

ByTheSeaFuture

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR SOUTH FLORIDA'S COASTAL TOWNS

November 28, 2008

FREE! TAKE ONE!

It may not feel like Christmas in LBTS, but it's beginning to look like it. Seasonal banners and decorative lights have already been hung along the main streets in town. Giant Santas and Christmas wreaths adorn the restaurants downtown, and many condos and single-family homes already have their Christmas lights up. On November 24, town employees and members of the Volunteer Fire Department got to work on the biggest decoration of all--putting up the town's Christmas tree in Pelican Square.

READ THE FULL STORY (WITH PHOTOS) ABOUT MANY NEW SIGHTS IN TOWN ON PAGE 4



CHRISTMAS-BY-THE-SEA SADLY CANCELLED

by Cindy Geesey

For the first time in many years, LBTS will not hold its annual Christmas-By-The-Sea celebration to usher in the holiday season. Faced with a lack of financial support from the town commission, the LBTS Chamber of Commerce was forced to withdraw its sponsorship of the program for this year. Local residents and visitors will still gather at Pelican Square in downtown LBTS at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2 to witness the lighting of the giant 30-foot Christmas tree, an event that traditionally signals the start of the holiday season.

However, the festive parade, the carolers, the musical groups that included bands and bell ringers, the popcorn, the food and drink stands, free pictures with Santa Claus, face painting, and the hayride will not be part of the celebration. "Snow" will not fall from fifteen snow making machines mounted on restaurant rooftops to delight young and old as in previous years. Magic 102.7 radio will not broadcast live from the event, and two local weather stations will not be there to broadcast their forecasts. It just won't be the same this year as many had hoped it would be.

"Christmas-By-The-Sea," an event originated a number of years ago by local businessman and Chamber of Commerce Director Dave Gadsby of The Village Grille, has been cancelled. According to LBTS Chamber of Commerce President Paul Novak, "People are going to miss it. We've gotten a number of calls already. They can't bring their grandchildren and see Santa Claus and experience snow. We hope next year to be back with a full fledged, better than ever event." The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be funded entirely by the Chamber of Commerce and private sponsors, and no town funding will be used. Mayor Roseann Minnet will light the tree and Chamber President Paul Novak will say a few words.

Reasons for the cancellation include a lack of financial support from LBTS, town regulations that were impossible to meet, and an overall lack of support by the town. Christmas-By-The-Sea has been funded in the past by both the town and local businesses and put on by a committee of Chamber directors and volunteers. It has always been designed to be a community

event, not a fund raiser for the Chamber. However, last years expenses were not covered by donations, so the Chamber suffered a \$6,000 loss. This year the goal was to break even, and without enough town funding that was not possible. The town approved a stipend of \$7,000 but refused to authorize another \$3,000 when it was requested or to pay for the hayride or for the cost of putting the tree up as they had done in previous years.

Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee said both during a meeting of the Chamber Executive Board and during a town commission meeting that the paid Volunteer Fire Department would contribute \$5000 in cash to this year's Christmas-By-The-Sea. Yet McIntee's promise was not kept when the donation was not supported by the rest of the VFD.

However, members of the Volunteer Fire Department generously erected the structure of the tree and filled in most of the branches throughout the day on Tuesday, November 25.

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NO INVESTIGATIONS, NO ACCOUNTABILITY, NO COMMENT

by Mark Brown

From the moment Mrs. Monique Caverni was carried from the ocean on October 25 after she nearly drowned, there have been conflicting reports about the quality of the medical care she received on the beach. Several eyewitnesses, including the airline pilot who rescued her and a physician, said the medics who attended to Mrs. Caverni made serious mistakes, including the failure to turn on the oxygen before they placed an oxygen mask over her face.

Brooke Liddle, operations manager for American Medical Response, said the incident has been reviewed by the company's medical director, Dr. Joseph Nelson, and he determined that "appropriate" care was given to Mrs. Caverni that day. "We (AMR) all function under his (Nelson's) license, so he has a vested interest in making sure we follow the proper standards and protocols, so that was done," Liddle said.

In view of these conflicting reports, and the important role which AMR plays as the only EMS provider in LBTS, the Caverni case seems tailor-made for an independent review by the Florida Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, which is in charge of overseeing EMS providers in the state. However, the medical di-



Dr. Joseph Nelson and Brooke Liddle of AMR

"Everything is being done within a strict code of secrecy and silence."

rector for AMR, Dr. Nelson, is also the medical director for the Florida Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. That means if a complaint is filed against AMR and a review is ordered, it will be up to a state agency overseen by Dr. Nelson to investigate the actions of a private company overseen by the same Dr. Nelson.

And so it goes in LBTS these days. Over the last two months the volunteer fire department, AMR and Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee have all become engulfed in major controversies, but no independent investigations are underway, no one is being held accountable, and no one is telling the public what's really going on.

Instead, the incidents are being reviewed internally if at all, the reviewers are most often the same people or agencies who are the subjects of the review, and everything is being done within a strict code of secrecy and silence.

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AMR FAILS ITS FIRST BIG TEST IN LBTS

by Mark Brown

When American Medical Response (AMR) won the contract to provide emergency medical services in LBTS last spring, it was widely regarded as a huge breakthrough for the company. AMR, which is a private, for-profit medical transport company, had been hired previously to provide EMS service in both Davie and Wilton Manors, but neither town renewed their contracts with AMR when they expired. AMR was anxious to regain a foothold in Broward County, and LBTS was just the opportunity it needed to showcase its skills and perhaps pick up a few new contracts in other communities.

AMR has done a pretty good job overall during its first two months in LBTS, but they are in a business where success is taken for granted and publicity only comes when something goes wrong. That being the case, AMR made a huge mistake when it refused to openly and candidly discuss its role in a near-drowning incident on October 25. This stonewalling has upset many LBTS residents and town officials, and raised serious questions about the quality of care we are receiving from the company. At the same time, it has directed a lot of negative attention towards AMR which other communities are bound to notice. For this AMR has no one to blame but itself.

In a way it's not surprising that AMR completely mishandled the publicity surrounding the near-drowning incident. When AMR officials first appeared before the LBTS town commission last spring to make their case for being hired, Commissioner Birute Clotney asked them to explain why more than 50 complaints had been filed against them in Davie for ambulances arriving late at the scene of 911 emergency medical calls. Rather than respond directly to Clotney's question, AMR operations manager Brooke Liddle said he could not comment because he was "not familiar" with the complaints.

In any other community, an evasive response like that probably would not have been acceptable, but this is LBTS. The only other bidder for the EMS contract was the Broward Sheriff's Office, and it was a foregone conclusion that AMR was going to win the contract, so the commission simply let Liddle's non-answer slide by and they hired AMR anyway. The first day on the

job on October 1, AMR responded to a 911 call on the beach near the fishing pier. They assisted a woman who had swallowed some ocean water while swimming and was gagging. The AMR medics arrived quickly, revived her and whisked her off to the hospital.

It was a perfect response by AMR, and you can be sure we heard all about it. The town put out a press release the next day praising AMR, complete with detailed quotes from Liddle about the patient's condition. Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee engaged Liddle in a five-minute public discussion at the next town commission meeting. At no time did Liddle say he could not discuss the incident because of federal privacy laws.

Now fast forward to October 25. A woman nearly drowned in front of the Ocean Colony condominium. The man who rescued her said the medics who treated her on the beach made mistakes, some of which could have been life-threatening. But when AMR was called to the podium to speak, they said they could not discuss the incident because of federal privacy laws. Apparently the privacy act only applies when something goes wrong, but not when the company is being praised.

It's hard to understand why AMR is trying to hide behind the privacy act. For one, it makes them look foolish to invoke the privacy law one time but not the other times. Second, it compounds the problem because it makes people suspicious that there might be other incidents out there that we don't know about where something might have gone wrong. Third, and most important, it undercuts public confidence in them at the very time they need to be building public trust.

The fact is, there are a lot of questions which AMR could answer about the near-drowning incident which have nothing to do with the patient's privacy, but which get to the very core issue of building public confidence in town. Here's one: how many years of experience did the paramedics have who responded



to the incident?

This question is relevant because AMR promised on the night they were hired that the paramedics assigned to LBTS would have an average of 17.5 years of experience. Surely a paramedic with that amount of experience would know enough to turn on an oxygen canister before placing a mask over a patient's face. There would be no infringement on patient privacy for AMR to disclose the experience level of the paramedics who responded to the incident on October 25. It would just be a legitimate way of measuring whether or not AMR is living up to one of the promises it made.

No one is talking about engaging in a witchhunt against AMR, like the ones Commissioners Jerry McIntee and Jim Silverstone undertook against the BSO week after week to destroy their credibility and undermine their public support. This is one single event involving clear and contradictory statements. A woman nearly died. Questions have been raised about the quality of the medical care she received. There needs to be a review of this incident, and the facts not related to the patient's privacy need to be shared with the public.

By refusing to answer any questions, AMR has created a public relations nightmare for itself and the town administration. They have turned public optimism about their service into skepticism. They have made a mockery of the town commission, which promised that there would be full transparency when they voted to hire AMR. Worst of all, they have left people uncertain that if they have a medical emergency and call 911 for help, they will receive a fast and appropriate response. It's in everyone's best interest for AMR to be more forthcoming with information about this incident, so they can begin to rebuild public trust and the town can move forward with confidence.

GIVE THANKS ALWAYS, NOT JUST ON THANKSGIVING

by Cindy Geesey

Remember back to Thanksgiving when you were a little kid....turkey day mostly meant that you were just that much closer to getting your Christmas presents! Then you went to school and read about the Pilgrims and Indians joining together to give thanks. You learned that the Thanksgiving Feast always started with a prayer. As you grew older, you began to appreciate more and more the annual gathering of family and friends and the traditions that made the day special. Finally you carried those same traditions and warm feelings to the family you created as an adult. Yes, the fourth Thursday in November is a special day to offer prayers of thanks for all we have and to truly appreciate those we care about.

But I also think that as we grow older, we tend to remember to be thankful every day and to appreciate what we have. That's a true sign of maturity (even though we may occasionally stray).

Certainly we all have our stresses and drama, and we all strive to achieve

more and might even lust after our neighbor's boat or hot new car. That's just human nature. It's good to keep things in perspective, though, and that often leads to greater appreciation and thankfulness.

For instance - last week I got an emergency call from the management of the condo we own a couple hours away. Some pipe had burst and we had two inches of standing water with water going into the unit under ours. As I frantically hurried to start the drive north to fix the mess, I complained to a very wise and wonderful friend about this annoying predicament. Without hesitation, he said, "Hey, it's just a little bit of water and an insurance deductible." I immediately saw the light and thought, "My husband and I are healthy. No one's been in an accident. My family is safe and secure. Yep - only water and a deductible." After that it just became a problem to be dealt with and I remained thankful that it was no longer a big deal.

There's an email going around that you might have seen. It goes something like this -- "Don't be annoyed by the man in the wheelchair blocking your way because you can still walk. Don't grumble about the woman slowly crossing the street with her seeing eye dog, because you still have your vision." And so on.

No one can always be a Pollyanna, but when you can it makes life a lot less stressful. I love the saying, "You're only as happy as you make up your mind to be."

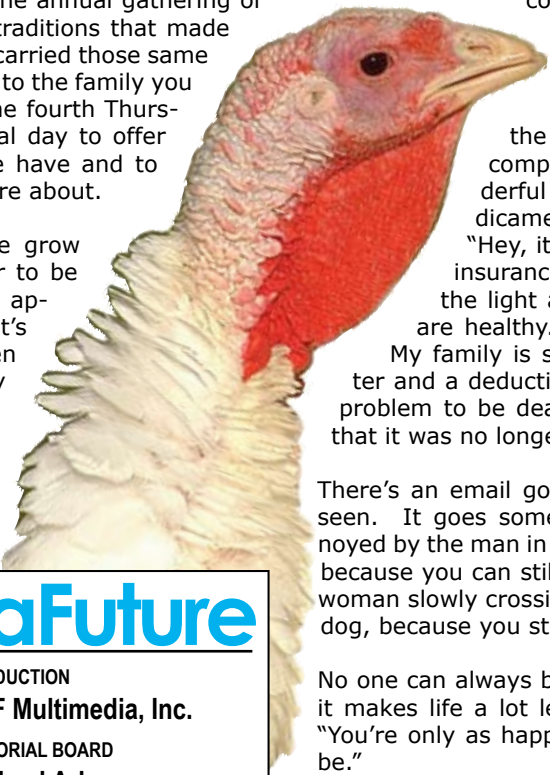
So there's no Christmas By the Sea this year. We still have a great opportunity to get together as a community, watch the lighting of the tree, gather together at a restaurant, or sing carols at a friend's home. We can make it a great holiday season, and we can encourage our elected officials to make sure Christmas By the Sea is back next year, more fun than ever for children of all ages.

The economy is rough for everyone this year. Rather than exchange gifts with as many people as we usually do, we plan to make some donations to charities in the names of our friends, a gesture I know will be appreciated.

When you are out shopping, though, do remember our local merchants. They need our support now more than ever, and they do offer unique gifts at a good value with the best in customer service. Why dial a 1-800 number to send flowers when you can drop by Garden of Love and buy from Dolores? Don't call a number to order fruit -- stop by Jan's Candies and she'll help with your selections (and you can take chocolates home for yourselves). Make your snow bound friends crazy by sending tropical wear to them from The Country Squire. You'll be sure to find a perfect and unique gift for the fussiest friend at Interior Digs, Jo-An's Papers, Paradise Gifts or Cathi's. Cooking lessons from Lenore Nolan-Ryan or a massage from Massage Envy would be fun and functional. Neighborhood children will be delighted with a gift certificate from Kilwin's or Dairy Queen for an ice cream cone. And you know a gift certificate from one of our great restaurants will be appreciated and will never be "re-gifted!" Combine a lotto ticket, a bottle of wine, and a cigar from Old City News Stand for a fun gift basket.

We have a lot of bitterness, anger and discord in our community, but we can still be thankful for the friendliness of neighbors and the shared desire for a more civil town. Be thankful that the agenda for anger comes from only a minority of vocal folks and work to support people whose only agenda is the good of the town. Be thankful that you are not a person who wakes up wanting to investigate others, make false allegations, and cause turmoil and hatred. Perhaps most of all, be thankful that the next election in about fifteen months will restore Lauderdale-By-The-Sea to its former friendliness and tranquility.

Hope to see all of you at the Chamber of Commerce/Welcome Center Tree Lighting Ceremony this next Tuesday!



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Regarding Commissioner McIntee's intent to make Lauderdale By The Sea's VFD the permanent fire-suppression unit in town, he ought to be reminded sternly, that the VFD serves at the pleasure of all of the citizens of Lauderdale By The Sea and not merely at the pleasure of the town's commissioners and mayor. I trust all of the town's citizens will safeguard their right to remove the VFD, and to select and appoint another fire-suppression team, should that become necessary. The VFD should be no more permanent than the BSO's fire-suppression team. Get the point?

Sincerely,

Erik H. Schot, PhD
Lauderdale-By-The-Sea

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We just spent a vacation in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. We were told, where we stayed, that "there was no recycling." But, at restaurants, when we asked, we were told the people "recycled."

Is there recycling in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea? If not, why not?

Van Weiss
King of Prussia, PA



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Recently I found myself in an uncomfortable position. I had to ask a few questions of Pompano Beach and Lauderdale-By-The-Sea regarding the Terra Mar Bridge and its current condition. I thought it a fair question to ask due to the fact it has been an ongoing 5-year long experiment in who goes first, Pompano or Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. The response I received from the Assistant Town Manager of LBTS was that the citizens of Terra Mar Island should pay to fix it if we wanted it done right away. This bridge is not owned by the residents of Terra Mar, it is a public bridge. How outrageous is that?

Pompano's response was quite unclear in so far as they had a bridge consultant working on the problem, but he was not a specialist in bridges, so the work authorization is on hold. WOW! In addition, if any damage was done during repairs, it would be the responsibility of LBTS. What about the contractor? HUH?

This issue was brought up at the Commission meeting and it was ill received. For instance, Commissioner Silverstone described it as merely cosmetic, such as railings and a little paint. He also suggested that people tend to use scare tactics to get their way. Commissioner McIntee implied that the town had spent more than its fair share in the North and needed to give some attention to the South side. Mr. McIntee, this is an infrastructure problem, not beautification.

We know that this project has been in the budget for \$125,000; however if you wait too long it could cost a lot more, not to mention more damage at the bridge. I want to thank you all for your attention to this matter and hope that both Pompano Beach and Lauderdale-By-The-Sea find the time to communicate with each other to find a solution.

Oh yes, I almost forgot, The Bridge Is Not Falling.

Vito Chiarello, LBTS Resident

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The purpose of this letter is to clarify several key points that were inaccurately reported in the 7 November issue regarding the rescue of the swimmer outside Ocean Colony.

First, I did NOT attend the LBTS town commission meeting because I "...was so upset by McIntee's attempt to take credit..." for my actions nor would I characterize myself as ever being emotionally upset or angry. I applaud all efforts by those who took an active role in saving the life of Mrs. Caverni. More importantly, I attended the meeting to bring awareness and inspire action toward better training, equipment, and capable personnel for any emergency response option. I have gone on the record as stating I do not question the courage or bravery of those who responded but appeal to the commission and townspeople to insist upon a greater emergency response capability for water rescue.

Second, my aim was not and is not political - - I wasn't infuriated that someone else was trying to get the credit. Frankly I don't care who does. I was there

to shed light on the gross lack of training, equipment, and response while applauding the courage, bravery, and willingness to respond for VFD, BSO, and EMS. I was severely misquoted and had my view contorted to fit some writer's political slant.

Third, my wife didn't call 911 but made sure others did. She didn't run frantically to VFD personnel for oxygen.

Fourth, I NEVER needed, asked for, nor was administered oxygen - the VFD vice chief did.

Fifth, I never called out for "help" but directed the swimmer I told to go back to shore to "call 911". I

Sixth, I didn't call anyone an "Old Man". I used the term "Older Gentlemen" with respect and appreciation for his best efforts while inbound to the beach.

Seventh, the emergency respondents did not turn the oxygen on at first for the victim. Later, the mask was pulled off of her face when the oxygen cord became

caught with the straps of the stretcher - - cutting off oxygen flow. Both of these items were brought to the attention of the responding officials.

It would have been nice to have had a rope or additional device brought out to assist with the rescue but I knew I could do it unassisted if necessary.

The bottom line is, Mrs. Caverni was saved that day and residents of this town MUST take action to ensure we don't put a price tag on a human life. I assure you when looking into the victim's eyes that day she would have paid any dollar amount to be rescued. Monique is doing very well and our families have a new connection. They are wonderful people.

Please include this in your next printing to "set the story straight". I am sure this will be done based on your high degree of journalistic integrity.

Thankfully,

Mark Mitchell, Major, USAFR, JetBlue Airways Pilot

IN CONSIDERATION OF PARKING

by **Stuart Dodd, LBTS Town Commissioner**

The commission is going to use the "straw Poll" facility of the town topics to give all our residents and businesses a chance to express their opinions. I am very much in favor of conducting the straw poll and I urge every resident to take the time and opportunity to contact town hall with their opinion - we want your input. Why Straw polls can't be conducted interactively using personal computers for those residents who own one is another area I will address in the course of time. For the moment it is the "Straw Poll" in the next Town Topics - let's be thankful for small steps in the right direction.

Before you vote I would like to say that it is a very complex issue and we as a commission will not please everyone. I would like to express my personal views and hope you will support my efforts. The system is clearly broken. We are currently losing \$2500 per week with the bags on the meters and also damaging the meters as a result of condensation etc. We have a large parking lot that is predominantly empty for most of the time. First ask yourself - what is the function of the parking meters? To promote a quick turnover of potential customers for their business? Are we achieving this with the bags covering the meters for 80% of the time? Unfortunately the answer is - No. I support the removal of all the bags town wide.

I appreciate the businesses are suffering with the present economic situation and some of them want to continue with free parking in front of their premises. There are also businesses that want the bags off because they realize the system is not working and their business would probably improve with the proper enforcement of the meters. An arbitrary 3 hour limit makes extra work for parking staff but I did like the idea of parking staff leaving a card on the windshield when the meter expired saying you received 10 minutes extra time courtesy of LBTS in an attempt to ensure you enjoyed your vacation.

I want to encourage residents to use the local busi-

nesses rather than drive out of our town and one way that I see this working is to dispense altogether with the current resident parking system and allow any resident to purchase an annual \$25.00 permit decal that would be displayed on the vehicle. The permit would allow the owner to park anywhere in town any day for 3 hours for free. Instead of a limited number of allocated spaces at certain specific locations and \$18.78 per year I'm proposing \$25.00 per year and you can park anywhere in town for 3 hours. Does that sound like a fair trade?

I agreed with the Vice Mayor and his comments at the workshop concerning the introduction of modern credit card machines in the two car parks. It would enable a discounted "Day Rate" of say \$4.00 and encourage any all day visitors to our beaches to use these car parks rather than block the high street meters where we are seeking a quicker turnover. We could use the coin operated meters already installed in the car parks as spares and parts for the regular high street meters. When the supply of spares runs out I would propose changing the town wide metering to modern credit card style machines but at least get a couple more years use out of the coin operated meters. Employees of local businesses could be encouraged to use the large car parks with a preferential monthly permit.

There are no ideal solutions to please everyone - only compromises and whatever happens I shall be asking for a review in six months. Please go out and cast your vote - bags or no-bags - and help the commission with its deliberations.



LBTS READIES FOR THE NEW SEASON

It may not feel like Christmas in LBTS, but it's beginning to look like it. Seasonal banners and decorative lights have already been hung along the main streets in town. Giant Santas and Christmas wreaths adorn the restaurants downtown, and many condos and single-family homes already have their Christmas lights up. On November 24, town employees and members of the volunteer fire department got to work on the biggest decoration of all--putting up the town's Christmas tree in Anglin Square. The official tree-lighting ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. on December 2.

While these are just seasonal makeovers, there are some permanent changes taking place around town as well. Topping the list is construction of the long-awaited pavilion along the beach at the foot of Commercial Boulevard. Ground was broken on this project in mid-November and it is expected to take three months to complete. The pavilion is intended to provide a shady, tranquil resting spot for residents and visitors to enjoy the beach and ocean views. The project is being paid for jointly by the town and Broward County.

Just a few doors up from the pavilion along El Mar Drive, a new center of attention is the Villas By The Sea condominium. Phase one of this project opened for occupancy on October 27, and work is already well underway on the second building. The Minto Corporation, builders of the project, held an open house on October 17 which drew hundreds of people to town. Visitors ranged from serious potential buyers to those who were just curious to see what the units look like from the inside. Overall reaction to the project was very favorable--especially the open, courtyard look inside phase one and the majestic ocean views. According to a salesperson for Minto, there are still 17 units left for sale in phase one, which overlooks A1A, while only five units remain available in phase two, which is on the oceanfront.

Another project coming down the home stretch is Wings, the new beachwear store which is taking over the property formerly occupied by Mack's Groves at the intersection of Commercial Boulevard and A1A. The new owners have completely remodeled the exterior of the building and hope to be open for business in just a couple of weeks. They suffered a setback when the town commission denied their request for a variance to put up a larger sign, but other than that the business should be open in time for the winter season.

Also new to the town is the long-awaited entryway project which greets visitors as they cross the bridge on Commercial Boulevard. Actually, it is not much of a project--just two large flagpoles, one on each side of the street. The town hopes to install similar flagpoles along the north and south entrances to town as well, if they can work out an acceptable arrangement with the property owners.

New Pavilion



Villas



Wings



New LBTS Entryway Flagpole

AMR, VFD AND TOWN OFFICIALS HIDE BEHIND SHROUD OF SECRECY

Continued from Page 1

The AMR situation is a good example of how the rules are being stretched to limit both the review and release of information to the public. When AMR became the town's emergency medical services provider on October 1, the first call they responded to involved a swimmer in distress. It was a pretty routine call, but the town administration thought it was important enough to issue a press release to publicize AMR's quick response. AMR spokesman Liddle was quoted in the press release as saying of the victim: "she got seawater in her lungs. She was in fairly serious condition at the hospital."

Vice Mayor McIntee was so pleased with AMR's performance that he called Liddle up to the podium at the October 14 town commission meeting so Liddle could talk about the incident and several other calls which AMR had responded to in previous days. He and Liddle spent more than five minutes discussing AMR's operations and procedures in public, with McIntee disclosing that one call involved a woman with a broken hip.

While AMR had no trouble talking about those incidents, it was a completely different story when Mayor Roseann Minnet called Liddle to the podium at the November 10 town commission meeting, and asked him to describe what happened when the medics attended to Mrs. Caverni. "Due to federal privacy laws, AMR is not able to provide information regarding this call," Liddle responded. "Federal law prohibits us from discussing any information concerning that call."

Liddle's response did not sit well with Mayor Minnet or Commissioner Stuart Dodd, who expressed concern that AMR was using the privacy law as a shield to avoid answering questions, rather than as a legitimate tool to protect patient's rights. "This doesn't reflect as well as I'd like on AMR," Dodd said. Dodd tried repeatedly to get Liddle to answer questions which he said had nothing to do with the patient, but were intended to help restore public trust in AMR, but Liddle refused to budge.

Liddle offered to create an emergency medical review committee, with one member being a representative of the town commission, to review AMR's operations on a quarterly basis, but even then he said information would not be shared with the public or even with the other commissioners. Liddle added that the committee would be forward-looking, so there would be no going back over the Caverni case.

Susan Smith, press secretary for the Florida Department of Health, said the state does not automatically review cases in which questions have been raised about the quality of care delivered by an EMS provider. However, she said any citizen has the right to file a complaint with the Florida Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and request a review. It is not clear what role Dr. Nelson would play if such a review is

requested, since he is the medical director for both agencies.

The Caverni case is not the only one where the public is having a difficult time finding out what's going on in town. On September 30, the former administrator of the volunteer fire department, Patrick Pointu, resigned after he said he was repeatedly threatened by McIntee. In response, McIntee claimed that Pointu had physically assaulted him. Since both complaints involved allegations of potential criminal conduct, Mayor Minnet proposed that the town commission hire an outside counsel to investigate the matter.

When Minnet's proposal came up for consideration at the November 10 town commission meeting, no other commissioner supported her so no outside counsel was hired. Instead, the commission left it up to Town Manager Esther Colon to look into the matter. Colon has not commented publicly on her investigation, but in a private report to the commissioners, she said she discussed the matter with McIntee's boss at the VFD, Chief Robert Perkins.



Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee



Chief Robert Perkins

According to Colon's report, Perkins said the conflicts between McIntee and Pointu were all the result of Pointu's behavior. Colon said she did not pursue the allegations any further because she considered it to be an internal VFD matter. Her report does not indicate if she interviewed or even attempted to interview any other potential witnesses to the disputes between McIntee and Pointu. Colon has refused to respond to written questions submitted to her by this newspaper. McIntee has offered no public explanation of what happened between Pointu and him which led to Pointu's resignation. McIntee's son

Beau has since been hired by the VFD to replace Pointu as the paid training instructor for the department.

Questions also surround other aspects of the VFD. In his letter of resignation, Pointu identified a number of specific operating procedures and contractual obligations which he said the VFD was not meeting. For example, Pointu said the VFD had failed to set proper training goals and requirements, firefighters were not being given medical exams as required, and purchasing procedures were not being enforced.

Once again, the town commission decided to let Colon investigate Pointu's charges, rather than hire an outside counsel. According to the report she provided to the commissioners, Colon called Chief Perkins to inquire about the matter. Perkins assured her that all the problems Pointu cited in his letter were being taken care of properly by the VFD. For instance, on Pointu's charge that decisions from business meetings were not being applied, Colon wrote: "Chief Perkins informed me decisions are applied when applicable." On Pointu's charge that purchasing procedures are not enforced, Colon wrote: "Chief Perkins informed me that he oversees department purchasing." Colon concluded that she was satisfied with the responses she received from Perkins and that she will continue to diligently monitor the VFD's compliance with its contract with the town.

Then there is the matter of the upcoming review by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). The ISO is a national organization which rates municipal fire departments. These ratings form the basis for the community's insurance rating. LBTS is due for a new ISO review and rating, now that the volunteer fire department has replaced the Broward Sheriff's Office. McIntee has stated several times at recent commission meetings that the ISO is the only agency capable of doing a fair and independent review of fire services in LBTS, and that the VFD is ready to meet the test.

However, when Minnet took McIntee up on his words and proposed that the ISO begin its review of LBTS immediately, McIntee, Colon and Perkins each vigorously objected, citing scheduling conflicts and other concerns.

As a result, the ISO review has been pushed back to some time early next year, to give the VFD more time to prepare and to give the town more time to finish renovating the new fireman's dormitory, which is not yet ready to open.



TOWN OFFICIALS CHOP CHAMBER'S CHRISTMAS BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

According to Dave Gadsby, "There was a good group of guys and girls who did the work and everyone appreciated their efforts." He showed that appreciation by generously treating all to lunch at The Village Grille. Brandano's Display Company expertly completed the decorations.

In addition to lack of financial support, the town threw numerous roadblocks in the way of the event. There was a delay in approving permits for area restaurants to serve liquor in the streets. According to Executive Director Judy Swaggerty, "John Olinzock (Assistant Town Manager) said we'd have to provide 47 porta-potties for the event; if we did that there'd be no room for the event!" She added, "We really wanted to bring over 2,500 people to the downtown area to celebrate and to support our local businesses, but the town just wasn't 100% in support of our efforts. We've gotten tons of phone calls and complaints and we're all sad about it."

According to long time resident Bob Terrien who served as the unofficial planner of special events for over ten years, "Town staff would never tell you how to accomplish things. They would set you up like an ambush and watch you find a way about the problems." He added, "Staff just isn't working for the benefit of the people, they're accommodating their own schedule and unaware there's a community beyond Town Hall."



The Ghost of Christmas-By-The-Sea Past

The Christmas tree was originally purchased with \$30,000 in donations from local businesses and a few residents. It belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. As one donor put it, "The lack of support from the town is enough to make me want to pull off the branches my \$1000 paid for and go home. It's ridiculous."

Another resident asked, "Why is putting on an overdone 4th of July party for the entire county that costs the town almost \$50,000 OK but \$10,000 for Christmas-By-The-Sea is too much?"

One irate citizen opined that this wouldn't have happened, "if the Old Guard were still in charge" and blamed Jerry McIntee's ongoing dislike and public disdain towards the Chamber of Commerce for the cancellation.

According to Mayor Roseann Minnet, "I'm disappointed that we couldn't come to a resolution and make the tradition of Christmas-By-The-Sea happen again this year. There are obvious special pet events that do get special treatment. I will recommend that we look at all of the events and reevaluate. We want to provide a great quality of life to our residents and visitors, and that includes special events that are run well and that make sense."

The Chamber of Commerce asks that you direct any comments regarding this matter to town officials whose contact information is included on page 7.



Vice Mayor McIntee

**ATTEND THE CHAMBER CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
DECEMBER 2, 2008 @ 7:00 pm**

CHAMBER CRAFT FAIR, FUN FOR ALL

Perfect Fall weather, lots of happy visitors. shoppers looking for good value, smiling residents, merchants with unique items -- it all added up to great weekend of shopping and entertainment on November 22 and 23. This semi-annual event hosted by the LBTS Chamber of Commerce showcased vendors offering arts and craft products as well as local Chamber members offering their wares. Kathy and Ed Belanger visit from Chestertown, NY, for 12 weeks a year in the Spring and Fall; they've been visiting for the last 8 years in a row and came frequently before that. Their parents were also LBTS visitors. While this was the Belangers' first Craft Show, they "liked it a lot" and plan to come again, noting, "we have reservations in LBTS through 2010."

Rhonda and Neil Leighter were at the Craft Show for the second year and are snowbirds from Iowa who have been coming to LBTS for the last 25 years. Also cruising the show were Rosie and Klaus Roth who have been staying at the High Noon Resort one month a year for the last 22 years. They come from Schoneck, Germany, and say "We love this place, it's our second home."

Vendors were equally home in LBTS and happy to be part of the Arts & Crafts Show. Mickey Bradhan of M & M Creations showed plastercraft items including tiles, free standing pedestals, wall hangings for interior and exterior use, statues and tropical decor items. This is his fifth year at the show and said, "each sale might be fewer dollars, but there seem to be more people so the total sold is about the same. We have prices from \$5 up."

Local artist Fran Scheffler was on hand for her first time at the Show, and her items included t-shirts, cups, canvas bags, tiles and lacquer boxes featuring her beautiful and colorful abstracts. Bill Davis and Billy Sands of Diner By the Sea were on hand with waitresses Marlene and Little Nancy and were passing out coupons and menus for the Diner and for The Wine Cellar. Other local businesses included Frame 'N Art, Paradise Gifts, Berzerk Werks, and Limey's the Elegant Flip Flops.

For more information on the next Arts & Crafts Show scheduled for March, call Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Judy Swaggerty at 954-776-1000.



German visitors Rosie and Klaus Roth admire LBTS t-shirts from the Chamber as Chamber Director Ed White of Croton Arms Resort provides assistance.

CHAMBER ORNAMENTS

Personalize your tree this year, surprise a neighbor or make a special gift to a friend who just wishes they lived in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. The Chamber of Commerce/Welcome Center at 4201 Ocean Drive has a limited number of special edition Lauderdale-By-The-Sea ornaments. They're crafted in a goldtone metal and feature a pelican, the sun, a seashell, and a sail boat on the waves. The close out cost is just \$5, so stop by soon to buy yours.



HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFT FAIR

The LBTS Community Church will hold its annual Holiday Arts & Craft Fair on Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Church. Christmas items from non-profit organizations, paintings made by handicapped people, and items crafted and sewn by the disabled will be featured. Participating organizations will include 4 Children's Sake, St. Herman's, the Donald Slayton Foundation, and the Alliance for Deaf Families. The proceeds raised will benefit local non-profit organizations. For more information, please call 954-776-5530.

MARIE WHITE'S SANTA COMES TO TOWN



On Saturday, December 13 from noon until 3:00 p.m., everyone is invited to have their picture taken with Santa at this annual party at Commercial Boulevard and the beach. Named after a much beloved town volunteer who unfortunately passed away recently, the project this year is chaired by local Peanuts Wick. According to Peanuts, the sponsors include Aruba Beach Cafe, The Village Grille, Lenore Nolan-Ryan's Catering and Cooking School, and LBTS. Walgreens is also helping by printing the pictures of Santa and the children.

From now until December 16, there will be boxes at many locations around town where generous residents and visitors can drop off toys which will then be donated to "4 Children's Sake" to benefit underprivileged kids and help them enjoy Christmas. Donation boxes can be found at Town Hall, the VFD station, Sea Ranch Diner, Bank United, Damon's, Holiday Inn, Aruba Beach Cafe and The Village Grille. For more information, call Peanuts at 954-290-1555.

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY HOLIDAY WISH LIST

FOR INFANTS THROUGH 17 YEARS
Sponsored by the LBTS Chamber of Commerce
GIFTS MUST BE UNWRAPPED OR IN GIFT BAGS
DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS FRIDAY DECEMBER 12th

- Infant toys (mobiles, crib mirrors, Busy Boxes),
- Toddler toys (shape sorters, puzzles, push & pull toys)
- Building toys (blocks, Duplo, Lego, Waffle Blocks, Lincoln Logs, Megablocks)
- Popular characters and licensed toys (Blues Clues, Winnie the Pooh, PowerPuff Girls, Bob the Builder, Arthur, SpongeBob)
- Dolls — all ethnicities and ages" (baby dolls to Barbie dolls)
- Girls "dress-up" costumes, shoes & accessories
- Arts and crafts kits (beads, marker sets, stampers, etc.)
- Radio-control or remote-control trucks & cars
- Trucks & cars (fire trucks, dump trucks, bulldozers, HotWheels)
- Wagons, Pedal ride-ons (Big Wheels, tricycles, bikes), Scooters & Skateboards
- Books for all ages, Board games for all ages, DVD's for all ages, MP3 player download music gift cards
- Hand-held video games, Hand-held CD players with CD(s)
- Sports equipment (basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, baseball gloves, balls, bats)
- Sports clothing & memorabilia
- Toiletries (perfume, bath beads, shower gels, lotions)
- Make-up kits for pre-teen & teen-age girls, all ethnicities
- Hair accessories, blow dryers, curling irons, straighteners
- Jewelry for pre-teen & teen girls, Watches for girls & boys (young & old)
- Tickets/Admission passes to movies, skating, theme parks, bowling, etc.
- Gift cards/certificates to Target, Wal-Mart, etc.
- Batteries — especially if your gift requires power! (9V, AA, C, D)
- Gift wrap (bags, paper, bows, ribbon, tape), Holiday decorations (Christmas trees, lights, stockings, etc.)
- Diapers & Pull-ups — all sizes, Socks for boys & girls — 0-14, Underwear for boys & girls — 0-14.



HOLIDAY IDEAS FROM BENIHANA

The creative minds at Benihana are really thinking outside the box when it comes to holiday gift ideas. You can put the special person in your life front and center at a hibachi table at Benihana, 276 Commercial Boulevard in LBTS with the gift of a "Be The Chef Package." The recipient will become a "steak-flipping, knife-wielding entertaining chef, preparing dinner for family and friends under the watchful eye of a Benihana master chef," says Shuntaro Morishita, Regional Manager of Benihana. The "Be the Chef" package includes personal training on teppanyaki cooking, a signature Benihana hat and apron, a photo, dinner for four and gratuity for \$140 plus tax. Additional guests can be included for just \$35 each.

A special Holiday Trio consisting of filet mignon, shrimp, and chicken with salad, shrimp appetizer, soup, hibachi vegetables, rice and green tea will be available for just \$35 plus tax, and diners who order the Holiday Trio will receive a \$10 gift card for use on their next visit. Benihana has even created a special cocktail for the holiday season - a cool Cranberry Spiced Mojito.

"Benihana knows how to make occasions special, and that's never more true than during the holidays," says Joel Schwartz, Chairman and CEO of Benihana. Call 954-776-011 for more information and to make reservations.



DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SEA RANCH SUBWAY, SUN TRUST BANK

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WHERE DO YOUR TOWN COMMISSIONERS STAND?



In each of our issues, ByTheSeaFuture publishes a list of the major votes taken by the LBTS Town Commission and a breakdown of how Mayor Roseann Minnet and Commissioners Stuart Dodd, Jerry McIntee, Birute Clottey and Jim Silverstone voted on each issue. Here is how they voted on November 10 and November 25, 2008. Read the full commission meeting report below for details about how it all went down.

ITEM VOTED ON:	Minnet	McIntee	Silverstone	Clottey	Dodd
ordinance to establish provisions protecting the public from dangerous dogs	N	Y	Y	Y	N
resolution urging Florida legislature to provide fair funding to each region of the state	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
motion to deny a building permit to the Coral Key Ocean Club on El Mar Drive	N	Y	Y	Y	N
motion to continue financial support of artificial reef project off the coast of LBTS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
motion to table vote to create a public safety review board	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

COMMISSION MEETINGS REPORT - 11-10-08 & 11-25-08

To bag or not to bag the parking meters. That was the question which the LBTS town commission pondered at a special workshop on November 10 to discuss the issue of parking townwide. The majority of residents and business owners who spoke at the workshop said that free parking was a good idea but it has not worked. They said the free parking spaces are often taken up by employees and beachgoers, and there is nowhere for their customers to park. "Every day I see people parking and going to the beach," said local merchant Pamela Rossi. "If I don't have parking for my customers, I will lose business."

The commissioners themselves were divided on the idea. "I'm in favor of taking the bags off," said Commissioner Stuart Dodd, pointing out that the town is losing hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in revenue from the parking meters. "I believe it's a crazy system we're operating." By comparison, Commissioner Birute Clottey said most of the local businesses she has heard from are in favor of keeping the bags on the meters. Clottey proposed that the town increase the amount it charges for hardship and commercial parking spaces, to help make up for lost revenues.

The commission was scheduled to vote on the parking issue at its November 25 meeting, but the vote was pushed back until the December 16 meeting. In the meantime, the commission is conducting a straw poll to see how town residents feel about removing the bags from the parking meters. Residents may cast their vote by visiting the town's website at www.lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov.

In other news, the commission stirred up yet another controversy over spending priorities in the north and south ends of town. Several residents of Terra Mar Island appeared before the commission on November 10 to inquire as to when the town intends to begin work on the long-awaited project to repair the deteriorating understructure of the Terra Mar bridge, which is the only entrance to the island. The town has budgeted \$125,000 for the project, but has not announced a timetable for the construction start.

Vito Chiarello, president of the Terra Mar homeowners association, presented a report from the Florida Department of Transportation which shows that the Terra Mar bridge is rated 11th worst out of 567 bridges in Broward County. Chiarello said he was disturbed by a letter he had received from the town advising him that if the residents of Terra Mar want the bridge fixed right away, they can pay for it themselves. "We understand that the bridge is not going to fall down," Chiarello said. "We just want a level of expectation for the people of Terra Mar to feel safe."

In response to Chiarello's presentation, Commissioner Jim Silverstone said he considers the Terra Mar bridge repair project to be "cosmetic," not structural. Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee jumped in as well, saying he is concerned about the cost of the project. "It's not fair to take money away from the south," McIntee said. "We're hurting the people in the south end of the town to take care of the north."

Later in the same meeting, several residents of Seagrape Drive in the south end of town got up to speak. They said they were disappointed that the million dollar project which the town just completed to improve Seagrape Drive stopped one block short of the end of the street, leaving the final block looking shabby. McIntee immediately moved to direct the town manager to find funding to beautify the last block of Seagrape Drive. "We can't leave this unfinished," McIntee stated. "It looks awful."

Town Manager Esther Colon said she would transfer \$40,000 which had been set aside to build new bus shelters along A1A over to the Seagrape project. The Seagrape funding is expected to be voted on at the December 16 commission meeting, while the Terra Mar bridge repair project remains in limbo, with no firm timetable for a construction start and no assurance that the work will get done.

At the November 25 meeting, the discussion went to the dogs, literally. The commissioners voted 3-2 in favor of an ordinance to prohibit dangerous dogs in town. Commissioner Stuart Dodd argued against the ordinance, saying the punishment should be directed against the dog owners, not the dogs themselves. "It's not the dog's fault," Dodd said. "You have to go after the owners. This ordinance doesn't penalize the owners." Mayor Roseann Minnet agreed, pointing out that the town already has a vicious dog ordinance in effect. Commissioners McIntee, Silverstone and Clottey all voted for the ordinance, which still needs to pass a second time before it becomes law.

LBTS MAYOR'S COMMENTS



Mayor Roseann Minnet

How quickly the time passes. It has been almost one year since I was elected mayor. I truly hoped the town would have come together since then, but that just hasn't been the case. The last two town commission meetings proved that there is still a lot of anger and very little hospitality in our quaint seaside home, with most of this anger revolving around the volunteer fire department.

It seems like any time anyone asks a hard question about the VFD, the question is deflected and the questioner is attacked. I have always stated that I would like to see the VFD become a well-trained, accountable force. I had hoped that the leadership of the VFD would move beyond politics and answer the questions

that I and others put to them. For instance, where are the medical records and who is performing the physicals? Where are the training records and why doesn't the VFD utilize the fire academy located in Broward County?

Why can't the Insurance Services Office come in now to start the rating process, instead of delaying its review for another two or three months? Why are the leaders of the VFD so against an oversight committee? And most important of all: why can't we all work together to make each department the best it can be, and stop the fingerpointing and insulting behavior on the dais?

I have continued to ask the hard questions about the VFD, and in return I have been interrogated by Vice Mayor McIntee and Commissioner Silverstone because I took the lead in organizing and raising money for the highly successful GreenFest event in October. Just because I did it differently than town events have been done before doesn't make it wrong. All the monies we raised and spent--including my own personal donation--have been accounted for. My message to Commissioners McIntee and Silverstone is this: You

can try all you want to divert attention from the VFD by attacking me, but it won't stop me from asking the hard questions. I am confident that the people of LBTS can see through your antics and they know what you are trying to do. It isn't going to work.

So as we enter this holiday season, let us remember that doing something differently, or being in the minority, or just being someone who stands out, everyone deserves a fair chance. I have always been open with my decisions. I have said all along that not everyone will like what I have to say, but I will continue to speak out. When it is your safety and the safety of our families at stake, I will continue to ask these questions and make the ones who have said they can handle the job be accountable.

This holiday season, let us all remember to keep the seeds of the American dream, and the dream of LBTS, strong. Follow your beliefs, work hard and stick together. We can have peace in LBTS, and so this Thanksgiving let us give thanks for everything we have, and recognize that even when arrows are pointed at you, continue to stand up for what you believe in.

If you need assistance or simply wish to convey your thoughts to your local, state or federal representatives, here are their telephone numbers and email addresses:

- Mayor Roseann Minnet:** 954-801-6747 - roseannminnet@lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov | **Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee:** 716-868-3333 - jerrymcintee@lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov
- Commissioner Jim Silverstone:** 954-232-8340 - jimsilverstone@lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov | **Commissioner Birute Ann Clottey:** 954-895-6595 - biruteannclottey@lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov
- Commissioner Stuart Dodd:** 954-612-1600 - stuartdodd@lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov | **Esther Colon, Town Manager:** 954-776-0576 - estherc@lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov
- John Olinzock, LBTS Citizen Contact Coordinator:** 965-775-0576 - johno@lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov | **U.S. Representative Ron Klein:** 954-522-4579 - felicia.goldstein@mail.house.gov
- State Senator Jeff Atwater:** 954-847-3518 - atwater.jeff@web@flsenate.gov | **State Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff:** 954-762-3757 - ellyn.bogdanoff@myfloridahouse.gov

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing this letter to By The Sea Future newspaper hoping that the residents of LBTS will finally understand what is really going on. It's also to show the inappropriate behavior that continues time and time again on our Commission.

At the November 25th town meeting, Mr. McIntee spoke of a resident's medical condition and what action had to be taken to put the man back in his bed. Mr. McIntee responded to this AMR call as the VFD in his personal car and dressed in his civilian clothes, had to make a point of discussing this man on public TV and for the world to see on the Internet. I was quite appalled by his description of the incident.

The next morning I called Mr. Liddle of AMR and told him how inappropriate it was for Mr. McIntee to discuss this situation. He informed me that AMR works under the HIPAA privacy guidelines so none of his employees can discuss any patient's condition. On the other hand our VFD is not bound by HIPAA and they have the right to discuss any and all incidents they choose.

I advised Mr. Liddle that if this was the case I did not want Mr. McIntee to enter my home for a medical emergency. There is some risk in saying this and

perhaps AMR and the VFD might not respond at all, but we have a right to our privacy and security. We live in the United States of America and should be protected from such deeds.

Also at the commission meeting they voted for each person on the dais to have a turn as an oversight person for AMR. This would give the Mayor and commissioners the opportunity to sit in on a review of any incident that occurs in LBTS including the review of any resident's medical records while transporting the patient.

I am all for an oversight committee but not by a layman. A doctor should be appointed, not a group of commissioners that at the most have taken a CPR class. What will they be looking for? Will AMR be the ones to tell them what to look for? I will be looking into the legality of AMR allowing non professionals and non employees reviewing the records of the people of LBTS, no matter what the commission votes on.

Pay attention, fellow resident; your health records could be the talk of the town.

Marie Chiarello, LBTS Resident

IMPROVE YOUR SAVINGS HABITS

by Joe Cardenas of BankUnited

If you've put gas in your car lately or bought groceries at your local store, there is no doubt you have noticed that your dollar is not going as far as it did just a few months ago. The rising costs of daily living are forcing Americans to rethink their spending habits and develop a budget. Unfortunately, most people don't know how to create one because they never learned. A recent survey by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling found that nearly 40 million adults keep little to no track of their typical monthly expenses. If that sounds like you, it is never too late to improve your savings habits. Learning how to keep an eye on your money can be done by following a few simple guidelines.

Create a Budget: The first step to creating a budget is to make a list of fixed expenses – mortgage, rent or car payments are common examples – and their due dates. Make another list of flexible expenses such as gas, food and entertainment costs, and prioritize them. This is where you can begin to cut costs, by using your prioritized list to set spending limits for each item. Do you really need to make that trip to the coffee shop every morning? Maybe you can cut out some meals at restaurants and replace them with bagged lunches or dinner at home.

A simple, yet powerful, tip is to keep a daily log of everything you spend. Buy a little notebook and carry it with you wherever you go. Account for every penny and every purchase. This will help you keep track of your expenses, and it shows you exactly how much cash is going out, where and why. It will help make it easier to control your spending when you see it on paper. You may be surprised to see where your money is slipping away.

Improve Saving Habits: To improve saving habits, start by setting up an automatic withdrawal program with your bank in which a certain amount of money from your paycheck is deducted and deposited into your savings account. Often times, this type of system can be easier than writing a check to yourself every month. Try to squeeze some extra funds out of your current cash flow to establish an emergency fund. It is wise to set aside the equivalent of three-to-six months of expenses to carry you through a crisis. Check with your bank to make sure it offers all the products and services that are relevant to your current and future needs. Take advantage of products that streamline your financial life.

To avoid making impulse purchases, take a day or two to think about it. If you decide you really want the item, make sure you have the money to pay for it and do not charge it on your credit card. If this is a problem area for you, one trick is to freeze your credit cards into a block of ice. This forces you to wait until the ice melts to buy, giving you time to think about the purchases.

Another tip is to put coupons to use. According to CMS, a coupon processing agent, less than one percent of the 302 billion coupons issued last year were redeemed. The average value of each was \$1.28. That's a lot of savings consumers passed up. On the other hand, do not let rebates or coupons lead you into buying things that you wouldn't otherwise purchase. If it's an item you don't need, you're not really saving.

A budget helps your entire family focus on common goals. So, when trying to budget with a family, it is important to teach your kids budgeting tips too. Studies show that parents are more willing to use their credit cards to pay for kids' purchases than for their own, even when they are on a tight budget. Tell your children you will pay for the basics and give them an allowance they can use for everything else. This helps them learn good saving habits. Many financial institutions offer free child savings accounts to assist you in teaching your child about saving money.

A budget is a guide that tells you whether you're going in the direction you want to be headed in financially. Even with the best planning it will be difficult to know if the budget you have created will work until it is tested. Therefore, you should plan to revisit your budget regularly and make adjustments where needed. The key to financial freedom is understanding how to gain control and to better manage your personal finances.

Joe Cardenas is BankUnited's market president for Palm Beach, the Treasure Coast and North Broward Counties.



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SISTER CITIES PLANS HOLIDAY FÊTE

Combining the unique and esoteric theme of "Early Christmas/Killing the Turkey" with an international flair is the plan for the LBTS Sister Cities Association's holiday party planned for Friday, December 12, at the Community Church from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. According to Chairman Dr. Kenneth Most, "turkey and drinks will be provided, and members and guests are asked to bring an ethnic dish." There will be music and dancing added to seasonal festivities, and the party is free. Call Joyce Murray at 954-941-7773 to RSVP and advise what dish you will be bringing.



Bulldawgs Lee and Linda Butts met Flying L's Tracey Leidy Works and Tara Bezak through music.

LOCALS MARCH IN HERALD SQUARE

by Cindy Geesey

It's the dream of every musician, twirler or member of an auxiliary group who has ever participated in a marching band to perform in a major Bowl game or to march in a major parade. For two local ladies, the dream came true on Thanksgiving Day when they marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Sisters Tracey Leidy Works and Tara Bezak were both members of the Flying L Marching Band when they attended Fort Lauderdale High School a number of years ago. Performing in New York City was a long way away until they discovered "The Rounders," one of the largest permanent marching bands in the world. The Greater St. Petersburg Area Awesome Original Second Time Arounders Marching Band was founded in 1983 and is made up of former members of high school, college and military marching bands. Members range in age from 18 to 85 and come from all over Florida and the Southeastern United States to perform. The group started with 75 musicians and auxiliary members who "had never lost the desire to perform just one more time" and has grown to over 500 members.

Tracey is an experienced member with 18 months under her uniform belt, laughingly describes herself as "a seasoned vet" compared to her sister, and she now lives closer to the action in Dunedin. This is Tara's first year as a "Rounder, and she still lives in Oakland Park and commutes for all rehearsals and performances. Both ladies play the flute.

600 Rounders held a party in 2007 at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club to celebrate their upcoming 25th anniversary, and "unbeknownst to the band, four representatives from the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade were smuggled into the party and on cue 'disrupted' the program with a special announcement." 500 bands had applied to be in the 2008 parade, ten were selected, and the Rounders were band number one to be chosen. So much for a sedate 25th anniversary party.

Macy's required the band to submit a tape of their performance for evaluation, so on September 26 all the performers gathered on a closed street on Tampa Bay, in full uniform, to march and perform their routines over and over until the directors were satisfied with the result. The heat was oppressive, especially with heavy uniforms, but marching in Herald Square was quite a different story. According to Tara, "I was just so excited but I was freezing! It was really great and I had such a good time. Now I'm looking forward to our next trip in April to Key West where it will be warmer!" Tracey added, "I think that anybody who plays a musical instrument and has the time should try it – it's well worth it. I've made a lot of new friends."

Linda and Lee Butts were members of the University of Georgia Redcoat Band and are active in UGA's large alumni band. They discovered the Rounders when they adopted Anna Maria Island as their second home and are willing to commute from the Atlanta area for most rehearsals and performances. Marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was "a once in a lifetime thrill" said Lee, and Linda added, "we got extra energy when the cheers filled the streets of New York." The Butts both added that "we froze our last names off."

The band finished its final rehearsal at a New Jersey armory at 8:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Eve, left for New York City at 2:15 a.m. Thursday morning, and started the Parade at 9:00 a.m. for a 1 minute fifteen second drill in Herald Square. The Rounders were the largest band in the parade, the only one from Florida, and they played exclusive arrangements of "Here Comes the Sun" and "Let the Sun Shine In." The Mayor of St. Petersburg marched with the group and carried the state flag of Florida.

For information on joining the Rounders, visit www.seconddtimearounders.org.

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NEW STOOL RESERVATIONS AT PA'S

Almost every restaurant will put a 'Reserved' sign on their tables for large parties or special VIP guests, but **Pa' DeGennaro's** at 4331 Ocean Drive in LBTS goes a step further. They have "Reserved" bar stools. Every Friday evening for many years, special patrons perch on their assigned seats at the bar and enjoy their favorite drinks, dinner, and camaraderie with each other, the staff, and fellow guests.

Yvonne Den Broeder and Anthony Chouvalis have lived in LBTS for 17 years and have been guests at Pa's for just as long. They remember when Pa' DeGennaro's was just a small place and they say the ambiance and sense of family is just as pleasant in the larger, redesigned restaurant. They usually share their Friday evenings with their friends of 25 years, Diane and Joe Anderson. Yvonne and Anthony like to pair a good Pinot Noir with the Mediterranean salad ("large enough for two," they say) and the penne carbonara or a veal dish. According to Anthony, "we come because of the quality of food, the friendly staff and the other guests."



George and Bertie Jones

Bertie Jones and husband George spent Friday evening, November 21 on their favorite stools celebrating George's birthday. Originally from Avalon, NJ, they've lived in Pompano Beach for 35 years. During the off-season, they head to Pa's every Friday, but starting in January they go on Monday nights to enjoy the music of Lou Columbo. Bertie's favorite is osso bucco, and George's "ten main favorites" include duck and calamari. They actually discovered Pa' DeGennaro's when they followed bartender Debbie Wright there from

another restaurant 10 years ago. According to George, "The Chef here is just the best. He's Turkish but a great Italian Chef!"

To reserve your table (or bar stool) at Pa' DeGennaro's, please call 954-351-0310, and to see the menu visit their web site at www.padegennaro.com.

WELCOME NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

The following are some of the newest members of the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Chamber of Commerce. We're featuring business bios and interesting facts about each one. Be sure to let them know you read about them in *ByTheSeaFuture* newspaper. In each issue, we'll be introducing another group of new members.

Debbie Arzberger of "**Limeys, The Elegant Flip Flops**" has had her feet in the sand in LBTS since she started vacationing at the French Leave and Villa Caprice in 1963! To indulge her creative side, Debbie designs and makes unique flip flops decorated with crystals and semi-precious stones. They're elegant, one of a kind creations "made for fun loving people who have a flair for fashion and sparkle!" Debbie says, "If you want to be the first on your block to own a pair of specially designed "Limeys," call me at 561-212-6460." You can also help design your flip flops with special colors or stones, and they make great gifts as well. Just picture a bride on the beach with a pair of "Limeys!"

Family owned companies are special, and according to Kristin and Lennie, that's what makes **Champagne Plumbing** a good company to do business with. They pride themselves on "excellent customer service and professional plumbing work." Both residential and business customers choose them because they are reliable and stand behind their work, and they do everything from minor repairs to new construction. One resident who recently used Champagne Plumbing said, "They were prompt, professional, gave good value for the price, and they will be my Go-To plumber from now on." They say, "We are honored to do business in the beautiful town of LBTS and would love to have your business. Try us, you'll love us!" To make a date, call Champagne Plumbing at 954-330-6921.

For over 40 years, Louie's Diner was a favorite gathering spot for residents as well as for visitors. Now Bill Davis, a well known businessman and former President of the LBTS Chamber, is planning to open **By-The-Sea Diner** at the same location, 215 Commercial Boulevard. Bill and his partner, Bill Sand, will first completely renovate and update the place from bar stools to refrigerators in order to return the diner to first class condition. The eatery opens each day at 6:00 AM and features super quality home-style cooking at low prices "with a friendly atmosphere and great service." That family atmosphere and friendly service is provided by a number of the ladies formerly at the Pier Coffee Shop for many years -- Fuji O'Neill, "Little" Nancy Piszarski, Arlene Hames, and Madeline Maiman. Little Nancy says that "many of the menu items have returned, including the house specialty, Texas French Toast."

Speaking of Bill Sand...he has also just signed up his other restaurant as a new Chamber member - **The Wine Cellar Restaurant** at 199 East Oakland Park Restaurant in Oakland Park. Their specialty is German and Hungarian dishes such as Wienerschnitzel, Bratwurst, Knockwurst, Spaetzel and red cabbage, but you can also choose steaks, seafood, chops, veal and chicken. Bill Sand says, "We take great pride in our excellent food and friendly service and received 3 out of 4 stars from Zagat and AAA." In addition to the delicious food, you'll also enjoy the large aviary of tropical birds and parrots. The restaurant is a favorite of locals and visitors alike and Bill Sand invites everyone to stop by. You can make reservations by calling 954-565-9021.

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Maryl Geertsma of Deerfield Beach, Trish Michael of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Mary Lou Sheehan of Deerfield Beach and Penny Campbell of Pompano Beach



Marie Keenan, Elaine Grant, Dorothy Smith and Toni Kenney enjoy membership in the Altar Guild.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

* Televised on Channel 78

Jazz on the Square every Friday starting at 6 p.m. at Village Grille

December 1, Monday: Homestead Exemption Sign-Up at Jarvis Hall, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

December 2, Tuesday: The LBTS Chamber of Commerce/Welcome Center will hold a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7:00 p.m. downtown.

December 3, Wednesday: The Lions Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at The Holiday Inn. Call Mike San Miguel at 954-647-7752.

December 3, Wednesday: Join members of the Altar Guild for a Mardis Gras Casino Day. Seating is limited. Call Dorothy at 954-942-9946.

December 3, Wednesday: The Lauderdale Beach Republican Club will celebrate the holidays and hold a membership drive at Zo's Off the Hook at 2861 Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale (2 blocks West of the Intracoastal bridge). The social starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Call President Bob Wolfe at 954-445-5732.

December 4, Thursday: Bulk trash pick-up south of Commercial.

December 5, Friday: Bulk trash pick-up north of Commercial.

December 6, Saturday: Holidays Arts & Craft Fair will be held at the Community Church from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For information call 954-776-5530.

December 8, Monday: The LBTS Garden Club meets at 9:30 a.m. at Jarvis Hall. Call Kit Cashman at 954-642-8785.

December 12, Friday: Sister Cities Association will hold a social, "Early Christmas," at the Community Church beginning at 6:00 p.m. Turkey will be provided and members and guests are asked to bring a dish to share. There will be music and dancing. Please RSVP to Joyce Murray at 954-941-7773.

Saturday, December 13: Marie White's Santa's Coming to Town will be held at Commercial Boulevard and the beach from noon until 3:00 p.m. and will feature free pictures of Santa with the children.

December 16, Tuesday: Town Commission Meeting starts at Jarvis Hall at 7:00 p.m. *

December 17, Wednesday: The Lions Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at The Holiday Inn. Call Mike San Miguel at 954-647-7752.

December 18, Thursday: Master Plan Steering Committee meets at Jarvis Hall at 7:00 p.m.

ALTAR GUILD SETS CALENDAR

A membership luncheon was held on the afternoon of Thursday, November 13 at Sea Watch following Mass at Assumption Church. The meeting was opened by President Elaine Grant and a blessing was offered by Father Cassidy. Elaine then gave the calendar for the year which includes the following activities through December:

Saturday & Sunday, November 29-30:

Angel Tree and Gratitude Boxes are available for those who want to share their good fortune with the needy.

Thursday, December 11:

11:00 a.m. mass will be followed by a Christmas Party Pot Luck Brunch in the Parish Hall.

Saturday & Sunday, December 13-14:

Basket of Cheer raffle tickets will be sold and the Christmas Sidewalk Sale will be held.

Saturday & Sunday, December 20-21:

Basket of Cheer raffle tickets will be sold before and after weekend masses.

Sunday, December 21:

Raffle drawing will be held for the Basket of Cheer following 10:30 a.m. Mass.

For information about joining the Assumption Altar Guild, please call Elaine Grant at 954-784-6856.



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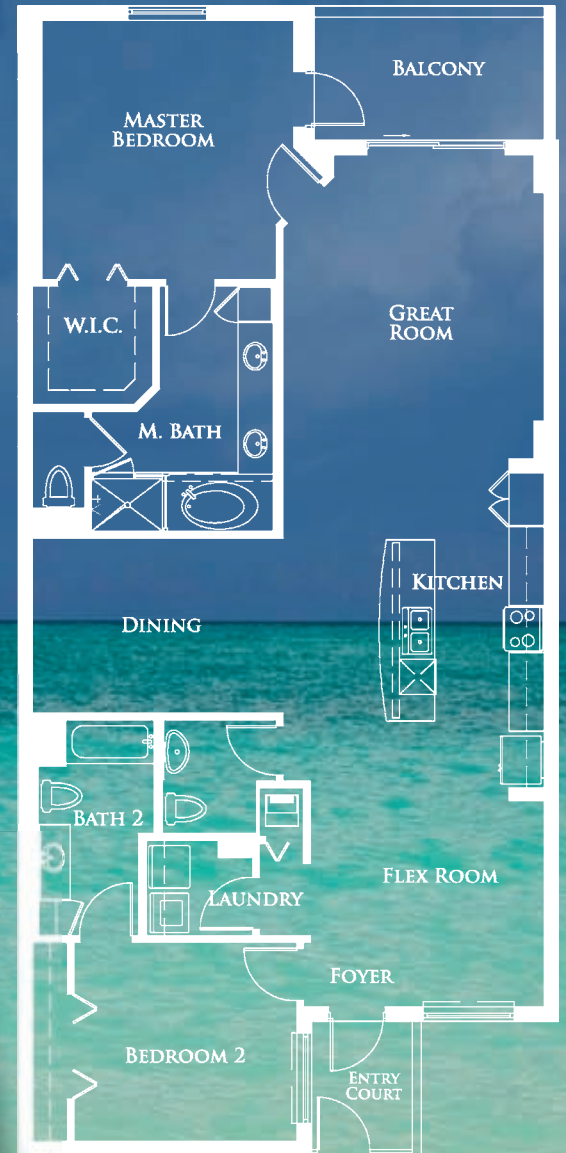
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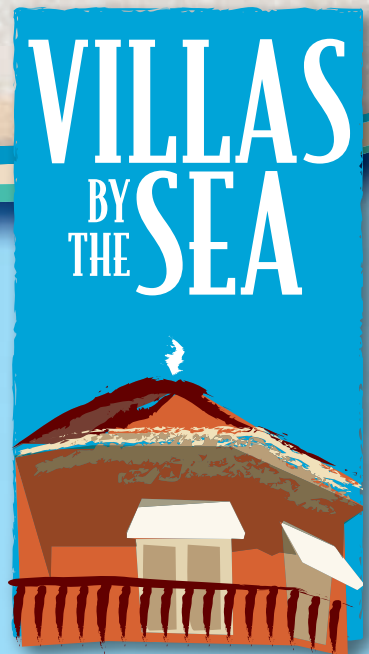
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