



Lauderdale Isles

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

Issue Spring 2014

Nonprofit Organization since 1959

President's Message

By Dirk Lowry

Well here we are again at the, soon to start, Hurricane Season. For those who are new to the Isles and/or new to South Florida, I'll give you a site that will provide great info on pending hurricanes and other weather patterns. In your browser type in crownweatherservices.com. Then on the right hand side bar click on [Atlantic Tropical Weather Page](#). When that pops up you will be able to scroll to map pages for the information you will find necessary on what's going on in the Atlantic hemisphere hurricane activity. Scrolling down to a page with a map and clicking on it will put it in motion; there you can see the most recent movement of the storm. You will be able to see what's moving off the coast of Africa. This information combined with what you get from the Media Weather Terrorists on TV can provide good insight into weather activity to keep your family and property safe.

Now that the weather is out of the way the subject of the impending All Aboard Florida (AAF) passenger service scheduled to potentially shut down the rail bridges that cross the New River should be mentioned. There are many rumors in circulation about this new rail service. Basically this rail service will be to run up to thirty two trains across the New River Rail Bridge, providing service between Miami and Orlando that will cross the river between the Arts Center and the River Walk, near Andrews Ave. As most of you who are boaters know it's impossible to get a Kayak under that particular span when it's lowered. This project has apparently been in the works for a few years now.

I will attempt to provide you with a few of the facts that I've been made aware of. It is true the AAF is desirous of implementing a passenger rail service through Ft. Lauderdale using the FEC trestle (bridge) crossing the river in close proximity to Andrews avenue. Being in the works for many years now and with the outcry from local associations and residents, the AAF has agreed to make the mentioned trestle crossing "Ground Zero" for their passing, which means the trains will pass at the same time at that location.

Though the trains will only be about four cars and an engine, there is some question about the scheduling and incidents that may prevent this timing but the attempt is on the table to accomplish this. That subsequently means only sixteen closings as opposed to thirty two. This is a dual track trestle and it's possible to make this happen. Other concessions that are on the table are having a Bridge Tender on location with direct control over the openings, closings and direct radio contact with river traffic. There's also a request for the default position of the trestle to be in the open position.

There are concerns set forth on hurricane evacuation and the effect on the Boat Parade. It should be mentioned these are some of the concerns the City Commission has voted on in a resolution thereby recognizing the concerns of the property owners and the Marine Industry of South Florida, who also have a big stake in this situation as it relates to the AAF project. This Resolution was passed at the City Commission Meeting on May 6 of this year.

There are few more hoops for this project to jump through. One is the Environmental Impact Study, EIS, also there is additional funding

Vice-President's Message

By Chad Hodder

Hello everyone. We are almost into the third quarter of this year. Where does the time go? I hope everyone loved the new color newsletter. I have received nothing but positive feed back and have had people asking about placing ads. The enthusiasm generated with the new color newsletter is great news to help generate additional revenue for the association.

Now for even better news. We have secured a new domain name for our website. The new domain name is "OURLICIA.COM". As an added bonus, my company donated the funds for the new domain name and will be handling the website design as well as maintaining it. My daughter and I are working together on the website. We are designing a basic website and want your help/input on completing it.

We are going to list all the ads that are in the newsletter, as well as important public phone numbers. We need lots of pictures of our community to make the website show why Lauderdale Isles is a great family neighborhood with a lot to offer.

In our last board meeting, a cool idea was brought up. We'd like to reach out to everyone in our community who has a business or wants to offer their services: a FREE two line ad on the website. This idea came up to promote our community and allow everyone in our neighborhood to use each and every one of our services. We hope this will get all of us closer as a community and help build everyone's businesses. We also hope that by providing a two line ad, more people will then purchase a larger ad and help generate additional money for our association. So, I ask every business owner to send us your business information and ask everyone else to reach out and call upon our fellow neighbors for services. I hope by doing this, we will have a stronger and closer community. Let's strive to be one of the elite communities in all of South Florida.

For anyone who is looking to place a paid ad in our news letter/website, please email Yelka at newletter@ourlicia.com. For anyone looking to place the free two line ad, give important information that needs to be uploaded onto the website, or just want to send some pics, please email info@ourlicia.com.

I hope everyone is enjoying all of the new and exciting changes being made. Remember, we can only make things better by working together. So let's work together to make this neighborhood the greatest ever.

Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of this great association.



Business

Agenda

Financial Statement

LICIA General Meeting
Thursday, May 15th, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR FISCAL PERIOD
11/01/13 THRU 4/30/14

- Sign In
- Opening Statement (President)
- Police Reports
- Minutes Approval
- Treasurers Report
- Committee Reports
 - Beautification Committee
 - Airport Committee
 - Welcoming Committee
- Old Business
 - Alligator update
 - Update on dredging
 - Web Page Update
- New Business
 - All Aboard Florida
 - Simple discussion / feedback
 - Functions and activities ideas
 - Smartwater presentation (marking your property)
 - Open for questions and concerns
- Motion to Adjourn

<u>INCOME:</u>	
DUES COLLECTED	\$ 1,350.00
ADVERTISING	860.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,210.00
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	
LANE SIGN EXPENSE	0.00
MEETING REFRESHMENTS	51.97
NEWSLETTER,EQUIP & SUPPLIES	430.05
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	0.00
MEETING LOCATION FEE	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>482.02</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSE	\$ 1,727.98
ADD: CASH IN BANK 11/01/13	<u>23,880.59</u>
NEW CASH RESERVES 4/30/14	<u>\$ 25,608.57</u>

I HAVE EXAMINED THE BOOKS AND RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STATED PERIOD AND HAVE FOUND THEM TO PROPERLY REFLECT THE ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KEITH LINDGREN, TREASURER
 APRIL 30, 2014

Letters and articles may be mailed to:
 LICIA - P.O. Box 121255, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312
 or emailed to:
 Newsletter@ourlicia.com

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

Last Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association Feb 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by President Dirk Lowry. President Lowry announced that a quorum was present for the meeting.

1. FLPD Report: No police report was given.
2. Commissioner Romney Rogers: District IV City Commissioner Romney Rogers provided an update on Canal Dredging. Money has been budgeted by the City for dredging Lauderdale Isles canals, to be paid for by Storm Water funds from the City's general fund. The Commissioner presented the procedure: surveys, permitting, etc., & our canals should be dredged late this year. The city has established a plan to survey all the canals in the city. There is the possibility that future dredging in the city may be paid for through assessments to waterfront property owners. Other issues, including deteriorating street paving & canal cleaning were discussed.
3. New Newsletter format in color: everyone approved, President Lowry advised the on-going cost would not be that more expensive.
4. Minutes Approval: President Lowry presented the minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting of Jan. 16, 2014, as provided in the Feb. newsletter. Motion to Approve: Bill Gray , Second: Geoff Rames , Approval: unanimous
5. Treasurer's Report: Ruth Lindgren advised that the Treasurer's Report, as provided in the Feb. newsletter, was accurate. Additional dues were received tonite.
6. Beautification Committee: No report. President Lowry asked for volunteers to serve on the committee & to let him know by email.
7. Airport Committee: George Counts advised the new runway construction is on schedule & helicopter flyovers remain an issue.
8. Welcoming Committee: Gina Garcia advised that three new residents were attending tonight's meeting.
9. Manatee Presentation by Ryan Goldman, Director of the Broward County Manatee Program. Attendees found this presentation very informative. Handouts regarding manatee protection were provided.
10. LIWMD New Board Member: Ken Stauch of Gulfstream Lane was introduced as the new member of the LIWMD board.
11. Revival of LICIA.ORG website: Vice President Chad Hodder reported that his daughter was ready to create the licia.org website as soon as the domain name is available.
12. V.P. Hodder advised that we would have a "50-50" at the next general meeting.
13. Alligator Update: Geoff Rames reported recent alligator sightings. Arrangements have been made with the trapper for our area so that any alligator trapped in our canals will NOT be killed; it will be relocated, so no one should hesitate to call if an alligator is seen. A neighbor reported a Muscovy duck was attacked by a gator yesterday.
14. Dredging: The schedule and diagrams for dredging our canals were posted at the meeting.
15. Sign approval for Yacht Club: President Lowry addressed the previous approval for the Yacht Club to install a small arrow sign on the LICIA sign at Riverland Road.
16. March 1st Waterway Cleanup: Commissioner Ken Stauch of the LIWMD discussed the upcoming Waterway Cleanup and the need for as many boats to attend as possible. We would like this Cleanup to be the best one ever.
17. Future Events: President Lowry asked for ideas for events and activities such as garage sales, etc., to be sent to his email address.
18. Other questions & concerns:- Frank Hodgson raised the issue of the lack of lighting on Riverland Road from Gulfstream Lane to the school. President Lowry indicated inquiries could be made regarding the issue.
19. House numbers visible from the waterway: President Lowry discussed the recent issue of the requirement to have house numbers visible from the waterway. Antony Spalding stated that there are other city ordinances that most residents are not aware of. V.P Hodder reiterated that the cost to install the numbers is under \$10.
20. Homeless People in the park: It was reported that there is a problem with homeless people in the park again & FLPD should be called.
21. Oil spills in canal between Sugarloaf and Okeechobee: A flyer was included with the Feb. newsletter regarding the frequent oil spills in that canal. It was emphasized to call the numbers listed in the newsletter if any oil is seen on the surface of the canal.

There being no further business before the association, the motion to adjourn was made:
Motion: Bill Gray, Second: Chad Hodder, Approval: unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Geoff Rames, Secretary LICIA

The Gatorboys try to catch one in Lauderdale Isles

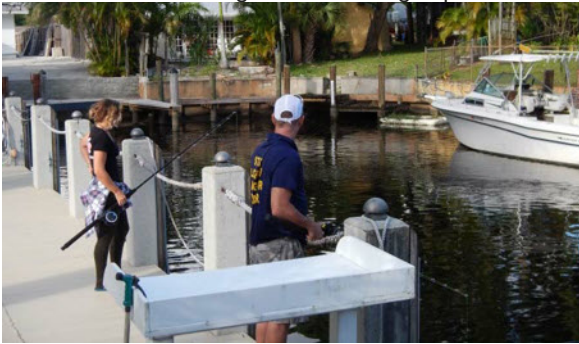
As mentioned at February's LICIA general meeting, the alligator who likes the end of the canal between Marathon and Nassau lanes came back February 20th. He spent several hours in the afternoon snoozing in the sun.



He's definitely an 8 footer and he loves that Styrofoam float.

The FWC Nuisance Alligator Line was called to get the trapper dispatched. It turns out that the team that was sent to catch this gator was "Gatorboys" star Paul Beddard and his assistant Caroline. Of course, 10 minutes before they arrived, the gator decided to head back into the water.

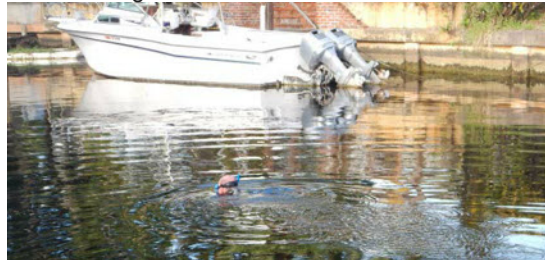
In this picture, they have just arrived and are sizing up the situation. It turns out that Paul has been out on previous calls for this gator four times. And our regular trapper, Kevin, has been out twice. The neighbors have named this gator "Wiley" because he's been so good at avoiding capture.



After waiting a while to see if the gator would surface, Paul decides to do it the hard way. He suits up and heads into the water with his snare.



You can see Paul in the middle of the canal. Nice day for a swim with a gator.



After searching underwater for a while, Paul said he saw a swirl of silt under the boat docked across the canal. Fearing he may have spooked the gator, Paul climbed out of the water.

A couple of minutes later while everyone was standing on the dock, the gator's head popped out of the water next to the boat.

The next technique used was casting large weighted treble hooks with heavy-duty deep sea rods in order to try to snag the gator.



No luck with the rods. Paul went into the water one more time to look under the boat with his snare and a flashlight. No luck, too dark to see anything.



"Hey Paul: What do you think?"

"We may have spooked him and he'll move out of the canal.... or he may be back on the float tomorrow afternoon. Hard to tell. Call us as soon as you spot him, and we'll come back and try again."

It's certainly not like on the "Gatorboys" show where they arrive and in 5 minutes they've caught the gator and he's loaded in the truck. They were there for over two hours. According to Caroline, that's how it usually works. Wait, then wait, then wait some more.

HOWEVER, as of May 1st, we have not had any reports of this gator returning to his favorite float on this canal. Maybe just the sight of the Gatorboys was enough to send him down the river.

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“I have been a resident of
Lauderdale Isles for 14 years.”



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Neighborhood News

The State of Real Estate

By Rich Thompson

On March 24th, 2014, President Obama signed HR 3370, The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. This Act repeals the Federal Emergency Management Agency's authority to increase insurance premium rates when a property is sold. It also refunds the excessive premium to those who bought a property before FEMA warned homeowners of the rate increase.

HR 3370 will become effective August 18, 2014. The flood maps have been revised, some properties will be taken out of the flood zone.

Go to broward.org, and enter where it says "New FEMA Flood Maps Now Available". At the top right hand corner, type in your address. A map pops up and your street view becomes visible, click on the arrow and a pop-up window appears. I searched for my address, and it came up with the following: Insurance Mandated: No; Old Flood Zone: AE = mandatory flood insurance requirements apply.

I called up my insurance agent, he said it's still early and that his agency has to go through training/education classes to completely understand the new law.

As we live in a waterfront community, as we live in a hurricane prone state, I believe it behooves us to wisely invest in flood insurance.

Hope everyone has a great, safe summer.

Emerald Award Winners

By Harriet Hodgson

Broward County recognizes homeowners who have created and maintained Florida friendly landscapes. Two groups of judges visit the property and look for water conservation techniques, use of native plants, and absence of water intensive and invasive exotic plants. The landscape should be an inviting habitat for Florida wildlife, such as bees, birds, and butterflies. On March 8, 2014, Lauderdale Isle homeowners, Jeff Trotta and Missy Belsito were presented with the Emerald Award at Water Matters Day. They have lived at 2437 Nassau Lane since September, 1978. Their yard is also recognized as a National Wildlife Habitat, a Broward NatureScape yard, and Florida Friendly yard, and their butterfly garden meets the requirements of the North American Butterfly Association. For information on how to apply for the Emerald Award, go to www.broward.org.

President's Message

...Continued from Page 1

sought through the Government and the private sector. The EIS is an important item where the local communities will have the ability to get a word in. The hearings will be published and dates will be available to our members. Once made aware, your Association and concerned residents have been involved in some of the City Commission actions and hearings.

Along with the river traffic congestion being in peril, the local motoring traffic, emergency, commercial and tourist traffic will be halted worse than we presently experience.

One more item is the value of the waterfront properties west of 95 that will, "possibly" have values diminished or make it more difficult to sell at your asking price.

Other concerns are the movement of the freight traffic from the FEC (by Andrews) onto the CSX rail (the one that parallels I-95). This will also impact the river traffic for everyone West of 95. The question of the Tri-Rail moving to the FEC line is questionable at this time since Tri-rail spent many millions to elevate their overpass at I-95 and their commuter stations are on that route. It is known the trestle is being replaced on the CSX Line (once again the one next to 95) It is unknown if the Channel will be widened.

Adeel Arshed (look for his article in this edition expressing his opinion and concerns) is one of our residents that is proactive on this matter. Your Association Board and the members of the Lauderdale Isles Water Management District Board have been attempting to stay on top of this issue.

Thoughts: this is supported by some of the inner city associations who look at this as a viable form of transportation for tourists and area resident, notwithstanding the local road traffic problem and interestingly the loud horns going off in the downtown area, as these trains roll through. It is unknown what the speed of these trains will be but it is classified as a high speed service.

The destinations for this rail service are from Miami to Orlando. Depending on the cost of the service one could drive at the same speed and have the same arrival time as any train service with station stops and unintentional delays at half the cost. Then there would be a return fee, if not purchased as a round-trip pass.

There is a belief that foreign tourists would use this service. Personally I believe this is not a viable assumption from my own experience. Being the VP of the international Police association and with Ft. Lauderdale as an international destination, I have the responsibility of hosting police officers from all over the world. On arrival I offer a pickup at the airport. That offer is always turned down as these visitors like to drive and have rentals waiting. It was explained to me on one occasion while hosting a German Officer that in Europe the Eu-rail is used all the time. He said it's nice to drive a thousand miles without someone asking for identification, passport or papers.

There's a lot more on this and you will be kept up to date. If you want notifications on meetings send your e-mail address to me expressing your interest at dlowry137@comcast.net, it's also on the back of this publication. Your Association is in constant contact with the principals of this project and will try to schedule the PR person and one of the VP's of the AAF at our next meeting in August for questions and concerns.

Enjoy the rest of your summer until the next General Meeting. The board meets every Third Thursday at the Yacht Club at 7PM. There may be some info available at those meetings. Visitors are welcome until it becomes a closed meeting for Board business. Everyone stay safe.

City News

Is it a bus? It's the City's New Downtown Trolley!

By Larry Barszewski, reprinted from Sun Sentinel

When you see Fort Lauderdale's new free downtown transportation, you might do a double take: It could be a bus masquerading as a trolley.

It'll have bigger windows and a boxier shape more typical of a standard bus. It'll also include a cupola, bell and design finishes typical of a trolley.



Janet Forbes

Licensed Sales Associate

Lauderdale Isles Resident Realtor

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ALL ABOARD FLORIDA: *Let's slow down and take a deep breath*

By Geoff Rames

LICIA always welcomes all contributions to the quarterly newsletter. This article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily represent the official position of the Executive Committee of LICIA nor the LIWMD Board at this time.

In the past few months, the AAF issue has certainly become a hot topic for Lauderdale Isles and other waterfront communities on the New River, as well as for the Marine Industry. But how much of what we've read or heard about AAF is actually based on hard facts? So far, very little.

Back in March, we all received a postcard that told us the New River rail bridge would be down for 9 ½ hours daily due to (32) closings for AAF trains. It also told us about a March 24th meeting at the Main Library where we could voice our concerns to All Aboard Florida Executives. As it turns out, the postcard was inaccurate on both counts - the plan is for (16) closings per day, and the library meeting was a presentation on the history of railroads in Florida.

And it's gone on from there: we'd better sell our houses right away, before home values go to zilch when the river is totally shut down due to all the trains. The 7.4 billion dollar marine industry in Broward County will be "doomed." Our neighborhood will become a "ghetto." That's right, one email sent to LICIA said Lauderdale Isles would become a "ghetto" because of the FEC and CSX rail traffic. Even this month's Waterway Times had a headline story about AAF - but that was full of opinions, not facts.

Maybe it's time to stop and take a deep breath and consider this: As of now, there has been very little factual information presented about AAF. Yes, AAF has met with Marine Industry interests in order to address their concerns. AAF appeared at a City Commission Conference Meeting last month, and gave an overview of their plans, especially relating to boat traffic at the FEC bridge downtown. Presentations, plans, meetings, - and some promises, too - but as of yet, few hard, concrete facts.. Why? Because the first factual document that is supposed to address All Aboard Florida hasn't been released yet. This is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or "EIS" being created by the Federal Railway Administration and it "should" be issued in April/May. It will include input from the U.S. Coast Guard, the federal agency that issues permission for matters concerning drawbridges(this is a fact).

After the draft EIS is issued, there will be a public comment period. The FRA will host a series of public meetings, where the public can attend, ask questions, and provide input. Ultimately, a "final" EIS is issued and then a Record of Decision will then be issued that determines how the project can be implemented.

So once we have the FRA's draft EIS on AAF with input from the USCG (enough acronyms?), we should have loads of facts on the whole issue. Then we can attend the public meetings, and provide our opinions, based on facts, as to the viability of the project and its affects on our neighborhood, city, and marine industry.

By the way, Maritime Attorney Marc Ercolin's article on page 5 in the May Waterfront Times is one of the first factual articles we've seen written about the legalities of maritime traffic and drawbridges.

Should we be concerned now about AAF's plans? Of course we should. But emotional opinions and inaccurate information serve no purpose.

Now for some "opinions":

In discussions with lots of local folks about AAF, the consensus of opinions seems to be:

- The AAF plan will probably proceed
- Will AAF generate \$145 million annually? Doubtful.
- There will be (16) bridge closings per day for AAF trains of 20 minutes or less. There will be a bridge tender at the FEC bridge, with VHF.
- The bridge will be open more than it is closed.
- Traveling the river on your boat, you may be somewhat more likely to have to wait at a bridge. Then again, if you know the train schedule, you should be able to plan your trip accordingly, just like professional captains on the 100 footers will do. (LIWMD suggested to AAF that they create a smartphone application that provides real-time bridge and train information so every captain on the river will always know the exact status of the railway bridge. AAF said they were considering doing so.)
- The Marine Industry will survive just fine. Do you think the owners of the all the boat yards on the New River don't have any clout?
- Property values won't be affected. Someone's not going to buy your house because they might have to wait a few minutes for a bridge while going down river in their boat?
- Freight train traffic on the CSX bridge will increase, probably mostly at night.
- AAF, FEC, CSX, FRA, EIS, USCG, LICIA, LIWMD all not withstanding, Lauderdale Isles will continue to be a great waterfront community.

Bits & Pieces

Strong Institutions Make Strong Communities

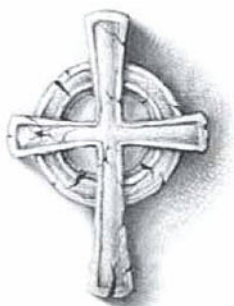
By Pastor Bill Knott, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

As we move through the 21st century there is plenty of change to be found everywhere. For most of us it is both inescapable and, frequently, uncomfortable. In our communities, as we face change together, one of our common goals might be to keep the sense of community and community pride strong for our sake and the sake of our friends and neighbors. One way to help build and keep strong communities is to establish, support, and strengthen strong institutions within that community. Among these are our schools, public facilities, and faith centers.

Keeping the community strong by participating in the activity of our local institutions is not easy. There are many distractions and many competing attractions that take up so much of our time and energy that when it comes time to do something that will strengthen and support our neighborhood, there just isn't much time or energy left.

The answer to the problem, or one answer, at least, is to set clear priorities for yourself and your family, whatever shape that may take. Invest in yourself, your family, and your neighborhood with time and energy that helps to build a strong sense of community. In doing so we all come out winners.

I would be negligent to omit an encouraging word for participation in your mosque, synagogue, church, or community gathering. When people acknowledge common goals and common ideals under whatever banner, they begin to discover that there is much more that binds a community together than keeps neighbors apart. It's not old fashioned to invest in the common good. It's necessary in order to preserve and protect the unity found in community. It's part of our heritage. And, in the final analysis, it can be one of the greatest gifts we pass on to those who come after us.



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Sunday, May 18th

Worship Celebration at 10:30 AM

Friends and Family Feast following

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Bem Vindo
Bienvenido
Welcome
Benvenuto
Bienuenu
Willkommen

Odds and Ends

All Aboard Florida

By Ardeel Arshed

Five horn blasts, fenders are hurriedly thrown over the sides, plenty of yelling and cursing? Then the sickening crunch of shattering fiberglass. A boaters worst nightmare and one that I was witness to on a recent Saturday afternoon near the rail bridge by Andrews boulevard, right in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Luckily more me, I was watching this spectacle unfold shore side as I walked along the river rather than from my boat.

A long freight train has just passed on the FEC tracks, but the rail bridge had been down for much longer than just the time the train was crossing. Seem to recall it was almost 30 minutes between the time the bridge span dropped, the train passed, and then opened. In that time, two opposing fleets had amassed on either side of this rail bridge.

Once the span rose, conflicting forces put into motion a disaster at 3-4 knots. I could only imagine the radio chatter as mega yacht captains barked instructions and to the boats around them. "I am an 80 foot vessel with restricted maneuverability". "I am a sailboat limited by draft". "I am carrying current". The result was a variety of vessels all approaching a very narrow gap with conflicting needs and varying abilities. Soon enough the horns and a collision.

This scene plays out frequently enough on the New River. Now imagine this situation amplified because the rail bridge many more hours during the daytime than at present. Such a situation is now very likely! A proposal being made by FEC Industries promises to forever alter the operations of the rail bridge starting next year with major consequence for boaters and marine interests on the river west of this FEC bridge.

Spearheaded by FEC, All Aboard Florida plans high speed passenger rail service between Miami to Orlando, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. In and of itself, this is a great idea, as we all face increasing congestion on I-95 and the Turnpike. However, like many good ideas, it is fraught with peril as the proposal has been presented. The private enterprise has stated their desire to use existing infrastructures with no upgrades to bridges over waterways, relying on the existing ancient New

River rail bridge. In the closed position, this bridge offers Fourteen ***INCHES*** of clearance. Not even enough for a kayak to pass underneath. More alarmingly, this proposal is just one cog in a well oiled and massive machine - a set of proposals that forever aims to alter our corner of waterfront Fort Lauderdale. If AAF were to come to pass, the ultimate goal is to bring aboard Tri-Rail to the FEC corridor as well. Then, shift freight traffic to the CSX rail corridor that goes along the I-95. The freight span is not the elevated span that current Tri-Rail uses, but the ground level single track bridge that proved so limiting in years past.

While the bridge there is being replaced and the channel altered, the truth of the matter is, quite simply put, more traffic is going to be on that span. That bridge, too, will be in the down position much more than it is now. Not to mention that existing Tri-Rail double tracking effort still isn't fully utilized! What does this mean for us? Well, it's conceivable and likely to expect longer times to reach the eastern waterways and ultimately the ocean. As many of us know, this journey already varies widely due to currents and bridge traffic now likely made longer due to additional rail traffic.

Alternatives to the standard proposals have to exist (an elevated span opening span perhaps), and it's up to an active, engaged community to stay on top of any developments. Only by doing so and staying involved do we have a chance to make sure all of our interests are given consideration, and that our little piece of Florida's waterfront paradise remains viable. Like the highway expansion and the airport expansion of years past, this cause is shaping up to be the next big fight our community will have to take on. Also like those issues, it's critical to get organized and get active to ensure we see some sort of constructive outcome. Progress is inevitable, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't shape the progress to best serve us, the citizens of Fort Lauderdale. Keep tuned in to the Facebook page, NextDoor app, the Newsletter, and your Association officers and ***GET INVOLVED***!

LICIA always welcomes all contributions to the quarterly newsletter. This article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily represent the official position of the Executive Committee of LICIA nor the LIWMD Board at this time.

Keyes

REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • TITLE

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Rates are as follows:

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Full Page	\$ 100.00	\$190.00	\$360.00
Half Page	\$ 75.00	\$142.50	\$270.00
¼ Page	\$ 50.00	\$ 95.00	\$180.00

Please make checks payable to LICIA and send to our P.O. Box address prior to publication. The date of submission should be no later than the first of the month prior to each publication. Deadline dates would be Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, and Nov 1. Must be paid in full to receive discount.

Members in good standing (paid dues) are allowed one free, two-line ad per person for personal property, pending a change in policy or overwhelming volume.

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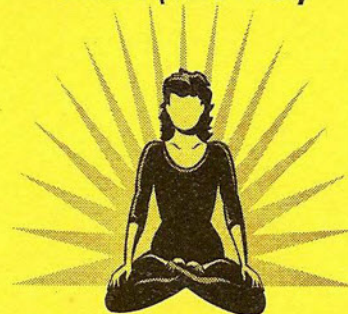
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Vice Mayor and District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



Fort Lauderdale is receiving national attention for our economic resurgence and our commitment to implementing a community-wide Vision and Strategic Plan. (The new Vision video is available at <http://fortlauderdale.gov/vision/index.htm>.) Rankings include: (1) "Top 10 Best Downtowns in 2014" by Livability.com, (2) "America's 10 Most Exciting Cities" by Movoto National Real Estate, (3) "Top 10 Best Places to Move in 2014" by SML National Moving, and (4) "Top 100 Best Cities to Start a Business" by WalletHub. The City has also been named a finalist in the All-America City Awards, the winner to be decided at the competition in Denver, CO, in mid-June.

Our residents also think we're "moving in the right direction," based on results of the 2013 Neighbor Survey found at http://fortlauderdale.gov/news/2014/pdf/2013_Neighbor_Survey_with_memo.pdf. This was one of four survey questions used as "strategic indicators" to assess performance. The other indicators were satisfaction with (1) the overall quality of City services, (2) Customer Service provided by the City, and (3) the overall Quality of Life in the City. Satisfaction increased in each of these four areas compared to the 2012 Survey.

Comments on Agenda Items – A new way to comment on upcoming Commission Agenda items is online here: <https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Scroll down to the meeting date of interest, scroll over to the last column on the right, "eComment," and submit online no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

15th Street Boat Ramp and Parking Lot – On April 5, we broke ground on the renovation of our flagship marine facility at 1784 SE 15th Street. New amenities will include picnic tables, a sun shelter, floating docks for the police boats, an ADA floating dock and two staging docks for public use, ADA restrooms, pump-out facilities, and a fish cleaning table with macerator. Sustainable features will include porous pavements for drainage, xeriscaping, solar landscape lighting, bioretention swales to treat stormwater, and recycled materials for tables, trash bins, wheel stops, and shelters. This \$1.6 million project will be funded almost entirely by grants from the Florida Inland Navigation District and the Broward Boating Improvement Program. The facility will be renamed "Cox's Landing" in honor of former City of Fort Lauderdale Mayor Robert O. "Bob" Cox, an ardent supporter of the marine industry.

Addressing Homelessness – On April 8, the City Manager and I toured the County's proposed "Community Programs Campus," formerly the Broward County Stockade (on Powerline Road) in view of a possible City / County partnership to assist the homeless. Captain Scott Russell and David Scharf, both with BSO's Department of Community Services, led the tour. Future programs may include: (1) Alternative Booking Site and Processing Center, (2) Homeless Transition Center, (3) Mental Health Facility, and (4) Boot Camp. Captain Russell and I both served as members of the Leadership Broward Foundation panel, "How Homelessness Affects Us All," on March 19.

Telephone Town Hall Meetings – Upcoming meetings: District II Commissioner Trantalis - May 14 and District III Commissioner DuBose - June 9. My Telephone Town Hall Meeting is set for July 10.

- To join in and comment on City issues, please call toll free 1-855-269-4484 from 7 - 8 PM.
- Audio recordings of past Telephone Town Hall Meetings are at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/tth/index.htm>.

Recent Recognition –

Several outstanding citizens were honored at the City's 40th Annual Citizens Committee of Recognition Awards (April 15). Please join me in congratulating **Jim Ellis – Citizen of the Year**, **Carolyn Michaels – Distinguished Citizen**, **Sandy Casteel – Honored Founder**, and **David Deal – Exemplary Former City Employee**.

And I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in my 2014 Downtowner of the Year recognition, a memorable occasion not soon to be forgotten. I am both grateful for and humbled by the honor.

Household Hazardous Waste – With proof of residency, City residents can participate in this free, bi-monthly drop-off event, the next one being in the City of Pompano Beach, 1660 NE 10th Street, April 26 from 9 AM - 2 PM. There is another event in the City of Tamarac, 6011 Nob Hill Road, May 3 from 9 AM – 2 PM. For the guidelines, please visit http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/public_services/trash/hazardous_waste.htm.

Events –

- **Broward County Convention Center Expansion Master Plan Public Forum:** Tuesday, April 22, 6 PM, Broward County Convention Center, Room 220/221.
- **Riverwalk's Spring Get Downtown:** Thursday, April 24, 5 - 8 PM, YOLO Plaza on E Las Olas. This 21+ event will take place rain or shine. Tickets are available at www.GoRiverwalk.com or for \$25 at the door.
- **Joint Commission / Budget Advisory Board Workshop:** Monday, April 28, 7 PM, 8th Floor, City Hall.
- **Joint Commission / Historic Preservation Board Workshop:** Tuesday, April 29, 7 PM, 8th Floor, City Hall.
- **Las Olas Wine & Food Festival:** Friday, May 2. For tickets, go to <http://lasolaswff.com>.
- **3rd Annual Transportation Summit:** Wednesday, May 14, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. FAU Downtown Campus. Call 954-828-3700.
- **5th Annual Riverwalk Burger Battle™:** Friday, May 23, Huizenga Plaza. This 21+ event will take place rain or shine. For tickets, please see www.GoRiverwalk.com.

- **My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 – 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM – Noon (in non-Commission weeks). For appointments, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.**

INTRODUCING



***Now neighbors can access live streaming
and archived videos online!***

Fort Lauderdale's government access television channel, FLTV, is a valuable informational and educational tool. FLTV keeps our neighbors engaged by broadcasting City Commission Meetings, and keeps our neighbors informed by promoting ongoing initiatives and upcoming events.

With our new on-demand library, neighbors can access videos on public safety, sustainability, local history, economic development, recent events and more.

Visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/FLTV today to watch the live stream or browse our online video library. Cable subscribers can also access FLTV on TV channels 78 (Comcast) and 99 (AT&T U-Verse).



If you would like this publication in an alternate format please call (954) 828-4755 or email webmaster@fortlauderdale.gov.



LIWMD Update May 2014

All Aboard Florida

Ken Stauch and Geoff Rames of LIWMD have been attending meetings regarding All Aboard Florida along with LICIA board members. This issue does not come directly within LIWMD's purview and therefore no funds will be expended on it. However, it is of such importance to our neighborhood that we will continue monitoring developments, including the soon to be released Environmental Impact Statement from the Federal Railway Administration.

Alligator Update

The alligator that was seen frequently in the canal between Marathon and Nassau Lanes hadn't been seen since mid-October. Then he reappeared in February. See the "Gatorboys" article in this newsletter for pics.

Canal Dredging

As you heard from Commissioner Romney Rogers at the February LICIA General Meeting, the city has committed the funds to dredge the Himmarshee Canal **and** the canals of Lauderdale Isles this year. The Public Works Department has committed to do its best to get the dredging started before the end of the year. As part of the permitting process, the City needs to perform benthic surveys of our canals to determine if there is any sea grass growing in them. (We all know there isn't any sea grass, but the city has to do the surveys in order to obtain the permits.) Normally, using an environmental specialist, the cost of such a survey is around \$20,000. To save money, the city has decided to use the FLPD Dive Team to conduct the surveys. In order to do so, we need homeowners near the north end of each canal to volunteer to allow the dive team access to the canal through their backyards. This would only be for a couple of hours. To those who volunteer, LIWMD will proudly present them with one of our handsome tote bags. (One of the tote bags might contain a hundred dollar bill.) If you are willing to let the dive team use your yard for a couple of hours, please drop an email to grames@liwmd.org.

Unightly Vessels

We are pleased to announce that Code Enforcement has closed all 18 of the the unsightly vessel cases as "complied."

Remember that they have only gone down three of our ten canals so far. But in the meantime, it never hurts to get out on a Saturday morning and spend a few hours sprucing up your "baby" at your dock. Your neighbors, of course, will love you for it.

Oil Spill

There was another oil spill on the Rockfish Canal on March 25th. FLPD Marine Patrol and Environmental Services responded. So did the Fire Department, as a precaution. Unfortunately, the source of the spill could not be determined. If you live on this canal, you have probably seen the increased patrols on it by FLPD. The Environmental Crimes detective has also advised that FLPD responded and boarded a boat on Nassau Lane recently that was suspected of causing a spill, but the result was that this particular boat was not the cause. If you see a spill occurring, please call immediately. If your boat "might" be the cause of these spills, it's time to take care of the issue. The police are not going to treat these cases lightly.

We are asked frequently: Who Do I Call???

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

For lots more waterway info, visit our website: www.liwmd.org



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The 37th Annual Waterway Cleanup on March 1st was a Huge Success

The weather on Saturday March 1st couldn't have been better. And the turnout for the Waterway Cleanup was fantastic: over 96 volunteers and 20 boats made it a great day at the Lauderdale Isles Yacht and Tennis Club.

Our expert site coordinator, Joan Sheridan, had everything set up perfectly. Free refreshments were available all morning. Upon registration, each participant received a free Waterway Cleanup t-shirt. Each boat owner received a goody bag filled with loads of boating supplies, compliments of LIWMD. Commissioner Romney Rogers was there to help kick off the event.

Boats ranged from paddle boards to a 35 foot Bertram. Everyone helped to completely fill that huge dumpster with all kinds of trash from the river and its banks. And there were prizes for the most "unique" items found. Everyone agreed the cleanup was the best one ever. Thanks to all the participants for their outstanding efforts. We'll see you there again next year.



Joan Sheridan signing up volunteers at the registration table



Paddleboards were perfect for getting close to the rocks on the south bank



LIWMD Board:
Ken Stauch, Romney Rogers, Geoff Rames

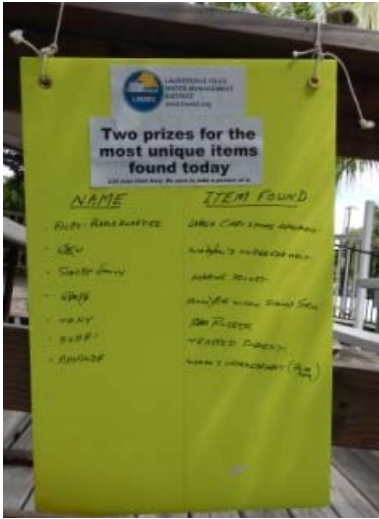


The docks were always busy with all the unloading



Barge with bags of trash collected from under the I-95 bridge.

The 37th Annual Waterway Cleanup Lots of unique finds



Bobbi with an interesting find. Yes, it's still in the trap



A thing of true beauty pulled from the river

LIWMD offered two nice rod & reel combos as prizes for the most unique items brought in.



Prize winner: Amanda & family displaying their find: Woman's undergarment, with polka dots. It was felt it probably blew off a Victoria's Secret delivery truck crossing the 441 bridge. Ken Stauch found one of these, too, sans polka dots.



Prize winner: The Stacey family with the porta-potti they found floating in the river. Great item for the next marine flea market.



Very unique find. The experts present determined that this is a human eyeball contained within an artificial scallop shell. It has been sent to the Smithsonian Institute for verification and display there.

LIWMD is in the process of planning another cleanup just for Lauderdale Isles in September. All you boaters who received goody-bags, don't forget you promised to participate in that one too. Watch for details in the summer LICIA newsletter.

And special thanks to our site sponsors:



LAUDERDALE ISLES
WATERWAY MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT
www.liwmd.org

Miscellaneous

The Battle for My Lawn

By Delmar Rittle

I was transporting a load of topsoil from Home Depot to be used as filler for the crab activity that lowered my lawn behind the sea wall. As I breezed along, an old English idiom came to mind. "Carrying coals to New Castle". Now only a fool would do that and at the moment I was playing the fool.

But had not the most recent Isles meeting dealt with the crab problem by dredging the canals? Wasn't there was a commissioner participating at that meeting?

Traveling home I also gave thought to our constitution and also that past meeting of LICIA and that dredging of the canals that I, in league with the crabs, was filling. Of course this led to our land-grant college which does have the answer to our problems. But the problem here is to unlock that knowledge.

Visiting our state agriculture building is an experience. Those guys over there all have the PHD degree which is the research degree. Now I also have such degree but let it be known that the housewife, whose battle station is the kitchen, and tasting a pot of soup and then adding a pinch of salt, is also deserving of the research award. The empirical method – that is how our soups became so tasty.

Awakening from many years of slumbering I did finally glance the lawn's way and actually did see it. Now, to see a lawn is to get one one's knees and swamp around in it. One is seeing all sorts of bugs, snails, worms of many bodies, etc: And so a trip to Home Depot.

I killed all the vegetation 32" behind the sea wall and so exposed all ground holes. Now, should you not like poisons or anything else one causes them discomfort. And so using my tracking and funnel, down their holes went a bit of Clorox. Out came a crab and chased me half way to the shutter of my house before he gave up.

That action seemed to solve much of the problem but it seems that I had several well established dens down there and so again to good old Home Depot for a piece of 2" by 2" lumber so as to get a goodly access to their den and so get some chemical fertilizer for them to enjoy. This is a work in progress.

I already have one complaint of using chemicals and so may I remind that should such person be placed in large pot and boiled away that that person would be shown to have been mad of all chemicals. Also, we are all furnaces. Our bodies must be maintained at around 90 degrees farenheight. The foods we eat are the coals that, as a boy, I shoveled into the grate of the device.

The 32" of killed lawn has now grown back and is a spot of almost perfect lawn.

Rid Your Yard of the Pesty Iguana

By Jean Anderson

If you're seeing iguanas meandering across your yard in search of flowers from your beds, this info may be of interest to you. My neighbor researched a homemade remedy online and shared this recipe. You can put it together with kitchen supplies.

1 cup of lemon juice, fresh or bottled

2 cloves of garlic, crushed

1 hot pepper chopped with seeds

1 tsp dish detergent

(recipe can be doubled)

1. Place all ingredients in the blender and process until smooth
2. Strain through sieve into a spray bottle
3. Spray around flowering plants

Iguanas will leave your plants alone and move on!





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FWC: Nuisance Alligators	866-392-4286
Animal Control	954-359-1313
Abandoned Vehicle/in ROW	954-828-5207
Broward Co. Mass Transit	954-357-8400
Building Construction	954-828-5191
City Hall	954-828-5004
Code Enforcement	954-828-5207
Department of Natural Res.	954-519-1400
DNRP Pollution Comp. Hotline	954-519-1499
Fire Non Emergency	954-828-5320
Police Non Emergency	954-828-5700
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Classified Ads

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Looking for a boat motor for my 21' Boston Whaler.
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General Meeting

Thursday May 15th, 2014 7:00 PM

At

The Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club

All Neighborhood Residents Welcome!