GERMALK

FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

A PUBLICATION OF RIVERWALK FORT LAUDERDALE • SINCE 2003 • VOL. 21 NO. 12 DECEMBER 2024



HOLIDAY LIGHTS



Set sail on a festive journey with Fort Lauderdale's Holiday Lights Cruise!

DECEMBER 5th - JANUARY 4th 2 Cruises Sailing Nightly at 6:30 PM & 8:30 PM

Enjoy festive music, holiday drinks, illuminated boats & waterways

REGULAR TICKET PRICING

\$45 for adult • \$15 for children Kids under 3 ride FREE

VIP CAPTAIN'S HOLIDAY PASS

\$59 + gratuity* • Includes open bar

*18% gratuity to be added at check out. Wristbands will be provided. Not valid with any other offers.



BOOK YOUR PASSES TODAY!

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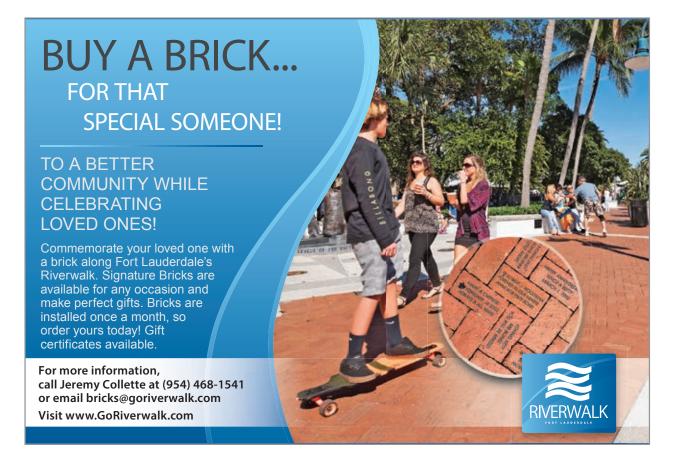
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GURIVERWALK

ON THE COVER

Cover photo by Jason Leidy

A publication of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale







WE'RE SOCIAL f @ @THELOOPFLB

SLEIGH BELLS & BEACH SHELLS

Experience holiday magic at Las Olas Oceanside Park during the **Fourth Annual WONDERLAND**., November 22 - December 24. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, enjoy extended hours featuring holiday music and themed photo sets to capture moments with beloved holiday characters for a little extra holiday cheer. Free to the public and presented by the City of Fort Lauderdale Beach BID. For full schedule, visit **theloopflb.com/events**







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SANTA SIGHTINGS

12/8 Classic Santa 11a - 2p
 12/20 Yuletide Santa 5 - 8p
 12/21 Classic Santa 10a-1p

12/22 Tropical Santa 11a-2p HOLIDAY FUN

12/1 Grinch & Cindy Lou 12-2p
 12/14 The Nutcrackers 12-3p
 12/15 Elf & Jovi 11a-2p
 12/21 Christmas Mermaid 11a-2p

FESTIVE TUNES

12/1 The Sweet Adelines 12-1p
12/7 Broward Spotlights 11a-12p
12/8 Ginetta Holiday Jazz 12-3p
12/14 Ginetta Holiday Jazz 12-3p
12/15 Minx & the Maestro 12-3p
12/20 Yuletide Carolers 6:30p
12/21 The Holidazed 12-3p
12/22 Christmas Karaoke 12-3p
12/29 Some Miles 12-3p

*dates/appearances are subject to change



The final two weeks of the Friday Night Sound Waves "Backstage Pass" series wraps up in December with tributes to Whitney Houston (12/6) and Neil Diamond (12/13), to close out an most unforgettable season. Free, and presented by the City of Fort Lauderdale BBID, a limited number of tickets for front row seating are avalable starting at \$7.50. Reserve yours today at theloopflb.com/events



Seal your holiday wishes and drop off your letters to Santa every weekend at the MKT, courtesy of the Swiggle, your one-stop app for discounts and rewards. swiggleit.com



EVERY WEEKEND SEASONAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun 10 a.m - 5 p.m.



Skip the malls, online retailers and shop small this holiday season at The MKT at Las Olas Oceanside Park. Discover dozens of artisan treasures perfect for gifting, homemade holiday bites for entertaining, and festive fashions for your swankiest soirées. Follow us @oceansideparkmarket for tips, recipes and DIY workshops to make your own gifts.

SAVE THE DATES

DEC. FIT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Keep your holiday glow going all season long at our weekly free yoga class every Saturday at 9:45 a.m. and special pop up fitness sessions, sponsored by Fit4Moms, Lululemon, Fit Lauderdale and the LOOP. FREE

12/7 BARKS + GINGERBREAD BISCUITS

Barks & Biscuits with the Gingerbread Man will be a day of fetching holiday fun with pup-friendly vendors, an exciting obstacle course, treats and themed photo ops for you and your furry best friend. Sponsored by Dog Training Elite. FREE

12/20 SEASONS SCREENINGS

Lights, laughter, and holiday magic combine at our showing of **A Christmas Carol in 3D**! The fun begins at 5 p.m. with our **Holiday Market**, a visit from **Santa**, and music by the **Yuletide Carolers** to set the scene. Sponsored by the BBID. FREE.

12/21 MISS TRACY SINGS

Bring the littles for Miss Tracy Sings Holiday Songs a fun and interactive toddler class and sing-a-long musical experience to celebrate the season. *Sponsored by theMKT.* FREE.



12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT

Join us for a night to remember and a performance you will never forget, the 4th annual Christmas Eve with Sinatra and the Rat Pack. Free. Supper Club Seating available. Reserve tickets online at theloopflb.com/events





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Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Inc. has been determined to be a 501 (c)(3) Charitable Not For Profit (Tax Exempt) by the Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Services.

Go Riverwalk is Fort Lauderdale's City Magazine covering arts, entertainment, business and lifestyles. Go Riverwalk is a Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale publication and publishes 12 times a year to inform, inspire and connect residents, readers and leaders with the people, places, happenings and events that make Fort Lauderdale one of the world's best places to live, work and play. © Copyright 2024. Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. All rights reserved. No part of Go Riverwalk December may be reproduced in any form by any means without prior written consent from Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale and publisher S.MARK Graphics. Publisher accepts no liability for the accuracy of statements made by the editors or advertisers. The waves device and Go Riverwalk are trademarks of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. © Copyright 2024.



SW 200 STREET AND SW 5TH AVENUE

FAMILY ACTIVITIES 4:30 - 8:30 PM KIDS COUNTDOWN 7 PM LIVE MUSIC 5:30 PM – I AM COUNTDOWN TO 2025 Midnight

parks.fortlauderdale.gov/nye

COOLERS AND GLASS BOTTLES ARE NOT PERMITTED AT THE EVENT.









Modelo



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MISSION STATEMENT

To be the catalyst in building and nurturing Riverwalk & the Riverwalk District as a vibrant community connected by the New River.



























































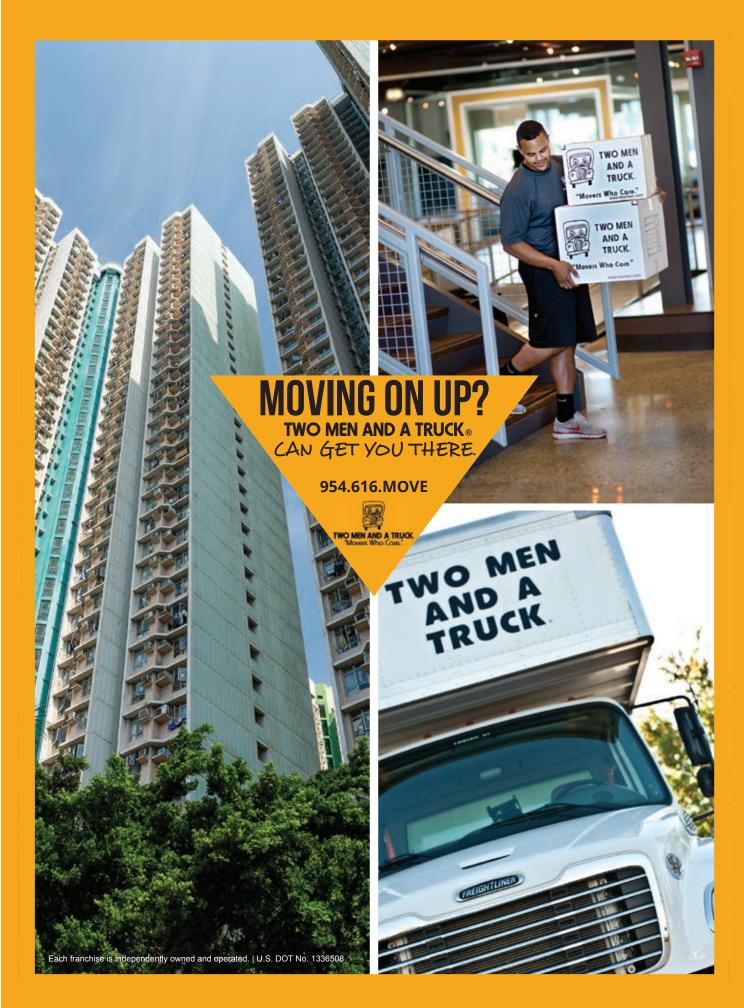












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LEADERS IN CONDOMINIUM SALES



ASHLEY \$2,495,000 3 BEDROOM + 3.5 BATH

South East corner designer model! Complete renovation with modern flair! Large terrace with ocean, intracoastal & river views, & a sunset terrace offering city views to enjoy the sparkling skyline in the evening. Foyer entry, porcelain floors, built-in bar, smooth surface ceilings & custom lighting.

ASHLEY \$1,795,000 3 BEDROOM + 3.5 BATH

Right on the water! Direct eye level river views from the oversized terrace, bringing the boating activity right to your balcony. Unique to this residence, parking space & storage are on the same level as the unit.

JUST LISTED! ASHLEY | \$1,695,000 3 BEDROOM + 3 BATH

South East Corner Right on the River! This modified floor plan features tile floors, split bedroom floor plan, spacious closets, custom built-ins, Poggenphol cabinetry, Subzero, Thermador & Miele appliances, 2 terraces & unobstructed river views! 3 assigned parking spaces & storage cage.

NEWLY PRICED CHAMPAGNE \$1,595,000 2 BEDROOM + 2.5 BATH + OFFICE

Panoramic Views of the Ocean, Intracoastal & River! Located in the heart of Las Olas. Marble floors, custom wood work & built ins, Quartz Coutertops, Poggenphol kitchen, 2 covered terraces with 2 exposures.

JUST LISTED! BRADFORD | \$1,325,000 2 BEDROOM + 2 BATH

Direct River Views from Every room! Beautifully appointed Bradford floor plan with an expanded 49-foot glass balcony overlooking the water. Polished marble floors, neutral pallet kitchen with Poggenpohl cabinetry.

JUST LISTED! BRADFORD | \$1,295,000 2 BEDROOM + 2 BATH

Exceeding your expectations with direct river & city views! Offering 1630 saft of spacious living areas & an expansive 49-foot terrace. Marble floors, Poggenpohl cabinetry, Subzero, Thermador & Meile appliances. Large primary suite features a marble bath with a deep soaking jacuzzi.



IEWLY PRICED 3 BED 4.5 BATH \$1,750,000

Las Olas Living on the Isles! Spacious condo with spectacular views from every room! Open living areas spread over 3200 sqft. Marble & Wood Floors, Laundry room. Direct Water views from 3 Terraces.



PARK | 3BD 3.5BA + OFFICE | \$2,795,000

Steven G Designed this Pristine Park Model. Directly on the River, Private Elevator Double Door Entry, 4 Terraces, Floor to Ceiling Glass Throughout, Upgraded Kitchen, and Spa like baths.

NEWLY PRICED CHELSEA 2BD 2.5BA \$1,125,000

Remarkable River Views from this Pristine Chelsea Model featuring a split floor plan of 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, marble & wood floors, crown molding, breakfast nook, floor to ceiling glass windows throughout.

SOHO 2BD 2BA \$875,000

Spectacular East & West Views spanning close to one mile in length of the north & south banks of Fort Lauderdale's famous River walk. Bamboo floors, floor to ceiling windows that bring in the river views to every room.

NEWLY PRICED 1BD 1.5BA \$665,000

Directly on the River! Rarely available, this oversized 1 Bed/1.5 Bath with a large river front terrace is a true gem! Upgraded & in mint condition, key features include white high gloss floors, floor to ceiling glass & custom closets.

JUST LISTED! 1BD 1BA | \$625,000

The perfect pied-à-terre, right on the river, located in the heart of Las Olas & in downtown Fort Lauderdale's premier luxury highrise. Open living spaces, saturnia floors, floor to ceiling glass windows in every room & large covered terrace with unobstructed river views.



RENAISSANCE ON THE OCEAN

NEWLY PRICED 2 BD 2.5 BA + DEN \$1,449,000

Stunning oceanfront residence boasting breathtaking ocean views, luxury finishes and a spacious balcony.

SOLD! 3 BED 3 BATH

Ocean & Pool Views! Spacious split bedroom floor plan with floor to ceiling windows & a large covered terrace. Located directly on the sand, this luxury oceanfront residence features resort-style amenities.

SOLD! 2 BD 2 BA + OFFICE

Directly on the sand with sweeping ocean views from every room! Floor-to-ceiling glass throughout. Modern kitchen.



JOHN D'ANGELO | DANGELOREALTY.COM | (954) 463-9881

WE HAVE SOLD OVER 1430 LAS OLAS CONDOS!

Call us today to schedule a showing or list your property!



UST LISTED! STARDUST | \$989,000

2 Bedroom / 2 Bath Sub PentHouse with outstanding views of the Ocean, Intracoastal & River. 10 foot ceilings & an expanded terrace. Modernized kitchen, floor to ceiling windows & marble flooring.

UST LISTED! SEAVIEW | \$975,000

Right on the River, this 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom floor plan boast direct river views & 2 waterfront terraces. A south east exposure captures sunrises & sunsets. Tandem parking for 2 cars & climate controlled storage.

UST LISTED! MOONGLOW | \$975,000

Unobstructed River Views from this 2/2 Moonglow model. This South East Corner unit with wrap around glass balcony features upgraded tile floors, smooth ceilings, modern LED lighting & more!

IUST LISTED! MOONGLOW | \$899,000

Direct River Views from this 2 bedroom 2 bath. Open living spaces, split floor plan, expansive wrap around glass terrace overlooking the river.

NEWLY PRICED STARDUST \$819,000

Outstanding 2 bedroom 2 bath with Ocean, Intracoastal & River views! Tile floors throughout, crown molding, floor to ceiling glass in every room! Upgraded appliances, bathrooms & custom closets.

UST LISTED! STARDUST \$805,999

Fabulous ocean, river and city views from this 2 bedroom 2 bath split bedroom plan, wood laminate floors, electric shades, separate dining area, custom closets, tandem parking and storage. Freshly painted.

JUST LISTED! STARDUST | \$765,000

Total remodel! Split floor plan with 10 ft ceilings. Views of the river, gardens, & boating activity. Beautiful birch wood floors, quartz waterfall countertop, motorized shades, new cabinets, stainless appliances & hvac.

NEWLY PRICED **SKYVIEW** \$599,000

Stunning Sunsets & River Views. 2 bedroom 2 bath with Luxury Vinyl floors Throughout, Bright redesigned kitchen with quartz countertops, Floor to ceiling sliders, & glass balcony overlooking river.

SKYVIEW \$579,000

Skyview Light & Bright modernized 2 bedroom 2 bath with river & city views. White glossy cabinets, tile & wood floors, custom closets, floor to ceiling glass sliders & a sunset terrace overlooking the river.

JUST LISTED! SUNGARDEN | \$483,450 Sunset views from this fabulolus high floor 1 bed 1 bath residence. Upgraded appliances and granite full size washer & dryer, ledgestone wall in the bedroom, tile and oak floors and custom closets.



2 BEDROOM 2.5 BATHS \$795,000

Modern Redesign! Corner Unit with Wrap Around Terrace overlooking the River, Pool & City! Porcelain tile floors, motorized window treatments, glossy white cabinetry, full backsplash & quartz countertops.



2 BEDROOM 2 BATH

Rarely available river-facing unit at Nuriver Landing with a dedicated storage space. Furnished and move-in ready. Upgrades include bedroom flooring, lighting fixtures/fans, select appliances and more. Master bedroom has walk-in closet.



T LISTED! 3 BEDROOM 3 BATH \$1,650,000

Outstanding Victoria Park location on a Corner Lot! This Tri-Level TH features modern sleek finishes. Completely upgraded, interior elevator, high gloss porcelain tiles, 2 car garage & parking for 3 cars on brick paved drive, impact windows & doors. Two terraces & outdoor lanai



2 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$795,000

Every day is a boat parade from this 2 bedroom 2 bath unit right on the Intracoastal! Located in the Trendy Central Beach neighborhood. This residence features wood floors, open kitchen & outstanding water views!

UNDER CONTRACT 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH

Spectacular Intracoastal Views & sparkling city skyline at night! Blocks to the Beach! Split bedroom plan with walk in closets, open living area & covered terrace with outstanding views. Covered garage parking & storage.

BY RICHARD RODRIGUEZ

Chair
Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale



CELEBRATE THE SEASON

ENJOY FORT LAUDERDALE'S UNIQUE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

ort Lauderdale is graced with a delightful climate to celebrate the holidays and is so fortunate to have several special traditions that embrace our diverse community.

LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Light Up festivities conclude with Light Up Sistrunk on Friday, Dec. 6, on Sistrunk Blvd, Light Up Carter Park on Friday, Dec. 13, and the Menorah Lighting Celebration at Las Olas Oceanside Park on Thursday, Dec. 26.

SANTA ON THE BEACH

Santa and his elves will visit Fort Lauderdale Beach on Thursday, Dec. 19, for his annual candy giveaway.

WATER TAXI HOLIDAY LIGHTS CRUISE

Water Taxi's popular Holiday Lights Cruise will return to view the lighted houses from Fort Lauderdale's scenic waterways starting Dec. 5 through Jan 4. Riverwalk's annual Holiday Lights Cruise on the Water Taxi will be on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TOURS

Enjoy tours of the beautifully decorated Historic Stranahan House Museum and learn about holiday traditions from the times of Frank and Ivy Stranahan.

HOLIDAY MAGIC AT BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS

Enjoy a tropical holiday celebration at the Bonnet House as the house and gardens are transformed into a sparkling holiday wonderland! Friday, Dec. 6, through Friday, Dec. 13.

SEMINOLE HARD ROCK WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE

The 53rd Annual Winterfest Boat Parade will take over Fort Lauderdale on Saturday, Dec. 14, with Grand Marshal Jack Wagner.

KWANZAA UJAMAA

Bass Park will host this annual celebration of African and African-American heritage and culture on Friday, Dec. 27.

DOWNTOWN COUNTDOWN

The City of Fort Lauderdale will celebrate the New Year with the annual "anchor-drop" at Esplanade Park on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

For more information on these and other events visit GoRiverwalk.com/calendar.

Thank you for your support of Riverwalk this past year, and we hope that you will join us in starting your New Year off on the right "claw" at the 15th Annual Riverwalk Stone Crab and Seafood Festival on Saturday, Jan. 4, at Esplanade Park. ⁽⁶⁾



15th Annual





Join us for a Crabtastic Celebration!

Dive into a sea of flavors and enjoy succulent stone crabs and a variety of ocean delights.

Saturday, January 4, 2025 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. | ESPLANADE PARK

To register go to: https://goriverwalk.com/seafood
For vendor and sponsorship information please contact events@goriverwalk.com

SPONSORS













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Uniquely situated on an iconic waterfront property, with access to both the beach and the bay,
The St. Regis Resort & Residences Bahia Mar, Fort Lauderdale, masterfully designed by Arquitectonica,
with elegant interiors by Tara Bernerd & Partners, is the splendid private centerpiece of a vast
tropical paradise. Every element bears the imprint of St. Regis, whose bespoke approach to service
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NOW SELLING

The Resort Collection: One- to three-bedrooms • The Residences: Three- to four-bedrooms SRRBahiaMar.com • 954 282 7307

Future residences located at: 801 Seabreeze Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 Temporary Sales Gallery: I North Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd., Lobby Level Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304













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DESIGNED TO MOVE YOU

Andare is more than a residence, it's a Las Olas experience. Rising above Fort Lauderdale's skyline, this Pininfarina-designed tower blends fluid, wave-inspired architecture with seamless indoor-outdoor living and uninterrupted views of the ocean, river, and city. With over 35,000 square feet of unrivaled amenities, Andare offers a lifestyle of elegance and ease. Located at the intersection of Las Olas Boulevard's vibrant energy and the serenity of the Atlantic Ocean, Andare invites you to embrace the future of luxury living.

ROOFTOP RESORT + WORLD-CLASS SPA + EXPANSIVE FITNESS CENTER

24/7 CONCIERGE & VALET + LUSH GARDENS & OUTDOOR SPACES





BY GENIA DUNCAN ELLIS President/CEO Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale



PLAY TOURIST

THERE ARE PLENTY OF GREEN SPACES TO EXPLORE

n the Riverwalk District, we encounter a number of neighborhoods that engage with downtown and all of the many activities that are available. From Beverly Heights, Rio Vista and Collee Hammock on the east end of the district to Sailboat Bend and Tarpon River on the West End, Downtown Civic, Flagler Village, City View and Progresso Village round out the list along with a large number of parks and greenspaces. It is these neighborhoods and park areas that make this downtown exceptionally unique.

Over time, we have had the pleasure of watching the number of residents increase as well as the demographics that offer a diverse set of ages and ethnic backgrounds. These groups have embraced city living and avail themselves of all the options offered, from athletics, art and culture to street festivals. Based on the substantial number of parks and green spaces, there is something to offer from them all. Parks/greenspaces include Collee Hammock Park, Richard Mancuso Greenway, Ann Murray Greenway, Bubier Park, Cooley's Landing, Esplanade Park, Flagler Park, Hardy Park, Huizenga Plaza, Laura Ward Plaza, Marshall Point, New River/Downtown Docking, Peter Feldman Park, Riverwalk Linear Park (both North and South), Sistrunk Park, Smoker Park, South Side Cultural Arts Center, Stranahan Landing, Stranahan Park, and Tunnel Top Plaza.

We have the fortune to be a walkable community but offer other transportation options to navigate around the area. From the Circuit to the Water Trolley, bicycle rentals and more, we continue to encourage residents and visitors as well, to enjoy the weather, the green surroundings, the many cultural offerings, and the vast number of events both small and large. Once again, this is a walkable community! There is the ability to play tourist in your city and enjoy the cultural offerings, see a show, visit one of the many museums, play some sports or to passively find a spot to sit and read. We offer residents the safety of an engaged community with the choice to pick what appeals to them.

The most apt description of Fort Lauderdale and its downtown residents and surrounding neighborhoods is "it stands out for its laid-back atmosphere combined with upscale amenities." While known as Venice of America with all the water options, it is also known for its green spaces and plentiful options. Resident in the Riverwalk District and along the New River have the best of all worlds. It is the perfect place to pick to live!. ⁽⁶⁾









HOTOS BY JASON LEIDY

From the Beaches to the Burbs.



MANSIONS BY THE SEA LAS OLAS RIVER HOUSE





NURIVER LANDING

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NURIVER LANDING

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The stunning background photo featured on this page offers a glimpse into the lifestyle awaiting you at Las Olas River House # 1007. For details and private



showings, contact me. Rare 11' Ceilings. River Facing River, Sunset Views. 11' Ceilings Plantation Golf Course Townhome



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 NURIVER LANDING
 MAJESTIC VIE

 1 Br / 1 Bath
 \$ 429,000
 1 Br / 1 Bath
 \$ 426,000
 3 Br / 2.5 Bath



MAJESTIC VIEW





1 Br + Den **\$ 339,000** 1 Br + Den

Impact Glass. Oversized Patio Penthouse Level.



LAS OLAS BY THE RIVER BONAIRE AT WOODMONT

\$ 237,000

Tamarac



NURIVER LANDING

2 Br / 2 Bath



MEADOWRIDGE EAST

\$ 624,999 2 Br / 2 Bath Rare 11' Ceilings. River Facing Deerfield Beach. Mins to I-95



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Members of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale express their support and join us in our mission of building a vibrant community. Riverwalk supports Downtown's diverse, mixed-use community of arts and entertainment establishments along with business, residential, judicial, educational, and marine interests.

TO JOIN, VISIT WWW.GORIVERWALK.COM/MEMBERSHIP



TRUSTEE

SARAH BRODSKY

BROWN & BROWN INSURANCE SERVICES INC.

○ I joined the Brown & Brown team as a benefits consultant, working with a skilled team of more than 40 employee benefits specialists in the Fort Lauderdale office. In my role, I provide

strategic guidance to employers, helping them determine the benefits packages that align with their business objectives and enhance their employee satisfaction.

As a proud South Florida native, I returned to Broward County after graduating from Florida State University, living in Weston, Parkland and now Fort Lauderdale. Having spent nearly my entire life in South Florida, I have a strong passion for giving back to the community and building meaningful relationships. I'm proud to serve as a co-chair on the community engagement committee for Emerge Broward, a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to young professionals.

I'm excited to connect with new people through Riverwalk's organization and further immerse myself in the Fort Lauderdale community.

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS



TRUSTEE

Ann Marie Fox-Mancuso Richard J. Fox Foundation

Kenneth Ortner Kenneth A. Ornter P.A.

Lori Janicki *Morningstar Storage*

INDIVIDUAL

Candice Ericks

Steve Einhorn



'HOTO BY JASON LEID'

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, Inc. present

2025 KING HOLIDAY

Celebration

CONTINUING THE DREAM





MONDAY, JANUARY 20 - FORT LAUDERDALE

PARADE BEGINS AT 9:30 AM

Departs from Sistrunk Blvd. & NW 5th Ave. Ends at Carter Park

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Begins immediately following parade until 3 PM Carter Park, 1450 W. Sunrise Blvd.

Join us as we honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at this annual march for non-violence. For complete details, visit <u>kingholidaycelebration.com</u>.





















POWER MIXER AT PAPAGENO'S WINE & PROVISIONS

The last Power Mixer of 2024 was held at Papageno's Wine & Provisions on Oct. 21. Riverwalk Trustee and Executive Members along with Corporate Partners enjoyed a tasty assortment of wine and hors d'oeuvres curated from Papageno's own unique selection. Last but certainly not least, thank you so much to our sponsors, Dynamix, Worth Avenue Yachts and The Agency.



owners of Papageno's Wine & Provisions



Jenny Mullen, Deborah Danto, Craig Danto, Michelle Finn and Brie Tarbert



Lorena Ricci, Ray Glover and Lori Janicki



PHOTOS BY DIEGO MALDONADO/ DECO VISIONE ARTS (DVA)

DAY OF THE DEAD

On Nov. 2, Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale and Puppet Network with the City of Fort Lauderdale hosted the 15th Annual Day of the Dead Celebration and Processional. Attendees enjoyed a day of face painting, mask and puppet making, delicious foods and refreshing beverages. Entertainment included demonstrations by the indigenous Indians, Folklorico dancers and music on the mainstage moving on to the the Skeletal Processional culminating at Backyard with a grand celebration hosted by our partner, Damn Good Hospitality. We are proud to be a part of this signature event.





Marjorie and Alex Hernandez



Jim Hammond, left, with Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis, right



Val and Devon Harber with dog Rex

Denise Rojas and Jrena Herrera



Alexandra Gonzalez









GET DOWNTOWN

YOLO hosted Riverwalk members at the Fall Get Downtown on Oct. 28. This fun-filled event gives all Riverwalk members the opportunity to mix and mingle over hearty hors d'oeuvres and cocktails on YOLO's beautiful outdoor patio.



Lou Doherty and Betty and Bob Cowdrey



Pat and Norm Kublin



Julie Kolat and Elizabeth Catala



Natasha Cozart



Derrick Gruner and Michael Faerber





LIGHT UP LAUDERDALE

On Nov. 9, Riverwalk and the City of Fort Lauderdale hosted Light Up Lauderdale (Get Lit) in Esplanade Park. Attendees enjoyed music by the Fort Lauderdale Symphonic Winds, a lighting ceremony and a fun-filled kid zone. A huge thank you to TruGreen and Emily's Garden for sponsoring this beautiful and festive event.







Heather Allen





Tony Spalding



Doris Ariza, Sarah Mendoza, Maria Ariza and Gury Briseno



Karina Herrera and Stuart Herrera



Fort Lauderdale Symphonic Winds



Eric Eisen and Alex Bedoya



Jessica Teodesca and Jen Hogan





18TH ANNUAL RIVERWALK MUTTS & MARTINIS

Riverwalk's four-legged residents pulled their leashes to Esplanade Park on Nov. 9 for the 18th Annual Riverwalk Mutts & Martinis. A celebration of Riverwalk's furry friends and their two-legged companions, this free, public event featured a doggie fashion show, peanut butter eating contest, a variety of pet-focused vendors, food trucks and great entertainment. Many wags of thanks to our sponsors Tito's Handmade Vodka and Morningstar Storage.





Cassidy Eckrote with Scottie



Hounds Town: Odalys Rodriguez



Abandoned Pet Rescue: Kristen Levins



Emily Gibson of Sponsor Tito's Handmade Vodka



Advanced Veterinary Care Center: Lauren Lindsey, Dara Fox and Joyce Langton



Humane Society of Broward County: Carey Morgan



Petnmind: Ron Gabbai and his son Jonathan



Dynamite Dog Training: Tina Sainato and Amanda Krenier with Buddy



Boxer Friends Rescue: From left, Carrie Pietrowski, Henry Magnuson and Jax and Fran Hunt



Chelsea and Don Velozo with Crew and Goose



Wendy Aroeker and Rachel Gomez with Stitch, Nala, Nani, Opal



Officer J. Shefferman and Ace



Mia





STATE OF THE CITY

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

2024 has been a year of remarkable progress for the City of Fort Lauderdale. I recently gave my annual State of the City address and discussed what has been accomplished.

In January, we broke ground on a new water treatment plant. It will provide clean, clear, high-quality drinking water to our community for generations to come.

As we near 2025, we've opened the renovated War Memorial Auditorium through a partnership with the Florida Panthers. This follows on the heels of the Panthers building the Baptist Health IcePlex next door to house their training facility along with two publicly available ice rinks.

In October, we opened the new Las Olas Marina and unveiled our transformed D.C. Alexander Park.

Did you know that in the past six years, we've committed an investment of more than \$1.6 billion directly to infrastructure upgrades? We listened to our neighbors. Our utility systems and flood controls are being rapidly modernized.

In fact, in just the past 12 months, we have launched more than \$321 million in water and sewer improvements and \$70 million in stormwater improvements alone.

We have added over the past five years 37 more police officers and 47 more firefighters. We just received a federal grant to hire another 28 firefighters. A new police station is under construction, as are several additional fire stations.

And get this. We accomplished all of this without any increase to our property tax rate, now going on 18 years in



a row.

These are serious investments to deal with serious challenges – challenges we will meet and beat.

Did you know that Fort Lauderdale has led the way in Broward County in addressing home affordability and homelessness? Or that our efforts to maintain clean waterways surpass any nearby community? It's true.

The city has made substantial progress on a bold new homeless initiative. Let it be known that we will help those who want help. But we will not tolerate behavior that harms our community and threatens neighbors and businesses.

We've combined an elevated effort to provide assistance with increased power of law enforcement. Along these lines, we have passed new ordinances prohibiting aggressive panhandling and camping on public property.

Affordable housing? We have built more affordable housing in the last six years than all the other cities in the county combined!

We have offered financial and development incentives for the creation of thousands of affordable units. We created new and innovative tax breaks for the construction.

We've been successful because of a shared vision for our community. Also, we have neighbors and businesses who care and get involved. You've helped chart this forward-looking course for Fort Lauderdale.

More exciting initiatives are underway.

We've entered an agreement with the Orange Bowl Committee to upgrade the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center in Holiday Park. The next phase of the aquatic center renovation is set to begin — a new International Swimming Hall of Fame museum. Construction has commenced on a re-imagination of Huizenga Park.

We are making strides to expand and protect our beloved tree canopy. We just passed an ordinance to better preserve our canopy. And, I have challenged us to plant 10,000 net new trees over the next decade.

Too often, we don't pause and recognize the extraordinary successes being made.

The accomplishments can become lost among everyone's busy schedules or they don't fit the current mold of media sensationalism. And sometimes, they unfairly fall victim to the increasingly divisive world of gotcha politics.

Let's celebrate the improvements that have occurred and the accelerated pace at which we've addressed challenges. We are FTL. ①

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BY JENNI MOREJON

President and CEO

Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority



DOWNTOWN FORT LAUDERDALE FOCUS

THE EVOLUTION OF RETAIL AND DINING

Pecognizing that Fort Lauderdale's culinary transformation was underway, Phil Maro began producing the annual Visit Lauderdale Food and Wine Festival in 2019. Phil sees Fort Lauderdale's restaurant scene becoming more mature and culturally evolved. To that end, Fort Lauderdale was recently ranked by WalletHub as the 19th best foodie city in the United States, ahead of destinations like Nashville. Houston and Boston.

With the Visit Lauderdale Food and Wine Festival coming back bigger and better than ever in January, there has never been a better time to experience Fort Lauderdale's growing culinary scene. From events on the beach like the Grand Tasting and Barbecue Battle to chef-inspired dinners and unique downtown experiences like Wok 'n Roll and Bar Fight, there is something for everyone. For more information about the Visit Lauderdale Food and Wine Festival, visit https://vlfoodwine.com/

Downtown Fort Lauderdale's growth is introducing new offerings from chef-driven restaurants to local coffee shops to neighborhood essentials like grocery stores, fitness studios and hair salons. Complementing all the new restaurants in our community, dozens of daily retail amenities like grocery stores, fitness providers, doggy day care options and more have opened or have announced plans to come to Downtown Fort Lauderdale. Given that retail follows rooftops, local and national retailers are discovering that downtown is an untapped market full of opportunity.

Las Olas Boulevard remains the city's signature retail street with nearly five million visitors each year and a 27

percent increase in foot traffic since 2017. But the story of Downtown Fort Lauderdale's retail and dining evolution isn't limited to Las Olas; it extends deep into Flagler Village, along Federal Highway, and across emerging downtown neighborhoods south of the New River. With an overall retail vacancy rate of just 5.2 percent, a 35 percent decline since 2015, the Fort Lauderdale market is maturing and becoming more sophisticated thanks to the city's evolution.

To highlight this emerging story, the DDA has introduced DowntownFTL Focus: The Evolution of Retail and Dining. This multi-part series dives into the trends bringing more retail and dining options to downtown residents, employees and visitors. This series launched in the middle of November and continues through the end of the year. Leading downtown voices offer their distinct perspective on hot topics like the evolution of Las Olas Boulevard, emerging districts on the rise, the city's growth as a destination for foodies, bold investments to revitalize historic restaurant sites and more.

Downtown Fort Lauderdale has something for everyone — and we're continuing to add attractive and authentic

retail and dining experiences to serve our residents. With the holidays approaching, I invite you to dive deeper at www.ddaftl.org/ftlfocus.







PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIT



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BY KAREN WARFEL
City of Fort Lauderdale
Transportation Planning Division Manager

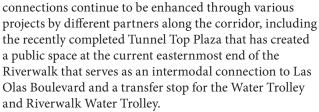


CONVENIENT CONNECTIONS

RIVERWALK AS A TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

Ithough technically a park, the Riverwalk created a transportation spine in the core of downtown that allows residents and guests to connect to many amazing attractions along the New River as well as creating a connection between adjacent neighborhoods to downtown on a beautiful pathway. The Riverwalk project was a transformational one when it was envisioned and supported by the community through a bond issue in 1989 and we continue to add to it to help it grow.

It has been added to both physically and through supportive services such as the Riverwalk Water Trolley like a spine of a transportation network that it is. Those

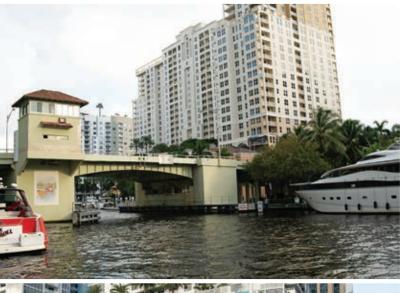


The Transportation & Mobility Department as well as Broward County have several efforts coming up over the next several years to improve the connections to the Riverwalk.

The City's Community Investment Plan includes funding this fiscal year to begin design on improvements to the south side of the tunnel to allow safer connections to and from the Riverwalk on the south side of the river. This project will primarily include traffic calming through the raising of the intersection of Southeast Sixth Avenue and Rio Vista Boulevard, as well as raised tables along Southeast Sixth Avenue on the access roads sides of the tunnel to slow vehicles. Design is anticipated to begin in the new year with construction in the future following the completion of design.

Broward County's Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division is working on a project designed to enhance the safety, reliability, and longevity of the Southeast Third Avenue and Southwest Seventh Avenue bridges. The project is in the design stage and will include wider sidewalks with observation areas, separated from the roadway by a traffic barrier, and enhanced pedestrian safety features like ped signals, gates and detection systems will make walking across the bridges safer. Cyclists will benefit from the installation of a solid surface deck on the movable parts of the bridge, wider outside travel lanes and clear lane markings and signs. Additionally, the bridges will receive new electrical systems, lighting and modern operation equipment and key components will be relocated to higher ground to protect against rising sea levels.

All of these improvements will help to improve the neighborhood around the Riverwalk, creating safer and more convenient connections to and from the amazing resource we have in the heart of downtown.









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MARKETING FOR THE COMMUNITY

COVAR GLOBAL MARKETING AND ENTERTAINMENT IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

arketing yourself and what you do is an integral part of growing and expanding your reach and no one knows that better than Nicole Covar, marketing professional and founder of Covar Global Marketing and Entertainment. Prior to starting her own marketing firm, Covar spent 28 years working at iHeartMedia South Florida as the vice president of marketing and event partnerships.

After decades of working at iHeartMedia, she decided she wanted to take all she had learned working for such an industry titan and strike out on her own.

"I've been in the South Florida market my entire career, along with being raised here. So, it made sense to me to start my own company instead of working for someone else. It's the best decision I could have made and I love working with clients I've known for much of my career," she said.

In November 2020, Covar opened Covar Global Marketing and Entertainment, which is a marketing, media placement and event project management company. In the four years that Covar Global Marketing and Entertainment has been in business, her clients include nonprofits, attorneys and her biggest client yet, the Hyundai Air and Sea Show in Miami Beach.

"My main focus is marketing, media buying and project event management, so anyone in need of those services is a great fit as my potential client," she said.

Covar is certain it's more than her decades of experience working in Fort Lauderdale that has garnered her such success.

"Based on my experience at iHeartMedia for 28 years, I bring a unique skill set to understanding media and events as that was my job for the time I was there, but I also have a vast network of contacts from working here as long as I have," she said.

It's not only her lengthy professional career in South Florida that makes her clientele feel comfortable entrusting Covar with all their marketing needs. It's her dedication to being a familiar face within the community she works and lives in. She has been an advisory board member for Winterfest since 2009, a Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale member since 2022, a member of the New River Business Exchange since 2022, a part of the Dan Marino Foundation for more than 15 years and one of the Junior Achievement's Circle of Wise Women since 2023.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NICOLE COVAR

Covar has big plans to keep expanding and growing her reach within the Fort Lauderdale professional community. "My son, Nicholas, manages social media influencers and works with companies who want to associate their brands with influencers. So, I plan to have him expand Covar Global Marketing and Entertainment into that media lane sometime in the future," she said. ⁽¹⁾

COVAR GLOBAL MARKETING AND ENTERTAINMENT

Owner: Nicole Covar Number of employees: 1 Phone: (954) 868-9765 Website: www.CovarGlobal.com



LEADERSHIP CHAMPIONS

LOCAL LEADERS WHO WRITE OUR NEXT CHAPTERS

eadership is critical when it comes to economic development. Over the years, champions were crucial on a variety of advancements — Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood airport runway expansion, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Omni convention hotel and convention center expansion, deepening and widening of Port Everglades, and a host of other initiatives.

These champions, some have left us, are celebrated on our Walk of Fame or memorialized with bricks along the Riverwalk, and are the fabric of our society, the bond that holds promise for generations.

One such asset is the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which opened in 1991 on a five-plus acre site along the north bank of the New River at Sailboat Bend. The 498-seat theater became the epicenter for a renaissance of downtown and the cornerstone of the Riverwalk Arts and Entertainment District. People like Tom Gustafson, former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and Buddy Lochrie, a local banker whose passion for the center was unsurpassed. Both men, and others, put together the funding to make our arts jewel, one of the top performing centers in the country.

Another example is what happened in my office, prior to my tenure, when business leaders met to discuss expansion of the airport. One runway was not keeping up with our growth. Hence began "Friends of the Airport" as an entity to pursue a new runway. In 2014, the FLL completed the

south runway and in 2023 welcomed 35.1 million passengers, which was up 10.4 percent from 2022. The airport ranked as the 17th busiest U.S. airport for passenger traffic.

In almost all of these cases the vision began and was sustained with individual tenacity. Take Port Everglades expansion and the fact that we are roughly 28 years into the vision of expansion efforts. In year 18, Terry Stiles, Stiles Co., took the helm of a startup group called the Port Everglades Action Team (PEAT). Still in existence today, PEAT works to establish common ground with regulatory bodies, Congress and the administration to gain the necessary permits for expansion. What's at stake are jobs

and cargo revenue.

We are investing millions of dollars in the expansion of our convention center and building an 801-key Omni hotel adjacent to it. When finished, the expanded center will boast more than 1,200,00 square feet, including a 350,000 square foot contiguous exhibition hall, a new 65,000 square foot waterfront ballroom and much more. Projections suggest an economic impact to our local economy of more than \$200 million per year. Leaders from the Chamber, hoteliers, elected officials and tourism executives spent several years gaining consensus.

There are other remarkable stories and leaders who are writing the next chapters. Witness the new Baptist Iceplex and reimagining of War Memorial Auditorium. Vinny Viola, owner of our Stanley Cup Champions Florida Panthers, is to thank in large part for this.

How we traverse the New River, bridge or tunnel, for inner-city rail and transit-oriented development will be a game changer yet to be resolved. The buildout of our resilient infrastructure protecting us from the inevitable forces of nature is clouding our future. Our plan calls for more than 190 miles of higher seawalls, 169 control structures, 28 pump stations, 50 upgraded crossings and 1,247 acres of land for water retention with a price tag of \$30.3 billion.

We can resolve to address these and other opportunities to secure our future for generations. What is needed are leaders to chart our path.



BY PHIL PURCELL
CEO/President, Marine Industries Association of South Florida
Writer Liz Wegerer



THE BRYAN FAMILY

A QUIET FORCE BEHIND FORT LAUDERDALE'S SUCCESS

ort Lauderdale's Riverwalk delivers an incomparable experience for residents and visitors. They can stroll miles of walkways hugging the New River and explore 10 different parks and enjoy countless waterfront bars and restaurants. But only a handful know the New River's role in shaping the city.

One place where the history of both the river and city is chronicled is at History Fort Lauderdale. Located just east of Esplanade Park, History Fort Lauderdale stores the city's archives and manages a collection of historic buildings.

One building is the New River Inn, the focal point on campus.

Inside you will find, among other treasures, a collection of four exhibits that chronicle the history of Fort Lauderdale. One is "Dugouts to Dream Yachts." It follows the growth of Fort Lauderdale's waterways, from the first nations people that paddled dugout canoes to today's commercially thriving New River. These waterways have always been vital to our region's growth.

The visionaries who built early Fort Lauderdale were also important. Flagler, King, Brickell and Broward are just a few names etched in our city's history. Another is Bryan.

The Bryan family's influence here was great, and our waterways played a role in the family's success. The Bryans arrived by invitation of railroad owner Henry Flagler, who asked patriarch Philomen Bryan to lead construction of a section of Flagler's new railway from the New River to Pompano. This combination of water and rail transport would greatly expand the area's commerce possibilities.

Philomen stayed in the area after the project was complete and turned his attention to building the first

commercial hotel in 1901 — an eight-room wooden rooming house on the riverbank. He called it the New River Inn. In 1905, seeing continuous growth all around, Bryan replaced the wooden structure with the more spacious brick building that still stands today.

The Bryans and the New River were bound together in other ways, too. They owned an orange grove accessible only by boat and relied on the river for transportation.

Philomen's younger son, Reed, was appointed by Gov. Napoleon B. Broward in 1905 to lead the everglades dredging project. The dredges used were constructed in a boatyard just across the water from the New River Inn.

The better known of the Bryan children was the elder son, Tom. In addition to establishing the first bank and first telephone system in Fort Lauderdale, he is also credited with bringing electricity to town and helping create Broward County itself. The planning meetings to establish the county took place inside the New River Inn.

The Bryans also appreciated the New River for its aesthetic pleasures. They built a compound of family homes along its banks, adjacent to the Inn. Tom Bryan also brought the first yacht to Fort Lauderdale. You can find a photo of it in "The Bryans of Fort Lauderdale and Juliette Lange" exhibit in the New River Inn Museum.

Tom Bryan surely envisioned a future Fort Lauderdale that relied heavily on the New River. Whether he imagined the city would turn into the Yachting Capital of the World is less certain. What we know is that Fort Lauderdale would not be the same without the Bryan family.

Additional. source used: Tom Bryan and Other Movers and Shapers of Early Fort Lauderdale by Keith D. Mitzner









'TIS THE SEASON FOR LIVE HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



DECEMBER 5 **Broward Center**



DECEMBER 5 The Parker



DECEMBER 7 Broward Center



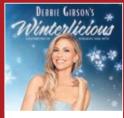
DECEMBER 7 The Parker



DECEMBER 8-10 **Broward Center**



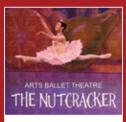
DECEMBER 12 The Parker



DECEMBER 13 The Parker



DECEMBER 18-23 Broward Center



DECEMBER 20-22 The Parker



DECEMBER 28 The Parker

TICKETS MAKE GREAT GIFTS



DECEMBER 27 The Parker



DECEMBER 27 The Parker



JANUARY 11 Broward Center



JANUARY 17 & 18 Broward Center



MARCH 1 **Broward Center**













Dr. Seuss's How The Grinch Whole Stole Christmas The Musical is part of the Bank of America Broadway in Fort Lauderdale Season presented by Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Slow Burn Theater Company's production of Anastasia is presented by American National Bank and Visit Lauderdale with support from The Broward Cultural Division. Jen Kramer's Magical Holiday Show and Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets in Concert are part of the Joe pillaggio Children's Hospital Imagination Series. Levi Kreis, Debbie Gibson's Winterlicious and Tremonti Sings Sinatra - Christmas Classics New & Old are part of the Baptist Health Red Carpet Series. Enterprises, Inc. Johnny Mathis is generously underwritten by the Amaturo Family Foundation, M. Austin and Christine Forman and Sally Robbins.

TICKETS at BrowardCenter.org/Holiday Ticketmaster | 954.462.0222 Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office • Group Sales | 954-660-6307

Performances at the Broward Center and The Parker are supported by the Broward Performing Arts Foundation. All programs, artists, dates and times are subject to change.



2025 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

WHAT PROPERTY OWNERS NEED TO KNOW

Il qualified Florida residents are eligible to receive a Homestead Exemption on their homes, condominiums, co-op apartments and certain mobile home lots. To qualify for Homestead Exemption, you must own and make the property your permanent residence on Jan. 1 of the year for which you are applying for this valuable exemption. Pursuant to Florida law, all assessments and exemptions are based upon the status of the property on Jan. 1. If you acquired the property as your permanent residence in 2024 and have not applied for Homestead Exemption, you can apply for 2025 exemptions at any time – there is no need to wait until 2025 to file your exemption application. You can easily apply online at https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/HomesteadExemption.

The timely deadline to file for all 2025 exemptions is March 3, 2025. You must make the property your permanent residence by Jan. 1, 2025 to qualify; however, you have until March 3 to timely file your application with

our office. The late filing deadline for all 2025 exemptions is Sept. 17, 2025.

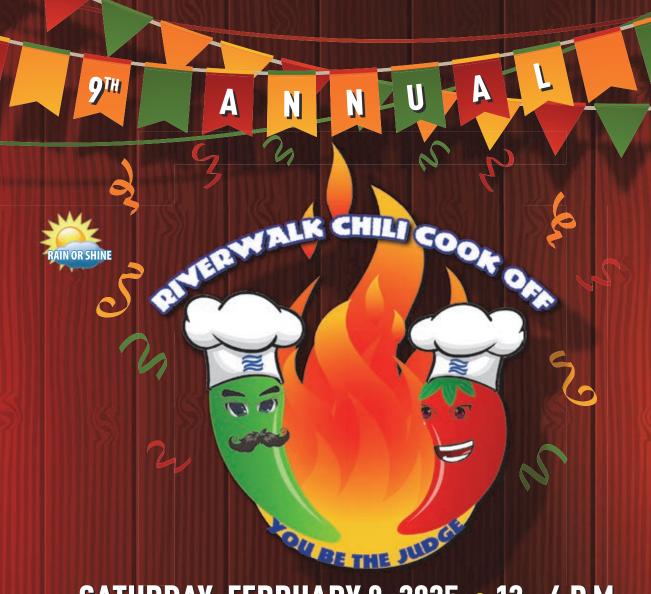
Once approved, your Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. If you have already applied and been approved for Homestead Exemption at your current property, you do not need to reapply for this exemption. You will receive a Homestead Exemption renewal card next month to keep for your records.

While Homestead Exemption is the most common exemption, there are additional exemptions available to qualified applicants. Here is the link the all the additional exemptions for your review: https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead

If you have any questions about Homestead Exemption or any other exemptions, please call (954) 357-6830 or email me at martykiar@bcpa.net.



HOTO BY JASON LI



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 • 12 - 4 P.M. ESPLANADE PARK

Amateur and professional chefs will descend upon downtown Fort Lauderdale to compete to find out who makes the best chili in town!

Riverwalk is now a Certified Event for the World Champion Chili Cook-Offs. This year's winner will win a spot in the World Championship Chili Cook-Off



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For sponsorship opportunities contact Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale at events@goriverwalk.com

SPONSORS







JA UNCORKED CHEF PAULA DASILVA

FORT LAUDERDALE-BASED CHEF RETURNS FOR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

WRITER MADELAINE K. BOYER





WANT TO GO? JA Uncorked

Jan. 25, 2025 | 6:30 p.m. Junior Achievement of South Florida 1130 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek \$225

www.jasouthflorida.org/events/uncorked

n just a few short months, Junior Achievement of South Florida's most sought-after event of the year makes its return – JA Uncorked. The annual fundraiser, which is hosted by the Circle of Wise Women, invites guests to come out for a fun evening at the JA World Huizenga Center, where they can sample dishes and drinks prepared by talented chefs and culinary professionals from numerous South Florida restaurants. One such chef is Paula DaSilva, who has been taking part in the JA Uncorked event for many years.

DaSilva first got her start in the culinary world by working with her parents at their restaurant in her hometown of Medford, Massachusetts.

"My mom and dad opened up a little tiny restaurant when I was 10, and the family kind of all worked there together. Then they decided they wanted to move to South Florida where they opened two more restaurants, which I worked at through high school," she said. It was during that time that she decided she wanted to continue on this culinary path after high school, which led to her attending the now-closed Art Institute in Fort Lauderdale.

Once her time at culinary school ended, DaSilva rose through the ranks of the food industry, working as a chef at well-known institutions such as Marriott International, Marriott Harbor Beach and Eden Roc Miami Beach.

"I grew a lot during that time moving through the many roles in a restaurant, from a young lead cook to a supervisor to then the youngest female sous chef in Marriott International at 22 years old to finally Chef de Cuisine," she said.

DaSilva currently serves as the Director of Food And Beverage at the Ritz Carlton in Fort Lauderdale.

Throughout her career working in numerous high-end kitchens in South Florida, one culinary endeavor continues to be one of her all-time favorites – the annual JA Uncorked event.

"I first heard about JA Uncorked during my time at Eden Roc. At that time, I was getting a lot of attention because I had just been on the show 'Hell's Kitchen' which opened up a lot of great opportunities. When this event was presented to me, I was very interested because it was relatively new and in my community. Also, I didn't have kids at the time, but I did have nieces and nephews who participated in JA World. So, I knew I wanted to get involved," said DaSilva.

Fifteen years later, DaSilva has been a featured chef in most of the JA Uncorked events, serving 400 to 500 guests each year, and has even been instrumental in recruiting new chefs and restaurants to join the event.

Although, compared to working in a restaurant kitchen, prepping for the JA Uncorked event is a breeze. "It's genuinely a great event, and it's an easy one to set up for. I know this sounds very silly, but when you're trying to set up an event, it makes a big difference when you can pull up, unload stuff, park your car, and go back in," she said.

As for the dishes themselves, DaSilva enjoys creating dishes that fit the theme of elevated comfort food. "The event usually takes place in January which tends to be cooler out, so I like to offer something warmer for guests. But I try to stick to offering dishes that are approachable, tasty, and easy to grab and go," said DaSilva.



With the holidays upon us and the year coming to a close, now is an ideal moment to plan for a future that protects your loved ones and transforms lives. At Nicklaus Children's Hospital, you have many options to give in ways that align with your personal and financial goals—whether through appreciated stock, retirement assets, beneficiary designations, real estate, or other planned gifts.

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THE STORY BEHIND 'MR. BOBB'

VETERAN PARTICIPANT RETURNS FOR THE WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE

WRITER MADELAINE K. BOYER

he Winterfest Boat Parade has continued to be a timehonored tradition here in Fort Lauderdale since 1971. Thousands of visitors flock to the riverfront each year to catch a glimpse of the numerous boats decked out in holiday decorations and lights.

One boat, however, has arguably been one of the longest-running participants in the annual Winterfest Boat Parade – Mr. Bobb. Mr. Bobb, a 60-foot Hatteras Sport fisherman boat owned and operated by the Messingschlager family, has been a staple in the boat parade since 1985.

"It's funny because I don't think I had ever seen the boat parade before, but then we bought our boat in June or July of that year and come Christmas, my son says we need to get some lights and be in the boat parade," said Peggy Messingschlager. The family started with 2,000 lights and the next thing they knew, they were driving down the river in their first Winterfest Boat Parade. Since that first parade, they have only added to their decorations and lights, which are all set up by Mark to this day.

"It's just grown so much since then and every year, Mark

"It's just grown so much since then and every year, Mark adds more," Peggy said.

"What is amazing to me is that I can't put four strands of light on a Christmas tree without blowing a fuse. So, the fact that he can connect all these lights to different sockets so that we don't like blow fuses on a boat is amazing," she said. In fact, because they keep adding more and more lights each year, Mark starts planning and decorating as early as mid to late November.

Aside from the growing number of lights and

decorations, one thing hasn't changed year after year, which is that the Messingschlager family continues to invite many of their friends and family members to join them on the boat. Every year, they host their children, grandchildren and approximately 35 friends, making it truly a family affair. They even have a DJ on the boat playing holiday classics like "Jingle Bells" as they cruise down the river.

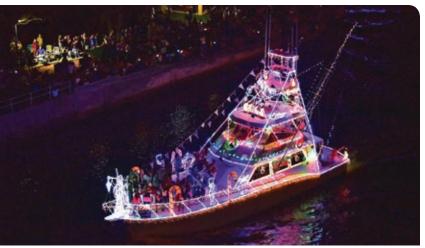
Last year's parade was canceled due to unsafe boating conditions caused by heavy winds and rain, making it only the second year the Messingschlager family missed the annual parade.

This year, they are eager to make their return to the beloved parade.

"I believe it was the first time in 50 years that it had to be canceled, but it was definitely the right decision because when it was time to load the boats, it was just absolutely pouring," she said.

"But we're excited to be back again this year. My son, Mark, just had me put in another order for lights the other day, so we're already working on it."

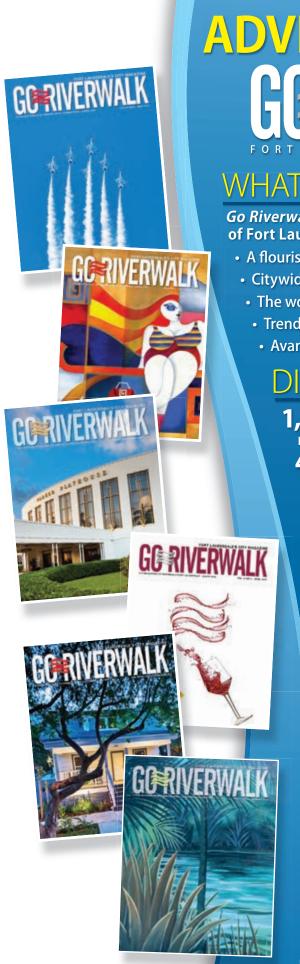
With the Winterfest Boat Parade around the corner, Mr. Bobb will make its triumphant return and hopes to win yet another People's Choice Award. They've already won five times.





WANT TO GO?

Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 14 • 6:30 p.m.
MORE DETAILS: www.winterfestparade.com



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THE CHEF WHO BRINGS A LATIN AND FRENCH FLARE TO TOWER CLUB

WRITER MADELAINE K. BOYER

he Tower Club in Fort Lauderdale, which has been serving as an elite yet inviting space for professionals, innovators and community leaders for decades, just recently celebrated a big milestone – its 50th anniversary. Since its founding in 1974, it has seen some changes over the years, but one thing that has remained is its dedication to providing guests with elevated yet delectable food prepared by top chefs in the industry.

In the last few years, the current head chef has sought to not only set himself apart from his predecessors but also serve dishes that highlight both his Latin heritage and French culinary training.

Growing up in Puerto Rico, Executive Chef Manolo Acin was surrounded by people who reveled in the joy of cooking. However, on the cusp of adulthood, he initially opted for a more traditional career path.

"When I graduated high school, I wanted to be an engineer. But while I was in school, I took a couple of jobs cooking and started to enjoy it. Eventually, I decided not to continue my engineering classes. After a year of not going to college, my dad finally said to me, 'Why don't you just do culinary school?' I thought it couldn't hurt to try and decided to give it a shot," he said.

With that encouragement from his father, Acin enrolled in culinary school at the Universidad De Este-Carolina, where he was trained in classic French cooking techniques. From there, he went on to do an internship at the Intercontinental San Juan in Puerto which is now the Royal Sonesta San Juan.

After finding his footing in Puerto Rico's culinary world, an opportunity arose for him to work at a new hotel in Boston, which was something he never thought he'd do. "One of the things that I said when I started culinary school was that would never work in a hotel or move to the United States. Ironically, I did both, but it was the best decision I ever made because it got me to where I am today," said Acin.

Following his move to the U.S., he went on to serve as a chef at numerous well-known hotels and resorts, such as the Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort in Hollywood and Trump National Doral in Miami.

Today, he serves as the executive chef of the Tower Club, which has offered him the freedom to explore his creativity through food while serving a variety of locals and influential figures in Fort Lauderdale. "When I arrived here, I came with a mentality that I had to make everything fancy and elegant and I realized later on that it's not necessary. Our guests are just looking for a plate that looks



elegant and tastes good, which offered me room for creative freedom," he said.

Chef Acin focuses on creating elevated dishes using locally sourced ingredients, especially fresh seafood, while incorporating his Latin heritage.

"I try to utilize my heritage and mix it with French cuisine to make the dishes interesting for our guests. So, by using French techniques and Latin seasonings like cumin, cilantro and coriander, I can serve dishes that are a reflection of myself as a chef," he said.

It's this dedication to keeping things fresh and unique that Chef Acin hopes will keep guests coming to the Tower Club for the next 50 years.

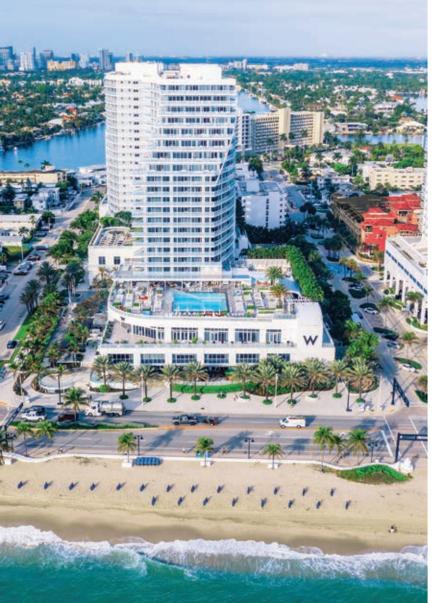
WANT TO JOIN?

Tower Club Fort Lauderdale

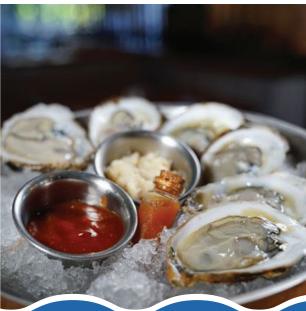
LOCATION: 100 SE 3rd Ave. Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (954) 764-8550

WEBSITE: www.tower-florida.com







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EVENTS CONNECTION

GENERAL EVENTS

DECEMBER 1



Derek Hough

Dance for the Holidays Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Preservation Hall Jazz Band

Creole Christmas The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico

Grammy nominated 13-piece salsa group Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER 3 62nd Annual Christmas on Las Olas

Celebrate Fort Lauderdale's urban Winter Wonderland The Las Olas Association Las Olas Blvd. www.lasolasboulevard.com

An Evening With David Sedaris

All-new readings and recollections The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Stiles Light Up Downtown

23rd Annual Light Up benefiting Jack & Jill Center Friends of Jack & Jill Center The Plaza on Las Olas 954-463-8772

www.jackandjillcenter.org
DECEMBER 4

Brian Regan

One of the most respected comedians in the country
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

The Outlaws

Special guest: John Cafferty & The Beaver Brown Band Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER 5



A Conversation with Larry David
An informal discussion with a moderator
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www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Under the Streetlamp

Hip to the holidays The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Levi Kreis

Home for the holidays
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER 6

Sheng Wang

Comedian, actor and writer The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Ryan Sickler

Live & Alive
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Light Up Sistrunk

City of Fort Lauderdale
Sistrunk Blvd
954-828-5568
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov



DECEMBER 7

Christmas with C.S. Lewis

Featuring David Payne
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

George Harris: El Pueblo de Uno

Successful Venezuelan comedian Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Cookies with Santa

5-minute family photo session with Santa Claus Historic Stranahan House Museum 954-524-4736 www.stranahanhouse.org

South Florida Symphony Orchestra

Handel's Messiah The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Black Tie Ball

Celebrate the Winterfest season to the theme of "Lion King" Winterfest Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-767-0686 www.winterfestparade.com

DECEMBER 8

One Vision of Queen

Featuring Marc Martel Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Lewis Black

Goodbye Yeller Brick Road, The Final Tour The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

The Toast presents Girly Swirlies Night Out!

Claudia and Jackie Oshry of the hit podcast, "The Toast"
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www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 10
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Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale
Water Taxi Stop 1/Laura
Ward Plaza
954-468-1541
www.goriverwalk.com

Whiskey Myers

Acoustic Tour 2024
Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org



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The Musical Box - Genesis

"Selling England By The Pound" 50th Anniversary The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 11

Bobby Watson Quartet, Post Motown Bop

Gold Coast Jazz
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www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER 12 Mark Tremonti Sings Frank Sinatra

Grammy Award-winning multi-platinum musician The Parker 954-462-0222

www.parkerplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 13

Debbie Gibson

Winterlicious - An Evening of Holiday and Hits The Parker

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The Fab Four Presents: USA Meets The Beatles

A 60th anniversary concert Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

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Carter Park
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DECEMBER 14

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Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade

The 53rd annual holiday parade Winterfest Downtown/New River 954-767-0686 www.winterfestparade.com

DECEMBER 15 Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Evening

Hits from the iconic band's career Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990

www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Nocturnal Wonders Night Hike

Find out "Hoooo's" out and about making raucous noises in the night City of Fort Lauderdale Snyder Park 954-828-5568 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

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Matt Fraser

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www.browardcenter.org

DECEMBER 17

Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida With special guest Todrick Hall Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 18



Cheap Trick

50th anniversary of an iconic rock 'n' roll institution
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 19

Santa on the Beach

Santa and his elves will be spreading holiday cheer City of Fort Lauderdale Fort Lauderdale Beach Park 954-828-5568

www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

DECEMBER 20

Carlos Vives

Unique sounds of "El Colombian Pop" Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990

www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 22

Luis Fonsi 25 Años To

25 Años Tour Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990

www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

DECEMBER 26

Menorah Lighting Celebration Honor the first night of Hanukkah City of Fort Lauderdale Las Olas Oceanside Park 954-828-5568

www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

DECEMBER 27



The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine: Swan Lake

The epitome of ballet The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Kwanzaa Uiamaa

Pay homage to the fourth day of Kwanzaa City of Fort Lauderdale Bass Park 954-462-0222

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DECEMBER 27-28 & 30-31 Bobby Weir & Wolf Bros featuring The Wolfpack

December 27-28 One of rock's finest and most distinctive rhythm guitarists Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

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Jen Kramer's Magical Holiday Show

Celebrate the most magical time of the vear The Parker 954-462-0222

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DECEMBER 31



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www.mods.org

Bobby Weir with Wolf Bros Trio

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JANUARY 3

Jim Gaffigan

Seven-time Grammy-nominated comedian Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

JANUARY 4 15th Annual Riverwalk Stone Crab & Seafood Festival Start the New York

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Sixt<u>i</u>esmania - A Journey Through the Sixties

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JANUARY 5



Herman's Hermits Starring Peter Noone The Parker

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JANUARY 8 Gold Coast Jazz

Shelly Berg Trio, Alegria! Happiness & more Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY

Rapunzel: Smart Stage Matinee Series An enticing classic complete with the long-haired beauty Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Paula Poundstone

Iconic comedian known for observational humor and spontaneous wit The Parker 954-462-0222

www.parkerplayhouse.com JANUARY 11

Judy Collins

Don't miss a night of all her hits Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org

Johnny Mathis

The Voice of Romance Tour 2025 Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org



Steve Martin & Martin Short The Dukes of Funnytown Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990

www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com JANUARY 12

Rocking the Paradise together with audiences far and wide Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 954-779-3990 www.seminolehardrockhollvwood.com

Pink Martini featuring China Forbes

30th anniversary tour Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222

www.browardcenter.org JANUAR'

Ciroue Kalabante: Afrique en Cirque Inspired by daily life in Guinea The Parker 954-462-0222

www.parkerplayhouse.com

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December 6-13 Experience a sparkling holiday wonderland Bonnet House Museum & Gardens www.bonnethouse.org



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December 15-20 Step back into the Victorian era Stranahan House Museum 954-524-4736 www.stranahanhouse.org

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

December 18-23 Transport to the whimsical world of Whoville Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org



Arts Ballet Theatre: The Nutcracker

December 20-22 "Snowflakes, sugarplums and magical dolls" The Parker 954-462-0222 www.parkerplayhouse.com

Slow Burn Theatre Co: Anastasia: The Musical

December 21-January 5 Inspired by the beloved films Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Shen Yun: A Heavenly Gift

January 3-5 Travel back to the magical world of ancient China Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

Saw the Musical

January 12-14 The Unauthorized Parody of Saw Broward Center for the Performing Arts 954-462-0222 www.browardcenter.org

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PARKS& RECREATION

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Self-guided tours that highlight our local natural environment Snyder Park

Paddle With A Purpose

Third Saturday | Reservation required Waterway and Shoreline Cleanup Delevoe Park

Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep

Fourth Saturday Help keep Fort Lauderdale Beach clean! HUB at Fort Lauderdale Beach

Edible Food Forest

Fourth Saturday Volunteer to tend an edible urban farm Snyder Park

Jazz Brunch

First Sunday Free, outdoor concert series featuring local musicians on 3 stages City of Fort Lauderdale Esplanade Park & Riverwalk 954-828-5365 www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov



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Bank of America: Museums on Us First full weekend

Free admission for BOA customers

Free Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Day

Last Sunday Free admission for FTL residents 954-525-5500 www.nsuartmuseum.org

Storytime in the Garden

First Sunday Mrs. Barbara reads a story related to nature Flamingo Gardens 954-473-2955 www.flamingogardens.org

Sensory Friendly Sunday Fourth Sunday Film screenings for those with autism spectrum disorder

Bank of America: Museums on Us

First full weekend Free admission for BOA customers

Sprouting Stem

Varies Introducing little scientists (aged 0-6) to STEM-related topics Museum of Discovery & Science 954-467-6637 www.mods.org

RIVERWALK RECREATION

Shippey House | 220 S.W. 3rd Ave. Fort Lauderdale | 954-526-5159



Cycle Party Tours

Daily | Reservation required Jump aboard a 15-person quadracycle and experience Fort Lauderdale in an entirely new way. www.cycleparty.com

Paddle Pub Tours

Daily | Reservation required Jump aboard a 20-person Paddle Pub and experience Fort Lauderdale and the waterway in a new way. www.paddlepub.com/fort-lauderdale



Bike Tours

Daily | Reservation required Tours of Fort Lauderdale and Riverwalk for all abilities. www.RiverwalkActivities.com

Bike Rentals

Daily | Reservation required Rent bikes to explore Fort Lauderdale. Delivery available. Minimum 24 hour rental. www.RiverwalkActivities.com

Mind Arena Games

Daily | Reservation required Immersive and engaging escape room-style team building games for 10-150 people.

www.mindarenausa.com





Eat. Driuk. **Impact.**



A CIRCLE OF WISE WOMEN SIGNATURE EVENT

JANUARY 25, 2025 | 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Indulge in gourmet bites and sips from top restaurants and beverage partners. Enjoy live music and mingle with fellow foodies all while impacting vital Junior Achievement programs. Don't miss this worthwhile event - get your tickets now for an evening of flavor and fun!



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SAMPLING OF OUR 2025 RESTAURANT PARTNERS

SNEAK PEEK: SAVOR A































*More Restaurant Partners to Come!

Hosted By





Scan OR code for tickets



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FOURTH ANNUAL POSITIVELY PINK SPIRITED LUNCHEON

The fundraising luncheon on Oct. 16 at Casa Calabria benefited Memorial Breast Cancer Center.









ANNETTE LITMAN, DEBBIE SIMNER, JAY KIRTMAN, PAM KIRTMAN AND JUDY BUNCHUK

PROVIDED BY POSITIVELY PINE

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DECEMBER 14

VIEW BY LAND

Experience the 53rd Anniversary of the Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade.





- Enjoy a festival atmosphere
- Culinary Courtyard
- Free Activities

Live Entertainment before and after the Best Show on H2O!

Located off Las Olas Boulevard and the Intracoastal.

Children ages 3 and Under are FREE.



SHANE DUNCAN BAND



SOUTHERN BLOOD



From Sawgrass to Seagrass: Waves of Holiday Cheer

2024 Co-Grand Marshals







Vote for Your Favorite Boat



DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP - Vote for your favorite boat to win round trip travel and track Santa.

Visit winterfestparade.com/santa or search Winterfest Santa Tracker in your App Store,

powered by /







Joey Fatone of *NSYNC



Chris Kirkpatrick of *NSYNC



Captain Lee

POSTER ART BY CARLOS SOLANO

WATCH ON TV

ONE HOUR SPECIAL: Winterfest® Television Special is shared around the state through a network partnership with WSVN (Fox Affiliate) and Bally Sports Sun and is rebroadcast throughout the holiday season.

SOUTH FLORIDA: Watch the Winterfest® Television Special on WSVN 7.

SEE IT LIVE: Look on Winterfest Social Sites, Facebook Live

LOCALLY: The 'World's Most Watched Boat Parade" can be seen live on Fort Lauderdale's city station Comcast Channel 78.



































NORTH POLE PAJAMA PARTY

HOLIDAY EVENTS at MODS

DECEMBER 14 & 21 · 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Film starts at 11 a.m.

Purchase tickets at mods org/northpole.



DECEMBER 31 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ball Drop at 12 p.m.

Free with Museum admission. Register at mods.org/noonyears.



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Kathiusca P First Vice President Regional Sales Manager

Wishing you and yours a joyful holiday season!



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