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February 20, 2009

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## LBTS TASTE OF THE BEACH, A VERITABLE GARDEN OF EATIN'

by Cindy Geesey

Locals residents and visitors to the town often refer to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea as a "paradise," and the 8th Annual Taste of the Beach set in the park at El Prado and ElMar will be a true "Garden of Eatin'."

This palette-pleasing annual event will be held from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, and guests will again be greeted by the steel drums of Oceanik. Samples of appetizers, entrees and desserts will be provided by over 40 area restaurants, and a number of beer, wine and liquor suppliers will offer adult beverages. From cookies to canapes, pizza to picatta, there will be food to delight the most discriminating connoisseur. Inside the 120' tent, guests will dine and dance to the popular Rick Bauer Band, all for an all-inclusive price of just \$35 (\$37 at the door).

Chamber Executive Director Judy Swaggerty is especially excited about the Silent and Chinese auctions. For the first time this year, a thirty minute ride on the

famous Goodyear Blimp will be a Silent Auction item, and the value is listed as "priceless." The Bonefish Grill is again donating a dinner for six, and Il Lugano Luxury Suite Hotel is offering a weekend getaway. Another very special item, the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea destination bracelet, was generously donated by P.J. Rossi Jewelers. According to Judy, "Over 25 restaurants and businesses have donated auction items and we appreciate so very much their support."

Another exciting addition this year is that CBS-4 meteorologist David Bernard will be broadcasting weather reports live from the event from 5:00 until 6:30 p.m. This is another example of the Chamber providing far reaching good publicity for the town.

The Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Chamber of Commerce is the sponsor of the event which is a joint effort by members of the Board of Directors and dedicated staff and volunteers. Eight years ago, Gayle Stroger was

General Manager of Aruba Beach Cafe and a Director on the Chamber Board. She had been involved with similar food events in the area and, according to then Chamber President Sandra Booth, "was the inspiration for the event." Gayle in turn gives credit to fellow director Mary Seip LaManto. Mary owned a printing company and had a lot of contacts with area restaurants because of her work with designing and printing menus. The three women worked together to develop an event which "was good not just for our area but for our neighbors as well," says Sandra. She adds, "Taste of the Beach reminds us all of events where we grew up that showcased the best the area had to offer. It's apple pie, motherhood, and Hometown USA all rolled into one!"

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## GOVERNOR OPPOSES CALYPSO PORT

by Mark Brown

Florida Governor Charlie Crist announced on February 18 that he intends to oppose the construction of a controversial liquefied natural gas terminal eight miles off the coast of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and the Galt Ocean Mile. Crist's announcement drew a thundering ovation from the nearly 300 people who packed a local community center to take part in a town hall meeting with the governor.

Crist's opposition does not stop the Calypso LNG project cold, but it amounts to a virtual dagger through its heart. The U.S. Coast Guard has indicated that it still plans to move ahead with a final public hearing on the project, but federal law gives the governor the authority to veto it even if the federal government signs off on it. Without Crist on board, the project's sponsor--Suez Energy Company--faces an uphill battle to get it approved.

Crist announced his opposition to the Calypso at a town hall meeting which was organized by the Galt Mile Community Association. In response to a question from Fred Nesbitt, a Galt resident who was one of the early leaders of the anti-Calypso effort, Crist said the LNG terminal does not make sense to him. Nesbitt told the governor that the Calypso posed an enormous threat to the marine environment, public safety, national security and the local tourist economy. He pointed out that if there is a major accident or terrorist attack and an LNG tanker is breached that close to shore, "all of us in this room will be vaporized. We think that's a lot of risk for a project that we really don't need."



Governor Charlie Crist

Continued on Page 5

## PUSH TO FUND PALM CLUB SEWERS

by Mark Brown

In a sharp reversal of policy, the town is going all out in an effort to obtain a federal grant to pay for the long-awaited sewer project at the Palm Club. The town is seeking \$3.1 million to install the sanitary sewers as part of the economic stimulus plan which Congress recently passed to create jobs through infrastructure improvement projects around the country.

Just last May, the town commission, led by Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee, voted against funding the Palm Club sewers, even though the town had already spent about \$50,000 to complete the engineering and design work and the project was ready to go to construction. In fact, McIntee had the commission cancel the project's authorization and wipe it completely off the town's books. He was joined in that effort by Commissioners Jim Silverstone, Birute Clotey and Stuart Dodd, while Mayor Roseann Minnet stood alone in support of the Palm Club.



The Palm Club, LBTS

Today it is a completely different story. On January 28, Town Manager Esther Colon sent letters to Congressman Ron Klein, Governor Charlie Crist, State Senator Jeff Atwater and State Representative Elynn Bogdanoff, outlining the details of the sewer project and requesting that it be funded. Mayor Minnet has already met personally with Rep. Klein to lobby for the project, and she has discussed it by telephone with Sen. Atwater and Rep. Bogdanoff to solicit their help in getting it approved.

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## IT'S TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS LEADERSHIP IN LBTS

by Mark Brown

If ever there was a need for decisive leadership by the LBTS town commission, it's now. The town is facing a major lawsuit from five properties in the north end of town under Florida's Bert J. Harris Act. The lawsuit will be seeking millions of dollars in compensation for the lost value of their land, which resulted from the height limit referendum which the town passed in 2006. If this case goes to court and the town loses, every property owner in LBTS could be faced with thousands of dollars in increased taxes and assessments to pay off the judgments. The town itself could be forced into bankruptcy and literally wiped off the map.

Fortunately, there are some fair and reasonable options for the town commission to consider to resolve the lawsuit problem before it starts to cost the taxpayers a lot of money. All it will take is for the commission to stop playing political games, stop risking our money, and deliver some true leadership to deal with this enormous threat.

The simplest way to resolve the lawsuit problem would be to give town residents an opportunity to vote on a referendum to restore the pre-annexation, 15-story height limit in the north end of town only. If that were to pass, it would end the lawsuit immediately, protect everyone's money, and put development issues back under the control of the town commission where they belong, not in the hands of the courts.

The town commission is already planning to schedule a special election to vote on a new height limits referendum later this year, so why not include two height limit questions on the ballot? Residents could vote on lowering the height limit to 33 feet in the south end of town, and on restoring the 15-story height limit in the north. At least that way town residents could decide for themselves if they want to protect their money or roll the dice and let the Bert J. Harris lawsuit go to court.

If the town commission is not willing to give the voters an opportunity to decide the lawsuit issue for themselves through a referendum, there are other ways to go but they are going to cost some money. Here is one possible solution for the the commission to consider.

First, the town could try to work out a deal to purchase the future development rights to the four residential properties which are expected to be parties to the lawsuit. They could be offered a reasonable price in exchange for a guarantee that their land will never be redeveloped higher than four stories. If they accept, this would be a win-win scenario all around. The properties would recover some of their loss and drop the lawsuit. The town would acquire the future development rights at a fraction of their true value, the current skyscape in the north end of town would remain visually intact, and most of all, it would be a fair negotiation, not a government taking of property.

The Sea Watch restaurant, which will most likely be the lead party in the lawsuit, should be dealt with separately. The Sea Watch is located on the largest and least developed tract of land in the north end of town, and there is more risk of a huge high-rise being proposed on that site than anywhere else. Moreover, the Sea Watch is seeking the most compensation from the town and is most likely to see the legal fight through to its end.

Accordingly, the town should try first to negotiate a deal to buy the Sea Watch restaurant and land outright. If a price can be agreed on, the town could give the Sea Watch some good faith money up front to secure the deal, but delay going to settlement and let them continue to operate the popular restaurant for as long as they want. When the restaurant finally closes, the town could get a mortgage and acquire the property. If it turns out to be prohibitively expensive to buy the property outright, then the town should try to work out a deal to purchase the right to limit any future development on the site to four stories.

Once again, this would be a win-win situation for everyone. The owners would receive a fair price for the sale of their property. When the town takes ownership, they could put in parking meters, subdivide the restaurant into a few eating places and shops, rent them out and make money to help recover the purchase price. The town would have a great new public beach and the property would be protected forever, which is what town residents wanted when they voted for the four-story height limit in the first place.

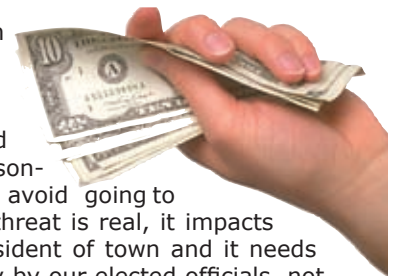
And here's the kicker. Once the town works out an agreement with the property owners, and we know what it would cost, the plan should be put up for a direct vote by the town residents. Let the people decide if they want to pay the cost of acquiring the development rights to these properties, or if they would rather take their chance in court. At least that way no one can argue with the decision.

Let's face it. The property owners in the north end of town who were hurt by the height limits referendum are not going away. They feel they were cheated and they intend to fight for their rights in court. The former attorney general of the state and a circuit court judge have already told them that they have the right to do so.

While there is always a chance the town will win the lawsuit, there is an equal, and perhaps even better chance that the town will lose. Either way it will cost the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees alone if the case goes to court. What a shameful waste of money that would be if other options could be pursued instead.

It's time for the town commission to address the height limit lawsuit as a legal problem, not a political issue. Politicians are forever running for office in LBTS by saying they are against high-rise buildings downtown. That's fine for a campaign speech but it has nothing to do with this lawsuit, which only deals with height limits in the north. If the properties go through with their lawsuit and win, it is not going to open the door for an extension of the Galt Ocean Mile through downtown LBTS, but it will cost every property owner in town a ton of money.

The town commission should stop playing politics with this issue, stop gambling with our money, and try to work out a reasonable settlement to avoid going to court. The lawsuit threat is real, it impacts every tax-paying resident of town and it needs to be taken seriously by our elected officials, not foolishly used as a campaign gimmick.



## TWELVE STEPS TO A BETTER LBTS

by Cindy Geesey

Most self help group programs like AA, OA, GA, and NA begin with a 12 Step Program, and each step is worked methodically and with full commitment. Millions of individuals believe in the principals and have been successful in their personal search for improvement, so perhaps our town government would do well to develop a similar program to improve demeanor. It's obvious the Town's Mission Statement isn't providing any guidance whatsoever.

While it was a most civil move for Commissioner Clottey to recently call a special meeting to discuss "demeanor" at commission meetings, anyone who doesn't acknowledge that the problems have first been created by one bully on the dais just hasn't been paying attention.

The Commissioners and our other public officials must do the following:

1. Admit that there is a serious problem with a lack of professional behavior and that commission meetings have become unmanageable. Watch yourself on TV at the meetings!
2. Commit to making the completion of the Town's business your top priority.

3. Come to meetings having read the backup material completely. Do your research, check the facts presented by others, and have your comments and suggestions prepared.

4. Follow the Golden Rule - treat others as you would wish to be treated. Be respectful at all times. Do not interrupt.

5. Acknowledge that while considering the will of the people is important, there are times when you will have to make a contrary decision if you firmly believe it is in the best interests of your constituents.

6. Be consistent in your decision making and don't make judgements based on where the votes are.

7. Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of yourself and analyze your actions and motives. If you can't do this, have someone who will be honest do it for you.

8. Determine whether you are a politician or a public servant.

9. Admit the exact nature of your wrongs and be willing to remove these defects of character.

10. Ask for help to remove these shortcomings, whether through anger management counseling, sedatives or whatever means necessary.

11. Make a list of all persons you have harmed, follow through and make direct amends to these people whenever possible.

12. Continue to take personal inventory and when you are wrong, promptly admit it and take corrective action.

But all this is no less than what our people want and deserve in their public officials.

Commissioner Dodd certainly has a refreshingly open attitude these days. He admits to having been a Kool-Aid drinker in the past and believing too easily in what he was told. He concedes that he was sometimes harsh in his comments from the podium to the "Old Guard" commissioners. He's expressed some remorse in the activities concerning the attempted recall of Mayor Parker. A public "I'm sorry" would go a long way to healing some wounds in our town, and I think he's man enough to take that step. We'll never agree on everything, but Commissioner Dodd is willing to listen, re-evaluate and research and he doesn't cater

to anyone just because they helped him get elected. I admire that a lot.

Commissioner Clottey has the great ability to cut a complicated issue down to something that's simple common sense. I only hope she will become more independent and put the people first instead of her pals. She is inconsistent, as when she didn't want the town to pay a condo a previously agreed upon amount of compensation for work on private property, yet she wants the town to pay for pest removal (iguana) on private property. She has admitted privately that signing a bogus ethics complaint against me for conflict of interest, a move she says was forced by her political supporters, was a mistake that she regrets. Especially in view of the fact that there was no conflict of interest found, the least she should offer is a public apology from the dais.

Jim Silverstone used to be a good friend of mine before he was turned by McIntee, and he once praised me for sticking up for his right of free speech. That was a right he later denied me and a concept he now seems confused about. I hope someday he'll revert to the man so many people admired. By the way, that grown up man is named "Jim" and is not a child named "Jimmy" as BFF McIntee always calls him.

McIntee is a bully and will never make an apology for that. He is also an unbelievable hypocrite. It's comical when he objects to personal characterizations when he has defamed so very many people in this town. The right of free speech clearly belongs only to him. It's only slander or libel if it's untrue! Thankfully due to his own antics, he's a short-timer on the dais.

Mayor Roseann Minnet is a lady who conducts herself professionally and politely at all times. The more McIntee harasses her, interrupts and shouts "Point of Order," the sillier he looks to the public. She's becoming more confident and more comfortable with running the meetings, and it shows. There is no one better suited to represent LBTS to other important public servants like Governor Crist, Senator Atwater, Representative Klein, Vice Mayor Keechl and Representative Bogdanoff.

So what shall we call those on the dais who care enough to embark on this 12 Step Program? How about... "Re-elected!"

### ByTheSeaFuture

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ByTheSeaFuture has been approved by the NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION  
Three Awards Won for Excellence in 2007



### WELCOME CENTER RECEIVES \$20,000

When LBTS Chamber of Commerce President Paul Novak and Executive Director Judy Swaggerty invited Broward County Vice Mayor Ken Keechl to visit the Welcome Center recently, it took only a few minutes for him to realize the benefit of the information center to the entire county. Vice Mayor Keechl then wasted no time in working with Nicki Grossman, director of the Greater Lauderdale Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB), to secure a \$20,000 supplement to their operating funds since, "it provides an important county-wide function."

Paul and Judy had contacted numerous sources in the hope of securing additional funding, and were thrilled when this important contact came through. When they announced it to the members of the Board of Directors, it was definitely viewed with excitement as a great delayed holiday gift.

According to Paul, "Not only is the money greatly appreciated, but so is the recognition of the importance of what we do by Broward County Vice Mayor Keechl and the CVB." Keechl notified Mayor Minnet and the Chamber of the donation in a February 5 letter and will present the check to the Chamber at the March 10 Town commission meeting. Official letter from Vice Mayor Keechl is shown at right.

### GOVERNOR SPEAKS, PEOPLE LISTEN

It was my good fortune to attend the Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Galt Community Association in Fort Lauderdale this afternoon. Florida Governor Charlie Crist was the featured speaker. For the majority of the program, Governor Crist answered questions about education, health care, and unemployment among other topics and noted the benefits that might come to the people of Florida via the Stimulus Package signed by President Obama.

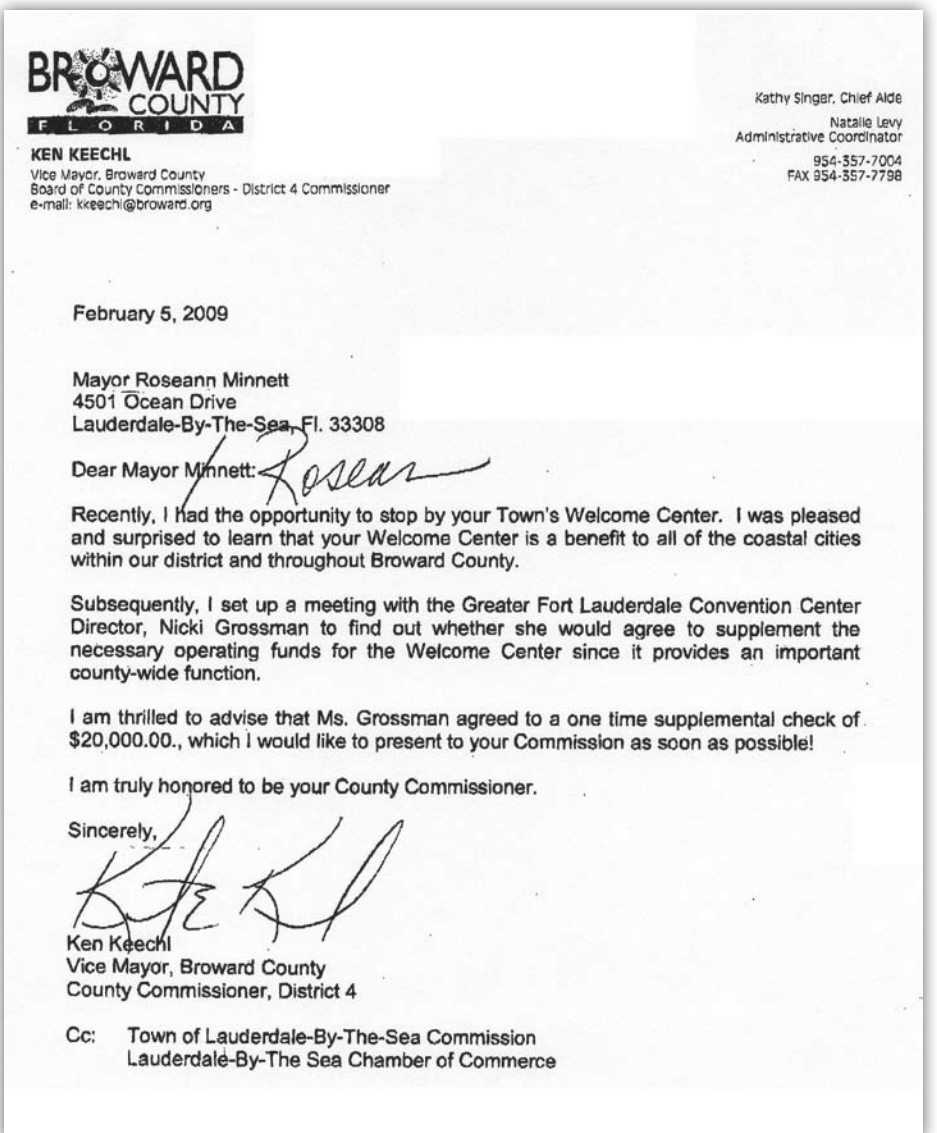
When asked about the Calypso project, the majority of the audience burst into applause as the Governor stated that he also opposes this project. Governor Crist stated that common sense shows that this project is not good for the people, this area of Florida, or the tourism industry. He was also very strong on alternative sources of energy and using resources currently available.

It was a very well attended meeting and many elected officials from all over the county were present. I was, however, surprised that only Mayor Minnet represented LBTS. I wonder where the rest of our elected representatives were.

I know the citizens of LBTS will learn about the meeting in *ByTheSeaFuture* because Mark Brown and Cindy Geesey were there to cover the event. I didn't see any representatives of the other news outlet in LBTS. Maybe they have an anonymous "staff writer" who was there?

It was great to take part in the "grass roots" effort to oppose the Calypso project of foreign investment off our shores and to be present to witness the results of those efforts. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this moment possible!

Joyce M. Murray, LBTS Resident



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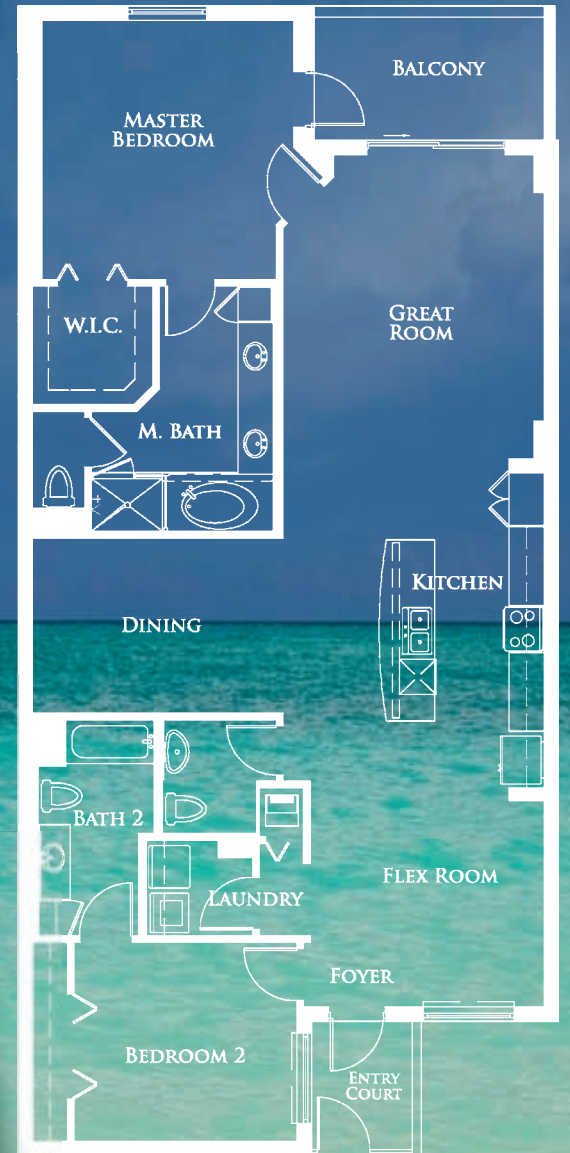
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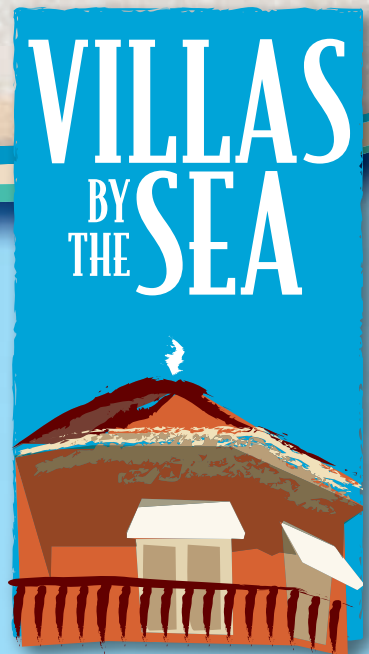
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### GOVERNOR CRIST OPPOSES CALYPSO DEEPWATER GAS TERMINAL

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In response, Crist told the audience that he has tried to be fair and objective in evaluating the pros and cons of the Calypso project. While he said he understands the rationale behind it, he said he tries to apply common sense when making any decision. "From that point of view, how can you support these enormous tankers so close to shore?" he asked. "So I don't."

Crist later fielded a follow-up question from Maureen Olsen of LBTS, who urged him to use his authority as governor to promote solar power and green initiatives along the coast. "Let's put Calypso to bed," Olsen stated. "I think it's already in bed," the governor replied. "It's gone." Crist's statement drew yet another standing ovation from the crowd.

After the meeting ended, local residents who attended were overwhelmingly supportive of the governor's announcement. "Everybody was pleased with what he said," remarked Bill Claire, another one of the early organizers of the anti-Calypso movement. "We didn't expect it but we're glad to hear it. He really went out on a limb today. You can see why he's such a popular governor." Claire's comments were echoed by LBTS Roseann Minnet, who cautioned that the Calypso project "would keep the USA dependent on foreign energy

sources. There are better and safer ways to make Florida energy-efficient," Minnet said.

The Calypso project was first proposed in 2006. The project calls for the construction of an enormous floating terminal which would receive tankers carrying billions of gallons of liquefied natural gas imported from the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The chilled gas would be warmed in the ocean to restore it to a gas stage, then transferred through an underwater pipeline to Port Everglades.

The project skated virtually unnoticed through the first rounds of the federal permitting process, until it drew the attention of a small group of Galt Mile residents last spring. They launched a grass-roots effort to publicize the proposal and encourage people to oppose it. They scored major victories when key local officials came out against the Calypso, including Congressman Ron Klein, State Senator Jeff Atwater, Ft. Lauderdale Commissioner Christine Teel and LBTS Mayor Minnet. With their help, the opponents persuaded the communities of Ft. Lauderdale, LBTS and Pompano Beach to pass resolutions opposing the project, leading up to the governor's dramatic announcement that he opposes it as well.



Mayor Roseann Minnet of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea with Mayor Denise Bryan of Sea Ranch Lakes. Both officials attended the governor's town hall meeting to show their opposition to the Calypso project. Mayor Minnet was the only official representative of LBTS to attend the important event.

### TOWN MAKES MAJOR PUSH TO FUND PALM CLUB SEWERS

Continued from Page 1

Minnet said she was pleased with the response she got from the legislators and is optimistic that they will support the Palm Club sewers. "They are all on board with what we want," Minnet said. "I'm optimistic they'll do whatever they can to help. They've all been very supportive of our community." Because the project is considered shovel-ready, Minnet feels the town has a good chance of getting the application approved. However, she said, she is concerned that there could be a problem because the project is no longer authorized by the town.

At this point, it is not exactly clear how the government will decide which projects get funded around the country and when the funds will be distributed. Melissa Silverman, an aide to Rep. Klein, said Congressmen and Senators were not allowed to earmark funds for specific projects in their districts, to keep the stimulus bill from being loaded down with pork barrel projects. Instead, she said the federal funds will most likely be passed along to the states, and it will be up to the governors and state legislators to decide which projects get funded.

Klein said he appreciated the opportunity to meet with

Minnet to discuss the Palm Club project. "I will continue fighting for a stimulus plan which creates jobs in the short-term and also provides long-term, tangible benefits to our community," Klein said. "I look forward to continuing to work with Mayor Minnet and other local officials to address their primary concern: that stimulus money is spent creating jobs and funding local priorities right here in South Florida." Klein previously obtained a \$500,000 federal appropriation to help pay the costs of installing sewer lines in the Bel Air neighborhood of LBTS.

Similarly, Sen. Atwater said he supports the Palm Club sewer project and will work for its approval if he is given any say over how the funds are distributed. "To the degree that we have some ability, we'll tell the governor's office this is a good project," said Jaryn Elmhof, an aide to the Senator. Atwater and Bogdanoff also have a prior track record of supporting sewer improvements in LBTS, having obtained a \$500,000 state grant to help pay for the first phase of the sewer project on Terra Mar Island.

Harry Fox, the newly-elected president of the Palm Club, said he is pleased that the town has finally

thrown its support behind their sewer project. "We're in favor of getting our sewers," he said. Joe Donohue, treasurer of the Palm Club, added: "we would like the town to get that money. We're sitting here hoping that the funds will come through."

If it is funded, the project will enable the 100 homes in the Palm Club to abandon their aging septic tanks and hook directly into the Pompano Beach public sewer system. The town had promised to fund this project under the annexation agreement in 2001. The funding had been approved and the project was just days away from groundbreaking last May when McIntee persuaded the commission to pull the rug out from under it. The Palm Club funds were used instead to help balance the town's budget and to purchase and renovate an old motel for use as a dormitory and clubhouse for the paid volunteer fire department.

In the town's letter of application, Town Manager Colon wrote that the project "will promote employment and be part of an infrastructure investment that is needed to create economic strength and to continue to promote a healthy environment to our residents and visitors in our beachside community."

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### TASTE OF THE BEACH IS HERE

*Continued from Page 1*

Gayle Strogen, now a Councilwoman in The Village of Sea Ranch Lakes, remembers that, "Taste of the Beach was hard to explain and organize that first year. Everyone wondered what to bring, what to do, what to charge." She adds, "People wanted to know where the money raised was going, so we set up a scholarship for a student at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale Culinary School so we had a culinary connected donation." That scholarship continues to this year. Sandra Booth remembers that the first year included about 25 participants and 250 "Tasters."

Bill Davis of Diner by the Sea will have his new restaurant participate for the first time, and his partner Billy Sand will be there with The Wine Cellar and Checkers Old Munchen on the Boulevard restaurants. Davis presided over Taste of the Beach during his two years as President of the Chamber of Commerce, and describes it as "a mainstay of the organization." He estimates that the Chamber receives a couple hundred calls about the event and says that many people plan their visits around it.

Current Chamber President Paul Novak says many of his guests at the High Noon and Sea Foam resorts attend regularly. He adds, "We put it on to make a few dollars and enjoy doing it. It should be even more successful than last year because of the auction of the Goodyear blimp ride." Novak also thanked Bill Davis and The Away Inn for stepping up as major sponsors this year. Other sponsors include Aruba Beach Cafe, The Windjammer Resort, The Village Grille and The Village Pump, FPL, Comcast, Print Dynamics, High Noon and Sea Foam resorts, and Linens of the Week.

For the fourth year, Guy Contrada of Aruba Beach Cafe is chairman of the event. He recently said, "Everything is coming along fine. I don't know why but everything just seems to be falling into place." Quick to reply was fellow board member and operator of The Village Pump Dave Gadsby who said, "the reason that everything is going well is all due to Guy and his organization. He is the reason everything is falling into place." Gadsby is especially pleased that this year there is even a waiting list for restaurants who want to participate and he says, "it's nice to see what teamwork can accomplish."



**Chef Jack Kane of the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale Culinary School accepts a check for a scholarship from Taste of the Beach Chair Guy Contrada, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Judy Swaggerty and Chamber President Paul Novak.**

In charge of the team of volunteers again this year is Ron Piersante. President Paul Novak said, "We add our sincere appreciation...to Ron Piersante and his endless efforts to secure volunteers who are a vital part of this event." He also thanked chairman Guy Contrada and members of the Taste of the Beach Committee Judy Swaggerty, Lucke Ricciuti, Dave Gadsby, Bill David, Deborah Keshigian, and Cindy Geesey as well as the Town of LBTS Staff, Commissioners, and Broward Sheriff's Office District 13. He says, "Every year Taste of the Beach has grown in size and scope. 2009 is the biggest and best yet thanks to everyone who helped."

For more information about this exciting annual culinary event call the Chamber of Commerce/Welcome Center at 954-776-1000 or stop by 4201 Ocean Drive.



**Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee, who also serves as Deputy Chief of the VFD, is joined by fellow Commissioners Jim Silverstone, Stuart Dodd, Birute Clotney and LBTS Mayor Roseann Minnet for the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony which dedicated the dormitory facility for the paid Volunteer Fire Department which cost the town \$2,000,000 to purchase and refurbish.**

### \$2M VFD DORMITORY DEDICATED

The town's new \$2 million dormitory to house members of the paid volunteer fire department officially opened its doors on February 2. The facility is located next door to Jarvis Hall in a 40-year old motel which the town purchased and renovated last year. The building is currently being used to house the three-member emergency medical services crew from AMR, and to provide overnight sleeping quarters for out-of-town members of the volunteer fire department. The town hopes to eventually retrofit part of the motel to provide working space for the Broward Sheriff's Office police department, including a holding cell for prisoners. In addition, the town is spending \$50,000 to offer swimming lessons in the motel pool.

### TOWN'S COLON RECEIVES AWARD

For the 12th consecutive year, LBTS has received a certificate of achievement for "Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the Government Finance Officers Association, a professional association representing more than 17,000 state and municipal finance officers in the United States and Canada.



**Mayor Roseann Minnet and Allan Owens of the GFOA join LBTS Town Manager Esther Colon as she accepts the Excellence in Financial Reporting award at the Town Commission meeting.**

A plaque was presented to Town Manager Esther Colon and Mayor Roseann Minnet at the town commission meeting on January 27 by Allan Owens, a South Florida representative of the GFOA. Owens said the award recognizes the town's staff for its "professionalism, commitment and high degree of dedication" to excellent in financial reporting.

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### NEW POA BOARD ELECTED



The Annual Meeting of the LBTS Property Owners Association was held at Jarvis Hall on January 29 and featured local Ed Herson, President of Health Plans Specialist, who spoke about the Do's and Don'ts of Medicare. He explained Parts A, B and C as well as the medical supplement plans that are available and encouraged everyone to make sure they had some sort of prescription plan.

Herson also discussed the formularies for drugs and took a number of questions from the audience. Bruno Sartori, CPA, gave a presentation on what to expect from a financial planner.

Members elected the following individuals (shown above) to serve two year terms: Marilyn Carr as Treasurer, Linda Ritchie as President, Michael Simonelli and Gail Schwarz as Directors, Judy Jones as Vice President and Bonnie Clark as Director. Bill Shomo will function as secretary of the group and will run for election following the required membership period.

Outgoing President Cindy Geesey thanked all members, volunteers and board members who had served over her seven years as President for their support and recounted their accomplishments. She encouraged anyone interested in taking part in the Humane Society's Walk for the Animals to call her at 954-776-5974.



### 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 February 10, 2009. Read the full commission meeting report below for details about how it all went down.

ITEM VOTED ON:	Minnet	McIntee	Silverstone	Clottey	Dodd
raise the annual fee for use of the town's tennis courts to \$100	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
impose fees for the provision of emergency medical services in town	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
establish fees and annual residential pass for parking in metered spaces	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
reimburse Leisure Towers condominium \$3,983 in funds owed by the town	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
study possibility of installing bathrooms in alley behind the pier parking lot	N	Y	Y	Y	N
study possibility of taking back a parcel of donated property	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
sponsor a clean energy day program at Jarvis Hall	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
issue five parking permits to Nova Southeastern University turtle scientists	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
table proposal to make the paid volunteer fire department permanent in town	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
table a motion to set final fees for fire inspections in codos	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

### COMMISSION MEETING REPORT - 2-10-09

The proposal by Commissioners Jerry McIntee and Jim Silverstone to make the paid volunteer fire department the town's permanent fire suppression service survived a crucial first vote at the town commission meeting on February 10. McIntee and Silverstone, who are both members of the VFD, want to put a referendum on the ballot as early as this November which would prohibit future town commissions from replacing the VFD with a professional fire department without first obtaining a majority vote of town residents.

Commissioner Stuart Dodd vehemently objected to the proposal and sought to table it indefinitely. Dodd said there would be no reason to replace the VFD in the future if they are doing a good job. However, he said, if there are problems "I want this commission to have the power to do something about it immediately. Public safety cannot wait for a municipality to argue over the wording of a referendum," he said.

Dodd had the support of Mayor Roseann Minnet to table the referendum, but Commissioner Birute Clottey threw her crucial swing vote to McIntee and Silverstone, and refused to support the motion to table. "I don't have any problem going for a referendum," Clottey stated, adding that it should be worded to give future commissions some flexibility in the event of an emergency. With the motion to table having failed, the next step will be a workshop in May, at which the commissioners will begin to work out the precise wording of the referendum.

It will be a busy workshop because McIntee and Silverstone are pushing for two other referendums to be voted on this November as well, and all three will be discussed at the same workshop. The second referendum which they are proposing would lower the maximum building height in town to 33 feet, replacing the current four-story height limit. The third referendum would further tie the hands of future commissions by prohibiting them from voting on items involv-

ing the purchase or sale of town assets worth more than \$300,000. These items would instead have to be put up for a vote by town residents.

In other news, the commission finally voted to pay off its six-year old debt to the Leisure Towers condominium. Leisure Towers had paid more than \$12,000 to provide an easement to enable the town to bury the utility lines along A1A in 2003. Although the condo was given a written assurance by the town that the money would be repaid and some damaged areas would be fixed, the town never followed through on its promise.

"We did everything as needed by LBTS, and we were told we'd be reimbursed," said Gary Condra, president of Leisure Towers. "That hasn't happened." The commission voted 4-1 to pay the final \$3,983 owed to Leisure Towers. Clottey not only voted against Leisure Towers, she demanded that they pay back the money which the town had already spent to partially reimburse them.

An ordinance setting the fees for emergency medical services in town passed by a vote of 5-0, but the commission tabled a resolution to set the final fees for fire inspections in condos. Dodd objected to the current wording of the fire fee resolution, saying it could allow the paid volunteer fire department to charge the town thousands of dollars for just standing around at town events such as the 4th of July parade.

The commission moved a step closer to creating an annual parking pass for residents, which would allow them to park anywhere in town without having to feed the meter. Look for the parking passes to be priced at \$50 a year. In the process of approving the residential parking permits, the commission eliminated the special beach parking permits which it had sold in the past. That means residents and out-of-towners will have to battle it out in the future in the search for prime parking spaces near the beach.

The owners of two popular restaurants in town--the Village Grille and 101 Ocean--approached the commission with a proposal to start a valet parking service at their own expense, to help ease traffic congestion in the business district. While the commissioners supported the idea in principle and lauded the effort by the two businesses to address the parking problem, they withheld their support of the plan until it can be studied further.

There was some good news when Minnet announced that the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau has decided to donate \$20,000 to the town to help pay the costs of running the LBTS Welcome Center. Minnet said the donation reflects the fact that the visitor's center--which is operated by the LBTS Chamber of Commerce--provides a valuable service to the entire county, not just the town, in promoting tourism.

The commission gave final approval to a plan to raise the annual cost of a permit to play tennis on the town's public tennis courts to \$100. The resolution restricts use of the tennis courts to only town residents and guests at town motels. Dodd attempted to persuade the commission to reconsider its previous vote to spend \$28,000 to repave North Tradewinds Avenue, saying it doesn't make sense to spend the money now when the road has to be torn up in a few years anyway for sewer repairs. However, the commission refused to allow his motion to be voted on.

The commission voted to have the town attorney look into the possibility of taking back a parcel of land which the town had previously donated to a local property owner. They also instructed the town attorney to review the feasibility of installing public bathrooms in the alleyway in back of the pier parking lot. The vote was 3-2, with Minnet and Dodd voting no.

### LBTS MAYOR'S COMMENTS



**MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET**  
954-326-0594  
roseann@roseannminnet.com

I have to take my hat off just for a moment, no pun intended! Seems we all wear different hats of a different nature. There is nothing wrong with that. But sometimes, especially if you are a commissioner in LBTS, you wear more than one hat at the same time. That makes it difficult to understand what these people are really trying to say or do, or whose interest they are really promoting.

The acts flying around the dais in recent weeks have been a circus to say the least. Take a look at the past meetings and you tell me whether we are doing our jobs, or are there certain commissioners who just enjoy hearing themselves speak. I know we voted not to limit our times to speak, but enough is enough. Commissioners should say what they want in a limited amount of time and stop with the pontificating.

Let's get the business of our town back on track. Let's not continue wasting residents' time and money to see us dribble back and forth. Yes, I say money be-

cause we are paying the town attorney by the hour to sit at these commission meetings. Instead of town attorney he should be renamed town referee!

There are many issues swirling around these days, mainly the referendums which several commissioners want to schedule a special election to vote on this year. Lets face it folks, these commissioners are trying to tie the hands of this community for their own personal agendas, not the best interest of the town. Last time I looked we still live in the good old USA! Let's not forget that the power is with the people, not the elected officials.

You, the shareholders of LBTS, have the power to vote and remove or keep people in their positions. There has already been jockeying for position on the dais. Remember there are three members of the commission who will be up for election in March of 2010. Watch and listen carefully to the words of your commissioners. Hold us all accountable for our votes, but always remember that your vote is the one that counts the most. Do not let this dais limit your participation. Hold this dais accountable and make them increase and improve opportunities for public participation in government.

Your right to vote is the perfect example. If these referendums do make it to the voters, read them carefully and understand the ramifications and implications from the members of the dais who are supporting these issues. It's not to keep the power with the peo-

ple as they will say: it is a personal agenda item that will not benefit the residents of LBTS. Ask your questions and become familiar with the facts. Start asking the questions now before members of this commission vote to restrict your powers as residents.

Charter amendments should be restricted to the framework of the town, like height limits, but not to restrict fair play. If the VFD proves itself to be the fire department it professes to be, then make them work for it and continue to fight for it. Why have it handed to them on a silver platter by simply designating them as the permanent fire department in town? Keep the system transparent and responsible for its own action or inaction. If the VFD becomes the permanent sole provider, what guarantees do you have they will perform to the best of their capabilities?

The VFD must prove itself continually, and if the department believes in itself, then they will survive any elected official that comes up before them. Do not take away the power of the commission to act in your best interests and protect the rights of the people. Stand up and make your voice heard and your vote count. I look forward to the many debates on this issue in future commission meetings. Do not allow this dais to let the VFD get away with hiding behind the charter. The testimony for the VFD will be their dedication and hard work, and I have no doubt they will work to keep LBTS safe and secure

**Mayor Minnet will travel to Tallahassee on March 1st to attend a conference. Read details of the mayor's upcoming visit to the state capital in our next issue.**



## THIS IS HEART MONTH!

by Lenore Nolan-Ryan, *World Class Caterer and Culinary Lecturer - LenoreNolanRyan.com*

Mother Nature provides us with a bountiful produce season, and this perfect season is the reason to travel down the road to nutritional well-being. With such a bounty of fresh, fabulous Florida fruits and vibrant Vitamin laden veggies, good heart health is yours for the pickin'! You say tomato, I say tomata, you show me your navel and I'll show you mine! Tomato because it is a Lycopene food, full of antioxidants, and oranges, high in Vitamin C! Si, Si! I'd love to share this recipe with you as it illustrates a perfect marriage of these two fruits, yes, tomato is a fruit, ..and also incorporates such body beneficial powerhouses such as garlic, basil (referred to as the Royal Herb by ancient Greeks), chili flakes and extra virgin olive oil. This dish is enjoyed equally well hot or cold, is so delicious and is so naturally nutritious it will certainly have you asking for "more please!"

### ROASTED TOMATO, ORANGE & BASIL SOUP

3 lbs. ripe plum tomato, cut in half lengthwise  
 2 navel oranges, peeled, seeded and cut into quarters  
 ¼ c. plus 3 T. extra virgin olive oil  
 1 ½ T. kosher salt  
 2 t. fresh ground black pepper  
 2 c. chopped sweet yellow onions  
 28 oz. can tomatoes and their juice  
 ¼ c. chopped garlic  
 ¼ c. brown sugar  
 ¼ t. crushed red chili flakes  
 2 cups basil leaves, packed  
 2 c. water or more

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Toss the tomatoes, orange, salt, pepper and ¼ c. olive oil together and arrange in a single layer on a baking sheet and roast for 30 minutes. In a stock pot sauté the onions, garlic, the remaining olive oil, butter, brown sugar and red chili flakes until soft and translucent. Add the canned tomatoes, basil, water, oven roasted oranges and tomatoes and bring to a boil. Simmer for 30 minutes. Let rest 20 minutes and pass the mixture through a food mill fitted with the coarsest blade or pulse on/off in a food processor. Taste and adjust seasonings. Soup can be served hot or cold, and garnished with more basil, yogurt, sour cream or crème fraiche.



## CALLING TIME-OUT

by Adam Masterson

Earlier this month somewhere around 97 million people were reported to have watched the Super Bowl - America's unofficial holiday - in which the tradition-rich Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the feel-good-story Arizona Cardinals. Lauderdale-by-the-Sea residents and visitors contributed to the 97 million figure as televisions glowed from condo balconies and fans flocked to the great watch party stationed along the street between 101 Ocean and the Village Grill/Pump.

As my wife and I strolled the street that night, I was reminded that the cultural entity known as "sports" is really a fascinating thing. First, it is the great social equalizer. Our society places high value on personal space and ways to secure it such as privacy hedges and fenced in yards, and yet somehow a sporting event can entice people to pack into a plastic seat laden stadium like sardines. Beer-guzzling, face-painted sardines, but sardines nonetheless. Our society is still at times very fragmented demographically as people of one race, color, creed or income level only associate with others of the same, and yet somehow a sporting event entices people to look beyond skin color or job title and congregate together in a diverse mass to root their team on. In this way sports fans are color blind, well, at least blind to any color but the one on a team's jersey!

The cultural entity known as sports also serves as the great conversation piece. What is a business man to do as he rides the elevator to the top floor of a skyscraper surrounded by people and awkward silence? Mention last night's game - a score, statistic, or highlight-reel play - and it is amazing how the elevator ride will suddenly be too short to accommodate the conversation. The same is true if you are waiting for the bus, or a table at a restaurant, or if you're sitting on one of those couches in the middle of the mall with the other men waiting for your wife to "finish" her shopping.

Perhaps most humorously though is the realization that the cultural entity known as sports is also at times the great contradiction. If ever one begins to think that we second-millennium earthlings living in post-modern America are at the height of human sophistication and social progress, go and attend a major sporting event. It is one of the last remaining slices of life not bound by normal, civilized behavior. The person in your office who has never been to work on time a day in their life and says little throughout the day is the same person who will turn up to the event four hours early painted from head to toe, wearing a giant foam hand and singing fight songs. Give said person a \$13 plastic bottle of beer or two and they will soon be saying more during one quarter to the referee on the sideline than they have in two year's worth of budget meetings. Some who have never shed tears even at a funeral will get glassy eyed at the mention of that overtime loss in the playoffs last year. Sure, men often get a bad rap for not being emotional or in-tune with their feelings but that's in relation to things like wives, anniversaries and births; when it comes to two-point conversions and walk-off homers a sports fan can often be found embracing the shirtless stranger next to them and exclaiming their feelings in a way that would make Dr. Phil proud.

Further, all of the above is only what one finds in the seats surrounding the game; let's not forget about what transpires within the games themselves. Sure, it might be inappropriate for your boss to tear off his blazer and throw it on the ground in frustration during the next staff meeting...but not in a game. If it gets to halftime and your coach is still wearing his blazer and hasn't yet trampled on it like a tantrum-prone toddler you just witnessed history. Sure, others might perceive you as crazy and pompous if after closing the next sale you rip your tie from your shirt and throw it into the Accounts Receivable department as you pound your chest and raise a number one in the air...but not in a game. Make that little rubber ball go through that big net and of course you have the honor of tossing your head band in the stands and pounding your chest. Sure, your construction career might be short lived if only three out of every ten buildings you built didn't collapse or as an attorney you only won three out of every ten cases...but again, not in a game. Average three hits for every ten times your at bat and you'll have to set up an off-shore account just to contain all your money...

Hey, I am one of the 97 million who have never met a single player on either team, nor could ever dream of affording a ticket to the game, nor will ever see a fraction of what the players make and yet was glued to the screen as I am every year not just for the Super Bowl but every major championship.

However I think... I just need a time out.



## COOKING FOR GOVERNORS

by Doc Lawrence

Josh Butler, the executive chef for Florida powerhouse Governors Lawton Chiles, Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist enjoys a career that seems to have no limits. At age 33, the St. Petersburg, Florida native has already cooked for more famous politicians, heads of state, cabinet members and celebrities than most of those who have attained celebrity status in the gourmet-cooking world. Chef Butler, whose rise is remarkably similar to that of esteemed chef Scott Peacock who served two Georgia governors prior to garnering a James Beard Award, is emblematic of a core of fast rising stars admired for advanced skills honed by tough on-the-job-training.

To really know the Josh Butler, you have to dine with him, partaking of his authentic dishes that honor the soil, air and water of the Sunshine State. His appreciation of the culinary heritage and cuisine of Florida help define him and are core elements in his soaring national reputation.

"I cook like a native Floridian," Butler says laughing. "I prepare menus for the chief executive of a great state and I never miss a chance to showcase what we grow and love to eat in Florida." His confidence in local products makes him an effective spokesperson for what distinguishes Florida's food and menus from the upper 49.

Butler was hired by the legendary governor Lawton Chiles and ever since has been ensconced in the Governor's Mansion, cooking for the best and brightest, the famous and powerful and now for Charlie Crist, Florida's popular governor. Being born and raised in Florida provides authenticity to his tireless promotion of Florida's unique and diverse food resources to the United States and abroad, something he hopes to be doing more of this year.

### INSPIRED BY JULIA CHILD

Butler has many influences, and being self taught, a badge of honor these days when you consider that co-host of Food Network's "Top Chef," Tom Colicchio, a giant in celebrity chefdom is there ever was one, is a high-ranking member of the self-taught fraternity. But his inspiration remains Julia Child. "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" was my first cookbook," he says. "I met Julia Child one day in Chicago and explained how her book helped me become a chef. She was so tickled that she blushed. As we parted she gave me a sweet kiss on the cheek. I will never forget her."

Chef Butler believes that there is an identifiable Florida cuisine. "Our diversity of cultural influences and geography," he says, "are continually absorbed into Florida kitchens and menus. The contributions from African-American cooks, great Florida tribes like the Seminoles, our Spanish heritage and the cooking styles brought from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America combine to make up the Florida dining experience. Florida really has everything and our amazing climate produces delicious food throughout the year."

Butler admires the food traditions of North Florida with its deep Southern roots notable for abundant seafood and practical preparation. "Nothing screams north Florida like a pot of freshly shucked beans on the stove. I use local grown tomatoes, corn, greens, potatoes, okra, and squash and love to cook game recipes like smoked venison back strap, grilled quail and wild boar sausage, plus plenty of seafood." Smoked mullet is a popular delicacy. "I don't think you can go to any restaurant along US 98 and not find hushpuppies, cheese grits or smoked mullet on the menu."

### FAMOUS DINNER GUESTS

Although blessed with impressive stage presence, Chef Josh Butler doesn't find mundane cable television cooking professionally appealing. After years of creating handcrafted dishes for leaders who have changed the face of the world, a TV set with a faux menu might not be challenging considering that Butler has cooked for the entire Bush family. He recalls that former First Lady Barbara Bush "sent me a letter telling me she loved the food." Other high profile diners at the Governor's Mansion include Senator John McCain, actor John Travolta, former Secretary of State James Baker, baseball legends Willie Mays, and Ken Griffey Jr., NFL superstar Emmett Smith, and Reverend Billy Graham. And these are only a few of the stars in Butler's crown.

With full creative reign over the food and menus at the mansion, there are many special moments with each of the governors Josh Butler has served under. "I created a different dish," he says, "almost every evening for Jeb Bush." Whatever the occasion, he focuses on simplicity. "I create my menus from fresh finds in the markets. I prefer to shop first, then create a menu."

Working at the epicenter of power in Florida is an enviable vantage point. Cooking for the top man in the Sunshine State is a high enough place for Chef Josh Butler to see a very bright future.

*Doc Lawrence is a veteran journalist, broadcaster and television producer and frequent visitor to the area. Contact: [doclawrence@docsnews.com](mailto:doclawrence@docsnews.com).*

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### LBTS WOMAN'S CLUB'S SILVER TEA

Over 150 members, guests and visitors gathered at Jarvis Hall on Saturday, February 7 to enjoy a delicious and elegant array of finger foods, tea and coffee presented in a beautifully decorated setting at Jarvis Hall. Local Barry Tracht, a vocal impersonator, serenaded the group with "A Tribute to the Singers," a musical experience down memory lane. Songs of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis combined with tunes from the Beatles, Jimmy Buffett, Marc Anthony and Pink Floyd to provide non-stop entertainment.



Mayor Roseann Minnet, Silver Tea Chair Dolly Caggiano and Woman's Club President Linda Collins admire the \$500 gift basket donated by the Avon Shop on Oakland Park Boulevard. Red hated locals Cathie Moore and Marilyn Carr look on.

LBTS Woman's Club President Linda Collins stated that Chairwoman Dolly Caggiano and her committee did a marvelous job on this yearly event. In addition to a 50/50 raffle, the day included raffle items donated by over 20 generous area businesses. The Grand Raffle prize was a weekend getaway donated by the Ocean Sands Resort in Pompano Beach, and a \$500 gift basket was donated by Patrick and Daniel of the Avon Shop on Oakland Park Boulevard. According to Linda, "We are so grateful to the community for donating such generous door prizes and to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea for allowing us to be part of a great town for many years."

The next meeting of the Woman's Club will be on February 26 at 11:00 a.m. at the clubhouse and will feature a book review by Jim Caggiano, author of "My Angel" and a wonderful luncheon. Call Linda at 954-234-6662 for more information.

### NEWS FROM OUR ART BY THE SEA

LBTS resident Donna Sallee presented a program on "Turning Old Furniture into New" at the February meeting of Our Art by the Sea. Originally from New England, Donna had her first one-person show at the age of 12 before refining her talents at Paier College of Art in Hamden, CT. Her several thousand commissions scattered throughout the world include works in oils, watercolors, acrylics and pastels. She's comfortable working with canvas, paper, fiberboard, plaster, glass, wood, tile, brick and resin. To easily see her work around town, visit her murals on the exterior walls at The Village Grille, Aruba Beach Cafe and the High Noon Resort.

Donna says she really got into working with furniture about 15 years ago when she moved to this area. She first worked on wooden bowls and then got into bigger and more complex pieces. "I exhibited in a few shows and then people started bringing me pieces to update. I really enjoy being creative and giving furniture a new life."

The next meeting of Our Art by the Sea will be on Tuesday, March 10, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Community Church, 4433 Bougainville Drive. The first presentation of the double header program will be a description by Kim Bowman of the Clayfoot James Wearable Art Program. This is a south Florida program that specializes in printing custom artwork on shirts in a wide variety of sizes, styles and colors. Artists can then sell these shirts to get extra revenue and to promote their artwork in a cost effective way.

Catherine Bates will then make the evening's second presentation on the Savvy Times news magazine, an innovative entertainment, art and performing arts industry publication that provides news from all over the world to unite the artisan community.

For additional information on these programs or on the association, call Program Chair Fran Scheffler at 954-772-1684.

### COLONEL ALLEN WEST TO SPEAK



The Wednesday, March 4 meeting of the Lauderdale Beach Republican Club will feature speaker Colonel Allen West, candidate for Florida's 22nd Congressional District.

The evening will start with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. at "The Hook Sports Grill," 2861 Commercial Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale, followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Those attending the event are asked to please bring canned goods for donation to the needy.



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### FEBRUARY FINE WINES & CIGARS

Mariano of Old City News Stand Cigars 'n Wine invites you to stop by his shop at 4400 Bougainville Drive on Friday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m. to enjoy the newest wine tastes for 2009 as well as new premium cigars. Gourmet snacks will be provided by Delacaseas Catering.

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Christine Marsters of the Pelican Grand Beach Resort played hostess to Scott Knight of Massage Envy, guest Anthony White of Henley-on-Thames, England, and Michael Weber of Il Lugano Luxury Suite Hotel at a recent Chamber of Commerce Business After Business event.



New member Andrea Ward is introduced to long-time member Carol Orbaker by Holy Cross Wellness Center's Melissa Owen at a recent open house held in the state-of-the-art fitness facility located on Federal Highway.

## CANADIAN CUISINE WELCOME HERE



It's a universal truth that transplanted people always miss the food they enjoyed in their previous locales. This was the case with four folks from Montreal who met in south Florida and started reminiscing about the dishes they used to enjoy. An idea was born that resulted in the recently opened Home Burger, located at 949 SE 15 Street (McNab Road) in Pompano, next to Tuesday Morning.

The specialty of the house is the smoked beef brisket served on rye bread with mustard, a favorite of our neighbors to the far, far north. Co-owner Nancy Bedard describes the brisket as "the real one" and notes that it's always freshly prepared from never-frozen premium Black Angus beef aged a minimum of 14 days. The head chef and trainer in the art of smoking beef is George Contos. Another specialty is poutine, French fries and cheddar cheese chunks smothered by brown gravy. Any calories consumed are well worth it. The menu also includes a variety of hot dogs, burgers, salads and combo plates.

The three other owners are Ronald Borris, Sylvie Theriault and Chantal Martel, and they all worked for over ten months to get approval to import their ingredients from Montreal. "Simply the Best" is their motto, and that goes for the service and surroundings as well as for the quality of the food. According to Hal Hansen who spends almost six months a year in LBTS, "the food is great, the prices are reasonable, the place is immaculate, and the service is friendly." Hal grew up in Montreal, now lives most of the year in Ottawa, and he's thrilled to find food from "home" so close by.

The owners plan on opening three or four more locations by the end of the year and then would like to sell franchises. Given the rave reviews for their first restaurant, they'll continue to find a warm reception in south Florida. Check out their website at [www.homeburgerusa.com](http://www.homeburgerusa.com) or call them at 954-696-7979.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

February 24, Tuesday: The 8th Annual Taste of the Beach will be held at El Prado and El Mar from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. Call 954-776-1000 for information.

February 24, Tuesday: State Representative Elynn Bogdanoff will hold a Town Hall Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Emma Lou Olson Center at 1601 NE 6 Avenue in Pompano Beach.

February 24, Tuesday: Town Commission meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. at Jarvis Hall.

February 24, Tuesday: The LBTS Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual Taste of the Beach beginning at 5:00 p.m. at El Prado and the beach. Call 954-776-1000 for information.

February 26, Thursday: The LBTS Woman's Club meets at the Clubhouse at 11:00 a.m. and will feature a book review by Jim Caggiano, author of "My Angel," and a luncheon. Call Linda Collins at 954-234-6662.

February 27, Friday: The Assumption Church Altar Guild invites everyone to their Fish Fry, a delicious dinner for just \$10, with seatings at 4:45 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Call Lorene Parker at 954-599-6466.

February 27, Friday: Enjoy new 2009 wines, premium cigars, and snacks from Delacaseas at a tasting at Old City News Stand, Cigars & Wine, 4400 Bougainville Drive. Call 954-772-4119.

March 2, Monday: Homestead Exemption Sign-Up at Jarvis Hall, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

March 4, Wednesday: Lions Club meets at 7:30 a.m. LBTS Resort & Beach Club (formerly Holiday Inn). 954-647-7752

March 4, Wednesday: The Lauderdale Beach Republican Club will feature speaker Colonel Allen West, candidate for Florida's 22nd Congressional District. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6:30 p.m. at "The Hook Sports Grill," 2861 Commercial Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.

March 5, Thursday: Bulk trash pick-up south of Commercial.  
March 6, Friday: Bulk trash pick-up north of Commercial.

March 6, Friday: LBTS Sister Cities Association holds it's annual meeting and International Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Church. Call Chairman Dr. Kenneth Most at 954-946-1783.

March 7, Saturday: The Broward County Humane Society Walk for the Animals starts at Huizenga Plaza in downtown Fort Lauderdale at 10:00 a.m. To walk in the Sandy Paws Pack or to make a donation to homeless animals, call Cindy Geesey at 954-776-5974.

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

March 10, Tuesday: Town Commission meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. at Jarvis Hall.

March 10, Tuesday: Our Art by the Sea Association meets at Community Church at 7:00 p.m. Program features description of Clayfoot Jones Wearable Art and Savvy Times magazine. Call Fran Scheffler at 954-772-1684.

March 14-15, Saturday & Sunday: The Arts & Crafts Fair sponsored by the LBTS Chamber of Commerce will be held at Commercial and El Mar from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Call 954-776-1000.

### TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULED

State Representative Elynn Bogdanoff has scheduled a Town Hall meeting just before the opening of the 2009 legislative session. The meeting will be on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Emma Lou Olson Center at 1601 NE 5 Avenue in Pompano Beach. Representative Bogdanoff will give an outlook of what to expect during the upcoming legislative session and what impact the decisions will have on District 91 residents. She will also discuss her new role as chair of the finance and tax council for the Florida House. She says, "As we prepare to start the legislative session on March 3, I need your thoughts, concerns and ideas on how you think Tallahassee should be handling this situation. I am inclined to hold the line on tax increases since I believe many citizens are struggling to pay the bills, but I will tell you that the halls are full of folks looking to increase taxes." Questions from attendees will be welcome.

### SHOP THE ARTS/CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars! The next community event sponsored by the LBTS Chamber of Commerce is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15 at Commercial Boulevard and El Mar Drive. Browse through unique arts and crafts booth and find something for everyone on your gift list. Call 954-776-1000 for more information.

### SPRING INTO THE GARDEN CLUB

Hostesses Sandy Harrington, Yolanda Bernardini and Cheryl Hess are the hostesses for the monthly LBTS Garden Club meeting on Monday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m. at Jarvis Hall that will feature Cindy Reiger Floral Design.

A second event in March will be on Saturday, March 21, also at Jarvis Hall. The public is invited to enjoy the annual Spring Flower Show and Tea from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is a Standard Flower Show with artistic designs and judging criteria. The theme is Caribbean Carnival and will include six design classes with themes such as Merriment, Sparkles and Bangles. Marilyn Carr and Nancy Leslie are the co-chairs with Kit Cashman as honorary chairperson. An interesting and informative show is planned with beautiful designs and much Florida horticulture. A lovely tea is one of the highlights with baked goods and other refreshments. All club members are involved in some way and the community is encouraged to come and learn what the LBTS Garden Club is all about and to enjoy with our incredible displays. There is no charge but donations are greatly appreciated. Everyone is welcome to join the LBTS Garden Club members for a beautiful Spring afternoon. Find out more by calling Kit Cashman at 954-642-8785.



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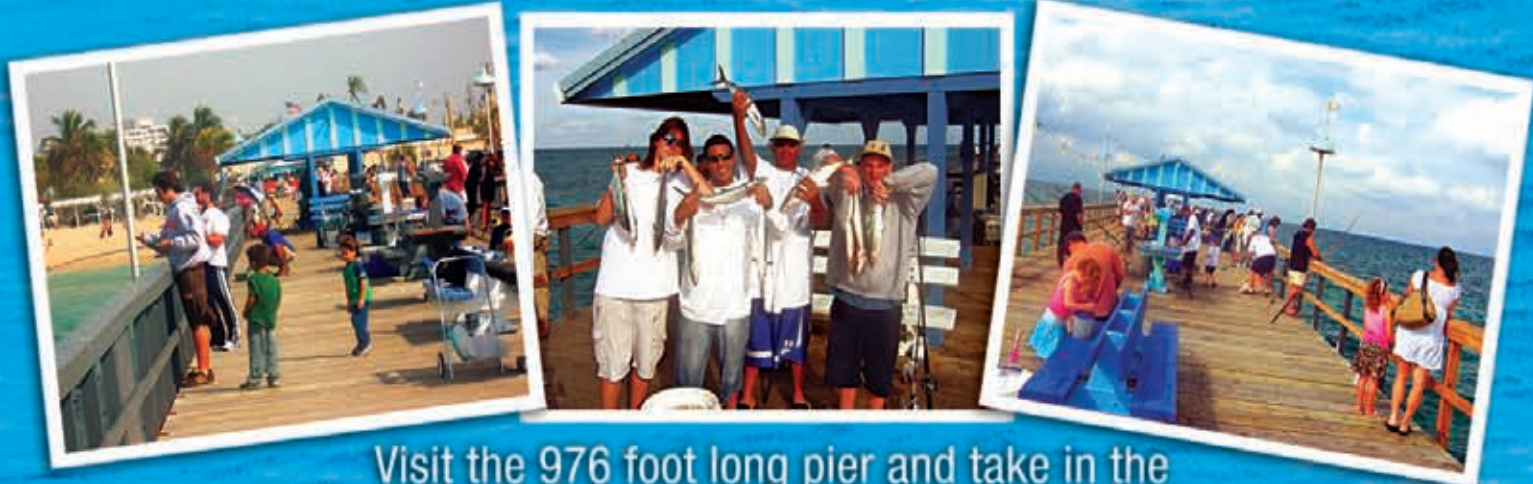
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