



*Fall 2005*

# Lauderdale Isles

Civic Improvement Association, Inc.  
1220 Riverland Road, PMB 208, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

Nonprofit Organization since 1959

## President's Report

By Ray Figueroa

As you may have noticed the newsletter and the Fall General Meeting were delayed thanks to Wilma but the neighborhood fared fairly well and everybody seems to be getting back to their daily routines.

This year has seen a lot of accomplishments and a number of issues that still need to be resolved. First, let's review the accomplishments.

### **Newsletter**

The newsletter was revitalized with the selling of ads to defray the printing cost. The size of the newsletter was increased to 8-10 pages and there were pictures to explain some of the articles. The articles were about current problems or events happening in our neighborhood. From the feedback I have heard, more people are reading the newsletter. Copies of the newsletter are going out to our local government officials and to the newspaper. People beyond our neighborhood are getting to know us. More people know who and what we are and what we do.

### **New Address**

A separate mailbox address was established for the Association. Previously we had been getting our mail at a private business address of a past president of the Association, to whom we are very grateful. It is more professional and more convenient for us to have our own mailing address. The private business still maintains the server for our website and we pay a fee to them to maintain our "domain name". Again we thank them, ANI and Gary Starkweather, for providing this service to us.


### **Beautification project**

A very active and very productive beautification committee was formed. This committee has reinstated the neighborhood "House Beautiful" award that is given twice a year to the home that the committee and the board choose. The beautification committee also planted trees on the western end of Riverland Road. (Unfortunately, hurricane Wilma has destroyed some of these trees). The committee is now working on the design and placement of new lane entrance signs. The old signs are in poor condition or missing.

### **Roscioli Expansion**

The Association has monitored the Roscioli Yachting Center expansion with mixed results. Roscioli has permission, at this moment, to go ahead with his planned expansion but he must comply with certain environmental and design standards. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this situation, Roscioli Yacht Center is a boat yard that services and assembles large yachts, some of which exceed 120' in length. This boat yard and the proposed expansion affect those who live on the ends of Andros, Bimini, and Cat Cay lanes. The position of our

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**REMEMBER!**  
**LICIA**  
**General Meeting at the**  
**Yacht Club 2637 Whale**  
**Harbor Lane**  
**Thursday, Dec 1st, 7:30 PM**

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association is to minimize the impact on our community of the expansion. We have presented our case to the Town of Davie, Broward County and to the State of Florida. We have not received any concessions.

**Code Clarification**

The Association has successfully clarified in writing the question of whose code and zoning laws we are under. This was published in a recent newsletter. Until we go through a recertification process by the city of Fort Lauderdale, we are still under Broward County zoning and code. At some time in the future we will have an opportunity to participate in the recertification process. However, I must state that there are communities that were annexed to the city as long as 8 years ago, that have not been recertified.

**Airport Expansion**

The Association has joined the fight, along with other southwest Ft.Lauderdale neighborhoods, to oppose the use of the diagonal runway at Ft. Laud-Hollywood International Airport. At the same time we support the soonest possible lengthening of the south runway . This is a quality of life issue for our neighborhood in regards to sound pollution.

**Street Parking**

The Association has addressed the problem of street parking in an informative manner. We emphasized that regardless of legal issues, it is also a matter of consideration for your neighbors. At the same time we clarified the role of the lane trustee. The trustee is not the lane policeman. The trustee is the vehicle of communication between the Association and the community.

**Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association, Inc.**  
**President: Ray Figueroa**  
**Vice President: Charles Love**  
**Secretary: OPEN**  
**Treasurer: Keith Lindgren**

Letters and articles may be mailed to:  
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 or emailed to:  
 bootsn@bellsouth.net  
**Editor: Ollie Kollmann**

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.

**Social Events**

The Association has also sponsored a social event this past June at the Lauderdale Isles Yacht and Tennis Club. There was food, refreshments and free trees from the city of Ft. Lauderdale. All those who attended had a good time and the food and drinks were provided by the Association to all who came whether you were a member or not.

These are the major events and accomplishments of your Association during the past year. It is possible that I may have forgotten some events or problems. Of course, we all had to deal with hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. Those hurricanes point out that we need something like CERT for our neighborhood.(CERT, Citizen Emergency Response Team)

**LICIA Board of Trustees Election**

The upcoming general meeting of the Association on December 1 has, as part of the agenda, the election of board of trustee members for the coming year. This meeting was supposed to take place on November 17, 2005 but was postponed to December 1, because of hurricane Wilma. It is very important that you attend so that you can participate in the election of the people from your neighborhood that will guide us for the coming year. Most of the members of the board have indicated that they wish to continue for another year. This should not deter anyone who also wishes to serve as a member of the board, from challenging any member in the election. It would be a truly democratic process if there were at least two persons vying for each position. The reality has been that whoever offers to do the job is chosen by default because no one else wants it. Unfortunately, in a neighborhood of approximately 2,000-2,500 people there are only 15 who are willing to step up to the plate. Complainers and whiners are out there by the hundreds.

**Membership and dues in the Association**

Membership and the payment of dues are voluntary. The dues at the present time are \$20 a year. There is an enclosed addressed envelope that is included with this newsletter for you to use to send your check to LICIA, (Lauderdale Isles Civic Improvement Association). Our operating budget depends on what we receive in dues. We can only make plans for the future based on what we receive at the beginning of the year. To be a member and vote in LICIA elections and vote on issues at the general meetings you must be a dues paying member. This is a stipulation of our by-laws. The problem is, we don't know who is a member or not when it is time to vote. Generally we have allowed anyone who attends the general meetings to vote. We represent the entire neighborhood on issues that affect us whether or not you are a dues paying member. It's not fair to those who pay dues to carry the load for the whole community. Please become a member by paying your dues even if you don't like to go to meetings. The Association needs everyone's help and the Association has fought some really hard and costly battles on behalf of all residents. \$20 is not that much. You spend more than that to eat out just one time.

**The development at 44land Riverland**

The most important situation facing our neighborhood at present is what will happen on the piece of land on the

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southeast corner of Riverland and 441. Whatever is done will have an impact on the neighborhood. Some have said, "Anything is better than that vacant, trash strewn lot." This is bigger than the Hacienda Cove or Roscioli expansion. I don't mean in size but the affect on the neighborhood. No matter where you live on the Isles, you will probably drive by it every day. No matter what's built, traffic will increase. Aesthetically, who knows for sure what it will look like? The Roscioli expansion only affects Andros, Bimini and Cat Cay lanes. Hacienda Cove turned out to be a very nice development and it really only affects those who live on the ends of the lanes close to the river. You will see, hear, and smell this development every day as you drive by. Something will be built there. The land is too valuable to sit vacant. We can have a say in what is built if we mobilize and organize our efforts. That is why I had a survey given out some weeks ago, to see how the community feels about this project. The facts I presented were what were available at the time. The results are published in this newsletter. The results may surprise you. They surprised me. I did not vote with the majority but I respect the will of the majority. There were some very interesting and informative comments that came with the responses. Most of the responses came by e-mail, a lot came by phone, some were dropped off at my house and some came by mail. I appreciate all of those who took the time to respond and I thank you. The results of the survey can be used as a tool to influence the developer, the city and the county. Sooner or later, governmental authorities will ask the community and the developer how the community feels about this project. There will be public hearings. I ask that whatever course the community takes that we respect what the community wants and not what the board of trustees want or what the board of trustees think is best. At the present time, the board of trustees has not taken a position on this proposed development. When the time comes for us to take a position, I hope the board respects the will of the majority of those who responded to the questionnaire, or takes a neutral stance.

## Survey Results

by Ray Figueroa

Most you received a survey asking for your opinion on what you thought would be the best type of development on Riverland & 441. The results are as follows: as of 11/15/05  
130 responses, 18% of the 722 survey forms printed.

(Not all of the forms printed were handed out.)

Office condos, 81 = 62% **of the total responses.**

Residential condos, 45 = 33% **of the total responses.**

**Either or Neither 6 = 5%** of the total responses.

Comments? 3 persons responded "either one" depending on the traffic. 3 persons responded neither.

## Wilma and Its Aftermath

By Ray Figueroa

I don't think we expected Wilma to be as bad as it was. We had already survived Katrina and that wasn't too bad. Only five lanes in the neighborhood lost power in Katrina. It was a category 1. They said Wilma was a category 2. How bad could that be? We soon found out. We all lost power, some for a week, some of us for over 2 weeks. The destruction, well - you saw it. It was bad. Some of it is still with us. It will take months and years for the tree canopy to come back. Damage to houses and utilities will be repaired within months but damage to the environment and to our psyche will take time.

### *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

There are a lot of stories of random acts of kindness after the storm. There are so many stories that I can't say they were random acts. They were systemic acts of kindness. Neighbors with generators stretched cords across yards and streets to lend power to those who didn't have power. People pitched in to clear fallen trees and debris from streets and houses. Neighbors ran errands for those who couldn't get around. Neighbors shared food and ice and fuel. There are so many stories. It restores your faith in humanity. I want to share one story with you. You can probably tell many a story of your own.

There is an elderly gentleman, 85 years old, and an original owner who lives by himself on Flamingo Lane. A Norfolk pine fell on his house during the hurricane. Parts of the tree went through the ceiling into one of the bedrooms. Four of the beams in the ceiling were broken. The tree was from a neighbor's property. That neighbor was out of town at the time. After the hurricane, other neighbors, led by Penny and Dan and I guess others, cut up the tree and removed it from the elderly gentleman's house. This was no easy task. That tree was at least 80' high and the trunk was over 2' in diameter. A tarp was then stretched over the damaged part of the house. When the neighbor returned, he supplied the old gent with a cord from a generator he had. The neighbors also brought the old gentleman prepared food. There are a lot of really good people in our neighborhood.

### *A Job Well Done*

I think the city of Fort Lauderdale did a good job of having the debris removed. I have talked to people from other municipalities who say they are way behind our city in having things cleaned up. I was living in Miami/Dade County when Hurricane Andrew hit in 1992. We were in the northern part of that county. Wilma was about as bad as Andrew for us. In Andrew we were 10 days without power. In Wilma we were 7 days without power. In Andrew, it took so long to pick up the all the debris that it dried out and became a serious fire hazard. That does not seem to be the case in our neighborhood.

## Insurance Inequities

By Randy Dunlap

When massive snow storms hit our northern states we share the insurance burden. There are no special snow policies akin to "wind damage" insurance for snow; Florida residents all help pay. When devastating tornados strike the Midwest year after year we all help bear the insurance burden. When floods devastate low lying or riverfront communities we share the burden in a different way. Flood insurance is federally subsidized by all Americans. However, sadly, when hurricanes destroy the lives, homes and businesses of our oceanfront communities, there is no sharing of the insurance burden. The answer has always been an increase in our insurance rates. This is a particularly difficult pill to swallow when you consider that the wind damage caused inland by the same storms that destroy coastal communities is not required to be covered by the same "special" wind damage insurance our costal residents are forced to pay. Those inland wind losses are covered by the insurance companies "general fund". A general fund into which we all pay but from which hurricanes victims may not draw. I do not hold the insurance companies responsible for this inequity. The insurance companies can not make law, they comply with the law.

The responsibility for correcting this situation lies with our federal government for the same reason the federal government subsidizes flood insurance.

I call on the Congressional Delegations of all of our Gulf and Atlantic states, Republican and Democrat, to demand relief for the millions of Americans suffering from the burden of the exurbanite insurance rates leveled against our lives and futures. If this fails I call on the citizens affected to peruse a constitutional remedy in the courts citing equal protection. If the folks on the Mississippi River are due federal subsidized insurance for their special circumstances so are the residents affected by hurricanes.

## Agenda

### General Meeting of LICIA

**December 1, 2005**

1. Minutes and Treasurer's report.
2. Introduction of guest speakers  
Alain Jean & Perry Thurston - Candidates  
for Chris Smith's position in the State House of Representatives
3. Discussion of survey results
4. Election of officers and trustees
5. New business
6. Adjourn

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