

What a Christmas in Lauderdale Isles!

The Sablich house on Whale Harbor Lane, Winner of ABC-TV's National Great Christmas Light Fight Trophy



THE WINNERS

Congratulations to our wonderful neighbors Lisa Smith-Sablich and Carol Smith-Sablich for winning the ABC Great Christmas Light Fight Trophy! Filming was completed in 2020, so Lisa and Carol were sworn to secrecy all through 2021. They snuck celebrity designer Taniya Nayak into the neighborhood late at night and during the wee hours of the morning to film.

Carol and Lisa took Taniya on a tour of all the displays from Santa and the reindeer on the rooftop, through Santa's village, the video animation through the front window of Santa's Toy Factory, and down to the entire lawn being covered by lights. Taniya was especially impressed by the original moving displays. Her favorite was the spinning cups.

Taniya described the display as "heartly" because every inch of the front yard and front of the house was covered in Christmas and North Pole themes. After the tour, Lisa and Carol ended the evening by taking Taniya to their decorated and beautifully lit boat behind their house for a ride on the canals. The show aired November 29, 2021 and Taniya ended the show by coming back to the Sablich house, announcing their win, and presenting the Great Christmas Light Fight trophy. After the show aired, Carol and Lisa proudly displayed their coveted trophy among the

beautiful lights.

Each year, for thirteen years, the work begins in September. Lisa and Carol can be seen on Whale Harbor Lane decorating trees and setting up animated displays through Halloween and Thanksgiving. The lights officially went on last year on December 3rd. This is a big production. There are volunteers helping direct visitors to appropriate parking and making room for Whale Harbor residents to pass by. Santa came to visit for photos on December 18 to the delight of many children and adults. The display was also visited by our Commissioner Ben Sorensen and his family. In 2020, a couple got engaged at the display.

Lisa and Carol pair their love of Christmas with their love of dog rescue. They accept donations on site and on line for 100 + Abandoned Dogs of Everglades Florida. A banner with pictures of their adorable rescued pet dogs Sami, Alex, and Murphy hangs in the front of the display. They have set up a year-round donation page through DONORBOX. Here is a shortened link to the page if you want to make a gift to this rescue <https://tinyurl.com/44a68udd>.

We are so grateful to Carol and Lisa for all their hard work to bring us such joy over the holiday season!

By Dawn Hanna

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Short Term Vacation Rentals ** FLPD Chief Scirotto ** Riverland Rd. School Traffic ** New County Commissioner

LICIA February General Meeting Thursday, Feb. 17th, 7:00pm

This will be a Virtual Meeting via ZOOM.

Due to the ongoing issues with the never-ending pandemic, the LICIA Board has decided to conduct our February General Meeting via ZOOM, instead of in-person. We will put the ZOOM login information on the home page of our website, so you can easily login and participate:

Just go to: ourlicia.com

Commissioner Ben Sorensen has confirmed he'll be there. As of press time, we had invited several other City officials to this meeting and are awaiting word from them. We will post the meeting agenda and who our headliners for the meeting will be on our website.

**PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR:
Feb 17th, 7:00pm via ZOOM**

LICIA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS FOR 2021-22



The Association held its November 13, 2021 Annual Elections Meeting at Civic Peoples Park. The new officers, left to right: Geoff Rames, Vice President, Deb Dedek, Secretary, Diana Steeger, Treasurer, and Earl Prizlee, President.

From the Editor's Desk

By Geoff Rames

- Did you know that you can view on-line versions of the LICIA newsletter, Treasurer's reports, Meeting Minutes and much more on our website ourlicia.com?
- Many thanks to the contributors in this issue: Dick Cahoon, Diana Steeger, Vince Valdeparas, Dawn Hanna, and FLPD Chief Larry Sciroto
- Are you a Member in Good Standing? If so, watch for our first "Isles Insider" newsletter via email soon.

Airport Noise: METROPLEX UPDATE

According to the FAA officials at the last BCAD Airport Noise Abatement Committee meeting in December, 75% of all the de-



partures to the west are now using "RNAV to DREDS," which dramatically lessens the noise we experience. We expect this percentage to increase as time goes on. Issues that prevent RNAV from being used more include weather, avoidance of turbulence for prop planes, and coordination with surrounding airports. Stay tuned.



I WANT YOUR DUES!

It's that time of the year

Association dues are due

Our fiscal year runs from November through October. With the new fiscal year comes the need for all residents to contribute their annual dues of \$20. Your contribution helps LICIA in our efforts to improve and protect our neighborhood. Why not take a minute right now to write a check and mail it to our PO Box. Plus, by paying your dues, you'll be a **Member in Good Standing**, meaning you may serve on LICIA Committees & you can vote in the November Election.

To mail your dues, use the handy coupon on the back page

Zelle

You can also use Zelle to pay your dues. Use email address:

licia.treasurer@gmail.com

When remitting by Zelle, send a second email with your street address

LICIA encourages you to submit articles for the newsletter. Letters & articles may be submitted by email to: g.rames.licia@gmail.com. All submitted articles are subject to approval by the Executive Board.

All submitted materials will become the property of the association and may be printed in this newsletter or reprinted by any other interested publication. Deadline for submission: 25th of month prior to publication.

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



Advertising Rates: Our newsletter is published quarterly

	One Time	Half Year	Full
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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 25th of the month prior to publication. Newsletter is published quarterly in Feb, May, Aug, & Nov. Must be paid in full to receive discount. Ad must be ready-to-go as jpg or pdf. *These rates are subject to change in 2022.* Members in good standing (paid dues) are allowed a free, two-line ad per person for personal property, subject to space availability.

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MEET BEAM FURR, OUR NEW COUNTY COMMISSIONER



By Dick Cahoon
Senior Staff Writer

LICIA is very pleased to welcome Beam Furr as our new Broward County Commissioner. This follows a recent change in district boundaries so that we are now in District 6, which includes parts of Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Hallandale Beach, part of Hollywood, Pembroke Pines, and West Park.

Beam Furr graciously agreed to a telephone interview for this newsletter to discuss his interest in getting to know us. He said he visited our website and reviewed the most recent issues of our excellent newsletter to get a sense of our neighborhood and our major issues.

He publishes his own civic association newsletter and is very familiar with how his office can help with association concerns. His office publishes a District 6 Newsletter, and he encourages everyone to stay in the loop by email at: <https://bit.ly/furrloop>

The District 6 Weekly Agenda includes over 100 items, and the Commissioner said he relies on input from interested citizens who can offer their opinions and expertise to help him navigate such a broad array of topics. By signing up for an advisory committee at: <https://bit.ly/furrcomm>, residents will be notified if an item of potential interest shows on an upcoming Agenda, that item will be sent to interested parties to ask for their comments or what the Commissioner should be on the lookout for regarding that item.

For example, the Commissioner is one of the point persons for the County regarding transportation and is interested in applying the transportation surtax where it is most needed. He is very involved in the discussions regarding the rail tunnel vs. a large new bridge over the New River. I mentioned that we discussed the rail proposals during our Board meeting and there was substantial support for the tunnel pending more information.

Commissioner Furr wants to be accessible to work closely with associations and encourages anyone with questions or issues to contact his office. While he can't promise everything, he is very proud of his helpful experienced staff, who will usually reply the same day.

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Broward County Governmental Center
115 South Andrews Ave., Room 410,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
website: <https://www.broward.org/Commission/District6/Pages/default.aspx>



With the recent County redistricting, Beam Furr is now our County Commissioner

The Code Corner

Are you aware of this little-known ordinance in the City Code?

Sec. 9-313(c)

The assigned street number of all structures and buildings located on navigable waterways and within the city shall be displayed on the property, so as to be plainly visible from the adjacent navigable waterway. The number shall contrast with the background and not be blocked by vessels or landscaping.

It's not that big a deal, and actually a good idea. In the unlikely event that emergency personnel need to respond by water, it makes finding a property a lot easier. The numbers can be displayed on the house, the dock, the seawall, a piling, a fence, etc., as long as they are plainly visible from the waterway and not blocked from view. Cruise our canals and you will see that some neighbors have had these numbers displayed for years.



Street numbers attached to the face of a dock.

For a cost of under \$10 for the four numbers, and 15 minutes of time, it's easy to comply with this ordinance.

Action in the Isles



The LICIA Garland Crew hard at work decorating the lane sign posts for the holidays. Left to right: Dick Cahoon, Vince Valdeperas, Geoff Rames, Julie Gordon. Earl Prizlee was taking the photo. Luckily, the crew had plenty of Amaretto & Eggnog to keep their energy level high.....

Special Report: VACATION RENTALS

Originally, the concept of vacation rentals was that a homeowner could rent out his home to short term guests, in order to earn some extra money to help pay, for instance, for a kid's college tuition. Of course, this idea was dubious at best, for the simple reason: where does the homeowner stay while guests are occupying his home? Back at that time, occasional unlicensed vacation rentals would pop up and when they were reported to the City, the owners found out how much time and money it would take to become "certified" as a vacation rental, and many walked away from the idea.

Things have changed now – and have changed for the worse. Vacation rentals are big business. Instead of a homeowner trying to make a few extra bucks, many of these properties in our neighborhood are owned by out of state corporations and LLC's with the intent of generating big profits by essentially running mini-hotels in the midst of our neighborhood.

And many of these properties start out operating illegally, raking in big bucks without the licensing and certification from the City. Then when they're caught, they go through the certification process but of course keep all the money they earned while operating illegally.

Several years ago, the LICIA Board unanimously approved a resolution that the Association is totally opposed to short term vacation rentals in Lauderdale Isles. You may recall a General Meeting back then where we had City officials in attendance to explain how to report and address Code violations at vacation rentals. The process at that time was cumbersome and FLPD officers who responded to vacation rental complaints were never really aware of how those complaints had to be forwarded to Code En-

forcement.

Today, the enforcement methods to investigate *illegal* vacation rentals and to cite *legal* vacation rentals for violations are much improved. In fact, Code Compliance has Code inspectors working until 2:00am on Friday thru Sunday, in order to respond to violations as they are occurring, rather than going out the next day when nothing is happening. The fact that Code has dedicated staff and inspectors working nights shows that the City is aware of the enormity of the vacation rental problem and is proactively addressing it.

We have created the following pages as a Q&A to inform residents about the vacation rentals issue and how to deal with it in order to make sure the vacation rentals in Lauderdale Isles operate to the letter of the law.

We feel it is LICIA's job to make you aware of the tools available to address the vacation rental situation, but it's up to YOU to use those tools. Working with the City's process does yield results, as proven by a vacation rental that lost its license for 6 months in Lauderdale Isles. *By the way, posting about a vacation rental on Nextdoor, instead of calling the City, is a waste of time and accomplishes nothing.*



Common violation: All the cars must be parked on the driveway

Vacation Rental FAQ's, Next Page →



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Vacation Rentals: FAQ's

Why won't the City just prohibit Vacation Rentals?

The state legislature passed legislation that does not allow cities & counties to prohibit vacation rentals. However, the City can regulate vacation rentals and require them to be certified. Failure to follow the City Code can result in fines and ultimate suspension of a vacation rental certificate.

What are the most common violations that occur at "registered" or "legal" vacation rentals:

The most common violations are: Noise, vehicles parked illegally, exceeding the number of permitted guests and garbage problems. Throughout these FAQ's, we address each of these violations.

The house next to mine was just sold and is apparently operating as an illegal vacation rental. There were dozens of people, cars parked all over the street, and horrendous noise all night. What should I do?

At night you need to call the 24 hour Customer Service Number, 954- 828- 8000, and report this activity when it is happening. Ask for an incident number. Don't wait until the next day when the activity has stopped. Follow up with an email to VRINFO@fortlauderdale.gov and include any helpful info such as pictures & copies of listings on vacation rental websites. Of course, if things are out of control – cars racing, etc., call FLPD 911.

What about violations during the daytime?

You should call Code at 954-828-5207 to report violations during the day. You can also email VRINFO@fortlauderdale.gov, but a phone call gets things started faster.

What about FLPD – should I call them?

If things are out of control, for instance cars racing down the street or other immediate safety issues, of course you should call 911.

How does the City handle illegal vacation rentals?

They investigate to find proof of the vacation rental activity. They usually find a listing for the property on one of the vacation rental sites like AIRBNB and VRBO. In fact, they have software that monitors those sites. This is evidence then used with the Special Magistrate to start a case against the owner, who is then notified of the violation.

What happens to the owner if they continue to operate illegally after being notified by the City of their violation?

The City will schedule another hearing for the magistrate to assess additional fines.

I thought that the AIRBNB and VRBO websites, and others, require that a vacation rental be "legal" or certified, before they list it on their sites.

It seems that non-certified vacation rentals do end up on these sites. Code Compliance has software that monitors for these.

How many vacation rentals are operating legally in Lauderdale Isles?

According to the Code Compliance website as of press time, there are six "registered" vacation rentals in Lauderdale Isles: 2401 Andros, 2406 Sugarloaf, 2407 Key Largo, 2430 Bimini, 2442 Bimini, 2642 Flamingo. (*source: fortlauderdale.gov*)

How many properties are currently being cited by Code Compliance for operating without being certified?

There are a total of five in Lauderdale Isles as of press time: 2442 Key Largo, 2454 Nassau, 2612 Sugarloaf, 2612 Key Largo, 2525 Okeechobee. (*source: fortlauderdale.gov*) According to neighbors there are probably more that are unreported and more coming.

PARKING: A "registered" or certified vacation rental near me has numerous cars parked all over the street. Where can occupants at a vacation rental park their cars?

All vehicles associated with the vacation rental must be parked within a driveway located on the subject property, per City Code. But someone has to report it to the City because only a Code Inspector or FLPD officer is allowed to start a case after observing a violation. Parking in the street or on the lawn is prohibited.

How many guests can occupy a vacation rental?

The maximum number of transient occupants authorized to stay overnight at any vacation rental shall be limited to two (2) persons per sleeping room. Up to four (4) persons under 13 years of age are exempt from and shall not count towards the occupancy limits. So if there are three bedrooms, a total of (6) persons can stay overnight, plus up to (4) persons under 13 years of age.

How many people not staying overnight are permitted at a vacation rental?

The maximum number of persons allowed to gather at or occupy a Vacation Rental shall not exceed one and one-half times the maximum occupants authorized to stay overnight at that site. In no event shall a gathering exceed (20) persons. So if it has three bedrooms, nine people may gather there, plus up to four under 13 years of age

On the City vacation rentals website, they list contact numbers for "responsible persons" for vacation rental properties. If there are problems at a vacation rental near me, should I call that person?

The "responsible person" is required to answer that number 24/7 and must arrive at the property within an hour after being called by Code or FLPD, not by you. Your calls to complain about a problem should only go to the City in order to get results. Only Code or FLPD can request the "responsible person" respond to a property.

What about the actual owners of the property?

Vacation rentals are big business. Some of the owners are out of state LLC's & corporations. Those owners are usually NOT involved in the operation of the property. They often hire a manager to be the "responsible person," to manage the property and respond to problems.



Another pic of a vacation rental parking violation. But nothing happens unless it's called in to the City.

Phrases in quotes in this article are excerpts from the City Code

Don't I have the right to quiet enjoyment of my property?

Yes, you do, according to the Florida Constitution. You need to protect that right – by notifying the City of illegal vacation rentals and violations by legal vacation rentals. Vacation rentals are a business operating in a residential neighborhood and you need to make sure they know they need to be in compliance – by filing complaints when they violate the City Code.

NOISE: What about noise from vacation rentals?

This is one of the biggest problems with vacation rentals in our neighborhood. Each vacation rental is required to have a notice posted inside the house:

“A statement advising the Occupant that any sound shall not be plainly audible for a period of one (1) minute or longer at a distance of twenty-five (25) feet or more when measured from the source property line between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. daily and at a distance of fifty (50) feet or more when measured from the source property line between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily.”

Bottom line – if you hear noise from a vacation rental, call in a complaint to the City while the noise is occurring, so an inspector or officer can respond and hear it.

Are there penalties assessed by the City for violations?

Yes. “The amount of the civil penalty for each uncontested violation shall be \$200 and for each contested violation the penalty shall be \$275.”

What about the “three violations” and “suspension of certification”?

After three violations are certified by the special magistrate, the magistrate can suspend the certification for the vacation rental: “(a) Upon a third violation of this Article the vacation rental certificate shall be suspended for a period of one hundred eighty calendar days. (b) Upon a fourth violation of this Article the Vacation Rental Certificate shall be suspended for a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days.”

So it's not really hopeless if a house on my lane becomes a vacation rental?

No, it's not. As you can see, the City can fine or suspend a vacation rental for violations. But in order for that to happen, plain and simple, *neighbors MUST file complaints with the City when the violations are occurring.* And note: violations must be observed by a Code Inspector or an FLPD officer, not a resident. Once a vacation rental owner starts being fined or has his license suspended, he will understand that our neighborhood expects nothing but utmost compliance with the City Code by him and his guests. Suspension of a certificate doesn't happen instantly, but it does happen. It happened with a vacation rental in Lauderdale Isles. Imagine paying \$800,000 for a property in Lauderdale Isles in order to run a vacation rental. Then the guests cause problems with noise, parking, and garbage, and ultimately the license is suspended for 6 months or even a year. That investment now becomes a huge loss for the property owner. Maybe he'll wake up and sell the property to a nice family instead of trying to run a business in a residential neighborhood

I called FLPD one night about lots of noise at a vacation rental. The officer told them to quiet down and left. That was it.

Of course, you always have the right to call FLPD. But in this case you should also call 24 hour Customer Service, 954-828-8000 and report the incident, so Code is aware of it and they can start a case.

GARBAGE: A vacation rental on my lane leaves the garbage bin on the street all the time.

“No solid waste container shall be placed at curbside before 6:00pm of the day prior to solid waste pickup, and the solid waste container shall be removed from curbside before midnight of the day of pickup” Call it in, 954-828-8000.

I was looking through some vacation rental websites and discovered a house in the neighborhood that appears to be an illegal vacation rental. What should I do?

Send an email to VRINFO@fortlauderdale.gov with a link to the listing and the address of the house, so Code Compliance can investigate.

What else should I know?

Remember that the more information you can provide regarding an incident, the better. You need to call while it's happening, not the next day. Take pics or videos with your phone. But do not approach the guests at the vacation rental and try to solve this on your own. Most likely, you won't be able to, and quite often they're rowdy and troublesome. Your goal is to get a case started for the violation, so that the violation is certified and counts toward the “three violations.”

If a vacation rental is causing problems, should I post about it on Nextdoor for help instead of contacting the City?

As you know, Nextdoor posts offer a lot of opinions and not all of them are factual. Don't waste your time.

MORE INFORMATION: Where can I read the City Ordinances governing vacation rentals?

They are contained in City Ordinance No. C-16-25

Go to: fortlauderdale.gov

Select: [Government](#)

Click on: [Community Enhancement and Compliance](#)

Click on: [Vacation Rentals](#)

You may also call Code Compliance at 954-828-5207, M-F 8:30 – 4:30 and ask to speak to a vacation rental specialist. They are very helpful. If you like, you may email questions or concerns to VRINFO@fortlauderdale.gov

Finally

LICIA is constantly hearing of issues related to vacation rentals and this seems to be a growing problem in our neighborhood. We are providing this info to give our neighbors a better understanding of vacation rental regulations in the City of Fort Lauderdale and what can be done about the proliferation of vacation rentals that operate illegally or improperly. We are volunteers, not attorneys. We have included many excerpts from the City Code, as well as information from neighbors experiencing problems, fortlauderdale.gov and other sources for this article. We believe that everything here is accurate, as of press time. We recommend that you save these pages from the newsletter so that you have this info handy. We hope you find this information helpful, and we will continue to provide more information in future newsletters. Again, our goal is to provide the tools you need to address this issue effectively, but it's up to YOU to use these tools.

A late question came in to us:

I want to use my house as a vacation rental in Lauderdale Isles to get rich. Can you give me information on how to get started?

Nope.

Calling All Lauderdale Isles Neighbors

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, March 5th, 2022
45th Annual Waterway Cleanup



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.

LOCATION- RIVERLAND WOODS PARK BOAT RAMP

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 Bags for all participating boat owners

Plus free admission to the Trash Bash, the official after party of the 45th 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

Registration is now open: www.waterwaycleanup.org/registration

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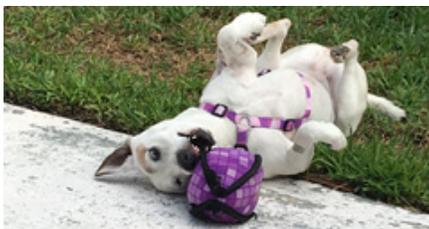
UPDATE ON LUNA

By Diana Steeger

As so many of you have asked while following Luna's story in the newsletter, we wanted to give an update. Unfortunately, we are very saddened to share that we had to say goodbye to Luna on December 21. She developed neurological issues, that caused seizures, with the last one not allowing her to come out of it, so we decided to end her suffering.

Our pets are part of our family and leave a big void behind. We care for them in every way we can, make sure they eat the best possible food, take them to vets and specialists, and provide them with a loving home.

We wanted to share this photo of Luna, which shows her playful and witty personality, from 2016 when we first adopted her from Miami Dade Animal Services Pet Adoption.



Luna in the good old days

Be Water Wise

Did you know that the City of Fort Lauderdale has the following year-round restrictions for lawn watering?

- Even numbered addresses: Thursday & Sunday only
- Odd numbered addresses: Wednesday & Saturday only
- No watering from 10:00am to 4:00pm

LIWMD UPDATE

45th Annual Broward County Waterway Cleanup



LAUDERDALE ISLES
WATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT
www.liwmd.org

You may recall that last year's Cleanup was quite different due to COVID. Boaters were encouraged to go out individually and record the trash they collected on their smart phones. There were no sites set up where you registered and there was no Trash Bash afterward. It was done this way so participants could avoid close contact during the pandemic, and it actually worked well. There were lots of boats out on the water.

This year, the Cleanup sponsor, Marine Industries Association of South Florida, has decided to conduct the Cleanup as it had in pre-COVID years. There will be a registration site at the Riverland Woods boat ramp, where you can register, pickup your T-shirts, boaters bags, etc., and then return later with the trash you picked up.

However, if you wish to avoid close contact at the site, MIA SF told us you will be able to just go out on your boat and report the trash you collect via smart phone like last year. Details are at waterwaycleanup.org.

We had planned to combine our LICIA Waterway Cleanup and barbecue that we cancelled last fall with the MIA SF event in March, as it looked back in September like COVID would no longer be an issue in March. However, after talking to about twenty of our waterway cleanup regulars, we will postpone the LICIA Cleanup again - and hope for best in the fall.

So either way you decide to participate on March 5th - at the site or on your own - get out there and help keep our waterways clean!

New River Middle School Traffic Update



By Diana Steeger

We would like to keep you updated of how this subject is developing. LICIA has been working very closely with the City and the Transportation and Mobility Department. We were asked to join a zoom meeting in early December, where we were able to present our case, and the difficulties school traffic is presenting for residents and surrounding neighborhoods. Joining the zoom call, Commissioner Sorenson's team, the Transportation and Mobility Department, as well as project manager for the Riverland construction project.

The current school traffic situation is one that is in the forefront of trying to find a solution. Some of the already known facts are there are 1600 students attending the school, only 48 school buses are currently available, and the majority of parents prefer to drive their kids to school given the current COVID situation. As if this situation wasn't difficult enough, we also have the Riverland Road construction coming closer to the school, which is of concern in keeping students safe during heavy traffic times. Heavy machinery hinders our view of students walking and biking to school, as well as oncoming traffic.

Different solutions were discussed, one being the possibility of directing one-way traffic with corresponding street signage at school traffic peak hours. This is a solution that is used by many other schools within Broward county, however it is one that will take time as a DOT study has to be undertaken, after the Riverland Road construction is finalized.

We briefly discussed speedbumps and also putting up traffic cones to guide incoming and outgoing school traffic, but quickly realized it wasn't really doable for our purpose, and not all that effective.

Another option, especially to alleviate early morning traffic, is for the school to potentially open their gates an hour earlier, allowing parents earlier drop off of their kids. Unfortunately this would involve additional funding for early morning supervision, which was not available and had already been negated.

The most viable option, and also most effective, would be to have dedicated traffic aides actively directing traffic. An example provided was the system that St Thomas Aquinas High School has in place, an aide with a very loud whistle keeps vehicles moving and parents following directions. The only minor obstacle standing in the way would be where to get funding. Luckily, there is a COVID fund that might just be our immediate solution.

Commissioner Sorenson's office is coordinating a meeting with the Broward School Board to discuss this possibility and LICIA is included in the discussion. Our presentation clearly highlights all the traffic issues, blocking of intersections, traffic back-ups on Riverland Road, and parking on the lanes. We trust that we'll have a solution soon, as well as something in place for the 2022/2023 school year ahead.

As always, we welcome your feedback and any comments by email to: laudisles@gmail.com



Possible solution: special signage



Cars stacked up on Riverland, a typical day near the school

The Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club Annual Holiday Boat Parade



By Vincent Valldeperas

On Saturday, December 18th, the Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club held its annual holiday Boat Parade. The day began with a forecast for rain, and this kept some of the confirmed boats from the neighborhood away. But the dedicated club members, not willing to let the area kids down, pressed on with this great tradition.

When the time came, Santa cleared the skies for us and even joined us on Bruce and Elena's pontoon as the last boat in the flotilla. While the threat of rain kept the flotilla small, next year we hope to have not only more club boats but also more boats from the neighborhood as we secure more sponsors for gifts for the best decorated boats.

As usual the parade begins at the boat ramp and this year we were met and sent on our way by our City Commissioner, Ben Sorensen, whose wonderful family was also present. Thanks for joining us and you are invited to ride along next year. From the boat ramp, we headed east toward the middle school, you may have heard us along the way, and began visiting each of the canals to see all the happy kids and parents along the way as we worked our way back to the boat ramp. At the end we visited the wonderful holiday display at the Sablich home on whale harbor lane. There we handed out some gifts provided by Towboat US.

This year Elena was able to secure some awesome sponsors including the Downtown Gondola tours who donated a free tour of downtown and TowBoat US who donated a free one-year towing membership. The Yacht club also awarded a \$50 West Marine gift card, a trophy, and Christmas tree ornaments to all who participated.



One of the well-decorated boats in the parade

We want to thank all who came out to their docks to see the parade, especially the group of kids that sang to Santa as we went by. Thanks to all who participated in the parade this year. Liz Mullen from Okeechobee Lane won the TowBoat US membership, Rich Thompson won the gondola tour and Bruce Anderson (Santa) got the West Marine certificate and trophy. We all look forward to next year when we hope to have a huge parade.

We would like to do more events, including a St. Patrick's day parade, a July 4th parade (perhaps with fireworks at the boat ramp) and even a Halloween parade for those brave souls. If interested, please reach out to us at the club web site www.lauderdaleislesyachtclub.org or PM me on Nextdoor.

Special to the LICIA Newsletter. **FLPD's New Chief Larry Sciroto** **On Community Policing**

By Geoff Rames

LICIA President Earl Prizlee and I attend bi-weekly ZOOM meetings for the District IV Civic Association Presidents, hosted by Commissioner Ben Sorensen and his Community Outreach Coordinator, Ryan Thomas.

One of the regular attendees at these meetings is FLPD's new Chief, Larry Sciroto. At the meetings, the Chief has shared insight into his new neighborhood policing policy, where all the officers in a police zone and their sergeants will be engaged with residents of their neighborhoods. This is different from the previous program, where four Neighborhood Action Team members handled community outreach for all the neighborhoods in the entire Police District 3.

Now, with the Chief's new initiative, the zone officers who work in our area every day will be the ones directly involved with

Lauderdale Isles neighbors and will be aware of issues affecting the neighborhood. This new close interaction with FLPD means we will actually personally know all the officers who patrol and protect our neighborhood. Every officer will be a community policing officer.

We reached out to Chief Sciroto and asked him to provide his vision of community policing for this newsletter and he was kind enough to create this article for us. The Chief's vision for policing in Fort Lauderdale will make the City a safer and greater place to live.



FLPD's new Chief,
Larry Sciroto

From the Chief:

In 1829, Sir Robert Peel, the "Father of Modern Policing," established nine principles for policing that most law enforcement executives would consider the foundation of Community Policing & Problem Solving and the influence for "21st Century Policing." In my opinion, the most notable principle was #7, which stated, "to maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence."

Today, that charge is the measure the Fort Lauderdale Police Department strives to achieve with our community and our officers. Upon my arrival in August '21, one of the goals I set for the department was to expand our outreach and improve community/police partnerships. The partnerships would not be a matter of convenience, but real relationships built upon trust and engagement outside of times of crisis. A relationship that valued community input on problem solving and crime prevention.

To achieve success in community policing and problem solving, the 530 sworn officers and 179 professional staff members of the FLPD will have to work together with our communities to develop strategies that improve the quality of life and reduce violent crime in our neighborhoods, while building meaningful relationships that are supportive of genuine community/police partnerships.

I will ask our community groups to partner with your neighbors to develop priorities that should be the focus of the FLPD. I will ask our officers to work in partnership with our community to develop solutions for those priorities. This strategy, albeit a departure from the current practice, will build a partnership between the community and the police, just as Sir Robert Peel envisioned almost 200 years ago.

Every day I challenge our officers to "Be Bold!" I ask the community to partner with us in a collaborative effort to keep our neighborhoods vibrant and safe for those who live, work, and visit the City of Fort Lauderdale. The FLPD and the citizens of Fort Lauderdale are prepared to be the gold standard of community/police partnerships, and this is just the beginning!

Best Regards,
Chief Larry Sciroto



Over the years, our Team has sold, listed or leased
over 120 Lauderdale Isles homes.



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Julie Gordon, Broker Associate 954-445-3345



LOST CAT \$ REWARD

Please spread the word, we need your help!
Our indoor cat Angel went missing 12/1/2021.
Angel is very sweet, friendly and timid. I always said with a smile
on my face "what would I do without you?" The HAPPY,
cheerful, lovable, loyal personality and the genuine innocent
looks.... Please pray for Angel's safety and return home. We
miss her so much we're hopeful for her to be reunited with us
soon!

We are grateful for the incredible neighbors that have provided
their time looking for her, a lot of support and resources! We
are still at a loss as to what happened.

Last Seen Date: December 1, 2021

Last Seen Location: Key Largo Lane

Description:

Black/Tan, White Tabby with White Nose, White Chest, White
Paws, White dash on her back. Last seen wearing a Pink collar
with bell.

Please Call/Text/Email for any whereabouts or sightings:

Sarah (954) 501-4704 / Steve (305) 298-0021

sarahsteveparkinson@gmail.com

THE REFRIGERATOR LIST

Updated February 2022

LICIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

Executive Board

President: Earl Prizlee 954-579-8465
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Whale Harbor Dawn Hanna 954-873-1925

Newsletter Editor: Geoff Rames 954-327-9095
grames.licia@gmail.com
Webmaster: Dawn Hanna: mmex99@yahoo.com

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Fort Lauderdale Police Non-Emergency 954-764-HELP
Fort Lauderdale Customer Svc. (24 hrs) 954-828-8000
including Water/Sewer/Trash/Canal Cleaning
Airport Noise Complaints * 954-359-2366
City Hall 954-828-5004
Building Department 954-828-5191
Code Enforcement 954-828-5207
Commissioner Ben Sorensen 954-828-5028
Animal Control (Broward County) 954-359-1313
Comcast *Good luck!* 800-266-2278
Nuisance Alligators: FWC 866-392-4286
Crimestoppers 954-493-TIPS
Mosquito Control (Broward County) 954-765-4062
FPL Power Outages 800-4OUTAGE

** File Airport Noise Complaints easily with the smart phone app found at:
<https://www.broward.org/Airport/Business/NoiseInformation/>*

PICKUP SCHEDULE for LAUDERDALE ISLES

Weekly Trash Pickup (black cart): Tuesday & Friday
Weekly Recycling Pickup (blue cart): Tuesday
Weekly Yard Waste Pickup (green cart): Friday
Monthly Bulk Trash Pickup: First Wednesday
For more info: www.fortlauderdale.gov/pickup

WATERWAY ISSUES - Who to call:

- **Alligators (& Crocodiles) Problems**
FWC Nuisance Alligators: 1-866-FWC-GATOR
- **Pollution/ Oil Spills** within the City of Fort Lauderdale:
7:30 –5:00 Ft. Laud. Customer Service:954-828-8000
Evenings/Weekends: FLPD 954-764-HELP
- **Pollution Complaints** outside the City of Ft. Lauderdale:
County Environmental 24 hrs: 954-519-1499
- **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**
24 Hour Customer Service 954-828-8000
- **Unightly or Derelict Boats/ Boats too wide for canal:**
Ft. Laud. Code Enforcement: 954-828-5207
- **Lawn Service Firms disposing debris in canal:**
FLPD 954-764-HELP
- **Illegal Dock Construction/Pilings/Dredging**
Code Enforcement: 954-828-5207

Lauderdale Isles Real Estate Stats

By: Julie Gordon, Broker Associate
juliegordon@remax.net

<u>Active Listings</u>	<u>List Price</u>
2512 Cat Cay Ln.	\$875,000
2503 Andros Ln.	\$874,500
2530 Key Largo Ln.	\$1,100,000

<u>Active Under Contract</u>	
2413 Sugarloaf Ln.	\$839,000
2636 Nassau Ln.	\$1,025,000
2648 Flamingo Ln.	\$899,999

<u>Pending Sales</u>	
2690 Marathon Ln.	\$1,100,000
2536 Gulfstream Ln.	\$598,500

<u>Closed Sales Last 60 Days</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>
2613 Gulfstream Ln.	\$895,000	\$900,000
2506 Cat Cay Ln.	\$874,900	\$860,000
2531 Key Largo Ln.	\$850,000	\$815,000
2549 Marathon Ln.	\$839,000	\$810,000
2430 Cat Cay Ln.	\$849,990	\$795,000
2413 Flamingo Ln.	\$749,000	\$749,000
2506 Gulfstream Ln.	\$735,000	\$745,000
2618 Key Largo Ln.	\$725,000	\$710,000
2525 Gulfstream Ln.	\$729,000	\$690,000
2453 Andros Ln.	\$650,000	\$665,000
2406 Nassau Ln.	\$575,000	\$560,000
2418 Flamingo Ln.	\$570,000	\$530,000
2424 Andros Ln.	\$465,000	\$450,000

MEMBER DUES for Nov. 2021 – Oct. 2022: BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

Dues are only \$20 per year. Mail to: LICIA, PO Box 121255, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Please return this portion with your check

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____