

35 Years MIAMI TODAY

WEEK OF THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

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GABLES GARAGES DEVELOPMENT PLAN, PENDING 20 YEARS, GETS PARKED FOR THREE MORE, PG. 12



GAS GOING UP: Miami gasoline prices at the pump rose 0.7 cents per gallon in the week ended Monday to average \$2.68 per gallon, up 26.7 cents per gallon in a month, GasBuddy price tracking service reported. AAA – the Auto Club Group forecast that prices would rise another 10 cents per gallon this week across Florida, predicting the price would peak somewhere between May 5 and Memorial Day. The lowest price per gallon in

Miami was at a station charging \$2.35 a gallon, GasBuddy said, while the most expensive was \$3.59.

NEW NET OFFICE: A new Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) office will operate at 1897 NW 20th St., as part of an agreement in which Miami-Dade County leases office space at 970 SW First St., the Manuel Artime Community Center, a city-owned facility. The Miami city commission approved two resolutions authorizing the city manager to execute leases between the city and county. A background memo says the city owns the Manuel Artime Community Center, where the county will lease 4,810 square feet of offices for operation of social service programs run by the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department. The city says its NET offices strive to raise the quality of life in Miami neighborhoods by providing resources, as well as information, serving as the primary link to city government. Details: www.miamigov.com/nets

BIG CITY CIRCULATOR RIDERSHIP: Ridership on municipal circulators like shuttles and trolleys reached an all-time high of 13 million in fiscal 2018 – 22% over the year prior, according to the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, which listed Miami, Miami Beach, Coral Gables, Doral and North Miami as the five highest-ridership cities in the county. Twenty-seven of the county's 34 municipalities now operate trolley or shuttle services, which are funded by the more than 20% cut cities get of the "half-penny" tax voters approved in 2002 to expand transportation options across the county.

MIAMI LAKES BONDS BACKED: Miami Lakes has gotten a rating of AA+ on \$7.3 million in bonds that it issued in 2010 for its Government Center project. Ratings agency Fitch Ratings notes that "the town irrevocably pledges its electric utility tax revenue... for repayment of the bonds." That electric utility tax rate is 10% of electricity purchases, the highest the law allows, Fitch says. The town, incorporated in 2000, encompasses 6.8 square miles with a 2015 census population estimate of 31,087, up 6% from 2010, Fitch says. The agency says it expects the revenues from the electric utility tax "to rise at a slow pace generally in line with inflation, aided by growth in population and continued development."

THE ACHIEVER



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

Dori Foster-Morales
Family lawyer heading toward Florida Bar presidency
The profile is on Page 4

County has record best jobs tallies

As Florida's jobless rate rose in February for the second straight month, Miami-Dade shrank unemployment to its lowest rate ever with total persons on the job an all-time high, chalking up multiple records.

Miami-Dade unemployment fell to 3.2% from 3.9% in January, US Bureau of Labor Statistics figures show. The state's Department of Economic Opportunity cited 3.5% jobless in Florida as a whole, up from 3.4% in January.

Miami-Dade added 4,633 jobs in the month and 57,959 in 12 months to reach 1,393,517 – most ever, according to the federal statistics.

Four clusters in February recorded their most jobs ever in Miami-Dade:

- Professional and business services hit 183,500 persons working, up 4.2% in a year. That was a gain of 1,100 jobs from January, which had tallied the previous high.

- Other services, a catch-all, hit 54,300 jobs in February, up 1,700 from January, which set the prior high, and rose 5.4% in 12 months.

- Leisure and hospitality gained 2,400 jobs in 12 months to 146,000, a 1.7% annual gain.

- The education and health sectors combined to add 5,300 jobs in the year to a new high of 192,700, up 2.9%.

Booming construction led the county's annual job percentage gain, up 6.6% in total employed to 53,300 in February but below the 54,000 high mark set in November.

The county's largest single employment category, trade, transportation and utilities, added 1.6% to jobs in 12 months to 301,900, up 4,800 jobs for the year.

Government jobs rose 0.9% in the year to 144,900.

But during the general hiring gains three jobs categories fell over the 12 months in Miami-Dade: manufacturing jobs fell 1.5% to 40,200, information jobs dipped a half percent to 20,100, and financial activity dropped six-tenths of a point to 80,600.

Florida and Miami-Dade both remained below the national unemployment rate of 3.8%, which was down from 4% in January.

Save bayfront, bar Ferris wheel, ex-mayor pleads

By JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

■ City calling for major bayfront project, pg. 8

One of Miami's most revered and celebrated former mayors, Maurice A. Ferré, this week delivered a strong message to current leaders at City Hall: Save the waterfront.

In a detailed, four-page March 25 letter sent to Mayor Francis Suarez and all five commissioners, the long-time mayor and community leader pleaded with them to protect public open spaces and parks.

Mr. Ferré specifically opposes a proposed zoning change that would allow a Ferris wheel at Bayside Marketplace, a sprawling commercial development on leased bayfront land the city owns.

Mr. Ferré also voices opposition to a plan he fears will open up more of the Biscayne Bay waterfront to major commercial development involving the FEC Slip, a former seaport docking site that fronts the south end of a city park recently renamed in his honor – the city commission in December renamed Museum Park as Maurice A. Ferré Park.

The first item is a proposed zoning amendment to add "amusement ride" as a use allowed by exception with city commission approval

within the Civic Space Transect Zone. Commissioners approved it preliminarily Jan. 24, after several people spoke in favor of the change, saying a sky wheel at Bayside Marketplace would be an iconic landmark.

The proposal is on today's (3/28) commission agenda for a final vote. In his letter, Mr. Ferré cautions commissioners against approving it.

"This would open up all our waterfront parks to become a Miami 'Coney Island,'" he wrote.

"My request ... to all of you is to please assure that all the Bayfront parks have no possibility of becoming Miami's Coney Island. At the very least please delete the amusement rides from the Maurice A. Ferré Park," he wrote.

"For all of my 19-year tenure as a City of Miami Commissioner, City of Miami Mayor, and subsequently Miami-Dade County Commissioner, I heard what I thought was the long-winded litany of Miami's need for more usable parks for its residents. Miami was at the bottom in all the statistics of parks per resident, and parks per square mile in the country.

"One of my regrets and a shortcoming of

my tenure in office was not having paid more attention to the need of a greener Miami," Mr. Ferré wrote.

He said he had been a pro-growth mayor and listed examples, including being a proponent of development of Bayside.

"Now, at age 83 and, obviously, towards the end of my life, I have finally awoken to the reality of the truth of our need for more green parks," he continued. "Organized parks include activities that attract people to the park, but that cannot be at the expense of open green areas."

He said he fully agrees with commissioners who are striving to monetize city-owned property to bring in revenue for city improvements, but said those assets must be monetized properly.

"Since I was one of the culprits, if not the main culprit, let me plead with you to be stronger and wiser than I was, and spare the little area that we have left as green space along Biscayne Boulevard in Downtown Miami.

"Please reject these and future requests to further intrude by again improperly monetizing our beautiful series of parks along the waterfront and river of Downtown Miami," Mr. Ferré concluded.

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THE INSIDER

BUILDING BEACH BUSINESS: Miami Beach has hired an economic development director charged with rolling out the red carpet for the business community and cutting red tape. The city commission unanimously appointed **Bo Martinez** to the job after his prior eight years of economic development work with the City of Phoenix and City and County of Broomfield, CO. Prior to Broomfield, he worked for the City and County of Denver's Office of Economic Development, where he directed the Neighborhood Marketplace Initiative, business retention, expansion and attraction programs. In Phoenix, he developed and managed the Metro Light Rail Transit Oriented Development program and downtown development projects.



Bo Martinez

BEACH JAPANESE FESTIVAL: The annual Japanese Spring Festival returns March 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, with free admission available through online registration. Activities will include a sushi demonstration and tasting by **Mitsutoshi Sekita**, owner and head chef of Koume Japanese Restaurant in Plantation, sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami, as well as Taiko drumming by **Fusha Daiko**, Ikebana floral design workshops, traditional tea ceremonies, hands-on origami lessons, an artisan items marketplace and a children's corner featuring storytelling and arts and crafts. To register: bit.ly/MBBGarden.

PARKING APP NUMBERS: The Miami Parking Authority reports continued big numbers for online service PayByPhone to pay for parking. Authority COO **Alejandra Argudin** said recently that 90% of all parking transactions handled by the authority are paid for via the PayByPhone app. It was in 2008 that the authority entered into an agreement with a new company called PayByPhone. By downloading an application to their smartphones, drivers are able to pay for parking in on-street and off-street public parking spaces managed by the authority. It has led to the removal of traditional parking meters. Ms. Argudin also reported that a campaign to attract even more residential sign-ups had resulted in about 800 new customers.

UNIVISION MAKING MAGIC: Univision Communications last week donated \$50,000 for scholarships at Miami Dade College's Miami Animation and Gaming International Complex on the college's downtown Wolfson Campus. The funds will support a fellowship and internship program. "Our commitment to the MAGIC program has spanned years and helps develop talent in a field that can only benefit from diversity," said **Claudia Puig**, president and general manager of Univision Miami. Partnerships between the program and the local industry are a key part of the academic program, said **Mauricio Ferrazza**, the MAGIC chairperson.



Claudia Puig

AMAZON EXEC TO SPEAK: Amazon Web Services' general manager of Latin America, Canada and Caribbean, Worldwide Public Sector, **Jeffrey Kratz**, will talk about best business practices and leadership at Miami Dade College's Mike Fernandez Global Business Leadership Series next week. He's to speak at 5:45 p.m. Monday, April 1, in The Idea Center at the college's Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami. The session is in the campus's Building 8 at 315 NE Second Ave. on the fifth floor, room 8503. Details: Isabel Artime, (305) 237-3960 or iartime@mdc.edu

INCLUSIVITY HONORS: MCCJ, an organization dedicated to "embracing diversity, building an inclusive community," renamed its Lifetime Achievement Award for late attorney **Robert Traurig** as it held its annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner at the Intercontinental Miami on Saturday before about 600 members and guests. Then the organization awarded the lifetime honor to attorney **Burton Young**, and Silver Medallions to concert pianist, teacher and activist **Ruth Greenfield**; **Saif Ishaof**, vice president of engagement at Florida International University; Bilzin Sumberg Managing Partner **John Sumberg**; departing Miami Herald Publisher **Alexandra Villoch**; and the Rev. **Diane Shoaf**.

DIVERSITY CAMP FUNDING: Late in Saturday's MCCJ dinner, host **Calvin Hughes** of Channel 10 News announced that the evening had raised \$56,500 in primarily \$500 pledges to fund 50 youths from across Miami-Dade County for a week of summer camp at St. Thomas University in June to stimulate dialogue across areas of diversity. Then he brought to the podium dinner guest **Alitza Weiss** of the Weiss Group of Companies to make her own announcement: she was donating \$250,000 to support the diversity camp, a gift that Mr. Hughes noted was unprecedented.

REAL ESTATE HONORS: Long-time developer and real estate leader **W. Allen Morris** is to be honored for lifetime achievement when the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce holds a Real Estate Summit at Jungle Island on April 17. The chamber will also be making awards for architect, developer, real estate law, banking & finance, commercial real estate broker, residential real estate broker and municipality, community or public sector organization — three already-named nominees will vie for the award in each division.



W. Allen Morris

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE: The 23rd annual Miami Riverday festival is set for 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Lummus Park Historic District, 250 NW North River Drive. The free event includes river boat rides, kids' activities, historic tours and reenactments, environmental education and more. Paddleboard and kayak races are planned. "It's free and it's fabulous," says **Horacio Stuart Aguirre**, chairman of the Miami River Commission. Live music is to be performed by SPAM Allstars and Luis Bofill & Band. Food and beverages will be sold. Free parking lots are at 25 NW N River Drive, 474 NW Fourth St., 365 NW N River Drive, 605 NW Sixth St., and under I-95 on Northwest Third Street, Northwest Fourth Street and south side of Flagler Street.

American grows airport club space and county nets \$80 million in deal

By **JESSE SCHECKNER**

A deal to expand American Airlines' VIP club space at Miami International Airport (MIA) by more than 52% and yield Miami-Dade County more than \$80 million over a decade is one vote from approval.

County lawmakers in a tourism committee last week forwarded a 10-year lease agreement with the air carrier to a final April 9 vote. If given the OK, the new deal, sponsored by Commission Vice Chairwoman **Rebeca Sosa**, would permit American to increase the square footage of its Admirals Club at Gate D-15 and Flagship Lounge at Gate D-30 in the airport's North Terminal.

Ms. Sosa, chairwoman of the Tourism and the Ports Committee, commended Aviation Director **Lester Sola** on "another good job" bringing "a very positive fiscal impact to MIA" before she and fellow commissioners voted 5-0 to advance the item.

Currently American uses more than 37,850 square feet for both clubs — 12,326 square feet for the club at Gate D-15, plus overflow space outside; and 25,524 square feet at Gate D-30.

American reports that both clubs, which draw millions of visitors annually, suffer from overcrowding and resultant declining customer satisfaction, a memo signed by Deputy Mayor **Jack Osterholt** states.

The new lease would allow



Rebeca Sosa: very positive impact.

American to expand the clubs by 1,671 and 18,262 square feet at Gates D-15 and D-30, respectively, he wrote, adding that both would be renovated "to provide a more elegant and modern customer experience."

Per the proposed new lease, American would pay the county about \$8 million the first year, which includes about \$2.46 million for the clubs' additional space.

That amount is subject to recalculation every October; however, the county's aviation department estimates American would pay no less than \$80 million in rent, which is separate from other related payments the airline would make to the county, including:

- 18% of monthly gross liquor sale revenues.

- 10% of gross sales from all other amenities not provided directly by



Lester Sola's dealmaking hailed.

the aviation department.

- A 35% "opportunity fee" charge for non-member passengers who buy day passes to the clubs.

American in 2011 signed a five-year lease for 42,716 square feet to operate the two clubs that included month-to-month rent extension provisions for up to four years afterwards. In 2015, the county agreed to allow the airline to begin improvements to both.

The new lease, which would terminate the existing one, includes stipulations that county aviation overseers and auditors may at any time during normal operating hours "inspect, review, verify and check all or any portion(s) of [American's] procedures for recording or compiling gross revenue or opportunity fee information by day or month," as well as any other "pertinent" sales records, reports and statements.

Fitch gives transit bonds thumbs-up

Fitch Ratings gave nearly \$220 million in revenue refunding bonds for the Miami-Dade transit system a favorable 'AA' rating in preparation for the issuance of those bonds this week.

The net impact, as Miami Today reported last week, will save Miami-Dade almost 10 cents for every dollar outstanding. County commissioners this month OK'd issuing up to \$265 million in transit surtax refunding bonds to repay bonds issued in 2009.

At the same time it rated the revenue refunding bonds this month, Fitch also affirmed the 'AA' rating on about \$1.4 billion of the transit system's outstanding sales surtax revenue bonds.

The Series 2019 bonds to be issued this week, which will replace the 10-year-old debt, will generate net savings of about \$24.4 million, or 9.68% of the amount of those refunded, a memo from Deputy Mayor **Ed Marquez** said. Commissioners voted 12-0 to approve the new bonds.

Fitch analysts wrote that the bond rating firm "considers risk to additional leverage to be low despite the potential for sizable issuances over time" as the transit system moves forward with the so-called SMART plan that is geared to add mass transit coverage in six large swaths of Miami-Dade County.

Revenues from the transit sales surtax are expected to grow substantially over the years, well above the rate of inflation, Fitch analysts said, increasing the amounts collected from the tax that can be used as a basis for further bond borrowing to fund transit system expansion.

In 2002, voters approved the sales surtax known as the "half-penny" to



Big county savings: Ed Marquez.

add and improve transit countywide. Fitch noted that the transit sales surtax "is not subject to termination or sunset date."

The ballot item that created the tax included provisions for creation of the tax's 15-member overseer, the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust. Trust members voted 9-0 on Feb. 21 to recommend the bond refunding.

Since 2005, county commissioners have enacted and approved several bond ordinances as well as resolutions allowing issuance of \$2 billion in transit surtax bonds. Miami-Dade to date has issued about \$1.76 billion worth of transit bonds, of which about \$1.654 billion in debt is outstanding today.

Using information provided by the county, which pays Fitch and others for ratings of its bonds, Fitch said the transit surtax "posted a solid year of growth in fiscal 2018 rising by approximately 7.5% to nearly \$220 million," according to unaudited figures.

The county forecasts 3% near-term annual growth of receipts from the tax, "which Fitch views as rea-

sonable," the rating service reported.

According to its fourth-quarter report, the trust received more than \$66.4 million from the half-penny between July and September 2018, including over \$16 million transferred to cities for local transit projects (cities get at least 20% of the half-penny) and \$11.6 million reserved for capital developments.

Over that period, the trust OK'd 148 transportation construction contracts totaling \$127 million, with some funds going toward neighborhood improvements including general transportation infrastructure repairs and upgrades.

The new fixed-rate interest bonds, like the refunded bonds, will mature July 1, 2039, and cost the county \$2.1 million to issue.

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Phone: (305) 358-2663

Staff Writers:

John Charles Robbins

jrobbins@miamitodaynews.com

Jesse Scheckner

jscheckner@miamitodaynews.com

People Column

people@miamitodaynews.com

Michael Lewis

mlewis@miamitodaynews.com



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ShotSpotter may add surveillance, license-plate cameras

By JESSE SCHECKNER

Miami-Dade commissioners have directed staff to study adding cameras and other tech to the county's ShotSpotter gunshot detection system. Then some said the study was unnecessary.

Commissioners voted 12-0 to direct Mayor Carlos Giménez's office to determine the feasibility of outfitting ShotSpotter, which provides real-time pinpointing of gunfire and other related information to police, with surveillance and license plate-reading cameras.

But according to Chairwoman Audrey Edmonson, no such study is needed because it's already being done in her district.

"They can just go ahead from what they've been doing in my district, and they can report how that's been working out because it's been very effective," she said.

Commissioner Dennis Moss, who pulled the item to say something similar, said he'd like to see the enhancements expedited.

Just a week earlier, he and Florida Rep. Kionne McGhee hosted a community meeting to discuss a Feb. 23 shooting at Naranja Park in South Dade that killed one and wounded another.

The shooting was one of "a tremendous number" that had occurred in his district, Mr. Moss said, and could have been prevented

or better enforced were those enhancements already there.

"I'm urging the administration," he said. "Let's move forward. Let's get this done. Let's improve the technology so we can better protect the community."

Barbara Jordan, the item's sponsor, did not speak in its defense. She'd given her reason in December, when commissioners directed the county administration to expand coverage in the Northside and Southside police districts and bring coverage to the Intercoastal District using funds earmarked to compensate for broadened homestead exemptions — a provision voters opted not to adopt the month prior.

Citing an April 17, 2018, report showing that ShotSpotter — first introduced here as a pilot in 2012, discontinued a year later, then revived in 2016 — as of April 2018 had led to just 14 suspect identifications and 18 arrests, she asked, "Are we getting the benefit that we hoped?"

At the time, Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez said he couldn't confirm if those arrests had led to convictions.

The company does not release its data for independent research.

After more than three years studying the system, researchers Jillian Carr and Jennifer Doleac told the Cincinnati Inquirer in August 2017 that no evidence



ShotSpotter now pinpoints gunfire and related information for police.

showed ShotSpotter was effective in curbing gun violence.

But "as long as people keep signing contracts," said Ms. Doleac, director of the Justice Tech Lab and research affiliate at the University of Chicago Crime Lab, "it's not in their best interest to produce any evidence."

On its website, ShotSpotter

reports a 48% reduction in shooting victims since the system was installed in Cincinnati, a 2.5-minute reduction in response time to crime scenes in San Diego and a 71% decrease in gunfire events in Oakland between 2012 and 2017.

"To me, the report needs to be much more comprehensive in what you provide," Ms. Jordan said,

unsatisfied with the information thus provided on the system the county could spend millions more to enhance.

ShotSpotter, county documents state, uses audio sensors to detect and alert police within 45 seconds of a shooting and transmits geolocation data, including street addresses, to officers' smart phones.

The system provides the exact time of a shooting, the number of gunshots, shooters' positions, speed and direction of bullets, and pattern analyses of locations.

The police department in December was already working to buy license plate readers and "slew to cue" cameras that, when combined with ShotSpotter technology, can create "smart domes" that provide additional investigative tools, Mr. Giménez wrote at the time.

Jennifer Moon, the county management and budget director, confirmed then that the \$37 million in the general fund set aside to cover lost revenue from a homestead exemption would be more than enough to pay for the ShotSpotter expansion.

However, the county would have to spend all but \$9 million by make up for losses when its franchise with Florida Power & Light expires in two years, she said, adding "we can make targeted investments now that we have this revenue available."

Experts to target strategy on climate, sea level rise

By JESSE SCHECKNER

Academics, politicians, industry leaders and resiliency department leads will convene in Miami next month to talk sustainability strategies at the third annual Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Conference.

The one-day conference, this year titled "Digging for Seal Level Rise Solutions: The Economic Effects of Sea Level Rise on Corporate Decision-Making," will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 4 at the InterContinental Miami at 100 Chopin Plaza.

Panels at the business-oriented symposium, hosted by law firm Hinshaw & Culbertson, according to the event page, will explore topics regarding what adjustments to architecture and urban planning can minimize damage from future conditions and aid long-term insurability, whether cost-efficient engineering options exist across multiple counties to preserve urbanized areas, how and in what ways governments and the private sector can collaborate to identify and effect solutions, impacts of future insurance rates and near-term opportunities for real estate developers, financial institutions and entrepreneurs.

International research nonprofit Urban Land Institute and global real estate investment firm Heitman will headline a morning discussion on their recent report, "Future-Proofing Real Estate from Climate Risk."

Other panel discussions at the event, to be emceed by WLRN News Director Tom Hudson,



Jane Gilbert will represent Miami.

include "Government: Adaptation Do's and Don'ts," "Insurance: Transferring and Assessing Risk," "Real Estate: Scalable Solutions to Sustainability," "Finance: The Challenges of Investing in Resilience," and "Where Do We Go From Here?"

The event's 23 confirmed speakers include Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber and developer David Martin with Terra Group, Coral Gables Vice Mayor Vince Lago and Florida International University Sea Level Solutions Center Director Jayantha Obeyesekere, as well as chief resilience officers:

- James Murley, Miami-Dade County.
- Jane Gilbert, Miami.
- Amy Knowles, Miami Beach (deputy).
- Jennifer Jurado, Broward County.

'Details: <https://www.hinshawlaw.com/events-third-annual-2019-sea-level-rise-climate-change-conference.html>.

Your dedication is timeless.

From a simple office visit to a lifesaving procedure, we count on our doctors to be there for us: to diagnose, to treat and to provide the compassionate care so central to our well-being.

Today, on National Doctors Day, it's our turn to show how much we care by acknowledging the physicians who have devoted their lives to caring for patients through their commitment to excellence.



Baptist Health
South Florida
Healthcare that Cares

BaptistHealth.net

A not-for-profit organization supported by philanthropy and committed to our faith-based charitable mission of medical excellence. For giving opportunities, visit BaptistHealth.net/Foundation

Family lawyer Dori Foster-Morales targets mental health...

Dori Foster-Morales will soon be leading the Florida Bar as president. Mrs. Morales has led a distinguished career as a lawyer in Washington and New York at the Environmental Protection Agency. She is now practicing family and marital law in an all-female firm in Miami.

Born and raised in Miami Beach, in 2017 she was awarded the Legal Luminares award by the Dade County Bar Association as the Top Matrimonial and Family Lawyer in Miami-Dade County. In coming years she hopes to focus on improving lawyers' mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Mrs. Morales sat down with reporter Katherine Lewin. The interview, recorded by Jahmoukie Dayle, can be found Friday at <http://bit.ly/2uNH0Q>.

Q: What is a working day like for you?

A: I do a lot of multitasking. I'm a divorce lawyer, so I usually get in to the office early and stay late. I probably don't do a good job of balancing all the things that I need to do as a lawyer and as a mother and as a wife, but I work really hard and I am really a problem solver.

That's what I do. People come to me with their personal problems, usually divorce or child custody and those sorts of things. I try to solve the problem, get them divorced, how to divide their assets. It's a series of phone calls. Today I had hearings in court, mediations, and negotiations. It's just a little of everything every day.

Q: Why do you practice family and marital law exclusively?

A: Before I was a family lawyer, I worked at the Environmental Protection Agency in DC and New York and then I was a prosecutor in [Miami-Dade County]. I like being in court and I like that sort of litigation, but I didn't want to do certain things. I didn't really want to do P.I. [personal injury] work. I didn't want to do criminal defense work. So I thought that family law might be an interesting area for me, but I didn't really know if I would love it. I knew that I wanted to try it.

So I went to work for a woman who was a very well-known family lawyer and there was something about it. I just felt like I was helping people. They were in difficult times.

I have great clients. They're interesting cases; it's not necessarily your standard sell the house and split the proceeds. It's international work. We're an international community.

The case that I went to court on today was two cases, multiple jurisdictions, lots of interesting issues, so intellectually it could be very interesting. I'm helping people through a tough time.

Q: When did you become a partner at this firm?

A: I started working as a family lawyer. It was in August of 1998 that I left the state attorney's office and I came to work at, essentially, this firm.

It was a different iteration because I worked for someone and she was my mentor and she was the woman partner who ran the firm. It was a much smaller firm. Essentially this is the firm and its new iteration.



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

After a decade with government, Dori Foster-Morales joined a family law firm more than 20 years ago and never left. She'll soon be president-elect of the Florida Bar.

The Achiever

Dori Foster-Morales

President-Elect of the Florida Bar (2019)
Partner, Foster-Morales & Sockel-Stone
150 W Flagler St., Miami 33130
(305) 577-0090

dori@fostermorales.com

Age: 55

Born: Miami Beach

Education: University of Florida, J.D.

1989; University of Florida, B.A. in economics 1986

Personal Philosophy: Don't let them see you sweat!

She's retired and there are other partners now and it's much bigger. But essentially I came to work here 20 years ago. I have never worked in any other private sector law firm.

Q: What in your life and career led you to where you are now?

A: I was a government lawyer for 10 years, which is a long time. A lot of people, once you're in the government for five years, you don't leave.

But I had a child with special needs. My daughter was diagnosed with autism about a month after my husband was elected to the county commission and even then my husband was a lawyer and always practiced law until recently – he doesn't practice law anymore.

The cost of the therapy for my child was extraordinary and I wasn't the kind of person that was going to say to my husband we have to go back to New York City where you can work on Wall Street and make a lot of money. He was pursuing his dreams, which are really public service, and anyone that knows Jimmy [Morales] knows it is in his DNA.

So I said I'll see if I can make money and we can make this work for our family. The motivator was financial but was not financial to buy things, but financial to provide support and guidance to our daughter, who needed a lot of special therapies. The good news is that she's graduating from college this semester.

So it worked! She's at FIU right now and getting a degree in hospitality.

Q: How did your previous experiences prepare you for a career in family and marital law?

A: As a prosecutor I tried a lot of cases. I was in front of judges that were very trial active. I tried a lot of cases and trying cases helped me to learn to be a great litigator. That experience was great and also you learn how to deal with opposing counsel, you learn how to make things happen for your clients. Just being in court a lot as a prosecutor was very helpful.

Q: You are a candidate for president elect of the Florida Bar. What was campaigning like?

A: I am president elect designate of the Florida Bar. I found out Dec. 17 that no one was running against me. So I ran a gray zone campaign. Nobody appeared to be running against me. You just start hearing things because obviously, even though the race would have been March to April, you have to collect a thousand signatures and a lot of other things you need to do to put yourself in the position.

I wasn't hearing anything from anyone. Everyone was pretty quiet. I still did things. I went to a lot of meetings, I went across the state, but I wouldn't say I was in full-blown campaign mode because I didn't need to be. You want to reserve your energy. But I did find out Dec. 17 that I would be president elect starting June and I will be president of the Florida Bar starting June 2020.

Q: Why did you decide to run?

A: I've been on the board of governors of the Florida Bar, which is like the board of directors, for 10 years. I've seen a lot of great leaders. Everyone has a little different background; they bring a little bit something different to the leadership role.

I felt like I brought something different; I'm a family lawyer not at a big firm. I feel the kind of law I do, which is at a small firm, is really consistent with the majority of our members – 65% work at firms of six [people] or under.

I thought that I brought a personal touch to the role that other people haven't brought. They had great lead-

ership. But it's a little different flavor and in representing 107,000 members of the Florida bar we need to constantly make sure that we have people that are geographically diverse so that different sorts of communities are represented in that leadership role, as well as the types of lawyers that are represented.

Q: What does the Florida Bar do?

A: Our biggest job is being in charge of lawyer regulation. The state doesn't regulate. We regulate ourselves, so there's a huge disciplinary system, and within the disciplinary system we get complaints, and how we manage those complaints is a pretty sophisticated system.

Our platform is the orderly administration of justice to work with the courts. The Florida Bar has committees, big bar committees, on all sorts of different rules. The failing court rules, the civil rules, the criminal rules, the rules of evidence. We study those things and we participate in the rulemaking process. It's the court issues.

Some rules, some statutes, are really issued by the Legislature. There are actually some clashes between the Legislature and the courts on who issues certain rules. Having said that, we participate in all of those things. The staff is really busy with lawyer regulation and other areas of administration like the unlicensed practice of law and the bar now is creating a big lawyer referral service.

Q: What are your goals as president?

A: The law is moving rapidly with technology, so there's a lot that we're looking at.

My personal 'thing' has been the mental health and wellness of Florida lawyers. I chaired a special committee that was created last year, I chaired the standing committee. What we have learned is that we are a really unhealthy group of people and if we're trying to help people with their problems we have to help ourselves with our own problems.

I think a core competency for lawyers is to be healthy so that we don't inject problems into our clients' lives. Imagine how much power we have. Someone has a terrible problem but you are not good at handling your own problems, imagine how that invades the process. That's really critical, not just for our members but for the community.

Q: How many cases do you typically work on at a time and are you thinking of expanding the firm?

A: We are not a high volume practice. I don't have active more than maybe 15 cases, 20 cases maximum and I of course don't work on them alone. It's a firm of six lawyers.

I always have an associate and a paralegal working with me because out of fairness to the clients you don't want me to be indexing your documents and you don't want me to be answering every phone call.

There are different rates. So we try to staff each case to provide for that flexibility. My clients, these are not divorce cases that involve simple assets or simple income streams or conflicts. We have accountants and with our clients there's a level of service.

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MIAMI TODAY

...of attorneys as she heads toward presidency of Florida Bar

This is a service industry but there's a level of service that my clients require, demand and need that other clients either couldn't afford or don't need or a combination.

I couldn't take 100 cases, it just wouldn't work. It's a very personalized practice. It's not something I can just shove off. People expect my involvement. I don't know how big we could grow and how much I'd want to grow to provide the same level of service. I enjoy the way we provide for our clients. I don't want to necessarily to maximize or stress out the firm.

Q: Do you have any particular challenges for your firm?

A: It's going to be a big challenge when I'm president of the Florida Bar. It's a big state. I'm going to be traveling around; I'm going to be spending a lot of time in cars and airplanes. But it's an amazing group of lawyers; they're all women. I'm excited. I think they're equally excited about the opportunities for us, for me, to serve, for us to serve as a firm the collective community of lawyers. I think that's going to be a real challenge.

It's not like I'm not going to take any cases for a year. I'll continue to take cases and be careful so I can properly service my clients. No one's going to be prejudiced by that, but that's the challenge - just one more thing to multitask over.

Q: What will be your duties as president?

A: The president of the Florida Bar speaks on behalf of the bar. I will spend time with the Legislature to lobby on issues. I will spend time to talk to the Supreme Court because we have a very close relationship with the Supreme Court on lawyer regulation and other issues.

There are hundreds of voluntary bar associations across the state. While the Florida Bar is a mandatory bar, the way people mostly get involved is through their voluntary bars. The Dade County

Bar, every county has a bar, the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. As a figurehead I'm going to be going around speaking to everybody. It's about acting as a figurehead, doing a lot of talking on behalf of the bar, meeting with boards.

Q: What will you advocate for in your role as president of the Florida Bar?

A: We advocate making sure that the courts are properly funded. That's a big area of advocating. We don't advocate on political issues because we are a mandatory bar. What we do is we make sure the courts are properly funded and that administration of justice can move forward. We avoid political issues.

Q: Does the Florida Bar have a role in the system of government?

A: The third branch of government is the judiciary, and to the extent we work with the judiciary on certain things we have a close relationship. We're not a branch of government. We're similar to an agency but not really an agency. We are just an arm in a relationship with the Supreme Court for obvious reasons. We're the lawyer group but we're not really an arm of government.

Q: How do you think the justice system could be improved?

A: I'm going to punt on that and say it is an imperfect system, but it's the best system in the world. I'll leave that to the rule makers and the experts. But I'm really proud to be associated with this justice system because as imperfect as it is, there is none other like it.

I don't think I can opine on how to make it better. It works as well as an imperfect system can work, when due process is being provided and victims get rights and defendants get rights and husbands get rights and wives get rights, and the clashing of those rights is where judges step in and they pick and choose how to balance those interests.

Q: Do you have a particular type of case that interests you the most?

A: I do love these international cases and I'm so lucky. When I go to national

meetings of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers no one has cases like we have in Florida. Maybe there are some in Texas and California and New York, but we live in such a vibrant international community that we get really interesting jurisdictional cases.

We get cases with assets all over the world. I like that. I think it's interesting, it makes for intellectually stimulating fact patterns to deal with. The level of complexity on those issues, this is second to none in that area.

Q: What else do you hope to achieve in 2019 and the years to come?

A: Sanity! For my family it's a big year. My daughter is autistic and she is graduating from college. My son is 17 and he is graduating from high school and we're waiting to hear from colleges for him. My husband is ending his six-year term as the city manager of Miami Beach. The firm continues to percolate. I just look forward to great success for the firm and my family as I feel like has been the case so far. I'm super happy.

Q: How has the practice of law changed during your career?

A: What I do has not changed dramatically. When I started we didn't have hyperlinks so [documents are] easily accessible, we had big notebooks full of documents. Now it's obviously all electronic.

The electronic age has changed things like discovery. When I started you filed things in the court, now everything is done electronically so it's easier to find things.

But the basic premise of what I do, which is advise clients, has not changed. I think for other people it has. Corporate clients want a different kind of practice. They're asking for more efficiency.

There's a lot of competition on the Internet. Legal Zoom and Avvo provide services, and that interplay hasn't really impacted my practice because I'm a low volume, high net worth practice. Those folks are not looking online, but there are a lot of consumers out there that

are looking for alternatives, and I think that's changing the practice.

Q: Have you thought of running for public office?

A: Really funny you ask that. So many women are running for office. I have never thought of myself as a politician. My husband always has been a politician. But a couple of people have said things to me and as I say to my kids, never say never.

I love what I do. I feel a real commitment to not just my clients but the practice here with long-term employees. I find it hard to believe I would do that. But never say never.

Q: Are there any volunteer activities you're involved with?

A: Over the years I've been involved with lots of things, especially when it came to autism issues, Autism Speaks. It's a big commitment to be involved with the bar. It's not like it's a part-time thing, especially now. It's just really my sole focus right now.

Q: Miami-Dade County just asked the Legislature to take a position on paying the state attorneys and the public defender's office more to remain competitive and retain experienced staff. Will the bar take a position on that?

A: We're really careful about getting involved in political issues because it's a mandatory bar and if it's a controversial item and some members would want and it some members wouldn't, we really try to stay away from that. It's hard for me to say.

Q: If you had to pick a single crying need in Miami, what would it be?

A: If you walk through downtown you'd see the homeless problem is so incredibly big and difficult. I know there are so many good people trying to address it but I don't think our community is alone. I travel across the country and there is not a single downtown that I go to that doesn't seem to have the same problem.

It's a beautiful city. It's the world's playground. But [homelessness] is a serious problem.



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County shuts barn door after milking its tax cash cow dry

County commissioners have just unanimously decided that, come October, Miami-Dade's half percent transit tax will for the first time be used the way voters were promised it would. Bravo.



Michael Lewis

Unfortunately, that will come 17 years after the county began collecting and spending the sales tax money, which so far has totaled about \$2.7 billion, very little of which was ever used as everyone intended.

Each year about \$100 million or more of the tax money that was going to build us vital new transit was siphoned off to maintain transportation we already had.

Whoever can trace what happened to county revenues that were flowing in before we had a transit surtax and that were originally geared to maintain transit should get a prize in fiscal forensics. The former transit funds just evaporated elsewhere.

Now commissioners are closing the barn door after the tax-producing cash cows have been milked dry for more than a decade of funds that could long ago have built us real rapid transit – no, never what we were promised, but more than we got, which so far has been a drop in the milk bucket, the short airport Metrorail link.

Here's what happened to the tax plan

just as we told it on this page a decade ago this month, when commissioners decided that the fiscal rape of transit funds should be made formal and permanent:

"A sales tax that voters passed to expand transit has been stolen and subverted to general county revenue...."

"The county commission just formalized the bait-and-switch. Now only 10% of receipts remain to do what the whole tax was guaranteed to do, and even that 10% will pay off past bonds, not build for the future.

"It's fraud...."

"Background: In 2002, when Alex Penelas was king of Miami-Dade, he sold us a half percent tax to expand our woeful Metrorail system, linking to the main campus of Florida International University, the airport, the seaport, maybe even Miami Beach, and running up to Broward County.

"There was more. Every project the tax would build was listed.

"Because nobody trusted county government, Mayor Penelas pledged a firewall would protect the funds: a totally independent trust would dole out the cash properly.

"But as soon as voters created the tax, the county shattered the promises, one by one.

"First, instead of an independent trust, commissioners decided to appoint the team and control its every step. They planned to spend the money first, then seek a retroactive OK.

"Then, commissioners delayed naming members, making key spending moves

"The commission hijacked most of the money to build transit to maintain what we already had. The administration admitted it never had enough money to run the present system."

before the trust was formed. One commissioner waited almost a year to name her delegate.

"Meanwhile, the commission hijacked most of the money meant to build transit to maintain what we already had. The administration admitted it had never had enough money to run the present system.

"After that, it admitted the tax funds, even if properly used, would never do most of what voters were promised."

Finally, in 2009 the county commission formalized the theft of 90% of the trust money to operate the old system, meaning little the tax was intended for would ever exist.

Voters had taxed themselves because officials promised to expand transit. Instead, the sales tax was paying to exterminate insects in old buses and all manner of routine chores that funds already on hand should have funded.

What that meant in hard dollars was immediately evident: more than \$98 million of fiscal 2009 sales tax funds meant to add new transportation were formally sent to be used for operations and maintenance

of what we had long been using.

It continued yearly: \$120 million sidetracked in fiscal 2010, \$101 million in 2011, \$99 million in 2012, \$104 million in 2013, \$95 million in 2014, \$102 million in 2015 and so on, according to county budget officials.

That's the cycle that last week's county commission vote will finally end.

Unfortunately, we're closing the financial barn door when it's too late for the cash cow: according to Mayor Carlos Giménez, while the tax receipts are now headed for proper use, expanding project costs are expected to consume them all by 2024. That leaves little time to use transit taxes to help fund the Smart plan for six new transit corridors – and that plan is the heart of the current aim to meet glib but empty promises that in 2002 sold voters the transit tax.

That means that those who wanted transit taxes to be used properly – including in 2009 then-Commissioner Giménez – are headed for a hollow victory: after 17 years they've won the battle for proper use of the taxes, but too late to do us much good.

So the transit tax will roll on – and so will the quest to fund all that transit we were promised.

It's proper that the county has halted its bait-and-switch and is finally being honest with taxpayers. But 17 years of lost time and money that could actually have built transit has been costly – as any frustrated Miami-Dade commuter will attest.

The right thing ethically was also the right thing pragmatically. For 17 years we did neither.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jumpstart alternatives to get to downtown Miami

With a major trafficageddon looming with the I-395, I-95 and SR-836 redesign about to commence, it's time to use this as an opportunity to jump-start alternative ways of getting into downtown Miami.

Most major cities with usable waterfront use high speed or high volume ferryboat service. Why not create a real ferry service from South Beach to downtown Miami with connections at Bayfront Park (during non-rush hours) and/or to the Miami River stop (near the Miami convention center) immediately adjacent to the Metromover stop (during rush hours).

This would give quick access to the Brickell business district or the downtown business/government district/passenger rails stations (Brightline/Metrorail/Tri-Rail) via the Mover.

This highway project will also increase demand for commuter rail service along the Brightline corridor. Brightline could add quick stops between Miami and Fort Lauderdale (i.e., Aventura) and between Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach (i.e., Pompano or Boca Raton). This would greatly also increase revenue to Brightline and would speed the eventual addition of Tri-Rail service along the same line in the future.

Tri-Rail was created to help with the Florida Department of Transportation construction along I-95 and now serves us well today. Now is the time to seize this opportunity and make a real difference again.

Ted Harrison

Legal battle is won, but numbers battle rages on

In what was a somewhat unexpected but much welcome procedural move, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa on Tuesday last week withdrew her resolution as to the "unwinding of unification" of the half-cent tax.

Unwinding of unification is "bureaucratized" for ending a determination made in 2008-09 by which the county had allocated surcharge funds to maintenance and operations of the existing system.

Let's elaborate. As everyone knows, in 2002, the residents of Dade County approved an extra half cent (really an extra half of a percent) surtax that was intended to provide funding for additional rail corridors and additional buses. It helps to focus on the exact wording of the ballot question as follows:

"Shall the County implement the People's Transportation Plan including: Plans to build rapid transit lines to West Dade, Kendall, Florida City, Miami Beach and North Dade; expanding bus service; adding 635 buses; improving traffic signalization to reduce traffic backups; improving major and neighborhood roads and highways, including drainage; and funding to municipalities for road and transportation projects by levying a 1/2 percent sales surtax whose proceeds will be overseen by the Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust?"

As can be seen from the above, it is clear that the intent of the new surcharge



Xavier Suarez

The Writer

Xavier Suarez is a Miami-Dade County commissioner.

was to fund capital improvements; this was reflected in an ordinance that was prepared and presented to the voters when they approved the half cent. That ordinance called for 89 new miles of rail and 635 additional buses.

Up to now, all of the parties are in agreement. But the question that still needs to be answered, and will undoubtedly be done in an adversarial way, is how much of the \$90 million that was in the budget for the last couple of years can be reallocated to capital improvements as opposed to maintenance and operations of existing mass transit components.

The argument that the county will use is that, of the \$90 million, \$81 million is for the maintenance and operation of components that have been added to the mass transit system, and they will argue that the new buses are a part of that. However, looking at data taken directly from the county's own budget books, the size of the bus fleet has decreased from FY 2008-09.

The other side of the argument that the county will use is based on the addition of the Orange Line to the Metrorail. The 2.4-mile extension broke ground in 2009 and is the only expansion to the rail system that now spans 25 miles. While that extension cost the county \$500 million to build, it should only

cost a fraction of that to operate and the budget books only indicate \$74 million in expenditures, including operation, for the Metrorail system. That would mean an expense of \$2.96 million per mile, and only \$7.1 million for the Orange Line extension.

To summarize, we have no more than \$7 million to operate new components of the system, therefore, at most that is the amount that can be taken from the yearly revenues of the surtax, which amount to \$274 million. Another \$55 million or so are pledged to the cities and are funding the municipal trolleys. Even if you somehow deduct \$24 million for the golden passport, that still leaves about \$100 million bondable for the expansion of the system.

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The 51-story condo Biscayne Beach, built by Eastview Development in 2017, at 2900 NE Seventh Ave.



The 58-story condo Elysee at 788 NE 23rd St. is under construction.

As inventory grows, so do towers in expanding Edgewater

BY REBECCA SAN JUAN

Developers see more residences dotting the borders of the bay in Edgewater as apartments and condominiums progress in construction and others wait for approval. Pockets on the east side of Edgewater fill with homes rising skyward, but professionals predict the west will welcome similar activity in a few years.

Five projects are under construction in Edgewater.

The Richman Group is to open its apartment building Blu27 Miami at 2701 Biscayne Blvd. in the spring. Options range from a loft to two-bedroom apartment for 457 to 1,104 square feet. Rent for lofts starts at \$1,599 per month.

The Elysee is moving forward with construction. A press release says the condominium reached its 18th floor out of 58 floors in February. Two Roads Development and DW Partners are behind the project at 788 NE 23rd St. Pre-sales stand at nearly 50% of the 98 units, with prices starting at \$1.5 million to \$10 million for three bedrooms at 2,300 square feet to five bedrooms at 4,000 square feet, developers say.

The publicists representing the Missoni Baia group say the condominium's garage has reached three quarters of its full height. The next phase for the project at 777 NE 26th Terr. includes foundation work for the amenities deck and tennis court. The 57-story tower is expected to open in 2020.

Plans for Modera Biscayne Bay at 411 NE 21st St. are moving ahead as reported by Miami Today last month. Mill Creek Residential plans to break ground this year on the \$120 million endeavor. The tower will replace the community center Unity on the Bay with 28 floors with 296 apartments.

Another addition by Alta Developers will grace the west side of Edgewater. Mixed-use project Quadro comes to 3900 Biscayne Blvd. offering 198 units. Shareholder and co-chair of the Land Development Group of Greenberg Traurig Iris Escarra said the project will offer commercial spaces on the ground floor.



The Paraiso District includes four completed condominium towers that developers say are moving well.

Developments opened in the past months have celebrated recent milestones. The Paraiso District welcomed an \$18,000 per month rent of David Guetta's \$6 million, three-bedroom condo on the 53rd and 54th floors, one of the highest leases paid in the market.

Developers also are celebrating what they call rapid sales. Three of their four condominiums — One Paraiso, Paraiso Bay and Paraiso Bayviews — total 1,017 units. Gran Paraiso offering 317 units has 14 units left before reaching sellout, they say. Prices range from about \$800,000 to about \$2 million.

Latin Americans, especially from Argentina, and US buyers comprise most of the residential shoppers in the Paraiso District.

Carlos Rosso, president of the Condo Division at Related Group, says he expects residents to have more nearby leisure activities come spring. The waterfront Paraiso Park next to Amara at Paraiso is to debut in April. The completed addition to the Biscayne Line is to open in May. Services filling the commercial spaces on the ground floor of the condominiums are expected to open in the next three to four months.



Carlos Rosso

"Those spaces have been sold to individual investors who are buying them and renting them out," Mr. Rosso said. "Each one of them is in charge of leasing their own space. There is a lot of interest for mini markets, pet stores, and hair dressers. It takes a little longer for the spaces to fill in; they are waiting for the units to be 100% occupied."

But not all communities within Edgewater have reason to toast. Mature properties, some built decades ago, show poor signs of breaking \$600,000-figure sales. Buyers want the bells and whistles provided in new buildings, says Robbie Bell, realtor associate at EWM Realty International.

Ms. Bell said she expects developers on some new construction in coming months to not see as big a return as they might expect given 39 months of inventory within the 33137-area zip code. About 907 condos are up for sale from 17th to 36th streets, with price points ranging from \$164,000 for a studio up to \$9 million for six bedrooms.

Her buyers that look to possess a slice of Edgewater come from the US, typically California and New York, she said.

"People say that Edgewater is not as congested as Brickell. They like Brickell, but Edgewater is less congested, easier access in and out," Ms. Bell said.

Most are not aware of the neighborhood but, once edu-

ated, consider it for its waterfront views and less traffic in comparison to other areas, she said.

Mrs. Escarra said she expects the Edgewater area west of Biscayne Boulevard to pique the interest of developers given its designation as a Florida Opportunity Zone spanning west of Biscayne from the Venetian

Causeway up to 39th Street. Legislation signed by former governor, now senator, Rick Scott and the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 2018 provides a tax opportunity for developers to buy and build out land in need of development in exchange for deferring capital gains for a certain period of time.

Mrs. Escarra predicts towering cranes and construction workers on the west side of the boulevard in about five years.

"I expect you are going to have more residential, commercial and office because you are on a major corridor to service a lot of the residences that are going to be on the waterfront," she said. "You are going to want folks to open up offices and retail along those major corridors. You are servicing the residences that are on the waterfront. People like to be close to work and close to home. I anticipate you are going to get a mix of uses as well as residential."

Interest continues to bubble over in the east end. Without disclosing many details due to attorney-client privilege, Mrs. Escarra said she is dealing with two other condominium projects in the works in the area.

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City request may bring major commercial plans for bayfront

By JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

Maurice A. Ferré, a long-time City of Miami mayor, is not happy that the city that just renamed a waterfront park in his honor plans major redevelopment of adjacent city-owned property, including what's known as the FEC Slip downtown.

In a March 25 letter to the mayor and city commission, Mr. Ferré voices objections to a plan to put a Ferris wheel at Bayside Marketplace, and to an active request for proposals for a marina and commercial development of the FEC Slip.

The slip—part of the city's former seaport—makes up the southern border of the former Museum Park, renamed the Maurice A. Ferré Park by commissioners in December.

On the other side of the slip is American Airlines Arena, on county-owned property.

In his letter, Mr. Ferré describes both the proposed zoning amendment to allow a Ferris wheel and the formal request for proposals for the FEC Slip as alarming.

He wrote: "... the City has allowed the Bayfront Parks Trust to put out an RFP that could bring major commercial development, not only to the slip, but to the green area adjacent to the slip in the Maurice A. Ferré Park. This is extending Bayside and the commercialization of the parks on both sides of the American Airlines Arena on Biscayne Boulevard.

"Just like I don't think this community wants Ferris wheels in our bayfront, neither do we want the USS United States or any other major tourist restaurant distraction to once again remove the little green area that we have left, and most especially an open view to Biscayne Bay, our Central Park," Mr. Ferré wrote.

The city park bearing his name, earlier called Bicentennial Park, is on Biscayne Boulevard. It's bordered on the south by the FEC Slip and American Airlines Arena, on the west by Biscayne Boulevard, and on the north by the Pérez Art Museum Miami and the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science. The eastern edge runs alongside Biscayne Bay and has an established public baywalk with



The FEC Slip makes up the southern border of the Maurice A. Ferré Park at American Airlines Arena.

landscaping, lighting, a walkway and benches.

Mr. Ferré uses his letter to plead with current elected officials to save the city's public open spaces and parks. He admits to being a pro-growth mayor and making mistakes when it came to considering the impact of growth and development on the expanding city.

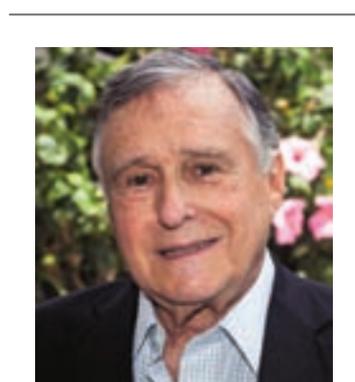
The request for proposals was issued Jan. 18 by the city's Department of Procurement, on behalf of the Bayfront Park Management Trust, which oversees Bayfront Park and Maurice A. Ferré Park.

The 39-page document requests proposals for the lease of city-owned waterfront property "for, but not limited to marina/restaurant/ship's store uses" located at Federal East Coast (FEC) Slip at Maurice A. Ferré Park, 801 Biscayne Boulevard, and is also known as "FEC Slip RFP".

Jose Gell, interim executive director of the park trust, wrote in a cover letter: "The goal of this RFP is to create a vibrant recreational space, whether, but not limited to, a marina and restaurant destination with an ancillary ship's store facility for City residents, guests, and visitors."

Proposals are due April 18.

The executive summary says the city is seeking responsive proposals from qualified proposers willing to



'The city has allowed the Bayfront Parks Trust to put out an RFP that could bring major commercial development, not only to the slip, but to the green area adjacent to the slip in the Maurice A. Ferré Park.'

Maurice Ferré

plan, design, construct, renovate, redevelop, lease, manage and operate a mixed-use waterfront facility including a marina, boatyard, dock master's office, ship's store, dry storage, wet slip docks, and at least one restaurant.

The property is 9.91 acres,

including upland and submerged land. The submerged land is estimated at 7.75 acres.

Development capacity and program for this site are regulated by the City of Miami Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan and the Miami 21 Zoning Code.

The RFP says the proposed lease would have a 50-year initial term, with two 15-year renewal terms.

Rent requirements: "RFP Proposals shall include a minimum base rent equal to or greater than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) annually ("Base Rent"). Commencing on the fifth anniversary of the Effective Date of the Lease and on each fifth anniversary thereafter during the Initial Term and any extensions or renewals, the per annum Base Rent amount shall be adjusted to the greater of: an increase by three percent (3%) of the previous year's Base Rent, or an increase based on the amount indicated by the Consumer Price Index as of three (3) months prior to the beginning of the applicable adjustment date."

Additionally, proposals must give the city a percentage rent of at least 6% monthly gross receipts generated at the FEC Slip and received by the successful proposer. The successful proposer will also be required to construct sufficient parking for the project.

City voters will have a say in the proposed development.

The RFP says the city charter requires that any lease that the city commission approves pursuant to the RFP "shall not be valid unless approved by public vote through a referendum process."

The document says the property may be subject to deed restrictions by Miami-Dade County. If the county requires approval of the site plan or any other component of the RFP, the successful proposer will be responsible for pursuing those approvals at its own expense.

In the last year or so, city commissioners have repeatedly debated how to increase revenue to the city to help keep up with rising expenses and be available for needed improvements, particularly for affordable housing and improved transportation.

Commissioners have lamented that existing leases and contracts aren't bringing in nearly as much money as they should to the city.

In his letter, Mr. Ferré said he understands the need to monetize city holdings.

"I am in full agreement with those on the Commission that it is important to monetize, as much as possible, those underused assets of the City of Miami that can be properly monetized. The operative word here is properly," he wrote.

"We had, over my tenure, acquired and amassed an impressive and sizeable inventory of properties so that we now have park area all the way from the MacArthur expressway bridge on Biscayne Boulevard to the Miami River. Just the FEC property, as I remember, ended up costing us \$37 million, in 1980's dollars. The gains of these now public properties was at great expense and sacrifice for the city.

"These properties developed into institutional concrete buildings blocking the view of Miami's Central Park, Biscayne Bay. We acquiesce from one concrete block to the other on the bay. Enough is enough!

"It's time for us to recognize, in our quest for monetizing beauty, that just the presence of an open green area has an irreplaceable price which has no simple calculation on a computer," Mr. Ferré wrote.

Residential re-sales in county fall, housing for sale piling up



'The new federal tax law... is one reason why people are fleeing high-tax states to buy in Florida.'

José María Serrano

Total Miami-Dade County residential re-sales fell 3.6% in February from February 2018, from 1,804 to 1,739, as inventories built up for condos priced over \$300,000 and single-family homes prices over \$600,000.

Miami single-family home re-sales decreased 1.8%, from 820 to 805. Condo re-sales dropped 5.1%, from 984 to 934.

Uncertainty over both mortgage interest rates and the stock market may have impacted the total, said the Miami Association of Realtors, which cited a lack of inventory in lower price ranges as a contributing factor.

Total re-sale dollar volume inched down 0.1% to \$863.2 million in February. Single-family home dollar volume rose 3.1%, from \$436.1 million to \$449.7 million, but condo dollar volume dropped 3.4%, from \$428 million to \$413.5 million.

The median time between listing a property for sale and the signing of a sale contract for Miami single-family home sales was 61 days, shooting up 32.6% from 46 days last year. The median number of days between the

listing a single-family home and closing the deal was 108 days, up 14.9% from 94 days last February.

The median time to contract for condos was 83 days, the same as last year. The median number of days between listing date and closing date dipped 0.8% to 122 days.

The median amount of original list price received for single-family homes was 95% and for condos 92.6%.

Inventory of single-family homes rose 14.2% in February, from 6,348 active listings last year to 7,250. Condominium re-sale inventory rose 4.2% to 16,583 from 15,922 listings during the same period in 2018.

Months' supply of inventory for single-family homes rose 13.3% to 6.8 months, which the Miami Realtors association said indicates a balanced market. Existing condominiums have a 14.5-month supply, which the association said indicates a buyer's market. A balanced market between buyers and sellers offers between six to nine months of supply, realtors tend to agree.

Total active listings at the end of February increased 7% percent year-over-year, from 22,270 to 23,833. Active listings remain about 60% below 2008 levels, when sales bottomed during the Great Recession.

New listings of Miami single-family homes rose 0.2%, to 1,781 from 1,778. New listings of condominiums fell 7.1%, from 2,594 to 2,409.

"Miami real estate continues to see high demand not only from international buyers, but from consumers around the United States," said Miami Association of Realtors Chairman José María Serrano. "South Florida is seeing more domestic home buyers than ever before. The new federal tax law, which put a \$10,000 cap on state and local tax deductions, is one reason why people are fleeing high-tax states to buy in Florida."

Nationally, total housing inventory at the end of February rose to 1.63 million re-sale houses and condos, up from 1.59 million existing homes available for sale in January, a 3.2% increase from 1.58 million a year ago.

Super ask doesn't Bowl over downtown development team

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

Representatives of Super Bowl 54 approached Miami's Downtown Development Authority last week to ask for \$300,000 in funding. The answer: maybe.

The presentation opened with a short video about Miami's diverse music and art scene that was voiced over by hip-hop and pop star Pitbull. This "hype" video will get at least 500 million views, said Brian Bishop, vice president of the Miami Super Bowl 2020 Host Committee.

The game is projected to generate a significant economic impact, much of it downtown, he said.

In the week preceding the game, Super Bowl Live, a free event, will occupy Bayfront Park, drawing and estimated 1 million visitors. Players will stay at the Hotel InterContinental and JW Marriott Marquis, generating \$245,000 in additional room-night revenues. The NFL is in negotiations to use the American Airlines Arena for some functions, and other Super Bowl-related events will be held at the Adrienne Arsht Center and the Ice Palace.

The NFL has awarded the City of Miami a \$200,000 legacy grant that the city must match, but the \$300,000 that's being requested from the downtown agency is separate from that.

"It's a big ask," said Ken Russell, authority chair and Miami commissioner. "The DDA has a lot of priorities we're dealing with." He suggested that the authority consider some funding, but tie it to the installation of LED light along the proposed



'It's a big ask. The DDA has a lot of priorities we're dealing with.'

Ken Russell



'It's going to be great for the city, especially since most of the action will be here.'

Philippe Houdard



'We can commit \$100,000, and I feel comfortable with that.'

Alyce Robertson



'It's going to be a nightmare for residents.'

Eileen Higgins

Baywalk. "This is something they leave behind."

"Keep in mind there are benefits to the DDA" in allocating the money. "We need your support to do the things we say we're going to do. We can't do it without you," Mr. Bishop said. Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties have kicked in money or plan to, he said. In past local Super Bowls, Miami Beach has received most of the media coverage, apart from the actual game, he said. This year, he said, it could be downtown's turn.

"When people from outside the area think of Miami, they think of Miami Beach," said Mike Zimmer, president of the Miami Super Bowl 2020 Host Committee. "But the action has moved from Miami Beach."

"Super Bowl Live is our premier activation," Mr. Bishop said. "Bayfront Park is going to be the centerpiece of the action."

Authority board member Jerome Hollo, vice president of Florida East Coast Realty, suggested the authority donate in-kind services instead of a cash payment. He alluded to the authority's Downtown Enhancement Team, or DET, comprises formerly homeless people who keep the streets clean and tackle other maintenance tasks.

"The DET team narrative serves us well," Mr. Russell said. "If we can grow the DET team, that's a leave-behind. If we're going to invest, what are we getting for our money?"

Authority board member Philippe Houdard, founding

partner of Pipeline Workspaces & Skybank Financial, asked about the economic impact Super Bowl has had in other host cities.

"We can provide that data," Mr. Zimmer said. "But we've had three cold Super Bowls. People want to be here in February."

"It's going to be great for the city, especially since most of the action will be here," Mr. Houdard said. He asked how the host committee had come up with the \$300,000 amount. "This is very substantial for us."

Most of the requests the host committee has made to cities or tourism entities have been in seven digits, Mr. Zimmer said.

"It's going to be a nightmare for residents," said authority board member Eileen Higgins, a county commissioner whose

district includes downtown. "We need to be sure the benefits are a counterbalance to that."

Whatever the authority does, it should provide leverage to its efforts to lure businesses in, Mr. Hollo said.

"There's a will here to be at the table and to contribute, but some sort of guarantee is a good idea," Mr. Russell said.

"We can commit \$100,000, and I feel comfortable with that," said Alyce Robertson, authority executive director. "But we would like more specificity."

It was decided that the authority's Enterprise Committee and the Urban Placemaking Committee meet to come up with an appropriate donation, and desired conditions, and present it to the host committee in April.

Pivotal project point Little Haiti Revitalization Trust due airing

BY JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

A key component of a community benefits package offered by the developer of the Magic City Innovation District is something called the Little Haiti Revitalization Trust.

Legislation that would create that trust gets its first airing today (3/28) on the Miami City Commission's meeting agenda.

Ordinance sponsor Commissioner Keon Hardemon represents District 5 and Little Haiti. It was Mr. Hardemon who helped negotiate additional perks from the developer to improve the neighborhood.

Mr. Hardemon pushed for a vote on the sweeping project at a meeting that began Feb. 28 and ended in the early morning of March 1, after a long and heated public hearing on the matter.

Commission Chair Ken Russell invoked a rarely used procedural rule to halt all discussion and prevent a vote on the Magic City Innovation District project.

Several zoning items related to the proposed mixed-use residential and office project have been scheduled for this afternoon's session of the commission meeting.

The mixed-use project would transform about 37 abutting parcels in Little Haiti into a major development. The project is planned for about 17.75 acres



The Magic City Innovation District's developer is offering to contribute \$31 million to a revitalization trust.

at 6001 NE Second Ave., and the development team promises major investment and new employment opportunities for Little Haiti and surrounding neighborhoods.

The developers—MCD Miami LLC and its affiliate co-applicants—are asking for approval of a Special Area Plan (SAP) and a development agreement they say will bring thousands of residential units, hotel rooms, nearly 350,000 square feet of commercial-retail uses and more than 1.9 million square feet of office uses to the site.

Supporters of the project say it will bring much needed employ-

ment and economic stimulus to the area. Opponents fear it will fuel gentrification and forever change the character of Little Haiti.

Mr. Hardemon successfully negotiated a sizeable financial contribution from the developer, with MCD Miami LLC and its affiliate co-applicants committed to making cash contributions of \$31 million into the proposed Little Haiti Revitalization Trust.

A draft of the latest development agreement between the city and developer says all of the \$31 million would be have to be spent to improve Little Haiti.

That portion of the deal reads:

"One hundred percent (100%) of the Community Benefit Contribution shall be restricted to use within the Little Haiti neighborhood for the development of affordable and workforce housing, community educational programs, local small business development, local workforce participation and hiring programs, the beautification of NE 2nd Avenue and other areas in Little Haiti, and/or the creation and improvement of public parks. The Community Benefit Contribution shall not be used for any other project, program or purpose."

Mr. Hardemon's proposal to

create the new trust is scheduled for a first reading and vote.

The ordinance would establish the Little Haiti Revitalization Trust, designating the trust's jurisdictional authority and setting its purpose, powers, and duties. The legislation would also provide for composition, appointments, procedures, terms of office, vacancies, membership qualifications, attendance requirements, and officers, and include rules on quorum and voting, meetings, abolishment, a president/chief executive officer and staff, counsel, budget approval, and annual report.

The ordinance notes that city commissioners on May 26, 2016, adopted the area in the northeast portion of the city and designated it as "Little Haiti" in recognition of the historical and cultural importance of the area to the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County as a whole.

It continues: "... the Little Haiti Revitalization Trust will provide oversight and facilitate the city's revitalization efforts and activities to be undertaken in the Little Haiti area."

The trust, if approved, would receive its initial sunset review in the year 2023 and then every four years thereafter.

The trust would advise and initiate the redevelopment of the Little Haiti area.

Doral seeks business diversification to add high-paying jobs

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

The City of Doral wants to diversify its business community, which consists of some large companies – Carnival Cruise Lines, Hellman Worldwide Logistics, Univision and Perry Ellis International have offices there – but mostly smaller companies, including more than 2,600 trade and logistics firms.

“We have a lot of businesses, but we’re focusing on diversification because, as we know, it’s not cheap to live here,” said Maggie Santos, communications & proto-

col manager for the City of Doral. Hence the drive to recruit businesses that pay employees more than just a living wage.

“When it comes to business attraction, the best business benefit we offer is a very low millage rate (second lowest in Miami-Dade County), good customer service and an efficient review process” for permits, she said via email.

To retain existing businesses, there’s also a Façade Improvement Grant program, a competitive grant that reimburses existing Doral businesses 50% of renovation costs up to \$10,000, she added. “The

city also provides free business valuations to some Doral businesses that are growing within the city, a \$5,000 value. In addition, we help with access to some business incentives through some state and county programs. The state’s Brownfield Program is the main incentive that the city has been able to facilitate. This incentive provides up to \$2,500 per job created in a Brownfield area.

“Some industries may qualify for the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund and the Miami-Dade County Targeted Jobs Incentive Fund (TJIF)

administered through the county,” Ms. Santos said. “The QTI is a state incentive available for companies that create high-wage jobs in targeted high value-added industries and may provide the company with a tax refund of up to \$3,000 per new job created. The TJIF program offers cash incentives for existing Miami-Dade companies undertaking a business expansion that creates new jobs. There are also state-funded job training programs administered by CareerSource: Quick Response Training and Incumbent Worker Training.”

Miami targets state aid for baywalk, marine stadium, more

BY JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

The Miami City Commission is seeking state funds to help extend the public baywalk, build new seawalls and complete a major part of the restoration of Miami Marine Stadium.

These are among more than a half-dozen applications city commissioners recently approved to the Florida Inland Navigation District’s Waterways Assistance Program. The navigation district, known as FIND, is a special state taxing district for the continued management and maintenance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

FIND provides financial assistance to local governments to develop waterway access and improvement projects.

Many of the grant requests represent half the total project cost. In those cases, for each successful request the city would allocate the required 50% match.

One of the more notable applications approved March 14 seeks funds to construct Miami Marine Stadium – Phase 2 – Piling



Miami seeks state money as part of \$2.7 million to repair 80 marine stadium reinforced concrete pilings.

Restoration Project. The application asks for reimbursement grant funding up to \$1,213,556.

If awarded, the resolution authorizes the allocation of the required matching funds for 50% of the project eligible costs, up to \$1,213,556, plus \$254,269 in city

non-reimbursable administrative costs from the Office of Capital Improvement, for a total project cost of \$2,681,381 at Marine Stadium, 3501 Rickenbacker Causeway on Virginia Key.

The historic concrete stadium has been closed since Hurricane

Andrew devastated South Florida in 1992, and the city is in the midst of a multi-million-dollar restoration of the facility.

The city owns much of the barrier island.

The piling restoration phase of the project will repair roughly 80 concrete reinforced piles, including crucial structural repairs and replacement of existing support concrete piles under the lower grandstand portion of the stadium. The total area of deteriorating concrete piles is about 20,000 square feet.

Other 2019 applications to FIND for reimbursement grants include:

■ Up to \$375,000 for construction of the mooring field offshore from Watson Island. The resolution also authorizes a 50% matching allocation of \$375,000, from the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management. This will be Phase 2 of the mooring field project. The work includes constructing a 100-vessel managed mooring field. The area is currently populated by an unregulated and unmanaged anchorage, and is directly adjacent to the inter-coastal waterway and offers direct access to Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

■ Up to \$303,874 to construct a seawall, baywalk, and floating dock for the Southeast 25th Road End of Street Project – Phase 2. The work includes construction of seawall, baywalk, and floating dock; improvement of the 120-foot deteriorated seawall; installation of new steel sheet pile, new concrete cap, placement of about 140 tons of rip rap boulders along the seawall; new 5-foot-wide walkway and baywalk; installation of ADA-compliant

floating dock system, new light fixtures, and site furniture including benches and trash receptacles.

■ Up to \$122,761 for construction of a seawall and baywalk at the end of Northeast 22nd Street. This is Phase 2 of the project. The work includes design and permitting for 60 linear feet of new baywalk and seawall; replacement of existing deteriorated seawall; and new Miami 21 compliant baywalk.

■ Up to \$1,999,480 for the Dinner Key Marina – Phase 2 – Marina Redevelopment Part 1 Project. The city-owned marina is at 3400 Pan American Drive on the Coconut Grove waterfront. The work includes fixing concrete and timber dock structures; repair fire protection system, shore power, lighting; and repair of sewage pump-out system.

■ Up to \$772,389 for construction of Phase 2 of the baywalk behind the First Presbyterian Church at 609 Brickell Ave. The work includes construction of a new seawall and baywalk; north connection to the Brickell Park and Icon Brickell baywalk; south connection to 701 Brickell baywalk; and bringing property into Miami 21 compliance.

■ Up to \$1,250,000 to construct Phase 2 of the Virginia Key Boat Launch And Trailer Parking Project at 3501 Rickenbacker Causeway. The work includes 10 feet linear feet of seawall; 100 cubic yards of rip rap; and a new public boat launch area.

■ Up to \$408,595 for design and permitting of a seawall, riverwalk, and kayak launch Phase 1 at Sewell Park, 1801 NW S River Drive. The work includes 1,400 linear feet of new seawall; replacement/addition of rip rap; shoreline stabilization; kayak launch; drainage for high tide resiliency; and 900 feet of riverwalk with pedestrian lighting, benches, trash receptacles, landscaping and upland improvements.

■ Up to \$30,033 to buy a marine fire vessel for the City of Miami’s Department of Fire-Rescue. It also authorizes a 50% matching allocation of \$30,033 for the purchase.

State lawmakers created the Florida Inland Navigation District in 1927 to be the state sponsor of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The districts 12 counties stretch along the East Coast of Florida from Nassau through Miami-Dade counties.

The governor appoints a commissioner from each county to the navigation district’s board. The board taxes all property within the district.

CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the City Commission of the City of Miami, Florida on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33133, for the purpose of waiving the requirements of obtaining sealed bids for the purchase of an Priority Control as a Service (“PCaaS”), from Global Traffic Technologies, LLC (“GTT”), located at 7800 Third Avenue North, St Paul, Minnesota, 55128.

Inquiries from other potential sources of such a system who feel that they might be able to satisfy the City’s requirements for this item may contact Richard McLaren, C.P.M. Senior Procurement Contracting Officer, at the City of Miami’s Department of Procurement at (305) 416-1958.

The Miami City Commission requests all interested parties be present or represented at the meeting and may be heard with respect to any proposition before the City Commission in which the City Commission may take action. Should any person desire to appeal any decision of the City Commission with respect to any matter to be considered at this meeting, that person shall ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including all testimony and evidence upon which any appeal may be based (F.S. 286.0105).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (305) 250-5361 (Voice) no later than five (5) business days prior to the proceeding. TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service) no later than five (5) business days prior to the proceeding.



30725

Todd B. Hannon
City Clerk

PEOPLE

U.S. Century adds in business banking

U.S. Century Bank has added **Juan P. Rincon** as senior vice president and **Aurelio Fajardo** as vice president to its Business Banking Group. Mr. Rincon will lead the new commercial and industrial lending team with Mr. Fajardo as business development officer.

Mr. Rincon had been with CitiGroup's Commercial Bank in Miami as senior vice president and regional healthcare relationship manager. He holds a law degree from Universidad Privada Dr. Rafael Belloso Chacin in Venezuela, and studied corporate business law at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Fajardo had been with Florida Community Bank as associate relationship manager and assistant vice president managing commercial portfolio operations. He also worked at J.P. Morgan Chase as a relationship manager. He holds an associate of arts degree in economics from Miami Dade College.

Bal Harbour names marketing chief

Kenneth "Trip" Barrett has been named chief marketing officer and director of tourism of Bal Harbour Village.

Most recently, he spent 13 years as vice president of brand management for Starwood Hotels & Resorts. He also spent three years with Amazon.com as director of international business development, and eight years with The Walt Disney Co. in the Asia-Pacific as well as Latin America regions. Prior to joining Disney, he was director of international business with Anheuser-Busch's Entertainment Division for three years.

He received a bachelor's in economics from Duke University and an M.B.A. in marketing and finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Shutts & Bowen names managing partner

Shutts & Bowen partner **John E. Meagher** has been named managing partner of the firm's Miami office. He will oversee the day-to-day management of the office.

A graduate of the University of South Florida and the Georgetown University Law Center, he joined Shutts & Bowen in 1985.

He succeeds Francis E. "Frank" Rodriguez, who from 2014 to 2019 had been Miami office managing partner.

Weiss Serota partner joins Nova committee

Alison Smith, partner at Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, was named to Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad College of Law newly created Downtown Counsel Association Steering Committee. She is an alumna of both NSU's undergraduate program and its law school.

Mogul receives top United Way honor

Harve A. Mogul has received the United Way of Miami-Dade's Tocqueville Award for Outstanding Philanthropy. He was president and CEO of United Way of Miami-Dade from 1991-2017.

He received his master's and bachelor's degrees in social work

To Submit Information

Miami Today welcomes news of job changes, promotions, hiring and awards. Please send your submissions to People@MiamiTodayNews.com or mail them to Miami Today, 2000 S. Dixie Hwy, Suite 100, Miami FL 33133. Be sure to include contact information. We will select submissions for publication.

and community planning from the University of Maryland.

Professional Bank adds director

Professional Bank has added Templeton & Co. LLP partner **Patricia "Pat" McKay** to its board of directors. She joined Templeton in 2009.

Previously, she was the executive vice president and CFO at Office Depot and served on its board. She was also the CFO at Restoration Hardware Inc. and held senior finance positions at AutoNation and Dole Food Co.

Carvalho receives national honor

Miami-Dade Schools Superin-

tendent **Alberto M. Carvalho** has been named National Association for Bilingual Education Superintendent of the Year.

He has been superintendent since 2008.

Group names in sales for North America

The Prima Solutions-Effisoft Group has named **Christel Thorson** vice president of sales for North America.

She began her career in global business with major brokers Aon and Sedgwick. She spent the past 12 years in the IT sector in charge of sales of reinsurance software at msg global solutions Inc.

Atkins hires leader in architecture

Tampa-based Atkins design, engineering, and project management consultancies has hired **David Harper** to lead its architecture and architectural engineering practice in North America.

He was previously a practice director at HSK Architects. He is based in the company's Miami office.



Juan Rincon



Aurelio Fajardo



Trip Barrett



John Meagher



Alison Smith



Harve Mogul



Patricia McKay



Alberto Carvalho



Christel Thorson

The Best is About to Come

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MAY 30, 2019



THIS ISSUE WILL HIGHLIGHT:

- ARTS & CULTURE
- BANKING & FINANCE
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- CROSSING BORDERS
- HEALTH AND MEDICINE
- ENTREPRENEURS
- QUALITY OF LIFE
- UNSUNG HEROES
- NEWCOMERS
- NONPROFIT EXECUTIVES
- ROLE MODELS
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- SPARKPLUGS
- STICKING WITH IT
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For reservations call Carmen Betancourt Lewis at 305-358-2663, or email cblewis@miamitodaynews.com
Deadline is Tuesday, May 28, at noon

Garages redevelopment, pending 20 years, parked 3 more

By CATHERINE LACKNER

The Coral Gables City Commission, which has been trying for 20 years to redevelop two dilapidated parking garages — and which has been in negotiations for six years with the Allen Morris Co. and the Related Group for a development there called Coral Gables City Center — once again kicked the can down the street Tuesday. This time, the delay will be three years.

Though Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli and Commissioners Frank Quesada and Michael Mena said they were in favor of the development, which they said will bring more residents downtown and cure some of the problems with the Miracle Mile business district, Vice Mayor Vince Lago and Commissioner Patricia Keon said they'd like the city to try to do the development itself, either as new garage space or as open-space parks.

Coral Gables City Center would put eight floors of public parking and one level of retail in Garage #1 at 245 Andalusia Ave., and would convert Garage #4 at 345 Andalusia Ave. to nine

floors of residential space and three floors of private parking. The developer offered a \$5 million cash payment to sweeten the deal and said the residential units would generate \$450,000 yearly in property taxes alone to Coral Gables while revitalizing the downtown area. They would also handle any construction problems, which would take the burden off the city if it wanted to redevelop.

Attorney Anthony De Yurre, representing the developers, said they had agreed to all of the city's demands during the six-year process, lowering the height on one phase from 191 feet to 141 and from 97 feet to 81 on the other. The number of parking spaces was revised at Commissioner Keon's request, he said. Developer Allen Morris said the plans had gone through 24 city-requested plan revisions.

Many in the real estate community and even a former mayor spoke in favor of the project.

Ron Shuffield, president and CEO of EWM Realty International and chair of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

in the 1990s, told the commission the reality then, as it is now, is that "We need more people" in the downtown area.

Former Mayor Dorothy Thomson recalled serving with Mayor Valdes-Fauli when the idea of redeveloping the garages first surfaced. "Don't hesitate. Don't vacillate; do it now," she said.

"It's a lovely building, but is it a good deal for the city?" Commissioner Keon asked. She suggested the developers buy Garage #4 outright and develop it however they want. The city is considering selling it, possibly as early as November, and redeveloping Garage #1 as a new garage.

Finally, after nearly three hours of discussion, Commissioner Quesada proposed a compromise: the city would have three years to develop Garage #1, after which Coral Gables City Center would be considered the successful proposer on the project, and the developer would have first right of refusal on Garage #4. The measure passed 4-1, with Commissioner Lago dissenting.



One of developer's proposed versions of Gables garage number 4.

Beach changes rules to aid developers of convention hotel

By REBECCA SAN JUAN

Miami Beach commissioners have amended land development regulations for the city's future Convention Center hotel. Set-back requirements, off-street parking, and valet and tandem parking sections of the regulations have been changed to benefit the joint hotel development by Terra Group and Turnberry.

Hotel development won 65% voter approval last year, exceeds the minimum 60% required. President of Terra Group David P. Martin and Chairman and CEO of Turnberry Jackie Soffer are to bring 800 hotel rooms connected to the convention center.

Amenities in the proposal include a resort-style pool deck, spa, fitness center, and ballrooms. Guests and visitors will also have access to 320 parking spaces, all with valet service. Miami

Today informed readers last year that developers aim to complete the project within five years.

The land development regulation changes allow the developers to use nearby off-street parking spaces and a lot to compose the 320 parking spaces reserved for hotel users.

Attendees at the city commission meeting this month spoke for and against the changes. Attorney Kent Harrison Robbins said one of his clients will be adversely affected as the number of parking spaces in the area dwindles.

"There is already a parking shortage in the neighborhood," Mr. Robbins said. "This legislation will aggravate that problem. This proposed legislation is contrary to the Miami Beach Comprehensive Plan, transportation element, [and] contrary to the parking requirement to provide clean, safe, and affordable

parking."

In making the change, Mr. Robbins said, the city would provide a parking subsidy to developers of about \$15 million, "a subsidy not disclosed during the referendum campaign."

Attorney Michael W. Larkin, representing Mr. Martin and the Terra Group, decried Mr. Robbins's allegations, saying his client had no standing in the matter. Mr. Larkin said Mr. Robbins's client owns a unit near the planned hotel but claims a homestead exemption on it. In addition, he said, Mr. Robbins failed to provide substantial competent evidence proving that his client would be negligently impacted, a necessity under earlier decisions of the Florida Supreme Court.

Miami Beach resident Matis Cohen supported the changes. "I have been here waiting for this convention center for a very long time for the betterment

of Miami Beach," he said.

Mr. Cohen said he believes the Convention Center hotel and all of its constituent-approved plans help the community. He urged commissioners during the public hearing to not abide by the concerns raised by Mr. Robbins and his client.

"The good of everybody in Miami Beach is being sacrificed for some type of minority interest that has some interest in stopping progress in the city," Mr. Cohen said. "Who loses in the end? All of us. Let's stop looking for ways to stop the progress, and accelerate it. This is something that everybody voted on. This is something that has been in and out of every commission possible in this city. Please, enough."

After the public hearing, commissioners approve the changes, confirming that the amendments comply with the city's comprehensive plan.

76 hotel projects in pipeline would add 26% to room supply

Booming Miami-Dade hotels are expecting company — not just more guests, but more hotels. If all 76 hotel projects now in the pipeline are completed, the county will get 76 more hotels that will add more than 26% to our total hotel room supply of about 56,000.

Just 2,070 of those added rooms are now in construction in 15 hotels, according to STR, which tracks the hotel industry across the nation. But 34 more projects with 5,537 total rooms are in final planning, with 27 more hotels totaling 7,179 rooms in the planning stage.

The largest of the hotel projects is listed in STR's files as the as-yet-unnamed convention center hotel of 701 rooms that is to rise beside the Miami Beach Convention Center. That long-awaited project is moving forward, with talk of it being expedited ahead of its original



Among 76 projects in STR lists, the second-largest would be 500 rooms where Miami Herald once stood.

completion schedule.

The next-largest of the projects, listed at 500 rooms, is to rise on the bayfront in the Omni area at the former site of the Miami Herald. The site is owned by

a subsidiary of global casino giant Genting, which had planned the world's largest casino on the site but has yet to get state approval for gambling. Genting has been close-mouthed about

its ultimate plans.

Hotels in the county are booming. The average daily room rate has risen 4.1% in the past year, according to figures released this week by the

Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau. The average was \$199.82 as of February. Revenue per available room had also risen 2.9% for the year to \$152.53.

But additional hotel rooms being opened regularly plus the competition from Airbnb and similar services has increased room supply and put pressure on occupancy, which fell 1.2% in the period to 76.3% from 77.2% a year earlier, the bureau reported.

The increase in hotel rooms will mean more jobs in the community. Rolando Aedo, chief operating officer of the convention bureau, has estimated that each hotel room adds about 1.5 jobs. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Miami-Dade now has 146,500 people working in the leisure and hospitality sector, an increase of 1.7% in the past year.

Education Trends

Search for college's new president 'delicate balancing act'

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

There's a long and varied list of qualities members of a search committee has set out as they try to find the next president of Miami Dade College, and at least one member says it's a daunting task.

The committee hopes to have a new president in place before Eduardo Padrón, president since 1995, retires this summer.

According to the search team's website, the ideal candidate must be a "bold leader who is visible, approachable and responsive; an individual with strong track record of ethical behavior and integrity who demonstrates a deep commitment to students, particularly first-generation students, low-income students and students from traditionally underserved populations."

An emphasis on diversity and on preparing students for ethical leadership, global citizenship and engaged service is also important, the search committee said.

The ideal candidate must "have the ability and the desire to understand and integrate into the Miami-Dade community and diverse cultures, demonstrate passion and excitement in delivering a transformational learning experienced centered on student needs, and demonstrate a



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

"This is probably one of the most important decisions I'll ever make": search team chair Bernie Navarro.

deep and abiding commitment to academic freedom that upholds shared governance and consensus-building," the website said.

The committee is looking for someone with a doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution, with a minimum of 10 years of senior-level management experience, with at least six years in an institution of higher learning, who has "demonstrated leadership and innovative accomplishments in the area of academic and student service programs and/or administrative,

financial, and operational areas."

"For our community, the stakes are very high," said Bernie Navarro, chair of the search committee and president of Benworth Capital Partners. "We want a lot of things: a great administrator, because we have 165,000 students on eight campuses and each could be its own university. A liaison for the business community and the workforce. An educator who knows Miami, and realizes it's a complex community."

He stressed that it's not about finding a replacement for Dr.

Padron. "He's not replaceable and has done a tremendous job. But we need someone who's going to get us to the next level."

The successful candidate would also be able to work with stakeholders in Tallahassee as well as those who are local, and put forth maximum effort for students, faculty and for Miami, he said.

Mr. Navarro described Miami Dade College as a beacon of hope for the community. "It doesn't matter where you come from, or what you did in high school.



Eduardo Padrón is stepping down.

Trustees have renamed campus in honor of Eduardo Padrón, pg. 14

This is the great reboot and a ticket to the middle class. Education is the great equalizer and the cornerstone of the American dream. The successful candidate must not forget that mission, and also our responsibility to provide employers with the employees they need. We want the best for Miami."

He conceded that the committee might not be able to find everything members want in one person.

"It's going to be tricky, and a delicate balancing act, but we have a stellar search committee," Mr. Navarro said. "We will conduct absolutely the best search practices and are committed to being totally transparent. This is probably one of the most important decisions I'll ever make."

New St. Thomas president tallies rapid list of achievements



Photo by Cristina Sullivan

David Armstrong added law dean, provost, funding and football team.

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

He's only been at St. Thomas University since August, but David A. Armstrong, the university's new president, has already rung up a substantial list of accomplishments and has identified key objectives for the future.

Among the new administration's early accomplishments: a \$250,000 renovation of the baseball stadium grandstands, followed by the announcement that the university would add a football team, marching band, and choir this fall. Tamara Lawson was appointed permanent dean of the School of Law, the first person of color to hold that office. Soon after, St. Thomas announced that its Institute for Data Science and Analytics will be the beneficiary of a major gift from the Lisa and Victor Mendelson family. January brought news that construction on the Gus Machado School of Business was to re-commence, and soon after, it was announced that a residence hall, shuttered for eight years, will be re-opened. Most recently, Jeremy Moreland, who hails from Colorado, was appointed St. Thomas provost.

Next on the agenda is a battle to stabilize or even increase the state's Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) grant program, which

the legislature wants to cut, Dr. Armstrong said. Florida residents can now apply for \$3,500 per year to attend a college or university; the idea is to cut that amount to \$2,400 annually, Dr. Armstrong said.

"Small, faith-based schools have become the schools of access," he said. "These EASE cuts are devastating to small schools but don't hurt the big elites." The bill hasn't passed the state Senate yet but is being heard in both houses, he added.

St. Thomas has a minority enrollment of 81%, with half of those being Hispanic, he added. "We live our mission and deliver a great return on investment to families. Any cuts to the EASE program would be critical."

The university was the first to offer degrees in sports administration management in the 1970s, and among goals now is to re-energize the program.

"We have sports administration graduates who are working all over the country. We want to make the program better and grow it bigger," Dr. Armstrong said. "We have relationships with the Super Bowl, with the Miami Open, with other sports entities. We want to be a big player in the sports management arena."

St. Thomas's communications program also needs building up, he added.

New at the university is an ethical leadership program modeled upon one taught at Thomas More University, which was his last post before joining St. Thomas, the president said. Students learn philosophy, critical thinking skills, business skills, and other fundamentals.

When the American Association of Colleges & Universities surveyed leaders in 500 companies, the quality they said they were seeking in employees and managers was ethical leadership, Dr. Armstrong said.

"This program will be infused throughout our campus," he said. "Not everyone wants to be in a leadership position, so we'll weave components into our other disciplines, including logistics, cybersecurity, law, and others. Students will learn how to read well, write well," and develop other real-world skills.

He also plans to be in touch with Mike Allen, new president of Barry University, he said. "We must collaborate and work together. Every great city has great Catholic universities, and we strive for greatness."

Born and raised in Cleveland, Dr. Armstrong is conscious that he's among good company. "Don Shula and LeBron James both came from Ohio, and they did very well here. I have a lot to live up to."

Miami Dade College renames campus for retiring president

The Miami Dade College Board of Trustees voted unanimously last week to rename the college's InterAmerican Campus as the Eduardo J. Padrón Campus in honor of the college's president, who is to retire in August after 50 years at the college, nearly 25 as president.

The college said that an official designation ceremony would be announced soon.

Dr. Padrón was the catalyst in creating the InterAmerican Campus, which initially served as an outreach center.

"I want to express my deepest appreciation to the Board of Trustees for this incredible honor," Dr. Padrón said in a formal statement. "I am so honored and humbled. My connections to this unique and special campus, which has always been on the frontlines of the American Dream, run so deep."

The Padrón campus will be at least the second in Miami-Dade County to be named for a still-active former president.

Florida International Univer-



The InterAmerican Campus is being renamed the Eduardo J. Padrón Campus as the president retires.

sity named its main campus in Tamiami for Modesto Maidique at the time Dr. Maidique was retiring as president, a post he held from 1986 to 2008. That campus designation was a flash point last year when some university board members said that campus naming rights could bring the university a large endowment and sought unsuccessfully to remove the name

of Dr. Maidique, who is still an active professor at FIU.

The InterAmerican Campus is in the heart of Little Havana. It originally opened as the Wolfson Campus' Division of Bilingual Studies in the 1970s at the former site of Belen Jesuit High School on Southwest Eighth Street and Seventh Avenue.

Following the 1980 Mariel

Boatlift, the site was designated a center and later moved to its current location near Southwest Eighth Street and 27th Avenue.

The InterAmerican Center soon became the largest bilingual learning center in higher education. In 2001, it was designated the InterAmerican Campus, becoming MDC's sixth campus at the time. Today, it is the only public

higher education presence in Little Havana and home to some of the college's most important programs, including its School of Education and the Dual Language Honors College. Recently, the campus has expanded to meet growing needs of the surrounding community.

Dr. Padrón has served since 1995 as president of Miami Dade College, the largest degree-granting institution of higher education in America. He is credited with elevating the college to national prominence.

An economist by training, Dr. Padrón received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. In 2018, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. In 2016, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom for being a prominent national voice for access and inclusion in higher education.

Dr. Padrón has said he does not intend to retire after he leaves the college presidency in summer but has not revealed future plans.

UM consulting program in Grove gets calls to keep it alive

BY REBECCA SAN JUAN

A pilot consulting program run from the University of Miami Business School has ended, but participating small businesses from Coconut Grove and graduate students are urging administrators



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to keep it running.

During the six-week program, 31 business graduate students advised 11 Coconut Grove entities at no cost. Ten of the 11 say they're following the recommendations or plan to soon.

Partners including the Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce, the University of Miami's Business School and Management Department and the Johnson A. Edosomwan Leadership Institute are brainstorming future possibilities for the program. They're also contemplating how to provide financial aid to some businesses so they can undertake the recommendations.

UM Professor Marina Portnoy urged students in her course, "Organizational Management Consulting," to help clients overcome technological disruption impacting businesses. She awaits the information supporting recommendations given to clients, which she will weigh in final grades.

Presentations fit specific needs of a diverse clientele but recurring themes appear. Most emphasize using online marketing and social media to enhance in-store experiences, build a loyal customer base and attract new clients.

Master's student Isabella Fernandez del Rio says her client, the Last Carrot, is implementing a suggestion. The owner pays for Clover Point of Sales system to handle cash and credit card payments. Ms. Fernandez del Rio says her team found that the Last Carrot owner could also use the Clover system to manage employees' schedules, pay back management, receive feedback from customers, and see updates on inventory. The owner paid for those services without knowing she had access to them.

Ms. Fernandez del Rio said, "We met with her and she told us that she started using the feedback management on the software. She said that she had been implementing this for one week and is



'Both of us are going to let some ideas brew and get together in a couple weeks to see if we can continue on this path.'

Sheryl Alonso

evaluating the result."

Other businesses plan to incorporate recommendations. Grove chamber board member and Coconut Grove Art Festival director Lilia Garcia is looking to add a Wifi Hotspot software that supports Internet access and manages users, and plans to open an online store to sell artists' work.

"That is going to help the artists big time because it is going to give them another avenue to sell their work, not just the three days," Ms. Garcia said. "That is an economic impact."

Steve Capellini, who with his wife owns Atchana's Homegrown Thai, found several tips valuable. He says he ordered tabletop explanations with fun facts of menu items and restaurant features to entertain customers awaiting food. He agrees other suggestions, such as adding more videos to the company's website, can help draw customers.

Camila Sharp of Sharp Dentistry will lean heavily on social media to market her office.

"We are going to post, post, post," she said. "We are going to use more live video."

Noel Garcia, owner of three Grove stores including New Age Body Piercing, plans to incorporate all the recommendations when he remodels this year. Email blasts will mention new products, updates and photos of recent customer experiences.

Conversations continue between some clients and consultants. Milenis Martinez, UM student and consultant for the Blonde Tulip, has booked a follow-up meeting with the shop's owner.

Owners, including Mr. Garcia, foresee some obstacles. Maneuvering through a computer and new software, he admits, stumps him.

Some business owners are told their biggest challenges rest in the public's preconceived notions about their industry. Consider Mrs. Sharp's business. Dental anxiety, the lack of understanding the importance of oral health and limited insurance deter potential clients, she says.

Financial limitations pinch others. Samy Pierre, student consultant for the Coconut Grove Art Festival, recognizes the \$148,981 cost for all the recommendations is pricey but she thinks they can help maximize the non-profit's groundwork.

Ms. Garcia agrees those costs are a big hurdle. "We are volunteers," she said. "We are going to take one or two things at a time and see if we can bring up revenue and get more sponsors based on their recommendations."

The Coconut Grove Business Improvement District and the Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce are discussing strategies for offering funds to some businesses. President of Moure Insurance Louis Martinez-Moure will discuss possibilities for financial assistance at the chamber.

The future of the supplemental component is also under discussion. Executive Director of the Coconut Grove Business Improvement District Nicole Singletary says she'll see where

the organization can step in: "The next step would be to sit down with UM and see whether they are able to do this again and how it can be rolled out."

Sheryl Alonso, UM academic director of the Johnson A. Edosomwan Leadership Institute and associate professor of professional practice, looks forward to working with Ms. Singletary. She said, "Both of us are going to let some ideas brew and get together in a couple weeks to see if we can continue on this path."

All involved hope the program continues. Aisa Campo, student consultant for the Art Festival, said the opportunity is invaluable: "We worked with real people, with real needs."

Gary S. Jaggernaut, who consulted with Frameworks Coconut Grove, agrees: "To have the chance to be thrown into the deep end of the pool is a great opportunity. They engaged us to work with clients directly, and the experience is amazing."

Student Stephanie Messina, who helped New Age Body Piercing, prefers the course to the traditional set-up of lectures and exams: "I learn more this way."

John Gale, a student teaching aid for the course, says other businesses are eager to participate: "I started getting phone calls and emails calling the BID and it got to the point where they just gave them my contact information. [They] want to be in the next one."

One business, H&H Jewels, has welcomed one of its graduate students, Kelly Hui, to redesign its website.

Administrators are to announce in coming weeks whether the program will continue and how it might evolve. Professor Portnoy said, "The university wants to make sure that this is the right program. We have a dual goal — for our students to have the right skills, and ensure that when our students become our alumni that they continue that passion to serve others."

New UM dorms a shift from housing to learning extensions

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

When the University of Miami administration decided to replace its 50-year-old dorms with two sleek new clusters of mixed-use buildings, the focus changed. “This isn’t just housing; it’s an extension of the learning environment,” said Jim Smart, UM’s executive director of Housing and Residential Life.

Buildings in each cluster feature housing on the upper floors and classroom, office, recreational, study and meeting space on the lower floors. “You could make a loose analogy to a hotel, with the sleeping spaces on the higher floors and the more public spaces on the lower floors,” he said.

The first phase, which has no official name yet but is informally called Lakeside Village, comprises 12 acres with 25 interconnected buildings and a multitude of outdoor spaces including a grand courtyard, study spots, recreational spaces and outdoor terraces.

Each of the seven-story main buildings, designed by Arquitectonica, will have five floors of student housing for 1,115 sophomores, juniors and seniors, with the ground floor and mezzanine level of the main structure serving as event and university office spaces.

“In an effort to activate the space surrounding Lake Osceola, amenities include a large exhibition space for dynamic programming and other meeting spaces such as an auditorium, a classroom and multi-use pavilion,” a university release said.

Unit sizes range from studio to four-bedroom. It’s expected to be completed in the summer of 2020, and will cost more than \$150 million.

While the first phase is intended for upper classmen, freshmen will initially live there while their current dorms are being replaced, Mr. Smart said. “It’s a little like musical chairs.”

The second phase, Centennial Village, begins with the demolition of Stanford Residential College and Hecht Residential College, both built in the late 1960s. “The interior of Eaton Residential College will be completely renovated,” the university said in a release. “Construction will be split into stages, with work projected to take place from 2020-2025.”

Because it’s intended for freshmen, “Centennial Village will continue the successful first-year experience program with live-in faculty as well as professional and student staff who support and enhance the freshman experience,” the release said. “In addition to double rooms and an increased offering of single rooms for a combined total of an estimated 2,100 students (inclusive of Eaton Residential College), the new residential colleges will feature private bathrooms, kitchenettes located in shared resident lounges as well as classrooms and learning hubs. Additionally, Centennial Village will be positioned to take advantage of the many outdoor and programmatic elements of



Rendering shows plans for 12 acres of Lakeside Village on campus with 25 interconnected buildings.

the Coral Gables campus surrounding Lake Osceola.”

Other than the Eaton dorm,

each building will be nine floors tall, and offer 1,728 beds. The

estimated project cost is \$260

million; the architects on the project are VMDO Architects & Zyscovich Architects.

“We’ve learned a lot over 50 years,” Mr. Smart said. “We used to think of dorms as places just to sleep and study, but now we know a lot of learning, both formal and informal, goes on there. It’s really an extension of the classroom.”

The freshman spaces were designed to draw students out of their rooms and encourage them to interact with others.

“It’s better than a home away from home,” Mr. Smart said. “The fact that staff and faculty live there, too, increases their interaction. We’ve added a lot of spaces that will make adjusting to college easier. We know that as they grow up more, they want more autonomy.”

The university’s goals in transforming its residential component are to “be in a position to house as many people on campus as want to be here,” Mr. Smart said. “We want them to have a positive experience during the course of their stay with us.”



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Drive to bolster preschool child care targets education gains

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

Realizing that early learning can have an enormous effect on a child's potential for academic success, the Children's Trust last summer rolled out Thrive by 5, a program that aims to improve the quality of preschool child care.

"We realize there are major barriers to quality child-care here," said Rachel Spector, director of the program. "If you're able to afford college-level tuition and can pay for high-quality child care, that's great. But if not, the quality is often sub-par."

There are myriad reasons: though federal programs are in place to support childcare for disadvantaged families, reimbursements are low and

there's an oversupply of licensed facilities, leaving many providers fighting for the same dollar. Care-giver salaries are low (they average \$8.50 per hour), making it difficult to attract good teachers, and parents tend to choose child care based on safety, cleanliness and convenience to their homes and workplaces, Ms. Spector said. "Parents really don't demand quality, like we do with everything else we buy, and that's not just here; it's everywhere. Cost is a big factor."

"While quality early learning is beneficial for all children, its greatest impact is on children from less advantaged households," the program's brochure notes. "One of the most important outcomes of a quality early learning program is its ability to narrow the school readiness gap by preparing children for kindergarten through their development of basic literacy, math and science skills, as well



Rachel Spector



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

"You have to have good teachers and pay them well," said Jim Haj, who is CEO of the Children's Trust.

as social and emotional health and behavior.

"We've learned that programs need financial assistance to afford the high cost of quality care, so this and other barriers will be addressed in the new model to improve infant and toddler care in low-income neighborhoods, leveling the playing field for all children."

To reduce the financial burden on providers, those that meet certain standards on CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) standard, which measures teacher-child interactions, can receive a payment differential for each child under 5 in their program, Ms. Spector said. Providers are assigned one of five tiers, and the payments range 3% to 15% based on tier. "If a provider is in Tier 4 or 5, they can receive 12% or 15% for every child in their program," she explained. "That's money they can reinvest into their program, and it's also an incentive to improve, because the higher they go, the more money they receive."

To encourage providers to continue their educations, the trust offers a variety of scholarships to program directors and staffs. "We're trying to help teaches more forward in their educations and salaries," Ms. Spector said. Scholarships can be used for courses and trainings that bear college credits, for childcare credentials, or other types of professional growth.

The Child Care WAGES FLORIDA Project, in which the trust participates, aims at creating stability in the classroom. "In addition to rewarding continuing education in early childhood studies, this salary supplement rewards them for staying," Ms. Spector said. Supplements can range from \$200 to \$3,000, depending on level of education qualifications.

The federal School Readiness subsidy has an income limit of about \$30,000 per year for a family of three, and some parents find that advancing in their careers can result in the loss of the subsidy, she said. To remedy that, the trust offers a childcare subsidy for families of three with incomes up to \$60,000.

"We will give them a supplement, but unlike the federal

supplement, they must enroll their children in a Tier 4 or 5 school. Now we're forcing them to choose a high-quality facility, and the subsidy helps the school, too. I don't know anywhere else where this is being done," Ms. Spector said.

The trust has also included help in the classroom in the form of early childhood mental health consultations for teachers, especially those facing behavior challenges among their students. "The expulsion rate for preschoolers is six times higher than it is for students in grades K-12, and 50% of those expelled are children of color, particularly boys," Ms. Spector said. "Sometimes the teacher is not able to structure the class, or they live and work in underprivileged neighborhoods and deal with the same stresses as their students. They're not equipped to handle it."

Teachers can consult with mental health professions, can role play, and otherwise learn how to manage children's behaviors in ways that won't lead to expulsion, she said. While the trust sponsors mental health services to families and children when needed, the classroom support is key to its mission.

"We feel that having this whole package of support for preschool education is going to change the trajectory of low-income children's lives," she said. "We believe that every single child should have access to high-quality early childhood education, regardless of ZIP code."

"If you do early childhood right, everything else falls into place," said Jim Haj, trust CEO. One dollar spent on children younger than 5 saves \$9 to \$12 in costs savings later in the young person's life, he added.

"But it's a heavy lift, because quality childcare is expensive to run. You have to have good teachers and pay them well. They're doing one of the most important jobs there is," he said.

"But what kind of community would we have if every child came into kindergarten ready to read and write, and with all of the social skills they need? It's an important part of the trust's mission."



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Tourism's growth brings a call for expanded education

BY JESSE SCHECKNER

In the coming years, bigger cruise ships will set sail from PortMiami, more flights will arrive and depart from Miami International Airport and other tourism feeders, like a direct link to Orlando on Virgin Trains USA, promise one of Miami-Dade's biggest industries will only continue to grow.

To ensure residents get an appropriate piece of the action, county Commissioner Dennis Moss says the county school system should expand its existing tourism education programming.

"There may be a real opportunity in the cruise [and] airline [industries] to potentially do something special with our school system, to basically get individuals in the community up to speed and in a position where they can take advantage of the job opportunities that will come with all the development that's happening..." he said.

Mr. Moss commented during a March 13 tourism committee discussion over a 50-year, \$1.66 billion deal with MSC Cruises that could see the company build two "mega cruise terminals" on 20 seaport acres capable of accommodating massive 7,000-passenger vessels by late 2022.



Bigger cruise ships will replace those now at PortMiami and residents need to get a piece of the action, said Commissioner Dennis Moss.

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, sponsor of the deal's nonbinding term sheet, called it a "plus-plus" for the county and MSC, the world's largest privately-owned cruise line and fourth-largest overall.

Mr. Moss agreed, adding: "I thought that we were ahead of the game early on, but now with this, this is just [an] additional cherry on the cake."

The hospitality and tourism industry is one of seven the Beacon Council identified in its "OneCommunityOneGoal" initiative, for which Miami-Dade Public Schools offers career technical education.

Figures provided by schools spokesperson Jaquelyn Calzadilla show about 8,000 students in the 2016-17 school year

enrolled in hospitality, tourism and culinary arts programs at 16 county high schools.

That includes the newest program at Cutler Bay Senior High School that focuses specifically on the cruise industry and offers dual enrollment with Miami Dade College, wrote Lupe Ferran Diaz, executive director of Miami-Dade Public Schools' Career and Technical Education Department.

Miami-Dade's magnet school and career academies website states that courses offered in the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism, a program sponsored by the National Academy Foundation, include:

- Introduction to Hospitality and Tourism.
- Destination Geography.

■ Computer Technology for Travel and Tourism.

■ Travel and Tourism Marketing and Management.

■ Travel and Tourism Internship.

Students enrolled in the academy, who may take double enrollment courses while still in high school and are encouraged to take at least two years of foreign language classes, also work as interns at hotels, museums, travel centers, tourism bureaus and other related settings.

"These internships connect students to the real world of work and establish important relationships between students and adult professionals in hospitality and tourism," personnel wrote.

The hospitality and tourism industry is the fourth most popu-

lar career technical education program – behind life sciences and healthcare, creative design and information technology – among students enrolled in such programs.

Aviation, whose enrollment remained flat between 2016 and 2017 at 1,300 students, is the second-least popular career path, ahead of only trade and logistics, which had just 200 students enrolled those two years.

The term sheet, which still requires approval by the full county commission on April 9, would if enacted direct the county administration to enter negotiations with MSC and return with contracts by Oct. 29.

Mr. Moss did not respond to a request for comment for this article.

FIU hospitality school aims to broaden its brand recognition

BY REBECCA SAN JUAN

The Florida International University Chaplin School of Hospitality has organized a strategic plan launch for July that aims to widen brand recognition.

Interim dean Dr. Michael Cheng said he expects efforts to increase demand for recent graduates in the job market. He's moving full steam ahead while the university's search for a permanent dean of hospitality is lagging behind schedule.

Dr. Cheng said he expects to receive feedback on the strategic plan soon from constituencies that will weigh in on the details and provide feedback.

The core enhancements focus on developing the Chaplin School brand, expanding the school's proprietary and global personalized learning. Brand recognition starts by promoting the school's achievements and high national as well as international rankings.

"As we develop those strategies and implement what goes with it, it enhances the Chaplin School brand," Dr. Cheng said. "It will help the students get jobs where they want to be, and we believe it will help with salary."

His team is looking to strengthen bonds with its partners, such as the Tianjin University of Commerce in China, and grow new bonds.

The hospitality school has 10 students abroad for the spring semester, with enrollment for the fall and spring 2020 going on now.

The challenge to encourage more students to go abroad every year is the four-month



Michael Cheng has strategic plan.

commitment and money, said Dawn Fagnan, assistant director of enrollment and recruitment services at the Chaplin School. "They have obligations here that prevent them from leaving for that duration," she said via email. "We've tried to offset some of the financial challenges our students face by offering scholarships, offering low-cost study abroad options, etc., but money is still a consideration."

But once they're studying, students will soon have a personalized experience.

"We realized personalized learning is the way to go, but it is not just US based – it has to be global," Dr. Cheng said. "Growing partnerships that are impactful, that will help our students gain the skills that they need, and will help our school grow through brand presence."

The changes are meant to stay true to the mission of the Chaplin School that reads it "is to prepare leaders to design and develop the customer experiences of the future."

"We stay true to the core of our legacy, but we are not staying stagnant," Dr. Cheng said. "We want to move forward."

His team intends to measure several factors to determine success. Retention and graduation rates are the main factors. The team will look at how four-year graduation rates improve starting in the fall. Whether first-year students at Chaplin stay or leave will largely determine whether the plan works.

The goal, Dr. Cheng says, is to bring the graduation rate from the Chaplin School up to at least 60% on a consistent basis. The percentage of students who entered the Chaplin School and graduated in the four years checked in at 52% last year. The interim dean expects his team to see a 68% rate from this year's graduation class.

Job security and company satisfaction are also being taken into consideration. Dr. Cheng wants to learn from recent graduates whether they can find a job they enjoy and receive fair pay within a year after graduation.

The strategic plan requires human, rather than financial, capital, Dr. Cheng said: "A lot of this is human capital, which we have. If you get the ship in the right direction, you are going to get there. That is how I see it. We are all on the same ship. We need to get everybody rolling in the same direction."

The school is building on changes from last year. Administrators are monitoring an eatery management course that started in the fall.

"We are still in the pilot phase with the restaurant management

course, and so far, the student interactions within this redesigned course are positive," Dr. Cheng said. "I do want to test it again this summer and fall, before we start to redesign another course using competencies."

Efforts to launch a course bridging hotel management and ownership are running well. The MicroMasters program is to launch in the spring next year.

"Thus far, we have developed the framework for each module, and will incorporate universal learning strategies into each course as we design it," Dr. Cheng said. "This will ensure that students are able to choose whichever format of learning

works best for them, whether it is completely online, hybrid or face-to-face."

The process of finding a permanent dean for the school has slowed. The school is months behind the schedule Miami Today reported last October with plans to announce a permanent dean by May. The search committee is still outlining the job description, defining what is wanted from candidates.

The job post now is to be up by summer, with interviews following in the fall. A list of 10 candidates is to be completed by December.

Dr. Cheng said he remains interested in the position.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

books

ENTELECHY: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Carlos Estevez's "Entelechy: Works from 1992 to 2018." 6:30 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2u1U8eY>.

BIASED: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt's "Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do." 8 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TsOJgr>.

FIELD NOTES ON LOVE: Books & Books at Suniland Shops hosts Jennifer E. Smith's "Field Notes on Love." 6:30 p.m. 11297 S Dixie Hwy., Pinecrest. Details: <https://bit.ly/2VWkds5>.

music

MUSIC FOR HISTIOCYTOSIS: New World Symphony presents "Music for Histiocytosis Awareness: Playing for a Cure." The concert will include performances by Stephanie Block with other NWS Fellows and remarks by Histiocytosis Association board member Deanna Fournier. 6 p.m. Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, 1475 NW 12th Ave., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TBdyXh>.

special events

NAVY DAY: The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science hosts "Navy Day." Join your fellow shipmates for a day showcasing innovative technology, the history of the Navy and a lunchtime performance with the Navy Band. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 1101 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2NY7Vf0>.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS: The Shepard and Ruth K. Broad Center for the Performing Arts presents "Little Shop of Horrors." Set to 1960s rock 'n' roll, doo-wop and early Motown, a hapless florist shop worker raises an unusual plant from another universe. 7 p.m. 11300 NE Second Ave., Miami Shores. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FopmDJ>.

SUNSET SESSIONS: The Standard Spa, Miami Beach hosts "Sunset Sessions," with Dave Sol and Friends during Miami Music Week. 4-9 p.m. 40 Island Ave. Details: <https://sunsetsol.splashthat.com/>.

WOMEN TALK TECH: The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce hosts "Pillar Trustee Breakfast & Tech/Women's Business Council: Miami Beach Women Talk Tech." 8-10 a.m. Royal Palm South Beach, 1545 Collins Ave., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Obqlyt>.

LOCAL VIEWS AT PAMM: Pérez Art Museum Miami hosts "Local Views at PAMM: Lisa Rockford," where select local artists will speak about a few works of art currently on view at the museum. 6 p.m. 1103 Biscayne Blvd. Details: <https://bit.ly/2JihU0e>.



LOCAL VIEWS AT PAMM:
PÉREZ ART MUSEUM MIAMI

thur. 3.28

FOOD TRUCK AND MUSIC NIGHT: The North Beach Bandshell presents "Road to Afroroots: Food Truck & Music Night." 5-10 p.m. 7275 Collins Ave., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2CeYtjA>.

BLAKE RAYNE LECTURE: The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami hosts "Blake Rayne Lecture." This free public lecture is presented in conjunction with artist Blake Rayne's participation in the Art + Research Center Spring Semester 2019. 7 p.m. 61 NE 41st St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2XTfA3F>.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Coral Gables Museum presents "Panel Discussion: Fantasy Architecture in Contemporary Art." This panel discussion presents

different takes on the use of fantastic architecture in art. 6:30 p.m. 285 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2VXMUot>.

sports

HEAT GAME: The Miami Heat host the Dallas Mavericks. 7:30 p.m. American Airlines Arena. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TGQYf7>.

MIAMI MARLINS OPENING DAY: The Miami Marlins hosts the Colorado Rockies during its Opening Day. Fans are encouraged to arrive early on Opening Day, with festivities starting on the West Plaza. 1:30 p.m. Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami. Details: <https://www.mlb.com/marlins/tickets>.



MIAMI CITY BALLET: THE
ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS

fri. 3.29



REIK: THE FILLMORE MIAMI BEACH



ULTIMATE MIAMI COMEDIAN:
MAGIC CITY AMPHITHEATER

art

ELLIPSIS: Miami Beach Urban Studios presents "Exhibition Ellipsis" and "Ghosts of LB: Fiber Art Exhibition," opening reception. 6:30 p.m. 420 Lincoln Rd. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Fm421s>.

books

BLACK BRITISH MIGRANTS IN CUBA: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Jorge L. Giovannetti-Torres' "Black British Migrants in Cuba." 6:30 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2ueB11G>.

CECILE RICHARDS: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Cecile Richards' "Make Trouble: Stand UP, Speak Out, And Find The Courage To Lead." 8 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TJqSjJ>.

business

FREE MONEY FOR YOUR BUSINESS: Doral Chamber of Commerce hosts

"Creative Ways to Find Free Money For Your Business." 8:30-11 a.m. 2900 NW 112th Ave. Details: <https://conta.cc/2FmlamX>.

dance

MIAMI CITY BALLET: The Miami City Ballet presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Enter this undersea fantasy of magically entangled lovers, fairy royalty, magic spells and happy-ever-after in Shakespeare's timeless tale of love. 8 p.m. Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TwWGQH>.

music

NU DECO: The New World Symphony presents "Nu Deco Featuring Tune-Yards." This performance will include world premieres from composers Ricardo Romaneiro and Magda Giannikou featuring the orchestra with real time video visuals, 360-degree sound and projections on the iconic sails. 8 p.m. New World

Center, 500 17th St., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2VKcGfN>.

RACHELLE COBA: Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami presents "Jazz at MOCA: Rachelle Cobra." 8 p.m. 770 NE 125th St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Wa3Mlv>.

REIK: The Fillmore Miami at the Jackie Gleason Theater presents "Reik: Tour Des/Amor." 7 p.m. 1700 Washington Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2GKx8JX>.

LOVE IS A ROSE: The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center presents "Love is a Rose: Celebrating the Music of Linda Ronstadt." 8 p.m. 3385 NE 188th St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2U011FS>.

special events

INTO THE STACKS: The Wolfsonian-FIU presents "Into the Stacks." Join Bookleggers Library founding director Nathaniel Sandler and The Wolfsonian's chief librarian Frank Luca will "pour" over the collection of cocktail-related objects, with drinks from vintage recipes available for purchase. 7-9 p.m. 1001 Washington Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FmH0fY>.

WINE AND CONVERSATION: The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami hosts "Art and Conversation." Join ICA Miami for wine and a conversation with Lisbon-based artist Richard Höglund in advance of his upcoming exhibition of new paintings at The Bonnier Gallery. 6:30 p.m. 61 NE 41st St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2U0Y0jS>.

BUSINESS OF HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE: The University of Miami hosts "2019 The Business of Healthcare Conference." 7:30 a.m. UM's Watsco Center, 1245 Dauer Dr., Coral Gables. Details: <https://bit.ly/2UvSbDA>.

ULTIMATE MIAMI COMEDIAN: The Magic City Amphitheater presents "Ultimate Miami Comedian Headlined by Steve Trevino." Ultimate Miami Comedian is back for its eighth season showcasing South Florida's rising comedic stars. 8 p.m. 450 NW 37th Ave., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Fm1nFO>.

INTUITIVE ART: Books & Books in Coconut Grove presents "Intuitive Art: Conservation, Exhibition and Artist Recognition," which ventures into needed areas of attention, providing hands-on art conservation. It also brings to attention and understanding to under-recognized work in our community. 7:30 p.m. 3409 Main Hwy. Details: <https://bit.ly/2UlkwGC>.

HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO: The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau presents "Miami Health & Wellness Expo." 3:30 p.m. Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way. Details: <https://bit.ly/2S0I9ZL>.

COMIC CURE: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center presents "Comic Cure: No Strings Attached." A, Richard Adler, a Florida native, discovered the wonderful world of magic at age 10 and has been performing ever since. 8:30 p.m. 10950 SW 211th St., Cutler Bay. Details: <https://bit.ly/2ubnGHe>.

X VINYL SOCIAL CLUB: The Standard Spa, Miami Beach hosts "X Vinyl Social Club Present Selector Showcase," during Miami Music Week. 8 p.m. 40 Island Ave. Details: <https://vsc.splashthat.com/>.

sports

MIAMI MARLINS: The Miami Marlins takes on the Colorado Rockies. 7:10 p.m. Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami. Details: <https://www.mlb.com/marlins/schedule/2019-03>.

theater

AMAL: Miami-Dade County Auditorium presents "Amal by Combat Hippies." A provocative and inspiring spoken word theater piece that delves into the societal impact of war. 8 p.m. 2901 W Flagler St., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2HqEMtn>.

GUIDE — WEEK OF 3.28.19



ARTISTS' RECEPTION: THE DANTE FASCELL VISITOR CENTER GALLERY

sat. 3.30

art

ARTISTS' RECEPTION: Tropical Botanic Artists present "Pollinators: An Exhibition at Biscayne Park," artists' reception. 6-8 p.m. The Dante Fascell Visitor Center Gallery, 9700 SW 328 St., Homestead. Details: <http://www.tropicalbotanicartists.com/>.

books

UNA FAMILIA IMPERFECTA: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Pepa Roma's "Una Familia Imperfecta." 7 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TJqSjJ>.

books

LAS PENITENTES: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Maira Landa's "Las Penitentes." 7 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TeGHCT>.

AFTER THE MIRACLE: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Art Shamsky's "After the Miracle." The inside account of an iconic team in baseball history: the 1969 New York Mets. 7 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2YeM8W6>.

children

PETER AND THE WOLF: The New World Symphony presents "Concert for Kids: Peter and the Wolf." Your child's imagination will run wild as the story of Peter and the Wolf musically comes to life. 2:30 p.m. New World Center, 500 17th St., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2W7W5T7>.

dining out

DEERING SEAFOOD FESTIVAL: Deering Estate presents "15th Annual Deering Seafood Festival on the Bay." Get ready for a non-stop celebration with scrumptious seafood, celebrity chef cooking demos, kids' games and rides, live entertainment and educational activities. 10 a.m. 16701 SW 72nd Ave, Palmetto Bay. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Hmr2ij>.

film

SCREWBALL: Miami Dade College's Tower Theater Miami screens "Screwball." 9:15 p.m. 1508 SW Eighth St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TRQJ19>.

music

ASIYA KOREPANOVA: The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center presents "Miami International Piano Festival Presents: Asiya Korepanova." Asiya's virtuosity as a pianist is best defined by a supreme level of technical aptitude, combined with her acutely individualized musical interpretations. 5 p.m. 3385 NE 188th St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FkfkK>.

STEPHEN HOUGH: Friends of Chamber Music of Miami presents "Stephen Hough, Piano." 4 p.m. Temple Beth Am, 5950 SW 88th St., Pinecrest. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TMWjCK>.

LOVE-IN MUSIC FESTIVAL: The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade presents "Love-in Music Festival at Greynolds Park," featuring classic tunes and vibes, food trucks, craft beer and activities to celebrate our environment and good stewardship. 10 a.m. 18501 NE 22nd Ave. North Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2UF6vcG>.

RACHELLE COBA: Global Arts Project, Inc. and the Collins Park Neighborhood Association present "Free Artscape Concert," with Rachelle Coba and her Band. Collins Park, 2100 Collins Ave., Miami Beach. Details: <http://www.globalartsproject.org/calendar/>.

EL MAESTRO DE MUSICA: Miami-Dade County Auditorium presents "El Maestro de Música." 5:30 p.m. 2901 W Flagler St., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Fa2rut>.

BACH BIRTHDAY BASH: The Alhambra Orchestra presents "Bach Birthday Bash." 7:30 p.m. St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 14260 Old Cutler Rd., Palmetto Bay. Details: <https://www.alhambramusic.org/>.

dance

DANCE NOW! MIAMI: Aventura Arts & Cultural Center presents "Dance Now! Miami Presents Program II: Contemporanea 2019." 8:30 p.m. 3385 NE 188th St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2J9r4Ni>.

dining out

FUNDRAISING LUNCH: The South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation hosts "An Exclusive and Elegant Fundraising Lunch Event," on board Celebrity Cruises Equinox. 10:30 a.m. Port of Miami, 1015 N America Way. Details: <https://conta.cc/2JnFARB>.

music

KAT EDMONSON: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center presents "Kat Edmonson." At once dreamy and seductive, poignant and romantic, singer and songwriter Kat Edmonson's "vintage pop" is like the Great American Songbook meets Turner Classic Movies. 7:30 p.m. 10950 SW 211th St., Cutler Bay. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Y5cZUp>.

GIULIA BALLARE: The Miami Classical Guitar Society presents "Giulia Ballare." 8 p.m. Saint Bede Episcopal Chapel, 1150 Stanford Dr., Coral Gables. Details: <https://www.miamiguitar.org/>.

GLOBAL CUBA FEST: The North Beach Bandshell presents "Global Cuba Fest: Daymé Arocena & Cimafunk in Concert." 8-10 p.m. 7275 Collins Ave., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2ubneJ0>.

special events

FREE FAMILY FEST: The Miami City Ballet hosts "Free Family Fest: Miami City Ballet Community Engagement Program," an interactive performance that offers a behind-the-scenes look at the art of ballet for children and families throughout South Florida. 2 p.m. Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Uy1b18>.

ULTIMATE MIAMI DRAG QUEEN: The Magic City Amphitheater presents "Ultimate Miami Drag Queen Headlined by Shangela & Miss Vanjie." Ultimate Miami Drag Queen is back for its eighth season showcasing South Florida's rising drag queens as they sashay the runway. 9 p.m. 450 NW 37th Ave., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TRFEgX>.

IDEA010: The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami hosts "IDEA010: They Failed to Remember Us Expanding Intersectional Feminisms." A daylong symposium on intersectional feminisms that seeks to present an expanded focus on black, queer, and indigenous feminisms and on feminist practices. 1:45-7 p.m. 61 NE 41st St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Hxc2Pv>.

FESTIVAL OF COLOURS: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center presents "Festival of Colours: Rangbarse Holi 2019." Celebrate the beginning of spring at the Holi Colour festival. Although the festival was originated in India, it is celebrated all around the world. 11:30 a.m. 10950 SW 211th St., Cutler Bay. Details: <https://bit.ly/2udl4bl>.

sports

MIAMI MARLINS: The Miami Marlins takes on the Colorado Rockies. Lapel pins will be given to the first 10,000 fans. 6:10 p.m. Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami. Details: <https://www.mlb.com/marlins/schedule/2019-03>.

MIAMI OPEN: The Miami Open tennis tournament continues with women's singles and men's doubles final round play. 11 a.m. Hard Rock Stadium, 347 Don Shula Dr., Miami Gardens. Details: <https://www.miamiopen.com/app/schedule>.



sun. 3.31

STEPHEN HOUGH:
TEMPLE BETH AM

special events

JAPANESE SPRING FESTIVAL: Miami Beach Botanical Garden hosts "Annual Japanese Spring Festival." This one-day event celebrates all aspects of Japanese culture. 10 a.m. 2000 Convention Center Dr. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Y5D2e7>.

sports

MIAMI MARLINS: The Miami Marlins play against the Colorado Rockies. Ball caps will be given to the first 5,000 kids 14 and younger. 1:10 p.m. Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami. Details: <https://www.mlb.com/marlins/schedule/2019-03>.

MIAMI OPEN: The Miami Open tennis tournament final day ends with women's doubles and men's final round play. 11 a.m. Hard Rock Stadium, 347 Don Shula Dr., Miami Gardens. Details: <https://www.miamiopen.com/app/schedule>.



JAPANESE SPRING
FESTIVAL: MIAMI BEACH
BOTANICAL GARDEN

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

books

LESSONS FROM LUCY: Coral Gables Congregational Church hosts Dave Barry's "Lessons From Lucy." Faced with the obstacles and challenges of life after middle age, Dave Barry turns to his best dog, Lucy, to learn how to live his best life. 7:30 p.m. 3010 De Soto Blvd. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Y6thMT>.

dining out

MONDAY NIGHT DINNERS: The Cafe at Books & Books at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts presents "Chef Allen's Farm-to-Table Monday Night Dinners." 6:30 p.m. 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2CB5L1t>.

WINE & STREET FOOD TASTING: La Centrale - Italian Food Hall hosts "Sicilian Wine & Food Tasting by Firriato Wines." The event will be held in La Riserva, La Centrale's private wine vault surrounded by floor to ceiling terra cotta tile and La Centrale's premium wine collection. 7-8:30 p.m. 601 S Miami Ave., Brickell. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TmBY1U>.

TAPAS SPECIAL SPANISH NIGHT: Grubhouse Gastrobar & Grill hosts "Monday Flamenco," a tapas special Spanish night with live music by Flamenco Dream. 8 p.m. 11995 SW 26th St., Tamiami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FkHk8X>.

film

THE MUSTANG: Coral Gables Art Cinema screens "The Mustang." Roman, a convict in a rural Nevada prison who struggles to escape his violent past, is required to participate in an "outdoor maintenance" program as part of his social rehabilitation. 8:45 p.m. 260 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FpyesN>.

special events

MIXTAPE MONDAYS: Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum hosts "Mixtape Mondays." Director of the Stocker Astroscience Center and Professor of Physics Dr. James Webb will offer a glimpse of the universe we inhabit and discuss his research on quasars and blazars. 5:30 p.m. 10975 SW 17th St., Tamiami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Y9xK15>.

MONDAYS AT THE MUSEUM: The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU hosts "Jews, Britain & American Moviemaking During World War II." 7 p.m. 301 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FgTgbF>.

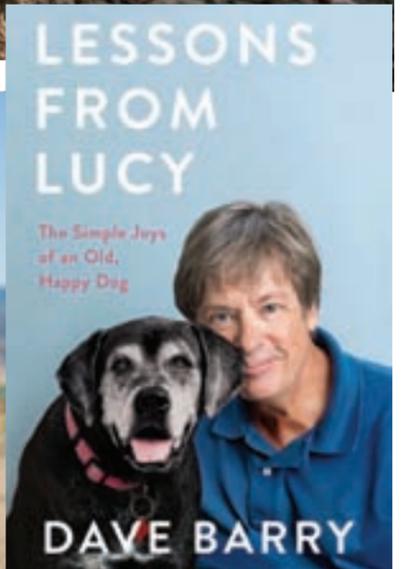
O, MIAMI DAY: Books & Books at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts hosts "O, Miami Proclamation Day." Commissioner Ken Russell declares April 1 "O, Miami Day" and guest will get a sneak peak at the O, Miami programming calendar. 11:30 a.m. 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2HvMjHd>.

sports

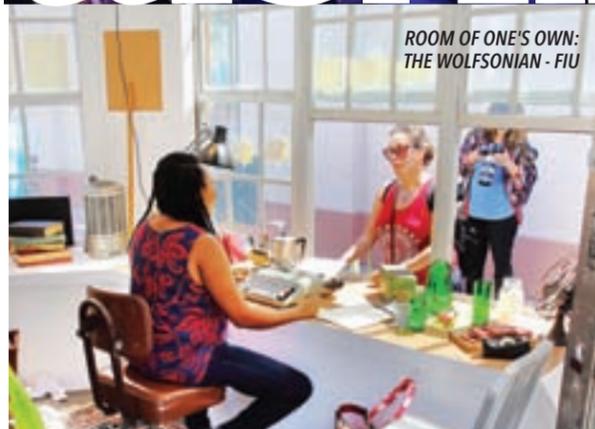
MIAMI MARLINS: The Miami Marlins hosts the New York Mets. 7:10 p.m. Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami. Details: <https://www.mlb.com/marlins/schedule/2019-03>.



mon.4.1



tue.4.2



books

HONORING THE ENEMY: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Robert N. Macomber "Honoring the Enemy: A Captain Peter Wake Novel." The story of how American sailors, marines, and soldiers landed in eastern Cuba in 1898 and, against daunting odds, fought their way to victory. 6:30 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FaRybZ>.

I MISS YOU WHEN I BLINK: Books & Books in Coral Gables hosts Mary Laura Philpott's "I Miss You When I Blink," a charmingly relatable and wise memoir-in-essays about what happened after Mary checked off all the boxes on her successful life's to-do list and realized she might need to reinvent the list. 8 p.m. 265 Aragon Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2ucZqEN>.

business

SOCIAL MEDIA MASTERY: Doral Chamber of Commerce hosts

"Social Media Mastery Course: How to Make Social Media Marketing Work for your Business." 8:30-12:30 p.m. 2900 NW 112th Ave. Details: <https://conta.cc/2TMGg7H>.

film

SHOPLIFTERS: The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center presents "Shoplifters." A Japanese couple stuck with part-time jobs, and hence inadequate incomes, avail themselves of the fruits of shoplifting to make ends meet with their kids in on the act. 7:30 p.m. 3385 NE 188th St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2HFFO47>.

music

FROST EXTENSIONS: Frost Music Live! presents "Frost Extensions: Frost Jazz Vocal 1 and Frost Jazz Vocal 2." Frost faculty member and master trombonist Dante Luciani joins the jazz vocal ensembles for a night of jazz vocal arrangements of jazz standards and instrumentals. 7 p.m. UM Gusman Concert Hall, 1314 Miller Dr., Coral Gables: <https://bit.ly/2SX6uil>.

special events

SPECTRUM: Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum presents "SPECTRUM." Guests will enjoy a special tour of the exhibition "To Survive on This Shore" by Jess T. Dugan and Vanessa Fabbre followed by a panel discussion exploring the complexities of gender expression and special performances by local drag queens. 3 p.m. 10975 SW 17th St., Tamiami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TWjQ33>.

A LITERARY SOCIAL: Books & Books at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts hosts "First Draft: A Literary Social," a series of informal writing events that turn happy hours into great stories. 6:30 p.m. 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2U1Xld4>.

ROOM OF ONE'S OWN: The Wolfsonian-FIU presents "Room of One's Own: A Teeny Tiny Poetry Residency." Throughout the month of April, stroll in front of The Wolfsonian to find one of eight poets at work in the Bridge Tender House-turned-tiny writing studio. While they agonize over every word and line break, you can interact, read along and witness their creative process. 10:30 a.m. 1001 Washington Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FnVMYb>.

CELLAR SERIES: Deering Estates hosts "Prohibition-era Cellar Series: A Unique Tasting and Historical Experience," presented by Big Cypress Distillery featuring distilled spirits with an assortment of small bites. 7-9 p.m. 16701 SW 72nd Ave., Palmetto Bay. Details: <https://bit.ly/2HudTWL>.

ART + DESIGN EXPO: Miami Dade College's North Campus host "D3 Art + Design Conference & Expo." The three-day event will be interdisciplinary and will focus on educational advancement, professional growth and experiential learning. 6 p.m. 11380 NW 27th Ave., Miami. Details: <http://www.d3expo.com/index.html>.

sports

MIAMI MARLINS: The Miami Marlins takes on the New York Mets. 7:10 p.m. Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami. Details: <https://www.mlb.com/marlins/schedule/2019-03>.

GUIDE — WEEK OF 3.28.19



ZINE WORKSHOP:
PATRICIA & PHILLIP
FROST ART MUSEUM

wed. 4.3

dining out

BLCK FAMILY DINNER: Vizcaya Museum and Garden presents "BLCK Family Dinner." join the BLCK family and their cousins Chef Ari and Jibade Khalil Huffman at the family's first public dinner of the year. 7-11 p.m. 3251 S Miami Ave., Miami. Details: <https://vizcayatickets.org/events/>.

film

MOVIES AT SOUNDSCAPE PARK: SoundScape Park presents "Free Movies at SoundScape Park," with the screening of "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World." 8 p.m. 500 17th St., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TrW1U>.

BLACK POWER MIXTAPE: The Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami screens "MOCA Moving Images: Black Power Mixtape." This documentary examines the evolution of the Black Power movement in American society from 1967 to 1975. 6:30 p.m. 770 NE 125th St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2EqeC6f>.

music

NEW MUSIC MIAMI FESTIVAL: FIU Music Series presents "XXII New Music Miami Festival: Päck Calloway Violin and Cello Duo." Cellist Jason Calloway has

performed across the US in a duo with his wife, violinist Mari-Liis Päck, exploring rich literature for violin and cello. 7 p.m. The Betsy Hotel, 1440 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2OdVrRr>.

OPERA NIGHT ON ESPAÑOLA WAY: Española Way restaurants hosts "Opera Night on Española Way." Española Way guests can enjoy free opera performances alongside Hosteria Romana and also sip cocktails as the sun sets while enjoying happy hour specials from 4-7 p.m. from several of the street's restaurants. 8:30 p.m. 429 Española Way, Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2TOZWYR>.

special events

THE AMERICAS: The New World Symphony presents "Nord Anglia Performing Arts Festival: The Americas." The Nord Anglia Performing Arts Festival is a dynamic program in collaboration with The Juilliard School that unites students ages 12-18 from Nord Anglia Education's 14 schools across the Americas. 7:30 p.m. New World Center, 500 17th St., Miami Beach. Details: <https://www.nws.edu/events-tickets/concerts/>.

ZINE WORKSHOP: Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum presents "Zine Workshop." This workshop will explore social activism and photography inspired by the exhibition "LaToya Ruby Frazier: Flint is Family." 12:30 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD

SCHOOL OF ROCK THE MUSICAL

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts presents "School of Rock: The Musical." 8 p.m. April 9. 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2JrUtsY>.

THE BARRICADE BOYS

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center presents "The Barricade Boys." 7 p.m. April 7. 3385 NE 188th St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2HOHc4a>.

JACKSON BROWNE

The Fillmore Miami Beach at the Jackie Gleason Theater presents "Jackson Browne." 8:30 p.m. April 9. 1700 Washington Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2JnnHIF>.

VOICES OF CENTRAL EUROPE

The New World Symphony presents "Voices of Central Europe." 2 p.m. April 13. New World Center, 500 17th St., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FeE1A4>.

CHAMBER SERIES

South Florida Symphony Orchestra presents "Temple Israel Greater Miami Chamber Series." 11 a.m. April 14. Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 NE 19th St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2un7imV>.

RICHARD MARX & JOHN WAITE

The Magic City Amphitheater presents "Richard Marx & John Waite." 7 p.m. April 13. 450 NW 37th Ave., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2UNLi0q>.

MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS

PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN MARKETING INSTITUTE

Performance-Driven Marketing Institute hosts its annual meeting. March 31-April 2. 600 attendees expected. Loews Miami Beach Hotel, 1601 Collins Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2HuJlGR>.

TO SUBMIT EVENTS FOR MIAMI TODAY'S CALENDAR

Information should be received two weeks before the event.
Send to: Abraham Galvan, Calendar Editor
E-mail: calendar@miamitodaynews.com

10975 SW 17th St., Tamiami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2HtBAXd>.

PROFESSIONAL VETERAN NETWORKING: Yard House in Miami Beach hosts "Professional Veterans of South Florida Monthly Networking Event." 5 p.m. 1681 Lenox Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Of7loG>.

sports

HEAT GAME: The Miami Heat host the Boston Celtics. 7:30 p.m. AmericanAirlines Arena. Details: <https://bit.ly/2F7riQZ>.

MIAMI MARLINS: The Miami Marlins play against the New York Mets. 7:10 p.m. Marlins Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami. Details: <https://www.mlb.com/marlins/schedule/2019-03>.

dining out

HAVANA NIGHT: Glass and Vine hosts "Havana Night." Enjoy dinner with a Cuban twist, craft with \$8 rum cocktails made with Havana Club Añejo or Havana Club Classic, \$5 Concrete Beach Brewery Havana Lager pints, freshly rolled cigars and tropical beats. 7 p.m. 2830 McFarlane Rd., Coconut Grove. Details: <https://bit.ly/2HxbTMC>.

film

TALES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE: The New World Symphony screens "Europe on the Big Screen: Tales of the Golden Age." 8 p.m. New World Center, 500 17th St., Miami Beach. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Y3O2IO>.

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?: Miami Dade College's Tower Theater Miami screens "What is Democracy? (Free Public Screening)." Filmmaker Astra Taylor will be present for a post-screening Q&A session. 6:45 p.m. 1508 SW Eighth St. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Tg0jX6>.

music

FROST CONCERT JAZZ BAND: Frost Music Live! presents "The Music of French Horn Artist, Richard Todd: Frost Concert Jazz Band." Frost Professor Richard Todd collaborates with the Frost Concert Jazz Band, premiering new works inspired from his illustrious career in film, orchestra and jazz. 7:30 p.m. UM Gusman Concert Hall, 1314 Miller Dr., Coral Gables. Details: <https://bit.ly/2LWWhkz>.

KEY BISCAYNE PIANO FESTIVAL: Key Biscayne Piano Festival presents "A South American Cultural Celebration," showcasing Frank Di Polo and Edepson Gonzalez. 7 p.m. Key Biscayne Crossbridge Church, 160 Harbor Dr. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Y7vx0n>.

EDDY'S THURSDAY NIGHT JAM: Chat Noir hosts "Eddy's Thursday Night Jam." Guitarist, composer and bandleader Eddy Balzola leads the weekly jam. 9 p.m. 2 S Miami Ave., Miami. Details: <https://bit.ly/2urbwKf>.

special events

PRIDE NIGHT: Pérez Art Museum Miami hosts "Pride Night," with DJ Lagrecca, live music by Basside and drag performances by host Tiffany Fantasia. 7 p.m. 1103 Biscayne Blvd. Details: <https://bit.ly/2OeZtxv>.

ABBA: The Fillmore Miami Beach at the Jackie Gleason Theater presents "ABBA: The Concert." 8:30 p.m. 1700 Washington Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2VWwVn6>.

FASHION SHOW: Miami International University of Arts & Design presents "Style 2019 Fashion Show." 7 p.m. Moore Building, 191 NE 40th St., Wynwood. Details: <https://www.artinstitutes.edu/miami>.

ROOM OF ONE'S OWN: The Wolfsonian-FIU presents "Room of One's Own: A Teeny Tiny Poetry Residency." Stroll in front of The Wolfsonian to find one of eight poets at work in the Bridge Tender House-turned-tiny writing studio. While they agonize over every word and line break, you can interact, read along and witness their creative process. 10:30 a.m. 1001 Washington Ave. Details: <https://bit.ly/2FnVMYb>.



PRIDE NIGHT:
PÉREZ ART MUSEUM MIAMI

thur. 4.4



KEY BISCAYNE
PIANO FESTIVAL:
KEY BISCAYNE
CROSSBRIDGE CHURCH



WHAT IS DEMOCRACY:
TOWER THEATER MIAMI

Commission may order list of all vacant county-owned land

BY JESSE SCHECKNER

Miami-Dade lawmakers will decide next month whether to order an updated list of vacant county-owned land—the last was delivered almost three years ago—but a new online tool unveiled this month looks to have already done the job.

On March 14, commissioners voted 3-0 in committee to advance an item, sponsored by Javier Souto, directing Mayor Carlos Giménez's office to tally empty and unoccupied county properties and provide size, use and restriction information, among other details.

The last county property inventory in May 2016 showed Miami-Dade owned 4,956 parcels, of which 786 were either declared surplus or under evaluation.

"The county said they could do it in four months," Commissioner Sally Heyman, chairwoman of the Health Care and County Operations Committee, said of a new list.

But according to Robin Bachin,

director of the University of Miami Office for Civic and Community Engagement, that task "is done."

One day before the committee vote, the university debuted Land Access for Neighborhoods Development (LAND), a free online mapping tool that provides real-time location, size and ownership information about thousands of publicly and institutionally owned land parcels across Miami-Dade and its 34 cities.

At a March 13 launch—which featured remarks from Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, Miami-Dade Public Housing Director Michael Liu and Miami Homes for All Director Annie Lord, among others—the school's Miami Housing Solutions Lab showed LAND had identified about 500 million square feet of vacant or underutilized parcels county-wide, including 800,000 square feet listed as surplus.

LAND's intuitive, visual design lets users filter for governmental,



'The county said they could do it in four months.'

Sally Heyman

institutional and surplus properties, as well as in which commission districts they sit and whether they are in or around transit corridors and stations.

"We've already mapped the

transit corridors in the county's SMART Plan expansion [because] if you develop affordable housing within a half-mile or one mile of a transit hub you get additional tax incentives," Ms. Bachin said. "So if you want to take advantage of using that for affordable housing, you can maximize [the benefits]."

Additionally as useful—or potentially more so—is a lot size calculator that allows users to combine the areas of parcels that are next to one another but have different owners, allowing for a snapshot of a larger developable property and hypotheses as to what could be done with it if two or more entities cooperate.

And doing so has never been easier, she said.

"When you find those adjacent parcels, you [just] click on all of them after clicking the calculator," she said, "and it will aggregate the size of the total lot."

LAND, built with a \$100,000 investment from Citi Community Development, does not currently

include the assessed values of parcels—you can search for that information on the property appraiser website using the folio number—but Ms. Bachin said there are plans to incorporate that data into the tool in future bi-weekly updates that will also include added information on zoning, whether land needs to be remediated and if any sewer infrastructure exist on-property.

"The idea is to democratize data and put it in as many hands as possible so when we're dealing with a precious resource like public land we know how much we have and where it is," she said, adding that the lab has held "regular demonstrations" for county and City of Miami staff. "Our goal is to make this tool accessible and available to as many people as possible so the issue of land conveyance can be transparent and residents, grassroots organizations and activists can have access to the same data developers [do]."

To access the LAND tool, visit <http://land.ccs.miami.edu/>.

Developers seek OK for 47-story Miami Worldcenter tower

BY JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

Significant progress has been made on the sprawling Miami Worldcenter project in downtown Miami, and developers are seeking approvals for a new mixed-use residential tower.

MWC Block ALLC is proposing a 47-story tower at 1001 NE First Ave., described as a mixed-use multi-family residential building.

The project is up for consideration at a rescheduled meeting of the city's Urban Development Review Board this Friday.

The building will be home to 533 dwelling units, and about 15,056 square feet of ground floor commercial-retail uses. Parking will be built for 456 vehicles.

Attorney Marissa A. Neufeld of the Greenberg Traurig firm represents the developer.

In a letter to the city, she said this proposed tower is slated for an area known as Block A of the Worldcenter development.

The overall project is a 24-acre mixed-use development in the heart of downtown.



A mixed-use, multi-family 47-story residential building is proposed.

Block A is on the Northeast corner of Northeast 10th Street and First Avenue.

Ms. Neufeld says several components of Miami Worldcenter are under construction or nearing

completion, including the multi-family residential communities known as Paramount and Caoba, the Block D East garage and retail building, and Worldcenter's lively pedestrian corridor called the 7th

Street Promenade.

The total floor area of the proposed building is about 737,559 square feet.

Ms. Neufeld wrote: "... the building consists of a slender geometry broken into two shifting masses, linked together with a central core."

The project would have about 12,072 square feet of open space, outdistancing the required minimum on this site of about 4,500 square feet.

Height of the tower is estimated at nearly 499 feet.

"The 7th floor amenity deck features a wide range of activities, including 'morning' lap pools, a dog park, table tennis, and picnic areas. The Project's rooftop will include an additional 'sunset' lap pool and sun deck," she wrote.

"On the ground floor, an extensive hardscape and landscape program wraps the building to create an inviting entrance for pedestrians from NE 10th Street, NE 11th Street, and NE 1st Avenue. It is important to note the ground floor hardscape/landscape

program is intentionally designed to coordinate seamlessly with the MWC District, creating a sense of identity and arrival," Ms. Neufeld wrote.

Worldcenter is a collaboration of Miami Worldcenter Associates and a team of development, design and engineering firms.

The entire development promises a mix of residential towers, hotels, retail stores, restaurants, entertainment venues and a convention center to an area hugged by American Airlines Arena and All Aboard Florida's Miami Central train station.

Miami Worldcenter is billed as a \$2 billion project out to transform several blocks of Miami's urban core in the Park West neighborhood.

A major component of the long-awaited project is its shopping center, stretching from the FEC railroad tracks northward to Northeast Tenth Street.

The plan calls for "high street retail," offering about 338,036 square feet of stores, shops, cafes and more.

Legislature of two minds about telehealth policy

BY CHRISTINE SEXTON
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

House and Senate committees are moving ahead with bills that would establish a regulatory framework for "telehealth" in Florida. But similar to past years, the legislative chambers are at odds about what should be done.

Over the objections of the state's largest health-insurance company, the Senate Health Policy Committee this week approved a bill that would require insurers and HMOs to reimburse physicians for services provided via telehealth if those services would be reimbursed for in-person treatment. The bill is sponsored by Senate Health Policy Chairwoman Gayle Harrell.

But insurance lobbyist Paul Sanford told the committee that the bill interferes with the free market and that government interference could cause the costs of health care to increase.

"We would recommend that you revisit the idea of the payment parity provision

in this legislation," said Mr. Sanford, who lobbies for the state's largest health insurer, Florida Blue, as well as the Florida Insurance Council.

But Naples physician and Florida Medical Association President Corey Howard said the reimbursement requirement—commonly known as payment parity—was one of the biggest parts of the bill.

"We absolutely need to make sure that the providers for the service get paid for it so we can continue to expand it," Dr. Howard said.

Dr. Howard also pointed to issues such as the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, better known as HIPAA, which sets standards for patient privacy.

"Telemedicine is something that is evolving as we speak now," he said. "But it has to be in a very specific platform, and it has to be safe and HIPAA compliant. And when you do this, it's just as if we were seeing the patient right in front of you."

Telehealth, which is also known as telemedicine, involves using the internet and

other technology to provide services to patients remotely. Telehealth is not a type of health care service but rather a mode to deliver services.

Though use of telehealth has become increasingly common, the House and Senate in recent years have looked at passing a regulatory framework but have been unable to reach agreement.

This year's Senate proposal contrasts with a bill that has been moving in the House that contains no parity mandate. It also would give upward of \$35 million in recurring tax breaks to insurance companies and would allow for the use of out-of-state health providers in networks.

In addition to the parity mandate, the Senate bill also has other provisions endorsed by physicians, including a prohibition on HMOs requiring customers to seek referrals or prior approval from telehealth providers.

It also would ban Medicaid managed-care plans from including telehealth providers as part of meeting their network adequacy requirements.

FILMING IN MIAMI

These film permits were issued last week by the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory & Economic Resources' Office of Film and Entertainment, (305) 375-3288; the Miami Mayor's Office of Film, Arts & Entertainment, (305) 860-3823; and the Miami Beach Office of Arts, Culture and Entertainment-Film and Print Division, (305) 673-7070.

AndyH Filmz, Boca Raton. Commercial for Nourishing Biologicals. Collins Avenue Fifth to 17th streets.

IFCM Corp. d/b/a/FilmGate, Miami. Documentary for AM Documentary. Crandon Park Tennis Center.

Schenk Production Inc., New York, NY. Documentary for Razing Liberty Square. Liberty Square Housing Development.

Garden Films Productions LLC, Atlanta. Motion picture for BB3. Ocean Terrace 73rd to 75th streets, Miami Beach citywide, Port of Miami.

KPRA Productions Inc., Miami. Music video for De Los Besos Que Me Diste. Crandon Park Beach.

NBCUniversal Media LLC/Telemundo Network, Hialeah. Reality television series La Voz. Swale Parking.

N House Productions, Miami. Still photography for Next Directory. Countywide, Miami Beach citywide.

The Production Factory LLC, Miami Beach. Still photography for Primark. Countywide, Crandon Park Beach.

Joe2 Productions LLC, North Palm Beach. Photography for Photoshoot at TNT. TNT Airport.

HG Productions, Miami. Photography for Food For Us. Crandon Park Beach.

Pro One Production Inc., Miami Beach. Photography for Agency Mode. Crandon Park Beach, Miami Beach citywide.

Miami Dade College SEDT, Miami. Student project for Metanola. Lake Medical group, Pampanguena.

Comic Cure, Boca Raton. Web series for Laughter in the Library. Kendale Lakes Branch Library, Pinecrest Branch Library.

Change in Alton Gateway project plan gets initial approval

BY REBECCA SAN JUAN

The Alton Gateway developers have proposed changes in their original plans for the condominium tower, park and retail off the MacArthur Causeway entrance to Miami Beach. The amendments passed a first reading this month and are due a final vote in April.

The Alton Gateway Development is to bring a luxury condo, three-acre park and retail behind Bentley Bay Condominiums and the Floridian. The development spans three lots, including the exposed bones of the South Shore Hospital at 630 Alton Road that is being demolished after sitting empty for over a decade.

The proposal presented in mid-March to city commissioners outlines several changes. The first scales up the commercial building from 25 feet tall to 40 feet. The changes abide by the zoning code, which permits commercial buildings to rise up to 60 feet.

The second change focuses on reducing the setback of cleared pedestrian pathways and elevated pathways south of Sixth Street for 5



The developers pledged to deed a 3-acre park to the city after their Alton Gateway project is completed.

feet on Alton, MacArthur Causeway and West Avenue. For example, the

minimum setback for pedestrian walkways would go from 20 feet to

17 along the MacArthur Causeway to allow for access lanes.

The third change would modify the latitudes for areas in the clear pedestrian path adjacent to the new structures. The city planning board worries it might be too limited to accommodate trees, and can be problematic with the Florida Department of Transportation's requirements for setback space including trees.

City officials working alongside developers emphasized encouraging the public to use elevated pathways rather than sidewalks near the project for safety concerns. Modified design plans, they said, can encourage the public to opt for elevated walkways.

Commissioner John Elizabeth Alemán disagreed. "Not everyone will use elevated walkways," she said. "Some people are just looking for the quickest way to get from Point A to Point B."

City officials reassured her that regardless, street-level access remains for pedestrians who prefer not to use the elevated pathway.

The action passed on its first reading. Commissioners are to review the final amendment proposals during the next Miami Beach city commission meeting April 10.

Liberty City getting funds infusions for industrial park, youth jobs, park

BY JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

One of Miami's poorest neighborhoods, Liberty City, is about to get an infusion of funds to boost economic development and lead to new jobs in the city's District 5.

The Miami City Commission approved items March 14 to help fund creation of an industrial park, train youths for jobs, and make capital improvements to Charles Hadley Park at 1350 NW 50th St., adjacent to Lenora Braynon Smith Elementary School, Georgia Jones-Ayers Middle School and Allapattah Jr High School.

In September 2018, the city's Department of Procurement sought bids for Hadley Park Synthetic Turf and Park Improvements for new turf fields.

The city commission accepted a bid from Hellas Construction Inc., found to be lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the construction for \$1,915,915, plus an owner's contingency allowance of \$191,591.50, for a total award \$2,107,506.50.

Luther Campbell of the Liberty City Optimists supported funding improvements at Hadley Park. There's been no new major work on the park in 60 years, he said.

"We definitely need these turf fields," Mr. Campbell told commissioners.

Samuel Latimore also spoke in favor of the park improvements.

"Parks save lives," he said.

The project award comes less than a month after city leaders gathered for a formal groundbreaking at the park to launch the Carrie Meek Irrigation/Landscaping and Marquee Project for \$106,116 to bring a new water system to Hadley Park, helping to keep the new landscaping there fresh and alive.

The park is another important community fixture in District 5, which is represented by Commissioner Keon Hardemon.

Mr. Hardemon praised the irriga-



Keon Hardemon pushed youth jobs.

tion system, calling it a quality-of-life improvement for park users and a gift to the neighborhood.

Then commissioners dealt with pass-through funding to devote \$2 million in state money to help establish the Poinciana Industrial Park Intermodal Logistics Center. A background memo explained that \$2 million was appropriated for the project during the 2018 Legislative Session.

The funds were allocated to the city to manage the project. The city will act as the pass-through agency for the money. An agreement between the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is necessary to access the funds.

The city will then provide the funds to Miami-Dade County on a reimbursement basis, upon receipt of the funds from the state, and an agreement with the county is necessary to reimburse the county.

Poinciana Industrial Park Intermodal Logistics Center is a project in Liberty City, bounded by Northwest 79th Street to the north, the Florida East Coast Railway railroad to the south, Northwest 27th Avenue to the west, and Northwest 22nd Avenue to the east.

The city resolution reads: "... the Project intends to foster the successful development and movement of freight via a center that will enhance the connectivity, reliability, and safety of trade flows and promote the State of Florida's global economy."

The legislation says the city shall retain up to 10% of total funds to

manage and administer the project.

Resident Harry Reese told commissioners he supports the plan for the industrial park, which he said will "empower your community."

Roy Hardemon, a former state legislator who worked on the measure, thanked the mayor for supporting the legislation so work that's gone into the initiative over the years doesn't go in vain.

He also supported a contribution to help fund youth employment, which he credits with helping stop gun violence.

Keon Hardemon sponsored a resolution allocating grant funds from the District 5 share of Anti-Poverty Initiative funds of \$200,000 to the Liberty City Community Revitalization Trust for the Youth Employment Program.

The trust has run a Youth Employment Program since 2016 with paid summer work assignments and a year-round jobs program for youths 14 to 18. It provides work experience typically between June and August and after school.

The purpose is to introduce youths to the workforce while giving them an opportunity to gain valuable work knowledge and work ethic while earning a paycheck to help meet basic needs.

Mayor Francis Suarez thanked Keon Hardemon for sponsoring the program, which he said gives youth a priceless gift of hope through employment opportunities. The job training allows participants to pursue their own prosperity, said Mr. Suarez, and improves the dynamic of the city.

Mr. Reese asked the commission to support the trust and fund it.

"I've seen gang members and high-risk kids turn their lives around," he said of the value of employment opportunities in the area.

"It's making a big difference," he said of the trust.

Mr. Latimore also supported funding for the trust, saying it's vital for communities to work with youths for improvements.

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Notice to Creditors

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF SHIRLEY BEIM, A/K/A SHIRLEY G. BEIM Deceased. File No. 2019 735 CP 02 Division Probate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Shirley Beim, a/k/a Shirley G. Beim, deceased, whose date of death was July 4, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 73 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 21, 2019.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Sarah Harnden Campbell
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 92299
DUNLAP & MORAN PA
P.O. Box 3948
Sarasota, FL 34230-3948
Telephone: (941) 366-0115
Fax: (941) 365-4660
E-Mail: scampbell@dunlapmoran.com
Secondary E-Mail: kmadonna@dunlapmoran.com

Personal Representative:
Scott J. Beim
100 Portland Road
Highlands, New Jersey 07732

Publication dates: 3/21 & 3/28/19

Fictitious Name

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **PRUDENCE LANE ADVISORS**, located at 100 SW 10th Street, Ste 701 in the County of Miami-Dade, in the City of Miami, Florida, 33130, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at Miami, Florida, this 26th day of March, 2019.
JULIO LOPEZ-BRITO
Owner

Fictitious Name

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **TIGERTAIL + MARY**, located at 3321 Mary Street, in the County of Miami-Dade, in the City of Miami, Florida, 33133, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at Miami, Florida, this 26th day of March, 2019.
4220 RE, LLC
Owner

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