



Lauderdale Isles

Civic Improvement Association, Inc
P.O. Box 121255 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

www.ourlicia.com

Winter 2015 Issue Nonprofit Organization since 1959

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Dirk Lowry

Here we are, and another one bites the dust, (2014) with one month into 2015. I'm sure we are all enjoying the cooler tem-

peratures. Christmas is over and the finances are starting to recover from the extravagant spending over the holidays. Here's wishing all a happy new year and many more to come.

In getting down to business I wish to thank those who voted for allowing me to preside as president again. I do hope with all the new influx of new residents that someone will step to the plate next November to take the handle and run for President. We need fresh ideas and new energy for this position.

Although we are in the process of attempting to put together some form of a giant yard sale and an Association Picnic, dates, times, and locations are yet to be determined. As always, if you are a member or not you can participate in all the activities offered by the Association.

We have had no appreciable amount of criminal activity in the Isles. Remember if you see something say something. If the FLPD Beat Officers don't know activity of a criminal nature is occurring here they'll not be looking for it. There are many other neighborhoods that need constant attention. Having dead end streets, with no chance of an alternate escape, make us not likely to have a lot of action short of neighborhood petty thefts from some of our own.

The homeless who live under the bridge are being relegated to dwindling numbers as a result of the diligence of our Homeless at 441 Bridge Committee. Find an article to that effect in this edition of the Newsletter.

We will have a presentation by Allan Siegel, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Broward County Aviation Department, at our General Meeting, Thursday, Feb 19th. We are looking at having a guest speaker at all of our future meetings providing valuable, neighborhood-relevant information for our attendees.

There is a new report for an independent source that proposes alternatives and provides our concerns and issues to the Federal Railroad Association and produced by the EnviroCare Solutions International, ESI, compiled by a coalition of: Concerned Ft. Lauderdale property owners, boaters and Marine Industry Businesses. It is quite comprehensive and is at least 150 pages along with graphs, statistics, photographs and extensive text referencing our safety, businesses and waterway access concerns. You can find this report on our website, www.ourlicia.com. It's long, but very informative.

See you at the next General Meeting on February 19th, 7pm, at the Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club where coffee, water, and munchies will be available.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE WEBSITE LATELY?
www.ourlicia.com

If not, take a minute to check it out. It has lots of interesting info for Lauderdale Isles neighbors, like the pictures of homes decorated for Christmas:



Coming up at the next General Meeting:
Everything you wanted to know about
the airport, but were afraid to ask. . . .



See
Page
7

BUSINESS

Agenda

LICIA General Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2015, 7:00 pm
Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club

- Sign In & Dues Payment
- Opening Statement (President)
- Police Report
- Minutes Approval
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
 - Homeless @ 441 Bridge Committee
 - Welcome Committee
- Old Business
 - Alligator Sightings
 - Dredging Update
 - Website Update
- New Business
 - Introduction: New Treasurer, Jeannie Lim
 - Presentation: Broward County Aviation Dept.
- Open forum for questions & concerns
- Adjournment

Audio recordings of all meetings are made for the purpose of creating minutes.



IF YOU SEE ME, REPORT ME:
1-866-392-4286

Please note:

**The Treasurer's Report & the Minutes
for the November 2014 General Meeting
can be viewed at:
www.ourlicia.com**

From the Secretary's Desk

By Geoff Rames

- Newsletter going digital: At the October Board Meeting, it was discussed to move to an all-digital newsletter. However, at the January Board Meeting, it was decided to continue with the printed version, as the income from advertisers covers most of the cost of the color printing. The board will continue to monitor the costs.
- Electronic Version: There is always an e-copy of the newsletter available on our website www.ourlicia.com. So no matter where you are in the world, the newsletter is right at your fingertips on your laptop, Ipad, or smartphone.
- Sign-in at General Meetings: We use a new "Sign-in Card" at the General Meetings, so we can harvest email addresses. Unfortunately, we can't read most of the email addresses due to terrible penmanship. Please print your email address clearly.
- Newsletter Articles & Pictures: We always need articles & pictures for the newsletter and our website, www.ourlicia.com. If you've got some good ones, please email them to newsletter@ourlicia.com.

Many thanks to the contributors in this issue: Dirk Lowry, Chad Hodder, Jackie Zumwalt, Dawn Hanna, Bobbi Buntton, & Susan Sheridan Garlitts.



HELP SUPPORT A GREAT AMERICAN INSTITUTION:

The Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association

Become a "Member in Good Standing" with LICIA by contributing your \$20 dues this year. Your support enables us to address neighborhood issues, and to improve and enhance Lauderdale Isles.

I WANT YOUR DUES!  **Send your check today - you'll be glad you did!** 

See the back page of the newsletter for our mailing address

LICIA encourages you to submit articles for the newsletter. Letters & articles may be submitted by email to:
newsletter@ourlicia.com

All submitted materials will become the property of the association and may be printed in this newsletter or reprinted by any other interested publication.

Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association, PO Box 121255, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Calling All Lauderdale Isles Neighbors

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 7th, 2015
38th Annual Waterway Cleanup



Kayakers, Canoeists, & Paddleboarders: your crafts are perfect for cleaning debris from the rocks on the south side of the river!

The waterways of Lauderdale Isles are the heart of our boating community. Here's your chance to step up to help keep our waterways clean and healthy.

Our site location: Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club

Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Free refreshments: Coffee, breakfast treats available prior to start of Cleanup

Free bottled water & soda — Free Waterway Cleanup T-shirts for all participants

Community Service Hour Certificates for students: pre-register at waterwaycleanup.org

Marine Gift Packs for all participating Lauderdale Isles boat owners, compliments of LIWMD

Plus free admission to the Trash Bash, the official after party of the 38th Annual Waterway Cleanup, featuring food, drink, door prizes, and live music

You do not need a boat to participate: lots of help is needed onshore

For more info: www.waterwaycleanup.org

PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES

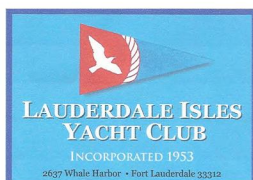
for the most "unique" trash brought in, compliments of LIWMD

Look at some of the neat things that prize winners found last year:



Of course, you may keep anything you find!

SUPPORTED BY:



Vice President's Corner

Chad E. Hodder



Hello to everyone and Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays.

It's another year and thanks again for allowing me to serve as vice president. I feel that LICIA has the best set of appointed board members in recent history. Over the last couple of years, the board has made numerous improvements to our community and has made attempts to bring everyone closer as a community. LICIA has a welcoming committee for new residents, we have had our first and very successful waterway clean-up, we got the city to start dredging our canals when they said they had no money, we have an active and up to date website at all times, and we participate in all local meetings that impact our community so we all stay informed. I ask all of you to start coming to our general meetings so you can see for yourself how we are trying to make our neighborhood better.

Secondly, I would like to thank everyone that displayed Christmas lights this past holiday season. Lauderdale Isles has never looked so good in all the fifteen years I've lived here. The lights displayed were so good, I had my daughters drive up and down each lane taking pictures of each house with lights so we could upload everyone's house onto "ourlicia" website. The pictures were a big hit on the website and it really showed how our community is growing closer together.

Now for some informative news. It never hurts to "play it safe." We all need to be diligent and keep our cars and homes locked. If you see someone that just doesn't appear to belong around here, the police have told us during our meetings to call them immediately. Keep valuables in your car out of sight, don't leave anything of value on your porch or carport, and as stated in the previous newsletters, try not to leave your home windows open when you are not home. Leaving your home windows open makes it so easy for a thief to gain entry into your home without making any noise or slowing them down. And an unlocked bicycle in the carport is very tempting to kids walking by. Following these simple steps will save you money, aggravation, and more importantly, the feeling of being violated.

Let's continue to grow closer as a community and make 2015 one great year!

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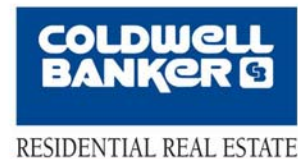


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LIWMD Update Feb 2015

Alligator Update

We have not had any reports of alligator sightings since mid-December. Our state-authorized trapper for 18 years resigned from the program late last year and the world-famous Gator-Boys from Holiday Park are now the authorized trappers in our area. We frequently see reports on “Next Door Lauderdale Isles,” of alligator sightings. Often, the people who make these reports say they “didn’t know who to call.” The FWC Nuisance Alligator number is on this page and also the back page of this newsletter. Based on information from the alligator experts, we can expect the gator “Wiley” to return. Please call the FWC if you spot him.

Oil Spills

There have been quite a few oil spills in our canals and the river in December and January. The spills are almost always diesel fuel. The police will respond, if called. Occasionally, the Fire Department will respond as well, apparently because the dispatcher hears the words “fuel spill.” If we are notified of them, LIWMD attempts to respond, too. Unless there is an eye witness to point out a specific boat causing the problem, these cases are difficult to solve. But if you do see a spill, call it in. It is only a matter of time until one of these violators is caught and the police will not treat the case lightly. It’s not a bad idea to check your own boat’s bilges frequently, too.

March MIAF Waterway Cleanup

The 38th Annual MIAF Waterway Cleanup is March 7th, at the yacht club. LIWMD is the site sponsor and will be providing boater’s gift bags, as well as prizes for the most unique items brought in. These Waterway Cleanups are great neighborhood events and lots of fun, even if you don’t have a boat, so come on out and lend a hand.

Dilapidated Docks

The City Code Enforcement and Building Departments sent inspectors out in an FLPD Marine Unit boat in late September and cited (20) docks throughout the Isles. As of late January, the online Code Enforcement system indicates: (9) cases closed, (7) cases open & (4) scheduled for hearings before the Special Magistrate.

Canal Dredging Update: GREAT NEWS!!

The long-awaited canal dredging project for Lauderdale Isles officially started on Jan 12th, and should be completed by the end of April, barring any unforeseen delays.

According to surveys conducted by the City, 2620 cubic yards of material will be dredged from nine canals (the Cobia Canal does not require any dredging).

We have posted a lot of information on the LIWMD website about the project, including drawings of each canal indicating where dredging is required. Additionally, we will update that website every 7-10 days with the latest info as we receive it from the City’s Project Manager and the dredging contractor, Gator Dredging. Go to: www.liwmd.org

Dead Manatee at Boat Ramp

Unfortunately, the FWC discovered a dead 7 foot female manatee in the Marina Mile stretch of the New River on Tuesday, Jan 13. It was towed to the Riverland Woods Park boat ramp and tied to the dock to await examination by a biologist on Wednesday. It was found to be too decomposed to determine cause of death, and was removed from the water that day.

WATERWAY ISSUES

- **Alligators (& Crocodiles) Problems**
FWC Nuisance Alligators: 1-866-FWC-GATOR
- **Pollution/ Oil Spills:**
7:30 –5:00 Ft. Laud. Customer Service:954-828-8000
Evenings/Weekends: FLPD 954-828-5700
- **Large Debris/Dead Animals in the water:**
Ft. Laud. Customer Service 954-828-8000
- **Injured Manatees**
FWC: 1-888-404-FWCC
- **Sinking or Sunk Boats**
FLPD 954-828-5700 or 911 for emergencies
- **Unightly or Derelict Boats:**
Ft. Laud. Code Enforcement: 954-828-5207
- **Lawn Service Firms disposing debris in canal:**
FLPD 954-828-5700
- **Illegal Dock Construction/Pilings/Dredging**
Code Enforcement: 954-828-5207
- **Large snook swimming off your dock:** Don’t call anyone, get your fishing rod fast

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OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Have you got any questions or concerns about this ?

Get all the latest info about what's happening at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Our guest speaker will be:

Allan Siegel, M.S., APR
Community Outreach Coordinator
Broward County Aviation Department

This should be an informative and lively meeting.

Don't miss it!



THURSDAY, FEB 19th
7:00PM
At the Yacht Club



CALL THE "STRESS-LESS" TEAM

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- Searching for a new home
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SRES



ACTION IN THE ISLES

BOAT FIRE ON MARATHON LANE

On December 2nd, at 1:54pm, the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department responded to this boat fire. Along with several fire engines and a rescue truck, Fireboat 49 with its five man crew also responded. According to the Fire Marshal's report, the boat was a 32' long 1970 Pace-maker, described as a "fixer upper." "Due to the extent of the damage and the hazardous condition that existed, a definitive fire origin and cause could not be established."



Photo: Gina Garcia



Photo: Ft. Laud. Fire Rescue

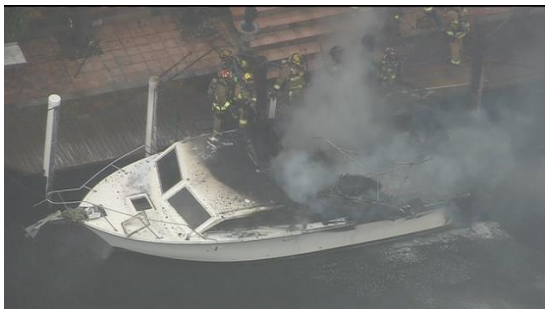


Photo: WSVN Channel 7



Photo: Ft. Laud. Fire Rescue

A WINTER WONDERLAND ON KEY LARGO LANE

By Jackie Zumwalt

After speaking with new neighbors on our lane, we were inspired to have a Meet & Greet for all our Lane residents. We held it on Nov 15th at the cul-de-sac. Everyone brought appetizers or something to drink and we got to meet and talk. During the Meet & Greet it was suggested to have a Key Largo Christmas tree.



Christmas carols and eggnog at the Key Largo Lane Christmas Tree

On December 1st, neighbors of Key Largo Lane met in front of a 14ft Christmas Tree and shared food, hot chocolate, eggnog, Christmas Carols and memories. Our Lane raised \$350 in donations which covered the Christmas tree, stand and decorations. Despite the rain earlier that day, we got to ring in the Holiday season with friends and family of Key Largo Lane.



Each neighbor on Key Largo Lane had their very own decoration on the tree.

AT LAST - THE DREDGING PROJECT IS UNDER WAY!

After many years of LIWMD working with the City of Fort Lauderdale Public Works Department, our long-awaited canal dredging project is a reality. The contractor for the project, Gator Dredging, started work on January 12th. The project should be completed in April.

There were some minor snafus the first week: a dead manatee at the boat ramp, an unknown underwater cable that had to be investigated, and re-design of the unloading area by the boat ramp was necessary. Work then progressed smoothly on the Sailfish Canal, except for Monday, Jan 26th, when an oversize boat that had been docked by a neighbor over the weekend blocked access to the canal for a day.

The City Public Information Office mailed out a flyer to the entire neighborhood announcing the start of the project. A second flyer is supposed to be delivered to neighbors approximately one week before the dredging starts on a specific canal.

To stay up-to-date on the project, please go to:

www.liwmd.org

There you will find all kinds of detailed info regarding all the aspects of the project. The website is updated every 7-10 days.

NOTE: The contractor has determined that there are several homes throughout our canals where large boats will need to be moved in order for the dredge to maneuver down the canal. The City has told us that those homeowners will be given 30 days notice to move those boats. That info will be posted on the website when we receive it from the city.

This dredging project is considered “maintenance dredging,” & its purpose is to maintain the center 20 feet of the canal for navigation. The area by your dock will not be dredged. The city’s engineering drawings specify where dredging will occur & the contractor follows those drawings.

When you see the barge coming down your canal, give Anthony and Kevin, the dredge crew, a friendly Lauderdale Isles “Welcome!”



In operation on the Sailfish Canal



Bucket load of grainy sand material



Excavator at boat ramp unloads barge



And into the dump truck, to be hauled to the landfill site.

AMOUNT OF MATERIAL TO BE REMOVED: Here are the estimated amounts of material to be dredged from each canal, in cubic yards. Note: The Cobia Canal requires no dredging.

Turtle Canal: 97.99
Sailfish Canal: 235.25
Rockfish Canal: 465.13

Pompano Canal: 38.07
Marlin Canal: 88.20
Bluefish Canal: 367.88

Dolphin Canal: 315.16
Barracuda Canal: 707.94
Albacore Canal: 67.00

Vice Mayor and District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



HAPPY NEW YEAR! May you have a healthy, safe, and prosperous 2015!

2014 was a banner year that saw Fort Lauderdale make impressive gains in key industry sectors, including capital investment, employment, housing, marine, tourism, and transportation. The national media is taking note. For example, *The Wall Street Journal* article about our City's economic renaissance is at <http://fortlauderdale.gov/Home/Components/News/News/195/16>.

New on the Riverwalk! – During the Citywide Visioning process, our neighbors consistently identified activating the Riverwalk as a top priority essential to making Fort Lauderdale “The City You Never Want to Leave.” On Jan. 5, we took another step toward fulfilling this vision by partnering with Riverwalk Trust to launch two new initiatives. Located near Huizenga Plaza, **Riverwalk Gourmet Delights** features three food kiosks – Wholly Crepe, Espresso, and Nacho Bizness. **Riverwalk Recreation** offers a variety of activities to encourage active, healthy lifestyles. Located in the Las Olas Riverfront Plaza at 300 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 111, Riverwalk Recreation is a “one stop shop” for activities along the river, including guided bicycle, quadracycle, and Segway tours; paddleboard and kayak rentals; yoga classes; photography classes; dog training; and more. Please help spread the word and stop by soon!

Bryant Peney Park – My sincere thanks are extended to everyone, who participated in the Community Playground Build at this park, located at 2100 SW 4th Avenue. Following the build on Jan. 10, a dedication was held to honor the life and memory of Officer Bryant Peney, who was killed in the line of duty in 1996 at age 27.

New Process for Advisory Board Applications – If you or someone you know is interested in serving on a board or committee, please apply here: <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/advisoryboards> and click on “Vacancies” to view current openings. If you need additional information, have questions, or would prefer a printed application form, please contact Arleen Gross in the City Clerk’s Office at 954-828-5288 or ArleenG@fortlauderdale.gov.

LauderServe – For customer-service requests, go to <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/lauderserv>. The link provides drop-down menus with reporting forms and other helpful information on the following topics: Animals, Building Permits, Code Compliance, Flooding, Graffiti, Parking, Public Safety, Roads & Streets, Sanitation, and Utilities. Neighbors can also call 954-828-8000 for 24-hour Customer Service.

Staff Transition – Jenni Morejon is the new Director of the Department of Sustainable Development. Since coming on board in 2000, she has moved up the ranks of our organization. As Director, Jenni will oversee the day-to-day operations of the entire department, including Building Services, Code Compliance, Economic and Community Reinvestment / Community Redevelopment Agency, Housing and Community Development, and Urban Design and Planning. Jenni can be reached at JMorejon@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5849.

Your Input Matters! If you have a comment, concern, or suggestion about a City service, program, or event, I encourage you to share your ideas with me and help build an even better community. For example, during my Pre-Agenda Meetings, you can tell me what’s on your mind. I would also welcome your feedback at a neighborhood meeting (call my office to schedule*). Or, you can send an e-mail to me at RRogers@fortlauderdale.gov. Thank you.

Ways to Get Involved – The City is creating a vibrant network of public / private partnerships made up of neighbors, civic associations, and business leaders by engaging citizens in solving City problems to achieve measurable impact on pressing local challenges, such as education, health, sustainability, and disaster preparedness. For these and other volunteer opportunities, please contact Jorg Hruschka in our Neighbor Volunteer Office at 954-828-5568 or jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov.

To stay up-to-date on City happenings, you can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofFortLauderdale?ref=bookmarks>. To follow us on Twitter, go to <https://twitter.com/FTLCityNews>. To receive *Fort Lauderdale Currents*, the City’s monthly e-newsletter, please contact Shannon Vezina at 954-828-4743 or SVezina@fortlauderdale.gov.

2015 City Elections – I am pleased to report that no other candidate filed and qualified to run in District IV, apart from yours truly, so I have the privilege of serving you and the rest of our City neighbors for the next three years without an election! However, please remember to go to the polls or vote at home (absentee) in the General Election on Tuesday, March 10, should there be a run-off for mayor.

➤ My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 – 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM – Noon (in non-Commission weeks).

* To schedule a meeting, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.



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Goodbye, Yelka

After many years as our esteemed editor of the Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association Newsletter, Yelka Mikolji has moved from Lauderdale Isles.

As a thank you for all her hard work, especially those long nights to meet the deadline for the printer, LICIA awarded her a beautiful Certificate of Appreciation plaque and an American Express Gift Certificate.

We wish you all the best, Yelka.



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Attorney Jennifer Gomez is licensed to
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HOMELESS ACTIVITY REPORT

By Dawn Hanna

In case you didn't read my last article about the homeless and vagrant issues in Riverland, allow me to briefly summarize what we faced in 2014.

Our neighborhood has seen homeless and vagrant activity, especially near our parks and the convenience stores at the end of old Riverland Road and 441. The root of the problem is from a homeless encampment located on the New River underneath the SR7 bridges, and the Turnpike on-ramp. In addition, the convenience stores have been very welcoming to the cigarette and beer buying habits of the homeless crowd.

If you are unfamiliar with homeless issues, the vast majority are what is called, "dual diagnosis". That means they have mental instability and psychological issues in addition to substance addiction. There are also a number of sexual predators and offenders that call the SR7 bridge their official address. These individuals have exhibited volatile and aggressive behavior in our parks and streets. Since April, I have been trying to resolve the problem to make our parks and neighborhood safer. Keep in mind, homelessness is not a crime. So this has been a challenging project to make our neighborhood less attractive to homeless individuals.



DOT Crew begins installation of fence in Nov.

I have been working with the Department of Transportation to block access to the shelter provided by the bridges. In early January, most of the access points had been blocked by fencing and razor wire. There are still some outstanding issues as far as the fencing. The barrier over the sea walls at Riverland Woods Park and at Broad Park continue to be vandalized. I suspect a few individuals are still living under the bridge based on the bedding, clothing, and other supplies that are under the 3 bridges. During December, the barrier project was put on hold because a "right of way" needed to be obtained from South Florida Water Management District. The right of way still needs to be approved, but apparently they allowed work on the barrier project to continue. A big thanks goes to Geoff Rames for helping me monitor the situation.

In addition to barriers, we have also been working with law enforcement to continue to discourage the homeless from making our neighborhood their home. Dirk Lowry has been working with Town of Davie Police (responsible for the area under the bridges) and Fort Lauderdale Police (responsible for Riverland Woods Park) to keep vigilant about managing the illegal activities of the homeless and work with homeless services to provide housing options. I'd also like to thank Dirk for his

insight and expertise in law enforcement. He has been an effective liaison between our neighborhood needs and the various law enforcement agencies involved.



Fence is topped with razor wire

Keeping the homeless and vagrants out of Riverland will apparently be an ongoing project. We will need to be vigilant to ensure that we don't allow the homeless encampment to grow to the 2 dozen beer drinking, bonfire-lighting individuals we had to deal with over the summer of 2014. Although we are making significant progress, follow through and monitoring will be required to keep our community safe.



Crew installing barbed wire over water

If you see any suspicious or unsettling activity in Riverland Woods Park, Riverland Road, Elizabeth Hayes Park or anywhere within our Fort Lauderdale boundaries, please call and report it. The non-emergency number is [954-764-4357](tel:954-764-4357). Call 911 in case of any emergency.



Advertising Rates: Our newsletter is published quarterly

	One Time	Half Year	Full Year
Full Page	\$100	\$190	\$360
Half Page	75	142.50	270
Qtr Page	50	95	180
Bus. Card	25	50	100

Make checks payable to LICIA & send to our PO Box address prior to publication. The deadline for submission is the first of the month of publication: Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, & Nov 1. Must be paid in full to receive discount. Ad must be ready-to-go as jpg or pdf.

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1625 SE 17th St. Ft Lauderdale, FL 33316



ALL ABOARD FLORIDA UPDATE

A report entitled, "Objections & Comments to the All Aboard Florida Draft Environmental Impact Statement & Section 4(f) Evaluation," was sent to the Federal Railroad Administration on Dec. 3, 2014. This is the only comprehensive, detailed study we have seen that objects to the All Aboard Florida plans, especially with regard to the New River rail bridge issue.



From the report: CONCEPTUAL RENDERING OF HIGH LEVEL MOVABLE PASSENGER RAIL BRIDGE AND VIADUCT OVER THE NEW RIVER.

The report highlights many faulty conclusions of the DEIS, and presents accurate, detailed counts of boat traffic and bridge closings, as well as alternate bridge configurations to lessen delays at the railroad bridge.

It was created on behalf of a coalition of Ft. Lauderdale property owners, boaters, and Marine Industry Businesses, *including LICIA*. It was prepared by EnviroCare Solutions, International. If you're concerned about AAF, you definitely need to read this document.

For your convenience, we have posted the report on our website, ourlicia.com, so you can download it. By the way, you'll need a tall cup of coffee for this one, as it's 157 pages, but it's excellent.

The Real Estate Corner

By: Susan Sheridan Garlitts, MBA

The Lauderdale Isles MLS Sales Activity for the last 90 days included 27 properties on the market; of which 6 homes sold and closed with the highest sales price at \$580,000 and the average sales price was \$320,208.

Remember the key to selling your house is to price it right!

Interest Rates fall again... for a 30 year fixed rate loan is now 3.73 percent and the 15 year fixed rate is down to 3.05 percent as of Jan. 9th 2015.

Lower FHA rates should be available late in January as the annual premium rates are to be lowered by a half of a percent for new borrowers.

FHA maximum loan rate on Single Family Homes in Broward County is \$345,000, Duplex \$441,650, Tri-plex \$533,850, and Four-plex \$663,450 as stated on the FHA web site.

The Boater's Log

Info for Lauderdale Isles Boaters

Thinking of taking a boat ride and stopping for lunch?

You may want to try these restaurants...

By Bobbi Bunton

There are numerous restaurants from the Lauderdale Isles area that are easily accessible by boat and always a fun ride without traveling a huge distance. We generally try not to venture out for lunch on the weekends since the docking space is even more limited and boat traffic and restaurant crowds can be huge. Some of our favorite spots that we tend to frequent include The Rendezvous, Bokampers, Coconuts, Bahia Mar and Shooters. There are numerous others along the New River and Intra-coastal waterways, but docking sometimes can be quite challenging.

The Rendezvous on Marina Mile is close to Lauderdale Isles but dock space is at a minimum there. It is said to be a well kept secret in the South-west end of town and caters to a large local crowd. Appetizers are excellent and there is a nice dining area overlooking the water and marina. We especially liked the bacon wrapped sea scallops, meat balls, quesadillas and calamari. Pets are not allowed.



Outside at the Rendezvous

Coconuts is probably our favorite spot for lunch, but again, dock space is minimal and you need to arrive fairly early to get a spot at the small dock, so we generally go by car rather than boat. Food is excellent and the crab scoobies are a favorite with everyone. My personal favorite is the Coconuts house salad with toasted shredded coconut, artichoke hearts and a fabulous dressing. Their signature coconut shrimp are also crispy and large and the daily specials are extensive. Wait staff is always personable and accommodating and their t-shirts say it all, "Be Nice"! They are pet friendly and always offer a cold dish of water for your furry friends. There are also huge amber jacks

and tarpon swimming around the dock area for added entertainment.

Bokampers Sports Bar is definitely a haven for the sports fan, but equally inviting to everyone. Over 100 large screen TV's grace the walls to view every sports event or TV show available and there is ample dock space for several boats. If you prefer to go by car there is also plenty of parking. Food is good and the menu is probably one of the most extensive I've seen anywhere, almost a bit overwhelming and sometimes difficult to make a choice, as everything sounds incredible. They are also very pet friendly.

Bahia Mar offers a beautiful view of the marina and water traffic and food/service is ok but, in my opinion, not great. They are not pet friendly and we always bring our little dog with us on our boating excursions so we tend to gravitate towards Coconuts or Bokampers where they welcome pets. The restaurant needs updating and wood bench seating is quite uncomfortable if you want to sit and linger over your lunch.

Further up the Intra-coastal and just before the Oakland Park bridge is **Shooters**, a Fort Lauderdale institution, which has recently undergone a huge renovation and refurbishing. It is quite inviting for boaters and provides 340 feet of dock space and spectacular views of the Intra-coastal water activity. Shooters is a step above your typical sandwich shop or deli type restaurant. Good food and service in a beautiful setting.

Fifteen Street Fisheries is another good eatery choice, right before the 17th Street Bridge and also a great spot to fish watch, especially around 5 pm when they throw out their kitchen scraps!

For the Northerners who miss the New England chowders, belly clams, lobster rolls and the best onion rings "evah", try **Kelly's Landing** on Cordova Road across from Winn Dixie. You can't get there by boat but the ride is well worth the trip as the food is always excellent.



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HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Nuisance Alligators : FWC	866-392-4286
Fort Lauderdale Police Non-Emergency	954-786-HELP
Fort Lauderdale Customer Svc. (24 hrs)	954-828-8000
<i>including Water/Sewer/Trash/Canal Cleaning</i>	
City Hall	954-828-5004
Building Department	954-828-5191
Code Enforcement	954-828-5207
Commissioner Romney Rogers	954-828-5028
Animal Control (Broward County)	954-359-1313
Airport Noise Complaints - Day	954-359-6181
Airport Noise Complaints - Night	954-357-1200
Traffic Sign/Signal Out	954-484-9600
Broward County Mass Transit	954-357-8400
Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club	954-583-7422
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