# GERNALK

FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

A PUBLICATION OF RIVERWALK FORT LAUDERDALE • SINCE 2003 • VOL.23 NO. 1 JANUARY 2026



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December 4 - January 4



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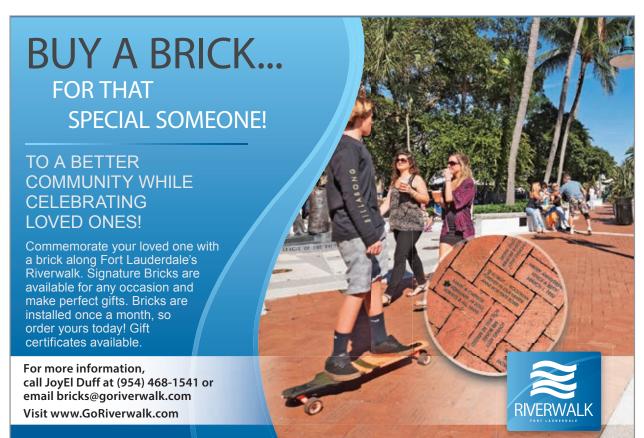
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Go Riverwalk is Fort Lauderdale's City Magazine covering arts, entertainment, business and lifestyles. Go Riverwalk is a Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale publication and publishes 12 times a year to inform, inspire and connect residents, readers and leaders with the people, places, happenings and events that make Fort Lauderdale one of the world's best places to live, work and play. © Copyright 2025. Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. All rights reserved. No part of Go Riverwalk December 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 2025.







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For event updates visit GoRiverwalk.com/Seafood

For sponsorship or vendor opportunities contact Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale at events@goriverwalk.com or call (954)468-1541.



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#### MISSION STATEMENT

To be the catalyst in building and nurturing Riverwalk & the Riverwalk District as a vibrant community connected by the New River.

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The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, Inc. present

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# HOLIDAY SUNSHINE

SEASONAL MAGIC COMES ALIVE ALONG THE RIVERWALK



a s the holiday season quickly approaches, it's a time to give thanks for the good fortune of living in such a wonderful city — one with an award-winning Riverwalk at its heart.

Each year, the Riverwalk and its adjoining parks come alive with events that capture the spirit of the season. Light Up Lauderdale, a beloved signature celebration, has kicked things off with live music, games and an appearance by none other than Santa himself.

Then comes the iconic Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade, winding its way down the New River and through the Intracoastal Waterway in a dazzling display of lights and music.

We're lucky to live in a city that offers so much vibrancy year-round — from cultural events and outdoor activities to an ever-growing dining scene that now includes new restaurants from around the country alongside long-time local favorites.

As temperatures drop elsewhere, we can be especially grateful to spend the season here — surrounded by sunshine, community and the company of friends and family.

The cooler weather brings opportunities for more events. Here's a list of upcoming Riverwalk events in 2026:

#### 16TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK STONE CRAB & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday, Jan. 3 | 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Esplanade Park

#### **1ST ANNUAL PIZZA FEST AT THE PARK**

Saturday, Feb. 7, and Sunday, Feb. 8 | 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. | Esplanade Park In partnership with Pummarola/Emily's Garden | www.pizzafestival.us

#### **10TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK CHILI COOK-OFF**

Saturday, Feb. 21 | Noon to 4 p.m. | Esplanade Park

#### 19TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK MUTTS & MARTINIS

Saturday, March 21 | Esplanade Park

#### SMOKE ON THE WATER BBQ FEAST

Saturday, May 16 | Esplanade Park

#### 4TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK TACOS & TEQUILA FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 18 | Esplanade Park

For more information on upcoming Riverwalk Signature Events, visit www. GoRiverwalk.com/signature





# **SEAS & GREETINGS**



Celebrate the magic of the season oceanside as Las Olas Oceanside Park unveils its month-long Seas & Greetings Holiday Weekends under swaying palm trees and sun-filled skies. From December 6 to 21, the LOOP adds a tropical holiday twist over three themed weekends, kicking off with a two-day Grinchmas on the Beach (Dec 6 & 7), an immersive Candyland Family Day (Dec 14), and wrap the month up with a bow over Seas & Greetings: a Tropical Wonderland (Dec 20 & 21).



Each weekend brings festive activities for all ages including photo moments with Santa, live holiday music, make-n-take crafts, yoga sessions, Letters to Santa, and a rotating cast of holiday characters for unexpected moments of joy. Families will meet stilt-walking Nutcrackers, Princess Lolly, cheerful elves, and the beloved Christmas Mermaid, all mingling throughout the park to bring the season to life.



# HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE MKT Just steps from the ocean, The MKT becomes a

Just steps from the ocean, The MKT becomes a festive open-air shopping destination throughout December. Visitors can browse a thoughtfully curated lineup of local makers offering handmade goods and unique stocking stuffers perfect for holiday gifting, and fuel up on a wide variety of artisan made foods. Shoppers also receive a free market tote with any purchase, and each weekend one lucky guest will discover a surprise gift tucked inside - an added touch of merriment as the community supports small and shops local.



With seasonal décor, whimsical installations, and cozy corners for capturing holiday photos, Seas & Greetings at Las Olas Oceanside Park is where Fort Lauderdale Beach shines brightest.

#### HIT-FILLED FINALE



Rounding out the year with a final wave of live music, the Friday Night Sound Waves Backstage Pass series presents three standout tribute concerts on Fort Lauderdale Beach. December opens with a diva double dose - **Blondie & No Doubt** (Dec 5), followed by the rock anthems of **Bon Jovi** (Dec 12) before wrapping up with **Man in the Mirror: a Tribute to Michael Jackson** (Dec 19) to close out an electrifying season.

#### **SAVE THE DATES**

#### **GRINCHMAS** · Dec 5 & 6

Kick off the season with **Santa**, **the Grinch** and **Cindy Lou Who**.

Saturday brings the debut of Max's Mutt Parade with FTL Dog Moms, benefiting the Humane Society, one of the weekend's Grow Your Heart



fundraisers. Visotrs and MKT shoppers can also partake in a free Namaste & Naughty Yoga Class, write Letters to Santa, snap pics in a Who House, and enjoy holiday jazz. Sunday adds Miss Tracy Sings toddler class, kids crafts and more.

#### **CANDYLAND · Dec 14**

It's a candy-colored celebration as The LOOP hosts *Candyland* Family Fun Day, bringing the classic board game to life along the beachfront. From 11 a.m.-2 p.m., kids of all ages can enjoy candy-themed inflatables, meet game-inspired characters, and create sweet take-home gifts and make holiday crafts. Guests can also explore bright Candyland photo sets perfect for capturing memories. View all details at *theloopflb.com* 





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Major funding provided by the Fort Lauderdale Beach Business Improvement District (B.B.I.D.) DiscoverFTLBeach.com

# IMPROVING THE RIVERWALK

FROM WAYFINDING SIGNS TO SIDEWALK GAMES, THINGS ARE HOPPING DOWNTOWN



nce again we are in the holiday season and finishing some major events and preparing for some very cool upcoming recurring and new ones. We wish you a happy holiday season from all of us at Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. Take a few minutes to walk on Riverwalk during this season and enjoy the festive decorations and lighting.

We continue to work with the City of Fort Lauderdale establishing a shade structure at Tunnel Top Park to enhance the use for outdoor events. We have coordinated with a private individual to install additional sculpture art in Esplanade. The sculpture has been selected and is going through the city process. Installation should begin during the first quarter of the year.

We have also been helping coordinate with other downtown stakeholders to provide interactive wayfinding displays throughout downtown and other parts of the city. This proven technology will be a game changer for our residents and visitors and provide a possible revenue stream back to the City for its operation. It will also be the first of its kind in Broward County — once again, Fort Lauderdale is stepping forward in a positive way.

Through a starter grant from Broward County, Riverwalk will continue to have a local artist paint hopscotch art in additional parks. Currently there are two in place, and it is our hope to find additional sponsors to help do another five.

We are greatly looking forward to the opening of Huizenga Park and all of the things planned by the Downtown Development Authority for that location. In the heart of downtown, this green oasis will bring a first-class location to our urban core. Stay tuned for the great announcements that will be coming! Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy a variety of amenities at this location as we again draw attention to our growing downtown. We thank the DDA for their vision and creativity to bring this project to fruition with the dedication of their staff to shepherd it through.

May your holidays be merry and bright and shared with those you love.

Hopscotch-painted sidewalk at Hardy Park

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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.

TO JOIN, VISIT WWW.GORIVERWALK.COM/MEMBERSHIP



# TRUSTEE DERRICK GRUNER

• "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." – *Winston Churchill* 

Community involvement has always been important to me. In faith we are taught to be good stewards, and meaningful stewardship necessarily

includes community. My personal stewardship journey began when I was the youngest vice president in the history of our local chamber of commerce and continued through terrific programs like Leadership Jacksonville (Class of 2005), Leadership Miami (Class of 2009) and Leadership Los Angeles (Class of 2014). It has included sitting on the board of directors for youth offender intervention non-profit Inside-Outside of Jacksonville, serving on the board of directors of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and continues today in my second year of service on the Riverwalk board of directors.

I discovered Fort Lauderdale's own Riverwalk by an accident of serendipity. A frequent cyclist, the paths are part of a scenic route from my South Bank neighborhood to the beach. It was some time before I realized that the Riverwalk is more than mere physical infrastructure, it is in fact an organization that by its very definition is the steward of our community's most iconic aspect beyond the beach. Being drawn to the Riverwalk organization's mission of stewardship as consistent with my own, I joined and soon began volunteering. The Riverwalk organization is comprised of like-minded souls who are not here for profit but are passionate stewards of a vital asset and tireless in their efforts to create a vibrant community. So, when I am asked after hours of volunteering in the blazing South Florida sun at a Riverwalk event why I do it, the answer is simple: this is how we make a life!

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS



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### POWER MIXER AT THE LOBBY ON NEW RIVER

On Oct. 27, Riverwalk again ventured south of the river for the final Power Mixer of the year at The Lobby on New River (formerly Masa & More). Riverwalk Trustee and Executive members and Corporate Partners enjoyed an evening at this unique venue, a new neighborhood hangout at the intersection of downtown and Rio Vista, situated right along the Riverwalk.

Thank you to our sponsors, FitFactor Training and Dynamix for their support of the evening, and to our host, Rob Wild, for welcoming the Riverwalk community into his establishment.





Rob Wild, owner of The Lobby on New River



Paulo Andalaft and Mike Johnston of sponsor FitFactor Training



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## FIRST ANNUAL DOWNTOWN DAY OF THE DEAD

Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale and Damn Good Hospitality partnered to present the First Annual Downtown Day of the Dead Celebration on Nov. 1 in the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale. Attendees enjoyed an evening filled with traditional Mexican music, cuisine and crafts, and colorful face painting provided by Glory Entertainment Events. The centerpiece of the event was a lively stroll through downtown Fort Lauderdale and the Riverwalk featuring costumed participants and traditional puppets, highlighted by new larger-than-life puppets arranged by Las Olas Capital Arts and painted by Heither Neiman and Stephanie Leyden. Adding to the excitement, Mayor Dean Trantalis and Mexican Consul General Eliel Campuzano Mendiola addressed the crowd, officially proclaiming the launch of Downtown Day of the Dead as a new Fort Lauderdale tradition.

Thank you to our sponsors: City of Fort Lauderdale, Revolution Live/Backyard, Florida Blue, Rick and Flo Celender, Las Olas Capital Arts, Two Men and a Truck, Broken Tee Craft Vodka, Swiggle, Tequila Supremacia, Producer Mezcal, Morningstar Storage – Fat Village, Kamora, S.MARK Graphics and Go Riverwalk Magazine.



Monica Cataluna with "Lolita"





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Lohn Luca and Christina Abate



Si Señor Mariachi Band



Jarred John, Genia Duncan Ellis, Mexican Consul General Eliel Campuzano Mendiola and Mayor Dean Trantalis



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Tijuana Productions



PHOTOS BY DIEGO MALDONADO

Santo Dulce









Face painting by Glory Entertainment Events



Chris Adams and Sophie Schooley



Mayor Dean Trantalis

# LIGHT UP LAUDERDALE

On Nov. 6, Riverwalk and the City of Fort Lauderdale hosted Light Up Lauderdale (Get Lit) in Esplanade Park. Attendees enjoyed music by the Fort Lauderdale Symphonic Winds, a kids' zone with pony rides and bounce houses, a picture booth with Santa, and a tree lighting ceremony. Light Up Lauderdale and the Riverwalk holiday lights are sponsored by the City of Fort Lauderdale with additional support from Rick and Flo Celender and Swiggle.









Michelly and Sebastian Moody



Mayor Dean Trantalis and Vice Mayor and District 1 Commissioner John C. Herbst



Michelle and Ace Alvarez

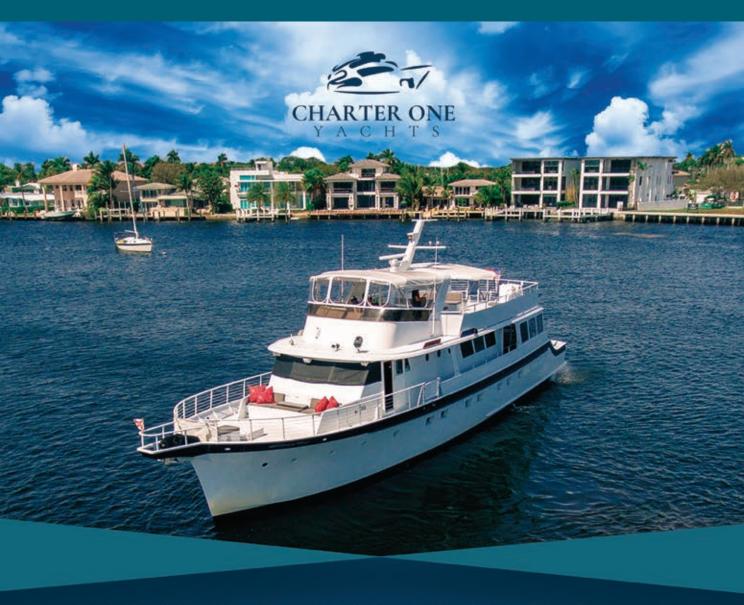




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BY COMMISSIONER STEVEN GLASSMAN
District 2
City of Fort Lauderdale



# **'TIS THE SEASON**

LIGHT-UPS AND COLORFUL HOLIDAY SIGHTS ABOUND

cannot believe that the holiday season is upon us! One of my favorite activities as commissioner is attending the magnificent holiday light-ups that occur every year in the various locations throughout the City. Ring in the season with dazzling light displays, holiday concerts, delicious treats, a jolly family zone and so much more.

The months of November and December are a time for all members of the community to join together and celebrate. Various light-ups are held at the Riverwalk, the Galt, Sistrunk, Carter Park and, of course, Light up the Beach and Light up the Menorah! Along with these holiday displays, this year the Las Olas Association will present the 63rd annual Christmas on Las Olas celebrating Fort

Lauderdale's Urban Winter Wonderland. Held on the iconic Las Olas Boulevard, Christmas on Las Olas never disappoints with various musical performances complete with street and food vendors to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

And if the above wasn't enough holiday fun, check out the new Marina Village at Bahia Mar. In November, we held its first ever tallest Christmas tree lighting in Fort Lauderdale! Finally, what would the holiday season be without a New Year's Eve party? The City of Fort Lauderdale once again will host the Orange Bowl Downtown Countdown in Esplanade Park. The whole family can enjoy food trucks, vendors, live music and the

dropping of the lit-up anchor at midnight.

Having participated in so many City holiday events and neighborhood holiday gatherings, I will tell you that there is a terrific spirit in Fort Lauderdale and it is filled with incredible people who all love our City and want nothing but the best for it. Wishing you all the best of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa all rolled into one! And, of course, a very Happy and Healthy New Year.



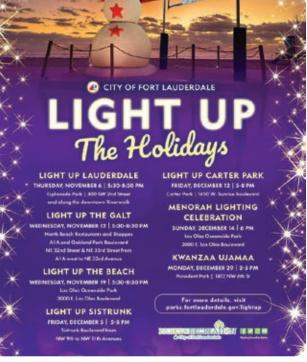
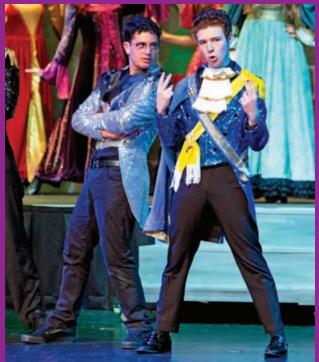


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#### **SPRING THEATER CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 31**

# SING! DANCE! ACT! LEARN! PERFORM!















The Broward Center offers classes for **KIDS**, **TEENS** and **ADULTS**. Our classes are designed to encourage artistic expression and teach new skills in a fun and nurturing environment.

Scholarships are available thanks to the generosity of the Ronald Plotkin Scholarship Fund and David Kilmnick Scholarship Fund.



#### **5 DAYS OF FUN...ONE AMAZING SHOW!**

March 16-20, 2026 • 9am-4pm Grades 2-8 | \$325 Teen Program (Grades 9-12) | \$170 SHOW DATE: MARCH 20



BrowardCenter.org/Classes 954.468.2689 registrar@browardcenter.org

BY DAN LINDBLADE
President/CEO
Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce



# **LOOKING TOWARD 2026**

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT SHAPES BROWARD'S FUTURE

ere in Broward County, our economy continues to prove what we've long believed: a diverse region with world-class infrastructure, entrepreneurial grit and a steady inflow of talent can navigate uncertainty and still move forward. As we look toward 2026, I'm optimistic — cautiously so — about our trajectory.

Start with the fundamentals. Passenger traffic through Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) remains a powerful barometer of our visitor and business economy. FLL handled 35.2 million passengers in 2024, placing it among the nation's busiest hubs and reinforcing Greater Fort Lauderdale's status as a gateway for tourism and commerce.

At Port Everglades, the story is similar. The port's latest impact report estimates roughly \$28.1 billion in annual economic activity — up about 6 percent year over year — driven by cruise, cargo and fuel operations that ripple through local jobs and small businesses.

These assets anchor our prosperity, support thousands of families, and keep Broward on the map for global trade and leisure travel.

Labor market conditions have cooled from the blistering pace of 2022–2023 but remain solid by historical standards. Recent readings put Broward's unemployment rate a little above 4 percent, which is near the state and national averages. That's consistent with a mature expansion: slower but still growing.

Population trends continue to work in our favor. Net inmigration to South Florida — especially from the Northeast, Midwest and abroad — has been a powerful tailwind for our workforce, housing market and consumer spending, with Broward adding dozens of residents on a net basis each day.

Our sector mix also gives us resilience. Hospitality and leisure remain vital, but the County's economy has broadened into professional and business services, life



sciences, marine industries, aviation/aerospace, tech and logistics. Recent company relocation information underscores this diversification and the pipeline of corporate expansions and relocations that continue to choose Broward for talent, connectivity, and quality of life.

That said, we have work to do. Housing affordability and insurance costs are real constraints for families and employers. Infrastructure — roads, transit, water and resilience projects — must keep pace with growth. And we can't take our competitiveness for granted; neighboring metros are courting the same companies and talent we are.

So what do I expect in 2026?

First, a "soft-landing" style year: growth that's positive but moderate, with unemployment hovering in the low- to mid-4 percent range and visitor volumes steady to slightly higher as global travel normalizes and cruise capacity expands. Second, continued strength in health care and life sciences, professional services and logistics tied to FLL and Port Everglades. The Port's recent recognition among top global performers in container port efficiency signals ongoing competitiveness for cargo. Third, population inflows should remain net positive, supporting consumption and small-business formation — even if the pace cools from recent highs.

To convert a good outlook into great outcomes, we should focus on five priorities:

- 1. Accelerate workforce pipelines especially in health care, skilled trades, logistics and tech through stronger employer-education partnerships.
- 2. Advance attainable housing by aligning local policies, financing tools and permitting efficiency to add supply at a range of price points.
- 3. Double down on infrastructure and resilience the backbone of our future competitiveness and insurance stability.
- 4. Keep growing our international profile. Leverage FLL's route network and Port Everglades' cruise and cargo strengths to attract investment and visitors.
- 5. Champion small business. Access to capital and technical assistance are the fastest ways to turn population inflows into broad-based prosperity.

Broward County's story has always been about momentum. With pragmatic policy, public-private collaboration and a relentless focus on execution, 2026 can be another year where we don't just ride the wave — we shape it.



# FINDING THE JOY IN COOKING

LEARN HOW TO COOK WITH LENORE NOLAN-RYAN

ooking can be intimidating. Timing is everything, there's so much prep work, and if you burn something, you have to start all over. It's no wonder many people simply never learn how to cook, but it doesn't have to be that way. That's why self-taught chef Lenore Nolan-Ryan started her own cooking school and invites people to not only learn how to cook but also find a newfound joy in making themselves and their loved ones a meal.

Long before Nolan-Ryan became a professional chef and caterer, however, she was a little girl falling in love with cooking in her mother's kitchen. "My first memory of cooking is when I was four years old. I'm standing on a chair with my Campbell Soup apron and hat on, and I'm stirring something with my mom, who was a fabulous cook. She would always say, 'Lenore, just open the refrigerator, with a smile on your face, a little bit of this and a little bit of that, and it will always turn out right. If it doesn't, make a reservation.' So, I grew up being fearless in the kitchen," she said.

It was this sense of fearlessness that pushed Nolan-Ryan, who was living in Indianapolis at the time, to start her own catering business. Then a few years later, after what was meant to be a trip to San Francisco turned into a more permanent stay, she opened her own place called Ryan's that she ran for 20 years. But after 24 years of calling the West Coast home, she decided to return to her home state of Florida, where she created what would one day be the Lenore Nolan-Ryan Cooking School and Catering.

"After so many years being away from family, you start to realize you missed all the holidays and all the birthdays. It was really time to come home. So, here I am in Fort Lauderdale, and there was a little place called Gina's Italian Takeout. I thought this was a great little place. So, I bought it, changed

the name on the sign, moved my catering company, and created space for a cooking school," she said.

Today, she offers a variety of cooking classes that are lively, informative and delicious. From handson cooking classes open to the public to private



classes, kids' cooking classes, and even corporate team building events, everyone can take the pressure off and have fun. But if you find cooking is still not your thing, fear not, because Nolan-Ryan also offers some world-class catering for all types of events.

"Catering is its own amazing part of what I do. I love my clients, and my clients love me, and that's why I love to cook for them. Because there are times in life where you simply cannot cook a meal for 30-plus people, and that's OK. That's why my tagline is, the art of entertaining is knowing who to call," said Nolan-Ryan.

If you need some help from the chef herself in your own kitchen, she has her own cookbook coming out later

this year titled "Love is the Main Ingredient." <sup>(1)</sup>

# LENORE NOLAN-RYAN COOKING SCHOOL & CATERING

Owner: Lenore Nolan-Ryan Number of employees: 5 Phone: (954) 491-2340

**Address:** 3311 N. Ocean Blvd., Fort Lauderdale **Website:** www.lenorenolanryan.com









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



# **EXCLUSIVE VIEWS**

ENJOY THE SIGHTS FROM THE WATER TAXI HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR









he sights and sounds of our vibrant city make Fort Lauderdale a year-round, world-class destination. One of the best ways to enjoy all that our city offers is by water. For residents and visitors alike, hopping on an iconic yellow Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi is a preferred way to do it.

Offering year-round service, Water Taxi serves as relaxing transportation between Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach and Hollywood. With 30-plus stops and hop-on, hop-off convenience, passengers can take in the sights along the New River and Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) en route to and from their destination.

The Water Taxi experience is great any time of the year, but it really comes alive during December. That's when the special Holiday Lights tours kick off. For one month each year, these special tours depart from The Riverside Hotel/Stranahan House Museum for a one and one-half hour round-trip cruise along the ICW and adjoining canals.

Each tour offers holiday cheer with themed drinks and live music as the boat passes by multi-million dollar waterfront homes decked out in holiday lights and decor. The route varies each year to maximize views of the most elaborately decorated homes. According to Jordan Campbell, marketing coordinator at Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi, many homeowners are inspired to go all out with their waterfront holiday decor to ensure their homes are included on the Holiday Lights route.

But the homes aren't the only things decked out for the holidays. Each double-decker boat used for the nightly tours is also ready with its seasonal finest. The captain and crew are in festive attire, hundreds of lights adorn each boat's interior and exterior and there is even a fully decorated holiday tree onboard.

The annual Holiday Lights tour is a favorite among visitors and local residents and tours sell out every year. The family-friendly activity is especially popular with area residents entertaining out of town guests over the holidays. Companies also enjoy the experience by holding annual holiday parties on board. Each boat has a capacity of 100 guests per tour, so even large corporate outings can be accommodated.

There are two daily departures, the first at 6:30 p.m. and a second at 8:30 p.m. This year, tours run nightly from Dec. 4 to Jan. 4, with the exception of Dec. 24 and 25 when there are no tours. There are also no tours on the evening of the annual Winterfest Parade, this year on Dec. 13.

While there may not be any tours on the evening of the Winterfest parade, Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi doesn't take the night off. They celebrate the Winterfest fun by decorating a boat or two and joining the parade. They also charter boats to others for use in the parade. Water Taxi provides a captain and crew and also offers decorating services if charter customers don't want to manage that on their own.

#### WANT TO GO?

#### **Water Taxi Holiday Lights Tours**

TICKETS: \$45 for adults, \$15 for children; children under the age of 3 ride free DEPARTURE TIMES: 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; each cruise lasts approximately 1.5 hours DEPARTURE LOCATION: The Riverside Hotel / Stranahan House Museum Drink tickets will be available for pre-purchase when buying adult tickets online.





# **2026 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**

DATES AND DEADLINES TO KEEP IN MIND

ll qualified Florida residents are eligible to receive a Homestead Exemption on their homes, condominiums, co-op apartments, and certain mobile home lots. To qualify for Homestead Exemption, you must own and make the property your permanent residence on Jan. 1 of the year for which you are applying for this valuable exemption. Pursuant to Florida law, all assessments and exemptions are based upon the status of the property on Jan. 1. If you acquired the property as your permanent residence in 2025 and have not applied for Homestead Exemption, you can apply for 2026 exemptions at any time — there is no need to wait until 2026 to file your exemption application. You can easily apply online at https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/ HomesteadExemption.

The timely deadline to file for all 2026 exemptions is March 2, 2026. You must make the property your permanent residence by Jan. 1, 2026, to qualify; however, you have until

March 2 to timely file your application with our office. The late filing deadline for all 2026 exemptions is Sept. 18, 2026.

Once approved, your Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. If you have already applied and been approved for Homestead Exemption at your current property, you do not need to reapply for this exemption. You will receive a Homestead Exemption renewal card next month to keep for your records.

While Homestead Exemption is the most common exemption, there are additional exemptions available to qualified applicants. Here is the link the all the additional exemptions for your review: https://web.bcpa.net/ bcpaclient/#/Homestead

If you have any questions about Homestead Exemption or any other exemptions, please call (954) 357.6830 or email me at martykiar@bcpa.net. 19



# **VOCAL VIRTUOSOS**

PERFORMERS MAKING A NAME FOR THEMSELVES IN FORT LAUDERDALE

**WRITER** MADELAINE K. BOYER

or decades, Fort Lauderdale has been known for its rich performing arts scene that draws in crowds year-round to witness the best of the best in music, dance, and theater. With numerous dynamic performance spaces featuring world-class entertainers, there's something for every performing arts lover to enjoy. But for all the national and international performers who showcase their skills on stage, many grew up right here in Fort Lauderdale or currently call the city home. That's why it's important to shine a spotlight on the local singers and musicians who not only perform in Fort Lauderdale but also call this great city home.

#### SEBRINA MARÍA ALFONSO

Sebrina María Alfonso has made a name for herself as a female conductor in South Florida, seeking to bring world-class symphonic music to communities throughout the region. The Key West native always had a passion for music from a young age, so it wasn't a surprise to anyone close to her that she pursued a career in music as soon as she could.

"I was kind of always interested in music. I have pictures of me at one year old, sitting at the piano, and then I got into the choir at church, and eventually started playing instruments in elementary school," she said.

Eventually, she studied horn and piano at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she also earned her master's degree in music, before going on to do her doctoral studies in conducting at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore.

From there, she began conducting professionally in her hometown of Key West and even founded the Key West Symphony, where she performed for 28 years. However, her drive to start her own symphony stemmed from the fact that, then, women weren't afforded the same opportunities to be conductors. "At the time I was coming (up), women just weren't given the same opportunities. That's why I started my own symphony, but I wasn't the only one," she said.

"In fact, many orchestras that were started at that time were often started by women because that was the only way we could be conductors. So, I'm really happy to see now that more women are being hired for major orchestras."

Today, Alfonso performs with the South Florida Symphony Orchestra, which she founded in 1997 and has grown into one of the largest professional orchestras serving Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties.

She also initiated the Symphony in the Schools program, which works to increase children's early exposure to classical music and has reached more than 130,000 under-resourced students to date. But that's not all — because of Alfonso's work with the South Florida Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra became the first "Partner for the Arts" for The Parker.



#### **ADAM DAVID**

Adam David started singing when he was eight years old and playing guitar at 11, when his interest was piqued by his musically inclined relative.

"I have an uncle who always played, so every time he was over at the house, he always played and sang for me. So, that was probably the first time I was influenced by music. Eventually, I started trying to write my own little songs," he said.

It wasn't until he started attending the Broward Arts Camp and performing with other kids his age that he started to enjoy the idea of performing. Fast forward 20 years to now, where he has been performing locally in Fort Lauderdale for about eight years. However, this small-town musician could never have expected to be on a global stage and competing against other musicians on The Voice, especially after auditioning previously and not making it.

"I had auditioned for The Voice two other times, once in 2012 and again in 2017. After not making it the second time, I was bummed and wasn't planning on trying out ever again. But I kept getting emails every year about the next round of auditions. So, something in me just said, "Why not try one more time?" 30 minutes after I finished my online audition, I got an email saying I made it through," he said.

He didn't just make it on season 27 of the show. He won.

Since winning, however, his life hasn't changed all that much. He still performs locally at venues in Fort Lauderdale with his band, the Adam David Band. But now, the musician has the reassurance that he's made the right choice doing what he loves.

"You don't come off winning a show like that and go right into having your whole life laid out. But I learned a lot, and the entire experience helped me grow as a musician," he said. He is also passionate about giving back through his work with the addiction treatment center Recovery Unplugged, where David sought treatment for addiction and helped him achieve sobriety for the last six years.



# PHOTO PROVIDED BY CANDE RIVERS JANUARY 2026 · GORIVERWALK.COM

#### **CANDE RIVERS**

Cande Rivers is yet another local performer who has had singing in her bones since childhood. Growing up in Chicago, she began singing at the young age of five years old while sitting around the dinner table with her nine older siblings.

"I grew up singing but didn't start performing in front of a crowd until I started singing in my church. I was on the praise and worship team with my sisters. We actually used to have a little girl group called God's Girls, and we would travel throughout the United States singing," Rivers said.

Her singing career took a pause when she enlisted in the Navy after high school, before being honorably discharged in 2010. From there, she attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, where she studied theater. Shortly after graduating, she relocated to South Florida and was a part of the Valerie Tyson Band for six years.

Eventually, she broke out on her own performing as a solo artist throughout South Florida, releasing singles like "Fight It," and is working on releasing her first CD, "The Epiphany of Sex, Spirit, and Sanity."

Today, she calls Fort Lauderdale home and performs at numerous events, including at the fourth annual Imagination Unchained: Juneteenth concert last year at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, and more recently, at her free concert at Casa Calabria restaurant in Fort Lauderdale.

Even though performing is a large part of what she does professionally, Rivers also offers vocal coaching and singing lessons for those looking to hone their skills.

"First, I'll do a consultation, and we'll draw up a plan based on what their end goal is. Depending on what skill level they are at vocally, I usually meet with them anywhere between two to six vocal lessons, which focus on both cardio and breathing exercises to strengthen their vocal muscles, and then we move on to the singing lessons," she said. The singer and vocal coach has also added entrepreneur to her resume with her new store, Venus Life Boutique, where she sells locally made jewelry, art, accessories and more from women artisans.



# Leave Something Behind, So They Can Go Forward.

# Join the 75 for 75 Legacy Challenge

To celebrate 75 years of helping children grow up healthy and strong, Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation has launched the 75 for 75 Legacy Challenge. **We're looking for 75 people who want to make a lasting difference**—by including a future gift to Nicklaus Children's in their will, trust, or retirement plan.

When you document your legacy gift, a 10% matching donation will be activated—immediately amplifying your impact at no cost to you.

Your legacy can carry children forward: through surgeries, recoveries, milestones, and dreams yet to be realized. Big or small, it matters—and there's never been a better time to make it count.







**Be one of the 75.** Join the Legacy Challenge and help build healthier tomorrows for generations.

#### Ready to learn more?

Contact Megan Brahimi, Senior Director, Gift Planning
Megan.Brahimi@nicklaushealth.org | myimpact.nicklauschildrens.org/legacychallenge

# **WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE**

LAUNCH PARTY AMONG WINTERFEST SEASON OF ACTIVITIES

**WRITER** LYNN PEITHMAN STOCK



vents surrounding the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade are in full swing, all leading up to the main event

The Launch Party was held Oct. 25 and limited tickets are available for the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Black Tie Ball on Dec. 6 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida.

The parade itself will sail down 12 miles of the New River with the Parade Public Viewing Area located in east Fort Lauderdale at Las Olas Intracoastal Promenade Park on the Southeast corner of Las Olas Boulevard and the Intracoastal Waterway. Tickets include festival activities, interactive games, stage entertainment, vendors, photo opportunities with Santa Claus and mascots. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$35 for children 12 years and younger. Admission for children age three and under is free. (1)



Boaters in the parade: Aireeze, 3.0 Sailfish and Dunn Deal



Christopher Bielski, Donelle Zunker and the Fort Lauderdale Harbor Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa Crew



Dawn and George Diehl



Michael and Robyn Vines -Gray Robinson PA



Alberto LoMonaco, Traci LoMonaco, Harlowe Battaglia, Matt Usher, Fabiana Ferrante and Paola Torres



Robert Garza, David Founds, Pia Dahlquist, Lisa Scott-Founds and Kristene Lunblad



DeAnn Hazey, Andrea Cunningham, and Alyssa Lovitt



Robyn Vines and Lisa Scott-Founds



Derick Ali and Juliet Roulhac



Lee Sheffield, Alice Harry and Kim Butler

#### WANT TO GO? SEMINOLE HARD ROCK WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE **PRESHOW:** 5:30 p.m.

PARADE AND FIREWORKS: 6 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Along the New River in Fort Lauderdale

WEBSITE: www.winterfestparade.com













# Where Flavor Meets Philanthropy

JA Uncorked returns January 31, 2026!

One of South Florida's premier food and wine experiences, featuring gourmet bites, top beverage partners, live entertainment, raffles, and a lively silent auction—all in support of Junior Achievement of South Florida. Step into the glamour of the Roaring '20s, savor the flavors, and raise your glass for a great cause!

www.JASouthFlorida.org

# **Buy Tickets**





# A TASTE OF SOUTH AMERICA AND BEYOND

CASA PLAYA HIGHLIGHTS LATIN FARE

**WRITER** MADELAINE K. BOYER

ort Lauderdale is a standout destination for some of the best Latin American cuisine from around the globe. But Casa Playa is one beachside restaurant offering a diverse variety of Latin-inspired dishes, cocktails and more. Walking up to the restaurant, guests are greeted by a breezy and bright atmosphere filled with music and laughter. Plus, with lots of outdoor seating areas and open floor-to-ceiling windows, diners can enjoy the beautiful South Florida weather both inside and outside.

Casa Playa really sets itself apart with its menu. With a focus on combining bold Latin American flavors with fresh coastal ingredients, the restaurant offers many delicious dishes from numerous Latin countries, including Peru, Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico. It's this variety that allows guests to try well-known dishes like its guacamole costeno served with fresh homemade green plantain chips, which pairs perfectly with its refreshing and delightfully tart guava margarita or a classic Cubano mojito.

In keeping with its coastal theme, the restaurant invites diners to dive into the brisk waters along the Argentinian seaside and try its Argentinian red shrimp entrée. This delicious dish, which features cold water wild shrimp caught off the coast of Argentina, is sautéed in a light white wine garlic sauce with cherry tomatoes, white rice and tostones, has an unexpected depth of flavor. If you're looking to try something a tad unusual but oh so scrumptious, its Chilean sea bass en leche de coco is a great choice.

The delicate Chilean sea bass fish fillet is pan-seared and served with a coconut milk and white wine sauce alongside white rice and asparagus. At first glance, the dish can seem somewhat intimidating, but the flavors tantalize your taste buds with the unexpected combo of the creamy coconut milk, white wine and finely diced peppers and onions that work in perfect harmony.

If you're not keen on seafood, Casa Playa also has many steak and pork-centric dishes such as its melt-in-your-mouth lechon asado with its slow oven-roasted mojo-marinated pork or its Ropa Vieja that shows off its slowly braised Cuban-style shredded beef.

You must leave room for dessert when visiting Casa Playa because its end-of-the-meal offerings will cap off an already outstanding meal. The restaurant only has a few different choices when it comes to something sweet, but two dishes that put a twist on classic Latin American desserts are so phenomenal. For fruity dessert lovers, its passion fruit mousse is a sweet, tangy and creamy delight that is even topped with passion fruit seeds, which offset the smooth texture of the mousse with a nice crunch.

For those looking for a more decadent dessert, however, look no further than its indulgent take on a classic flan. Its choco flan pairs a layer of caramel-coated flan on top of a slice of chocolate cake. It's a pleasantly surprising take on the typical flan dessert that makes it hard to ever look at regular flan the same way again.

No matter what dishes you partake in at Casa Playa, guests can expect to experience an assortment of Latin countries' traditional dishes with a twist without ever having set foot outside of Fort Lauderdale. @











#### WANT TO GO? Casa Plava

LOCATION: 401 N. Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (954) 376-5512 WEBSITE: www.casaplaya.com **PARKING: STREET PARKING** COST: \$30 to \$50 THE VIBE: Airy and vibrant



# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026 • 12 - 4 P.M. ESPLANADE PARK

Amateur and professional chefs will descend upon downtown Fort Lauderdale to compete to find out who makes the best chili in town!

For more information and to register your team visit www.goriverwalk.com/chili

For sponsorship opportunities contact Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale at events@goriverwalk.com

**SPONSORS** 



**GERIVERWALK** 



#### **GENERAL EVENTS**

DECEMBER 1-2 Symphony of the Americas

A holiday celebration Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER

Dance to the Holidays

The hit holiday spectacular for the entire family The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Christmas on Las Olas

63rd annual festival of holiday magic on the most magical boulevard Las Olas Boulevard Association Las Olas Boulevard www.lasolasboulevard.com

**DECEMBER 3** 

Gold Coast Jazz Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Chelcie Lynn

Trailer Trash Tammy The Loose Lips Tour 954-462-0222

www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 4 Yuletide on Atlantic Parade 2025

Holiday parade in Pompano Beach City of Pompano Beach East Atlantic Boulevard www.parks.pompanobeachfl.gov

Florida Grand Opera

Silent Night
Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Charlie Berens

The Lost and Found Tour The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

**DECEMBER 5** 



Light Up Sistrunk

Get ready for dancing in the streets City of Fort Lauderdale Sistrunk Blvd. between 9th and 11th Ave 954-828-5365 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Seussical: Smart Stage Matinee Series A person's a person, no matter how small Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org

Breakfast for Champions of the Homeless

Broward County's community leaders to serve as celebrity waiters Broward Partnership Central Homeless Assistance Center 954-779-3990 www.bphi.org

Whitney Cummings

Big Baby The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com Holiday Magic VIP Reception

Step into the sparkle of the season Bonnet House Museum & Gardens 954-563-5393 www.bonnethouse.org

DECEMBER 5-6



A person's a person, no matter how small Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Dark Star Orchestra

Fall Tour 2025 FTL War Memorial www.ftlwarmemorial.com

DECEMBER 6

Florida Grand Opera

Silent Night Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Florida Singing Sons

50th Annual Holiday Concert First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdalé 954-563-2697 www.floridasingingsons.org

Joe Bonamassa

One of the most celebrated live performers of his generation Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Sensory-Inclusive Performance: Seussical

A person's a person, no matter how small Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org

# HANDEL'S

South Florida Symphony Orchestra Handel's Messiah The Parker

954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Whimsical Wonderland

Don't forget to wear your favorite holiday paiamas Bonnet House Museum & Gardens 954-563-5393

www.bonnethouse.org Cookies with Santa

Cookies and Christmas photos with Santa Historic Stranahan House Museum 954-524-4736

www.stranahanhouse.org DECEMBER 7

U-N-I Sound Sessions

Featuring Kenny Rivers, Blanca, Joyful Noize and DJ Fleiva FTL War Memorial www.ftlwarmemorial.com



Micky Dolenz of The Monkees

Songs and Stories The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

John Mulaney

Mister Whatever Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990

www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com DECEMBER 8



Nurse Blake

But Did You Die? Comedy Tour The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 9
Santa on the Beach

Santa and his elves will spread holiday cheer along the beach City of Fort Lauderdale Fort Lauderdale Beach Park 954-828-5365 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

We Need a Little Christmas

Featuring Debbie Wileman as Judy Garland The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 10

Stevie Nicks Legendary singer, songwriter, and storyteller Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

The Fab Four

Tribute to the Beatles' Help! and the Hits The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 11
An Evening with Bruce Hornsby Three-time Grammy winner

The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Rey Ruiz and Ronald Borjas

Two trajectories that need no introduction Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 12

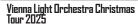
Michael W. Smith

Every Christmas The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Light Up Carter Park

Enjoy holiday cheer and fun for the entire family

City of Fort Lauderdale Carter Park 954-828-5365 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov



Immerse yourself in the enchantment of Christmas Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

**DECEMBER 13** 



Sensory-Inclusive Performance: Disney's Frozen

Let it snow Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org

Sarah Brightman

A Winter Symphony Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Christmastime with Trisha Yearwood

12 Days of Christmas Tour Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade

Yacht Rock of Ages is this year's theme Winterfest New River and Intracoastal 954-767-0686 www.winterfestparade.com

DECEMBER 14 Menorah Lighting Celebration

Enjoy holiday cheer and fun for the entire family

City of Fort Lauderdale Las Olas Oceanside Park 954-828-5365 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Sesame Street Live! Elmo & Friends Say Hello

Sing, dance, and play alongside your favorite furry friends The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com



An Intimate Evening with David Foster & Katharine McPhee

One of the most illustrious composers of our time Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Mike Tyson Presents

Return of the Mike Tour Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Winter Wonderland A Frozen Family Celebration

Festive brunch party before the performance Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

#### DECEMBER 18

Arts Ballet Theatre — The Nutcracker Smart Stage Matinee Series The Parker

954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

#### Jon Pardi

The Christmas Show Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990

www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com DECEMBER 19-20

With special guest Sevendust Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990

www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

**DECEMBER 22** 



#### **Celtic Angels Christmas**

Christmas and Irish favorites in an aweinspiring show The Parker 954-462-0222

www.parkerplayhouse.com **DECEMBER 23** 

#### Wheel of Fortune Live!

One of the greatest game shows of all time The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

#### **DECEMBER 26**



#### The Nutcracker by International Ballet

A holiday tradition — reinvented The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

#### DECEMBER 27-28

Up Close and Personal Tour Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990

www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com DECEMBER 29

#### Kwanzaa Ujamaa

Enjoy holiday cheer and fun for the entire family City of Fort Lauderdale

Bass Park 954-828-5365

www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

#### Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet

Share the joy of Nutcracker The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

#### DECEMBER 30



#### **Brad Williams**

The Growth Spurt Tour The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

#### **DECEMBER 31**

Noon Year's Eve

Ring in 2026 with a Midday Bash Museum of Discovery and Science 954-467-6637 www.mods.ora

#### Downtown Countdown

One of the best New Year's Eve celebrations in Florida City of Fort Lauderdale SW 2nd St and SW 5th Ave 954-828-5365 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

#### Oteil & Friends

Two-time Grammy winning bassist The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

# JANUARY 3 16th Annual Riverwalk Stone Crab & Seafood Festival

A celebration of the South Florida delicacy and all-things seafood! Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Esplanade Park 954-468-1541 www.goriverwalk.com/seafood

#AnniFLO'etry / #A26 One of the greatest storytellers of all time Broward Center for the Performing Arts

www.browardcenter.org

# JANUARY 5 The Texas Tenors

Most successful music group in the history of America's Got Talent The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

JANUARY 8 History Makers 2026 Annual fundraiser for History Fort Lauderdale History Fort Lauderdale War Memorial Auditorium

#### www.historyfortlauderdale.org

**JANUARY 10** Dale Elliott Jr.

Jamaican-born comedian The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

#### David Nihill: Taking Tangents

Irish comedian and writer
Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

If These Classroom Walls Could Talk Tour Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

#### JANUARY 10-11 Chris Stapleton All-American Road Show

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

**JANUARY 11** 

Prolific guitarist with over 40 albums over four decades Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

# JANUARY 14 Tig Notaro: Out of Nowhere

Comedian, actor, writer, director, producer and podcast host The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

#### Gold Coast Jazz

Niki Haris with the Shelly Berg Trio Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org

#### **JANUARY 15**



#### Al Di Meola

Guitarchitect Tour 2026 The Parker 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

#### LIMITED ENGAGEMENT



## Holiday Magic Evening Experiences December 10-12

Live music and libations each night Bonnet House Museum & Gardens 954-563-5393 www.bonnethouse.org

#### Disney's Frozen

December 13-January 4 Let it snow Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

#### Victorian Christmas Tours

December 16-20 Step back in time into a Victorian Christmas Historic Stranahan House Museum 954-524-4736 www.stranahanhouse.org

#### Les Misérables

December 16-28 Story of broken dreams, unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

#### Rick Case 2025 Bikes for Kids **Donation Drive**

Through December 20 Accepting donations of gently used bicvcles Rick Case Automotive Group

www.rickcase.com



#### In Pour Taste

January 8-25 A comedy wine tasting experience
Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

#### & Juliet

January 13-25 What would happen next if Juliet didn't end it all over Romeo? Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

#### ONGOING



# Programming for all ages: • Arts and crafts

- · Book club and storytime Education, literacy and writing
- Finances and career
- Technology and science

• Yoga, Tai Chi 954-357-6555 www.broward.org/library



#### Recreation for all ages:

- After-school and Camps
   Camping, hiking and nature
   Swimming and water recreation
- Court games and sports fields Running, biking and fitness

954-357-8100 www.broward.org/parks

## .\rtServe

#### Classes and Workshops:

- Adult Acting & Modeling
   Painting & Drawing
- Fitness & Tai Chi 954-462-8190 www.artserve.org



#### Programming for all ages:

- Tennis, Aquatics & Athletics
   After-school & Camps
   Classes & Programs
   Cultural Arts & Club 55+

954-828-7275 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

#### Fort Lauderdale Segway Tours

Daily | Reservation required Take a one or two-hour Segway tour on the Riverwalk. Training Provided. 954-304-5746 www.segwayfortlauderdale.com

#### Guided Museum Tours

Monday-Friday | Times vary Tours of Fort Lauderdale's oldest surviving structure
Historic Stranahan House Museum
954-524-4736 www.stranahanhouse.org



Circle of Life Experience Self-guided tours that highlight our local natural environment

#### Paddle With A Purpose

Snyder Park

Third Saturday | Reservation required Waterway and Shoreline Cleanup Delevoe Park

#### Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep

Fourth Saturday Help keep Fort Lauderdale Beach clean! HUB at Fort Lauderdale Beach

#### Edible Food Forest

Fourth Saturday Volunteer to tend an edible urban farm Snyder Park

#### Programming for all ages:

Times and availability varies

- Florida Panthers Open Practice
- Public skatingAdult, Youth & Girls Hockey
- Camps & Clinics

FTL War Memorial 954-835-7080 www.ftlwarmemorial.com

#### Interpretive Walks and Tours

Friday & Saturday Interpretive ranger-guided programs Hugh Taylor Birch State Park 954-564-4521 www.floridastateparks.org

#### The MKT at The LOOP

Saturdays & Sundays Featuring small and local vendors with live music and more! Las Olas Oceanside Park www.theloopflb.com

#### Jazz Brunch

First Sunday Free, outdoor concert series featuring local musicians on 3 stages City of Fort Lauderdale Esplanade Park & Riverwalk 954-828-5365 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

#### NSU ART

EORT LAUDERDALE

#### Sunny Days/Starry Nights

First Thursday Free admission and 2-4-1 Happy Hour

#### Bank of America: Museums on Us

First full weekend Free admission for BOA customers

#### Free Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Day

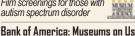
Last Sunday
Free admission for FTL residents 954-525-5500 www.nsuartmuseum.org

# Storytime in the Garden First Sunday

Mrs. Barbara reads a story related to nature Flamingo Gardens 954-473-2955 www.flamingogardens.org

#### Sensory Friendly Sunday

Fourth Sunday Film screenings for those with autism spectrum disorder



#### First full weekend Free admission for BOA customers

#### Sprouting Stem

Introducing little scientists (aged 0-6) to STEM-related topics Museum of Discovery & Science 954-467-6637 www.mods.ora

#### RIVERWALK RECREATION

Shippey House | 220 S.W. 3rd Ave. Fort Lauderdale | 954-526-5159



#### **Cycle Party Tours**

Daily | Reservation required Jump aboard a 15-person quadracycle and experience Fort Lauderdale in an entirely new way. www.cycleparty.com

#### Paddle Pub Tours

Daily | Reservation required Jump aboard a 20-person Paddle Pub and experience Fort Lauderdale and the waterway in a new way. www.paddlepub.com/fort-lauderdale



#### **Bike Tours**

Daily | Reservation required Tours of Fort Lauderdale and Riverwalk for all abilities. www.RiverwalkActivities.com

#### **Bike Rentals**

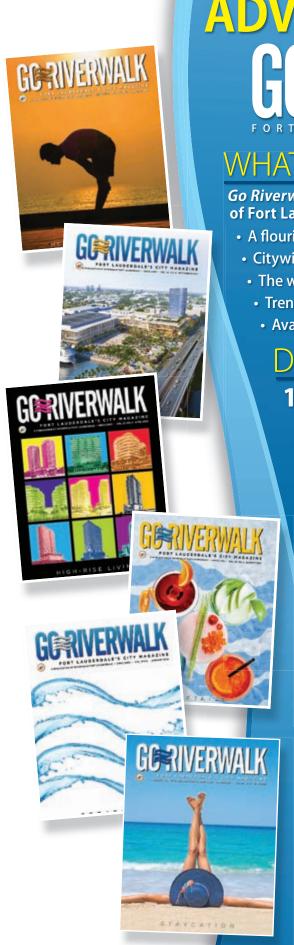
Daily | Reservation required Rent bikes to explore Fort Lauderdale. Delivery available. Minimum 24 hour rental. www.RiverwalkActivities.com

#### Mind Arena Games

Daily | Reservation required Immersive and engaging escape room-style team building games for 10-150 people.

www.mindarenausa.com





# **ADVERTISE IN**

# WHAT WE DO!

Go Riverwalk Magazine connects our readers with all facets of Fort Lauderdale:

- A flourishing downtown
- Citywide array of social, cultural and neighborhood events
- The world-class business and professional community
- Trend-setting fashion and shopping
- · Avant-garde dining options

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- Art galleries

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For advertising information, contact Mark Budwig, **Publisher** (954) 523-1980

Advertising@GoRiverwalk.com

# MODS 29TH ANNUAL BANK OF AMERICA WINE, SPIRITS & CULINARY CELEBRATION Hundreds of glasses and thousands of dollars were raised in unison to support science, education, innovation and

exploration in South Florida at the Museum of Discovery and Science's 29th Annual Bank of America Wine, Spirits & Culinary Celebration held on Oct. 17.





MEREDITH FEDER, JOE COX, ELLIOT BORKSON AND ROSE PONTORNO



AND BEATRIZ MINACCI

#### **FLOATARAMA**

Presented by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, more than 250 guests attended the annual awards party on Oct. 23 at Hunters Wilton Manors. FLoatarama is an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to uplifting LGBTQ+ Youth in South Florida. FLoatarama awarded \$160,000 in grants through the nonprofit's LGBTQ Youth Fund.





FLOATARAMA'S 2025 YOUTH FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS RECEIVE \$160.000



YOUTH FUND GRANT

#### HOLY CROSS HEALTH FOUNDATION WOMEN'S WELLNESS BRUNCH

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center at Holy Cross HealthPlex, Holy Cross Health Foundation hosted a Women's Wellness Brunch on Oct. 3.



AND HEJUNG KIM



JENNIFER WHITTINGTON, SHERI WHITTINGTON and altair gonzalez



MERCEDES BOYD, JULIET INTERIANO, JESSICA CHEN. AND LAURA DENOUX

PHOTOS BY CARINA MASK

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY



# SAVOR THE MOMENT

Set atop one of Fort Lauderdale's iconic buildings, Tower Club is the perfect place to make meaningful connections, indulge in culinary delights, enjoy programs for all interests and host events surrounded by breathtaking views of downtown and the Atlantic Ocean.

Learn more about joining our dynamic community.

954.764.8550 | tower-florida.com



## **FUNDING ARTS BROWARD**

Funding Arts Broward, a privately funded membership nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the arts, launched its 23rd season with a reception at Northern Trust on Las Olas on Oct. 9.



NORBERT EUGENE, JEMILAH JONES AND DARIUS DAUGHTRY



KERRY WALDEE, TODD MASNICKI AND DAVID JOBIN



LUCRETIA WEINER, DARIUS DAUGHTRY, MORGAN Degraf, Marty Childers and Steve Rothaus

# ARTSERVE ANNUAL MEMBER'S SHOW

ArtServe recently welcomed guests to the opening night of its annual Member's Show, "Florida Opulence," celebrating the artistic grandeur of Florida's Gilded Age through the works of local member artists.



SHARON SWIFT, KAT SIERRA AND CHELSEA ROUSSO



CATHY MYERS AND ARTIST G.MAN WITH ARTWORK MISS CONGENIALITY



FIN CASSON AND STACY CASSON



PHOTO BY JASON LEIDY

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ARTSERVE



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ARTIST

# **DONNA BALLMAN**

ARTWORK

#### **IGUANA'S WINTER FANTASY**

Editor's note: Once again, Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale invited artists to submit their original artwork depicting Fort Lauderdale's Riverwalk. This year, 15 talented local artists submitted 18 different pieces in a variety of categories, including mixed media, composition, photography, art and tech, and more. Here is a closer look at our one of our honorees.



#### Inspiration for this piece of art

Iguana's Winter Fantasy was inspired by the many iguanas we have in our yard, and the fact that they suffer in Florida winters. We've seen many of our iguanas appear to be dead when they've just gone into their cold weather comatose state. We've learned to leave them be until they warm up again.

This painting is part of my Animal Fantasy series. I imagine what an animal might fantasize about and paint the fantasy. Here, Iggy is fantasizing about cuddling up by our fire pit with a blanket and a hot chocolate on a "cold" Florida night.

I enjoy painting animals and nature the most, and I love using lots of bright colors. In that, I am inspired by the beautiful bright colors in much of Haitian art.

#### Tell us a bit about your creative journey

I've always enjoyed being creative. But in ninth grade I had to choose between chorus and art and I chose chorus, even after I won my eighth grade art award. I always told my daughters to live life with no regrets. I told them my biggest regret was not taking more art classes. Seven years ago, for Mother's Day, they bought me a package of art lessons at De Vita Academy, and I've been there almost every Friday afternoon since.

Now I'm retired, but as a lawyer I found taking the classes to be destressing. I still do. I like to say it's better and cheaper than therapy. We can paint whatever we like and Tom De Vita coaches us through when we're stuck or

need inspiration.
Our classmates are also supportive and helpful.

Painting or doing anything creative helps switch off those stressful thoughts. I would encourage everyone in a stressful position to create art as a means of reducing stress and making the world a bit more beautiful.









SEMINOLE HARD ROCK WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE





**BLACK TIE BALL DECEMBER 6** 

TICKETS ARE ALL A QUICK SCAN AWAY!

**GRAND MARSHAL RECEPTION DECEMBER 12** 





Romero Britto • Montell Jordan









































