

The Lake Ridge Monuments Are Now a Reality

by Lynn Elsasser, LRCA Vice President & LRCA Monument Committe Member

Our long-awaited monuments have finally been installed. On Saturday, December 7th we unveiled the new Lake Ridge monuments at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Pep Boys generously let us use their Parking Lot for the ceremony and Commissioner Glassman spoke at the Event and cut the ribbon.

The Lake Ridge monuments are the result of work from many folks including the City of Fort Lauderdale, (Neighbor Support, Transportation and Mobility, Public Works, Parks & Recreation - who will maintain the sites, and Strategic Communications), and your Lake Ridge Civic Association Monument



From the top left: LRCA Monument at 15th Ave. &11th St. LRCA Board Members at the ribbon cutting ceremony (from left to right: Steve Jacobson, Juliette Rocque, Lynn Elsasser Michael Albetta, Chris Toomey & Ted Splitotes joined by District 2 Commissioner Steve Glassman | Commissioner Glassman, Lynn Elsasser & Michael Albetta | LRCA President Michael Albetta & Commissioner Glassman | LRCA VP Lynn Elsasser & Commissioner Glassman

Committee (Michael Albetta, Juliette Rocque, Steve Jacobson, and myself.) Of special mention are the contributions of two long-time Lake Ridge residents. A special thank you to Orlando Moreno, who authored our NCIP grant proposal for the Lake Ridge monuments and Wayne Gilbert, who drew the original monument sketch many years ago.

The design of the Lake Ridge monuments signifies two distinct Lake Ridge boundaries. The spokes on the left side represent the railroad tracks to the West and the sails on the right represent Lake Melba to the East.

Have you renewed your membership? Are you a member?

If you are not currently an LRCA member, it is always a great time to join & support your neighborhood.

Your Lake Ridge Civic Association has been planting trees, working to calm traffic & clean up the place we all call home.



Won't you please join us in making OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

a better place to live?

Please see the

Membership

WE WANT YOU! To ring in the new year with your membership

> Form at the bottom of page 4 or visit www.lakeridgecivic.org for more information.

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

General Membership Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday in the months of January, March, June & October, 7pm at ArtServe- 1350 E Sunrise Blvd. 33304 **SAVE THE DATES**

- January 16th: General Meeting & Annual Board Elections
- ✓ March 19th: General Meeting
- <u>April 16th:</u> SPECIAL EVENT- Taste of Italy at Café Vico-1245 N. Federal Hwy. 6:00-8:30 pm
 - June 18th: General Meeting
- ✓ <u>October 10th:</u> SPECIAL EVENT- Health Fair at Sanctuary Church-1400 N. Federal Hwy. (Time TBD)
- October 15th: General Meeting

General Membership Meeting and Board Elections: 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 16th, 2020 at ArtServe 1350 E Sunrise Blvd.

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

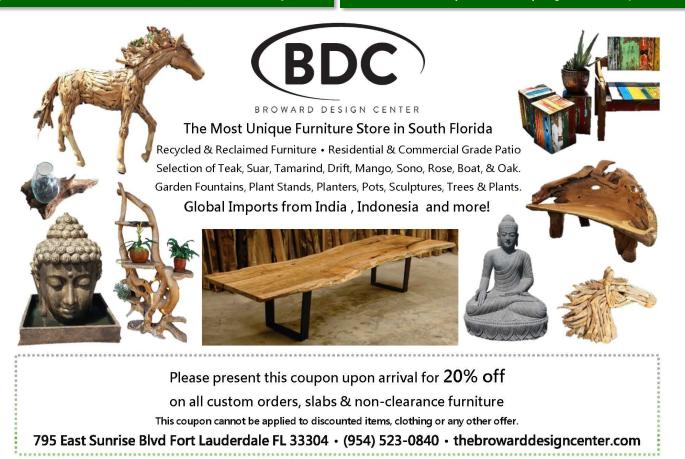




Here RooRoo the Racoon's cubs, pose for a picture. They are some of the wildlife that call Lake Melba, the "lake" in Lake Ridge, home



All the maintenance, clean-ups and beautification you see in Lake Ridge happens because of NEIGHBORS LIKE YOU as a community initiative, not a service we receive from the City. Please consider joining our next clean up.



Please Help Us Save the Lake in Lake Ridge and its Incredible Wildlife!

by Erin Keenan

As many of our residents may know, our beautiful, quaint, treelined & nature-filled neighborhood of Lake Ridge was named for Lake Melba (fresh water & spring-fed from Lake Okeechobee) and the Ridge along the FEC railroad tracks. Many of you have likely noticed our lovely lake while driving along NE 13th St., just west of Federal Hwy. But I'll bet most of you would be shocked to learn of all the varieties of wildlife living in and around our Lake. Several species of fish, turtles, snakes, lizards, butterflies, bees, raccoons, opossums and hundreds of birds including Great Egrets, Ibis, Anhinga, American White Ibis, Great Blue Herons, Parrots, Northern Cardinals, Blue Jays and even Bald Eagles all call Lake Ridge home.

I'd like to tell you about Gray, the Great Blue Heron. When my family met Gray as a baby, Gray lacked his lovely adult blue coloring and our children demanded "we call him what he is, not what he is supposed to grow up to be." I, in total agreeance with this remarkably profound statement from a 7-year-old child, said "of course Honey." Thus, our Blue Heron has been named Gray ever since. Gray lives in the Lake Ridge Lake along with Penny a Red Eared Slider turtle, Big Mouth a large Peacock Bass, Chip & Dale two crazy squirrels, RooRoo the Racoon who has successfully raised 3 sets of kits (cubs) teaching them to fish in the Lake Ridge Lake, Herbert a seven-foot iguana, Ozzy & Oswald the Opossums and hundreds of other species of birds who roost every evening in the protection of the trees along our Lake Ridge Lake.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Albetta

Happy New Year to All Residents Of Lake Ridge:

As we approach January and look back on 2019, the Lake Ridge Civic Association is extremely grateful for OUR community's participation in many initiatives benefiting our Lake Ridge Community.

From neighborhood clean ups, to our successful community events, to our awesome Taste of Italy Event at Cafe Vico in April, to the Hurricane Preparedness joint meeting with the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations in June, escaping unscathed from the threat of Hurricane Dorian that wiped out of dear neighbors of the Abaco Islands & Freeport in the Bahamas, to our Holiday Soirée at J.Mark's Restaurant this past December and finally to the long awaited Monuments, that now grace three of the entry points to our beloved Lake Ridge!

As President of the Lake Ridge Civic Association, I beam with pride at the outstanding record and reputation our association has with the City of Fort Lauderdale Agencies, Broward County Agencies, as well as Federal Government Agencies as "an effective Civic Association that is to be recognized".

It takes a village to make this happen and the Lake Ridge Civic Association Board is an outstanding group to be recognized: Juliette Rocque – Treasurer, Lynn Elsasser – Vice President, Rose Mather – Secretary, Chris Toomey – Deputy Secretary, and board members at large – Erin Keenan and Steve Unfortunately, the future of these magnificent creatures living amongst us in Lake Ridge is threatened more every year. Our neighborhood's population continues to increase as housing developments are rapidly built replacing small single-family homes further contributing to less land, less trees, flowers & plants and more traffic, pollution & danger to our wildlife and ourselves. We must work together as a neighborhood to both welcome the progress and gentrification of Lake Ridge and help protect all that is left in our incredibly unique and fragile environment here. Most significant changes happen from many small changes, happening repetitively over an extended period, for better or worse, so every small thing each of us can do to contribute to the preservation of our Lake and our neighborhood has a significant impact on our community.

Lake Ridge's popularity and growth over the last 20 years has allowed its residents to enjoy a significant increase in property values however, this has come at a tremendous cost to our wildlife and to Lake Melba. Our lake and its wildlife offer one of the most unique characteristics of our neighborhood. Unfortunately, garbage and pollution are increasing and starting to destroy our Lake and kill the wildlife that inhabit it.

The good news is that it is not too late to save our Lake Ridge Lake and its wildlife, but we need your help! Our neighborhood needs volunteers LIKE YOU to get out and contribute towards helping to clean up our Lake, our street closures and our neighborhood streets. Lake Ridge Civic Association schedules quarterly clean ups often in

Save the Lake - Continues on page 5

Jacobson. I recognize our esteemed Newsletter Creative Director as well - George Figueroa and tireless volunteers - Ted Spiliotes and Eugene Conway. I am very honored and grateful for all of their unselfish efforts.

The General Membership will meet 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at **ArtServe** <u>1350 E Sunrise Blvd</u>. Famous Jets Pizza and soft drinks will be served, we also have a great and FULL agenda.

First, according to Lake Ridge Civic Association By-Laws (which can be referenced at our website **www.lakeridgecivic.org**), we will conduct our yearly elections. This past October, I appointed George Figueroa as nominating Chair, his email is

NominatingChairLRCA@gmail.com. Please see his message on page 5.

Second, I have invited our City Commissioner Steve Glassman to give us an update of Our City and I have invited members of **Transportation And Mobility (TAM)** to discuss matters in OUR neighborhood, as well as " Mockingbird Trail". You may have read the November 26, 2019 front page article on the Sun-Sentinel, by Larry Barszewski on this proposed 8-mile urban trail route, neighborhood connector and linear park destination that will include our very own Flagler Drive. Please visit **www.mockingbirdtrail.com** for more information and

President's Message - Continues on page 4



President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Deputy Secretary Michael Albetta Lynn Elsasser Juliette Rocque Rose Mather Chris Toomey

Board Members At Large

Central City CRA Rep Beautification Chair Infrastructure Chair Hospitality Chair Steve Jacobson Erin Keenan Ted Spiliotes Erin Keenan Ted Spiliotes Barbara Bennett

Michael Albetta

District II Representative to Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations

Please note: The views and opinions stated in this newsletter are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Board nor the members of the Lake Ridge Civic Association.

The Lake Ridge News is published quarterly: and is delivered to all residential and business addresses in Lake Ridge.

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rates & deadlines for print-ready art at 954-560-8649 President's Message Continued from page 3

then come to our January General Meeting to learn more.

Additionally, we are planning for members from the **Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** to attend either the January or the March General Meeting for a familiarization of what this agency will do on behalf of our City and the County. We are also coordinating a visit with our membership from County Commissioner Tim Ryan, for either January or March.

In closing, I thank you for reading my message. Please consider becoming a member or renewing your Lake Ridge Civic Association membership. Together we can achieve and maintain Unity in the Community because Unity is Strength.

Sincerely, Michael Albetta, LRCA President



SAVE THE DATE

The Lake Ridge Civic Association 8th Annual Fundraiser

Taste of Italy

hosted by Café Vico • 1125 N. Federal Hwy.

\$20 per person at the door, \$15 in advance.Includes 1 Glass of Wine or Beer, Great Italian Food, Tapas-Style Appetizers, Raffle Prizes and more!

Thursday, April 16th

6:00 - 9:00 pm

	Mail to P.O. Box 4506 Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33338				
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6	Membership: New 🗇 Renewal 🗇	Family (\$35) 🗖	Senior (\$20) 🗖	Renter (\$10) 🗖	Business (\$50) 🗖
	I'd like to help with neighborhood efforts:	Public Safety	_Beautification	_TrafficMemb	er/SocialOther

Nominating Committee Update:

By George Figueroa, LRCA Nominating Chair

At the last General Meeting on October 17th, board nominations were put forward by the Membership. Those nominated to the Lake Ridge Civic Association are:

- Michael Albetta
- Lynn Elsasser
- Ted Spiliotes
- Steve Jacobson
- Chris Toomey
- Juliette Rocque
- Rose Mather

On the last newsletter issue, we invited all paying members in good standing with the LRCA for at least 45 days prior to the January Membership Meeting, that were interested in joining the Board in 2020, to submit a short application essay for the consideration of the Nominating Committee by the **November 24th 2019 deadline** to: **NominatingChairLRCA@gmail.com.**

The committee did not receive nominations via email during the allotted time, so only the nominations put forward at the October General Meeting will be presented to the membership at the January 2020 meeting for consideration.

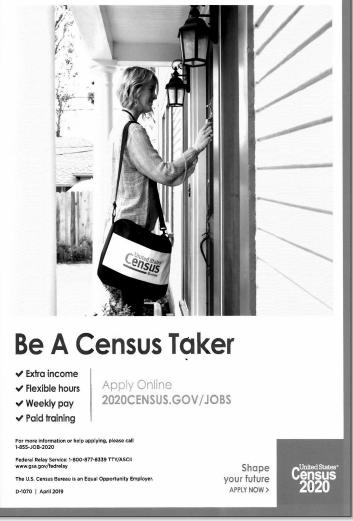
If you have any questions about this process please direct them to your LRCA Board at LRCA33304@gmail.com

Save the Lake - Continued from page 5

coordination with the City of Fort Lauderdale tor which we constantly need volunteers. I am asking everyone who enjoys living in Lake Ridge and has a sense of responsibility for maintaining the beautiful place where we live, to contribute by helping us clean our neighborhood and save our Lake Ridge Lake and its wildlife!

My name is Erin and I am one of your neighbors, I live on 18th Ave. and have been here for 20 years. I'm working with our association to try to save our Lake and educate our neighbors on the importance of keeping both our neighborhood beautiful and our Lake healthy. I have told Penny big mouth and all our other wildlife to hold on and that help is on its way, please don't make a liar out of me, it is so little time and so little effort to make such an incredible difference for us ALL. Thank you in advance for your help and efforts cleaning out and saving the Lake Ridge Lake for all of us together we can save the lake before it's too late!





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Agreement with transportation agency spells hope for traffic relief

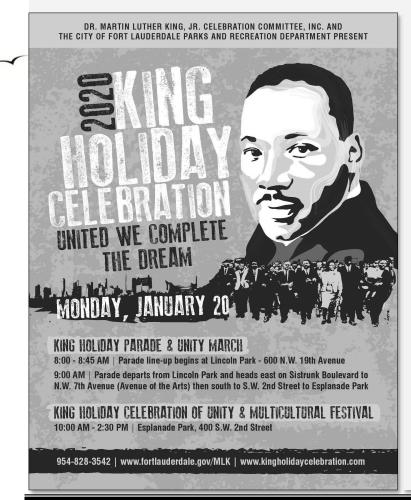
(reprinted from Mayor Dean Trantalis November 2019 Newsletter)

The weather is finally beginning to cool and the Northeast and Midwest have received their first blast of Arctic temperatures. Soon, we welcome the annual arrival of snowbirds and tourists fleeing the cold.

That, of course, will bring more traffic on our streets. Congestion on our roadways has been a major issue facing our city. The City Commission recently signed an agreement that we hope will herald some relief.

We've decided to partner directly with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. This high-level collaboration should allow us to better plan major projects to relieve congestion, expedite them to completion and better leverage local, state and federal assistance.

For those who don't know, the MPO is the regional transportation planning organization. Fort Lauderdale already has seats at the table on making regional policy decisions on transportation. However, this partnership takes it to another level – linking the MPO directly into the city's transportation planning.



The fact of the matter is that Broward County's transportation network is extremely complex. Fort Lauderdale's traffic is heavily influenced by the daytime influx of commuters from the western suburbs. Then, there is our tourist traffic and the traffic from our own growing population.

Issues that should be simple fixes are not. For instance, everyone favors synchronizing traffic lights, yet that is under the control of the county government. Also, most major roads are under the jurisdiction of the county or state.

So, the city is left to lobby as hard as possible for the interests of our residents. As the city manager has acknowledged, Fort Lauderdale has struggled with balancing resources, fulfilling priorities, maximizing funding and communicating with other governments when it comes to transportation.

We believe the MPO deal will bring their expert knowledge to help us find the best solutions for our city. At the same time, we will not lose the local services of the city's Transportation & Mobility Department that neighborhoods expect.

Traffic engineering will be handled by the city. Review of development plans and parking requirements will also continue to be done by the city. City staff will also prioritize projects and act as the neighborhood liaison.

Under the agreement, the MPO will dedicate a transportation planner for each commission district. Their unique expertise in planning, programming and coordination will help ensure our decisions regarding transportation are as effective and efficient as possible. One example is that they can help us leverage the new county transportation surtax as much as possible.

We have already seen the creativity of the MPO.

When the city canceled the Wave streetcar project, it was the MPO that suggested creating a transit loop around downtown with a dedicated lane for rapid-transit vehicles through a one-way pairing of North Andrews Avenue and Northeast 3rd Avenue.

The MPO arrangement has worked well in other parts of the country, but it is rather novel locally. We anticipate great results, but we also can back out of the contract at any time if we find it is not working.

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2019 is a Wrap, Resolve to Get Involved in 2020

By, Juliette M. Rocque, Lake Ridge News Contributor

The end of the year has come; a good time to reflect and to look forward to the coming year. Lake Ridge has been busy! On January 21st we headed over to the 7th Avenue Boys & Girls Club along with other Associations and volunteer groups to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King. The day included clean up, assembling and painting Little Libraries and so much more.

Continuing with our efforts to keep the road closures tidy, we had three major clean ups coincide with the City's Make a Difference Day, Ready Day and Cares Day. Thanks to the ever-faithful residents and the James Club, we were able to remove trash, trim and mulch most of the road closures. I was glad to see a few new faces and hope to see more residents come out to lend a hand in 2020.

On December 5th we enjoyed each other's company at our annual J. Mark's Holiday Soiree. I always enjoy meeting new neighbors and connecting with old friends. Our biggest accomplishment comes in the form of three brand new entryway monuments. Yes, they have finally arrived. A project that has been in the making for more than a decade. Thanks to the vision, hard work and tenacity of all the past and present monument committee members and the City's Neighborhood Support Division, we were able to celebrate their arrival with a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 7th.

In between our clean ups and working on getting our entryway monuments, we participated in Green Your Routine meetings and work events, namely weeding the butterfly garden at Snyder Park, checking IDs at Mills Pond Park for Household Hazardous Waste events and tree giveaways as well as recycling at the Riverwalk's Sunday Jazz Brunch.

Looking forward, my New Year's wish is to see more Lake Ridge residents get more involved. I would love to see a more robust membership and many more volunteers. We made many strides with just a handful, imagine how much more we can accomplish with more hands-on-deck.

I challenge you to make it your New Year's resolution to attend all four meetings and to get more involved. Bring us your ideas and your talents. April 2020, we look forward to our annual Taste of Italy fundraiser. Make plans to attend and bring a friend or two. If you would like to help organize, please let us know. Also planned for October 10th, 2020 is a Community Health Fair to be held at Sanctuary Church. We are looking forward to partnering with neighboring associations, you know our motto "Unity in the Community". If you are interested in helping get this organized don't be shy, let us know.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!



COMMISSIONER STEVEN GLASSMAN



The greatness of our community starts with passionate citizens like you. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any thoughtful questions, comments or suggestions.

Commissioner Steven Glassman: SGlassman@fortlauderdale.gov

Commission Assistant, Pratima Raiu: PRaju@fortlauderdale.gov 954-828-5923

facebook.com/glassman4ftl fortlauderdale.gov





Monuments - Continued from page 1

The monument locations are (3 completed & 1 to be installed in 2020):

- Flagler Drive & Sunrise Boulevard (completed)
- Flagler Drive & 11th Avenue (completed)
- 15th Avenue & 11th Street (completed)
- 13th Street & 18th Avenue (to be installed in 2020)

Once the median is built along 15th Avenue, the 15th Avenue monument will be relocated to the median. Additionally, the 4th monument, at 13th Street and 18th Avenue, is underway and will be completed in 2020. We are working on the 4th monument with Lana Development, the developer for Galleria Villages. Lake Ridge owes a huge debt of gratitude to Lana Development who has committed to funding the 4th monument. Watch for more information in future newsletters and on the LRCA website (**www.LakeRidgeCivic.org**), Facebook page and Next Door.

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Recycle Right: Please Do Not Contaminate Your Recyclables

By Lynn Elsasser

Did you know, when you put contaminants in your blue recycling cart, all your recycling effort is for naught? Contaminants turn recyclables into garbage and the contents in your blue cart can contaminate the entire truckload!

Below are the TOP 5 contaminants. These items should **NEVER** go in your blue cart:

NO Food. Whole, part or just the stuff that sticks. Keep it all away from your recyclables please. That includes liquids. Especially greasy liquids.

NO Plastic Bags, or anything that looks or feels like a plastic bag, such as dry cleaning covers and disposal



NO Polystyrene Foam or similar products, such as packing peanuts and foam drink cups. NO Unrecyclable Glass, such as mirrors, windows, china and other dishware, and knick-knacks. NO Hazardous Waste. For information on proper disposal of hazardous waste go to https:// gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/greener-government/recyclingwaste-reduction/solid-waste-events/household*hazardous-waste-drop-off* (everything from batteries to medication to motor oil containers or any kind of fuel or petrochemicals.) Drop off your hazardous waste at the next HHW Drop-off Event at Mills Pond Park, Jan. 11, 9 am - 2 pm.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS. **CLOTHING & HOUSEHOLD GOODS DROP-OFF EVENT** Saturday, January 11, 2020 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The City of Fort Lauderdale is offering neighbors a convenient and responsible opportunity for disposal of hazardous waste, electronics, clothing and household goods. Unwanted items will be collected at a drop-off event at Mills Pond Park from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 11, 2020.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes common household items that contain toxic chemicals and therefore need proper handling during disposal (paint, pesticides, fluorescent bulbs, etc.). No explosives, flares, commercial waste and appliances will be accepted.



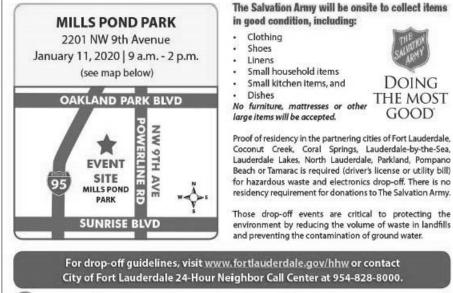
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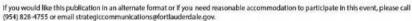
Fort Lauderdale residents can conveniently and safely dispose of home electronics curbside. Visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/epickup for details.

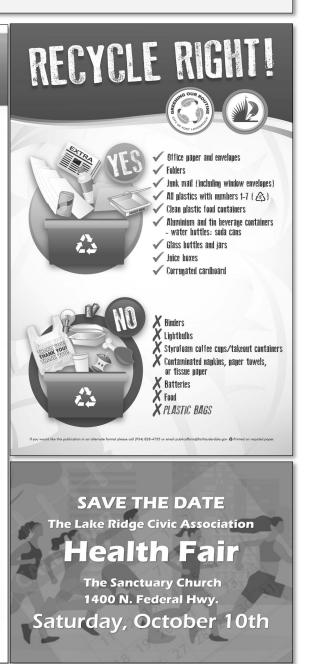
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General Membership Meeting and Board Elections: 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 16th, 2020 at AnServe 1350 E Sunrise Blvd.

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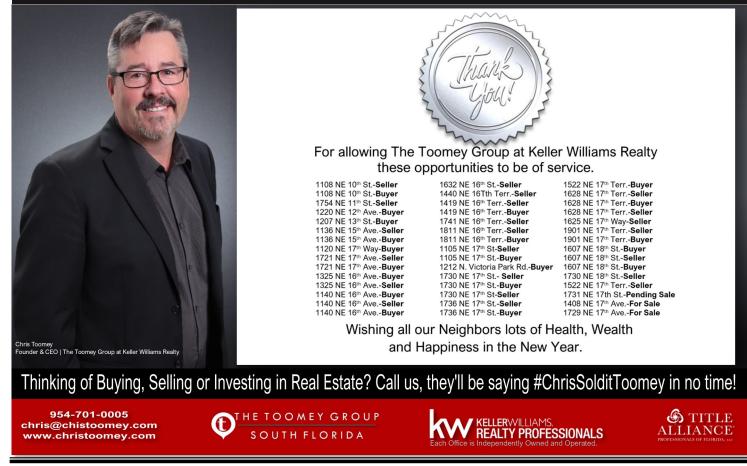
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