



Lauderdale Isles

Civic Improvement Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 121255 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Nonprofit Organization since 1959

Spring Issue 2007

President's Report

By Charles Love

On Thursday, March 29, 2007 the city of Fort Lauderdale and their consultant Dickey Consulting Services held an annexation rezoning workshop at the Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club. The intent of this workshop was to present the differences between our present county zoning codes and the city's zoning codes. The residents of the isles numbered around 65 and were divided into six groups. Each group had a facilitator and a flip chart. The facilitator listed the particular zoning codes and the individual groups would vote on whether they preferred the county zoning or the city zoning. As each item was described, a show of hands was recorded on the chart, county or city, for about 15 code issues such as set backs, fence and pool locations, dock length and width, maximum lot coverage for building and or storage sheds. The entire workshop took about two hours and none of the results of the voting was made public, but in talking to other residents it was apparent there were more votes to retain the county zoning and fewer votes for the city zoning. Don Morris of the city was asked if more of the residents will have a chance to vote as we did. This issue is being discussed and may be put on the city's web site.

It is my opinion this rezoning effort was poorly advertised, poorly attended, and poorly organized by the city's consultant. The graphics were also poor and misleading. The next step as I understand is to somehow record and refine the results of the workshop and provide our area with the proposed rezoning recommendations, then sometime in July or August make the rezoning recommendation to the city's Planning and Zoning Board.

Vice-President's Report

By Sharon Barre

My husband and I moved to Lauderdale Isles in 1999. The first time we read the LICIA Newsletter it sparked our interest and we attended our first meeting. Right away we saw 10% of the Isles residents being active, improving and protecting our unique community. The Civic Associations past Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurer's, Secretary's and Trustees have spent their personal time for years and bettered our lives and I would like to take this opportunity to THANK them for all time and successes in making Lauderdale Isles a better place to live.


On that note, we need you at our meetings and to be involved in what is going on in our neighborhood. Involvement is the key. No organization can be successful without the involvement of its members. Every resident is important to our community and we need your input. This is a great way to meet your fellow lane neighbors and make new friends. We have so much talent out there with new ideas and we need you to help the Isles with upcoming challenges and events.



Agenda

**LICIA General Meeting
Thursday, May 17, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club**

1. Approval of minutes of Trustees meeting of April 19, 2007
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Police Report
4. City Grant Announcement – City Commissioner Cindi Hutchinson
5. Lane Sign Update – Presentation of matching funds
6. Annexation rezoning update
7. Lauderdale Isles Drainage District - Election May 30, 2007
8. Airport Expansion discussion
9. New Business
10. Adjourn



TIME CHANGE!
LICIA
General Meeting at the
Yacht Club 2637 Whale
Harbor Lane
Thursday, May 17th, 7:00 PM

Board Members- hard working volunteers



Four of our board members hard at work. From left to right: Marie Love, our secretary; Renee McGehee, alternate trustee for Sugarloaf Lane; Sharon Barre, vice president; and Sabrina Farmer, trustee for Duck Key Lane. This picture was taken after a general meeting at the Yacht Club.

Keeping your yard green

A lot of us are seeing brown spots in our yards because of the water restrictions. The Broward County education division has listed some hints to help you.

- **Irrigating:** Make sure your sprinkler heads are working properly.
- **Mowing:** Sharpen your blades and sharpen the mower deck to the highest setting.
- **Fertilizing:** Keep it to a minimum, or best, postpone it. It just makes your yard thirstier.
- **Landscaping:** Get rid of weeds and apply mulch
- **Pruning:** Avoid heavy pruning of water stressed shrubs or trees.

For more tips go to www.broward.org and click: **“Keeping it green during a drought.”**

Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association, Inc.

President: Charles Love
Secretary: Marie Love
Vice-president: Sharon Barre
Treasurer: Keith Lindgren

Letters and articles may be mailed to:
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or emailed to:
info@indigotechnologies.net
Editor: Yelka Mikolji

Unless otherwise stated, all materials submitted will become the property of the association and may be printed in this newsletter or reprinted by any other interested publication.

LICIA Membership

**With great appreciation to
our newest paying members -
LICIA 2007**

Andros Lane

Franco Sciortino

Bimini Lane

Michael & Jody Kusick

Cat Cay Lane

Ellen Carnes
Betsy Danz
Arthur Payette

Duck Key Lane

George & Sharon Barre

Flamingo Lane

John & Deborah Krauser

Gulfstream Lane

Yelka Mikolji
Neil & Andrea Spokas
Laurence & Virginia Chaffinch

Key Largo Lane

Tim & Luann Behm
Jim & Gina Crockett
Margaret & James Custer
Walter & Marion Schade
John & Luanna Wilson

Marathon Lane

Jeffrey F. Erickson
Lychelle Jackson
June & Walter Kelley

Nassau Lane

Frank & Harriet Hodgson
Patricia O'Connell
Patrick O'Lone

Okeechobee Lane

James Carter
Allan Daneville /Gerd Dervola
Arthur & Evelyn Estrine
David & Sara Nichols

Sugarloaf Lane

David Dodgen
Robert Leonard
Carol Rousseau
Ronald Steiner

Tortugas Lane

Keith & Ruth Ann Lindgren

Alligator Sighting

Jan from Sugarloaf snapped this photo of an alligator basking in the late day sun at the beginning of April. When she went to alert the owner of the boat, Zane on Tortugas, about the intruder, the gator promptly slid into the water and swam off!



**It wouldn't take much for him to get on
that dock!**

NOW IS THE TIME

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Committee Reports

Matching Funds Received

by Charles Love

On March 29, 2007 LICIA received a formal letter from Peter R. Partington, city engineer indicating that the city commission has awarded our association \$16,300.00 in matching funds for the lane signs, \$8,000.00 matching funds from Leland Easton, and a commitment from the board to earmark \$8,000.00 from membership dues and lane sign donations. At the present time the committee is in the process of soliciting bids for the manufacturing installation and maintenance of the 13 new lane signs. We anticipate the actual cost of the 13 signs to be more like \$28,000 which includes the pole, the powder coat paint of the pole, the graphics, the engineering, the concrete base, the installation and the required city permits, survey approvals and inspection.

On Sunday April 22, 2007 the Beautification and Lane Sign Committee received from Leland Easton a check for \$8,000.00 in matching funds for the proposed lane signs.

Pictured from left to right is Leland Easton, trustee for Marathon Lane; Charles Love, president; Keith Lindgren, our treasurer; Ruth Ann Lindgren, trustee for Tortugas Lane; Sharon Barre, vice president; and Richard Thompson, former president and trustee for Sugarloaf Lane. The not pictured members of this committee are Dirk Lowry, Harriet Hodgson and Ann Guardino.

Thank you Leland Easton.



Civic Concerns

Construction Addition at Stephen Foster Elementary School

By Stephen Foster PTA

Construction of the 12 classroom addition is finally scheduled to begin at Stephen Foster Elementary School this summer. Unfortunately, the new construction plans do not reflect what was promised by our former and current School Board representatives.

Originally, all of the buildings, with the exception of the Kindergarten and 2/3 buildings were scheduled to be replaced. Now, only the cafeteria, administrative offices and the first grade pod are scheduled to be replaced. The remaining buildings built in the 1960's, will not be replaced.

The classrooms in the 4th and 5th grade wings are small in size. They also only have one exit, which could create a safety hazard in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Please email, call or send a letter to our School Board representative, Maureen Dinnen, asking for her support in fulfilling the promises made to the students, staff, parents and community members. These messages must be delivered now because the School Board is currently allocating construction dollars for future projects. Stephen Foster has waited long enough. It is now our turn for a new and safe facility. Mrs. Dinnen can be contacted at;

Maureen Dinnen
School Board Member, District 3
600 SE 3rd Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone 754-321-2003 Fax 754-321-3890 email
mdinnen@browardschools.com

Thanks you for your immediate response to this request.

The State of Real Estate

By Rich Thompson

There have been many negative articles over the past year in the press regarding the real estate market. On April 25, 2007 in the Sun Sentinel, it was reported that the housing market continues to disappoint, with buyers hesitant to make offers and sellers struggling to cope with the unsettling slide. The article went on to say that the market is mired in the mud. Experts say they doubt the market will recover before 2008. Because there is such a large inventory of houses for sale, over 36,000 homes and condos, and growing, it is predicted that it will take several years to sell all those properties. Properties that are selling have two things in common: (a) they are renovated; and (b) they are priced slightly below market value.

We are still waiting for the good news on the reduction in property taxes that our new Governor Charlie Crist has promised. As soon as this happens the market will liven up.

Lauderdale Isles is a waterfront community, and still the lowest priced in Broward County and the most affordable. A wet lot is more desirable than a dry lot and as soon as the market picks up we hope to see a lot more activity in the way of sales. Citrus Isles has mini-mansions and we are now seeing that homeowners are razing their homes in the Isles and building new improved modern properties on their lots.

JOIN LICIA
**Your membership makes our
neighborhood
stronger.**

Environmental Corner

Lauderdale Isles Drainage District

by Charles Love

Reprinted from the April 2003 Newsletter. As an update to this report by Pete Sheridan, the city of Fort Lauderdale has passed resolution 07-69 calling for an election of the governing board of the Lauderdale Isles Drainage District. The voting will be on May 30, 2007 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club at 2637 Whale Harbor Lane. Harriet Hodgson of Nassau Land and Charles Love will be on the ballot.

Your Water Management District

by Pete Sheridan

Did you know that the LIWMD was formed to protect the water quality in our canals and was originally dedicated to keep our canals free of growing vegetation? Your tax money, on your tax bill as 'Lauderdale Isles Drainage' is collected for that purpose only. We do not clean out floating debris or dead animals. Those functions are handled by the City of Fort Lauderdale Public works department and they will respond to citizen requests in the Isles. Please contact us at any time about weed problems; *and the sooner the better*. My phone is the best way to contact me but I do have an email address.

Your Water Management District board consists of three members. One member is the County Commissioner for our district and the other two board members are two citizens of Lauderdale Isles who are elected by you. Anthony Spalding will remain as one commissioner and on January 5, 2003, I replaced Neil Leibowitz who has decided to step down after many years on the board.

Lately we have been getting quite a few calls from residents asking about navigation problems in our canals. It seems that there are a number of boats that are so wide that other boats have a difficult time navigating past them in the canals. The ability to navigate our waterways and the governing of how much footage that your boat and dock can protrude into the canals are governed by the Army Corps of Engineers not our

LIWMD or by the Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association. A good rule of thumb is that you may use one third of the canal width for your dock and boat combined! This means that on a sixty (60) foot wide canal, which is the width of most of our canals, you may use only 20 feet.

Last but not least, LIWMD will not be abolished and will continue to perform its duties as it has in the past years, even though the Isles have been annexed in to the City of Fort Lauderdale. I have had meetings with the city on the subject of jurisdiction and it was decided that the district should be left under the jurisdiction of Broward County for the next year. The city is now working with us to facilitate the transfer of the district into the jurisdiction of The City of Fort Lauderdale. A public meeting of the district is being planned for late in April at the Lauderdale Isles Yacht & Tennis Club. It will be advertised in the Sun-Sentinel after we settle on a date and time.

In closing, please help us keep the waterways free of vegetation and debris. Don't dump trash into the water and if you see a palm frond or coconut close to your seawall, pull it out; it may be your prop that you save.



Bits & Pieces

Looking Back in Time

by Charles Love

The following article is a reprint of a 1997 Newsletter written by Gary Starkweather although most of the issues have past the prime direction “go where no man has gone before” remains the same, engage in projects that improve the community and fight off Darth Vader. The issues that challenge us today are the property at the west end of Riverland Road and 441, the airport noise and its’ planned runway expansion and the need to close 13/31 known as the diagonal runway, the city’s effort to rezone the isles, influx of oversized boats in the canals, new water and sewer lines for Andros, Bimini, Cat Cay, Duck Key and Flamingo Lanes, code enforcement and crimes such as home burglaries and boat theft. Another little known issue is the light rail transit system being planned for State Road 7.

LICIA Unveils Community Development Plan

by Gary Starkweather

By Charter, the Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association, Inc.’s prime directive is to improve the community and protect the property values of our residents. This task has become overwhelming and has grown far beyond the capabilities of our volunteer staffed association. Key signs that we have not been able to protect our community are such things as I-595, Pantry Pride, the ever growing airport, the incinerator, and now, a commercial commerce center at Hacienda. In the past year, the Civic Association has devoted almost 100% of its volunteer staff time defending our community and almost 0% on community enhancement projects.

“When you’re up to your elbows in alligators it’s difficult to remember that your initial objective was to drain the swamp.”

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of many civic volunteers, the Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association has made vast improvements in our community over the years. However, in the past few years, the

degrading attacks on our community have nibbled away at our unique community and there is no end in sight. Much of this issue of our newsletter focuses on how our community can enhance community improvement efforts.

In this issue, we are detailing a large scale plan that is designed to protect our community and provide for enhancements that will help to reverse the negative impacts that have degraded our area.

“There are three kinds of people;
Those that watch things happen,
Those that make things happen, and
Those that wonder what happened.”



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Refrigerator List - Clip it and save
It might come in handy!



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