

# By The Sea Future

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

November 7, 2008

FREE! TAKE ONE!



The Not So Cowardly Lion (Cindy Geesey, President of the Property Owners Association) and Geisha Girl (Mayor Roseann Mayor) enjoyed Halloween hilarity at Lauderdale-By-The-Sea's Annual Halloween Party and Haunted House held on October 31 in Jarvis Hall and outside Town Hall.

STORY ON PAGE 6

## TOWN ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES COVER-UP OF "FIREGATE" SCANDAL

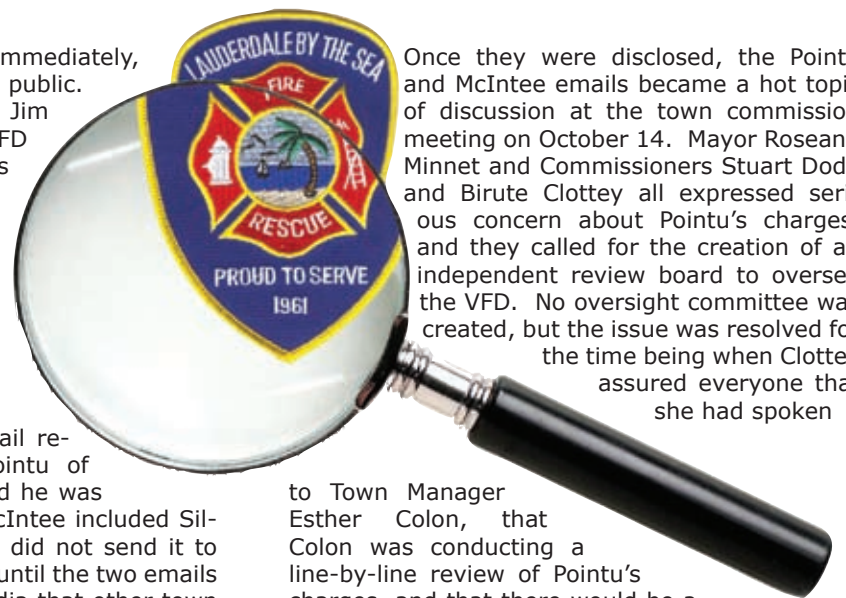
by Mark Brown

It has been more than a month since a former high-ranking official of the LBTS volunteer fire department accused Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee of physically threatening him. Town officials have promised a full investigation of the charge, but they have yet to issue a single statement or report about it. Instead, it appears that the VFD and the town administration have embarked on a systematic effort to cover up the "Firegate" scandal and sweep it under the rug.

Firegate started on September 30, when former VFD Battalion Chief and interim administrator Patrick Pointu resigned from the fire department. In an email sent to 15 top officials in the VFD, Pointu said he quit because he had been repeatedly threatened and intimidated by McIntee, and he couldn't take it any more. Pointu also disclosed in his email that the VFD was not meeting all its required operating standards, despite numerous assurances by VFD officials that they were. And he revealed that McIntee had vowed to use his position as a commissioner to bring back the Broward Sheriff's Office unless he got his way in the VFD.

The Firegate coverup started immediately, even before the scandal became public. Commissioners Jerry McIntee and Jim Silverstone were two of the 15 VFD officials who had received Pointu's original email. They knew that Pointu had raised serious questions about public safety and about the conduct of a public official, but neither one disclosed the existence of the email to the town manager, town attorney or other commissioners.

Instead, McIntee sent out an email response in which he accused Pointu of physically assaulting him, and said he was glad that Pointu had resigned. McIntee included Silverstone on his email list, but he did not send it to any other town officials. It wasn't until the two emails were leaked to the local news media that other town officials even became aware of their existence.



Once they were disclosed, the Pointu and McIntee emails became a hot topic of discussion at the town commission meeting on October 14. Mayor Roseann Minnet and Commissioners Stuart Dodd and Birute Clottey all expressed serious concern about Pointu's charges, and they called for the creation of an independent review board to oversee the VFD. No oversight committee was created, but the issue was resolved for the time being when Clottey assured everyone that she had spoken

to Town Manager Esther Colon, that Colon was conducting a line-by-line review of Pointu's charges, and that there would be a full and fair investigation.

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## HERO RESCUES DROWNING WOMAN AS VFD STANDS AND WATCHES

by Mark Brown

An LBTS resident risked his life on October 25 to rescue a 62-year old Canadian tourist who was swept out to sea by a riptide. Maj. Mark Mitchell singlehandedly saved the life of Mrs. Monique Caverni, while more than a dozen members of the LBTS paid volunteer fire department stood on the shore and watched them struggle, ignoring Mitchell's repeated calls for help.

In a bizarre twist, Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee spent two days after the incident telling people that he had played a major role in rescuing the woman--a story which was flatly refuted by Mitchell and numerous eyewitnesses at the scene. In fact, Mitchell was so upset by McIntee's attempt to take credit for his heroics, and by the VFD's inaction, that he appeared at the LBTS town commission meeting on October 28 to publicly set the record straight that he alone rescued the woman while the VFD stood idly by and did nothing.

The story took yet another startling turn when it was revealed that the medics who attended to Mrs. Caverni on the beach arrived unprepared, failed to turn on her oxygen and made other potentially life-threatening mistakes. McIntee immediately pointed the finger of blame at AMR--the private transport company which the town has hired to provide emergency medical services--saying they were responsible for any problems and not the VFD. "The VFD did exactly what they were supposed to do," McIntee stated. A spokesman for AMR declined to respond to McIntee's accusation, citing federal privacy laws.

The story began around 10:30 a.m. on October 25. Mrs. Caverni was visiting with her daughter, son-in-law and newborn grandchild, who had moved into the Ocean Colony condominium last April. They had gone to the beach and Mrs. Caverni ventured out into what seemed to be a fairly calm ocean, when she was sud-

denly caught in a riptide which pulled her about 100 yards out to sea.

Maj. Mark Mitchell, 36, a veteran Air Force pilot and current pilot for JetBlue Airways, was on the pool deck at the Ocean Colony with his wife Vicki when he heard the family's call for help. Mitchell's military instincts kicked in immediately and he told his wife he was going into the ocean to try to save her. He stripped down to his shorts and on impulse, he grabbed a life preserver ring and a flotation device which were hanging on a hook near the building's swimming pool.

Mitchell raced into the ocean where he was joined by another bystander, and the two men started swimming towards Mrs. Caverni. Meanwhile, Vicki Mitchell called 911 on her cellphone. She gave them the location of the emergency and told the dispatch operator to make sure that the rescue vehicles came to the beach side of the Ocean Colony, not the street. She also told the operator several times that there were three people in the ocean, and that the medical response team needed to be prepared to assist more than one potential drowning victim.

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## MCINTEE, SILVERSTONE FIDDLE WHILE VFD BURNS

by Mark Brown

Commissioners Jerry McIntee and Jim Silverstone just don't get it. By continuing to serve as both elected town officials and as key leaders of the LBTS volunteer fire department, they are jeopardizing the future of both the town and the fire department. It's time for them to make a choice: either leave the commission or leave the fire department. If they won't make the choice voluntarily, then residents of LBTS should make it for them by recalling them from office.

It should be no big deal for McIntee and Silverstone to step away from the fire department for a year and a half until their commission terms are up. After all, they have assured the Florida Ethics Commission in writing that they are just rank and file members of the VFD, with no special leadership roles or responsibilities. The VFD should be able to get along fine without them, since there supposedly are 78 other volunteers on the force. They can always return to the fire department after they leave public office.

Unfortunately, we know this isn't really the case. When former Battalion Chief and interim administrator Patrick Pointu resigned from the VFD on September 30, he disclosed that McIntee is for all intents and purposes running the fire department. Pointu said McIntee decides who is hired and fired, McIntee trains the volunteers, McIntee determines how the VFD spends its money, and McIntee is in command on the scene of fires. Pointu also disclosed that the fire department is not as far along as he had hoped in establishing and implementing its operating procedures--in large part because of McIntee's continued interference with the VFD.

It's a good thing Pointu disclosed this information about the VFD because we certainly would not have learned about it from the town commission. All we ever hear from Commissioners McIntee and Silverstone when they talk about the VFD from the dais is that everything is fine. Clearly, they have not been candid with the residents of LBTS in telling us what's really going on inside the VFD, or in disclosing their actual roles in the organization. It's just as clear that the town commission cannot conduct independent oversight of the VFD when two of its five members are not independent.

Now that we know the truth, it's time for action. Step one is for McIntee and Silverstone to resign immediately from either the town commission or the fire de-

partment. If they refuse to do so, then town residents should start gathering signatures on petitions to recall them from office. We have entrusted the VFD with the responsibility of protecting the town, but they can't do the job as long as McIntee and Silverstone are both running the fire department and overseeing it.

Step two is for the town commission to immediately pass an ordinance which prohibits any sitting commissioner or mayor from serving on the volunteer fire department. In fact, the commission ought to go a step farther by enacting an ethics code which prohibits sitting commissioners or the mayor from serving on any agency which does business with the town, including the fire department, even in an uncompensated role. Let's make LBTS a model for ethics reform in the state instead of a joke.

Step three is to make ethics reform a part of the town charter. There may be a perfect opportunity to do so in the months ahead. McIntee has announced plans to put a referendum on the ballot to make the VFD the permanent fire suppression unit in town. When this motion comes up for a vote, the commission should add language to it which prohibits any sitting commissioner or mayor from serving on the VFD, effective immediately.

This is not just a punitive action aimed at McIntee and Silverstone. The fact is, public safety is the single most important responsibility of the town commission, and it accounts for more than a third of the town's budget. The VFD and other public safety organizations in LBTS must be completely free of political pressure at all times from all elected officials. They should not be held hostage to the kind of threats which McIntee has made to bring the Broward Sheriff's Office back unless he gets his way with the VFD.

If the commission refuses to put this language in the charter amendment, so people will have a chance to vote on it, then town residents should do it themselves by gathering signatures and putting their own referendum on the ballot. Maybe this will be a chance for the two major political organizations in town--the Citizens Initiative Committee and Unite our Town--to work together for the common goal of protecting public safety.

Step four is for the town commission to immediately hire a professional chief to run the fire department,

just as they have in the city of Plantation, which is also served by a volunteer fire department. A professional chief will assure that training and operating procedures meet the highest standards, provide political independence in reporting to the town commission, and go a long way towards convincing a skeptical public that the VFD is capable of doing the job. Most residents of LBTS want to see the VFD succeed, but many don't believe it can happen as long as McIntee and Silverstone are running the show.

Step five is to set up an oversight committee to provide ongoing, independent review of the fire department, although this probably won't be necessary if the commission adopts step four and hires a professional fire chief. Step six is for the Florida Ethics Commission to take another look at McIntee and Silverstone, to determine if they should be fined or removed from office for engaging in a recurring conflict of interest. Step seven is for the town attorney, the Florida Attorney General or some other law enforcement agency to look into McIntee's claim that he was physically assaulted by Pointu, and to look into Pointu's claim that McIntee repeatedly threatened him.

Right now we are a town in turmoil, thanks in large part to McIntee and Silverstone. They have put their egos and personal agendas ahead of the success of the fire department and the town. In so doing, they have undermined public confidence in both the VFD and the town government. Silverstone has gone so far as to call his critics "hypocrites," saying "either you're working for us or you're working against the town."

In reality, McIntee and Silverstone are not as indispensable as they think. The VFD and the town commission can get along very easily without them, but they might not survive with them. This is one time when McIntee and Silverstone should lead by getting out of the way, before the "hypocrites" who voted them into office take matters into their own hands and throw them out.



## MISBEHAVIOR ON THE DAIS

by Cindy Geesey

For about ten years I rarely missed a commission meeting. I enjoyed being with friends, I learned a lot about the town, and I was able to contribute some ideas that actually turned into ordinances.

Now I no longer go to the meetings or watch them. I'm disgusted with the lack of respect and plain mean spiritedness shown by a majority of the dais. It makes me embarrassed for the town that I love. However, I did watch a rerun of the last meeting especially so I could watch the appearance of Mark Mitchell, the brave man who saved the woman from drowning. He was terrific, but I watched most of the meeting and was again appalled at many of our public officials.

I have to wonder, "Do the people on the dais ever watch the meetings so they can critique their own behavior and degree of professionalism?" I doubt it. It's something they should certainly do, if they care at all about being a public servant and not a self-server.

As usual, it all starts with Jerry McIntee. He has a documented history of problems dealing with women,

and he combines that with hypocrisy to try to slam Mayor Minnet at every opportunity. He obviously comes with a prepared list of insults and works them into his tirades until they're all thrown at her. He talks constantly about "the will of the people" but completely ignores the fact that her election as Mayor was indeed "the will of the people." Apparently he just can't stand not being top dog and resents the fact that his planned "clean sweep" didn't happen. His power and influence were not complete as he thought. McIntee interrupts the Mayor, other commissioners, and those trying to present reports. When questioned or criticized, he goes on the attack with a viciousness that is highly inappropriate for a grown man.

Before he was a commissioner and during his first two years in office, he encouraged his followers in the audience to be disruptive, loud, and nasty in their attacks on anyone who was not on his team. I remember one meeting where he was almost hysterical, waving his arms and inciting the crowd as if it were the end of a football game and his team needed that field goal to win. It was truly bizarre behavior. He had no qualms about using the names of citizens then or of identifying commissioners by name in public comments. Now it's a different story. At the last meeting he even criticized a woman in the audience by name for laughing at something he said. As usual, he can dish it out but he just can't take it.

McIntee objected at the last meeting when a citizen criticized his performance as commissioner during public comments. He told Mayor Minnet she should have controlled what was said and not allowed a "personal attack." Mayor Minnet disagreed and said that she did not consider it a personal attack. McIntee needs to understand that as a public official, his decisions and behavior in that role and in his role as paid VFD Training Officer are rightfully open to criticism by citizens. That is professional criticism. A personal attack would be if someone said he was an arrogant bully with control issues. While it might be true, it would be indeed a "personal attack," would not be appropriate during Public Comments and would not be allowed by Mayor Minnet. It's again hypocritical of McIntee who delights in prying into the personal lives of those who oppose him and launching fruitless investigations. Losing Mayoral candidate Peanuts Wick

recently said during public Comments that Mayor Minnet "does not know business." That was definitely an unwarranted and false personal attack on an area that had nothing at all to do with her actions as Mayor. In fact, she's an extremely successful small business owner. Peanuts' comments were just sour grapes from the loser of an election. In spite of the attacks and harassment by McIntee, Mayor Minnet continues to conduct herself as a professional and is a great representative of LBTS.

It seems that any idea that was not McIntee's is the subject of criticism and scorn. GreenFest was a successful community effort that McIntee did not even attend, much less support. His great idea for LBTS was that we host the Air and Sea Show, a silly and unworkable suggestion that went absolutely nowhere.

Thankfully, no one else on the dais has misbehavior to equal McIntee's. Sadly, Silverstone is still tied to the puppet master. For anyone who thinks Silverstone is a good guy, you should have known him in his pre-McIntee years when he was a great guy. Clotney proposed that the Mayor's annual salary be reduced by a whopping \$1900 so that she wouldn't be earning more than the commissioners. This was from a person who voted to raise her compensation right after being elected by 53%, an increase the Mayor refused to take. And why does Clotney want my tax dollars to pay for another resident's pest control? I have river rats that come out of the water, a possum or two, occasional roaches and worms. This is Florida and those pests, as well as iguanas, are to be expected. I take care of my own home and would appreciate other residents doing the same.

The Town Manager is a smart woman, but her disrespect for the Mayor and some commissioners is way out of line. It's certainly surprising from a woman with her high degree of professionalism. She's great with numbers but needs to be as good dealing courteously with every official on the dais for whom she works.

Please, people - watch the Commission meetings and judge for yourselves. Demand proper behavior from those who serve you and represent our town.

### ByTheSeaFuture

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### TO OVERSEE OR NOT TO SEE

by Chuck Clark

The idea of having an oversight committee to review the operations of the volunteer fire department has been met with support and opposition. Mayor Minnet has made it clear for many weeks now that she favors such a committee. Vice-Mayor McIntee voiced opposition in the beginning, stating that such a committee was not possible because fair and unbiased membership could not be found in town. He feels that everyone in this town is already too judgmental one way or another. He said that he could support oversight if the membership would come totally from other towns.



critique. Commissioner Dodd supports the formation of an oversight committee with each member of the commission having an appointment. He made it clear that he favors a group which would be apolitical and not focused on a witch hunt.

My personal view is that we should have an oversight committee, and that it should be tasked to consider all public safety issues to include law enforcement, emergency medical service, and fire support. The membership of this group should come from the town of LBTS and not from any other town(s). I firmly believe that we have the expertise and resources within this town to form such a committee and that these people will be able to analyze and critique issues and not personalities.

I also believe that we have adequate persons willing to serve. It is my considered opinion that the oversight committee would be an advisory arm to the town manager. Some might suggest that they

should report to the town commission and I strongly disagree. The town manager needs the expert advice which this group could provide. Based on this makeup, the town manager could provide regular reports to the commission on the area of public safety as a whole.

A Public Safety Oversight Committee should meet on a regular basis and the town manager should direct all facets of public safety to cooperate with the committee. Since the oversight committee will be examining all areas of public safety, the composition should be at least nine members and should be persons who have been professional or volunteer firefighters, professional law enforcement officers and professional medical personnel.

It seems reasonable to me that all of the public safety areas should welcome such an arrangement. It should be viewed as a teaching vehicle by which everyone will benefit by learning and becoming more proficient. No individual or organization is perfect and never will be. However, perfection is a worthy goal to strive for. Finally, the idea of oversight is to improve the quality of public safety for all of the residents of our town.

More recently, he voiced opposition to the formation of such a committee by suggesting that it wasn't necessary since the ISO (Insurance Service Organization) is already scheduled to evaluate the VFD. He feels that the evaluation would be the best for the VFD, in that every facet of operation and administration would be analyzed. That may be true, but this would be a one-time evaluation and not an ongoing

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like you to publish a correction of the statements you have made in your last edition.

I have never said or wrote that the VFD is not ready or up to the task of being the sole fire suppression provider in this Town. My resignation was a confidential email sent to only to 15 officers and directors of the VFD. I never authorized to publish or distribute it out of these 15 persons. The intent was to let the VFD management solve this issue, if they believe that it is an issue, from in within the department.

Jerry McIntee has done a tremendous amount of work for the VFD and he is one of the few members we can thank for the return of the VFD. I just stated that I was not able to work with him anymore. My different with him does not diminish my strong belief that the VFD is competent and reliable to accomplish all of its missions. I just wish that more would have been done during the last six months.

However by putting out publicly internal struggle you will only exacerbate the tension and prevent the VFD to serenely deal with it. When a community feels attacked, its members are all temporarily united against the common threat. While they are fighting, they won't have time to deal with their inside problem. By putting pressure on the VFD and adding public scrutiny, instead of helping to solve a problem, you are just delaying its resolution.

Please let the VFD deal with its organization by itself and judge its performance only on what matters: are the emergencies responded to efficiently and timely. As a resident of this Town I don't care who is in charge of a fire scene as long as the fire is handle properly. If you want to be involved in the internal organization of the VFD then please become a member.

Patrick Pointu

**Editor's note: Under Florida law, all correspondence sent to town commissioners is public information.**

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to compliment and thank Commissioner Stuart Dodd for his persistence regarding the safety issues in our town. Commissioner Dodd is holding McIntee's feet to the fire and he is asking the tough questions. Also, he is not allowing the Vice Mayor to double talk him when he is rightly questioning things that affect the safety of our town citizens. I am sure Commissioner Dodd will continue to look after the best interest of all town people. Many people in town are impressed with the way Commissioner Dodd is handling himself at the meetings. Keep up the good work, Commissioner Dodd.

Ron Piersante, LBTS Resident

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We live on the west coast of Florida and just completed our third visit to LBTS. We like the small town feel in combination with so much to do. Jazz on the Square at the Village Grille was terrific, and we wish we had that where we live. Breakfast at Diner By The Sea was delicious and cozy, and lunch at Carina's Stone Fired Pizza was just the best. We've learned to save room for gelato! Thanks to all the residents we've met and the business owners who made us feel so welcome. We'll be back soon.

Corita and Mac McAllister

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**Send Letters to**  
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### A PROPOSAL FOR STABILIZING THE STOCK MARKETS

by Dr. Kenneth S. Most

The collapse of stock market prices is only one of several factors contributing to our economic malaise, but it is an important one. It affects almost everyone personally, either directly or indirectly. But whereas the issue of bank liquidity has received prompt and massive attention, the collapse of stock market prices has not.

The problem: stock market prices have no bottom. The perception that there is no limit to the extent to which securities could lose their value underlies all the panic selling we are witnessing.

This is apparent from the statements of sellers, like the widow who says that her retirement funds have dropped by fifty percent this year, and she cannot afford to lose any more. Yet it is clear that, absent an actual need for cash, selling in a depressed market is a bad financial decision. The solution: provide a floor to stock market prices. My proposal has three components.

**1.** Require every quoted company to provide a value for each of its securities as part of the 10-K and 10-Q filings required by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Companies and their accountants continually calculate the value of these securities (and those of others) in order to make acquisitions, sell their securities and subsidiaries, and fend off acquisition bids. I recall attending a meeting some years

ago that was addressed by the chairman of a worldwide company. "In the last three years we have acquired nine companies and sold six," he said. "Don't tell me we can't value shares."

This can be done under the powers given to the SEC by the Securities Act of 1934, which led to a vast increase in the amount and timeliness of historical information available to investors, and therefore decreased the volatility of the stock market. Since then investors have demanded more forward-looking information, which the SEC now permits, subject to certain restrictions.

**2.** Establish a Stock Market Stabilization Fund with the obligation to buy any quoted security at its value in the most recent 10-K or 10-Q. This provision would only lead to implementation if the market price dropped below the published value. The Fund would hold the security until its market price recovered. In my opinion this feature would rarely have to be invoked.

**3.** Finance the Fund. There are several possibilities here, ranging from government finance to bank finance to institutional investors, but in my opinion again, this should not prove impossible. My own preference would be for companies to pay a premium based on the value of their securities; this would also help to keep them honest. Bank deposits are

now insured under a similar scheme. Note that the operations of the Fund would not affect the banking system, as any payments would end up as bank deposits.

An historical note may be illuminating in this context. Readers of the Wall Street Journal will have seen contests between stock pickers using their knowledge and the results of throwing darts at a board.

Well, such contests are not new. In 1928 a similar competition was held by the London Daily Mail, and a prize was awarded by a committee of financial experts aided by a prominent banker. By 1932 the prices of the shares selected by the winner had fallen by anything from 85 percent to 100 percent, as one of the companies had gone bankrupt. Yet in spite of this loss, three of the four stocks selected went on to become leading issues on world stock markets, at prices way above those of 1928.

**Dr. Most is a resident of LBTS and professor emeritus of economics at Florida International University.**





### VOLUNTEER RESCUERS WATCH AS REAL HERO SAVES DROWNING VICTIM

*Continued from Page 1*

Mark Mitchell was the stronger swimmer and the second bystander soon pulled up and returned to shore, leaving Mitchell on his own to rescue Mrs. Caverni. Mitchell said he was extremely worried when he got to within 15 yards of Mrs. Caverni because it looked like she wasn't going to make it. "Her eyes were rolling back and she was choking and spitting out water," Mitchell said in an interview minutes after the rescue. "I was worried that I'd lose her before I got there. Fortunately, she definitely had a will to live."

Mitchell said he reached Mrs. Caverni and placed the life preserver ring over her arm and shoulder, then wrapped the flotation device around her and enclosed it like an envelope. "If I didn't have both we wouldn't have made it," he said. He began to talk to her to try to calm her down, reminding her that her family was waiting on the shore, and he helped her get some of the water out of her lungs. Mitchell said he was already extremely tired at that point, but he realized with dismay that the riptide was still pushing them farther out into the ocean and down the beach. He yelled to people to call 911 and to throw him a rope.

Meanwhile, a crowd had begun to build on the beach. The BSO police arrived along with two ambulances from AMR. McIntee had been riding around on one of the two beach buggies which the VFD uses to patrol the beach, and he quickly pulled up to the scene as well, as did a VFD fire truck. Mitchell said his spirits lifted when he saw all the flashing lights on shore, but they were quickly dashed when he realized that no one was coming into the water to help. "I saw the VFD standing there but no one came in to help," Mitchell said. "I saw no life raft or preserving equipment. I knew at that point that I couldn't rely on anyone else for help. It had to be me to get her in safely."

Fighting exhaustion, Mitchell struggled for several minutes to keep Mrs. Caverni afloat while they gradually made their way to shore. When they finally reached waist level, about 30 feet from shore, Mitchell said Mrs. Caverni's family members came in to help pull her the rest of the way in. He said an "old man" wearing shorts and a uniform shirt also entered the water at that time to help. He did not recognize the man, but witnesses at the scene identified him as McIntee. According to several eyewitnesses, McIntee waded in up to his waist, but he stumbled and appeared to

hurt his leg. They said McIntee was limping badly and breathing heavily when he returned to shore and needed medical attention. "McIntee was minimally assistive at best," said one eyewitness.



**Major Mark Mitchell, Real Hero Who Saved Victim**

Although Mitchell and Mrs. Caverni had reached shallow water, their problems were far from over. Mitchell said Mrs. Caverni couldn't stand on her own, her breathing was shallow and she had a weak pulse. Instead of floating a rescue board under her to support her while they lifted her out of the ocean, he said the medics grabbed her by her wrists and ankles, allowing her torso to sag while they carried her to the beach. He said the medics then strapped an oxygen mask over her, but it immediately began to fog up. Mitchell realized from his experience as a pilot that they had

not turned the oxygen on and the mask was suffocating her. Mitchell said he told the medics to turn the oxygen on, which they did, only to find out that they had twisted the tube and the oxygen still was not reaching her.

Mitchell told the medics to untwist the tube to allow the oxygen to flow freely, then he watched as they strapped Mrs. Caverni to a gurney. He said the medics attached the straps in the wrong place, and when they lifted the gurney up the the straps pulled the oxygen mask off her face. The medics had to set the gurney down and redo the straps. The gurney was then placed on the beach buggy and a crowd of people helped push it up the embankment toward the waiting ambulance, because it didn't have enough power to move on its own.

Meanwhile, both Mitchell and McIntee were also having trouble breathing and were in dire need of medical attention, but the only oxygen container on the scene was the one used for Mrs. Caverni. That container had come from the VFD's beach buggy which McIntee had driven to the scene, not from an ambulance. Vicki Mitchell was distraught because she had repeatedly told the 911 operator that the medics had to be prepared to treat multiple drowning victims.

Mrs. Mitchell said she ran from fireman to fireman, pleading with them to get a second canister of oxygen for her husband, but they just ignored her. Finally, she said, one fireman pointed towards the fire truck in the parking lot and said there might be an oxygen container there, but she would have to go and get it herself. The problem was finally solved when a second beach buggy operated by the VFD arrived at the scene carrying an oxygen canister, and it was hooked up to Mitchell. McIntee also received oxygen administered by Kevin Padden, who is both an AMR employee and a member of the VFD. It is not clear where they got the oxygen to treat McIntee.

Mrs. Caverni was taken to Holy Cross Hospital for treatment. She was treated for water in the lungs and stress, and suffered a slight heart attack the day after the incident, but she recovered and was released on October 30. "If it wasn't for Mark, she'd have died," one eyewitness stated. "It wouldn't have been a rescue operation, it would have been the recovery of a body."

*Story Continued on Page 5*

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### TOWN ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES COVER-UP OF "FIREGATE" SCANDAL

*Continued from Page 1*

On October 25, a woman nearly drowned off the coast of LBTS. There were numerous eyewitness reports that the VFD stood on the shore and watched but did not come into the ocean to help. There were also reports that the medical unit which responded to the 911 call was unprepared and made mistakes. *ByTheSeaFuture* newspaper requested a copy of the incident report from both the VFD and the town manager. The VFD did not acknowledge or respond to the request. Town Attorney Daniel Abbott responded on behalf of Colon, saying only that the town manager did not have the report.

Three days later, on October 28, the town commission met again. Minnet had attempted to put an item on the agenda for that evening to direct the town attorney to conduct a full investigation of the Firegate affair. There was recent precedent for her request. Last June, McIntee was upset about a news alert sent out by *ByTheSeaFuture*. The town commission immediately passed a resolution directing the town attorney to investigate the matter. Abbott started his investigation the following day and interviewed a number of people under oath. He submitted his final report within a few weeks, concluding that no town officials had acted improperly.

Things are not moving nearly as quickly this time. Colon refused to put Minnet's item on the agenda for October 28, saying the mayor had submitted it too late. Shortly after the commission meeting got underway,

Minnet recognized Colon to deliver her regular town manager's report, with the expectation that she would give an update on the status of her Firegate investigation. Instead, Ms Colon responded with four words: "I have no comment." Colon's statement does not appear in either audio or video records of the meeting.



The local news media has been submitting public information requests to the VFD for more than a month, inquiring about Pointu's charges and the operating procedures of the fire department. The VFD has refused to respond to those requests. In response to a question from Minnet, town attorney Abbott stated

that the VFD is covered by the Florida Public Records Act and is obligated to respond to public information requests. McIntee immediately objected to Abbott's ruling, claiming that the VFD has a right to withhold information. Both *ByTheSeaFuture* and local web journalist Barbara Cole have submitted several public information requests to the VFD which have not been acknowledged or responded to by the VFD.

On October 29, *ByTheSeaFuture* submitted a two-page list of questions to town manager Colon, inquiring among other things about the status of her investigation, and the likelihood that any information would be made public or turned over for prosecution. Abbott responded the following day on behalf of Colon, stating that the town manager was not obligated to answer the questions because it would require her to "create new records." *ByTheSeaFuture* also submitted a two-page list of questions to AMR, the private transport company hired by the town to provide emergency medical services, concerning their response to the near-drowning incident on October 25. AMR declined to comment, citing "federal privacy laws."

*ByTheSeaFuture* has directly appealed the refusal of the Volunteer Fire Department and the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea town administration to answer questions to both the Florida Attorney General's office and the local state attorney's office, on grounds that the public has the right to know all the facts on matters involving public safety and the conduct of public officials.

### OCEAN RESCUE HERO SAVES VICTIM AS VFD BEACH PATROLS LOOK ON

*Continued from Page 4*

About an hour after the rescue was completed, McIntee returned to the Ocean Colony and began boasting to people that he had helped save Mrs. Caverni. "I couldn't just let that woman drown, could I?" McIntee told one resident. He then tracked down Mark Mitchell's telephone number and called to thank him for "helping him" save Mrs. Caverni. Mitchell was already steamed that the VFD had done nothing to help while he and Mrs. Caverni nearly drowned, and McIntee's phone call pushed him over the edge. He was not interested in publicity, but after talking it over with friends, he decided to attend the town commission meeting two nights later to set the record straight about the incident.

Speaking during public comments, Mitchell retold the sequence of events surrounding the rescue. He emphasized his frustration when he called out over and over for help but no one from the VFD responded, and his shock that the medics were seriously unprepared. "I alone had the equipment and brought the individual into shore," he said. Mitchell then called on the commission to require that the VFD and medical units receive better training. "Twenty-two respondents without adequate training, equipment and physical ability is near criminal," Mitchell said. "We cannot put a price tag on life. It's time to pay the price to have the proper training, equipment and personnel. If we don't do that we're going to lose more lives."

McIntee seemed stunned by Mitchell's presence at the commission meeting. When it was his



**Mitchell Sets Record Straight with McIntee at Meeting**

**Speaking during public comments, Mitchell retold the sequence of events surrounding the rescue. He emphasized his frustration when he called out over and over for help but no one from the VFD responded, and his shock that the medics were seriously unprepared.**

turn to speak, he acknowledged that Mitchell was the real hero, but he still insisted that he had played a major role in the rescue. "The old fire horse kicked in," McIntee said, claiming that he had gone about 50-60 feet out into the water, up to his neck, to help pull her in. "I'm quite sure you would have gotten in without me," McIntee grudgingly conceded.

The day after the near-drownings, *ByTheSeaFuture* requested a copy of the incident report from the VFD, to see how they described their response and portrayed McIntee's role in the rescue. The VFD did not acknowledge this request or respond to it.

*ByTheSeaFuture* also asked Town Manager Esther Colon for a copy of the incident report, since she is in charge of overseeing the VFD and she automatically receives VFD reports on her computer, but Ms Colon said she did not have it.

*ByTheSeaFuture* also sent a long list of questions to AMR, to give them an opportunity to respond to McIntee's allegation that they botched the medical response and to tell their side of the story. AMR responded with the following statement: "AMR is thankful to the citizens who rescued the woman from the ocean. We are reviewing the call and based on our findings we will take appropriate action. AMR is not able to further discuss the details of the call due to federal privacy laws."

### LBTS BUCKS TREND, VOTES REPUBLICAN ON NOVEMBER 4

by Mark Brown

President-elect Barack Obama crushed Sen. John McCain in Broward County and carried Florida on November 4, but Lauderdale-By-The-Sea proved once again that it is still a Republican town. Near-final results compiled by the Broward County Supervisor of Elections office show that McCain defeated Obama in LBTS by a margin of 270 votes, winning 54% of the vote here to Obama's 46%. Obama actually carried the largest precinct in LBTS in the south end of town by a slim margin of 24 votes, but he lost the other three precincts.

While LBTS did not factor too heavily in the presidential race, it appears that the town played a decisive role in the outcome of the election for Broward County Sheriff. Incumbent Sheriff Al Lamberti (R) won reelection by a margin of about 9,000 votes countywide, pending final certification. Much of that margin came from LBTS, where he was the single biggest vote-getter on the ticket and trounced his opponent Scott Israel (D) by 1,266 votes, carrying 70% of the town.

Unlike Lamberti, former Mayor Oliver Parker can't thank LBTS for putting him over the top. Parker won election to the Broward County Soil and Water Conservation Commission, defeating challenger Fred Segal by a margin of 54-46%. However, Segal outpolled Parker by 250 votes in LBTS, winning here by 55-45%. Parker narrowly carried the condos in the north end of LBTS, but he lost the other three precincts here. His worst showing was in his home precinct in old town, where he captured 423 votes to Segal's 573. Overall, Parker won 224,208 votes countywide in easily defeating Segal.

Another local town resident who ran for public office was not as fortunate. Beverly Kennedy of Terra Mar Island and wife of former LBTS town commissioner Ed Kennedy was defeated by incumbent Howard Forman in her bid for Clerk of the Courts by a margin of 76-24%. Kennedy fared a bit better in her hometown of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, losing by 59-41%. She made her best showing in the condos, but ended up losing all four precincts in LBTS.

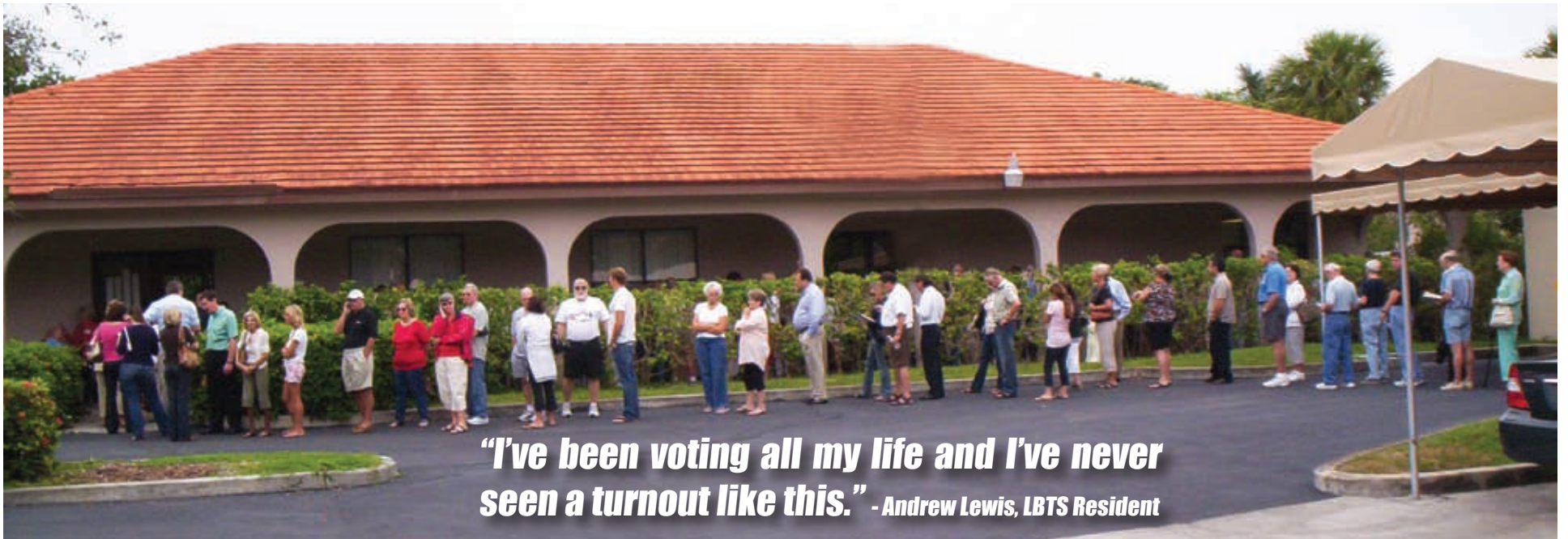
Incumbent Congressman Ron Klein (D) handily carried Broward County by a margin of 54-45% over his challenger Allen West (R), but Klein narrowly lost LBTS by 33 votes. Incumbent State Senator Jeff Atwater (R) won a convincing victory in LBTS over challenger Linda Bird (D) by 63-37%, which was five points higher than his overall margin of victory in Broward County. Similarly, incumbent State Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff won in LBTS by 60-40% over her challenger Chris Chiari (D), which equalled her results countywide.



**Parker Wins Election**

*Continued on Page 6*





**"I've been voting all my life and I've never seen a turnout like this." - Andrew Lewis, LBTS Resident**

## HUGE VOTER TURNOUT IN LBTS ON NOVEMBER 4

*Continued from page 5*

Overall voter turnout in LBTS on election day was 66%, a number which will most likely increase when absentee ballots are counted. For most of the day local residents waited in line for an hour or more at the town's two polling places. The weather was perfect and for most people, the excitement of the election seemed to outweigh the inconvenience of standing in line.

No one mirrored that excitement better than Robert Randall, 30, who voted for the first time in his life. Randall just moved to LBTS a few months ago, but he did not realize that his voter registration had been switched to here. He waited in line for more than three hours on election day to vote at his old polling

place in Deerfield Beach, only to find out that he had to vote in LBTS. Undeterred, Randall waited another hour and a half in line at the Assumption Church before he finally got to cast his votes. "Something's got to change," he said.

"I've been voting all my life and I've never seen a turnout like this," said Andrew Lewis, as he emerged from the poll after an hour and a half wait. "I think it's great." His views were echoed by Beverly Ament, who said "it's uplifting to see so many people in line." Greta Farley added: "I think it's going to be the biggest election ever." Hank and Jillian Contich were among the children who waited patiently in line with their parents. "It's cool," said Hank, 11, adding that

his parents have brought them with them several times to vote in the past.

There were no serious problems at the polling places in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, but those who voted did voice a few complaints. Some said the small print on the ballots was difficult to read, and others were confused because they were printed in multiple languages.

Some local voters complained about the cheap ball-point pens, while others expressed concern that their privacy was violated because pollworkers could see how they voted when they helped feed their ballots into the scanning machines.

## LBTS UNITES TO PROVIDE A SPOOKY AND SAFE HALLOWEEN FOR KIDS

by Cindy Geesey

From pirates to princesses, from batman to butterflies, the costumes were creative and fun at the town sponsored "Children's Halloween Party & Haunted House" held on October 31.

A maze was set up at Municipal Park behind Town Hall, and costumed representatives from various organizations and businesses stood at frightfully decorated tables to hand out candy. Hundreds of children, often accompanied by parents and grandparents, wove their way through the maze, collecting handfuls of candy at each table. It was clear that the children enjoyed the candy, but their families enjoyed the evening just as much.

Sharon Huff of Frame 'N Art stood at her table with a third bloody foot peeping out



from under her witch's dress. She told the children, "Trick-or-treat, smell my feet, then I'll give you something good to eat." As they reached for the candy in her bowl, a skeleton hand popped out, scaring both children and adults. Following the trick-or-treating, a costume contest was held for different age categories with Toys R' Us gift certificates as prizes. Finally, the parties took a tour of the fright-filled Haunted House, expertly staged by Marc and Chrissie Furth.

Thanks go to the many volunteers, participants, and guests who took part in the fun, and especially to Commissioner Jim Silverstone who chaired the event and to his fiancé Peggy Mohler. Mayor Minnet greeted all the parties and said, "It was great to see everyone at this community event. It's an example of the best of small town life."





### 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 October 20, 2008. Read the full commission meeting report below for details about how it all went down.

ITEM VOTED ON:	Minnet	McIntee	Silverstone	Clottey	Dodd
spend \$2,745 to purchase and install an electronic voting system for the commission	N	Y	N	Y	Y
spend \$5,000 for iguana control	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
table motion to create a topless bar district in town	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
resolution urging state to fully fund Broward County traffic magistrate system	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

### COMMISSION MEETING REPORT - 10-20-08

If Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee gets his way, LBTS could soon be offering a new source of entertainment in town--topless bars. Speaking at the continuation of the October 14 town commission meeting, which took place on October 20, McIntee proposed that a special district be established in LBTS where topless dancing would be permitted.

McIntee said he came up with the idea after hearing a rumor that one of the larger resorts along A1A was planning to open a topless bar. McIntee first proposed to ban all topless dancing in town, but town attorney Daniel Abbott said such a motion would be unconstitutional. McIntee then proposed that a special entertainment district be created along Commercial Boulevard where topless dancing would be permitted. "I don't want to have a topless bar on A1A," McIntee told the meeting. "I would ask the town attorney to set up that zone between Tradewinds and Sea Grape."

McIntee's proposal took his fellow commissioners by surprise. Town Manager Esther Colon said there is already an ordinance on the books dealing with topless bars in LBTS. The commissioners voted 5-0 to table McIntee's proposal until the January 13, 2009 commission meeting.

Next up for the commissioners was a discussion of the parking situation along A1A in front of the new volunteer firefighters dormitory. Commissioner Birute Clottey proposed that parking be limited to only one am-

balance when the dormitory opens in a few months, to limit the problem of multiple vehicles backing out onto A1A. Town Manager Colon said she already plans to restrict parking in front of the building to one ambulance and one handicapped parking space, so the issue was resolved without coming to a vote.

The commission then turned its attention to the problem of iguanas, which are rapidly eating their way through neighborhoods across the town. Clottey said the town's last attempt at iguana control this past summer did not go very well, because the trapper they hired took the \$1,000 they paid him but did not do very much work. "Everybody has an iguana story," Clottey said. "This has got to be done systematically." Commissioner Stuart Dodd said the iguana problem has "reached epic proportions in some areas. They are a health hazard. It's something we have to do."

Mayor Minnet said she sympathized with the problem, but said it should be up to individual homeowners to pay for iguana control, not the town. The commissioners then voted 4-1 to take \$5,000 from the town's emergency reserve fund to pay for another iguana control program, with Minnet voting no.

The final vote of the evening was 5-0 in favor of a resolution proposed by Minnet to urge the state of Florida to pay the costs of the traffic magistrate program in Broward County--a move which could save the town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea as much as \$90,000 a year.

The October 28 commission meeting was one of the shortest in recent history--less than two hours long. With very few items of business on the agenda, it turned into a pick-on-the-mayor night. Commissioner Clottey kicked it off by proposing that Mayor Minnet's salary be cut by 25%, to bring it in line with the other four commissioners' pay. The mayor's salary has traditionally been slightly higher in LBTS because the mayor is required to perform certain additional duties. (The mayor earns about \$12,000 a year, the commissioners receive \$10,000).

Commissioners Jim Silverstone and Jerry McIntee quickly sided with Clottey, questioning the fairness of paying the mayor more. Commissioner Stuart Dodd pointed out that Minnet performs many ceremonial functions on behalf of the town which he has no desire to do, and said she deserves the extra compensation. After taking their shots at Minnet, the commissioners decided to simply drop Clottey's motion without bringing it to a vote.

The commission also voted to spend \$2,745 to purchase and install an electronic voting system, so that all commissioners can record their votes at the same time. The proposal was once again aimed at the mayor, who is required to vote last under the town charter. McIntee said the electronic system is needed because some commissioners change their votes during the roll call in order to be on the winning side. The vote was 3-2, with Minnet and Silverstone voting no.

### LBTS MAYOR'S COMMENTS



Mayor Roseann Minnet

The volunteer fire department has been on the job for a month and already there are questions concerning the qualifications, training and record-keeping of the VFD. I have been an advocate for the residents and businesses who want to be assured of the best safety for our town. I will continue to ask the tough questions, whether or not there are criticisms, to make sure the system is working the way it should.

In that regard, I believe the Insurance Services Office (ISO) should come into LBTS immediately to assess our town. The ISO is a national organization which rates the fire departments of towns and cities for insurance purposes. They are an independent and impartial organization which will help us determine if the VFD needs to make any changes or improvements.

The ISO recently wrote to the town commission, informing us that they intend to start their review of LBTS in January. I say why wait? With all the questions that have been raised about the VFD in the last few weeks, an independent review is just what we need. The leaders of the VFD have assured us that they are ready to go and that everything is going fine. The vice mayor even stated that the ISO is the best oversight, so let's do it.

This is not about special interests, it is about public safety. If the ISO rating comes in at a good level, then all will be said and done. But if it does not, then let's evaluate the situation, work towards a solution, and above all make sure the residents and businesses of LBTS are safe. It's one thing to say that the VFD is prepared, but when it comes down to the grade, let's hope everything really measures up.

Also, I know many have been wondering why I voted "no" to allocating additional funds to iguana control. I am a fiscal conservative and will not allow funds to be spent on projects that I feel are not the responsibility of government. Our responsibility is to the people. Yes, iguanas are a nuisance, but so are certain types of ducks, pigeons and water rats. We can't spend

public money to control every animal because some people feel they are a nuisance.

Lets join together with our neighboring communities and pass a resolution to urge the Broward County Commission to consider adding iguanas to the category of pythons, anacondas and Nile monitor lizards, so we can receive some help to control them. The iguanas are a matter of concern, but where does the buck stop? I will not dip into the hard-earned taxes that each and every resident and business pays to our community for projects that should be the responsibility of individual homeowners.

We have no money in our town's capital improvement budget, but we're spending money on iguanas. That's wrong. I will concentrate my efforts on the infrastructure of our community, assuring everyone of the best public safety, and most of all, being a representative that the people have elected me to be, standing up for the rights of all and continuing to ask the hard questions. As always please contact me at any time. You may not always like my answers, but they will be straightforward and based on fact, not fiction, and always for the community.

### BSO POLICE BLOTTER - OCTOBER 2008

**10/02/08** W/F arrested at 4501 North Ocean Drive for an active warrant reference manufacturing cannabis and possession of cannabis. **10/02/08** W/M was issued a Notice to Appear for misdemeanor battery at 107 Commercial Boulevard. **10/04/08** W/M was stopped at 221 Commercial Boulevard for a traffic violation. Further investigation revealed defendant was in possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis. Notice to Appear was issued. **10/05/08** H/M arrested at El Mar Drive and Hibiscus Avenue for D.U.I. **10/06/08** W/M arrested at 1439 North Ocean Boulevard for felony narcotics. **10/07/08** Two W/Ms were arrested at 4600 North Ocean Drive for disorderly conduct. **10/07/08** W/F arrested at 101 Commercial Boulevard for defrauding an innkeeper and possession of narcotics. **10/08/08** W/M arrested at 4129 El Mar Drive aggravated domestic battery. **10/08/08** W/M arrested at 4300 North Ocean Drive for possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and drinking in public. **10/08/08** W/M arrested at 4660 North Ocean Drive for warrant reference contempt of court. **10/09/08** B/M and W/F were arrested at 4725 North Ocean Boulevard, Sea Ranch Lakes for active warrants out of Asheville, NC reference possession of a firearm and trafficking. **10/10/08** H/M was involved in a traffic accident at 5100 North Ocean Drive. Subject was arrested for operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license. **10/10/08** Traffic stop was conducted at 5500 North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale. B/M passenger was arrested for active warrant reference possession of cannabis. **10/10/08** W/M arrested at 4500 North Ocean Drive due to an active warrant for intoxicated/safety of others. **10/11/08** W/M arrested at 1 Commercial Boulevard for trespassing. **10/13/08** W/M arrested at 1901 South Ocean Boulevard for active warrant out of Sarasota County reference failure to appear/larceny. **10/14/08** W/F arrested at 4221 Bougainvillea Drive for disorderly conduct. **10/14/08** W/M arrested at 4419 West Tradewinds Avenue for active warrant reference operating without a valid driver's license. **10/14/08** W/M was issued a Notice to Appear at 4600 North Ocean Drive for violation of Broward County Ordinance 21-143. **10/16/08** W/M arrested at 4400 North Ocean Drive for disorderly conduct. **10/19/08** W/M arrested at 4700 North Ocean Drive for misdemeanor narcotics. **10/20/08** W/M arrested at 4600 block of North Ocean Drive for driving without a license and failure to maintain single lane. **10/20/08** W/M issued a Notice to Appear at 101 Commercial Boulevard for violation of Town Ordinance 14-2(b). **10/21/08** W/F arrested at 4301 North Ocean Drive for violation of probation, possession of cocaine, driving while license suspended and expired tag. **10/21/08** W/M arrested at 4700 North Ocean Drive for active warrant out of Broward County reference petit theft. **10/24/08** W/M arrested at 4360 El Mar Drive for grand theft. **10/28/08** W/M arrested at 4500 El Mar Drive for felony narcotics. **10/29/08** W/M arrested at 4330 El Mar Drive for active warrant reference burglary. **10/30/08** W/F arrested at 4557 North Ocean Drive for two outstanding warrants reference violation of probation for possession/delivery Alprazolax Zanax and possession of cocaine.



### LBTS HISTORY: PART OF THE FRONTIER

by Frank J. Cavaioli, Ph. D.

In 1890 the United Census announced the close of the American frontier, based on the increase of population in the American West. Historian Frederick Jackson Turner believed this was a pivotal event in the history of the nation. Turner said that "disappearance of the frontier" ended a movement that began in 1607 and led to a new era in American history. His research on the study of the American West concluded that the frontier had produced democracy, individualism, and freedom.

Turner said free land made free men and women. Individuals living on the frontier had to rely on their creativity, initiative, cooperation, and hard work to survive. For the European family living on the American frontier, lineage and class status meant nothing. Turner said, "American democracy is fundamentally the outcome of the experience of the American people in dealing with the West." The environment, rather than heredity, produced an exceptional American civilization.

Contrast this development with what was happening in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. In spite of the fact that Intracoastal Canal southward to Biscayne Bay was completed in 1890, and the Flagler East Coast Railway was completed six years later, South Florida remained a wilderness with little development, lack of amenities, overgrown vegetation, and wild animals. It is true that towns were being incorporated (Miami 1896, Dania 1904, Pompano Beach 1908, Fort Lauderdale 1911), but there were few modern advances and tiny populations in these communities. Lauderdale-By-The-Sea was formed 1927 with only 70 people residing there.

William F. Morang, an entrepreneur from Boston, platted the land in 1924 from the ocean to Poinciana Street for what became the basis of the new town. Melvin Anglin, a contractor/real estate agent from Indiana, and Glen Freidt, a businessman from Michigan, also contributed to the physical and political development of the community. With fewer than one hundred people living there in this period, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea remained a frontier, just swampland and animals. To the north, the city of Pompano contained 269 people in 1910.

Writing a history of Broward County for a New Deal WPA Federal Writers Project in 1936, author Frances H. Miner described Broward "in embryo" in this way:

The Everglades, stretching inland from the sea, vast, mysterious, impenetrable, hammock and glade matted with tough trailing vines and tropical undergrowth; swamp and forest; mangroves on their slow, implacable march to the ocean; the home of wild turkey, of families of chattering parakeets; panther, bear, the predatory wolf; the Indian. This was Broward County in embryo. It was a country that long blocked the efforts of exploration; the coming of the white was delayed.

Thus, Broward County remained under-developed as late the 1930s. Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, as a part and extension of Broward County, in the early years of the twentieth century possessed the characteristics of a frontier society lacking the amenities of sewers, roads, and government services. The major hurricanes of 1926 and 1928, as well as the stock market crash in 1929 and ensuing Great Depression, further hindered development. The United States Census should have considered conditions in South Florida when it declared the official close of the frontier in the American West.

**Dr. Cavaioli's definitive history of LBTS, published in 2003, is available at area bookstores and at The Village Market. His latest book Pompano Beach, A History was written as a Centennial history of Pompano Beach and is also available in area bookstores. ByTheSeaFuture newspaper is proud to have an historian of his caliber as a contributor.**

### TURN GARBAGE BAGS INTO PURSES

More than 100 area women are expected to attend a class to learn how to turn plastic grocery bags into beach bags and purses. The class was formerly held at one of the condos on the Galt Ocean Mile, but the interest was so great that the class will now be held at the Beach Community Center, 3351 NE 33 Avenue.

On Monday, November 10, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., teachers Marina Decker, Shirley Oberg and Joan Campana will show women how to crochet the plastic grocery bags into usable purses and totes. The class is free, but students are asked to bring in 25 bags and a crochet needle. Participant Linda Hagen says, "If it's free, it's for me. Go Green!" For more information, call Susan Riestra at 954-828-4610.



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### BY-THE-SEA LADIES HELP HOMELESS

by Cindy Geesey

Hyaat Aldahwi, 9 year old daughter of Angela and Hayder Aldahwi, is passionate about her favorite hobby, ice skating, but she is equally as passionate about the needs of the area homeless, and she has taken that up as her special cause.

Four years ago when Hyaat was not quite six years old, her mother decided she needed a lesson in how fortunate she was to enjoy the life she did. The lesson was prompted by Hyaat's repeated request for something her mom told her she couldn't have. Angela couldn't find a soup kitchen they could visit, so she called the Homeless Voice newspaper and was referred to the Dania Beach Homeless Shelter. Hyaat decided to take candy to the shelter, and so her first gift to the people there was 100 bags of assorted candy that she assembled herself. As she passed out the candy bags, she offered one to a man in a wheelchair but he couldn't accept it because he was diabetic. She was determined then to visit the shelter again with sugar free candy.



**Hyaat Aldahwi chooses candies for her next visit to the homeless shelter.**

Not only did Hyaat return with the sugar free candy, but she has taken gifts to the shelter monthly and on holidays ever since the first visit. Her mother says, "Hyaat is always brainstorming, thinking of what we can take next." The Aldahwis are greeted when they get to the shelter with "The By The Sea Ladies are here!" New residents at the shelter are sometimes a bit reserved at first, wondering why a young girl is there, but every visit quickly turns into a party. "One person said she hit the jackpot when she got a lollipop ring," remembers Hyaat with a pleased smile.

According to Angela, the shelter has a capacity of 165 people, and there is one floor for families and one for singles. Most of the singles are 50 years old or more. There are a few residents whom they see every visit, and they know a number of them by name. Angela says, "The people are depressed when we get there but happy by the time we leave. They always ask when we'll be back and some have special requests." Hyaat adds, "We take things for granted that are very special to them." That was exactly the lesson her mother set out to teach her.

The Aldahwis live in LBTS and own both the Kwik Pic and By the Sea Laundry. One of their vendors at the store is donating damaged goods that can't be sold, and they're also able to buy from wholesalers. Clothes that are abandoned at their laundry find their way to the shelter, and Angela has received donations from other laundries and dry cleaners, too.

Food is not a problem at the shelter, but there is a long list of items that are needed. If you have any of the following to donate, please drop it off at By the Sea Laundry at 4323 N. Ocean Drive next to Walgreen's: Entertainment items including radios and puzzles, sheets and blankets, deodorants and lotions, books and magazines, personal grooming items like razors and toiletries. If you don't have anything to donate and are interested in helping, a gift of money will allow the "By the Sea Ladies" to buy what is needed.

When asked who benefits more from her visits to the shelter, Hyaat responds, "I do." Her mother says she cries every time they leave and is always sad about how much needs to be done. This extraordinary nine year old girl not only learned how fortunate she is, as her mother intended four years ago, but she also learned that "it's better to give than to receive." Kudos to both Hyaat Aldahwi and her parents. **See page 8 for a list of items on the Homeless Wish List.**

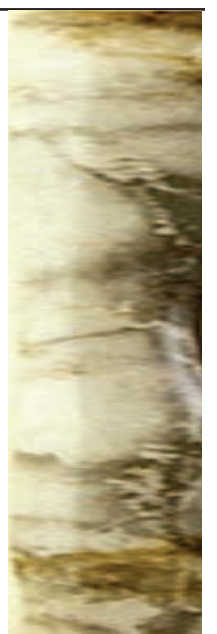
### ECO-FRIENDLY FAUX FINISHES

The Tuesday, November 11 meeting of Our Art-by-the-Sea Association will feature a presentation by Romana "Romi" Taramis on "Creative Fantasy Faux Marbles and Stones For Any Surfaces."

The meeting will be held at the LBTS Community Church from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Romi will show and teach attendees about "new Eco-friendly durable faux finishing products great for remodeling and adding something unique and practical to your home."

Romi's work can be seen at the association's Art Show at the Lighthouse Point Library where she won first prize in the mixed media category. Her specialties include designing and painting murals, Trompe-l'oeil, faux finishing, decorative details, paintings and furnishings.

For more information, call the Program Chair Fran Scheffler at 954-772-1684.





## ABRU CAFFE PERKS UP LBTS SCENE

by Cindy Geesey



Abru Caffe owner Anna Fabris with frequent diner Sam Genco.

It's a family affair at the new Italian coffee shop and restaurant located at 263 Commercial Boulevard. The owners of this unique food boutique are husband and wife team Stefano and Anna Fabris, her brother Leo DeVincentis (also the contractor), and their mother Adele DeVincentis. Though none of them have been in the restaurant business before, "we all know what we like when we go out so we put all our ideas together," said Anna. The name "Abru" came from the fact that their family originated in Abruzzo, Italy, and is also a play on "a brew."

In addition to an amazing variety of coffees and teas, you'll find a range of Italian products - pastas, oils, cookies, Baci chocolates. Breakfast offerings include croissants and sweets, and for lunch you can choose from a menu of salads, sandwiches and ricotta cheesecake.

According to local and already frequent customer Sam Genco, "The place is fantastic. Nice coffee, great tuna fish salad the other day. I recommend it to all my friends."

Hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and they're open until 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

## ALL ABOUT THE ALTAR GUILD

By Cindy Geesey



Joan Englander, Marie Chiarello, Anna Siegfried and Mary Gadrey are all smiles after an Altar Guild meeting.

Made up of about 80 members, many of whom are our valued "snowbirds," the Altar Guild of Assumption Church combines socializing with service to the Parish. Their new year began on October 9, and they will meet the second Thursday of every month through April.

The Guild has great activities planned that will raise funds for special projects. According to President Elaine Grant, "We do a lot of work for Broward Outreach, helping the homeless and people who need nurturing and/or rehabilitation. We're very involved with Church fundraising and special events, and we do a lot with the money we raise."

The Altar Guild also collects food for area food banks and toiletries for the homeless, and they provide food coupons for those who come to the rectory and are hungry. At Christmas, they prepare special decorated shoeboxes that they fill with gifts for Broward Outreach, and they provide an Angel Tree so that people can choose an "outreach child" for whom they can buy a gift.



Last year members were also able to provide funds to put carpet in the back area of the Church, to provide new vestments for the priests, to buy new stoves for the Parish Hall, to do some refurbishing, "all for the good of the Church." Their responsibilities include setting up the altar for weekend masses and decorating for holy days.

During the year, the Altar Guild holds special events that are open to the community. Those include the popular Chinese Auction, the Gaelic and Garlic Dinner, field trips to the Hard Rock Casino, drawings for the 300 Club in which weekly winners receives \$1000, delicious fish dinners, Mardi Gras Casino Days, and fashion shows.

Dorothy Smith has been a member for six years and says, "I wanted to help the Church. I like meeting new people and feel like I'm contributing. Mary Gadrey is a long time member and serves as 1st Vice President and Eucharistic Minister. She says, "The Altar Guild brings people together and has a lot of projects to help the Church."

While the Guild is a woman's association, President Elaine Grant joked that LBTS residents "Buster Celestino and Dave Gambetta do so much they should be honorary members." Both gentlemen do the cooking for the popular fish dinners. She adds, "We're all especially thankful for the generosity of all the local businesses who donate goods for our various projects and events."

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 13 with Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon at Sea Watch. On December 3, the group will leave the Church at 10:00 a.m. for a Mardi Gras Casino Day. Reservations for both days can be made by calling Dorothy Smith at 954-942-9946.

For more information about the Altar Guild, contact President Elaine Grant at 954-784-6856.

# PLEASE HELP HYAAT HELP THE HOMELESS

Read the article on page 8 to learn about how Hyaat Aldahwi has set out to help the homeless people of our community, then bring items found on the list to drop-off locations in Lauderdale-by-The-Sea.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE OVER 3 MILLION HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES?**  
**DID YOU KNOW THAT 40% OF THEM ARE FAMILIES?**  
**DID YOU KNOW THAT 1 IN EVERY 4 HOMELESS PERSON IS A CHILD?**  
**DID YOU KNOW THAT MANY OF THEM ARE OLDER THAN YOUR MOM OR DAD?**

**MY NAME IS HYAAT AND I AM 9 YEARS OLD AND I DONATE ITEMSTO THE HOMELESS SHELTER MONTHLY. THIS IS THEIR WISH LIST:**

- DEODORANT
- SANITARY PADS
- SOAP
- SHAMPOO
- CONDITIONER
- LOTIONS
- RAZORS
- SHAVING CREAM
- COLOGNE
- AFTERSHAVE
- PERFUME
- MAKE UP
- TOE NAIL CLIPPERS
- UNDERWEAR
- SOCKS
- TEE SHIRTS
- PUZZLE BOOKS
- READING BOOKS
- MAGAZINES
- PLAYING CARDS
- COSTUME JEWELRY

**ANY BASIC ITEM THAT ME AND YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED!  
 YOU CAN DROP OFF YOUR ITEMS AT:  
 BY THE SEA LAUNDRY OR AT KWIK PIC**

**YOUR HEART AND SOUL WILL THANK YOU FOR HELPING!!**

## PUT A LITTLE LOVE IN YOUR HEART

by Vincent J. Ragusa

Black, White, Muslim or Jew,  
 If they're hurt or cut, they bleed like you.

North, south, east or west,  
 Our dear Lord placed us here to do our best.

Gay or straight, they all are winners.  
 We should condemn the sin and not the sinners.

Reach out your hand, offer your heart.  
 Add a smile, a hug, you'll never be apart.

We're all God's children; he made us as one.  
 If there were no hate or prejudice, now wouldn't that be fun.

You are my brother, my sister, my friend.  
 It's now time for prejudice to come to an end.

Men and women, young and old,  
 Clear your head and start to think bold.

We're all God's children, with one Father for all.  
 Put a little love in your heart and stand up tall.

Open your heart, let me hear you pray...  
 For an equal, creative and loving way.

To bring this to an end, I have one thing more to say.  
 Live, love, be happy and don't forget to pray.





LBTS Royalty King and Queen Marc and Terry Koppelman with princesses Caitlin and Sadie partied with friend Emily Rose Fabian.



Hayder, Hyaat & Angela Aldahwi enjoy the spooky merriment at the Halloween event on October 31.



Three of the hundreds of excited trick-or-treaters who attended the Haunted Happening at town hall.



LBTS Commissioner Birute Clotney, an alien space invader, an elated lady being constricted by a boa and an Ozzie Osbourne fan enjoy the scary party.



Margaret Reichenstein & June Lassel represented Citizens On Patrol at the Halloween event with their friend "Peanuts" the M&M.



Two members of the Community Church enjoy five bountiful platefuls of Halloween candy at the town's sweet-tooth's dream of a spooky fête.

**The Holiday Season's Around The Corner!**  
 It's a great time to advertise in the newspaper.  
 Secure your space today. Call 772-4233.

A sit-down dinner  
**SHOULDN'T COST**  
 A MILLION-BILLION-TRILLION DOLLARS.

**THERE'S ALWAYS A GOOD REASON TO BUCA.**

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Introducing five new dinner menu items and a \$10 coupon your family — and your budget — will love. What's new for dinner? Scampi Finocchiona, Bucacini and Stuffed Mushrooms. Try one or order one of our traditional favorites and you'll get \$10 off.\* Then try a pint of our Buca Gelato della Casa for dessert or get it to go. Just bring this coupon and your appetite in soon!

Get **\$10 OFF**  
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 954.229.0922

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bucadibepo.com

\*Dial 1-866-EAT BUCA (1-866-329-2822) for Reservations and Locations. One per visit/table. Please bring in this coupon in order to receive discount at time of purchase. Not valid with any other discounts/offers. Tax/gift cards/ alcoholic beverages and gratuity excluded. Valid for dine in or take out through 11/20/08. Code: LSM \$ OFF.

**CARINA'S**

**Stone Fired Pizza-Gelato**  
 OUR PLANET & YOUR WELL BEING IS OUR PRIORITY

Catering for all occasions  
 at our place or yours  
 Specialty Menu  
 Gelato Italian Ice Cream Cake  
 for catering or special order

**Carina's Stone Fired Pizza-Gelato**  
 You'll find a wide variety of unique pizzas, signature sandwiches on freshly baked bread and custom made salads using the freshest fruits and vegetables from Chef Pasquale. Our soups are freshly prepared and the gelato is authentic, natural and made daily with less than 7 grams of fat. You can choose from organic beverages, specialty teas and coffees and a great selection of beers, wines and sangria.

At Carina's we strive for excellence and hope you will enjoy your experience. Bon Appetito! Mangia!

OPEN DAILY 11 AM-10 PM WEEKDAYS  
 10 AM - 11 PM WEEKENDS

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 4743 NORTH OCEAN DRIVE, SEA RANCH LAKES, FL 33308



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\* Televised on Channel 78

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

**November 10, Monday:** Learn how to crochet plastic grocery bags into purses and beach bags at the Beach Community Center from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Call Susan Riestra at 954-828-4610,

**November 10, Monday:** The LBTS Garden Club meets at 9:15 a.m. at Jarvis Hall and Sandy Granson will speak about butterfly gardens. Call Kit Cashman at 954-650-5918.

**November 10, Monday:** Town Commission Meeting - Jarvis Hall at 7:00 p.m. \*

**November 11, Tuesday:** Our Art-by-the-Sea meets at the Community Church at 7:00 p.m. and will feature "Creative Fantasy Faux Marbles & Stones for any Surface." Call Fran Scheffler at 954-772-1684.

**November 13, Thursday:** Join members of The Altar Guild for the annual Fall Luncheon at Sea Watch Restaurant - 11:30 a.m. RSVP to 954-785-1458.

**November 15, Saturday:** Congregational Breakfast at the Community Church begins at 9:00 a.m.

**November 15, Saturday:** Come shop at the Terra Mar Island Yard Sale from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**November 18, Tuesday:** Master Plan Steering Committee Jarvis Hall at 6:30 p.m.

**November 19, Wednesday:** The Lions Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at The Holiday Inn. Call Mike San Miguel at 954-647-7752.

**November 19, Wednesday:** Planning & Zoning Board meets at 6:30 p.m. at Jarvis Hall. Call 954-776-3611 to confirm. \*

**November 20, Thursday:** LBTS Woman's Club meets at 11:00 a.m. at the clubhouse. Call President Linda Collins at 954-234-6662 for reservations.

**November 22-23, Saturday and Sunday:** The Arts and Crafts show, sponsored by the LBTS Chamber of Commerce, will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. downtown. Call 954-776-1000 for more information.

**November 25, Tuesday:** Town Commission Meeting - Jarvis Hall at 7:00 p.m. \*

**November 27, Thursday:** Happy Thanksgiving!

**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 promises snow at the annual Christmas By the Sea that starts at 4:30 p.m. downtown.

### NEW CHAMBER MEMBER PROFILES

"LBTS's small town feeling, central location, and sense of community" are what caused Cathi Guerrieri to locate her new store at 238 Commercial Boulevard. Cathi's is "a shop that celebrates the bright, cheerful feeling of Florida, offering gifts and home accessories."



**Cathi Guerrieri displays some of the unique gifts at her new store, Cathi's.**

You'll find a variety of items ranging from tote bags, tabletop items, handbags, to throws, available in all price ranges. Cathi offers gift wrapping so it's easy to pull up, run in, and find what you need for the perfect gift for that special occasion.

Cathi's is also the place you'll find for the most special gift - the one you give yourself! Cathi invites all locals and visitors to stop in. "I'm excited to be in LBTS; everyone has been very friendly and welcoming to me." Call Cathi at 954-533-6180.



"If you're looking for a family restaurant with a great selection of food at amazing prices and great drink specials, visit Ale House of Ft. Lauderdale" invites manager Chris Schafer. Located at 2861 N. Federal Highway, they've been in business 7 years and specialize in fingers and wings, steaks, and seafood specials and also offer "Kids Eat Free" nights. Customers choose Ale House of Ft. Lauderdale "because of the great service, wide selection of food and drink, and daily lunch and dinner specials." Chris wants everyone to know that, "We're always excited to have locals and visitors come in for a great time with good friends and great drinks." Gift certificates are available for holiday giving. Call 954-565-5747 for more info.

### TERRA MAR YARD SALE

On Saturday, November 15, from 8:00am until 1:00pm, all residents of the Terra Mar Island community in northern LBTS are invited by their Civic Association to participate in an island wide yard sale. The Terra Mar Association will handle all advertising and permits. Residents are just responsible for putting out items for sale in front of their beautiful island homes.



This is a great chance to meet new people, make a little money and see your "trash" become someone else's "treasure." For more info, call Vito Chiarello at 954-784-6931.

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner 7 Days Each Week!**  
 Restaurant, Martini Bar, Live Music, Steaks, Seafood, Salads, Sandwiches & More  
 Neighborhood Pub, Market and Liquor Store, Truly a Local Legend and Landmark

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 In the Heart of Pelican Square!

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 Fine Wines, Cheeses and Gourmet Items  
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Live Entertainment Throughout the Week  
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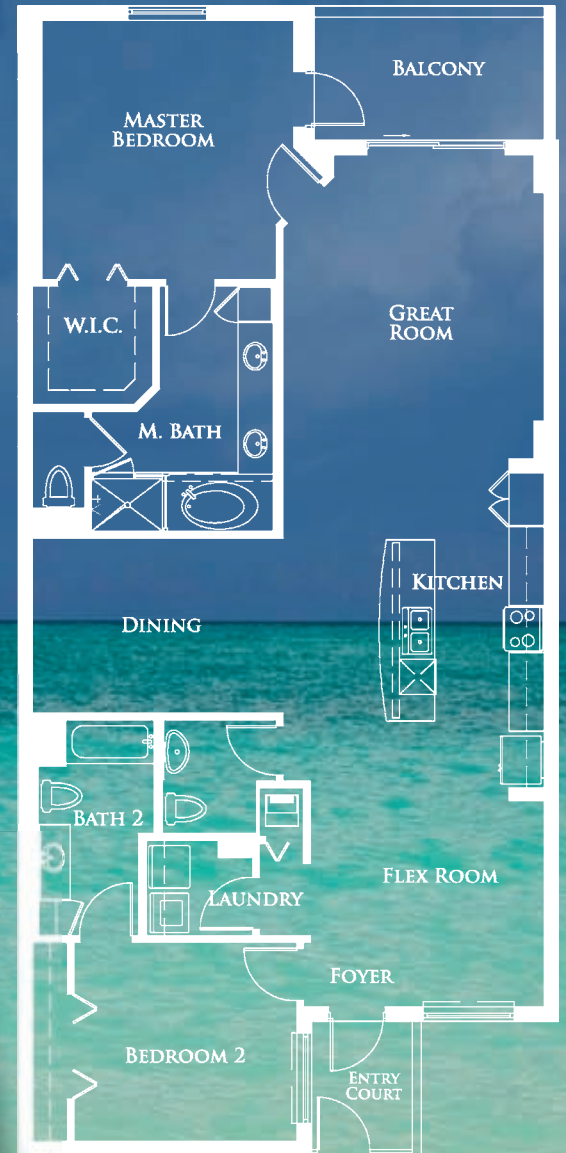
What's more, the Oceanside building & beach club are under construction and will be ready this Fall.

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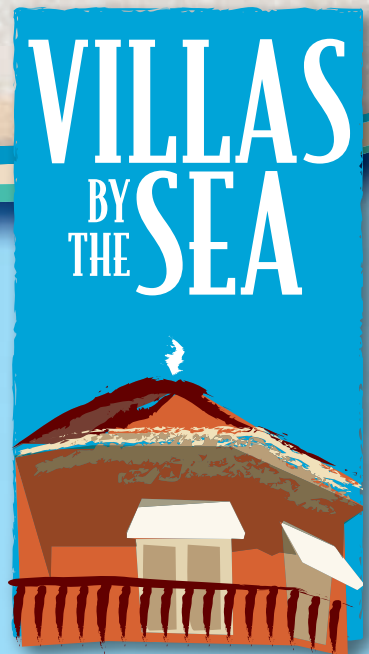
*Oceanfront Residences from \$1 million*

*Oceanside Residences from \$539,900*



*Horizon Residence, 1,762 A/C sq. ft.  
Oceanside from \$539,900\**

**OVER 50% SOLD!**



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\*\*PLEASE, NO OPEN-TOE SHOES OR SANDALS. HARD HATS WILL BE PROVIDED.

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