



Website: www.Landingsra.com

RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION

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March 2010

President's Message:

When will our normal South Florida winter and spring finally return? I am sure we are all hoping it will be soon. There was some damage to plants and grass because of the cold (below 40o). However, there was some benefit—no more iguanas at least for now.

We are sending this newsletter to all our Landings residents to inform them about what we are doing and encouraging all new residents to join our Association. At the present time, we are close to 200 members out of approximately 350 homes. (There are 368 properties in the Landings, some are vacant lots and others are vacant houses.)

We had our Annual Dinner Meeting on February 18th at the Coral Ridge Country Club. It was well attended but we would like to have had more of our members attend. Mayor Jack Seiler joined us before dinner and spoke with many attending. He had to leave because of another commitment. Our District I Commissioner, Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts, and two Fort Lauderdale Police Officers, Nelson and Costas, made presentations and answered questions.

The officers described several crime prevention matters and some recent crimes in our area. They stressed the need to report on suspicious activity in and around our homes. They also stressed the importance of keeping valuables (purses, cameras, computers and cell phones) out of sight in our cars when parked in front of our homes. Or better yet, out of our cars when parked. Also, keep the car locked even on your driveway. Don't leave the garage door open when unattended, even for short periods. This is when crimes of opportunity occur since we have a number of cars and trucks going up and down our streets.

Vice Mayor Roberts outlined several upcoming social events the City will be hosting such as the 2011 Centennial (100 year anniversary of the City

of Fort Lauderdale and the 50th anniversary of the movie "Where the Boys Are". Join us for The Great American Beach Party May 28th and 29th.

He also informed us of what issues have recently been brought to the City Commission i.e. the need for volunteer members for the various Advisory Boards; restricting the opening of more Pain Clinics "Pill Mills" in Fort Lauderdale, undergrounding our utilities. Other issues discussed were the upcoming 2010 Census and how important it is to the City in obtaining State and Federal funds. He indicated that crime is down in the City and the number of officers has not changed. He mentioned the Trespass Affidavit which residents can sign to keep trespassers off their property (see separate article on how to obtain) and the importance of maintaining Green Space. He was asked a few questions directly related to issues in The Landings. He will keep us posted on the progress of direct problems addressed.

I reported on the four main areas the Association focused our efforts on this year.

- **Communication:** Keeping members informed via Newsletters and E-mail Blasts and our new Roster format that is easier to read.
- **Beautification:** Plans to build new entrance columns for the entrances on 55th Street near the bridge, entrance northbound on Bayview Drive at the bridge just south of 52nd Street and the entrance southbound on Bayview near 59th Street. We have applied for a Capital Improvement Grant.
- **Recycling:** Landings residents are strong supporters and we encourage them to continue. Jamie Castoro, who Chairs the Recycling Committee did an outstanding job and is looking for volunteers to help her. We earn RIG points for our activities and receive a monetary reward from the City. This year we earned \$1,170.00.

- Social value of membership: We had a new Block Party format this year, held in November and our Annual Dinner Meeting in February both were an enjoyable neighborhood activity and were well attended.

Nancy Marquart, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee proposed the slate of officers for the 2010 Board: Officers: President Terry Bond; Vice President Gene Zorovich; Treasurer Joe Welsch and Secretary Dana Mullaney. Directors: David Crane, Charles Shields, Darran Blake, Harry Tangalakis, Jamie Castoro, Laura Worline and Charles Kindred. Proposed slate was approved by the members.

I anticipate an increase in our current membership. If you need an Application Form, please E-mail me at terryb@cypressinsurance.net or go to our website www.landingsra.com to download a copy of the form. We are looking for volunteers to be on our Board and I would appreciate a call or an E-mail.

Terry Bond
President

NO TRESPASSING AFFIDAVIT: Did you know Fort Lauderdale commercial and residential property owners can help the Fort Lauderdale Police Department prevent trespassing on your private property, even if you are absent? It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. You can obtain a Trespass Affidavit either by meeting with a Department Employee at the Police Department (1300 West Broward Boulevard) or by calling the Department's Non-Emergency number (954-828-5700) to request an employee to bring an affidavit to your location.
2. You will be required to complete and submit a notarized No Trespass Affidavit. (Note: Multiple addresses can be listed on a single affidavit.)
3. You will then be issued a No Trespass Sign, with an authenticating offense report number to conspicuously post on your property or properties.

By following these steps, any Fort Lauderdale police officer can act as your authorized representative even in your absence to order trespassers to leave your property.

No Trespass Signs are available in the following forms and prices:

- Cardboard (Yellow 15" x 11" Free of charge)
- Polyvinyl (Yellow 15" x 11" - \$5)
- Aesthetic (Blue 9" x 12" - \$3)

The polyvinyl versions are ONLY available at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department; the cardboard version can be delivered free of charge.

REMINDERS FOR NEW RESIDENTS:

1. In The Landings there is a NO WAKE ZONE IN ALL CANALS.

2. TRASH PICKUP SERVICE: We've noticed both regular trash and yard waste is sometimes out on the wrong days. All trash including bulk) is to be put out on the street the evening BEFORE it is to be picked up.

REGULAR (Smaller Black Container)-Monday and Thursday

YARD WASTE (Large Container) - Thursday

RECYCLING - Monday

(Blue Bin) Glass, aluminum and tin cans, plastic containers #1, #2 and #3.

(Green Bin) Newspapers, copy paper, junk mail, magazines and catalogs, cereal boxes, clean pizza boxes, phone books, all milk/juice containers and drink boxes.

BULK PICKUP - 4th Friday of the Month.

Will take just about anything. Palm fronds, trees cut up, appliances, small construction debris. NO batteries or hazardous waste.

HAZARDOUS WASTE: Paint, oil, chemicals, electronics and other items can be taken to 2780 North Powerline Road on Friday and Saturday from 10AM to 3PM. 954-765-4999. You will need to show your Florida Drivers License.

REPLACEMENT CONTAINERS AND BIN COVERS: Call Customer Service 954-828-8000.

MARINE PATROL OF LANDINGS WATERWAYS: At our Dinner Meeting Ted Kornowski asked one of the Police Officers about why the Marine Patrol did not come into The Landings as much as we'd like. After the meeting, he made contact with Sergeant Pallen who heads up the Marine Patrol for the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. Ted expressed his feelings about the coverage we were getting in our canals. Sgt. Pallen's response was that his staff had been cut from 14 to 7 officers. Those 7 officers have to cover all Fort Lauderdale waterways and 20 miles out into the ocean. He said that was not an excuse for not patrolling our area more frequently. He stated, however, that the City has just issued a Grant to let his Marine Officers work more hours. He will see that some of these hours will be spent patrolling The Landings. His reply was very sincere and Ted feels that this goal will be accomplished. If we have any problems we are to contact the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Marine Division and ask for Sergeant Pallen (954-828-5440).

CREDIT CARD FRAUD: Recently, one of our residents was checking out of a store and the credit card did not work. The card did not work either when the clerk input the number manually and was told the card had been canceled. They went home and immediately called the credit card company that issued the card.

The card company indicated someone was using the credit card number in Utah. The initial charge was over \$500. The automatic alert system kicked in and that card was canceled. Twenty minutes later someone attempted to use the card number again in the same store.

Apparently someone in one of the local stores or restaurants used by the owner of the card made a copy of the card. It probably was duplicated with someone else's photo and used in Utah. They reported it to the Police and signed an affidavit to prosecute the individual if caught.

They spoke with the Security and Fraud units in the Bank and the store in Utah (which has a video of the individual using it). They both indicated this is a massive problem and possibly run by organized groups in South Florida and Utah.

Both the Fraud Units recommended being careful and observant when using a credit card. Watch out for unusual forms or scratches on units when inserting a card. This applies to ATMs as well. There are apparently many tricks and ways to steal your credit card information, so stay alert. If it happens, call your credit card company and report it to the Police.

KEEP THE BAD GUYS OUT OF YOUR HOME:

With the economy down, burglary is up. But you can get solid protection at a reasonable price. The combination of a deep recession and widespread law-enforcement funding cuts will likely spell a banner summer for burglars. If your house makes a good target - it's upscale, off the beaten path and in or near a city -- an alarm system is your best defense according to Temple University economics professor Simon Hakim who studies security and policing. Installing one will reduce your risk of a break-in by two-thirds. To determine what you really need, follow the guidelines below:

A top shelf security system that includes a detector on every door and two on every window could set you back thousands. For the most part, a basic package that secures all exterior doors and includes a handful of well-placed motion detectors will stop the average thief. Also get smoke, carbon monoxide, and flood-alert devices (about \$250 each) which operate even when the burglar alarm is disarmed.

Be sure to vet the companies. Alarm installers will drill holes in your walls and woodwork and will know how to bypass your system so you need them to be honest as well as skilled. Collect

referrals from friends, neighbors and trusted tradesmen and verify that they are members of the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association.

Get price quotes from at least three companies. You'll also need a monitoring service which will send the police to your door when an alarm is tripped. These costs vary and are more if you get cellular backup which ensures a distress signal will come through even if your phone line is cut. Since alarm companies make the bulk of their profit from monitoring, some offer discounted or free installation of a basic system when you sign a contract.

Consider a few extras like digital readouts that clearly identify which detector has been tripped so that you and the monitoring center know immediately if the problem is carbon monoxide or an open window or door.

And, if you have a dog or cat, ask for pet-immune motion detectors. Of course, a dog can make a pretty good alarm of its own, with no battery replacement necessary. Just daily walks and a treat every time he barks at a passerby.

MANNERS, ETIQUETTE AND POLITICS in public and at home may be declining. But the consequences of a decline in civility can run much deeper than the daily annoyances we face from loud cellphone users and the like. The clue to the importance of civility lies in the origin of the word itself: it comes from the same root as "civilization" and "civilized." These words and concepts are directly opposed to "barbarism" and "barbarian."

Without civility, a peaceful society is not really feasible, let alone a democratic society. Inherent in the concepts of both civility and democracy is a belief (and the discipline to act upon it) that restraint of our impulses is important, not just for us, but for our fellow citizens. Restraint generally involves sacrifice -- holding our tongue, refusing to respond violently to the violent, listening when we could be expounding.

Civility requires that we step away from our personal preferences and our immediate gratification and step toward the greater good. Civil behavior also implies a respect for others, whether we know them or not, like them or not, agree with them or not.

These twin aspects of restraint and respect are the behaviors on which we perhaps should focus if we want to turn the civility needle back from where so many believe it is now pointing. Cellphones are here to stay (at least for the foreseeable future); some drivers will continue to act like idiots; people will always disagree with one another. It is up to each of us to meet the barbarians, not at the gate, but on our own civil turf. (Extract from March 2010 Costo Magazine)

FORT LAUDERDALE'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, SATURDAY MARCH 13TH: Irish eyes are once again smiling on Fort Lauderdale! The City is partnership with the Downtown Development Authority and a group of hard working volunteer community and business leaders, is bringing back a popular Fort Lauderdale tradition -- the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival!!

The parade will begin at 2:00 p.m. and travel west along Las Olas Boulevard from S.E. 8th Avenue to Huizenga Plaza. Florida Governor Charlie Crist will serve as Grand Marshal. The parade will feature decorative floats, the NYPD Pipe and Drum Corps, high school marching bands, classic automobiles, bagpipers, street performers, Irish dancers and entertainers.

All the pageantry and excitement will take place on Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. -9:00 p.m. at Huizenga Plaza, located at 32 E. Las Olas Boulevard (the southeast corner of E. Las Olas Boulevard and S. Andrews Avenue).

Thousands are expected to flock to downtown Fort Lauderdale for this grand celebration of Irish Heritage. The FREE, family event will showcase Irish culture through live performances and entertainment featuring music, exhibitors, authentic cuisine, beverages, and cultural activities.