

ByTheSeaFuture

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR SOUTH FLORIDA'S COASTAL TOWNS
January 30, 2009

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This stunning and original LBTS bracelet is available now at PJ Rossi Jewelers on Commercial Blvd. Read more below.

Photo taken at Pelican Grand Resort by JEFF KOLODNY

LOVE IS IN THE AIR BY THE SEA

by Cindy Geesey

Valentine's Day is on a Saturday this year, February 14, and the restaurants and merchants in the area are doing their best to provide you with ways to show your love throughout the entire day!

You could start by serving your beloved breakfast in bed, but a better treat might be choosing from the wide range of breakfast items at Diner by the Sea, served with a complimentary red carnation. Delacaseas will offer heart shaped muffins and Abru Café their delicious coffees.

When it comes to gifts, flowers and candy are the standard, just because they are so popular and appreciated. With 33 years of experience as your hometown florist, Dolores Hamilton at Garden of Love will help you choose the perfect arrangement for local delivery or pick up, and she has floral design books to help you choose an arrangement to have delivered out of town if needed. She cautions that the sooner you order for out of town delivery, the better, but no later than Monday, February 9. In addition to flowers,

Garden of Love also has a selection of collectibles and gift items.

LBTS is fortunate to have two excellent stores for fabulous chocolates and candy. Jan's Homemade Candies features an arrangement of handmade chocolate roses that owner Jan Lendi says "gives you flowers and chocolates all in one." One of Jan's popular original creations is her Valentine Froggers made of peanut butter and rice krispies. You can handpick your goodies from a selection of 32 nuts and crunchy treats, 72 varieties of truffles, 60 kinds of creams and cups, and 16 flavors of fudge. You'll also find dipped fruit and sugar free chocolates. For the gentlemen, chocolates can be served in a tuxedo or shirt and tie gift box. Chocolate lover Mayor Roseann Minnet plans to help Jan serve her sweets on Valentine's Day, so stop by to be helped by your Mayor.

Kilwins Chocolates and Ice Cream is another popular sweet stop in LBTS. They'll help you create a custom basket and have Valentine hearts boxed trays avail-

able. Popular specialties are chocolate covered pretzels and Oreos. Co-owner Jan Becker suggests that if you give "one gift certificate for each month in the year, it's a way to keep your love alive!"

And then there's jewelry, and once more LBTS is lucky to have renowned jewelry designer Pamela Rossi as part of the business community. P.J. Rossi Jewelers has the perfect answer for the man who never knows what to buy his lady. The convertible bracelet comes in gold, silver or two-tone and features a clasp that completes the circle of the bracelet. There are over 100 clasps to choose from, and popular ones in this area are shells, palm trees, sandals, hibiscus flowers, and other beach themed items. Choose the bracelet and a clasp for this Valentine's Day, and then select different clasps for future gifts. Pandora bracelets are very popular now and are also able to be added to on future gift giving occasions. The ladies at P.J. Rossi's will help you carry out the heart theme of the day with a selection of diamond heart necklace in white or yellow gold.

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CONDOS FURIOUS OVER FIRE FEES

by Mark Brown

The condo community in LBTS is up in arms over a proposal by the town commission to charge them for fire inspections which the condos already pay thousands of dollars to have conducted by licensed, private contractors. The fire inspection fees are intended to raise money for the volunteer fire department and the town. However, the condos are furious about the plan because they feel it will force them to pay twice for duplicative fire inspections without receiving any new benefits from them. (related editorial on page 2)

Condo presidents, board members, building managers and residents have been inundating town commissioners with emails, urging them to drop the new fees and keep the old fire inspection system in place. Commissioners agreed at the January 27 meeting that there is a lot of confusion about the fire inspection fee plan, but that has not stopped the town from moving forward with the inspections. The town's newly-hired fire inspector, Steve Paine, has already begun showing up at condos to start the inspections, putting building managers in a difficult bind because they don't know what they are supposed to do.

Paine tried to clarify the situation at the commission hearing, stating that he intends to perform a different kind of inspection than the condos already receive, and that it will not cost nearly as much as the condos have been led to believe by the town. His comments were welcomed by many of the building managers and condo board members who packed the commission hearing, but they said they will remain skeptical until the town provides clear guidance and clarification in writing. "It's a tax," said John Toohey, a retired firefighter and vice president of the Ocean Colony condominium.

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LBTS FACES BARRAGE OF LAWSUITS

by Mark Brown

Hold on to your wallets because LBTS is about to face a barrage of lawsuits the likes of which has never been seen before in the history of the town. The amount of money at stake in the lawsuits will be staggering--at least \$30-40 million. That is far more than the total annual budget of LBTS, which means the very future of the town could be at stake when the lawsuits go to court.



The Sea Watch restaurant (shown above) filed a claim for \$8.3 million, the Coastal Arms for \$4.8 million, the El Dorado Club for \$5.2 million, the Sea Colony for \$4.96 million and the Palm Club for \$2.7 million.

The largest lawsuit is expected to be filed in the next few weeks by five high-rise properties in the north end of town. They are expected to seek at least \$26 million in compensation for the lost value of their property which resulted from the building height restrictions which the town enacted in 2006. The five properties are planning to join forces to file a single lawsuit against the town, rather than file separate lawsuits.

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THE GREATEST SCAM OF ALL IN LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

by Mark Brown

You have to hand it to Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee and Town Manager Esther Colon. Whenever they see an opportunity to stick it to the residents, businesses or condos in LBTS, they go right for the jugular. They are turning our tranquil little town into a banana republic style of dictatorship, driven by their own egos and personal agendas. What's surprising is how willing the residents and businesses in LBTS seem to be to just sit back and take it.

The latest round of McIntee-Colon strong-arming tactics began a few months ago, when Colon ordered the town's code enforcement staff to begin sweeping neighborhoods in Bel Air and Terra Mar Island, looking for code violations. All of a sudden, long-time residents who have kept boats or trailers in their driveways for years started getting citations for code violations. Local businesses which for years have received deliveries from trucks which park in back of their stores to unload their goods suddenly started receiving citations for blocking fire lanes.

McIntee himself has been at the forefront of these code violation sweeps. The self-appointed town vigilante has been personally inspecting the local restaurants to count the number of tables and chairs they have outside, harassing the owners, and then turning them in to Colon, who dutifully backs him up by sending out the code enforcement squad to cite the business owners. As the complaints mount, Colon brushes them off by saying she's just doing her job.

But now comes the greatest scam of all, cooked up by McIntee, Colon and Commissioner Jim Silverstone. They have come up with a get-rich-quick scheme under which the town is going to charge the 40 condominiums and co-ops in LBTS hundreds and possibly thousands of dollars for fire inspections by the volunteer fire department, even though the condos already pay thousands of dollars to have them done by certified professional contractors.

The condos are already required by law to have their alarm systems, sprinkler systems, fire pumps, fire extinguishers and other protective equipment inspected and certified every year. Florida law permits these inspections to be done by private companies which install and maintain the equipment, and it is standard practice throughout the state for local fire departments to accept these certifications as proof of compliance.

That's what the Broward Sheriff's Office did for the many years that it served as the LBTS fire department. They reviewed the certificates to make sure there were no unscrupulous contractors submitting false reports, and they did some spot inspections of their own, but they never charged the condos a penny to perform duplicative and unnecessary inspections. Of course that no longer matters now that the BSO is out and the paid volunteers are in. The paid volunteers need more money, and what better way to get it than by squeezing it out of the condos.

The town administration has gone about setting up this fire inspection program in the most confusing way. Out of the clear blue, Chief Robert Perkins sent a letter to every condo advising them that the VFD will soon be showing up at their building to conduct fire inspections, and that the condos have to bring in their paid contractors at their own expense to test the equipment in front of the VFD. Another bill from the VFD will follow 10 days later. Nowhere in his letter does it say how much the VFD plans to charge, what these fees will be based on, what they are going to inspect, how often they intend to do it, or how the VFD inspections will be any different than the ones the condos already pay for.

The proposed inspection plan is so open-ended that the VFD could show up at every condo many times each year, charging hundreds of dollars per visit depending on the size of the building. And where is this money supposed to go? Under state law, the VFD is allowed to recover its costs for the inspections, but they are not supposed to make a profit on them. If that's the case, then why does the VFD intend to split the proceeds 50/50 with the town? Since the VFD is in theory a "volunteer" fire department, they should have no costs to recover, so why the charge?

The problem, of course, is that the VFD, which was supposed to save money, is actually costing far more than BSO ever did, and now the town is desperate to raise even more money to pay for it. Try adding up the operating budgets for the VFD and the town's new ambulance service, AMR, plus the salary of the fire marshal which the town had to hire, the costs to purchase new fire trucks and other equipment, the \$40,000 ATV's which the paid volunteers use to drive around the beach, and so forth.

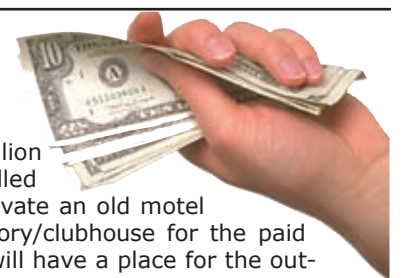
Then add the \$2 million which the town shelled out to buy and renovate an old motel for use as a dormitory/clubhouse for the paid volunteers so they will have a place for the out-of-town members to sleep and socialize while they pad the VFD's roster once or twice a month. BSO used to operate out of a small trailer in back of the Catholic church, not a \$2 million dormitory complete with a swimming pool.

The bottom line is, the VFD is costing the town a ton of money. Somebody has to pay these mounting costs, which helps explain why the McIntee-Colon regime is conducting these massive code enforcement sweeps against town residents and businesses, and sticking it to the condos with new fire inspection fees. It's all about the money.

Steve Paine, the town's newly-hired fire inspector, has been put in a difficult spot as a result of the confusion surrounding the inspection plan. He says his inspections are not going to be duplicative, and that he will be looking for violations that the condos might not be aware of. If that is the case, and he can bring a new level of fire prevention and public safety into the condos, then that is welcome news and the condos should be happy to pay the fee.

However, if the McIntee condo tax turns out to be nothing more than a gimmick to raise money for the town and the VFD on the backs of the condo owners, then they have a right to be furious with the town commission. All town residents already pay a \$130 annual fire assessment, plus much more in ad valorem taxes to pay for the fire department. It is not fair for the town to levy yet another fee on condo owners, and then turn around and use that money to lower the fire assessments for single-family homeowners who are not subject to fire inspections.

Right now, the fire inspection plan looks like a typical McIntee divide and conquer strategy, pitting one segment of the town against another. The town commission needs to address this situation immediately, to make sure that condo owners are treated fairly, that fire safety will actually be improved as a result of the inspection program, and that residents get something beneficial in return for paying the McIntee tax.



IT WAS AN HONOR TO SERVE

by Cindy Geesey

Sunny Eckhardt was president of the LBTS Property Owners Association for almost ten years, with the excellent support of officers Dolores San Miguel and Margaret Reichenstein. When I was elected seven years ago to succeed her, it was a challenge. Luckily the other officers, Vice President Ron Piersante, Secretary Cathie Moore, and Treasurer Marilyn Carr made the job fun, creative, and a team effort. Over the years other interested and energetic residents have stepped up to serve the organization as officers and directors - Maureen Terrien, Buster Celestino, Marie Chiarello, Alana Brady, and Lindsay Braverman. We've had a number of members who can always be counted on to support the organization and show their appreciation for the programs presented especially Ellen Kirby, June Lassel, Margaret Reichenstein, Janell and Rob Duritsa, Joyce Murray, Oliver and Lorene Parker, Loyola Gray, Chuck and Bonnie Clark, Dave Wessels, Fran Scheffler, and Mary Butterfield.

I sincerely thank the Property Owners Association for accomplishing a lot of "Firsts."

The POA was the first organization to present informative and comprehensive programs on Hurricane

Preparedness complete with information packets personalized for LBTS. It wasn't the town, not the VFD, not BSO - it was the Property Owners Association who initiated this program. The same goes for an informational meeting on Identity Theft. The POA also held the first Health Fair in LBTS.

The Property Owners Association originated the idea of honoring "a person who has made LBTS a better place in which to live" and so the Hometown Hero Award program was begun. This honor was awarded based on nominations and a vote of the membership and was not limited only to people who were members. The first award went to Chief Jon Case and the Volunteer Fire Department at the 4th of July celebration in 2002. I remember that he was so humble and self effacing that it was hard to get him to come up to accept the plaque, but he did it because he wanted his men to be honored rather than himself. Subsequent citizens honored included Marie White, Mae & Alan Gibson, Ron Piersante, Bill Karley, Bob Terrien and David Gadsby.

In an effort to encourage LBTS to shine during the holidays, the Property Owners Association runs the annual Holiday Decoration Contest that is fun for both decorators and judges. As a way to entice members to the meetings rather than have them watch on the government TV channel, the POA invited local restaurants to provide munchies for meetings, and the members enjoyed the food while the businesses were able to showcase their goodies and get some publicity. Generous businesses included Aruba Beach Café, The Village Grille, Lenore Nolan-Ryan Catering, Delacaseas, Carina's Stone Fired Pizza, The Cookie Shop, Dairy Queen, Dunkin' Donuts, and Damon's.

I thank the officers and members for indulging my love of animals by supporting the POA Sandy Paws Pack in the annual Walk for the Animals. You have raised over \$12,000 for the Humane Society of Broward County.

The POA provided a forum for presentations by officials who were able to answer members' questions on a wide variety of topics - Property Appraiser Lori Parrish on property taxes and portability, Commissioner Ken Keechl on Broward County issues, Diana Guidry of Naturescape Broward on use of native plant mate-

rials, and Richard Naedele of Broward County Soil & Water on water conservation.

The Property Owners Association has always been a non-political group and has never endorsed any candidate or referendum issue. The POA welcomes residents who want to learn more about our community and stay informed on issues helpful to preserving their property values and quality of life in our unique Beach Village. It is not a group that enjoys defaming anyone or infighting among the members.

For many years, the Property Owners Association ran the Meet the Candidates nights and "debates" to discuss referendum items. It was my role to function simply as a time keeper for these events and questions were not even prepared by our board, but left either to the citizens or simply presented as general topics. Over the last three years some candidates have sought to dictate how these meetings should be run and threaten the directors, so it was a relief to hand the responsibility for these debates over to the League of Women Voters.

An annual hit is always OKTOBERFEST. the party is the board's way of saying "thank you" to the members, and the Property Owners Association provides music by Aram Kasabian, brats, and pork roasts. Wine and beer are served, members each bring a covered dish, and the buffet is always delicious and varied. Jarvis Hall is beautifully decorated, the dancing is spirited, and local businesses generously participate by donating items for a Chinese auction.

It has been an honor to serve as President of the Property Owners Association for the last seven years, and I look forward to helping a new board move forward with new energy and new ideas. My husband is retiring (for the second, and maybe final, time!) in July, so we'll be traveling a lot more. I'm also devoted to seeing that this newspaper continues to bring truth and community news to LBTS residents and visitors, so I'll be concentrating my time on the expansion of *ByTheSeaFuture*.

Thank you, members of the Property Owners Association, for your support and friendship over the years!

ByTheSeaFuture

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

IT'S HIGH TIME TO SPEAK UP

I, in good conscience, cannot stay silent any longer! It saddens me to witness the commission meetings from the comfort of my home, to sit and listen to Vice Mayor McIntee attack Mayor Roseann Minnet time and time again. It is my assumption and opinion that he has no respect for the office of mayor, let alone for women in general. Mayor Minnet is a lady with both tolerance and "decorum," and Vice Mayor McIntee is insensitive and crass. Mayor Minnet has tolerated his constant verbal abuse, but I implore her not to give in to his "bully tactics" any longer on the dais.

The good citizens of LBTS are being punished as well by his actions. The "Electric Broom Boys" need to be swept out of office in 2010! Let us restore some civility and pride back in our town we all love.

Vice Mayor McIntee, as well as Commissioner Jim Silverstone, have had their own agenda since day one. Jim, I am disappointed in some of your voting decisions, but you have shown respect for the office of mayor and you listen to the people of this town, and seem sincere in your efforts to move this town forward.

I always valued the fact that I give people the benefit of the doubt and listen to both sides. But I stood by for three years, only writing one letter to the editor of *By The Sea Times*, which was never published in their paper. Well, SHAME ON ME and other residents who were afraid to speak out for what is right. It is our duty to fix what is wrong and not maintain the status quo! The absolute gall of *By The Sea Times* to criticize at every opportunity our past and present mayors of LBTS is amazing. Look in the mirror: it is not a pretty picture!

Good citizens of LBTS, please bring back our beautiful beach village! Respect those we have elected to speak for us and not their own agenda. Come to the town meetings, let your voices be heard, and show your support for what you believe in!

Thank you, *ByTheSeaFuture*, for all your efforts in reporting what is best for LBTS. We must move forward with some of the master plans that our former Mayor Oliver Parker, Vice Mayor John Yanni, and Commissioner Chuck Clark had the foresight to put in motion. I am confident we will unite and once again hold our heads high when we talk about our hometown. Friends and neighbors, let us not let this "CABAL" happen any longer.

Marie Celestino, Resident and Concerned Taxpayer of LBTS

As a ten year resident of beautiful Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, I'm disappointed and angered by our local town government's mishandling of the Chamber of Commerce Christmas celebration. With a very shaky national economy, why would you withdraw the funds needed to promote the holiday? When you use our tax dollars as a weapon to punish political foes, you punish us all! Please stop the acrimony -- business is bad enough! Grow up!

Pamela Raymond, LBTS Resident

SILVERSTONE REACHES OUT

Dear By The Sea Future Newspaper,

I am surprised to see my letter to Ms. Colon in your January 9th edition of the paper. Had I known it was being published, I would have asked you to mention to your readers a positive result from the letter.

Mr. Silverstone, who was mentioned in the letter, reached out to us. I had assumed that Mr. Silverstone should be grouped with Mr. McIntee and Mr. Ciani as non-productive members of our community. I did Mr. Silverstone a disservice. His response to my letter was direct and responsible. While I doubt I will be holding hands and taking a moonlight stroll on the pier with Mr. Silverstone, I was impressed and must retract any implication that he is not a positive influence in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea.

Louis Marchelos (Athena By The Sea and Anglin's Fishing Pier)

RESERVED PARKING REDUX

Dear Editors,

I would like to take the opportunity to respond to a letter from Louis Marchelos, Athena By the Sea, published in the January 9 issue of your newspaper.

As we all know, parking is at a premium in Lauderdale by the Sea. In an effort to improve the situation, which benefits all merchants, I initiated the proposal to remove the bagged parking reserved solely for Athena by the Sea, and open it up for equal access for all Lauderdale-By-The-Sea merchants and their customers. In addition to that, the additional revenue that will be gained is an added benefit to the town.

I am very involved with my own homeowners association and my only goal is to better our community. Being a property owner in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, I bring those same concerns and goals to the town of LBTS.

My only intent in regards to removing the reserved parking solely for Athena by the Sea was as a betterment for the community. This is not a personal turf battle as indicated by Louis Marchelos, and I apologize to him and anyone else who has misunderstood my actions.

Bill Ciani, LBTS Business Owner

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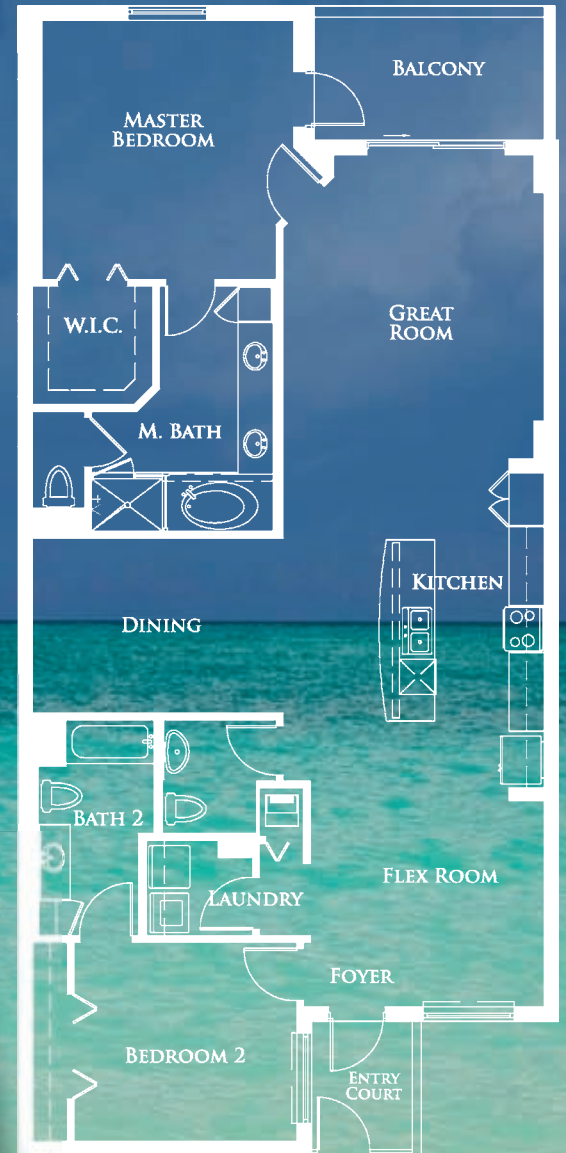
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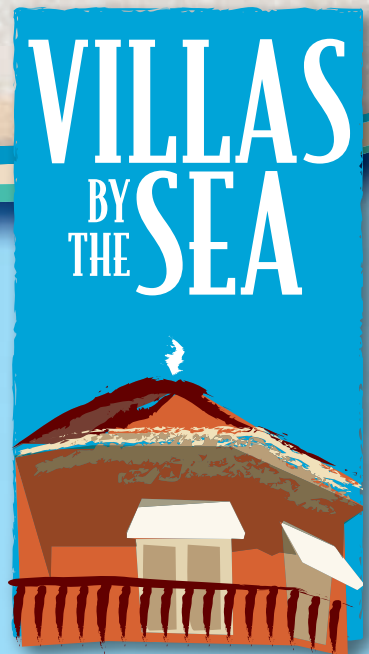
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CONDOS FURIOUS OVER FIRE FEES

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All condos are required by Florida state law to have their fire safety systems inspected each year. In the past, these inspections have been done by the private companies which install and maintain the buildings' alarm systems, sprinklers, generators, fire extinguishers and other fire-related equipment. These companies are licensed and certified by the state. When a condo passes its fire inspection, it receives a certificate from the contractor stating that it is in compliance with the law. A typical 50-unit condo in LBTS pays over \$6,500 a year for these inspections, while the larger buildings pay in excess of \$13,000 for the inspections.

Jim Goodloe, Chief of the Florida Bureau of Fire Prevention, said the state permits local fire departments to accept these certificates as proof of inspection. "The only time a fire department is required to witness an inspection is when a new system has been installed," Goodloe said in an interview with ByTheSeaFuture. "Once the system receives its initial performance review, the contractor takes over. They are licensed contractors and the acceptance of their reports is sufficient to meet the requirements of the law." Goodloe added that this is the common practice among communities throughout the state.

BSO Fire Marshal Charles Raiken said he is not aware of any other community in Broward County besides Ft. Lauderdale which does the actual fire inspections and testing in condos and charges for them. "We rely on professionals who are licensed by the state to do this job," he said. Raiken added that the BSO never charged the condos for fire inspections during the two decades that it served LBTS, and it does not charge the eight other communities which it serves to this day. In addition, records show that the LBTS volun-

teer fire department did not charge the condos for fire inspections in the past when it was in charge of fire suppression.

Much of the confusion surrounding the fire inspection fees involves a letter which VFD Chief Robert Perkins sent to every condo on December 29, 2008, which states: "the Fire Department personnel and inspectors will be at your building to conduct this test and inspection. It is the responsibility of the building manager/ or owners to have all fire and life safety equipment operable and prepared for this annual test. Please make the necessary arrangements to have personnel who are familiar with and able to operate this equipment to assist in conducting these tests."

Perkins' letter triggered an immediate backlash among the condo building managers and board officials throughout the town. They said they already pay thousands of dollars for the contractors to come to their buildings on a scheduled basis to test and inspect their fire-safety equipment. Under the town's plan, they said, they will have to pay thousands more to bring the contractors back in a second time just to put on a demonstration for the VFD. On top of that, they will have to pay an unspecified fee to the VFD for standing there and watching. "Within ten days from the completed Fire Department inspection, the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Fire Department will notify you of your fee charge," Perkins wrote.

Several building managers interviewed by this newspaper said the fire inspection plan is fraught with problems. First, they said, their fire-safety apparatus is maintained by four or more different private companies, and the inspections normally take place on multiple days over the course of the year. They said

it would be impossible and prohibitively expensive for them to get all the contractors together on a single day to conduct all the tests at once while the VFD is present.

They also said they don't want anyone from the VFD touching their fire safety equipment because they might break something. In addition, they are concerned because the VFD did not tell them how much they intend to charge or how often they intend to come back to the buildings. According to information provided to commissioners by town manager Esther Colon but not shared with the condos, the town intends to charge \$200 for a 50-unit building and \$400 for a condo with 150-200 units for each visit. The commission is expected to cut that fee by an additional 10%.

Paine told the commission hearing that it will not be necessary for the condos to pay to bring their contractors to their building while he conducts his inspections, saying he is trained to do them himself, and that the VFD will not necessarily charge for follow-up visits. He added that he will be looking for other fire hazards which go beyond the tests which the private contractors currently perform, such as blocked stairwells, chained emergency exits or potential ignition sources. He assured the crowd that his work will provide an additional benefit to the condos in terms of fire prevention, and not simply be duplicative.

The town commission approved an ordinance which supports the fire inspection plan, but it withheld final approval of the fee system until all the details are worked out and shared with the condos.

LBTS TO FACE A BARRAGE OF LAWSUITS: WILL THE TOWN SURVIVE?

Continued from Page 1

In addition, two private property owners are in the process of preparing lawsuits against the town. Both property owners spent millions of dollars to acquire land, hire architects and engineers, and begin the arduous process of securing building permits for improvement projects which were approved by the town commission as part of the overlay districts. However, the commission pulled the rug out from under the property owners in the middle of their projects when it denied them permit extensions and abolished the overlay districts, leaving them in limbo.

Yet another lawsuit is being researched by the Palm Yacht & Beach Club, which is seeking to be hooked

up to the town's municipal sewage system. The Palm Club sewer project had been approved and funded by the town commission, the engineering and design work was completed and they were ready to go to construction last year, but the commission suddenly changed course and cancelled the project. The Palm Club may go slow in filing its lawsuit to see if the town is first successful in obtaining a federal grant to pay for the sewer project.

Representatives of the five high-rise properties in the north end of town declined to comment on the record, saying they prefer to try their case in the courts and not the press. However, several sources confirmed

that their lawsuit is ready to go. The properties will be suing the town under Florida's Bert J. Harris Act. This law gives property owners the right to sue for compensation if the government takes an action which lowers the value of their property. Here is the history of the issue:

When the north end of town was annexed into LBTS in 2001, the annexation agreement maintained the 15-story height limit which was in effect in that area. However, in 2006 the voters of LBTS narrowly approved a referendum which changed the charter and lowered the maximum building height in the north end of town to four stories. **Continued on Page 6**

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LAWSUITS COULD BANKRUPT TOWN

Continued from Previous Page

The five properties responded by filing significant claims against the town under the Bert J. Harris Act, saying the lower height limit reduced the value of their property. According to documents submitted to the town, the Sea Watch restaurant filed a claim for \$8.3 million, the Coastal Arms for \$4.8 million, the El Dorado Club for \$5.2 million, the Sea Colony for \$4.96 million and the Palm Club for \$2.7 million.

So far the property owners have prevailed in every preliminary legal skirmish against the town. On February 16, 2007, Broward County Circuit Court Judge Cheryl Aleman ruled in a motion filed by the town that the property owners have the right to sue the town under the Bert J. Harris Act to seek compensation for the lost value of their land. In addition, former Florida Attorney General and now Governor Charlie Crist issued an advisory opinion in 2006 in which he also concluded that the property owners have the right to sue for compensation. The properties could have filed their lawsuit immediately after Judge Aleman's ruling, and it is not clear why they have waited nearly two years to sue the town.

There have only been a handful of Bert J. Harris lawsuits filed in Florida since the law was first enacted in 1995. No case has ever gone all the way to the Florida Supreme Court, because the towns have always negotiated a settlement as soon as the property owner won the first round in court. The LBTS case will be different, however, because the charter amendment which the voters approved requires the town to lose at both the district court and appeals court levels before it can consider entering into a settlement with the properties. It will most likely cost the town several hundred thousand dollars in legal fees alone to take the case that far.

To make matters worse, there are 10 other properties in town which were devalued as the result of the charter amendment. If they decide to join in the lawsuit or file their own lawsuits at some point, the town could be facing as much as \$80 million in claims under the Bert J. Harris Act. The entire budget for the town is only \$28 million.

DECORUM ON THE DAIS - INFORMED OPINION

by Chuck Clark, Former Town Commissioner

The subject of decorum was the point of discussion for a special Lauderdale-By-The-Sea town commission meeting held on Monday, January 26. Commissioner Birute Clottey, who called the meeting, expressed extreme concern and utter outrage over audience behavior during commission meetings.



Commissioner Birute Clottey called for the special meeting on January 26 to discuss the issue of decorum.

Commissioner Clottey is perfectly correct to be concerned. Everyone in attendance at those meetings should be acting in an adult and respectful manner. But it is also quite interesting, however, that Commissioner Clottey was not so concerned about decorum when she herself was in the audience (prior to being elected) and participated in the disruptive actions which were orchestrated by a small group of residents and out-of-towners. My point is that the unacceptable behavior has been going on for years. I am hopeful that it will stop once and for all.

There is a further issue to consider, and that is the behavior of the commissioners themselves. They should be subject to the same expectations and treatment as those in attendance.

To this end, I suggest that all parties be treated equally and be subject to one warning by the mayor, and that ejection from Jarvis Hall follow for the second infraction. There must be no deviation from this rule. The mayor must put an end to this obnoxious behavior, starting with those sitting beside her on the dais. Perhaps then, our town will finally cease to be a local laughing stock.

CELEBRATE LOVE BY THE SEA

Continued from Page 1

If you'd like to show your love for Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, choose the unique and beautiful destination bracelet. Stylized letters L B T S meet in the center of the bracelet that includes insignias of sand, sun and sea with a nautical influence. 14K rope wraps on either side of the letters symbolize the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway that border our town.

Collectibles, items for the home, and a myriad of other gift items can be found at Interior Digs, Jo-An's Papers and Cathi's. These top quality stores offer something for every pocketbook and every interest. Interior Digs is featuring "The Love of My Life Fairy," a collectible doll that has a heart as his hat and a golden locket in his hand. Interior Digs will scan a picture of the Love of Your Life to put inside the locket, a unique gift for your Valentine. Clothing items for men and women are the specialty at The Country Squire, and owner Kyle Gould suggests ties from Vineyard Vines for the man in your life. There's a special "Buy Two, Get One Free" promotion that can include the Valentine tie with hearts on it.

Pampering is the order of the day, and what could be more relaxing and romantic than a couples massage at Massage Envy? Located in the Pompano Marketplace on Federal Highway, they suggest couples say "I love you from head to toe" with the gift of a three month massage membership or longer. Adding a little wine from Old City News Stand afterward will just enhance the relaxing experience.



Lenore Nolan-Ryan Cooking School and Catering is offering Two "Seduction Dinners" for the special holiday. The first will be on Tuesday, February 10, "A Seduction Dinner for the One You Love." It's a hands on class including lamb Provencal, exotic and wild mushroom risotto, and Lava You Later chocolates cakes with strawberries and honey sabayon. On February 14, lovers can join a couples interactive cooking class that Lenore describes as "Not for the faint of heart." The menu will include asparagus soup, arugula raspberry salmon, exotic wild mushroom tatin, and Heart of My Heart baked chocolate pudding. To make reservations, call 954-491-2340 soon.

Continued on Page 9

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TRY NEW WINES FOR A NEW YEAR



Pictured at left: Gilda & Tino Vivacqua and Mirella & Ennio Aimola of Toronto with Mariano (center), owner of Old City News Stand at the wine tasting.

Locals Charlie and Karen Faust (left) joined Mariano, owner of Old City News Stand, for his recent tasting of new 2009 wines such as Cinco Tierras, 7 Lagos and Avieso from Argentina as well as the splendid Costa Del Sol from the Napa Valley of California.

The next 2009 wine tasting at Old City News Stand will be held on February 27 at 5:00. Mark your calendars, then tell your friends to join you there at the party and try some wines!

Visit Old City News Stand for fine wines, great cigars, lottery tickets and an enormous variety of magazines and newspapers including this one!



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WHERE DO YOUR TOWN COMMISSIONERS STAND?



In each of our issues, ByTheSeaFuture publishes a list of the major votes taken by the LBTS Town Commission and a breakdown of how Mayor Roseann Minnet and Commissioners Stuart Dodd, Jerry McIntee, Birute Clottey and Jim Silverstone voted on each issue. Here is how they voted on January 13 and 27, 2009. Read the full commission meeting report below for details about how it all went down.

ITEM VOTED ON:	Minnet	McIntee	Silverstone	Clottey	Dodd
allow boats and trailers to be parked in driveways in north end of town only	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
require boats in driveways to be in good condition and covered by approved tarps	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
remove the bags from all parking meters in town to require paid parking	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
allow fire inspection fees in condos, with the charges to be set by resolution	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
limit campaign contributions to \$300 and prohibit donations from town vendors	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
limit use of town's public tennis courts to residents and guests only	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
have town attorney seek documents related to \$33 in missing funds from GreenFest	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
spend more than \$30,000 for new entryway signs in Bel Air	N	Y	Y	Y	N
allow cars to exit from the back entrance of the pier parking lot	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
spend \$28,000 to repave North Tradewinds Avenue	N	Y	Y	Y	N
limit kite surfing off the beach only to town residents who purchase permits	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
apply for a federal grant to install municipal sewer hook-ups in the Palm Club	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
spend \$29,987 for a new fire assessment report	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
rebid a contract to purchase a canvas to cover a fire truck	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
require all town jobs paying over \$50,000 to be advertised in the Sun-Sentinel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
allow Aruba Cafe and Athena restaurant to expand their sidewalk cafes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

COMMISSION MEETING REPORTS - 1-13-09 & 1-27-09

Seven years after the north end of town was annexed into LBTS, the town is finally on the verge of having a unified town code. The LBTS town commission has approved a series of code changes on issues ranging from property setbacks to hedge heights and signage, to make sure that the same rules apply to properties in both ends of town. The individual code changes still have to be approved by final ordinance before they take can effect

One major exception to the unified code carved out by the commission will allow people who live in the north end of town to continue to park boats and trailers in their driveways--a practice which is prohibited in the south. The commission decided to exempt these properties after being bombarded with protests from boat owners, many of whom received citations during a recent code violation sweep conducted by the town.

Under the new plan, people who live in Bel Air or Terra Mar Island will be permitted to park boats and trailers in their driveways as long as they continue to live at that address. Once they sell or move, boat parking will no longer be allowed at that address. The boats will have to be properly maintained and in working order. The vote to create the two-tiered boat parking system was 4-1, with Commissioner Birute Clottey voting no.

The town's unsuccessful experiment with free parking is history. The commission voted 4-1 to remove the bags from all parking meters in town, meaning everyone will have to pay to park. Commissioner Jim Silverstone voted no. The vote came after local businesses complained that beachgoers and employees

were taking up all the free parking spaces in front of their stores, leaving no place for customers to park. In addition, the town has been losing thousands of dollars in parking meter revenues. The commission staff is in the process of drafting a new plan under which discounted parking would be made available to town residents and property owners only.

In a move aimed at embarrassing Mayor Roseann Minnet, the commission approved a motion by McIntee to have the town attorney--who is paid \$200 an hour--seek documents relative to \$33 which has not been accounted for from the GreenFest which the mayor sponsored in town last October. McIntee said the investigation is needed to find out if any criminal violations occurred regarding the missing \$33. While the commission came down hard on Minnet, they took no action against McIntee after he accused a town resident of committing forgery during the meeting--also a potential criminal violation. Last year the commission declined to conduct an investigation of McIntee after he was accused of physically threatening a top officer in the fire department.

A number of new spending projects were approved by the commission. They voted 4-1 to spend nearly \$30,000 to prepare a fire assessment report, with Clottey voting no. They voted 3-2 to spend \$28,000 to pave a portion of North Tradewinds Avenue, to remove tire tracks which were caused by the street improvement project on Seagrape Drive. Minnet and Commissioner Stuart Dodd voted no. They voted 3-2 to spend more than \$30,000 to build entryways into Bel Air, to hide the recently-installed sewage pumping stations. Minnet and Dodd again voted no. They also voted 5-0 to rebid a \$25,000 contract to purchase a

canvas cover for a fire truck, after learning that McIntee had been involved in the contract discussions and that the contract had not been awarded to the low bidder.

The commission served up a volley of controversy when it voted 5-0 on January 13 to allow out-of-town visitors to purchase passes to play tennis on the town's two public tennis courts. The idea was to raise some revenue for the town, but local residents who currently use the courts flooded the commission with protests, saying they don't want more people competing for court time. As a result, the commission reversed itself at the January 27 meeting and voted to limit the courts only to town residents and guests. The annual fee to use the tennis courts was raised to \$100.

Responding to concerns that the town administration has been hiring people for high-level jobs without going through the standard advertising process, the commission voted to require that openings for jobs paying over \$50,000 must be advertised in the Sun-Sentinel, and that all qualified candidates must be interviewed before a hiring decision is made. The commission voted to limit campaign contributions to candidates who run for office in LBTS to \$300, and to prohibit contributions from vendors who do business with the town. They voted to limit kite surfing off the coast of LBTS to only town residents who purchase permits. They also voted to allow the Aruba and Athena restaurants to expand their sidewalk cafes, and to allow cars to exit from the back of the parking lot at the fishing pier.

LBTS MAYOR'S COMMENTS



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

Okay, hold on because here we go! After the last few commission meetings, it appears that LBTS may be headed for quite a few referendums this year on issues such as clarifying height limits, controlling the sale of property, and making the volunteer fire department our permanent fire protection service. These are important issues and referendums are not to be taken lightly, since it is very difficult to undo a charter change once it is passed.

My advice to residents is start doing your homework now, and don't be duped into thinking these referendums are necessarily going to be good for the town just because they sound good. Remember, there are always three sides to every story. It is therefore very important that you ask questions about how these referendums will affect you and the future of our town, and that you rely on information from all sources, not just one or two. I'll have a lot more to say about these referendums in the future as we learn more about them.

Like many of you, I am concerned that the town is continuing to experience a lot of growing pains since annexation. The question is, are we ever going to get over this and truly become one town? The north contributes a tremendous amount of money to the tax base of the town, yet most of the promises made in the annexation agreement have been eliminated, and there are still efforts being made to punish the north even further. We just have to move on and try a little harder to get our community on the same page.

I have not and never will be a fan of using the phrase "grandfathered in." The question is where does it stop and where does it leave code enforcement? I am certainly troubled by the recent code enforcement sweeps we have been having around town, especially at a time when businesses and residents are experiencing major economic uncertainty. There must be a diplomatic way to work out these issues without burdening our already struggling residents and business owners even further. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions in this regard.

The recent meeting to discuss decorum at commission meetings was insightful to say the least. When I stated that Roberts Rules of Order is intended to protect the rights of the minority, I was met with some pretty cool responses from some of my fellow commissioners. I guess they don't understand that the minority has rights too, including the right to be heard without interruption. When there are interruptions--and most often they come from the dais, not the audience--they

disrupt the entire meeting and they undermine people's rights. I intend to be a lot stricter this year in enforcing the rules, starting with the people sitting to my left and right on the dais.

I want to thank everyone who has taken a ride on the Pelican Hopper recently. It is important that we increase ridership on the Pelican Hopper so that the county will not cut off our funding and take this service away. Many people depend on the bus as their only means of transportation. I went to many of the condos and asked them to please use this service more often, and I am very pleased with the positive response I received. I am hoping that the Pelican Hopper will soon be standing room only. It's free, it's convenient and we need everyone to support this service and take a ride on the Pelican Hopper.

Finally, as I have promised, I am introducing measures that will help our existing homeowners and businesses by offering incentives such as rebates for upgrading their properties. We are a community of many in a small town, and we need to keep the older, unique properties a part of the LBTS tradition. I believe that by providing the right incentives, we can successfully work with many of these owners and encourage them to remodel instead of tear down. Let's send a message and offer a positive building code to spur our residents and businesses to renovate and rejuvenate, and not just tear down or sell their property.

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE?

by Lenore Nolan-Ryan

Reasons to say I love you...“you make me laugh”, “you call your mother”, “you take in stray cats”, “you give freely to others”, “you help small children cross the street”, “you smile at strangers”, “you are grateful everyday”, “you willingly take out the garbage”, “you make me happy when I am feeling blue”, “you indulge me”and “the nuts in your head fit the bolts in mine”

Semi-homemade Valentine Seduction Dessert for the one you love...

Slices of your favorite pound cake cut into heart shapes, topped with more than one scoop of your favorite ice cream. Next, pour lavish amounts of this chocolate sauce over the top of “the one you love” I mean over the ice cream ... and enjoy ... all night long!

WORLD'S BEST CHOCOLATE SAUCE

2 2/3 c. whipping cream
1/2 lb. unsalted butter
2 c. white sugar
2 c. brown sugar
1/2 t. salt
2 2/3 c. best quality cocoa (Droste)

Warm cream and butter and bring to a boil. Add sugars and salt. Reduce heat and whisk until mostly dissolved. Whisk in cocoa. Bring back to a boil and whisk for 1-2 more minutes. Remove from heat. Cool and store in the refrigerator in an easily accessible airtight container, so you can indulge and reward yourself with spoonfuls anytime the spirit moves you!

Enjoy!

Lenore



Lenore Nolan-Ryan has been a regular contributor to *ByTheSeaFuture* for over two years. She is a world-renowned chef and culinary lecturer whose business is located in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Lenore can cater your next event, large or small, while her popular cooking school offers a variety of cooking classes and lively cooking class parties. For more information about how Lenore can help you with your entertaining needs, call 954-491-2340 or visit LenoreNolanRyan.com.



LOVE, CHOCOLATES AND JACK

by Doc Lawrence

February is a good time to address those recession blues according to Lecia Duke who for the past 25 years has gained national fame with her one-of-a-kind liquid center chocolates. She believes it's all about love. "It's February," she said, "and Valentine's Day doesn't have to begin and end on the 14th." Ms. Duke's home is Fredericksburg, a picturesque city in the fabled Texas Hill Country. The city has strong German influences and a good portion of the population is Native American. Coexistence and harmony reign here, one of the reasons the city is a top stop-off for tourists. The other is her local chocolate store. Born with an insatiable sweet tooth, I made inquiries about a good candy store when I visited Fredericksburg a few years ago and was directed to Chocolat, Ms. Duke's intimate production headquarters and retail store. I entered a delicious world that harkened for Willy Wonka.

Lecia Duke's early years provided few hints that she would become a chocolatier. She began as a magna cum laude-degreed architect successfully pursuing a career in Nashville while always thinking about making chocolates. "I knew that designing buildings and bridges was never going to make me happy," she said, so she decided on a major career change, going home to Fredericksburg to make chocolates. Before really starting, she traveled to Europe to learn the Liqueur Praline process, a unique 200 year-old method and opened shop to rave reviews. What kick-started her success, however, was becoming the first licensee of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey liquid center chocolates. The combination of Old World process and New World brand fame was the huge hit that launched Chocolat and garnered Lecia Duke the prestigious "Innovator" award from the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Approaching her 25th year in business this April, Ms. Duke has made liquid-center chocolates with over 150 storied beverages including legends like Frangelico, Amaretto, Crown Royal, Crème de Menthe, Hennessy Cognac, various Kentucky Bourbons, Tequila and Tennessee Whiskey plus wines of the world including Champagne, Bordeaux, Pinot Noir, Syrah and Port. Her specialty is custom-made spirits and wine liquid center chocolates, making this perhaps the only company in the American marketplace with such capability. Her recent appearance at the National Candy Show in Atlantic City stirred enough buzz to attract producers from the Food Network.

Lecia Duke enjoys home and work. Being part Cherokee in a city with a rich Native-American heritage is, she admits, comforting. She shares a ranch with Nick, a local Native-American leader, and both care for their land, the pet buffalo and Valentina, their one good-natured wolf. Ms. Duke's daughter Jesse is a third-year student at Colorado State University.



Lecia Duke, Chocolatier

Visitors from the four corners visit Chocolat regularly to observe the handcraft artistry, often contributing to quite a repertoire of anecdotes. "I had a man walk in one day," Ms. Duke said, "who told me he had just returned from Israel and had this wonderful Israeli chocolate-orange liqueur hoping that I could make chocolates for him for a full-blown dinner party. We made the liquid center chocolates-they were wonderful-and it was fun." Another story involved a man wearing a Stetson and a holstered pistol who asked Duke if she could put anything in a chocolate. "Pretty much," she recalled telling him. "I asked what he had in mind, and he said 'sheep dip.' I replied that I didn't think that would be edible and he explained that Sheep Dip is the name of a rare Single Malt Scotch from Scotland. We made this, of course."

Her chocolates are arguably a confectioner's miracle. "Everything is made with love," says Ms. Duke. "This is a happy place to work and since everything is hand made, there is a personal connection with those who get to enjoy the chocolates. Everything," she added, "has to be beautiful," a reference to the hands-on process and the original design employed for gift boxes. "I knew that being an architect would be handy someday," she said laughing. "If everything isn't beautiful, it doesn't leave the store."

Valentine's Day takes on a little added meaning this year. Budgets are strained and fears grow. Living like a miser is the antithesis of joyful living. Lecia Duke, an All-American example of self-made success advises, "don't live this way. Time is valuable and we can easily celebrate love."

Make someone smile with a box of chocolates, a dozen red roses, a bottle of French Saint-Amour red wine and an intimate dinner.

Love is a cost-effective cure all. Tenderness and gourmet chocolates never go out of style.



Veteran journalist **Doc Lawrence** has joined the *ByTheSeaFuture* team as a regular columnist, a relationship loaded with promise and one that is almost certain to entertain our readers.

Doc was a familiar face in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea while he was editor and publisher of a national newspaper headquartered in Broward. He has since resumed writing about Florida and the South, particularly regarding travel, tourism, outdoor life, wine, fine dining and the arts. "I truly love this wonderful community," Doc said, "and this gives me a chance to renew acquaintances and share a few stories. This publication-it's owners and staff-consistently displays excellence and high standards that benefit all of us. I am proud of our association." Learn more about Doc by visiting DocsNews.com.

CLEANING UP THE STREETS

by Adam Masterson

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea may not be the horn-blowing capital of the world, but its seasonal traffic is certainly not listed as a tourist attraction by the Chamber of Commerce either.

So as we continue to dwell in this abode with ever increasing traffic, I'm hereby proposing the federal government add one more stipulation to any bailouts they give to the automakers:

Car companies must add an "alternative horn" as a standard feature to all their production models. Why? Well perhaps you have found yourself in the exact same scenario I was in the other day:

I'm routinely sitting at a red light, when the light suddenly turned green but the car in front of me failed to move. Working on my patience, I extended the few courtesy seconds - I'm by no means the guy who has his hand already on the horn waiting to honk a nanosecond after the light turns green, like some sort of wild west outlaw with an itchy trigger finger - and yet after the few seconds had gone by the car still wasn't moving and my patience was waning....

So I honked. And I immediately felt like a jerk.

You see the normal horn - even if it is lightly tapped - sounds so belligerent and demanding. Granted, I drive a pickup truck and so the horn is more pronounced than it would be in say, a Mini Cooper. Even so, the problem is that the same horn is used for the jerk that cuts you off, the person about to back into you, the person drifting into your lane, and the little lady ahead of you at the light who you just want to gently remind, "Green means go."

But the horn says it otherwise.

It's like the Seinfeld episode where Jerry's uncle Leo gets his eyebrows waxed but in a slanted fashion - from that point on anything the guy says, no matter how nicely, comes across like he's angry because he appears angry.

The horn, no matter what, always appears angry. Like you're shaking your fist and cursing under your breath when perhaps it's one of the few times you're not.

We, the people, need an alternative horn.

Keep the standard horn and its confrontational reputation for when we really need it but give us another horn that communicates, "Hey I'm not mad, just wanna remind you the light's green." Or for those times when you're moving down your street and want to say hello to that neighbor always turned around watering the lawn. Instead of trying to tap the horn in some kind of rapid-fire sequence aimed at sounding cheerful but really causes your startled neighbor's heart to palpitate, what about a greeting horn?

The question is what would such a horn sound like?

Perhaps a chime of some sort? Woodwind? Sinatra? I tell you what, a little "Strangers in the Night" blaring across Commercial and A1A during gridlock would go a long way in this town...



Adam Masterson is the newest regular contributor to *ByTheSeaFuture*. His writing style is filled with wit and humor and contains a bent towards providing a revelatory chuckle about life's daily events. While his column typically presents a humorous viewpoint, Adam is also an accomplished journalist and is working on several news-related articles to appear in future issues of the newspaper.

Adam is married and lives just across the bridge in Fort Lauderdale. His frequent walks to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, dinners at local restaurants and chats with townfolk provide him with a unique perspective on life in our charming seaside hamlet.

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

January 31: The LBTS Garden Club annual rummage sale will be held at Jarvis Hall from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Get in line early!

February 7: LBTS Women's Club holds its annual Silver Tea at Jarvis Hall at 11:00 a.m.

February 14: The Women's Association of the Community Church holds their annual Rummage Sale at the church from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

February 24: The LBTS Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual Taste of the Beach beginning at 5:00 p.m. at El Prado and the beach.

MY TRIP TO THE INAUGURATION

by Victoria Marchelos

My first trip to Washington, DC, was for a big reason - to see the inauguration of our new President. There were 25 students from Cardinal Gibbons High School selected to attend the Close Up Academy Civic Education Program for the inauguration, and most students belonged to the Mock United Nations Club.

With Principal Ott and Brother Ferris as chaperones, we flew up to the capital and stayed in Arlington, Virginia, with many other students. There were about 3000 from across the country as part of this program.

I absolutely loved Washington, DC. The only problem was the extreme cold weather and I missed my whole family very much. In DC the average day was in the 20's with a wind chill of 5 to 10 degrees. Close Up Academy took us to see the Jefferson Memorial, Georgetown (my favorite stop!), Capitol Hill, The National Archives, House of Representatives, Congress, the Lincoln Memorial, and Old Alexandria. My second favorite stop was the Newseum Museum "A History of Journalism" where I was interviewed by FOX TV's Peter Doocy.

We also went to the public concert which was also very cold and crowded but enjoyable. As part of the Close Up Program we participated in site-based workshops on current issues and in debates and mock elections and also meeting with elected officials.

I was proud to see the new President being sworn into office, though I was a big McCain/Palin supporter. The day of the inauguration we had to wake up at 2:45 a.m. to wait in the line at the Metro station. My school was there for 12 hours in the freezing cold and it was extremely packed. That day was a once in a lifetime experience that I



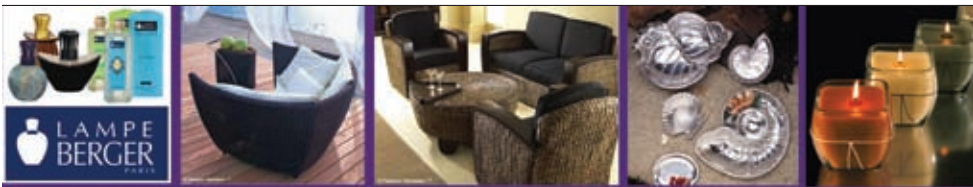
Victoria at the Jefferson Memorial



will tuck away in my memories forever. And someday when I become President I will make sure that everyone has heated seats for my inauguration!

The highlight of my trip was meeting all the different students from across the nation, especially Shantal from California. I formed a strong bond with my fellow classmates Catherine and Shannon, and we protected each other and watched each other's backs during the inauguration and all the events. Some of my classmates got lost at the National Mall due to the hoards of people.

I'm happy I was able to attend President Obama's inauguration, but I'm really glad to be back in South Florida. There's really no place like home.



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GET YOUR TASTE TICKETS NOW

A favorite annual event for locals and visitors alike is Taste of the Beach, an annual food fest sponsored by the LBTS Chamber of Commerce. This year the culinary extravaganza will be held on Tuesday, February 24, starting at 6:00 p.m. at El Prado and the beach, and over 40 area restaurants will be on hand to provide samples of their food and beverages. The evening will also include music by the steel drum band Oceanik and by Rick Bauer, as well as dancing. The Silent Auction will feature a ride on the Goodyear Blimp and there will be a Chinese auction, too. Thanks go to Bill Davis and The Away Inn who are major sponsors of the event and to event chair, Guy Contrada of Aruba Beach Cafe and his committee. The all inclusive tickets are \$35 in advance and \$37 at the door and are available at the Welcome Center/ Chamber of Commerce at 4201 Ocean Drive. Call Chamber Executive Director Judy Swaggerty at 954-776-1000 for more information.

ELVIS IS ALIVE AND WELL

Since December, Elvis impersonator David Morin has been entertaining locals and visitors in downtown LBTS, thanks to the sponsors at Athena By The Sea and 101 Ocean. Athena's Spiro Marchelos was asked "Why Elvis?" and replied, "Why not Elvis? He was Greek, you know, and we only have the best." Brother Louis added, "we get lots of compliments from all the people coming out on Saturday nights for fun." Morin sings all the hits made famous by Elvis, from the 50's to his movies to his sold out concerts in the 70's and includes costume changes to portray the young Elvis and the older Elvis. Upcoming Saturday night appearances will be January 31 and February 14, 21 and 28, from 6 to 9 PM. You can call Athena By The Sea at 954-771-2900 for reservations. See photo of Spiro, Louis and Elvis on next page.

WOMEN'S CLUB FASHION SHOW

The meeting of the LBTS Women's Club on January 29 included a lovely lunch, a lot of camaraderie and conversation, and a first ever fashion show presented by the Avor Shop at 2705 East Oakland Park Boulevard.

Independent Avon representatives Daniel and Patrick wanted to open their own store and are directing a lot of their efforts to helping organizations with fundraising. Every other Friday they also offer free makeovers and skin care clinics. Call 954-561-3511 for more information. See photo of the event on the next page.

Does your local club, group or organization have an event you'd like to be publicized?
Send details to events@ByTheSeaFuture.com

SMOKING GUN: JERRY MCINTEE'S THIRD HAT EXPOSED

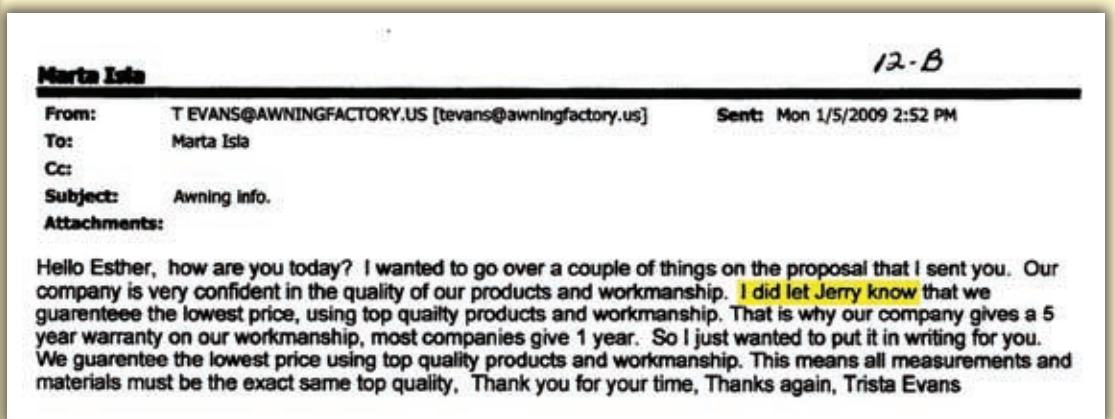
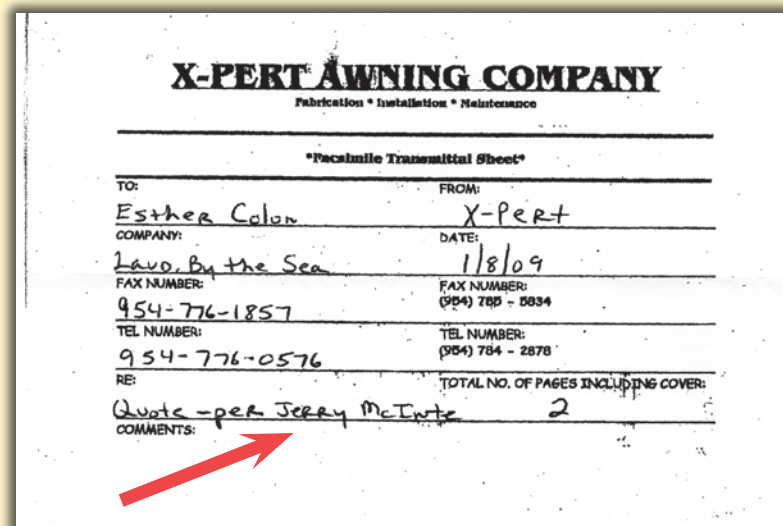
It looks like two hats just wasn't enough for Jerry McIntee to wear. He is already the vice mayor and the deputy chief of the paid volunteer fire department. Now he is apparently the town's new contracting officer as well. See supporting documents as evidence below.

According to these documents, McIntee was in charge of soliciting bids for a contract to purchase a canvas tarp to cover one of the town's fire trucks. McIntee told the town commission that he did nothing more than contact four awning companies and invite them to bid, but this email to town manager Esther Colon

from one of the companies suggests that he actually discussed the details of the contracts with them. McIntee then voted on the contract when it came before the town commission.

Interestingly, the town commission voted to award the contract to a company whose bid was \$9,000 higher than the lowest bidder. After learning that the company was not the low bidder, and expressing concern about McIntee's involvement in soliciting the bids, the commission reversed itself and decided to rebid the contract.

Correspondence between the awning company and town manager Esther Colon suggests that McIntee actually discussed the details of the contracts with them.





Spiro and Louis Marchelos of Athena By The Sea restaurant sponsor Elvis impersonator David Morin for Saturday night shows twice a month right here downtown Lauderdale-By-The-Sea.



President Linda Collins was one of the models at the recent LBTS Woman's Club Avon fashion show, along with 93 year young model Vera Punke who stole the show. It was truly an elegant and fashionable event.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

January 31, Saturday: The LBTS Garden Club annual rummage sale will be held at Jarvis Hall from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Call Kit Cashman at 954-642-8785.

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

February 4, Wednesday: The Lions Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the LBTS Resort & Beach Club (formerly Holiday Inn). Call Michael San Miguel at 954-647-7752.

February 5, Thursday: Bulk trash pick-up south of Commercial.

February 6, Friday: Bulk trash pick-up north of Commercial.

February 7, Saturday: The LBTS Women's Club holds its annual Silver Tea at Jarvis Hall starting at 11:00 a.m. Call Linda Collins at 954-334-6662.

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

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

February 14, Saturday: The Women's Association of the Community Church holds their annual Rummage Sale at the church from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Call 954-776-5530.

February 18, Wednesday: The Lions Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the LBTS Resort & Beach Club (formerly Holiday Inn). Call Michael San Miguel at 954-647-7752.

February 18, Wednesday: Board of Adjustment meets at 11:00 a.m. at Jarvis Hall.

February 18, Wednesday: Planning & Zoning meets at 6:30 p.m. at Jarvis Hall.

February 21, Saturday: Congregational Breakfast at the Community Church starts at 9:00 a.m.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Continued from Page 6

A romantic dinner is a must to complete the day. The Village Grille will feature a Sweetheart menu with dinners for two with special wines and desserts. Athena By the Sea and 101 Ocean will both have special items for Valentine's Day dinner, and Elvis impersonator David Morin will be performing that night. Athena recommends you make reservations by calling 954-771-2900. Aruba Beach Café will have music all day, starting with heart and spirit lifting steel drums, followed by a solo guitar player and then a dance band starting at 10:00 p.m. Lunch specials will be served from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and dinner specials from 4:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. According to Aruba's Guy Contrada, "Many couples have had their first date here, married, and now return to Aruba for anniversaries." Carina's Stone Fired Pizza and Gelato invites you to come to dinner and enjoy one large complimentary gelato per couple to share for dessert. Pianist Nat Charles will entertain at Pa DeGennaro's, roses will be given to the ladies, and special items will be added to the regular menu for the evening. Blue Moon Fish Company will present a rose to every lady and will offer an expanded champagne list with champagne by the glass as well. Just a mile and a half south on A1A, the North Ocean Grille at the Pelican Grand Beach Resort will have their expansive oceanfront verandah adorned with cozy tables for two complete with complimentary ocean breezes and candlelight. Voted "Best Romantic Restaurant" in East Broward by locals, the North Ocean Grille captures the romance of a bygone era with a taste for the contemporary.

If you and your loved one want to extend the fun and romance of Valentine's Day, enjoy a delicious brunch at Aruba Beach Café or at the Pelican's North Ocean Grille on Sunday and relax at the water's edge. Blue Moon Fish Co. is also famous for its magnificent waterfront brunch featuring an amazing assortment of delectable culinary creations for which the restaurant is known worldwide.

If you're new to LBTS or just visiting, stop by the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center at 4201 Ocean Drive for a Visitor's Guide that will give you more information on all these businesses. Celebrate your love in LBTS on Valentine's Day!




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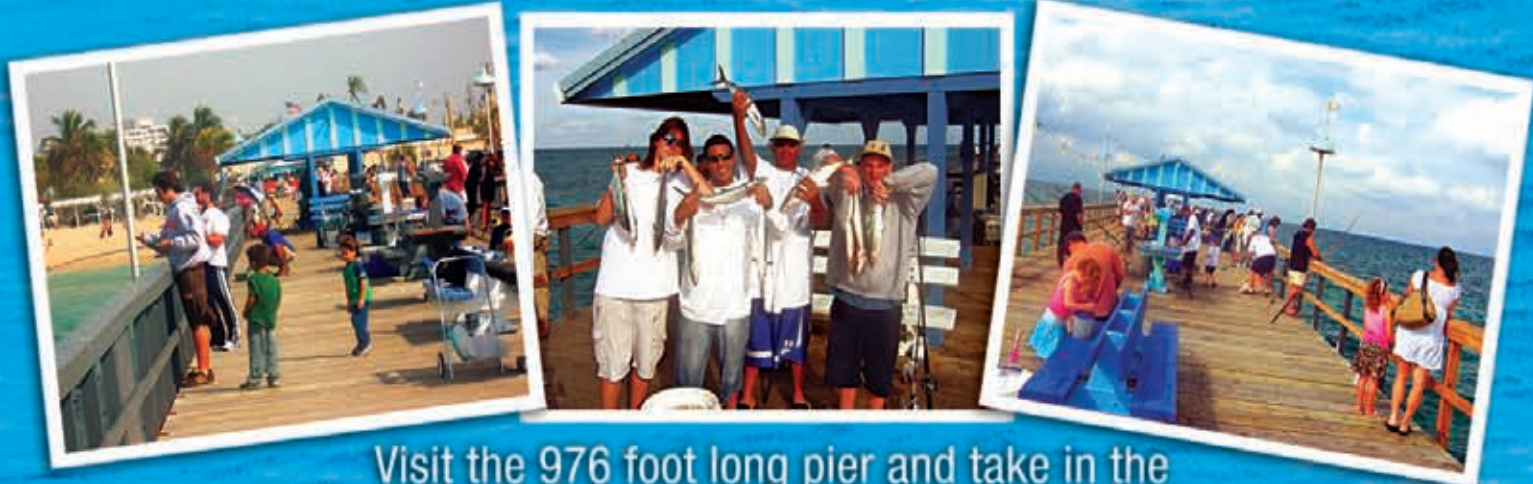
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