on the inky ocean made lighting cigarettes impossible, other than that it served no comforting services, because sand was carried in it. One good thing, we were not going to be overheard.

"Here is the thing," I said, and I filled him in from the time Viv first phoned that night, being hijacked by the three rabbis to the present. He had several times stopped my progress by demanding answers to his questions.

"Rabbis?"

"Yes, and I saw one of them this afternoon."

"Why didn't you tell me that?"

"Because, in light of everything I have confessed to, it was a redneck getting the piss beat out of him, not me. And if you ask me, he deserved it."

"Just how does this tie into the cab driver killer?"

"I am probably next. These Sinaites leave no witnesses to testify."

"Then why did they let you leave?"

I shrugged my shoulders.

"Quién sabe."

It was getting more crowded than my parking facilities. I was bumped into repeatedly, some even said, "Pardon," but minute-by-minute the crowd grew enormously, yet Kaplán did not mind. My impression was there could not be enough people crammed in there to suit him. I said, "Come on. I want out of here."

He may have said "No," but I did not hear it, although he shook his head in a negative manner.

It was so packed with people that I could not lift my drink without elbowing somebody. Conversing was futile, especially those fools yelling at the top of their lungs into cell phones, "I CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE NOISE!"

Around nine-thirty, two long drinks later, in which time a lady with mousy brown hair hit on me—other than that she looked all right. She asked if I was married. "Pity," she said after telling her I was not, and drifted off with the tide of people—I got fed up. I grabbed his white shirtsleeve and dragged him out of there. I know, what's wrong with this picture, a civilian manhandling a police lieutenant; the truth is that I no longer think of him as a cop, but as an irritating partner. Pedestrian traffic was no better on Ocean Drive. We fought our way to the Buick, got in and closed the doors to the ensuing madness outside.

"What is wrong with you?"

I asked.

"I didn't want to tell you in a private area because you are bigger than me and in far better shape."

I got wary at once. My eyes growled. "Tell me what?" in a threatening tone.

"I can't tell you right now. But that boat you mentioned."

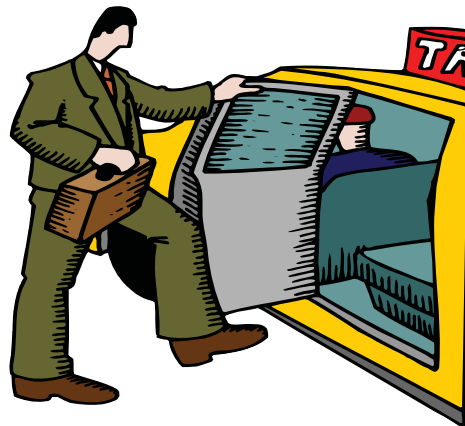
"Not just a boat. A Pilothouse! I dreamed of owning one since I was a kid. But somebody owns it, and finding him will at least lead to my Viv. You can find out easily enough. Look, I want you to go aboard and snoop around."

"Under one condition."

If looks could kill, Kaplán would have lung cancer. In that same threatening tone, I said, "And what is that?"

"You sign the contract to allow a third owner into our consortium."

"I thought he all ready was in?"



"He was. The contract makes it legal. We have big plans."

"We?"

"Si! Me, you and him. You sign, I snoop. That's only fair."

"I want to read the contract."

"It's in the console."

"I cannot read in a moving vehicle. It gets me sick. I will read it while you are aboard the Pilothouse."

"Just remember, I carry a gun, Frank."

"I will try real hard to remember. Believe you me."

Probably everyone in the world but me knew it was Officer Manny Lasker of FLPD who bought a third of our fleet. I fought for breath. The man loathes me. I am not too fond of him. He called me a no-good stinking liar to my face and accused me of obstruction of justice, but never formally filed anything. He is not the forgiving kind.

"What about who owns this tub?"

"Lasker's a good guy. You'll see. Your only problem with him is that you act intuitively and he gobbles it up and leaves you floundering. He must always prove the truth and you're forever devious. Think about it. A man was hurt, pistol-whipped, never mind the people who wet their pants in fright, and instead of helping us catch them, prevent some other victim from hurt or death, you stay loyal to a crack head by not telling the truth."

Of course he was right, but I cared about Peggy. She was a regular paying passenger. She was young, leggy, reckless, but a lot of woman when her hair is down and has nothing on her mind. The toughest people seem to fall apart the quickest. We dated several times, dinner, a club, short walks on the beach and holding hands. She said she felt close to me. No woman ever said that to me. "I love you, Frankie," was the last thing I heard her say—on her phone call

for me to come pick her up from a fast food joint on Broward Blvd. "I love you, Frankie." It haunts me to this day. And who really knows if she did not go legit from then on in? I am betting that she did. Everyone should have someone to care about him or her. I am betting Manny Lasker will hate me forever.

"I am not signing it."

"Well, I already called in the serial numbers and I know who owns this tub."

"Are you going to tell me? Or are you going to be spiteful?"

"At least meet with him on equal terms. He'll be out of uniform. Tomorrow, right here aboard this tub. I'll get the ribs at Tim Jenkins' place, on the way over here. You provide a bottle of Scotch, Teacher's if you can find it at Walgreen's, and I'll get Manny to crank up his sound system. You'll get to know the real Manny Lasker."

"I all ready know him, thank you. But I will meet with him. You are right about one thing, that businesses need to make money. And I do like the sound of big plans and being included in them. When will I hear some of these plans?"

"Mañana, mí friend."

"What about who owns this thing? Also tomorrow?"

"Oh, no. You own it."

"Me?"

"That's who owns it, according to records."

"Mine!" I owned a Seaton Pilot-house. For a minute or so I never gave a thought to its namesake, The Lady Viv. "I own a boat, I own a boat," singing and doing a little jig.

"Enjoy it while you can."

"You are a continual sobering experience," I said. "A killer of fantasies. What was that supposed to mean?"

"Instead of dreaming, look how vulnerable you are to an Internal Revenue attack. They will want to know how a taxi driver affords to pay cash for a mini yacht."

"I would tell them the truth. It was a gift."

"Then you have to pay a gift tax."

"How much can that be?"

"I'm not a CPA, but I think it will be more than you can pay. They'll seize it, auction it off for next to nothing, and you'll owe Uncle Sam for the difference."

All this because I got greedy and took the dough instead of going to the police straight off. There is a pattern here, and it needed reversal. I remained steadfast in my stand against Manny Lasker.

But Lasker changed my mind that next afternoon by sticking a gun in my face. Get rich by the gun; get poor by the gun should become an adage. I signed under duress, but I am sure not even Judge Mathis would believe me. Good God, I am sunk.

I never told Kaplán the rabbi's name. And it took a long while before I made the connection. Ka-plwan, Kaplan. They do not look at all alike. Carlos looked

Latino. Yonkel looked like a chipmunk. I left in the possibility of them being cousins. I was glad I had not told him of my suspicion. Against a Kaplán it is always an advantage if my weapons remain camouflaged until needed. And he never gave me a minute's peace. He would wake me out of a sound sleep to run him out in the Lady Viv where the snook or snappers were biting. The tackle all ready was aboard so all Kaplán had to bring were the black coffees and two old fashion doughnuts, and he thought that was payment enough. Fuel does not grow on trees, not legally. The capper was, when Manny Lasker invited himself along for the ride.

That bum! He swore he never fished before, yet he reeled in six of the biggest snappers seen anywhere from a spot not known for good catching grounds in the canal itself, moored at my dock. What I despised most was his way of diminishing my stature as a you-all instead of just me, as if I was part of a team. He spoke a lot of philosophical crap. It would not surprise me one bit that he had six PhDs. He is a magician at tactics and logic. I asked him: "If I told what you could do with that gun, would you have shot me?" He said, "I could be owner of one-and-a-third cabs right now. Use your noodle. Ask yourself why you all are still alive? And if you all cain't see a reason, make sure you all find a reason." Crap like that. But I am used to him now. He and I were natural irritants, just like myself and Kaplán; we were rock, scissors, paper, an eternal triangle of raw nerves.

This particular meeting had a purpose: the decision about the Seaton Pilot-house's future. Each of us liked being aboard enough to co-exist, yet everybody excluding me tried climbing to be king of the hill, yet it was me calling the shots; it still was my boat. And I had a big plan to bring into play. I sell the boat to our corporation and use it as a water-taxi. It was not all that much due; all the taxes and fees and premiums were paid in full, only a half-percent sales tax was due, but it was more than I alone can afford. They agreeably shook their heads. I even had the name to call ourselves: Eternal Triangle Taxi and Boat, Inc.

Carlos covered his mouth with his hand after having said, "Hmm!" "Not bad," he said, at last moving the hand away so he could speak. "ETT&B. It rolls off the tongue. I like it."

Manny asked, "What's the catch?"

Carlos said, "I wondered that myself, but I have it figured out and I am okay with what he wants."

"Well, I'll tell you all what his catch is: a bigger share of the pie. That's what it is. It wouldn't surprise me a lick if he wants all the profits from the boat while we pay the due taxes on the yacht. You all know how I feel about liars."

Contact Frank Marshall at  
E4gambit@aol.com



# NOW BETTER THAN EVER - CITY EXPANDS RECYCLING PROGRAM



By Vicki Elizabeth

After a successful pilot program in several City neighborhoods, the opportunity to recycle all household paper is being fanned out to the rest of the City's single-family residences. You do this with a separate Green bin. Until now, only newspaper was supposed to be put out for collection. With this expanded program you can recycle all things paper:

- office paper (staples ok)
- clasp envelopes
- envelopes with/without clear windows
- junk mail, phone books
- magazines/catalogues
- cardboard boxes (flattened)
- wrapping paper
- all paper board (cereal boxes, cracker boxes, toothpaste boxes, shoe boxes, mailers, etc.)
- AND, of course, newspapers

To get a green bin for paper recycling:

1. call customer service at 828-8000 and request the "expanded recycling program" after your weekly pickup
2. you will be asked to put all of your bins at the curb
3. staff will stop by in a few days and label your blue bin and provide you with a labeled green bin to remind you what to recycle
4. extra blue bins will be removed
5. IF you need more than one blue bin, leave a note indicating how many you need so they can be labeled and left

Did you know? The trucks that collect our recycling have two compartments, one for the commingled items, one for paper. When you mix all your recyclables in a single bin, the driver must sort it to ensure the correct items go into the correct compartments. This can add time and cost to the program. Please help the City to have a successful program by correctly sorting your recyclables into the appropriate blue or green bins.

## 2-Sort System Summary

Blue bin: aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles, waxy cartons, plastic #1 and #2 containers (milk, juice, water, detergent) WITH a bottle neck

Green bin: office paper, clasp envelopes, envelopes with/without clear windows, junk mail, phone books, magazines/catalogues, cardboard boxes (flattened), wrapping paper, all paper board (cereal boxes, cracker boxes, toothpaste boxes, shoe boxes, mailers, etc.) AND, of course, newspapers.

Trash cart.... sorry, stuff that's still just trash:

- Styrofoam cups, egg cartons, trays, packaging
- Clear square/round containers such as those fresh berries are sold in (might say #1, but lack a neck so are NOT recyclable)
- Cottage cheese/yogurt containers (typically #5, 6, or 7)
- Foil juice pouches
- Plastic trays/cups/plates/flatware
- Tear resistant UPS/FedEx mailers
- Dirty food packaging
- Soiled paper of any kind
- Plastic or wire hangers (return to your local cleaner)
- Plastic bags (consider a reusable tote when shopping)

Bothered by the amount of "stuff that's still just trash"? Check out Fort Lauderdale's new creative reuse center, Trash To Treasure (article in last month's issue) at their web site, [www.trash2treasureFL.org](http://www.trash2treasureFL.org). They actually want lots of those little household items that cannot be recycled but can be used for art, education and play including many things listed in the "Trash cart" section above.

Look under the "Materials" tab from the home page for details.

## "GOT PAPER?" Program Extended

The "GOT PAPER?" program at many local area schools was originally intended to end in April. Since it serves many multifamily residents, boat people and also small businesses that don't currently have a recycling program, most schools opted to continue the program. For more information, visit: <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/recycle/atschool.htm>

## FRED HUNTER'S FORT LAUDERDALE WELCOMES SCOTT CUMMING



*We are pleased to announce that Scott Cumming is joining our Fort Lauderdale funeral home as managing director. Although Scott is new to the Fort Lauderdale location, he has worked as a funeral director and member of the management team for Fred Hunter Memorial Services since 2004.*

*With nearly 30 years of funeral director experience, Scott is a compassionate professional who specializes in providing exceptional customer service to family members. We welcome you to stop by the funeral home to meet Scott.*

## WE'RE STILL HERE FOR YOU.

*Fred Hunter Memorial Services is still here to serve the community's families. Conveniently located just a few short blocks from Las Olas Boulevard, our funeral home's centralized location allows us to serve the needs of all families throughout the greater Fort Lauderdale area. As the only full-service family owned and operated funeral home, cemetery and crematory in Broward County, we have served South Florida for nearly 50 years.*

*Come discover why Fred Hunter Memorial Services is one of Florida's most successful funeral homes. Stop by or call us today.*

**Please visit [www.fredhunters.com](http://www.fredhunters.com).**



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# Government Waste of our money

by Tim Smith

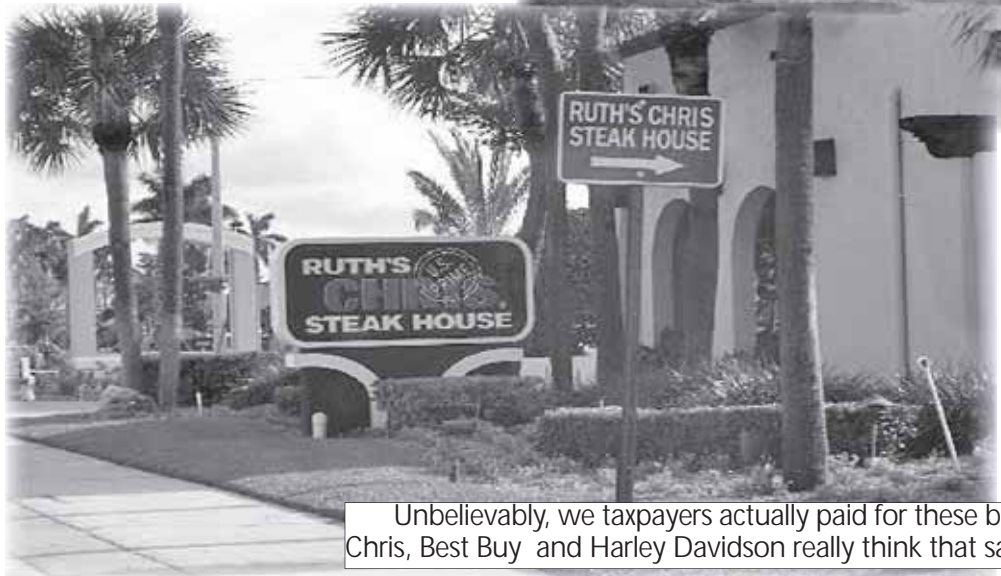
With the legislature's recent property tax cut and its resultant painful reductions of municipal budgets, Fort Lauderdale is in for hardship.

Here we identify some wasteful spending that they can and should cut. As one glaring example, I'm including some pictures of those pesky little blue signs along North Federal Highway.

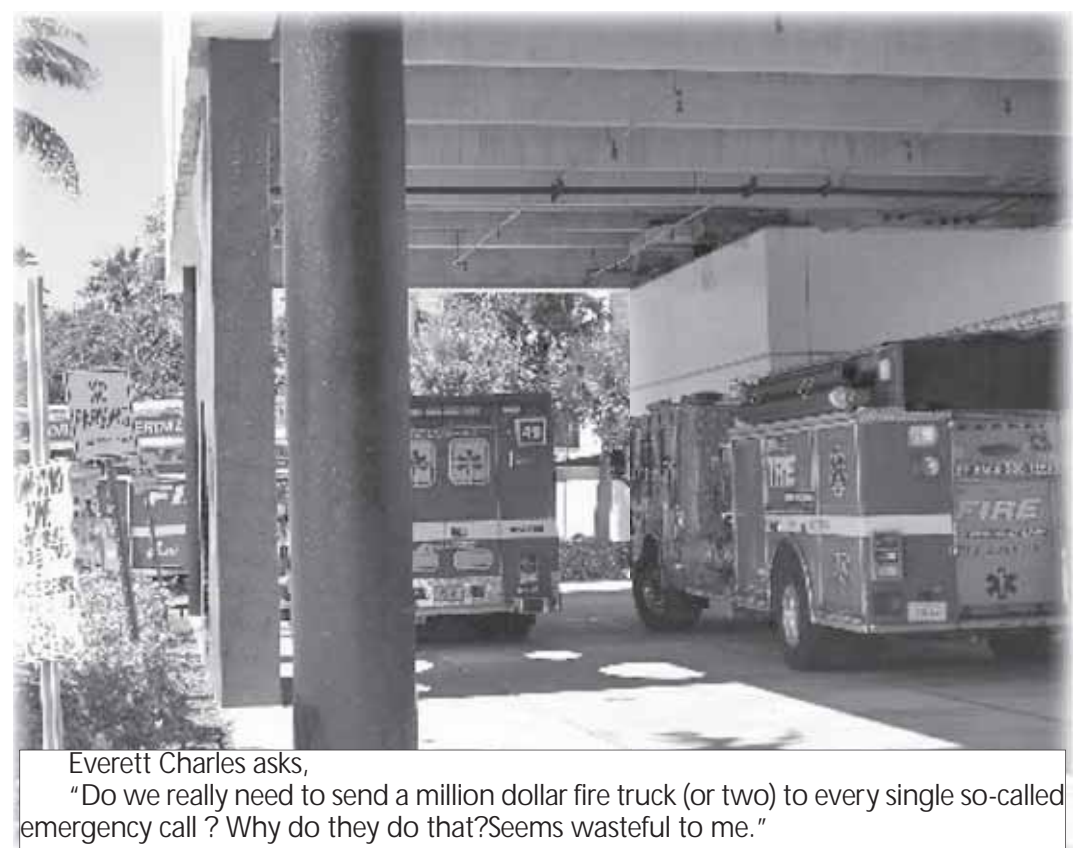
Do your part by sending me your ideas on how to cut wasteful city spending of your tax dollars. We can make a difference.

Send this along to your bright friends and ask them to help.

Email your thoughts, ideas and pictures on how to cut local wasteful spending and I'll start a list. You can email them to [tim@smith.com](mailto:tim@smith.com) and I'll send them to our officials for consideration. You can also call (954) 564-1308.



Unbelievably, we taxpayers actually paid for these blue signs in a crummy example of sign blight. Does Ruth Chris, Best Buy and Harley Davidson really think that sales are going to go up with these stupid signs?



Everett Charles asks, "Do we really need to send a million dollar fire truck (or two) to every single so-called emergency call? Why do they do that? Seems wasteful to me."



# I LED TWO LIVES - a book by Commissioner Tim Smith

## My Life as a City Commissioner and Private Citizen

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Tim Smith was a beloved District 2 Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner from 1996 to 2003. Smith wrote this book after he left office to tell his story about what it was actually like to be a City Commissioner.

His book, Politics 101, will be published here in serial form, one chapter per month.

### Chapter 9

#### Nightclub smut, lawsuits and mobsters

March 2000. I had just been reelected for my second term as Commissioner of the wild and woolly District Two in Fort Lauderdale. Thankfully, I had nearly no competition. My old nemesis and felony extortion suspect Keno's next-door neighbor got in the race, just to mess with me, but I won handily with 80% of the vote. I had lots of things on my plate and I was glad to have three more years to finish up.

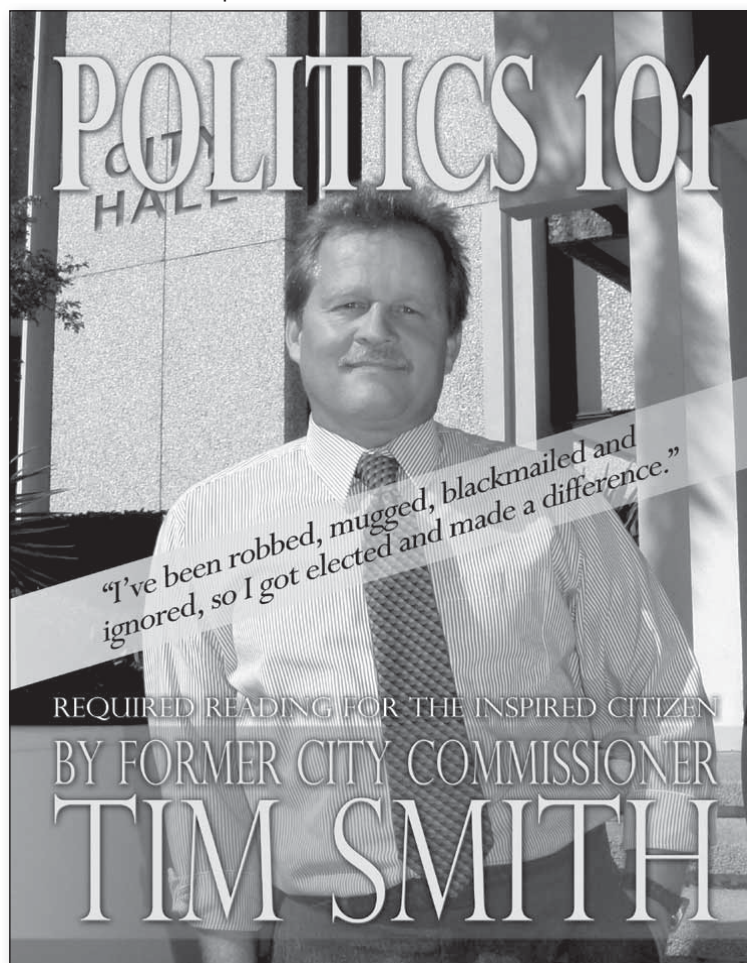
The crime rate had been plummeting in the city, far surpassing the crime reduction nationally. The tough areas of my District were rapidly improving, but, as I told you in the last chapter, there had been a surge of serious crime on the beach. A top-notch reporter, Brittany Wallman, had done an investigation of the crime stats in the city and found that although crime citywide had been falling, and at a rapid clip, the serious crime on the beachfront had exploded. The figures showed the offenses, (ranging from aggravated battery to numerous instances of brutal rapes), had been mostly centered near a nightclub at the beach. Somehow, the Police Department and I had missed the spike, and I was appreciative of the reporter for doing the digging.

The club was called Club Atlantis and it boasted special events nights that you pray your teenage children never want to go to attend. I don't remember the exact names of the promotions, but they were events with exciting titles something like "Drink till you Puke night" and the ever popular "Lesbian Mud Wrestling night." The club was wildly popular. Not only did the club have one of the few licenses in the city to stay open until 4 am, but it had decided to flaunt the new law that we had passed that had restricted entry into the club to adults. This law had been put in place to address these types of problems, but this club owner vowed to find a way around the new law. The club ag-

gressively promoted itself to kids under the legal drinking age.

It maneuvered around the law by having the underage patrons declare themselves employees, as employees were exempt from the age law. These underage patrons didn't actually do any work, unless you consider hearty partying work! But the ploy was ingenious, and technically sufficient, and the lawyers at the city had to go back to the drawing board to amend the law to take this new wrinkle out.

The owner, Michael Kent, owned numerous clubs up and down the coast.



He had a reputation as tough as nails businessman, one you wouldn't want to take on. There were many reports of his many altercations in his hometown with the city officials there. When Rhode Island officials denied Kent a zoning change for a property he owned there, he ripped down all the trees on the property, spray painted the stumps different gaudy colors and brought in tons of chicken manure and spread it around the lot near the adjacent million dollar homes! Kent had made it clear that he would get any official that dared to challenge him or his club. As usual, I didn't have enough sense to heed this warning and told the press that I didn't care how tough Kent was. I said something like until he cleaned up his act, and start managing the club properly, the police department should stick to Club Atlantis

like glue! Kent was furious. He told the press that I was an "idiot weed puller" (a reference to my landscaping business and maybe my college transcripts), and that he paid me no mind. In truth, I think he did care, and he would try and get me for standing up to him.

A week or so later, I was at home catching up on some personal business when the phone rang. The Police Chief was on the other end of the line. "Commissioner, we've just gotten notice that Michael Kent from the club Atlantis is holding a press conference at his club in an hour," he explained. He went

on, "he says that he has damaging information on a City Commissioner - YOU!" "Here we go again," I thought. I had already been robbed, mugged, extorted, chased, bullied and pushed around, now I was under attack from a slimy nightclub owner. "Tell me more," I asked the Chief. "Well, in this press release Kent says that he has video footage that will show Smith committing a crime and it will destroy his political career," the Chief explained. "My God," I thought. Maybe he had superimposed my head on a lesbian

mud wrestler or something.

I wouldn't put anything past Kent, but I knew it had to be some sort of trickery or just plain bull. Nonetheless, it was an excruciatingly long hour until I got news of how the press conference went. The best way for me to describe it is to paraphrase how it came out in the press, the alternative press. The largest of the alternative newspapers, the City Link newspaper, told it like this. "We had been given notice, though short notice, that nightclub owner Michael Kent had the goods on Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Tim Smith. Smith has been critical of Kent's nightclub on the Fort Lauderdale beach and has called it a haven for serious crime. Kent said he had video of Smith that he would be showing at 3 p.m. at his club. Kent promised a tantalizing show. Visions of

cocaine and hot tubs flowed through our heads."

It turned out that Kent had notified every press outlet that served South Florida. It had been a long time since Mayor Marion Barry of Washington D.C. had been caught on video tape smoking crack with a hooker in a seedy hotel and the press was ready for a sordid slimy tale of public official disgrace!

The City Link story continued. "We loaded our cameras and shot off to the beach for the show. We arrived and the room was already full of press. All of the local T.V. stations were there with their satellite trucks set up on the sidewalk, and all the print media from miles around jammed into the club. We couldn't wait for the show to begin!"

Kent had hired a private detective to follow my wife and I for thirty days prior to this press conference. He had followed me to work, parked across the street from my house, and had set up a surveillance camera across from our plant and tree nursery. The City Link article concluded. "Kent told us to get ready, the show was about to begin. Kent shut down the lights and let the video rip! It showed Tim's wife Cindy, SELLING PLANTS! And that was it! SELLING PLANTS! How dastardly! We were confused and asked what the hell that was all about. Kent said that Smith didn't have the proper licenses to sell plants and trees and that he was violating the law! We reporters should have pelted Kent with our reporter notebooks as we fled the club!"

Well, I got the news right away from a police captain that had attended in plain clothes. She was laughing as she told me and we both got a good chuckle and me a sigh of relief! I couldn't believe that Kent went to all that trouble to look like a fool, but that's standard operating procedure for fools, isn't it? And I was really glad that I didn't turn out to be a lesbian mud wrestler! By the way, Kent was mistaken, I had all the proper licenses!

I was having such a great time being a Commissioner. I didn't care if I had to endure an occasional private eye following me video taping me surreptitiously. I would just have to make sure that I always dressed nicely, combed my hair, and wore clean underwear just in case. I concentrated on the positive. There was no end to the things I could accomplish as a City Commissioner. And if you run for office and get elected, you can too!

I had been most interested in fighting crime and fixing the bad areas of my

Continued on page 21



Continued from page 20

district. That was my passion. The experience with the slimy nightclub owner was all part a day's work. I had gotten the attention of the police department, so much so that they called me (and not so lovingly) the Police Commissioner. I worked hard, every day, to try and clean up problems, and the crime problems that plagued certain areas of the city were top priority.

One of the problems areas was in a neighborhood called Lakeridge. It was a neighborhood that was just on the edge of one of the trendiest spots in the city, the Victoria Park neighborhood. Victoria Park had made it big. Property values had shot through the roof and it seemed that everyone in the county was looking for a house in Victoria Park. They hold a home show every year that draws thousands of folks from all around the county.

But Lakeridge had a major problem, and that problem was a landlord by the name of Brett Tannenbaum. He probably didn't set out to be a slumlord, he just kind of fell into it. He was a young guy, in his thirties, who had big plans. He had seen what had happened in the Victoria Park neighborhood and knew that it was only a matter of time before the success would cross Sunrise Boulevard and come to Lakeridge. He had bought up more property than he could handle. He owned a number of old motels that had been nice at one time. In the sixties and seventies, they were seasonal motels for the Canadians, but the fall of the Canadian dollar had ended all of that. Now, they were mostly pigpens. They overflowed with rubbish, and some were the human kind. Drug deals in the area were a daily occurrence and Tannenbaum even had a tenant that would be convicted of a bank heist a block away. Something had to be done. The neighborhood leaders were beside themselves with anger. I was their City Commissioner and they demanded that I to do something about it.

I went on the attack. I asked the police to start a nuisance investigation, and that could lead to city control of his buildings, including the possibility of shutting them down. I told the neighborhood leaders that I would attend their next homeowners meeting and tell them the steps that I had taken to correct their problem. The night of the meeting arrived and I set off for the elementary school where the meeting would be held. As I stepped in the door, I immediately spotted Tannenbaum, sitting in the room with his lawyer and a court reporter. He had come, loaded for bear, and I think he had intended on intimidating his neighbors out of any action against him. As the item of his buildings was brought up for discussion, his court

reporter stiffened up in her chair and began to type feverishly, every word that the neighborhood president uttered. He said that there had been numerous complaints about the subject properties and now was the time for all those who had concerns to speak up. Dead silence! No one would talk! Tannenbaum's strategy of the attorney and the court reporter seemed to be scaring everyone in the room!

The president, a wonderful guy named Rixon, was growing impatient and unnerved. "Now is the time to speak up," he pleaded. Still dead silence! I stood up. "I have something to say," I said to Rixon and the 100 or so citizens gathered in the elementary school cafeteria." I want to say to Brett Tannenbaum that you are a no good slumlord, and if you think you can come into this neighborhood and run down the property values and wreak havoc you are sadly mistaken!" A cheer went up across the room! It was as if the dam had broken and hands flew up all across the room. I think the court reporter had blisters by the end of the evening. Every offense that had occurred at Tannenbaum's properties was detailed and the neighbors told him loud and clear that his days of slum lording were over in their neighborhood. I was so proud of them all.

A week later, the summons arrived! I was being sued by Tannebaum for 5 MILLION DOLLARS! He had filed a defamation suit against me claiming that I called him a no good slumlord at a public meeting. I had! Cindy worried but I told her not to. After all, he was a slumlord, and I could prove it. After months of legal wrangling, the judge threw out his case, and Cindy and I were relieved. With that, Brett went on to produce plans for wonderful new town homes where the once derelict slums were. The neighborhood and I (and Brett) let bygones be bygones and joined hands in celebration of the end of blight in Lakeridge. I expect I'll be attending a home-show one day soon in the new trendy neighborhood of Lakeridge!

This was not the only lawsuit that I was involved in. As a matter of fact, it seemed like a summons or subpoena came monthly! The girls at the office would sign for them like they were accepting a pizza! The entire Commission had been sued by Kent on multiple occasions, Keno had threatened to sue me twice, and I was a witness in one case or another every couple of months. It was all part of the job.

One afternoon, I was engrossed in that job in my office at City Hall. I had purposefully not scheduled any meetings that afternoon as I had many letters to get out. My secretary Maxine, about whom I'll never be able to say enough good things, popped her head in my of-

fice. "Commissioner, there's a man here that says he wants to see you." I was very busy and Maxine could see that I really didn't want to be disturbed at that moment. "I know you're very busy, but I think you'll want to stop a minute and see this gentleman." Now Maxine is as good as they come, and I figured she would have put this constituent off to another time if she could. I walked out of my office and looked up to see a man that would have made Paul Bunyan look tiny. He barely fit in the doorway, and looked down at me and said with a gravely voice, the kind you hear on the Sopranos, "I need to see you."

I led him into my office. He extended his hand, a hand that could have crushed my head like a walnut. His hand reminded me of a baseball catcher's mit. I shook it with as much strength as I could and asked him to take a seat. He sat down, though he looked like he was still standing to me. I hadn't noticed, but he was holding something in his other mit! He sat a very expensive looking watch down on my desk in front of me. "I'm Anthony -----", he declared, and I didn't doubt it." I've just bought the Auto Toy Store."

The Auto Toy Store is a millionaires' playground. It has Lamborghinis and Ferraris and Porches and Humvees and any other thing most of us can't afford.

I kept staring at the watch in front of me. It looked very expensive, maybe a Rolex, but I couldn't quite make out the name. I had no intention of accepting this watch, but I didn't quite know how to give it back to Anthony ----- either! As you know by now, I'm a pretty tough knucklehead, but even I draw the line on being tough with anybody with too many vowels in his name! Anthony----- went on." I just wanted you to know that I was in town, now that I'm on your turf," he said, (I was ready to give him the turf). I welcomed him to the community.


We talked for a few minutes about his plans to dump lots of money in the community. I began to like him and thought maybe I'd call on him next time an out of town smut nightclub owner had me followed! The meeting ended after just a few minutes and I was glad that his giant head didn't break the doorframe as he left. I waited until the elevator doors closed and picked up the watch and walked out to Maxine's desk. "Send this watch back to Mr. Bunyan, I mean Mr. Anthony-----, and thank him.

I never heard from Mr. Anthony----- again, but just in case, I always wave when I pass the Auto Toy Store!

Note: Tim's book is for sale at \$17 - to order yours, call 954-564-1308.

\*\*\*\*\*

# ELECT KENO IN 2000



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# Two Surveys Reveal Florida's Health Care System's Failures.

## Florida ranks 43d in national survey

by Frank Marshall

Two new national reports show that healthcare in Florida is not very good and hard to access.

The Commonwealth Fund survey ranked the state No. 43 out of 50 states in overall access and quality, while the federal Department of Health and Human Services' 2006 National Healthcare Quality Report puts Florida on the border between 'weak' and 'average' in a measure of 129 healthcare quality areas.

"The Commonwealth Fund report identifies a key healthcare problem; the lack of access to healthcare for millions

of Floridians. The states which did the best had the most citizens on health care insurance," says Richard H. Rasmussen, VP for strategic communications at the Florida Hospital Association.

"The Florida Hospital Association has been the lead voice in advancing the debate for addressing the uninsured crisis facing our state. Later this summer, FHA will present a detailed program to its membership that will address the uninsured. Once adopted, the plan will be shared with policy and opinion makers across the state. Additionally, public forums on the uninsured are also planned to build consensus on a solution to a problem that has now reached an epidemic in our state," he says.

For those who have access to medical care, the HHS report shows that the capacity of Florida's healthcare delivery system fluctuates wildly. The state ranks No. 2 in children's vaccinations, for example, while falling to No. 48 in the percentage of non-institutionalized, diabetic, high-risk adults who received influenza immunization in 2006. HHS ranked Florida No. 46 and No. 49, respectively, in a survey of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries who said they could always access medical care quickly, and whose healthcare providers listened, explained and spent sufficient time with them.

Blame it on the sharp rise in fuel prices or sky-high insurance premi-

ums, but Floridians are in a pinchpenny mood and the state legislature got the message. "The healthcare industry tries harder every day," says Linda Quick, president, South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association. "The uninsured is only one of four measures used in the survey, but it needs to be funded. Florida has no income tax, and the legislature is trying to roll back real estate taxes.

"When you look at both reports," Quick adds, "the National Report Card on Quality and the Commonwealth Report, a lot of our scores are driven by access to care issues. With Florida's high number of uninsured (we rank 3rd in the country in the % of the population without coverage) and having insurance helps (doesn't ensure access but helps), we don't fare well on those types of indicators.

Also, the report card looks at the entire system, focusing on effectiveness of care from seeking care in the physician office to the hospital or nursing home.

This also reflects on our health plans too and their ability to help manage health care or access to services for their members. While I wish that Florida fared better, this report is reflective of the challenges that we face in Florida with our health care system.

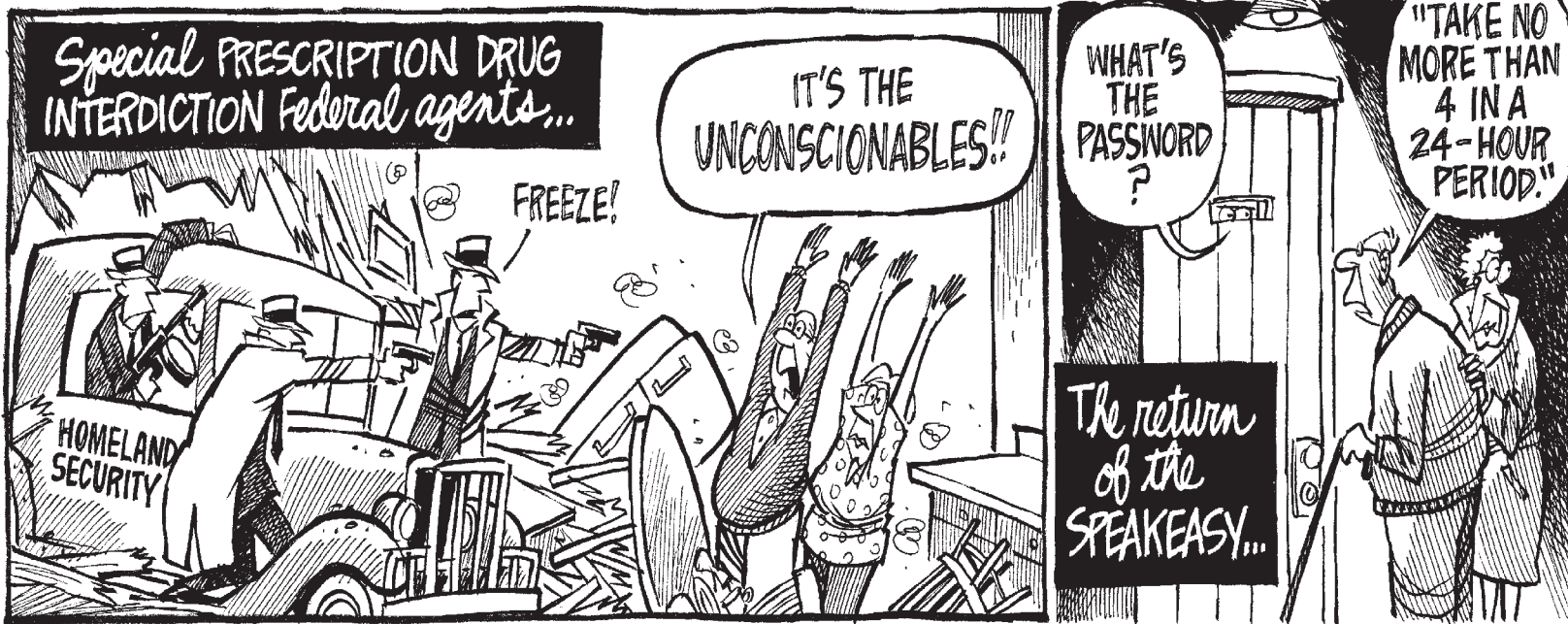
Hopefully, it will get some attention at the state level that we need to look at the health care system in Florida and evaluate how we can improve it so people have access to preventive care and the best care possible in the most appropriate setting."

Karen Davis, president of the Commonwealth Fund, says it will take federal money, and common sense, to improve healthcare quality.

"More federal leadership is needed to improve healthcare. Quality measures can be improved," Davis says. "Quality standards must be set. Hospitals should share findings and information.

Medicare patients aren't getting the care they should. Doctors should spend more time with senior citizens and listen to them."

### RECENT U.S. CUSTOMS SEIZURE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM CANADA HAVE SENIORS RELIVING PROHIBITION DAYS...







By Kevin Lane

### Get Fit this Summer... With Jazzercise Lite...

Debra Bradford is offering Jazzercise Lite, a low-impact version of Jazzercise, the world's leading dance-fitness program. It's an ideal exercise option for seniors, baby boomers, moms-to-be, people with special needs or anyone looking for a moderate yet fun and effective workout. The program is a 60-minute class that pairs moderate aerobics with exercises that are designed to improve strength, balance, and flexibility.

Each class is taught by a CPR-certified Jazzercise instructor, who has received training and instruction in the areas of dance, anatomy, and exercise physiology. Contact Debra at (954) 785-7973.



### Summertime ... and the reading is easy...

Summer is a good time to read a good book! Actually, any time is a good time to read, but statistics show that the average American reads just one book a year... and they only get to the 6th chapter!!

One of the nation's most beloved motivational gurus, Charlie 'Tremendous' Jones (he got the nickname 'Tremendous' because of his unbridled enthusiasm, using the word 'tremendous' often), is frequently quoted by other self-empowerment speakers who agree with Charlie's emphasis on the importance of reading and life-long learning.

"You'll be the same person in five years that you are today... except for the books you read... and the people you associate with." Successful people read anywhere from a book a week to a book a month.

# KEVIN'S KORNER

Here are few books by local authors that came to our attention...

### "The Entrepreneurial Way" by Marc Gilenson

As an inveterate entrepreneur, Marc Gilenson knows a thing or two about being a successful business owner! Throughout his storied career, taking companies from success to super success... as well as some on the brink of failure to over-the-top success, Marc has written what just might become the definitive book for entrepreneurs.

"With the 'Baby Boomers' retiring from jobs to starting their own businesses, to workers being put out of jobs due to downsizing... to average American families needing to supplement their paychecks with at home businesses, the number of people becoming entrepreneurs is exploding," Gilenson enthused. If you fit this description... or you are building your own business, then you'll want to get a copy of Marc's new book, *The Entrepreneurial Way*.

For information or purchase of the book, e-mail [Marc@mybizuniverse.com](mailto:Marc@mybizuniverse.com).



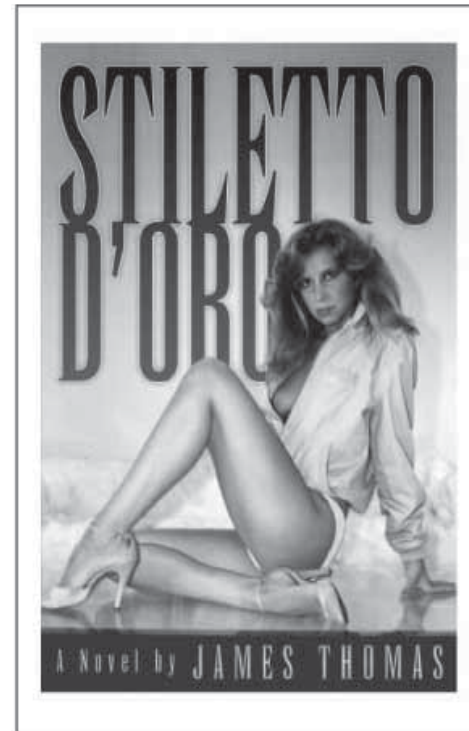
Author Marc Gilenson at launch of his new book, 'The Entrepreneurial Way' at the Tower Club in Fort Lauderdale with (standing L to R) Tony Marx Director of Sales for the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce (FTLCC), Valerie Krom, Sales Manager for the FTLCC, and Sandy Gans, Creative Director, Sandy Toes Creative.

### Stiletto D' Oro ... by James Thomas

James Thomas, a 30 year resident of Fort Lauderdale, is described by friends as a 'character'. He is a pilot, poet, pirate, aerospace / military electronics specialist, and as of late, an author. His first book, *Stiletto*, chronicles the crime, cons, strippers, smugglers, and gambling along the Gold Coast. James refers to the beautiful women seeking to hook up with rich, young men as Zoologos-

ists; "... a woman who is on the hunt for four particular species—a jaguar in her garage, a mink in her closet, a tiger in her bed, and a jackass who will pay for it all without questions asked."

A 'Meet-the-Author Party' takes place on Friday, July 6th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Quarterdeck Restaurant at Sawgrass, 12370 West Sunrise Blvd in Plantation For directions call 954-423-4197.



The book can be ordered from [Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com); [Borders.com](http://Borders.com); [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com); [www.xlibris.com/stiletto-doro.html](http://www.xlibris.com/stiletto-doro.html), or locally at Bluewater Books at 1811 Cordova Road.

### Michael Jackson Conspiracy by Aphrodite Jones...

New York Times best selling author and internationally recognized authority on true crime, Aphrodite Jones, launched her new book, *Michael Jackson Conspiracy* at the fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Broward at the Capital Grille Restaurant at the Galleria Mall. Ms. Jones, a Broward resident; delighted the capacity crowd with some insights into "...how the media twisted and distorted the facts about the Jackson trial to sell headlines, giving viewers slanted news coverage."

With seven best selling crime books under her belt, Aphrodite Jones has become an internationally recognized authority on true crime. For over a decade Jones has provided TV commentary and insight into the psychological profiles of criminals and victims on such shows as *The Today Show*, *MSNBC Investigates*, *American Justice*, *America's Most Wanted*, *Live with Paula Zahn*, *Geraldo at Large*, *Inside Edition* and many more.

Throughout the summer, *Michael Jackson Conspiracy* is available on the



internet only, at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and at [BN.com](http://BN.com) In September, the book will be released to Barnes & Noble book stores throughout America. For more information, visit [www.aphroditejones.com](http://www.aphroditejones.com).

### Have You Heard About The New Prescription Discount Card?

We don't know if you heard, but there's a fantastic money saving Prescription Discount Card that is being offered to anyone that lives in Broward County... young or old... If you don't have prescription drug insurance, this card is FABULOUS!! No kidding. If you do, you have a choice of using it or not... needless to say you can't use both, but this can offer real savings... an average of 20%... on a year 'round basis. It's good at a gazillion pharmacies. You can pick up a card at the reception's desk as you enter the Main Library's 2nd floor. For more information, call 1-877-321-2652.

### About the Author:

Kevin Lane is a popular photographer and journalist covering society, fashion, entertainment, dining and South Florida Lifestyle.

He's a Publicist with 'blue-chip' clients in the non-profit and for-profit sector and is a motivational speaker as well as a lecturer on historic and famous figures including Napoleon Bonaparte, Ancient Egyptian dynasties, Estee Lauder and famed tap dancer, Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson. He can be reached at [klane@gate.net](mailto:klane@gate.net).

Kevin invites your comments and can be reached at (954) 467-2624.



# FORT LAUDERDALE EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

## ONE OF THE MOST VISIONARY AIRPORTS IN THE COUNTRY

Negative statements, incorrect facts and misinformation about the airport must be addressed.

By Don Campion

### Editor's Note:

In the March, 2007 issue of the Fort Lauderdale City News, we published a story about the quiet and secretive expansion of the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. The story contended that ever increasing air traffic and its resultant noise was greatly diminishing the quality of life for the airport's surrounding neighborhoods. In this article, Don Campion, President of Banyan Air Service, refutes many of the points of our March story.

The new Fort Lauderdale City News can be a wonderful newspaper informing citizens of important events, projects, accomplishments and most importantly, hearing first-hand from citizens. My one caution to the newspaper staff is to pursue and publish only articles that can be substantiated or are based on fact or in my opinion, the paper will serve only a few in the community. To my point - having started a business at Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport 28 years ago with a vision to build the best aviation company at the best airport I could not help myself from calling the newspaper. The Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport has been on the cover of the March and April issues full of statements such as, "Neighbors are reporting big increases in noise," "Crashes - Hush, hush secret," "Other airports do a much better job of policing pilots," and "Read more on the secret growth of the Executive Airport and why they don't want you to know about it." Etc., etc. I have been given the opportunity to address many of the points about the airport in recent publications. - Thank You.

To start, what is the vision of the Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport? It is to create the finest general aviation facility and industrial airpark in the country, attract new business to the area, help those businesses prosper, be an asset to the city and a benefit to the community.

Unlike Ft. Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport, which is county owned, the Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport is owned and operated by the city



serving a variety of general aviation needs including corporate aviation, air ambulance, air charter, maintenance, flight training, aircraft refurbishing, and law enforcement. The Executive Airport is not a "sleepy" little airport. It is one of the busiest general aviation airports in the country with more than 200,000 annual operations. The Executive Airport was designed and designated as the official "reliever" airport to Ft. Lauderdale International Airport to encourage general aviation to use the Executive Airport while airlines and scheduled carriers used the "big" airport.

The airport is self-sustaining and a true asset to the city and community. No local tax dollars go toward its operation, it is home to two universities, the US Army Reserve Military Police and Engineering Battalion, Broward Sheriff Aviation Unit, and of course Lockhart Stadium is winter home to Major League Baseball's Baltimore Orioles.

Just like the beautiful 17th Street Causeway Bridge welcomes visitors to Ft. Lauderdale as one looks south at the magnificent cruise ships or drives down A1A enjoying the upscale beach boardwalk, Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport is the city's gateway for general aviation, for aircraft arriving and departing from US cities, the Bahamas, Caribbean and South America.

In addressing the issues discussed in previous months I am in no way attempting to discount the concerns or objections to the noise, growth or safety, but rather to present the facts. With facts one can manage a situation and work together toward solutions.

### "Air traffic is growing a lot!"

Not true. The airport has seen a steady decline. Five years ago there were 44,000 more operations than there were in 2006. That is 3,666 fewer per month. However, since 2001 the mix of aircraft has changed to include more jet aircraft which is 90% stage III aircraft - quieter and more advanced

technology. (Just 10 years ago the number was 30%) On the other hand, it must be noted that only 12% of the total annual operations at the airport are jet aircraft.

### "The airport is expanding."

Not true. Several new hangars have been built and my company, Banyan Air Service, just completed a new passenger terminal and hangar replacing buildings that were constructed in the 1950s. Another new hangar just replaced a hangar that Hurricane Wilma blew down just south of Cypress Creek Rd. A 20-year-old flight school finally broke ground on their long-awaited school and hangar project to increase efficiency. The footprint of the airport remains unchanged but hangars are constantly being upgraded and current tenants are better accommodating their customers as in the case of any progressive, safety conscious community.

### "Larger new air traffic control tower plan to handle its ever increasing air traffic."

Not true. It is all about safety. From the current tower a controller cannot see over hangars that were built in 1954 and others built in the 1970s. The existing tower does not meet hurricane protection criteria, does not meet FAA security requirements, and is not tall enough by FAA standards. Residents and tenants are pushing their senators and congressmen to put our airport on the top of the FAA Tower Funding list for approval in the next year.

"Commercial airlines are coming to Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport." Not true. The FAA categorizes the airport as a General Aviation Airport and prohibits by law commercial airlines from operating at general aviation airports.

"US Customs and Border Protection's change in hours - no public input." Nothing could be further from the truth. With the help of residents, city officials, and

home owners' associations a united campaign was launched to get the hours of operation for US Customs changed from 9 AM - 5 PM to 9 AM - 9 PM. We wanted extended hours that US Customs was not willing to give, but after more than 10 years of trips to Washington, counting aircraft, and giving presentations to show the benefits, we were delighted for the extra 4 hours of US Customs service per day. **Why?** Can you believe that approximately 7000 aircraft per year were flying into Ft. Lauderdale International Airport clearing customs, then flying low, slow and loud over the community just six air miles north to Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport which was their final destination?

With US Customs open until 9 PM aircraft may now descend from higher altitudes with little power straight into their final destination at Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport. This was a home-run for everyone - the residents of the community, the operators, the passengers and for Ft. Lauderdale International as it reduced their traffic 6% reducing airline delays and allowing better spacing between airliners.

"Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport is a Foreign-Trade-Zone. Ft. Lauderdale International Airport has diverted cargo flights to the Executive Airport putting us all in harm's way." Why print such incorrect information? The goal was for the city to further use its assets to offer light manufacturing and distribution companies economic incentives as part of the city's program of job retention and growth. Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport does not have one aviation tenant using the Free Trade Zone designation. US Customs does not allow cargo to be cleared at Executive Airport and the Free Trade Zone does not change the character of the airport.

**Safety-Inspection of aircraft and risk to the community.** We all remember the DC-3 crash in our neighborhood two years ago. Any crash is our worst nightmare and it should not have happened. Miraculously in this case there was no loss of life.

Aircraft are governed under federal law as are aircraft technicians and the flight crew. Aviation is perhaps one of the most highly regulated industries perhaps next to nuclear power plants. The airport has a "minimum standards" document describing what is required to conduct business at Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport. The standards promote economic stability by discouraging unqualified operators and provides

*Continued on page 25*



protection from irresponsible, unsafe, or inadequate service. The FAA regularly conducts inspections of aviation businesses and aircraft to comply with federal safety and regulatory standards. Just like any responsible free market society if an operator gains the competitive advantage by not adhering to airport minimum standards or FAA regulations generally a competing company or an employee of the company in question will report the wrong-doing to the authorities. Once again, aviation is founded on trust and violating that trust has huge consequences to the individual and operator.

**Regarding Noise: "Other airports across the nation do a much better job policing pilots and placing restrictions and curfews."** No - No- No! On the other hand, one may say, "I don't care about the facts and figures; it's noisy over my house Sunday morning at 6 AM or last



Wednesday at 1 AM!"

Once again if you don't measure it, how can we manage it? First, I would like to remind the readers that many flight crews, maintenance technicians, business administrators that work at the airport live directly east or west of Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport and do not want their family awakened at 2 AM any more than any other household. Secondly, there are many statements made by community leaders such as, "If aircraft noise exceeds established limits the pilots should be fined or the city should charge landing fees to create a disincentive for noisy aircraft." Or the toughest approach, "Why not shut down the airport from 10 PM to 6 AM?" Being a federally funded public access airport playing a strategic role in the transportation system of the country, those are not legally practical options for this airport. Perhaps a better way to approach the problem rather than spending hundreds of thousands of the tax payer's dollars to legally attempt to pursue those options against the FAA, community leaders, residents, city officials, airport staff, and users of the airport should pursue the common goal of noise reduction through continued partnership and a comprehensive noise abatement program.

Unlike most general aviation air-

ports, Ft. Lauderdale Executive has a full-time staff member studying the data from noise gathering equipment installed in six locations in the surrounding community. The sophistication of the equipment is remarkable giving information as to what aircraft, at what altitude and exactly at what location is making how much noise, measured in decibels.

For those aircraft over 80db, they are immediately contacted by airport staff to determine the level of awareness and training of the crew with regards to flying to and from our airport.

Every four to five years the FAA strongly recommends an airport perform an Airport Master Plan of which a critical part of the plan is the FAA Part 150 Noise Study. This study last completed in 2003, was widely publicized in the newspaper and newsletters. The purpose of the study is to identify the effects of aircraft noise on the community and develop practical solutions. Community volunteers, users of the airport, and neighboring municipalities are very active and very proactive in producing recommendations to the FAA regarding noise reduction.

This was not an airport versus the community project but rather a very positive attempt to find a balance between the neighborhoods and the role of the airport. Thirteen recommendations were submitted to the FAA some of which many pilots disliked, but none the less, were willing to support. The most important recommendation was to make the I-95 turn (where departing jets are routed north along I-95) a mandatory, formal instrument procedure under FAA radar control, applicable to all aircraft. With the help of the community, the airport staff, and users of the airport, the FAA allowed jets with destinations to the north and west to be turned to the north over I-95, 24-hours a day. Between 11 PM and 7 AM all jets going to eastbound and southbound destinations are also turned north over I-95.

Unfortunately, this still allows aircraft headed east and south during hours other than 11 PM to 7 AM to fly over the neighborhood to which the airport is continuing to seek congressional support to put pressure on the FAA to make the ruling for all aircraft all the time.

The facts show that within the past ten years noise has dramatically decreased. For many years, the standard departure for all departing jets was to take-off and at the beach, then proceed north, east or south. At that time no jets turning up I-95, and

worse yet, 80% of the jets were stage I & II (the loudest and oldest jets). Today, 90% of all jets are the quiet stage III type and 70% of the departures are up I-95 except air ambulance, emergency flights, or weather affecting air traffic and safety concerns.

**General aviation working for America.** Did you know that 166 million passengers including many from South Florida fly on small airplanes each year? That's more passengers than American Airlines, United and Northwest combined. The airlines only utilize 540 airports whereas general aviation operates from 5300 in the USA. The latest statistics related to safety: In 2005, general aviation pilots flew 24.4 million hours of flight operations with only 321 fatal accidents. Almost twice as many die in recreational boating accidents, even though general aviation flies 166 million people a year.

The purpose for writing this article is simple. Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport is a city "gem" welcoming tourists, businesses, friends and family to our city. It is not just another airport; it is more modern, safe, professional and active than most in the country. The new generation of aircraft is faster, ultra

quiet, less expensive and technology has made them even safer. Very soon you will be able to purchase a seat on an "Air Taxi" six-seat private jet and fly 400 mph non-stop, point to point from a general aviation airport and the airfare will be comparable to today's full-fare coach ticket. The City of Ft. Lauderdale and the residents should be proud of owning one of the most advanced general aviation airports in the country under the management of Clara Bennett who won the NATA Airport Executive Partnership Award in 2006. Our city is ready to accommodate the new era of aviation because of the staff's commitment to the community and the city.

If you would like a tour of the airport to better understand its measurable benefit to our community please call Leslie at Banyan Air Service, 954.491.3170, to set up a one hour tour.

The most common remark that we hear after a tour is, "Amazing - I had no idea so many types of aviation services are offered at our airport."

Our team at Banyan would be glad to assist with any general aviation questions.



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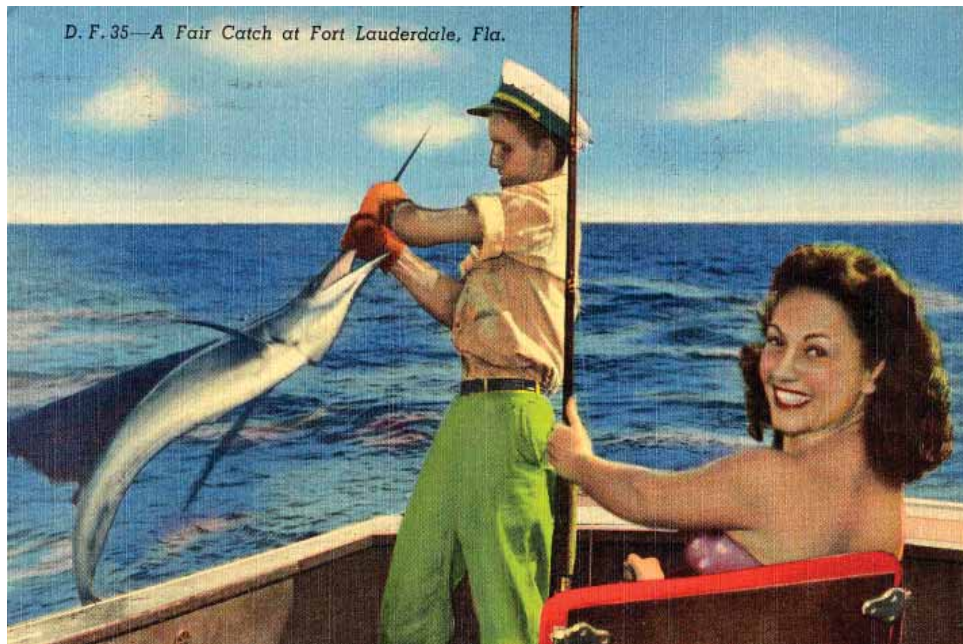


**FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPENS NEW EXHIBIT:  
 "WISH YOU WERE HERE: POSTCARD ART FROM THE PAST"  
 New River Inn - 231 S.W. 2nd Ave - Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

By Nikki Meyer

*"An everyday item, a penny postcard, becomes a work of art."* - Fort Lauderdale Historical Society Executive Director Richard Borges.

range from the early 1930s to the 1950s and show an array of images from historic beach scenes to beautiful views of the New River. The postcards are made of linen and represent the American Dream. Along with express-



The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society features its latest exhibit, "Wish You Were Here: Postcard Art from the Past" from May 23 through September 30, 2007, in the New River Inn.

"These early picturesque scenes of Greater Fort Lauderdale provide a wonderful opportunity to see our community in a more idyllic time and in vivid colors," said Borges. "Small hand-colored postcards have been greatly enlarged so that the details stand out like never before."

Postcards featured in the exhibit



ing the beauty of Fort Lauderdale, the exhibit gives insight into the history and creation of postcards. The exhibit is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is \$7 per person.

The exhibit is "eye candy," said Special Guest Curator Deborah Wessel. As a native of Fort Lauderdale, Wessel believes that the postcard images show the beauty and simplicity of Fort Lauderdale's past.

Located on the New River, the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society tells

the story of the Early Settlers of Fort Lauderdale. The site includes the 1905 New River Inn, which houses the Museum of History and is the oldest hotel in Fort Lauderdale; the 1907 King-Cromartie House museum, which belonged to one of the first pioneer families in Fort Lauderdale; the 1899 replica schoolhouse and the Hoch Heritage Center, which is a research library that holds more than 250,000 historic photographs. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society brings the history of greater Fort Lauderdale to life and preserves

it for the enrichment of present and future generations. For more information call 954.463.4431 ext. 19 or visit [www.oldfortlauderdale.org](http://www.oldfortlauderdale.org)



**GET YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY BRICK,  
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Put yourself on the map at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. For \$125 or \$500, buy a personalized brick on our beautiful site and become a permanent part of our history. Take a stroll down S. W. 2nd Avenue toward the New River and see where your larger than a postage stamp "brick" real estate can be located. Your brick can serve as a memorial or as a remembrance of a wedding, graduation, retirement, anniversary, birthday, thank you or any occasion or moment that is special to you. Corporations and businesses can also be acknowledged with a brick. Not only are you giving someone a special place in history, but your purchase allows the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society to fulfill its mission to bring the history of greater Fort Lauderdale to life and preserve it for the enrichment of present and future generations.

To purchase a brick, please contact the Society at 954-463-4431 x 16 or via email at [villageinfo@oldfortlauderdale.org](mailto:villageinfo@oldfortlauderdale.org)





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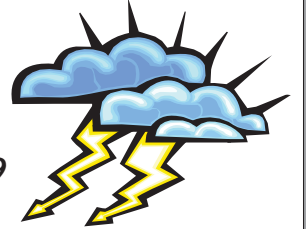
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# Letters



## Grandparenting is Fort Lauderdale is wonderful

Being a grandparent in Ft. Lauderdale has to be the best thing ever.

We not only live in one of the most beautiful cities in the U.S., but we are fortunate enough to have three of our five grandchildren living nearby. There is so much to do here in Ft. Lauderdale. You can either check the newspaper or the local publications that will list the various activities, museums and happenings.

Every summer between school and summer camp I have "Camp Nana" complete with tee shirts, rules and my whistle! It's quite an anticipated event, with field trips and the annual kids vs. Nana tug of war. Sydney - 10 and Evan - 9 will be in their fourth year. Marni - 4 1/2 the youngest joined last year. Samantha - 8 and Zachary - 5 live in New Jersey and have a special "Nana Day" when they are in town.

We do all kinds of simple things, like indoor crafts, cooking, board games and cards. We do the beach clean up with plastic bags and when we fill them up we take a well deserved break - always an environmental project. We did "blindfold" play on the beach to become aware of your senses and to understand what a blind child experiences. We have an annual clean out of old {good} toys and outgrown clothes to give away to needy children. When we drive out of the area, the kids each have a Florida map and a highlighter to chart our directions and to help them understand where we are and where we are going. They also learn to read the signs and how to calculate how long it will take us to get to where we are going.

Going to the King Cromartie House and being on Riverwalk, they learn about the early settlers and what life was like. The Performing Arts Center has afforded us some great opportunities to enjoy live theatre with our grandchildren. Let's not forget holiday time --- the Winterfest Boat Parade, Christmas on Las Olas and the beautiful lights everywhere including driving through Tradewinds Park in p.j.s and pillows. The Air and Sea show is a family favor-

ite. It's an all day patriotic, flag waving day with tons of food and pride in our armed forces.

The different ethnic restaurants, the small diners and old favorites like the Floridian, Catfish Deweys, California Pizza Kitchen and Jaxsons Ice Cream Parlor make our dining out fun. We have enjoyed the Water Taxi many times. We have also taken the children on rental boats and sightseeing boats.

We love to participate in the Annual Duck Race for charity and cheer on our ducks. Walking along Ft. Lauderdale Beach and seeing the ocean, the waves, the surfers, the windsurfers, the parasailers and just plain enjoying the views is special. Watching the turtle nests and becoming aware of the nature around you or whether it's sea oats, palm trees or sea gulls it's good to help them appreciate what's out there.

Fourth of July always has the best fireworks displays. The whole city seems to be lit up in a grand celebration. I must say we all enjoy the Imax Theatre. Watching the kids expressions is the best. The Museum of Discovery never gets old. At each age level there is something for them to explore and learn.

The Art Museum has fabulous exhibits even for the young children. The heritage of the Seminole Indians and the Miccosukee Indians in our backyard has brought us to the Indian Village or the Everglades. There's a whole culture to learn about. After all, they were here first. There are some wonderful parks in Ft. Lauderdale for all kinds of sports, activities and nature. Some of the fairs and festivals are held near us in Holiday Park.

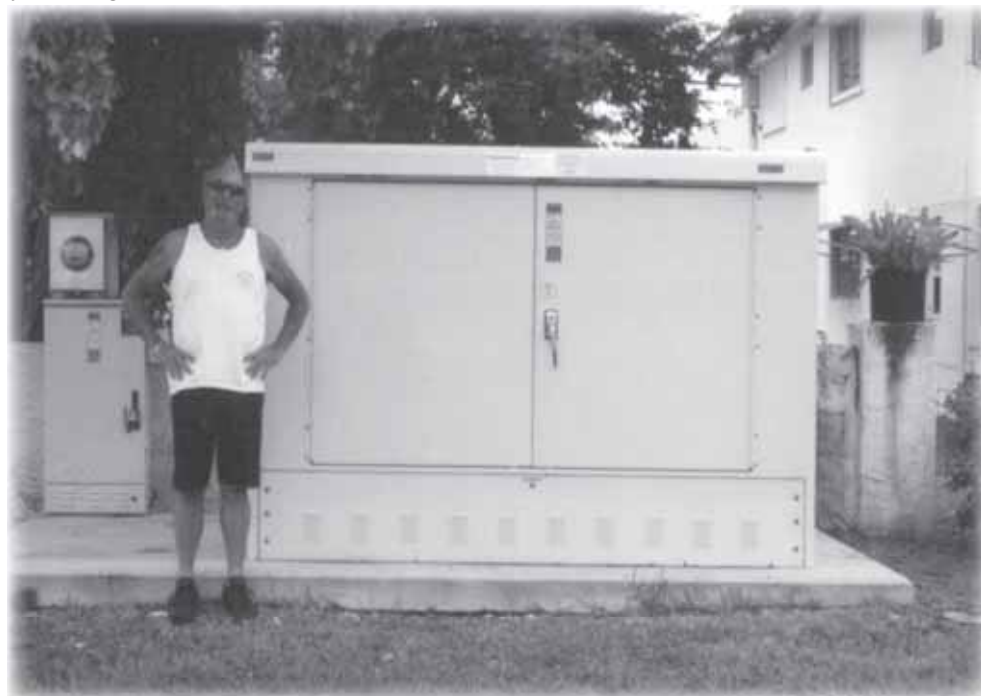
To sum it up, we enjoy so many activities with our grandchildren - everything is at our fingertips here in Ft. Lauderdale - the sun, surf, art, history, food and just plain laid back having fun swimming in the pool with Nana and Grandpa!

After they leave -- we're ready for our naps!

Pearl Feiss, Fort Lauderdale

## "AT&T" cabinets are ugly and noisy

If you haven't seen the new AT&T (formerly Bell South) Fiber Optic DSL/cable TV service cabinets that AT&T is planning to construct throughout Fort Lauderdale, please find attached, 4 photos of these cabinets that have already been constructed in N.E. Fort Lauderdale. All of these AT&T cabinets have audible cooling units in them that run 24 hours a day. Cabinets like these have also already been constructed in other neighborhoods throughout our City and its just a matter of time until they begin to arrive along the streets and in the utility easements in yards in your neighborhood.



If you'd like to see and hear these cabinets for yourself, the following is a list of the location and size of each of the cabinets shown in the attached photos.

If you don't like the appearance of these cabinets and don't want them in your neighborhood, please take the time to read this letter to find out what you can do about them.

Until recently, AT&T has placed these cabinets wherever they wanted to, without any input or approval from individual residents, neighborhood associations or City officials. The most egregious example of this to date is the cabinet that was placed in front of the new Tarpon River entryway at 400 S.W.

7th Street. A photo of this cabinet may be available upon request from Andy Ziffer, Vice President, Tarpon River Civic Association, andy@ziffer.us.

In response to objections to the appearance and placement of these cabinets, the City Commission placed this matter on their agenda for the Commission Conference Meeting on April 17, 2007, and they requested AT&T representatives to be present at this meeting to respond to these objections. At the meeting the Commission also requested AT&T to respond to other concerns that the Commission has about these cabinets regarding safety issues and that some of these cabinets may have been constructed without the required

permits. In response, AT&T representative Vic Beninate expressed regret that apparently AT&T had not previously been more responsive to these issues and concerns. Mr. Beninate told the Commission that AT&T has decided to conduct future business differently. He assured the Commission that AT&T will apply for all the required permits and discuss the construction of any future cabinets with City officials and homeowner associations in an attempt to find solutions to the objections to these cabinets. As for the existing cabinets, Mr. Beninate indicated that AT&T is working to design landscaping to attempt to make their appearance less objectionable. The key word in Mr. Beninate's proposed solutions is attempt.

During this meeting, the most notable



# Letters



solution that could in fact resolve all of the objections to these cabinets came from the City Commissioners who suggested that they be placed underground. Mayor Naugle noted that he was aware of underground cabinets for this type of equipment that would pop-up for service and he suggested that this solution should be researched before AT&T proceeded with any additional cabinets. This, along with a proposal that no permits should be issued to AT&T to construct more of these cabinets until all of the objections to these cabinets are addressed and resolved, was the essential outcome of this portion of this Conference Meeting. The minutes of this meeting are available at [http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/documents/comm\\_minutes07/041707cc\\_confminutes.pdf](http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/documents/comm_minutes07/041707cc_confminutes.pdf).

One other item of major importance that was mentioned during the discussion of this issue at this Commission Conference Meeting was the then proposed and recently passed (May 21, 2007) "Consumer Broadband Choice Act of 2007" (Florida House Bill "HB 529"). This Bill goes into effect on July 1, 2007 and the complete text of this Bill is available for your review on line at [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov). In short, HB 529; "prohibits counties and municipalities from negotiating terms & conditions relating to cable & video services; deletes authorization for counties & municipalities to award cable service franchises & restrictions that cable service companies not operate without such franchises; provides for incumbent cable service provider eligibility for state-issued franchises, etc."

The purported intent of this Bill is to promote competition between telecommunication service providers in order to reduce the cost of DSL internet and cable TV services to consumers. While this may sound totally unrelated to the issue at hand, the fact is that the passage of this Bill profoundly effects what our City Commission will be able to do to protect our City from the invasion of these service cabinets that each of these competing companies will need to construct in order to provide these competitive services.-

In this regard, this Bill in part reads; "... it is the intent of the Legislature that municipalities and counties treat

providers of communication services in a nondiscriminatory and competitively neutral manner when imposing rules or regulations governing the placement or maintenance of communication facilities in the public roads or rights-of-way. Rules or regulations imposed by a municipality or county relating to providers of communication services placing or maintaining communications facilities in its roads or rights-of-way must be generally applicable to all providers of communication services ..."



From this, it is not unreasonable to conclude that if AT&T is permitted to continue constructing the type of service cabinets shown in the attached photos throughout Fort Lauderdale, a precedence will be established that will allow any number of competing telecommunication companies to construct similar equipment throughout our City. If this happens, it is very possible that any number of these cabinets could be lined up in one location along any street or in a utility easement on any one property. However, it is also reasonable to conclude from the reading of this portion of the Bill, that there is an opportunity here, before any precedence has been established, for our City Commission to regulate the appearance and placement of all of the new equipment allowed to be constructed in our City by the passage of this Bill.

Since the Commission Conference

Meeting on April 17, 2007, Mayor Naugle has identified the specific underground cabinets that he had referred to at the meeting. They are flush to grade cabinets from Cross-Connect Systems and you can read all about them on their website [crossconnectsystems.com/about.htm](http://crossconnectsystems.com/about.htm). Mayor Naugle has also indicated that he is in favor of creating regulations that would require that the equipment allowed by the passage of HB 529 be placed underground where ever possible. In addition, he has indicated that he believes that the Commission would also be in favor of establishing these regulations.

Recently, an AT&T representative indicated that, because of the strenuous objections to the service cabinets that have already been installed, AT&T may wait to attempt to construct any more of them in Fort Lauderdale until after they begin their advertising campaign to sell the services provided by these cabinets. It seems that AT&T may believe that by then there will be a demand for their services that will outweigh any objections to these cabinets and that by then it will also be too late for anyone to do anything to stop them from building these cabinets wherever they like. This may well be the case if our City Commission isn't urged to act now!

Certainly no one in Fort Lauderdale would object to lower DSL internet and cable TV rates. However, the residents of Fort Lauderdale need to be made aware that in order to receive these services, the cabinets shown in the attached photos could be constructed along our streets and in their yards throughout our City. They need to be given an opportunity to express their opinion of these cabinets. They need to be informed that there is an alternative to these cabinets and that our City Commission can create regulations that will require all telecommunication companies to put the cabinets required to provide these services underground whenever possible.

I urge you to bring this information to the attention of the members of your association and all other residents in your area, through your newsletter or any other means of communication available to you. If you, your members, or anyone else you know are opposed to the appearance of these cabinets and would prefer to have them underground, please ask each of them to personally contact our Mayor and City Commissioners at 954-828-5004 and request the City of Fort Lauderdale to create regulations that will require all new telecommunications equipment authorized by the passage of HB 529, be placed overhead on utility poles or underground. If you are opposed to these cabinets and are also a member of the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, please urge the Council to adopt a position in opposition to these cabinets and ask the Council to also present this same request to our Mayor and City Commissioners.

Thank you for taking your time to read through all of this. If the effort to create these new regulations is successful, everyone wins. AT&T and other competing telecommunication companies will be able to provide these service to all the residents of Fort Lauderdale without further objection to this unsightly equipment. And the residents of Fort Lauderdale will have an opportunity to benefit from the availability of these competitive services at a reduced cost without having to look at these cabinets.

Sincerely,  
Dave Sandquist, Fort Lauderdale

## Submitting your letter to the Editor:

Your letters to the editor are welcome at the Fort Lauderdale City News. You should include your telephone number so that you may be called for verification. Your name will be included with your published letter to the editor.

Emailed letters are best - email your letter to: [letters@citynewsfl.com](mailto:letters@citynewsfl.com)  
Letters can be mailed to:

Ft. Lauderdale City News  
P. O. Box 347  
300 E. Oakland Park Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334



# Business Announcements

## Hurricane Ready or Not?

Hurricane season is officially here. Repeated warnings to prepare in advance can still be heard. We had at least six months to get ready, but if history is any teacher an alarming percentage of residents still do not possess the necessary supplies or even a plan.

Is it that Floridians look forward to standing in the long lines that form at grocery, hardware and various retailers prior to a storm? Has hurricane preparation become some kind of Xtreme Scavenger hunt contest to see how long one can wait before bolting out the door to collect the left-over, picked-over, mismatched hurricane supplies?



No. The reason for not responding to the warnings is this: preparing for a disaster is too unpleasant to think about. It's that simple.

Many stores like Home Depot, Publix, even Walgreens, are trying to make storm preparation easier by stocking large supplies of the essentials for a home hurricane preparedness kit, but the problem remains.

One South Florida company, however, has come up with a new solution to storm preparation and is marketing the "best of the best" Hurricane supplies in an innovative, convenient, all-in-one package, called the Life-Safer Pak.

Now this approach might work. No thought required. Everything you need to survive an extended power outage (according to emergency management experts' recommendations) with just one purchase.

Successful power outage survival means finding alternate sources for lighting, cooking, communication and the ability to keep perishable items safe.

The Life-Safer Pak meets this need and more with the added bonus of a very sleek look that one reviewer de-

scribed as "James Bond-esque."

The Life-Safer Pak looks like a rolling piece of luggage comparable in size to an airline carry-on. Actually, it is a soft-sided cooler on wheels complete with its own headlight, magnetically attached butane stove and detachable AM/FM radio. Unzip the rain-slicker-yellow cooler and you will find 20 other "must have" items including fluorescent lighting, corded telephone, television, first-aid kit and self-heating meals, to name a few.

Due to its compact size, the Life-Safer Pak can be stored in a closet and simply rolled out when needed. That's good news for the high-rise condo or apartment dweller who might have limited storage space. No special skills are required to use the selected products and because the Life-Safer Pak design includes wheels and a retractable handle, no special strength is required to move it.

So no more excuses. Your hurricane preparation shopping has been done for you.

The Life-Safer Pak is available online at [www.life-saferpak.com](http://www.life-saferpak.com) for home delivery.

## Catering by One Sweet Day - Now Open

One Sweet Day lovingly caters birthday, anniversary and dinner parties, baby and wedding showers, tea parties, picnics and other celebrations.

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## Nifty Business of the Month



### Espresso has the best Cafe con Leche in town!

This great drive-thru gourmet coffee shop at 1900 South Andrews Ave. is a little gem of a business. They've been around for years and Suzie, the owner, knows how to make really delicious coffee drinks. Stop in when you're driving by. They can be reached at 954-527-1222.

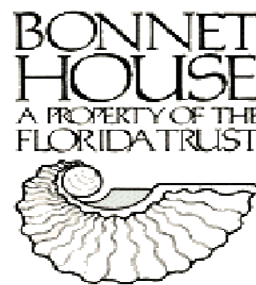
### Family Day Discount at Bonnet House

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens offers a true cultural experience for the entire family at a discounted rate on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm, through August 2007. Families may tour our historic house museum filled with a delightful collection of art and personal treasures from the Bartlett family including carousel animals from around the world. Children with help from mom or dad can also explore our nature trails in search of the many delightful creatures such as fox, frogs, monkeys, swans, butterflies and cranes as well as be inspired by the artist treasures throughout the house and courtyard.

Family day discounted prices are \$10 for adults and free for children 13 and under.

Dates for Family Day Discount:  
Saturday, July 7  
Saturday, August 4

Come explore the lost treasures of Old South Florida.  
Bonnet House Museum & Gardens  
900 North Birch Road in Fort Lau-



derdale - Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Sundays from 12:00pm to 4:00pm  
Last tour begins at 2:30pm.

For more information, visit our website, [www.bonnethouse.org](http://www.bonnethouse.org),

Bonnet House is also available for corporate events, weddings, and private parties.



Bonnet House Museum & Gardens  
900 North Birch Road  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304  
954-563-5393 x 127



Announcements for this Calendar section can be emailed to:

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