

Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association, Inc.



Winter 2025 Issue

New River

www.ourlicia.com

AND THE WINNER IS



Commissioner Ben Sorensen
Cell number (954) 802-3311

The race for District 4 Commissioner seems to always be the most hotly contested one during City elections, and this was true again in November. As you know by now, Ben Sorensen had a resounding victory this time. Here are the stats for our Election Precinct R032 and District 4:

	<u>Precinct R032</u>		<u>District-Wide</u>	
Ben Sorensen	40.42%	409	39.59%	8,101
Kevin Cochrane	31.23	316	26.59	5,440
Warren Sturman	17.69	179	22.14	4,529
Ted Inserra	10.67	<u>108</u>	11.68	<u>2,390</u>
		1012		20,460

Commissioner Sorensen has taken a very aggressive approach to the issues confronting District 4, and has been mindful of the things that voters discussed with him as he knocked on over 10,000 doors during the campaign. He freely gives out his cell number so that neighbors in District 4 can reach him about anything. Alternatively, his email is bsorensen@fortlauderdale.gov.

The Commissioner has brought on a very competent staff:

Sabrina Javellana, Chief of Staff

sjavellana@fortlauderdale.gov (954) 828-5059

Vicki Gargano, Community Outreach Director
vgargano@fortlauderdale.gov (954) 828-5028

Commissioner Sorensen will be our headliner at the March 20th LICIA General Meeting. Be sure to attend to hear his reports on everything going on in the City. And of course, you can ask questions of him. Don't miss this one !

Lauderdale Isles Community Center Update



By Earl Prizlee
President, LICIA

LICIA continues to make progress on the development of the new Lauderdale Isles Community Center. If you're new to this initiative, here's a quick recap: The former Yacht Club, originally built as part of the Lauderdale Isles development, was recently sold to a private owner. The City had set aside funding from the Parks Bond for its purchase, but rather than losing those funds, the City Commission has agreed to allocate them toward constructing a new Community Center at Lauderdale Isles Landing, a City-owned site in the same vicinity.

To bring this vision to life, the City has engaged AECOM to design and develop construction plans. LICIA Board Members have already held several meetings to outline conceptual designs, and now we want to hear from you!

AECOM and City staff will present preliminary plans at the next LICIA General Membership Meeting on March 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM. This is your chance to provide input before the final design moves into the permitting phase. We encourage all residents to attend and participate in shaping the future of our community.



A nautical-themed building similar to this one is planned



Proposed site plan

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**** November Waterway Cleanup ** Riverland Traffic Calming ** New River History ** Action in the Isles ****

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over **141** Lauderdale Isles homes.



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WINTER GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 7:00pm

Grace Alone Ministries, 1900 SW 35 Ave

Commissioner Ben Sorensen

AND

The New Community Center Design

*Lauderdale Isles Residents Only — Meetings are recorded
Our winter general meeting is normally in February. It was moved to
March this year due to scheduling issues.*

NEW FISCAL YEAR

At the September Board Meeting, the LICIA Board approved changing the Association's fiscal year to January through December. Since LICIA's inception in 1959, the fiscal year was November through October, which frequently caused confusion about dues paid in the last few months of the year. Now it's nice and simple: dues paid during the calendar year apply for that entire year. The Board also approved that any dues paid from August thru December of 2024 will be applied to 2025 calendar year. LICIA dues at \$20 are a bargain, too. Other associations charge \$30 and in a couple of cases \$50 per year.

You can pay your 2025 dues now

Our fiscal year now runs from January through December. While you're thinking about it, why not pay your 2025 dues now? It's only \$20.

You can easily pay by check or Zelle.

Your contribution helps LICIA in our efforts to improve and protect our neighborhood.

By paying your dues, you'll be a Member in Good Standing, and you can participate in General Meetings.

Plus you'll receive our *Isles Insider* emails.

And your dues help pay for this quarterly newsletter and the beautiful holiday lane sign decorations

Drop your check in the mail, using the handy coupon on the back page of this newsletter

Pay using



Scan this QR code from your bank app, or search for email: licia.treasurer@gmail.com
Please send an email to licia.treasurer@gmail.com with your street address

Note:
We are no longer accepting payment by Venmo

Need to contact LICIA?
Just send an email to laudisles@gmail.com

Are you a budding author? Write an article for this newsletter! Anything about the neighborhood.
Email it to laudisles@gmail.com **Deadline for submission: 20th 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 Year
Full Page	\$125	238	450
Half Page	90	171	342
Qtr Page	60	114	216
Bus. Card	35	67	126

Full Page	\$125	238	450
Half Page	90	171	342
Qtr Page	60	114	216
Bus. Card	35	67	126

Make checks payable to LICIA & send to our PO Box address prior to publication. The deadline for submission is the 20th 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. Members in good standing (paid dues) are allowed a free, two-line ad per person for personal property, subject to space availability.



Riverland Road (Speedway) Traffic Calming Update

We asked for it, and it's finally happening. The design for the traffic calming improvements along Riverland Road has been completed by the City's consultant, Kimley-Horn and Associates, and approved by Broward County. The Construction Plans & Specifications are expected to go out for bid in March 2025.

Once a contractor is selected, a detailed construction schedule will be developed. This project was funded in the City's FY 2025 - FY 2029 Adopted Community Investment Plan (CIP).

Planned traffic calming enhancements include:

- Raised intersections at SW 35th Avenue, Riverland Terrace, SW 27th Avenue, SW 21st Street, and SW 19th Street
- Raised crosswalks on Riverland Road, east of Tortugas Lane and Bimini Lane
- A median refuge island at the existing crosswalk near the driveway at 3901 Riverland Road

Stay tuned for updates as we move forward with this important safety improvement project!



An example of a raised intersection similar to Riverland Road at a side street

ACTION IN THE ISLES – The Boat Ramp

From the FWC Division of Law Enforcement
Weekly Report, Feb 7 - 13

"Officers Bovee and Comartin responded by patrol vessel to the vicinity of the Riverland boat ramp and the New River in reference to a dead manatee. They arrived and found an approximately 6-foot-long dead manatee in the river. They took the manatee to the local boat ramp. An FWC biologist took possession of it and will be performing a necropsy." *(No further info was available at press time)*



FWC at Lauderdale Isles Landing boat ramp in Feb.



The owner of this barge decided to tie up to the west dock at the boat ramp for a week in January. Code Compliance was finally able to "urge" him along. LICIA is working with Commissioner Sorensen and the City to create regulations preventing this in the future.



Very nice weather on Feb 8 resulted in lots of boaters at the ramp

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THE LAUDERDALE ISLES CLEANUP TEAM DOES IT AGAIN

On Saturday, November 9th, we had 62 willing and able participants on (11) boats and (7) kayaks/canoes head out onto our waterways for the eighth annual Lauderdale Isles Fall Waterway Cleanup. Our kayakers headed straight for the rocks on the other side of the river and pulled loads of plastic debris out of the mangroves. The boaters got busy right away scouring the river banks. As you can see in the pics below, Rich Katz brought in a sunken inflatable boat, which required Aynsley's big SUV to pull up the ramp to the dump truck. Prizes were awarded for the most unique, cutest, ugliest, best sports item and the most coconuts brought in. Everyone loved their Lauderdale Isles Dri-Fit T-shirts and enjoyed the great lunch provided afterward. Once again, a great neighborhood event. Thanks to all the Lauderdale Isles staff and participants for their hard work and the job well done. We'll see you at the March Broward County Cleanup and our Ninth Fall Cleanup next November.





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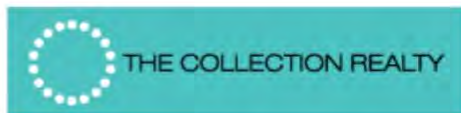
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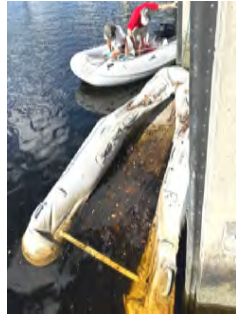
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MORE FALL WATERWAY CLEANUP



THE DECORATING CREW GETS IT DONE AGAIN

On November 30th, the LICIA Board went out to make Lauderdale Isles the best decorated neighborhood in the City. Your dues make it possible to place the shimmering garland and bows on all the lane signs. All we needed was a little snow to top it off.....



The crew: Hanna, Rick, Dick, Andrew, Geoff, Karen, Earl, Dawn, Glo, Eric, and Diana



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Living with Coyotes in Lauderdale Isles



By Glo Knowles
LICIA Wildlife Specialist

Coyotes are interesting animals that inhabit many areas across the United States, including our own Lauderdale Isles community in Florida. The most recent sighting was reported by Florida Fish and Wildlife on October 9, 2023. In conversations I've had with some neighbors, they mentioned that these creatures are being spotted more frequently than what is recorded. The map below indicates sightings/incidents within 2 years and over 2 years ago.



As more coyotes start to appear around our area, it's important to know how to live alongside them safely so that both people and coyotes can stay out of trouble. In this article, we'll learn about what coyotes are, why they matter, and some easy tips to help us live peacefully together.

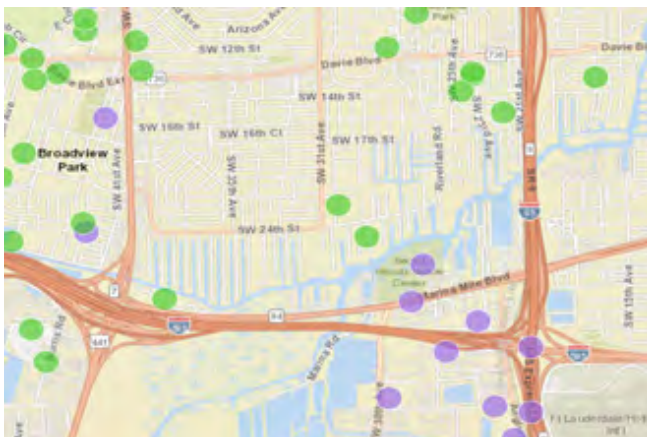
What Are Coyotes? Coyotes, part of the dog family and known for their thin bodies, pointy ears, and fluffy tails, play a crucial role in controlling the populations of smaller animals like mice and rabbits, thus maintaining environmental balance. As human populations grow in areas like Lauderdale Isles, coyotes are increasingly encroaching on neighborhoods, leading to potential conflicts.

Why Do Coyotes Come to Our Community? Coyotes often enter neighborhoods in search of food and shelter, which can concern pet owners due to their potential scavenging habits & interest in small pets. They generally prefer to avoid contact with humans

Living Safely With Coyotes:

- Secure Your Trash
- Supervise Your Children and Pets
- Maintain a tidy yard

- Don't Feed Coyotes
- Educate Your Neighbors
- Report Any Sightings to FWC:
(888-404-3922 toll-free 24 hours)



MEET OUR NEW CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER



By Joann Kratky
LICIA Board Director, Nassau Lane

Matthew Flesher has been our Code Compliance Officer for about six months. He was previously with Miami Beach as a Code Compliance Officer for about a year. He is originally from Michigan, Detroit metro area and attended Central Michigan University and graduated with a teaching degree. He spent five years teaching English language in Japan and then taught at Hollywood Hills Elementary for six years. He then became a Code Compliance Officer after completing his training and testing with the city's Department of Sustainable Development.

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Mr. Flesher as he shared some beneficial and important information that I know will be advantageous for us all. He guided me with direction on how to navigate through the municipality's websites that I am honored to share with you. If, for example, you are interested in finding a code applicable to a particular situation you would go to the website at library.municode.com ([Library](#) | [Municode Library](#)) to locate the code of ordinances. A map will appear, then click on Florida, then select Fort Lauderdale. You can scroll through the listing or use the search field to narrow down your enquiry. You will also find on the left side bar the unified land development codes.

The website for researching permits, code cases and violations is best found by Googling LauderBuild which will direct you to this website <https://aca-prod.accela.com/FTL/Default.aspx> - also viewed as [Fort Lauderdale Portal](#). You can then hover over the [Search](#) dropdown and click on [Community and Compliance](#) which



Matthew Flesher

will take you to a record search. Not all fields are required, you can select the fields that you are aware of that will provide your results. There you will find more information in the drop downs that are offered that will provide more information and details on your search.

Common Violations that are found by our Officers are related to exterior building structure (house upkeep, fascia's, paint, etc.), driveway maintenance, vehicle parking, motorcycles, watercraft, trailers of any type must be parked on a legal driveway or garage, yard maintenance and outdoor storage of junk, trash and debris, etc.

Fort Lauderdale offers a website that is available in a downloadable app or Google Play – fortlauderdale.gov/FixItFTL that makes it easy for residents to not only report code compliance issues but also matters such as road kill, cracked sidewalks, pot holes, street-light outages, graffiti, clogged storm drains and more. By utilizing these tools described, together we can help to keep our charming community neater, pleasant and appealing.

After being off the water for routine maintenance, the Code Compliance boat is back in service as of January 27th.

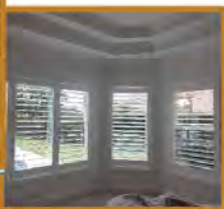
As a closing note Matthew reminds us of the residential refuse collections rules of placing trash bins on the edge of the roadside; 2 feet apart and 2 feet from any mail boxes (light posts, trees, etc.) and 2 feet from any vehicles.

Please note that Matthew is not the Compliance Officer for Vacation Rentals, refer any questions and inquiries of these matters to Officer Evan Oaks (EOaks@fortlauderdale.gov).

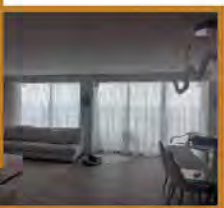
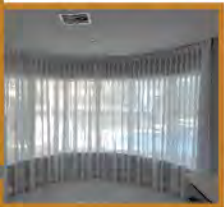
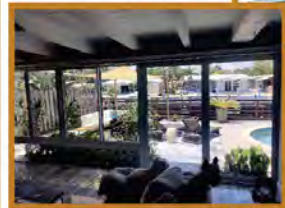
Matthew covers some of both District 3 and 4 from 441 east and south of Davie with Middle River on the south end and some of District 4 to I-95 on the east (southern edge). You will have the opportunity to meet him in person at our next LICIA General Meeting. You may contact him with any questions or concerns at (561) 978-3065 or MFlesher@fortlauderdale.gov. You will find him an exceptionally knowledgeable, very dedicated and enthusiastic city employee that is willing to help us all.

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The Native New River



By Dawn Hanna,
Senior Staff Historiographer

**"I remember when there was nothing here."
"I remember when there was a rope swing there."
"I remember when this was Aquaglades Park."**

These reflections from Fort Lauderdale residents resonate with me, as I cherish hearing their memories. Researching the history of the New River, particularly southwest of the current Coontie Hatchee Park and the Davie Blvd Bridge, reveals fascinating stories from past generations of Florida residents. Stay tuned for more on that. But what existed before Fort Lauderdale pioneer Frank Stranahan arrived?

According to a Miami Herald article from October 9, 1955,



Historic picture of the New River

"Historical accounts, dating back before the time white men came to this area, show that the New River was once known as Coontie Hatchee. Coontie is a starchy substance used in bread made by Indian women, now known as arrowroot, and is often prescribed by doctors for infants and invalids. Historians claim that the Fort Lauderdale area was a great Coontie region, hence the river's name, Coontie Hatchee. Hatchee is the Indian term for river. Coontie refers to several tropical American woody plants whose roots and stems yield starch."

Patricia Burghard's 1947 manuscript, "The History of Fort Lauderdale," paints a vivid picture of the landscape: "Before the hands of civilization took hold, it flowed through wild, tropical jungles and dense pine forests. Leaves of the graceful palm dipped over the water's edge, creating reflections of beautiful tropical birds flying overhead. Great ferns danced gently upon its banks, while strangler fig and water oak stood guard beside it."

A little more about Coontie. I planted Coontie in my yard because it is native. Although they were pricy at \$30 for a 3-gallon pot, they have been easy to maintain. Coontie is the only cycad native to the United States. It's also the preferred food source for larvae of the rare Atala butterfly. The Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*) looks like a small fern and is typically one to three feet tall. It has stiff, glossy, featherlike leaves attached to a thick, short, underground stem. Florida's native peoples once ground up these underground stems to create a starchy "flour" for cooking. Don't try this yourself, though—the stem is toxic unless prepared properly. Because of its high drought tolerance and moderate salt tolerance, the Coontie is an excellent choice for the coastal landscape. And it's cold hardy, too. Coonties can be planted in sun or shade.



Coontie Plant



Atala butterfly

ACTION IN THE ISLES



On December 8, a house fire occurred on Whale Harbor Lane. Although it was not visible from outside, the inside of the house suffered major damage. A total of twenty four fire units responded from the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County.

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Marco & Manny accept new positions

Recently, our two favorite Senior Code Officers moved to new positions in the City. We wish them all the best in their new roles.



Marco Aguilera is now a supervisor in the homeless initiatives department.

Manny Garcia is now a Traffic Homicide Investigator



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THE REFRIGERATOR LIST

Updated February 2025

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Marathon: Julie Gordon 954-445-3345
Nassau: Joann Kratky 954-683-1320
Okeechobee: Andrew Silverman 954-608-9195
Sugarloaf: Glo Knowles(interim) 954-993-1239
Tortugas: Eric Silva 954-770-0644
Whale Harbor: Dawn Hanna 954-873-1925

Newsletter Editor: Geoff Rames: grames.lucia@gmail.com

Webmaster: Dawn Hanna: mmex99@yahoo.com

LICIA EMAIL: laudisles@gmail.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 954-802-3311
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

Vacation Rental Complaints

1-800-685-7453

(This is a new number, available 24/7)

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

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**
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- **Sinking or Sunk Boats**
24 Hour Customer Service 954-828-8000
- **Unightly/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 Closed Sales

Oct. 1, 2024 to Jan 28, 2025*

**Presented By: Julie Gordon of
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2406 Bimini Ln.	4/4	1,890	\$1,150,000
2448 Sugarloaf Ln.	3/2	1,892	\$1,140,000
2472 Bimini Ln.	3/3	2,327	\$1,080,000
2637 Sugarloaf Ln.	4/2	2,297	\$875,000
2425 Flamingo Ln.	3/2	1,797	\$750,017
2412 Sugarloaf Ln.	3/2.5	2,060	\$705,000
2530 Flamingo Ln.	3/2	2,000	\$679,900
2411 Cat Cay Ln.	3/2	2,218	\$605,000
2406 Okeechobee Ln.	3/2	1,222	\$550,000
2424 Andros Ln.	3/2	1,548	\$473,000

* Data per Beaches MLS

PUT THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR:

LICIA GENERAL MEETING: March 20, 7:00PM

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MEMBER DUES for Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025: 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: _____