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By Go Riverwalk Staff

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Cover by Nick Scalzo









GoRiverwalk.com/9-11-Monument

The monument prominently displays a section of PATH rail that was retrieved from the wreckage of the subway station located below the World Trade Center. It serves as a reminder of the nearly 3,000 lives lost on September 11th, 2001 and honors those individuals as well as their families and first responders.

BE A PART OF HISTORY

Add your name or the name of a loved one to this iconic piece of history on the Riverwalk.

All donations are tax deductible.

BENCH SPONSOR: \$7,000 ETCHED GRANITE PIECE: \$2,000 ANNUAL FLAG SPONSOR: \$1,200 COMMEMORATIVE ETCHED BRICK: \$250



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THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE HONORS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."

- Shirley Chisholm

The City of Fort Lauderdale proudly pays tribute to the legacies of African-American pioneers and leaders who have helped shape our history and continue to influence who we are as a nation. Black History Month is a time to reflect upon how far we have come in the struggle for progress and to reaffirm our commitment to "Keep the Dream Alive" for future generations.







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Go Riverwalk is Fort Lauderdale's City Magazine covering arts, entertainment, business and lifestyles. Go Riverwalk is a Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale publication and publishes 12 times a year to inform, inspire and connect residents, readers and leaders with the people, places, happenings and events that make Fort Lauderdale one of the world's best places to live, work and play. © Copyright 2020. Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. All rights reserved. No part of Go Riverwalk February may be reproduced in any form by any means without prior written consent from Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale and publisher S.MARK Graphics. Publisher accepts no liability for the accuracy of statements made by the editors or advertisers. The waves device and Go Riverwalk are trademarks of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. © Copyright 2020.

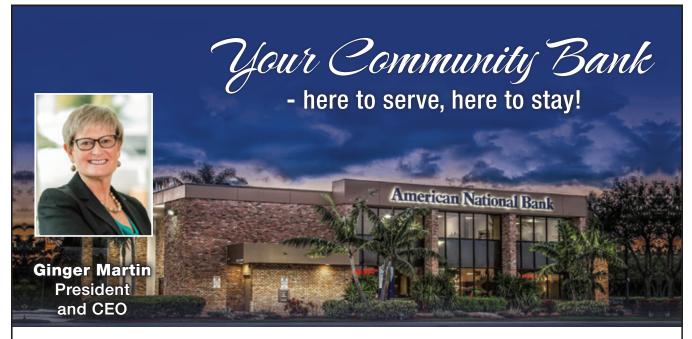


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4



We Have Sold Over 220 Las Olas Grand Properties!

UST LISTED ASHLEY | \$1,595,000

3 BEDROOM 3.5 BATH

Designer model Ashley South floor plan with phenomenal 270 degree views of the New River, Ocean & City from every room. Featuring marble floors in the living areas & Brazilian cherry wood floors in the bedrooms, a Luxurious gourmet kitchen with Poggenpohl cabinetry, Sub Zero refrigerator, Thermadore double ovens & Meile dishwasher. Complete with Marble baths & much more.

ASHLEY | \$1,495,000

3 BEDROOM 3.5 BATH

Perched above it all! This high floor Ashley South model is beautifully upgraded with marble stone floors throughout, custom moldings, stone accent walls, coffered ceilings, gourmet kitchen, built in executive office, expansive terraces w/ 270 degree views encompassing the ocean, intracoastal, river & downtown skyline.

IUST SOLD!

ASHLEY

3 BEDROOM 3.5 BATH

Offered exquisitely furnished & decorated, featuring upgraded marble flooring, chandeliers, gourmet kitchen with high end appliances. Beautifully appointed master with custom closet, marble baths, jacuzzi tub & dual vanities. Turn key!

ASHLEY | \$1,075,000

3 BEDROOM 3.5 BATH

Magnificent views of the New River. Expansive open floor plan. Foyer entry, powder room, stone floors throughout, 2 large terraces, top of the line appliances. Floor/ceiling impact windows and motorized sun shades.

CHAMPAGNE | \$985,000

2 BEDROOM 2.5 BATH

Panoramic views of river, intracoastal and ocean. Featuring marble floors throughout, gourmet granite kitchen, top of the line appliances, custom paint, light fixtures. Ready to move in.

BRADFORD | \$875,000

2 BEDROOM 2 BATH

Exceptional ocean, intracoastal and river views. Offered fully furnished with exquisite custom pieces. Wood flooring in the living areas, expansive terrace and breakfast nook overlooking the river & ocean.



3 BEDROOM 3.5 BATH

Prestine Park Model with stunning views of the river & custom interiors by Steven G. featuring marble floors with inlays, customized lighting, motorized window treatments, built-wet bar, 4 terraces off bedrooms & living areas.

INDER CONTRACT

COLUMBUS

2 BEDROOM + DEN 3 BATH

Outstanding city skyline & ocean views from every room. Private elevator, floor to ceiling glass, 9 foot ceilings, 2 balconies, large gourmet eat in kitchen, custom window treatments, crown molding & sound system.

LEXINGTON | \$799,000

2 BEDROOM 2.5 BATH

Marble & hardwood floors, split bedroom plan w/ flow through design & 2 balconies w/ fabulous river/pool/ocean views. Private elevator entry.

LEXINGTON | \$795,000

2 BEDROOM 2.5 BATH

30th floor, den/bonus room, flow through design w/ 2 balconies, split floor plan, private elevator entry, over 1800 sq. ft. of living space, spacious gourmet kitchen, breakfast room with fabulous views & floor to ceiling windows.

IUST LISTED RARELY AVAILABLE | \$500,000

1 BEDROOM 1 BATH

Featuring a large covered terrace with unobstructed river views! Saturnia floors throughout, floor to ceiling glass windows in every room, marble moldings, custom wall unit and large open kitchen with breakfast bar.



2 BEDROOM+DEN | 3 BATH | \$1,599,000

Brand new luxurious unit with 14 ft. ceilings! Over 1800 sq. ft. of wrap around terrace overlooking the river, park, pool & city. Porcelain flooring throughout. The master suite features 2 walk-in closets & a luxuriously appointed bathroom.

2 BEDROOM+DEN | 2.5 BATH | \$4995/Month LEASE

Luxurious residence with stunning views, large terrace, ceramic flooring throughout, gourmet kitchen w/ pure white quartz counters. 2 Parking spaces.



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3 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$659,000

Fantastic views of the ocean, river & city from this very large 3 bedroom, 2 bath with over 1,790+ sq. ft., granite counters and stainless steel appliances.

JUST LISTED 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$349,000

Corner unit w/ ocean & city views on the 20th floor. Tile floor throughout w/ open balcony. Beautiful kitchen w/ granite countertops & stainless appliances.

2 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$305,000

Bright & spacious unit with fantastic views of the cruise port & airport. Stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, washer & dryer, built-in closet.

2 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$305,000

Split bedroom floor plan, italian kitchen cabinets with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops & full sized washer/dryer.

2 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$299,000

Best priced 2/2 unit in the building. Corner Unit, split bedroom floor plan, beautiful kitchen with stainless steel appliances & full sized washer/dryer.



2 BEDROOM | 2 BATH | \$379,000

Stunning views of the river, laminate & tile floors. Italian cabinetry, stainless steel appliances & granite counter tops. 2 Parking spaces.

2 BEDROOM | 2 BATH | \$359,000

Great water views with downtown skyline. Open floor plan. Gorgeous hardwood floors. Updated stainless steel appliances. Pristine condition.

2 BEDROOM | 2 BATH | \$349,000

High floor unit with stunning views of the river, split bedroom floor plan, large balcony and tile floors.

2 BEDROOM | 2 BATH | \$349,000

Split floor plan features tile floors throughout, gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops, spacious walk in closet and dual balconies.

UNDER CONTRACT | 1 BEDROOM | 1 BATH

South exposure with cherry hardwood floors & sleek Italian kitchen cabinetry, unobstructed water views from the balcony.

1 BEDROOM | 1 BATH | \$289,000

Fully furnished. Everything brand new! Spacious 1 bedroom unit with gourmet kitchen and river views from the terrace, turnkey & ready to move in!

JUST LISTED | 1 BEDROOM | 1 BATH | \$259,000

Symphony's lowest priced unit! Corner unit! Priced to sell! Large bright living room. Bamboo flooring. Luxury bath with separate tub & walk-in shower.



RIVERSIDE | \$849,000

2 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms plus den residence with unobstructed views of the ocean, intracoastal & river. Beautifully renovated customized open floor plan, with large living areas. 2 parking spaces and storage included.

RIVERSIDE | \$759,000

Largest 2 bedroom + den floor plan in the building! This stylish & contemporary residence features over 1600 sq. ft. Of living space plus large glass balcony offering direct river views. Floor to ceiling windows & dual master suites.

JUST LISTED SEAVIEW | \$659,000

Impeccable 3 Bedroom 2 Bathroom custom remodel w/ ocean & river views!
Designer finishes include custom lighting throuhgout & fully renovated bathrooms.

JUST LISTED STARDUST | \$519,000

2 Bedroom 2 Bathroom with direct river views! Split bedroom floor plan with floor to ceiling windows & glass enclosed terrace overlooking the New River.

SKYVIEW | \$429,000

High floor 2 Bedroom 2 Bathroom prestigious unit w/ modern renovations! New contemporary kitchen w/ quartz countertops. Stunning views of downtown & river!

JUST LISTED SUNGARDEN | \$349,000

1 Bedroom 1 Bathroom with city lights & new river views. Many designer finishes including marble floors & crown molding throughout.

JUST LISTED SUNGARDEN | \$339,000

Bright & Airy Impeccably maintained 1 Bedroom 1 Bathroom with tropical unobstructed views of the gardens/pool deck/city from the large glass balcony.

JUST LISTED SUNGARDEN | \$309,000

1 Bedroom 1 Bathroom featuring 9-foot ceilings, crown molding, new lighting, gourmet kitchen w/natural quartz countertops & imported tile backsplash.

WE HAVE 5 UNITS UNDER CONTRACT AT THE WATERGARDEN!



JUST LISTED | 1 BEDROOM | 1 BATH | \$329,000

High floor 1/1 with big views! Wood floors throughout, granite countertops, lots of storage, separate tub & shower combo and full size washer/dryer.



BY JOHN ROPES Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Chair



SURVIVING 2020

LESSONS LEARNED AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

any things have changed over the past year, but there were certainly many lessons in our struggles.

Many have lost jobs, homes, even loved ones and friends. We learned to appreciate those in our life and the time spent with them. We learned to build resiliency in spite of the uncertainty and collective fear. We became socially creative with drive-by birthday parties, graduation ceremonies, and weddings became smaller (and cheaper!)

Some of us also saved money and time on gas and office space while transitioning to a work-at-home environment. College kids cried as they had to move back in with Mom and Dad and most certainly appreciated their college lifestyle more than before. Teachers learned that it is not as fun teaching kids online, and parents learned to appreciate the teachers more!

Moving forward, I believe 2021 will be a positive time of regrowth, especially for South Florida.

The commercial real estate industry took a dive in 2020 with office buildings virtually emptied, while the residential real estate industry skyrocketed with people fleeing from some of the areas hit harder by the pandemic. Real estate prices soared in South

Florida with a great demand for resale properties and multifamily residential lease rates increased as well at the end of 2020.

I believe that Florida will continue to recover faster than parts of the Northeast and Northwest because we have our state budget balanced and are able to maintain low tax rates. This, along with our climate, is an inducement for the continued relocation of companies from the more expensive and pandemic torn states. Commercial and residential real estate will continue to move as companies flee those areas.

Another positive thing helping Florida's economy is that we are open for business. Our struggling small businesses that made it through will now have the opportunity to recover.

The worst of the pandemic will cease sometime in 2021 as vaccines are rolled out and South Florida will continue to build its base.

Who knows, maybe someday in the coming year we will be able to breathe normally without masks, greet one another with a handshake or a hug again, and enjoy grand social celebrations once more! All I know is that I feel more appreciative than ever to be a South Floridian and resident of our great city of Fort Lauderdale.





MOVE-IN READY RESIDENCES AT FORT LAUDERDALE'S TALLEST ADDRESS







RESIDENCE 3302-B

2 BEDROOM | 2.5 BATH | DEN 1,501 SQ. FT. | \$999,000

RESIDENCE 1801-A

2 BEDROOM | 2.5 BATH | DEN 2,395 S0. FT. | \$1,290,000

ESTATE RESIDENCE 4101

4 BEDROOM | 4.5 BATH | FAMILY ROOM 3,895 SO. FT. | \$3,350,000

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of the Fort Lauderdale cityscape. Residents will also enjoy the perks of being above the Hyatt Centric® Hotel, which features 238 guest rooms, Elev8 rooftop bar, and lobby-level Harborwood Urban Kitchen and Bar. Now is the time to own the Las Olas lifestyle. Schedule your private tour of designer models today.

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BY GENIA DUNCAN ELLIS President/CEO Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale



NAME THAT TUNE

RIVERWALK SHOWCASES LOCAL VOICES

f you missed our recent event, you missed a safely distanced fun evening featuring eight local artists competing in our version of The Voice!

Judges Susan Renneisen, David Lovitt and Kitty McGowan observed and guided the contestants through two performances with a loud and cheering audience spurring them on. Thoughtful comments from the judges made the second song from each contestant even better than the first.

Contenders were Cindi Curtis, Jordan Thomforhde, Chloe Gardner, John Cotter, Sarah Kenis, Patrick Harris, Nikki Brito and Phil Morse and the music performed covered all spectrums from jazz, show tunes, 80s rock, country to current covers.

Finding local talent is not as difficult as it sounds, and we were so fortunate to have these people join us for a great night of fun. Thanks go to **Tarpon River Brewing**, our host for the evening, for setting tables far apart with lots of safety precautions in place to make our guest comfortable and serving up iconic beer and food. Twilight Features and their team hit it out of the park with a large in-house screen and live streaming the event with several other countries joining in the watch as well as many from other states!

Thanks to Mark Budwig and Nick Scalzo of **S.MARK Graphics** for our artwork. Our Prize Sponsor Richard

Rodriguez of **WITHmyDoc** for our first place and Genia Duncan Ellis of **Ellis Connects** for second and third place generously provided incentives to compete!

Levitt Fort Lauderdale by Courtney Crush along with Alexa and Britt Lanier of Two Men and A Truck, Jodi Tanner of Las Olas Capital Arts, Ann Fox of Richard J. Fox Foundation, and Barbra Stern of Barbra Stern, PA helped fill our goodie bags for our guest with some cool things to enjoy.

In our Exclusives pages of this issue, you will see photos of our contenders and the evening as well as the winners. With the overwhelming response from our guest, we will look at hosting another event of this kind in the very near future and encourage you to join us in these limited ticket happenings.

Events during this time are needed in small and measured ways as businesses need to continue to operate and people participate in a safe fashion. Tarpon River Brewing made certain that there was hand sanitizer, face masks and table service. All tables met and even exceeded the distance requirements under today's guidelines to be safe. With open doors at both ends of the building – fresh air (and it was chilly, too) streamed through the area. Riverwalk had a safety officer inside the event who strolled the area and made sure that all guest complied with the posted requirements.





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MARSHA FREEDMAN

EXPRESS YOURSELF COMMUNICATIONS

• "Changing the world, one presentation at a time" is the tagline for my firm, Express Yourself Communications. Empowering professionals to speak with confidence,

clarity and conviction is my passion. Since the pandemic hit, I have been working with professionals to improve their virtual delivery skills. My rewarding work as a trainer, coach and professional speaker has taken me across the country and internationally.

The SET Principle is a mindfulness program I created to help people manage emotions at work, home and behind the wheel. Considering the times we live in, who couldn't benefit from reducing stress, increasing focus, productivity and improving communication outcomes with clients and family?

I grew up in New York City, but have lived in Broward County most of my adult life. My undergraduate degree is in education and my master's from Florida International University is in mass communication. I'm a proud 18-year member of the National Speakers Association and co-host of the Business Professionals Luncheon at the Tower Club.

My greatest accomplishment is keeping my two grown sons from moving out of state, as they both grew up here and swore they'd never stay in a place with only one season. They work together in commercial real estate development (BH3) and have produced five beautiful grandchildren for me.

I am an interim board member of the EPIC Foundation, an organization that helps underserved kids in South Florida. When Riverwalk resumes live events, I look forward to volunteering my time to help this awesome organization!



TRUSTEE MEMBER

MARIA MEDINA

MINUTEMAN PRESS

• Originally from Colombia, I have lived in Egypt, Spain, the United Kingdom and South Florida. After a careerending soccer injury in 2006, I had to reevaluate my life

and so I pursued a career in business management and marketing. Reaching the peak of my corporate career at the age of 24, my wife and I decided to fulfill our lifetime dream of moving to Florida by purchasing a local Minuteman Press in 2014.

As soon as we moved to South Florida, I was interested in getting involved with local businesses and the local community. I joined the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce along with other local networking organizations, including but not limited to: BNI, Riverwalk, Big Bad BBQ, McFatter Advisory Board and IGNITE Community Services.

Along with all my community involvement, I still have time to run Minuteman Press Wilton Manors. We are a full service print, marketing and design company that provides a variety of services from business cards, brochures, postcards, banners, signs, window graphics and car wraps to pens, shirts, mugs, koozies and other promotional items. It is our business to help your business grow!

When I'm not working or taking part in one of my community activities, I enjoy spending time with my wife and our six pets.

Members of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale express their support and join us in our mission of building a vibrant community. Riverwalk supports Downtown's diverse, mixed-use community of arts and entertainment establishments along with business, residential, judicial, educational, and marine interests.

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RIVERWALK VOICE

On Jan. 9, in conjunction with the Riverwalk Music Series of Levitt Loves Lauderdale, a challenge was launched to local talent to earn the title of Riverwalk Voice.

Hosted by Tarpon River Brewing and with sponsors WITHmyDOC, Ellis Connects, S.Mark Graphics and Twilight Features, eight contestants performed before a cheering audience to win the title. Gift bags contained goodies from the Richard J. Fox Foundation, Two Men and A Truck, Las Olas Capital Arts, and others.

Judges Susan Renneisen, David Lovitt and Kitty McGowan provided helpful guidance to the contestants and narrowed the field of eight to three, who were further ranked and selected by the voting audience.



Chloe Garner – Riverwalk Voice Jordan Thomfordhe – First runner up Phil Morse – Second runner up

Video of the event can be found on Riverwalk's Facebook page.



Alexa Lanier and Bob Swindell



Renee and Michael Quinn



Joe Arenal and Ann Fox



Chloe Gardner, winner, Riverwalk Voice



Jordan Thomforhde, first runner up



Phil Morse, second runner up



Mark Budwig, Ginny Fujino and Nick Scalzo













Cindi Curtis

Nikki Brito

RIVERWALK HOLIDAY LIGHTS CRUISE

On Dec. 18, Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale in partnership with the Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi hosted a Holiday Lights Cruise along the downtown waterways and along the Intracoastal.

Our partner Spirited South Florida coordinated beverage with Florida Craft and Nantucket Craft Cocktails to provide a tasty libation for the cruise to go with the snack packs provided by Riverwalk.

A lovely cool evening made the evening enjoyable and a chance to share some holiday spirit.







Waiting for the boat



PHOTOS BY MARK BUDWIG & NICK SCALZO



Captain Carrie

Patrick Harris

BY COMMISSIONER ROBERT McKINZIE

City of Fort Lauderdale



STAYING FOCUSED

STRIVING TOWARD A MORE VIBRANT, INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE CITY

s we welcome 2021 and continue to operate under our "new normal," the City Commission remains focused on our goals and priorities while remaining mindful of the health and welfare of our residents. Although the past year resulted in unwelcomed change for many, we are steadfast in our effort to build a more vibrant, inclusive and innovative City.

Smitty's Wings on Sistrunk

The wait is over! Smitty's wings on Sistrunk is now open. Smitty's Wings is a locally owned-and-operated restaurant that has brought new life to the Boulevard. The project was sponsored by the CRA and recognized by the Florida Redevelopment Association as the winner of the winner of the 2020 Award for "Outstanding Rehabilitation, Renovation or Reuse Project: Large City." For more information visit www.fortlauderdalecra.com.

Affordable Housing Progress

During the past year, City departments progressed toward increasing affordable h ousing opportunities for all. Multiple projects approved in 2020 are well underway.

There are more than 100 affordable housing units currently under construction, with more than 200 additional units on the horizon. The Housing and Community Development Division (HCD) and the Community Redevelopment Agency completed an additional 37 units in the northwest neighborhood of River Gardens/ Sweeting Estates.

Partnering with the Fort Lauderdale Community Development Corporation (CDC), the Historic Dorsey Riverbend neighborhood welcomed its first solar-powered home. The 1950s single family home was completely renovated and equipped with energyefficient features such as LED lighting, Energy Star certified appliances, impact windows, new insulation and exterior dusk to dawn lighting. This residence, and others like it, model our commitment to making affordable home ownership a reality for more neighbors.

Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Update

Covid-19 testing continues to be offered at Mills Pond Park. The free service is offered by the Department of Health. For more information, please visit www. fortlauderdale.gov/coronavirus.

Covid-19 vaccinations are underway at Holiday Park. Individuals who are 65 and older are eligible for the vaccination by appointment only. To schedule an appointment visit www.browardcovidvaccine.com.

Nonprofit Grant

We are proud to invest in partnerships with nonprofit organizations. The City has launched a new initiative, with a special emphasis on non-profits that promote the following target areas: Social Welfare and Elderly Programs; Arts, Culture and Historical Programs; and Educational Programs.

If your know of any organization that would be interested, please visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/nonprofitgrantapp for program details.

Last, I want you to know that we are working for you and will continue to align our services, programs and projects to improve your quality of life. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me by calling my office at (954) 828-5011 or send me an email at RMcKinzie@fortlauderdale.gov. Stay safe and be well. ⁽¹⁾





FROM 93RD DISTRICT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHIP LAMARCA
District 93



LOOKING AHEAD

UPDATE FROM THE STATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR DISTRICT 93

here is no doubt that 2020 was a challenging year for everyone. The pandemic changed many things in our community, state and country as a whole. I would first thank our frontline healthcare workers and first responders for their fearless dedication to others during the pandemic. Many of these hometown heroes separated themselves from their own family members while they were exposing themselves to the virus. They have outdone themselves for months on end and I want to personally thank them for their outstanding strength during this unprecedented time. Thank you!

Since being re-elected this past November, I am able to look back and reflect on what has happened this year. The last legislative session ended in March 2019, the very same week that the statewide lockdown was initially ordered in Florida. I cannot tell you how lucky I am and we are as a community to have Corey Staniscia and Samantha Verner working as our District 93 team. They (and I) have not stopped working for you, our constituents, since the day the pandemic struck.

From our work in getting the governor and Tallahassee to extend property tax deadlines and corporate filings to updates on emergency orders, food drives, unemployment assistance, small business loans, rental assistance and food stamps for families, we have been diligently working hard for you. During the pandemic we heard from more constituents than ever before. We will continue to be here to help, or answer any questions whenever you need it. It is not only our job, but it is a privilege.

As a reminder, Feeding South Florida will continue to do their food distribution events every Thursday. Their list is updated daily. To see the full list of locations, please visit feedingsouthflorida.org/distribution_locator.

Living in South Florida, we were all lucky enough to still be able to get fresh air, shop and eat local unlike other states during the pandemic. By keeping our businesses open with Covid safety precautions, many of our residents were able to keep their jobs during many uncertainties.

Looking ahead, vaccines distributions continue to be a top priority for our healthcare workers, first responders and long-term care facilities. The general public should await any updates about vaccines in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please stay vigilant. We are at the beginning of the vaccine distribution and there is still more to be done. Please continue to wear your face masks, social distance and wash your hands.

In the new year, we will focus heavily on the recovery of the pandemic. I look forward to seeing our unemployment numbers continuing to go down, with businesses and new job opportunities opening up. I believe that in 2021 we will continue to move in the right direction to conquer this virus. Although there is still a great deal of work to be done, I will continue to fight for Broward County. I look forward to going back up to Tallahassee to represent you. If there is anything I can ever do to assist, please do not hesitate to reach out.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your state representative in Tallahassee.



PHOTO BY @OLEZHKALINA



LOVE IS IN THE AIR



Kate Reed, Phil Marro, Jr., Keith Willard, and sponsor Kamini Lalwani from Ocean Wine & Spirits take your Valentine's Day to new heights

Gal pals, newly engaged and lovers of a lifetime, are you ready to take your love to new heights, literally? From GFL Food and Wine Festival producers, and award-winning Wedding Planner, Keith Willard Events, **Love is in the Air: a Valentine's Affaire** is an experience like no other.

Featuring live music and entertainment, a curated artisan market, and wedding vendors, the daylong fête from noon until 7pm is, in essence, three events in one. Girlfriends can pre-Sunday Funday sip and shop while couples gain ideas for their 'over-Covid' wedding or even renew their vows at Fort Lauderdale Beach's newest rooftop venue.

For those who would find it romantic to get married on Valentine's Day, Love is in the Air has you covered too, with done-for-you Micro Weddings from 2-5pm. Priced at \$100, the package includes flowers for the couple, an officiant to oversee the ceremony, a champagne toast, and a photo. The event concludes at sunset with a socially distanced group vow-renewal ceremony overlooking the Intracoastal and City skyline from the rooftop terrace.

Tickets start at \$5. for general admission when purchased online using **promo code: MyFTLB** in advance through February 10. For tickets & information, visit **MyFTLB.com** or **LoveIsInTheAirFTL.Eventbrite.com**

FUR THE LOVE OF PETS



Celebrate National Love Your Pet Day at #FTLPetFest on Sun., Feb 21.

Our fur babies have shouldered a lot over this past year, and to show our appreciation, Fort Lauderdale Beach's VIP (Very Inquisitve Pup) Teddy, has planned a much deserved day of four-legged fun. Benefiting Good Karma Pet Rescue **Fur the Love Pet Fest** on Sun., February 21, promises a day of pooch-centric entertainment at the new 2-acre Intracoastal Promenade. A family-friendly outdoor event, food trucks, an artisan market, live music and more fill the day from 10a-4p for their two-legged's to enjoy. View details and ticket info at www.FTLPetFest.com

AT THE MARKET WITH GFL

Tour the Las Olas Oceanside Park Market every fourth Saturday, both live and virtually, with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival. Get a firsthand look at how local chefs envision and bring a dish to life using fresh ingredients and artisan products. The tour culminates with a live cooking demonstration and a Q&A session to learn tips on cooking with fresh ingredients, spices and artisan products available for purchase at the market.



B Ocean Executive Chef, David Morales, kicks off the new culinary series at the LOOP Farmers Market on Saturday, February 27.



The LO/OP Fit Program provides access to a variety of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized provides access to a variety of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized provides access to a variety of specialized provides access to a variety of specialized provides access to a variety of specialized group fitness access to a variety of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes in a safe and welcoming out of specialized group fitness classes are specialized group fitness and specialized group fitness access to the specialized group fitness access to the specialized group fitness and specialized group fitness access to the specialized group group fitness access to the spe

Live Optimal / Own Possible and let your mind, body, and spirit lift.







L to R: LO/OP Fit Instructors: Lisa Pumper, Sharon Reid and Kaylie Hawkins, and Becky Ascione lead 6 weekly classes ranging from Yoga and Animal Flow to H.I.I.T. and Kettle Bell. View full class schedule at www.theloopflb.com





THE GREAT OUTDOORS

February 2021

- Tai-Chi & Qigong Birch State Park, 9a every Mon.
- 3 Beach Yoga Lifeguard Stand 11, 9a every Wed,
- 5 Ranger Walks Birch State Park, 10:30a, every Fri.
- Sunset Kayak Tour Park & Ocean, every Fri.
- LO/OP Yoga The LOOP, 10:30a every Sat,
- 6 Bark Brunch S3 Restaurant, 10a - 4p
- 11 Sunset Salutation Sunset Terrace, LOOP Garage
- 12 For the Love of Charity Childrens Diagnostic.org
- 13 FTL Beach Sweep The Hub A1A & Las Olas 7-11a
- 13 Watercolor Workshop Bonnet House
- 14 Publix A1A Marathon Fort Lauderdale Beach 6a
- 14 Love Is In the Air Terrace, LOOP Garage 12-7
- 21 Fur The Love Pet Fest LOOP Promenade 10-4
- 26 Full Moon Beach Yoga Lifeguard Stand 11
- 27 FTL Beach Sweep The Hub A1A & Las Olas 7-11a
- 27 At The Market with GFL LOOP 11a-1p Free
- 27 Full Moon Kayak Park & Ocean 6:30 8pm

View a complete calendar of events, activities and ongoing weekly experiences, at MyFTLB.com



Our Community is Committed to Creating a Safe & Clean Destination. All experiences listed have been County approved, and will adhere to local and CDC Guidelines.



SATURDAYS 9AM-4PM

YOGA FUSION at the park 10:30AM

WITH LISA PUMPER & TEAM ALL LEVELS WELCOME . BRING TOWEL OR MAT







Follow Us for Information on **Upcoming Activities and Vendor Details**







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BY PHIL THORNBURG
Director, Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department
Writer Angela Sabina



GET ENGAGED

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS FOR THE PARKS BOND AND PARKS MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

his is an exciting time for parks in the City of Fort Lauderdale! The City is in the process of making much needed improvements to more than 97 parks across the City. With dedicated funding of \$200 million, secured through a public approved general obligation bond, the City is moving ahead with planning, design and construction of these improvements.

Bond Program Highlights



\$200+ Million for Park Improvements



97+ Parks Included in the Bond Program

Background

The Parks Bond program is the result of years of prior planning. In 2016, the City Commission approved a comprehensive parks and recreation system master plan. The master plan was developed with extensive public input and identified a list of park improvements based on the community's expressed needs and priorities. In 2018, City residents voted to approve the issuance of bonds to fund these much-needed improvements.

Today, the City recognizes that the needs and priorities of the community may have changed since the original project began in 2016. Due to possible changes, staff has instructed the design team to conduct a community outreach program to gather the community's input for the improvements proposed for each park in the City before the final projects are developed.

Virtual Open House

In light of the current pandemic and associated concerns, the City has chosen to conduct the public outreach efforts virtually, through a website and virtual meeting rooms. This virtual approach is intended to provide for robust public input while promoting the safety of all those who participate. A comprehensive outreach effort will be employed to make residents aware of how to visit the virtual open house.

A key component of the public engagement process is the development of the Parks Bond Program Website. This site will serve as a central repository for all project information and will be integrated within the City's existing public-

facing website. This website will be active throughout the duration of the process to ensure transparency as the program progresses from planning to design and construction. Updates will be provided for each park that include a final program plan, current status of the project, as well as funding allocated. To visit the program website, please see FTLparksprojects.com.



Scan this code with your phone's camera to visit ftlparksprojects.com

In order to provide a safe, accessible and efficient engagement process, the primary tool for public engagement will be through a virtual meeting platform that replicates a room used for a traditional in-person meeting.

Accessed through either a computer or mobile device, the 3-D interface for the rooms is designed so that the user is in the meeting room, with a series of stations they can visit to obtain additional information, review plans of the preliminary development program and most importantly give their input on priorities and needed improvements.

One virtual room will be developed for each park and will be available in multiple languages, including English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. The public input period will begin on Feb. 1 and will be available through Feb. 28.





The residents of Fort Lauderdale have expressed their love of parks, open space and beaches through their willingness to fund improvements to the park system. The global pandemic has made parks increasingly important to residents' health and quality of life.

The implementation of the proposed improvements to the City of Fort Lauderdale's parks is an amazing opportunity to bring parks up to the progressive standards. The City of Fort Lauderdale also recognizes that Fort Lauderdale is not just one place, but rather is comprised of more than 40 unique and distinct neighborhoods.

The City looks forward to working in partnership with neighborhood residents to develop the best possible parks for each area in the City. Community input is critical to the initial success of this program. Please visit the virtual rooms throughout the month of February to share your ideas and continue to check the program website often for complete updates. @



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nsuartmuseum.org | 954-525-5500 One East Las Olas Boulevard Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301



Funding is also provided by the City of Fort Lauderdale, AutoNation, Community Foundation of Broward, Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale is accredited by the American Association of Museums









FriendsWithYou, Into the Clouds, 2019. NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale; purchased with funds provided by Michael and Dianne Bienes, by exchange

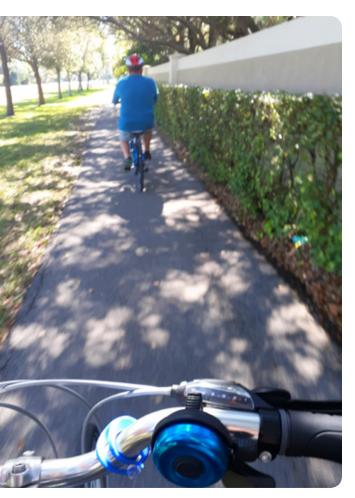


THE NEW NORMAL OF TRANSPORTATION

WHERE, HOW AND WHEN WE TRAVEL HAS DRASTICALLY CHANGED

ast year was a year to remember. The world has changed in so many ways, some for the better and some not so much. The term "new normal" that really irritated me in the early days of Covid, now, a year later, is an accurate way to think about things. Many changes have now become common place, while others still amaze me.

One of the things that still amazes me is how much the way we use our transportation system has changed. Some of the contributors to this change have been the free time we had during lockdown, reduced number of places to go due to restrictions on being in enclosed spaces together, the ability to work virtually, and the increased utilization of on-line ordering for everything. Things we never dreamed of at this magnitude this time last year.



Where, how and when we travel has drastically changed. While we were desperate to get out of the house, many of us walked and biked more often or for the first time in our neighborhoods, we noticed the gaps and issues with our network, and we discovered new outdoor spaces to enjoy.

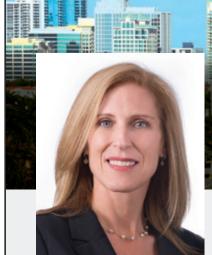
My husband and I have explored many new places across the county, enjoying nature while often taking our new bicycles.

And even now that many of us are back to work, how we travel during work continues to be different. We continue to meet remotely, eliminating the mid-day trip. This has added to the impact on the transportation system by reducing the number of vehicles on the road throughout the day, not just during peak commute times even with the volumes moving back toward pre-Covid numbers.

But the reduction in vehicles over the past year has not translated into a reduction in the number of motor vehicle-related fatalities. The total number of crashes within Fort Lauderdale was reduced from 2019 to 2020 by approximately 25 percent, along with the number of injuries, pedestrian and bicycle crashes by similar percentages; however, the number of fatalities was not reduced. In recent years, the average percentage of motor vehicle only crashes were 40 percent of all fatalities, while pedestrian fatalities averaged 50 percent of the total.

But in 2020, vehicle-only fatalities comprised over 70 percent and pedestrian fatalities 25 percent of the 30 lives lost on our streets. This shows that while the number of vehicles may correlate with the total number of crashes, it does not correlate with the number of the most serious of crashes.

I have always been an optimist and believe that we are able to grow from what we learn through difficult times. My hope for the future is that we will be able to continue to work together to create a safer and more reliable transportation system where everyone has a choice on how they would like to get around the city. That we will remember the experiences that we have had over the past year and not go back to the way it was, but instead make it even better — an improved "new normal."





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CELEBRATING SISTRUNK

EXHIBITION HONORS BLACK COMMUNITIES. HISTORY

uring a time when gathering with others has many challenges, the Broward Cultural Division's Public Art and Design team has unveiled a new exhibition that explores the significance of gathering places in Black communities.

Focusing specifically on Fort Lauderdale's historic Sistrunk neighborhood, the exhibition, featuring works by Black artists and designers, is on view at the African American Research Library & Cultural Center (2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale) through May 2021.

"The Porch is the Tree is the Watering Hole" explores space and community within the African Diaspora. Through the lenses of art, architecture, photography and poetry, the exhibition examines concepts of community and life in Sistrunk. Whether it be a backyard cookout, a Sunday morning church service, or a gathering under a tree to listen to the latest stories, connection has always been at the center of the Black community. By exploring important landmarks throughout the Sistrunk neighborhood, local narratives were rediscovered and served as inspiration for the exhibition design; in particular, the American shotgun home and the back alley.

Works in the exhibition are displayed in "rooms" found within a single-family home. Photographs of the neighborhood hang on the walls and fabrics sway on the "front porch" as if hung from a laundry line. Poetry written on the floors and walls reinforces thoughts of shared experiences and collectivity. Chairs in the exhibition's central gathering space reference

chairs typically found on the porches of many homes in Sistrunk. They evoke the gathering places that both formal and informal porches provide to this Black community. The alley, a threshold of public and private space, is the path through which visitors travel to view works on display and learn of the community and its aspirations.

Artists and designers — Germane Barnes, Darius V. Daughtry, David I. Muir, Adler Guerrier, Olalekan Jeyifous, Adrienne Chadwick, Marlene Brunot and George Gadson — were invited by the exhibition's curator and Broward County Cultural Division Public Art and Design Project Manager, Dominique Denis, to explore the Sistrunk neighborhood to better understand the relationship its residents have with the built environment. Through art and design conceived or reimagined for this show, they present a tapestry of work reflecting past and present realities.

At the Division, we believe it is important to tell stories of those communities and individuals who are often overlooked. Black communities have been historically marginalized. It is important to be reminded of traditions that have brought people together for centuries. Sistrunk is a neighborhood that is experiencing a surge in recent investment and interest that follows a long and rich history that needs to be celebrated.

For more information and to reserve your free timed admission visit ArtsCalendar.com/Sistrunk. ⁽¹⁾



Artist David I. Muir with *Where we Gather,* 2020 by David I. Muir.



Sheryl Dickey with Historic Sistrunk installation.



Artist Adler Guerrier with *Untitled (Sistrunk — in medias res. Unfurling the presence of Black life.)*, 2020.



"The Porch is the Tree is the Watering Hole" exhibit.



The exhibit is on view at the African American Research Library & Cultural Center, at 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, through May 2021.



Uneasy Lies the Head that Wears a Crown, 2020 by Germane Barnes



Where we Gather, 2020 by David I. Muir



Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness with exhibition curator Dominique Denis.



Artist Darius V. Daughtry with *these wizards* of ours, 2020.



Jennifer Lamy, Clarissa Hellebrand and Andrea Martinez (assistants to architect German Barnes) with *Uneasy Lies the Head that Wears a Crown*, 2020 by Germane Barnes.





A YEAR OF INNOVATIONS

'RESILIENCY' IS THE LESSON LEARNED IN 2020

2020 is in the history books. For many of us, its end couldn't come soon enough. Twelve months ago, the business community here saw a debilitating trade war and coping with rising labor costs and shortages as our biggest concerns in what promised to be a robust economy. At the time, the virus was an ailment from overseas that was just emerging in the United States. There were only 100,000 confirmed cases worldwide. Ahh, for the good old' days.

Like last year, 2021 begins with a sense of optimism and the hope of change, even as the number of confirmed cases has surpassed 1 million in Florida. For the more fortunate sectors of the South Florida economy, the outlook remains relatively upbeat. Banking, construction, financial, manufacturing, legal and professional services did well last year, and that trend is expected to continue, according



to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce's Council of Economic Advisors, which produces quarterly assessments of our local economy.

If there are any lessons the business sector learned in 2020, it is the need for resolve, flexibility and innovation. Doing things the same old way simply won't work in this new normal. The pandemic upended much of what's ordinary in commerce. Faced with declining revenue, disappearing foot traffic, empty office spaces and government restrictions limiting operating hours and the number of people allowed inside venues, business owners faced a stark choice: either adapt and change or watch all the hard work of building the business wither and die.

2020 was a year of improvisation for those businesses that managed to thrive. Curbside pickup, grocery deliveries, plexiglass shields, working remotely, Zoom meetings — these are just some of the noticeable changes that many businesses made in order to survive. Many businesses turned to technology, in some cases as a means to increase production and reduce labor costs. In others, technology offered greater efficiencies that allowed businesses to find new areas of growth. For example, telemedicine, for years a largely ignored concept, blossomed during the pandemic. Freed of the time spent on face-to-face routine visits, physicians, nurses and other medical staff can now devote their time to more pressing cases and procedures.

Our region's business community has shown a resilience in adjusting to the new rules of running a business in a pandemic. We have revamped operations to provide a safe environment for our employees and accommodate our customers. It is our hope in the new year that our patrons will continue to abide by commonsense Covid-19 safety rules: wear masks, wash hands and keep a respectable distance from others. The vaccines to treat the virus are coming, but right now it's the simple precautions that put others first that are our best bet in curbing the virus. Business owners are doing their part. They know that flouting mask regulations and social distance guidelines is not only bad for public health, but business and our economy.

In another time of trouble, Winston Churchill once said: "Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." 2020 may be over, but for our members of the South Florida businesses community, resiliency holds the promise of a better year of business. ⁽¹⁾

GENERAL CONTRACTORS WITH A REPUTATION BUILT ON RESULTS

DANTO BUILDERS HANDLES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BIG AND SMALL

hether you're walking, driving or cycling through the bustling city of Fort Lauderdale, it's impossible to miss the sheer number of buildings in all shapes and sizes lining the busy streets. However, for the people who work and live here or are just visiting the famed Florida hotspot, it's not often one stops to consider the people who are to thank for constructing the many intricate and complicated structures we see in the city of Fort Lauderdale. One such company in particular, Danto Builders, has been working for decades with locals in the area to construct hundreds of different buildings from – quite literally – the ground up.

For the owners of Danto Builders, working in the construction industry has been a family affair from the very beginning.

"As a fourth generation builder, Craig first got his start in the industry with his family back in Michigan before moving to Florida about 40 years ago," said co-owner Debbie Danto.

"Then we got married about 15 years ago and that was when I joined the business which is now Danto Builders. We have a wonderful equal partnership where Craig is the creative one and I'm the analytical one. So, it works really well."

At Danto Builders, the couple and their team provide general construction for many substantial commercial properties such as restaurants, healthcare and other businesses throughout South Florida as well as oversee construction management for larger construction projects.

"We may be a smaller company but we are more than capable of handling the largest and most challenging projects," Debbie said. Their capacity for completing a variety of large scale projects can be seen through their design build service which involves working with their clients on projects from start to finish.

"We are general contractors but we love to do design builds which involves working with our clients from the very beginning," she said. "During a design build, we collaborate with the designer and architect at each step of the process which makes it an easier and more cost effective process for the client. We even own an engineering firm so we have in house resources for that as well."

During some projects, the team at Danto Builders has even helped clients at the beginning stages of their business decide on things like a name for their company. "I've seen Craig come up with some really creative names for our clients' businesses," she said.

Aside from directly influencing the design of many of Fort Lauderdale's buildings, giving back to the community they work in is also especially important to the two. Debbie, who is on the board of the Florida Design and Construction Professionals, started a charitable event six years ago for Special Olympics that has become successful and beneficial for the organization. Currently, they are also looking to do the same for the Boys and Girls Club of America's local branch.

"We like being part of the community and giving back. At the end of the day, we hope to become friends with everyone we work and collaborate with in the community," she said. ⁽¹⁾





DANTO BUILDERS

Owners: Debbie and Craig Danto
Address: 5601 Powerline Road, Suite 401,
Fort Lauderdale

Phone: (954) 229-2006

Website: www.dantobuilders.com



BY PHIL PURCELL CEO/President, Marine Industries Association of South Florida



HOPES AND DREAMS FOR 2021

MARINE INDUSTRIES GREW IN 2020

hen I look back on 2020, one of the most surprising revelations is how quickly things we take for granted become the things we value most. Some were fodder for jokes, like toilet paper. Others quickly became things we couldn't live without, including Netflix and Amazon Prime. Most importantly, though, was the recalibration to prioritize family, something that was often overlooked in our formerly over-scheduled and chaotic daily lives.

As employees moved from offices to a laptop in the living room, children traded the classroom for home-based virtual learning, and we all were asked to shelter in place, families suddenly found themselves in a position many had never before experienced. For the first time in most of our lives, we had the luxury of time together. A lot of time together.

This newfound togetherness had an unexpected – and welcomed – impact on the marine industry. We saw huge growth – upward of 35 percent — as people new to boating realized one of the safest and most enjoyable ways to spend time with the family was on the water. Boat sales throughout the year were robust, as these new captains, first mates and deck handsboaters embraced Florida's water-centric lifestyle.

Always at the forefront of stewardship of our own backyard, the Marine Industries Association of South Florida pivoted our efforts to shepherd in this new era of growth. We adapted quickly to the changing world, and our solution-oriented team met every new challenge with creative and successful solutions.

Our The Marine Industries Association of South Florida's strong, existing relationships with government officials at all levels was an asset as the year unfolded. We successfully lobbied to keep the industry focused on unencumbered growthoperating in the face of the pandemic. From designating the marine industry an essential business to maintaining FLIBS as an in-person event, our initiatives were broad and far-reaching.

Our efforts were rewarded in bigger ways, too. We saw the industry grow in 2020 from \$8.9 billion to \$9.7 billion, and add 80,000 new jobs in Broward. Likewise, our first yacht service technician apprenticeship program smoothly transitioned from in-person to on-line learning while still participating in on-the-job training, and the total number of students enrolled in the program increased more than fourfold.

Looking forward to the coming year, I see the global reset continuing. With a vaccine in the early phases of distribution, it will take a while for Covid to be squarely in our rear-view mirror. Until then, it is critical that the marine industry continue to incorporate best practices to address future challenges.

The coming year is when we'll see supply chain issues tested come home to roost.. There is no doubt that technology will play a critical role in helping to balance inventory with demand. The marine businesses – big and small – that can master this delicate balance will be the ones that thrive.

Likewise, just as it was in 2008 when



private equity investors rushed on to the scene after the financial crisis, the South Florida marine industry remains a Class A investment. Private equity, pPublic cCompanies, uUnions and fFamilyies oOffices are all investing isn't going anywherein our industry., and we probably don't want it to.

Florida is the No. 1 state for boating in the United States, and for good reasons. Beyond our myriad inviting waterways, the financial incentives like no individual state income tax, and a healthy, outdoor lifestyle that lends itself to social distancing, are strong attractors that will keep the population growing for the foreseeable future.

With more than twenty 21 million residents in the state – and more thannearly one million who own boats – Florida enjoys a 5 percent conversion rate. With the population Florida poised for continued growth, this rate is only going to increaseour industry will grow with it.. We must position ourselves to provide the infrastructure required to support this growth.

From marine-specific amenities like marinas, dry stack facilities, and marine service suppliersboatyards to broader initiatives like bridges, roads and housing, there is no shortage of challenges facing the state – and South Florida in particular.

However, Floridians have never shied away from a challenge, and this coming year will be no different. MIASF will be there every step of the way to ensure the marine industry continues to move forward and successfully rise to every challengeprovides solutions to challenges.

I'm looking forward tooptimistic facing a new year and new opportunities for all of usour industry's place in the future!



SAVE OUR HOMES SAVINGS

TIMEFRAME TO USE PORTABILITY EXTENDED

ortability allows eligible Homesteaded property owners to pay less in property taxes on their new home by moving their "Save Our Homes" (SOH) savings (up to \$500,000) from one Florida property to another Florida property when establishing Homestead Exemption on the new property.

Beginning with property owners who establish a new Homestead Exemption for tax year 2021, applicants may now transfer portability savings from a Homestead Exemption held in any of the three immediately preceding tax years. To be eligible to move this SOH benefit, the new property must receive Homestead Exemption within three tax years – not calendar years – of the "abandonment" of the Homestead Exemption at the previous property.

Note: Homestead Exemption and Portability do not automatically transfer. You must apply for Homestead Exemption on the new property and submit a Portability application. Portability does not require you sell your previous home, but merely for you to no longer receive the Homestead Exemption on it.

Additional information about Portability can be found on our website at web.bcpa.net.

Annual Senior Exemption Renewal

If you received the Senior Exemption in 2020, you will be receiving your Senior Exemption Renewal Card in the mail this month.

Florida law requires you to renew this exemption annually as it is an income-based exemption.

To receive this valuable exemption for 2021, you must sign and return the yellow postcard renewal notice to our office by Sept. 20, 2021. The signed copy of your renewal card can be emailed to Homestead@bcpa.net, faxed to (954) 357-6188 or mailed to our office. You can also renew your Senior Exemption online at web.bcpa.net/renew.

If you did not receive the Senior Exemption for 2020 and you believe you may qualify, please visit our website at web.bcpa.net and click on the "Senior Exemption" icon to view this exemption and all the other exemptions available to qualified applicants.

You can also apply online at https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/SeniorsAppForm The deadline to apply for any 2021 exemption is Sept. 20, 2021.

Virtual Visits

If you prefer face-to-face communication, you can meet with one of our team members virtually. To schedule an appointment, please call (954) 357-5579 or email ExemptionExpress@bcpa.net.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please call us at (954) 357-6830 or email me directly at martykiar@bcpa.net. ⁽¹⁾



POINTS OF VIEW

REFLECTIONS FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS ON WHAT THEY LEARNED FROM 2020

WRITER GO RIVERWALK STAFF

one of us would care to go through again the challenges 2020 brought on, but we all had to work through those ordeals. In that light, we asked several community leaders to share with our readers their thoughts on resilience, lessons learned and innovations that came to light out of that darkness.

TIM PETRILLO, CEO and Founder The Restaurant People

What have you learned about yourself or your business?

I was very pleased with how our entire team came together to fight hard to get through the mess that we were thrust into when all of our restaurants were shut down. Everybody had a great attitude and came up with very creative ways to run the business on significantly less revenue. Our team was adapting every day to a new curveball that was thrown our way. They proved how resilient they can be and just dug in to get it done.

How have you kept up your resilience, either as a leader or as a business owner?

I think because the entire industry was facing the same challenges, it was easier to be resilient knowing we were not

alone fighting to stay alive. We are extremely fortunate to have great relationships with our partners, landlords, suppliers and banks ... they were all very supportive and worked with us during this challenging time.

How have you tried to stay positive for your employees?

We were in constant communication with our teams. We really wanted to let them know that we are here for them. It was very difficult having to furlough many of our hourly staff members but we made sure that we did not lay off or reduce any compensation of our management teams or chefs.

We wanted them to know that we are in this together and give them the confidence that we are here to support them during an incredibly challenging time.

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, Manager City of Fort Lauderdale

What have you learned about yourself or your business?

We are resilient and creative. We figured out how to do things differently and improved our processes to allow for service from a distance. While it seemed the crisis sometimes changed by the day, we kept an open mind and a sense of humor as we took on the challenge of each day.

How have you kept up your resilience, either as a leader or as a business owner?

I have kept up my resilience with a tremendous amount of focus and I am blessed to have the best team in the world. When challenged, this group of leaders and doers found a way. Along the way, I have tried to put myself in the shoes of

others, have attempted to thoughtfully make decisions that are focused on compassion, and have been purposeful to remind myself and others that we must get through this together, and as a community.



How have you tried to stay positive for your employees?

I have been intent on maintaining a positive perspective on where we have come as an organization and where we will go. We have resisted the urge to take ourselves too seriously and we coined the phrase, "laughing on mute." Always focused on the importance of the topic, this levity translated into employees staying positive. Positive employees then led to productive employees. We have a long way to go, but we will stay positive as we get there.

PATRICIA ZEILLER, Executive Director History Fort Lauderdale

What have you learned about yourself or your business?

Personally I've never been prouder of our organization. Historical Society is a lean, mean operation. To date there have been no layoffs required and all staffers who chose to furlough did so with full pay.

How have you kept up your resilience, either as a leader or as a business owner?

Our core staff took the closure for Covid as time for larger internal projects. For example, Fort Lauderdale

pioneer August Burghard left a huge donation of photos and documents to FLHS. 44 archival boxes were inventoried during our "down" time.



How have you tried to stay positive for your employees?

Our team realizes the challenges we have as a cultural institution post-Covid and has stayed engaged with our members and supporters. We stay positive by celebrating the "new" discoveries we find in our collections.

JOE COX, President and CEO Museum of Discovery and Science

What have you learned about yourself or your business?

Friday the 13th of March was scheduled to have been the 25th Annual Bank of America Wine, Spirits and Culinary Celebration here at the Museum of Discovery and Science — a wonderful evening where almost 2,000 guests come together to celebrate the work of the museum and raise funds to support our accessibility programs. Instead, the fundraiser was cancelled and it was the beginning of one of the most challenging periods in our 43-year history.

Faced with the prospect of our doors being closed for months, our board and staff rose to the challenge of continuing our mission of "Connecting people to inspiring science" — only this time, through innovative virtual programming. We immediately jumped into action by creating a project-based learning curriculum for Broward County Public Schools and teamed up with Florida International University's International Hurricane Research Center to produce "Eye of the Storm," a hurricane education and preparedness video series.

To support STEM learning while families were at home (and make everything from dancing oobleck to stomp rockets), we launched our Virtual Camp Discovery series that has been viewed more than 750,000 times and counting. Our team has been truly inspirational. Now that the museum has reopened, visit mods.org for the latest visitor hours and events.

How have you kept up your resilience, either as a leader or as a business owner?

With no playbook for running a museum during a global pandemic, the importance of peer networks both locally and nationally became increasingly important. Broward County has an incredibly strong community of cultural and social service non-profit organizations, and we certainly supported one another throughout this experience. As a board member of the National Association of Children's Museums, I worked closely with museum CEOs around the country to navigate the pandemic, think of creative ways to survive and advocate for support at the local and national level.

DAVID DIRENZO, General Manager The Tower Club

What have you learned about yourself or your business?

I am amazed at the resilience of our team and our members. Our purpose as a club is to build relationships and enrich lives. When the effects of Covid-19 no longer allowed for in-club dining and gatherings, we knew we were being tested to rethink the way we do just about everything we do. As an operator, I rethink on a daily basis, but this was next level rethinking at its best. Constant collaboration with my colleagues around the country as well as local business operators was key in surviving the times, and that's something I'll take with me far beyond this pandemic.

During the first half of March, the Tower Club was already teed up for a record-setting year. We had surpassed first quarter membership goals, our staff had grown to roughly 50 team members, and private party bookings were at an all-time high. Then, on March 17, a St. Patty's Day like no other, the world pretty much stopped. And on March 18, instead of buzzing around the dining room delivering Manhattans and Steak Frites, our team members were filling out vacation request forms, and applying for unemployment, unsure of what was happening in the world around us.

In order to survive, we quickly adapted our offerings to full-service to-go food and beverage, with more than 800 Tower Club meal kits sold, as well as the Tower Club Cares Grocery Program offering chophouse cuts of beef and poultry, and even toilet paper and hand sanitizer. We pivoted our member gatherings to virtual events, using some of the best technology out there, and instead of a 100-person mixer in the bar, we were thrilled to connect even 10 members at a time online. To us, these smaller, more intimate gatherings and conversations were so powerful, and we're now reintroducing inside the club, with new interactive think tanks gatherings and small group masterminds starting this spring.

Proud moments

It was also necessary to have a way to stay connected to our furloughed employees riding out the uncertainty at home, so we kicked off our Feeding Our Families program. Every week, our chef and I put together family meals for employees and



their families at home. Seeing our Tower Club family once a week wasn't enough, so we made it twice a week. One of the greatest things about our company is the ClubCorp Employee Partner Care Foundation, a 501(c)(3) with contributions from employees and members nationwide. In 2020, more than \$700,000 in grants were distributed to employees in need to help cover things like rent and auto loan payments. That's pretty rare in the hospitality business, and we're fortunate to have it.

When the clubhouse reopened, our commitment to sanitation and safety was evident, and we were extremely proud to be the second restaurant/club in Broward to achieve the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association Seal of Commitment for exceeding the training and sanitation requirements the Covid world required. The bar was set, and from that day on, we've been diligent in our efforts to being the safest place in all of Fort Lauderdale to dine, relax and socialize (from a distance).

How have you tried to stay positive for your employees?

We have very tenured team members at The Tower Club. Two of our dishwashers have been with us for 28 and 15 years respectively, and our banquet manager has been here for 25 years. In many ways, they have helped me stay positive. It's a family here, and as the saying goes, family comes first. That's how we've been able to get through this. No doubt, we've all worked twice as hard, but at the end of the day, we're twice as strong because of it. ⁽¹⁾





CLIMATE CHANGE

EATING OUTDOORS AND LOVING IT

WRITERS PENNY SANFILIPPO AND JONNY ALTOBELL, THE UGLY SISTERS

outh Floridians are the beneficiaries of (mostly) great weather due to our location. Yet many of our homegrown diners would not consider eating outdoors except in the winter months. Indoors, in the air conditioning, is preferred the minute the temperatures rise above 80. Why is this true here, but not, say, in Italy or Brazil?

There are a few reasons: first and foremost, is that we in Florida *have* AC. The second may be the menus themselves. Eating with the seasons is not common. A big portion of a hot/rich entrée does not lend itself to your enjoyment when the temperature is 90-plus as it would in December at 70. Lighter fare, with fresh produce, is more in keeping with summer. But, menus are expensive to print, and staff may not have the necessary expertise (or encouragement) to change items frequently.

Possibly the only good thing to come from the pandemic may be our new willingness to try eating outside. Many local restaurants have enlarged their outdoor spaces and printed menus are becoming more scarce which allows for tweaking by the kitchen.

Our friends Jodi and Darren Swank, at Swank Farm in Loxahatchee, have been featuring outdoor galas for nearly 10 years. The 8,500-square-foot open pavilion on their property seats nearly 200 (although this season they are limiting guests to 120) who come to sample food from different celebrity chefs at each of their events. This year will feature individual courses rather than communal serving but it can only be fabulous, considering the line ups. Check it out at SwankSpecialtyProduce.com.

dining and in fact, the entire restaurant has sliding doors that even let the outside in. The menu is reflective of that, with emphasis on lighter foods.

Downtown, the OB House has gone completely outdoors by converting a parking lot into a lovely garden setting. And some formerly open outdoor spaces have now constructed roofs which bodes well for a permanent outside experience.

Perennial "upscale" Italian faves in Fort Lauderdale — Casa D'Angelo and Louie Bossi's — understand the Italian passion for seasonal foods, as eating outdoors is nearly a religious experience in Italy. In fact, even prior to pandemic times, getting a seat at Louie Bossi's outdoor patio at night was a feat. The spot is so peaceful that you would not even know you were on busy Las Olas.

So introduce yourself to al fresco. No, not a person, but a way of dining. If it's hot, try chilled wine instead of your go-to red. Keep your menu choices simple: fish with greens (or another salad item) or gasp-cold soups or charcuterie. Nothing wrong with a few apps to share for dinner as opposed to one huge entrée. Spicy foods are also considered to help cope with warm weather (think of Indian cuisine). Hot peppers can be a great equalizer for outdoor temperature, as anyone from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean Islands can attest.

In researching for this article, we learned about outdoor dining in Alaska, Minnesota, Sweden and even the South Pole IN THE WINTER. Some of the locations encouraged BYOB — bring your own blanket — and darkness was considered more an issue than the temperature. Luckily, we don't have that problem. Try some new spots – outdoors.



The City of Fort Lauderdale is working to improve the curbside recycling program by eliminating contamination throughout the City. We need your help!





No Bagged Items



No Yard Waste



No Food or Liquid (empty all containers)



No Household Items (appliances or tools)



No Tanglers. Cords, Hoses, **Chains or Textiles**



No Tanks, Wood, **Plastic Furniture** or Metal





FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: www.fortlauderdale.gov/take5

Call: 954-828-8000





BE MY PROSECCO

MEET ERVIN MACHADO, FOUNDER & CEO OF PROSECCO ZERO

WRITER RENÉE K. QUINN



y wish for the perfect sip of rosé has just been granted. I'm a prosecco girl at heart, coming from a Sicilian heritage. The problem for me has always been the added sugar, and that's why I prefer a Campari Spritz over a glass of rosé.

Until now. Ervin Machado was one of the first to welcome me into the biz (ITB) and taught me many valuable lessons when I started Spirited South Florida in 2015.

Now the beverage director/CSW and certified sommelier for the Big Time Restaurant Group, Ervin sat down with me and shared his experience at creating his own brand. Ciao!



I've been blessed with a varied career, involving my certification as a sommelier from the Court of Masters, serving as the beverage director for a group with dozens of restaurants and, most importantly, launching my own line of low-sugar wines called Prosecco Zero.

How did you create your concept? Share a bit of background about how your concept came into existence and the story behind the name.

Prosecco Zero was born of a fruitful partnership between myself and Peninsola Wines. We collaborated on a unique formula, combining their rich history, tradition of quality, and a novel fermentation approach to keep sugar content extremely low (2.8 grams per liter). The team has expanded to new include a top-tier national distributor in Breakthru Beverage Group.

What's the biggest risk you've ever taken?

My biggest risk is probably my perpetual belief that I can continue to take more and more on my plate. Currently, I am finalizing a degree from University of California, Davis, in biochemistry, managing the beverage sales and training for several restaurants, and launching a new product into the marketplace. There is a risk of losing focus, or even burnout, but I firmly believe my passion for this business will get me through it and ensure all of these endeavors are a success.

Who are your role models or mentors?

One of my biggest mentors is my boss, the founder and CEO of Big Time Restaurant Group, Todd Herbst. He's taught me about entrepreneurship, business savvy, and how to treat customers and employees.

What's the best book you've read this year?

I'm currently reading "Shoe Dog," an autobiography from Nike founder Phil Knight. Among other things, this has taught me about tenacity and perseverance in the face of adversity. Nobody's journey is a "get rich quick scheme," and behind the scenes even overnight successes take years of grinding.

What does success look like for you?

Creating an iconic brand, scaling it to the masses, and passionately enjoying the journey.

What's the best cocktail you've tasted this year?

I think the Smoked Old Fashioned at Big City wins me over this year.



Wine key.

What music complements your drinking style?

I love a little hip hop and bubbles.

What's the culinary trend that's going to move us forward in 2021?

I believe having to decide between quality and health is a false choice, 2021 will

double down on people selecting products that are good for them, like our Prosecco Zero that is so low in sugar.

This time next year you'll be drinking ...

Prosecco Zero, of course!



YOU CAN FIND ERVIN AT THESE **SOUTH FLORIDA LOCATIONS:**

LOUIE BOSSI'S

1032 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale 100 East Palmetto Road, Boca Raton **ELISABETTA'S DELRAY**

32 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach



PHOTOS BY SPIRITED SOUTH FLORIDA/RKQ

Check out www.goriverwalk.com for more spirited #BITES+SIPS and recipes. Join Renée's #conSPIRITors by following her on Twitter and Instagram (@SpiritedSFL) and liking her Facebook page, Spirited South Florida. Remember to #DrinkResponsibly #GetSpiritedSouthFlorida

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ERVIN MACI

GENERAL EVENTS

A conversation with art historian Jackson Davidow

February 2 A conversation about Queer Architecture Stonewall National Museum and Archives Virtual 954-763-8565

www.stonewall-museum.org



Compensation

February 5-14
The story of a surrogate mother and her terrible secret Island City Stage 954-928-9800
www.islandcitystage.org

Bank of America: Museums on Us

February 6-7 Free admission to NSU Art Museum for BoA customers NSU Art Museum 954-525-5500 www.nsuartmuseum.org

Vintage American Glass & Pottery Show and Sale

February 6-7
Displays from local and national dealers in many styles
South Florida Depression Glass Club
Lauderhill Performing Arts Center
561-767-2592
www.sfdgc.com

A conversation with Scholar Jeffrey Bruce Nagel

February 11
A conversation about the archiving of gay history post-Stonewall
Stonewall National Museum and Archves
Virtual
954-763-8565
www.stonewall-museum.org



Santino Fontana with Seth Rudetsky

February 12
An intimate evening of incredible music and conversations
Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Virtual Happy Hour

February 17 ' The architectural history of the Stranahan House Huseonic Stranahan House Museum Virtual 954-524-4736 www.stranahanhouse.org

In the Light of Led Zepplin February 20

February 20
Six Grammy Award-nominated
musicians perform Led Zepplin classics
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org



The Best of the Eagles

February 27
Performance of classic Eagles hits
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Masterworks IV

February 27 Performing Bach, Stravinsky & Beethoven South Florida Symphony Orchestra Virtual 954-522-8445 www.southfloridasymphony.org

Free Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Day

February 28
Fort Lauderdale residents receive free admission
NSU Art Museum
954-525-5500
www.nsuartmuseum.org



Jen Kober's Big Gay Comedy Show Volume II

March 6
Award winning comedian Jen Kober and special guests
Savor Cinema
954-525-3456
www.goldstar.com/shows/1936335

Gino Vannelli

March 7
Grammy Award-nominated singer/
songwriter Gino Vanelli
Parker Playhouse
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com



Well-Strung

March 13
String quartet performing classics and pop hits
Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

New Art South Florida

Through February 21
Exhibition of South Florida artists about how we live now
NSU Art Museum
954-525-5500
www.nsuartmuseum.org

Through the Looking Glass

Through February 21
Artist Hunt Slonem debuts new collection
New River Fine Art
954-524-2100
www.newriverfineart.com

William J. Glackens: From Pencil to Paint

Through Spring 2021 NSU Art Museum 954-525-5500 www.nsuartmuseum.org

ONGOING

Las Olas Oceanside Park Market

Saturdays
An eclectic array of a traditional fair,
handmade goods and more
The Market Company
Las Olas Oceanside Park
305-531-0038
facebook.com/oceansideparkmarket

Free First Thursday Sunny Days

First Thursdays Enjoy free admission. NSU Art Museum 954-525-5500 www.nsuartmuseum.org







Pharmacy | Gifts | Bath & Body Products



We are a locally owned, hybrid pharmacy offering both traditional and compounded prescriptions. We are known for serving our community with fast, friendly and professional service. Your prescriptions are filled in 15 minutes or less and we offer local delivery service upon request. Our pharmacists take the time to explain your medications and answer questions you may have.

954-462-4166 | 1211 E. Las Olas Blvd. | Fort Lauderdale 33301 | www.lasolaschemist.com





STILES LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN RAISES \$95K Stiles Light Up Downtown, presented by Joe and Michele Maiuro, raises \$95,000

for Jack & Jill Children's Center on Dec. 1.





SALLY BEACH AND BRIAN BEACH



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JACK & JILL'S CHILDREN'S CENTER

GUY HARVEY OCEAN FOUNDATION VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

Celebrity guests join the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation virtual fundraiser to raise funds for ocean conservation.





JESSICA HARVEY AND GUY HARVEY



GUY HARVEY AND RICHARD BRANSON







WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?









Connecting people to inspiring science for more than 40 years with more than 300 interactive exhibits, immersive films, experiential programs and an aviation-themed Makerspace.

Receive \$2 off a Discovery Pass* by presenting this coupon at the Museum Box Office or by using code GoRiver2021 at checkout at mods.org/tickets.

*Valid for up to four guests through March 31, 2021. Cannot be combined with other offers and/or discounts. The Discovery Pass includes access to all Museum exhibits, demonstrations, wildlife, outdoor science park and one IMAX film (based on availability). Tickets are valid during normal Museum operating hours and do not apply to special events or member programming. For hours and pricing, please visit mods.org.

401 SW 2nd Street • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312









After feeling increasingly fatigued, Jeffrey's cardiologist diagnosed him with severe heart failure. After a cardiac catherization, the insertion of an impella device, and several weeks of care, his heart grew stronger. With a defibrillator implanted in his chest, Jeffrey is now back at work, enjoying his life with renewed energy.

Broward Health Medical Center offers cardiac wellness, research studies, and advanced clinical, surgical and rehabilitative care. Our treatment options for heart failure include minimally invasive procedures, such as TAVR, Watchman, and MitraClip.

Celebrate American Heart Month by loving your heart! Register for FREE online cardiac lectures at **BrowardHealth.org/Heart**.



