

GO RIVERWALK



FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

A PUBLICATION OF RIVERWALK FORT LAUDERDALE • SINCE 2003 • VOL. 22 NO.1 JANUARY 2025



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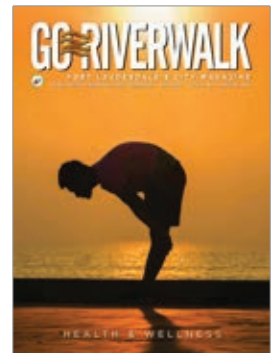
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*Cover photo by
Thanh Long Bui*

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THE LOOP IS ALIVE IN '25!

Come alive in 2025 as Las Olas Oceanside Park kicks off the year with a vibrant lineup of free events and activities that celebrate the best of Fort Lauderdale. Providing *Infinite Experiences for Everyone Under the Sun*, we embrace the opportunity bring people together with a variety of family friendly events and activities to connect, engage, and enjoy the beauty of our beachside community. From bustling weekend markets to energizing fitness classes and live music to seasonal and awareness celebrations, we welcome all to gather and experience the culture and energy that make The LOOP so unique.



EVERY WEEKEND, YEAR ROUND

More to Explore at [#TheMKT](#)

A staple of Fort Lauderdale Beach for nearly five years, **TheMKT at Las Olas Oceanside Park** has since sealed its place in the hearts of locals and a delight for visitors strolling the area. The seaside pop-up takes over the park's plaza and lawn every Saturday and Sunday with a rotating mix of more than 80 local makers, artists, and food and drink vendors.

Follow theMKT's social channels [@oceansideparkmarket](#), for the most current vendor listing, ongoing entertainment, **morning Yoga** classes with Lisa Pumper and Nzingha Oniwosan, plus new experiences with **Elite Dog Training**, **Miss Tracy Sings**, and partnership program with **lululemon**.

SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS

The LOOP is the place to be with seasonal celebrations that bring energy, connection, and fun to Fort Lauderdale Beach. From Friday nights filled live music to gatherings that celebrate a greener living, there is always something happening to make the most of this beautiful time of year.

Highlights include

- **FEBRUARY - APRIL** Friday Night Sound Waves Free Concerts
- **MARCH:** Youth Art Month Showcase
- **APRIL:** Earth Month Celebration; 5th annual Spring Fling

Stay In The LOOP for updates by subscribing to our E-Newsletter on our website and follow us on our social channels [@theloopflb](#)

SAVE THE DATES

FEBRUARY 14

Valentine's Day Vow Renewal



Celebrate love this Valentine's Day at Las Olas Oceanside Park with a memorable **Vow Renewal Ceremony** on Fri, February 14. Couples are invited to reaffirm their commitment during a free, non-denominational ceremony, followed by an evening of soulful music with a live performance by the **Divas of Soul**.

Elevate your evening with optional **Vow Renewal Packages**, which includes a keepsake vow renewal certificate, reserved concert flowers, a charcuterie or dessert board and professional mini photo sessions. **Looking to celebrate all weekend?** Exclusive hotel and dining options at participating Fort Lauderdale Beach restaurants, hotels and resorts are available for pre-registered attendees. For complete details, visit [theloopflb.com](#).

FEBRUARY 15

5th Annual FTL Pet Fest



The 5th Annual FTL Pet Fest is making a splash with a retro beach party vibe! Hosted by Instagram influencer Tour with Teddy and his fabulous mom, Ana, the annual beachside event promises groovy tunes, beach balls, and tail-wagging fun for the whole family.

Voted "Best Event" in Fort Lauderdale Magazine's 2024 Readers Poll, this highly anticipated pet festival is a must attend celebration. Proceeds support year-round free pet friendly experience at the LOOP and local pet charities.

Don't miss this pawsome day of fun, fur, and community! For vendor and sponsor opportunities, ticket information, and event details, visit [theloopflb.com](#).

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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 January 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.

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 kingholidaycelebration.com.





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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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15th Annual



Join us for a Crabtastic Celebration!
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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

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NEWLY PRICED **ASHLEY** | \$2,395,000
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, Poggenpohl 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 Countertops, Poggenpohl 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 sqft 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.



NEWLY PRICED **3 BED 4.5 BATH** | \$1,699,000

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.

UNDER CONTRACT **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.

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



JUST 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.

JUST 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.

JUST 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!

JUST 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 | \$799,000

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.

NEWLY PRICED STARDUST | \$769,999

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.

NEWLY PRICED 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.

NEWLY PRICED SUNGARDEN | \$474,000

Sunset views from this fabulous 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.



JUST LISTED! 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH | \$975,000

Rarely available high floor corner residence with ocean & city views! This flow through unit features 2 terraces, marble floors, modern white high gloss kitchen cabinetry, granite countertops, open living areas, laundry room & brand new ac. The main suite features walk-in closets, dual marble vanities, deep soaking tub & separate glass enclosed shower.



JUST 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!

SOLD! 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.



CELEBRATING 2024'S SUCCESSES

ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR ALONG THE RIVERWALK

As we claw our way into 2025 and celebrate 15 years of the Riverwalk Stone Crab & Seafood Festival on Saturday, Jan 4, it is worth noting some of the past year's milestones that mark our communities continued growth as a vibrant place to live, work and play!

The Fort Lauderdale edition of Monopoly was announced and unveiled, adding the "Venice of America" to an exclusive list of cities across the world that have had their landmarks, locales and traditions enshrined in one of America's favorite board games. Your Riverwalk was one of the many landmarks that was voted to be placed on the board, and we thank the community for your support.

The Huizenga Park Foundation and Downtown Development Authority broke ground on Huizenga Park Re-imagined and will wrap up work in 2025. This unique

installation emphasizes our communities commitment to the arts, and adds a breathtaking new feature at a prominent location, the intersection of Las Olas and the Riverwalk, right at the heart of our community.

"Broken Sublime," a stainless steel seashell sculpture by renowned artist Marc Quinn, was installed next to the Stranahan House on part of the new Tunnel Top Plaza. This unique installation emphasizes our community's commitment to the arts and adds a breathtaking feature to the intersection of Las Olas and the Riverwalk, right at the heart of our community.

Please join us at the 15th Annual Riverwalk Stone Crab & Seafood Festival at Esplanade Park on Saturday, Jan 4, and we look forward to another exciting year along the Riverwalk! 🍷





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FORT LAUDERDALE

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Nominate a property that enhances our city's beauty for the monthly WOW Award. Your home could be the next to shine!

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

We welcome the newly elected Mayor and City Commission, sworn in on Dec. 3. Mayor Dean Trantalis was elected to return and serve his final term. Leading the goal setting plans for Fort Lauderdale permits the staff to implement those ideals. Returning are Commission John Herbst of District 1, Commissioner Steve Glassman of District 2 currently serving as Vice Mayor and in his final term, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman of District 3, and newly elected Ben Sorensen of District 4. Commissioner Sorensen previously served in this capacity for District 4, elected in 2018.

There is currently a search for a new City Manager

and City Attorney, both charter officers that oversee and manage the city. Committees are formed to assist in the evaluation process to find suitable candidates for consideration by the Mayor and Commission.

Riverwalk welcomes you to 2025 and notes the advancing technology that will drastically change what we know today. It is forecasted that spaceflight in 2025 will follow the trend of record-breaking orbital launches and increased developments in lunar, Mars, and low-earth orbit exploration. The baseline economic forecast for 2025 calls for 2.5 percent growth, unemployment of 4.2 percent and PCE inflation at 2.2 percent. Technical skills related

to digital technology and data management will be highly valued across many sectors. Proficiency in AI, machine learning, and cybersecurity will be particularly sought after as these areas continue to influence various industries.

We know that forecasting the future and reading trends can sometimes be misleading but the positive side of that is one is able to plan based on those ideas. Legendary mystics Nostradamus and Baba Vanga have both issued troubling predictions for 2025 foretelling widespread chaos and conflict. Although separated by centuries, both foretellers predicted war eruption in Europe and other apocalyptic events that could ripple across the world.

We know that the forecasting weather is extreme challenging these days with the overused term “climate change.” The old standby Farmers’ Almanac gives a winter weather forecast that calls for a season of rapid-fire storms that will bring both rain and snow and little downtime in between. Being in the South, snow is not something we will expect but we have learned that we are subject to heavy and frequent rainstorms and that creates more challenges to daily life.

- 2025 World Games will be held in Chengdu, China Aug. 7 to 17
- 2025 World Athletics Championships will be held in Tokyo, Japan Sept. 13 to 21.

2025 will be a brave new world and we step forward to see what she will bring! Happy New Year! 🌍

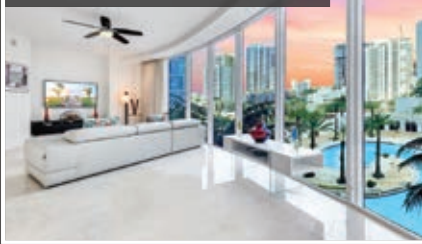


PHOTO BY ECLECTICARTS PHOTOGRAPHY

2025

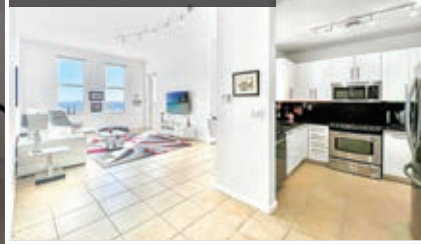
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NURIVER LANDING



2 Br / 2 Bath **\$ 550,000**
Penthouse Level. Breathtaking Views

NURIVER LANDING



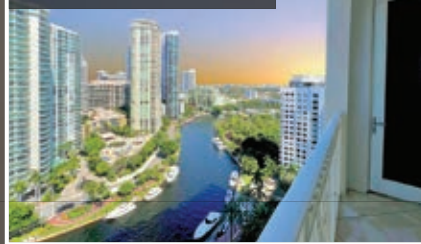
1 Br / 1 Bath **\$ 426,000**
Rare 11' Ceilings. Stunning Views

NURIVER LANDING



3 Br / 2 Bath **\$ 775,000**
Corner Unit. 11' Ceilings. River Views

NURIVER LANDING



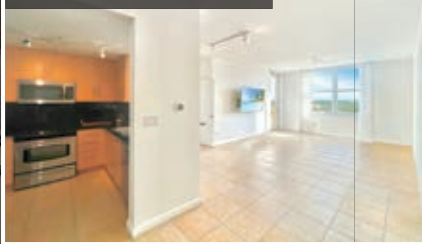
1 Br / 1 Bath **\$ 429,000**
Direct River Views. Rare 11' Ceilings

LAS OLAS BY THE RIVER



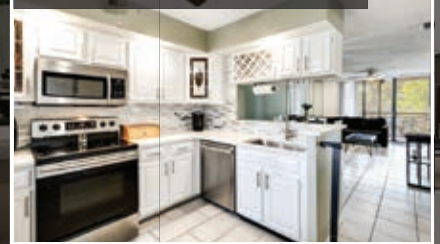
1 Br + Large Den **\$ 329,000**
Rare Impact Glass. Oversized Patio

NURIVER LANDING



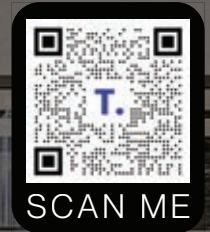
2 Br / 2 Bath **\$ 465,000**
Additional Storage. New bathroom

BONAIRE AT WOODMONT



2 Br / 2 Bath **\$ 237,000**
Gated Community in Tamarac

Happy
New
Year!



Jason Taub

BROKER / OWNER
JASON@TAUBREALESTATE.COM
(954) 663-6032
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RIVERWALK MEMBERSHIP

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



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LOUIS (LOU) DOHERTY
EDGE HOME FINANCE

As a seasoned mortgage broker with more than two decades of experience, I’m looked upon as a trusted expert in mortgage financing. Working with an extensive network of over 150 lenders, clients find that I’m truly committed to securing the most competitive rates and securing the best program to fit their needs and situation. I offer options for a first-time homebuyer up to a seasoned investor.

Originally from the Boston area and a resident of Palm Beach, for over 32 years, I am deeply invested in the South Florida community. I balance family life with a passion for helping others succeed — whether it’s achieving homeownership or developing a thriving investment portfolio.

My process begins with qualifying clients for a mortgage while providing a clear breakdown of costs involved in buying a home and available options they can choose from. This personalized approach ensures clients feel confident and well-informed as they move through the financing journey. Networking is a cornerstone of my marketing strategy, ensuring a steady flow of new clients who benefit from personalized and strategic mortgage solutions.

When not working with clients, I enjoy the sunny South Florida weather, exploring Fort Lauderdale’s vibrant culture, and supporting the Riverwalk community. I have been a Trustee member with Riverwalk since 2018 and can usually be found volunteering at many of the events in Fort Lauderdale.

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS



EXECUTIVE

Michael Weymouth
Carol Tracz
The Las Olas Company

TRUSTEE

Mark Budwig & Nick Scalzo
S.MARK Graphics
Roni & Stuart Stein
Joseph F. Stein Family Foundation Inc.

Lori Wheeler & Patience Cohn
Marine Industries Association of South Florida

Serena Parton Byrne

INDIVIDUAL

Dennis Ulmer
Christopher Brown



PHOTO BY JASON LEIDY

9TH

A N N U A L



RIVERWALK CHILI COOK OFF



**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



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HOLIDAY LIGHTS CRUISE

Riverwalk hosted its annual Holiday Lights Cruise on the Water Taxi on Dec. 10. Attendees took in beautifully decorated homes along the New River while enjoying live music by Jonny Edwards. A very warm thank you to everyone who joined us, and to our sponsors Emily's Garden for providing delicious charcuterie bites, Riverside Market and Stacie Weisman for fun cocktails, and to Ellis Connects and Water Taxi for the beautifully festive evening.



Joe and Nina Cardiello with Luna and Rich Cutlip



Jonny Edwards



Wendy Calvet and Jessica Withum



Clayton and Cristina Riddell



Tom and Mindy Jennings



Shannon Costello and Steve Blake



Barbara Santiago and Ana Correa



Lindsey Clark and Derrick Gruner



Kassie Meiler and Jamie Roberts



Scott Ward and Seth Statler

PHOTOS BY RIVERWALK STAFF

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MORE THAN 110 CHOICES

OUR CITY OFFERS A MULTITUDE OF PLACES TO GET FIT

The City of Fort Lauderdale is dedicated to promoting the health and wellness of its residents offering a diverse range of parks and recreational opportunities. With its scenic beaches lush green spaces and well-maintained facilities Fort Lauderdale encourages both physical activity and mental well-being. The city's parks are designed to foster community engagement and provide accessible outdoor spaces for people of all ages and abilities. Whether it's walking, running, cycling or playing sports, residents and visitors alike can enjoy the numerous amenities available contributing to an active and healthy lifestyle.

Fort Lauderdale boasts more than 110 parks ranging from small neighborhood playgrounds to large regional parks such as Hugh Taylor Birch State Park and Fort Lauderdale Beach Park. These parks offer vast expanses of green space, shaded areas and natural habitats that encourage outdoor exploration. The city's focus on health and wellness is evident in the variety of fitness programs available throughout the parks. From yoga and tai chi classes to boot camps and fitness challenges, these activities promote physical health while also fostering social connections among participants.

The city's commitment to creating active environments is also reflected in the development of several sports complexes. These include fields for soccer, baseball and football as well as tennis courts, basketball courts and swimming pools. Fort Lauderdale's parks are designed to accommodate both individual exercise routines and team sports catering to different interests and fitness levels. The active programming provided within these spaces promotes cardiovascular health, strength, flexibility and overall well-being. Additionally, many parks have playgrounds for children, ensuring that families can engage in outdoor recreation together, enhancing both physical health and family bonding.

In recent years Fort Lauderdale has prioritized wellness initiatives integrating public health resources into park design. Walking trails, fitness zones and bicycle paths encourage residents to incorporate physical activity into their daily routines. The city's network of bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure also ensures that people can safely explore the city and its parks. Fort Lauderdale is committed to making wellness accessible to everyone including those with special needs by ensuring that many parks feature accessible pathways playgrounds and facilities.

Lockhart Park located in District 1 is another key



resource in the city's commitment to health and wellness. The park will feature scenic walking trails providing visitors with a peaceful space for exercise and relaxation. A dedicated dog park will offer a safe and enjoyable environment for pets to socialize and play. Additionally, the park will include multipurpose fields for various sports catering to both casual and organized athletic activities. For fans of pickleball, courts will be added to the facility expanding the opportunities for community members to engage in this growing sport. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2025.

Mental wellness is another important aspect of Fort Lauderdale's health initiatives. The natural beauty of the city's parks, especially those along the waterfront, offers tranquil spaces for relaxation, meditation and stress relief. Nature-based therapies are becoming increasingly popular and parks like the Anne Kolb Nature Center offer a calming environment for individuals to connect with nature. The emphasis on green spaces provides the opportunity for mindfulness activities and encourages residents to slow down and enjoy the therapeutic effects of nature.


Fort Lauderdale's health and wellness vision extends beyond physical spaces with a commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents. By providing a wealth of outdoor recreational spaces, the city supports both the mental and physical health of its residents. The City's parks are an essential part of Fort Lauderdale's overall wellness strategy encouraging people to stay active, reduce stress and connect with nature and their community. With these resources and programs in place, Fort Lauderdale remains a beacon for promoting a healthy lifestyle in a vibrant and supportive environment. 

IMAGE PROVIDED BY CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

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ONE AMAZING SHOW!**

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Grades 2-8 | \$325
Teen Program Grades 9-12 | \$170



FAST FORWARD FORT LAUDERDALE

CREATING A CONNECTED TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

The City’s Transportation & Mobility Department had a spectacular year of accomplishments with even more amazing projects to come this year. The projects assist in moving forward toward the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision that established the goal of creating a connected transportation network for all modes under the direction of the Commission in the approved budget and support of grant applications.

Over the past year I have shared a wide range of the type of work we do here at the Transportation & Mobility Department to move toward that vision every day, including projects involving transit, parking and corridor mobility projects; however, there is not enough time or space to cover everything that is being worked on. Although it is usually never as quickly as anyone would like, we continue to be persistent in advocating for ways to realize the vision of a more connected transportation network that is more efficient and safer by planning for both today and into the future.

The following are some of the key accomplishments from the past year that were highlighted in my look ahead last January:

- Completed the construction of Northeast Fourth Avenue streetscape project.
- Continue to leverage grant funding to implement transportation goals including grants in partnership with the MPO to enhance FEC crossings such as safety at several rail crossings and the feasibility of creating underpasses at several downtown arterials.
- Received several grants from various sources to implement the Northeast 15th Avenue Mobility, LauderTrail projects, as well as ranked for funding for the South Middle River Mobility Project.
- Continued to advocate for enhancements to improve the ability of people to move throughout the City including through the advocacy to FDOT to add pedestrian crossings on U.S. 1 at Northeast Fifth Street and Northeast Seventh Street as well as many other safety enhancements across the city.
- Continued to advocate for funding to complete projects including a \$7 million grant from the MPO for mobility improvements on Southeast/Southwest 17th Street to connect to the future Broward Commuter Rail stop and active participation in the regional Federal Safe Streets for All Grant to ensure that locations within the city are

being studied and included in the effort.

- Commission approved contract to expand micromobility into seven new neighborhoods.

The following is a glance at some of what’s on the horizon for next year based on the Commission’s priorities and approved budget:

- Completion of many parking enhancements including at City Hall Garage, Commercial Street parking lots, and Venice parking lot.
- Riverland Road traffic calming and Northwest 15th Avenue mobility projects will start construction.
- Begin design on the Shady Banks & Tarpon River Mobility, Sidewalk Infill, Southeast/Southwest 17th Street Mobility and Las Olas Mobility projects.
- Complete design for Sunrise Lane and first phases of LauderTrail.
- Continue to advocate to improve the ability of people to move in the City including through grant funding applications and partnerships.

Stay tuned throughout the new year for exciting updates as we continue to work together to create a connected transportation system that is safe and convenient for all users. 

Northeast Fourth Avenue streetscape project in Fort Lauderdale



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

ENDLESS SUMMER 2025 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

PRESENTED BY CHARLES and LAURA PALMER
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CAPTURE YOUR LIFE STORY

VIDEO JOURNALS ONLINE PRESERVES YOUR STORY FOR YEARS TO COME

There is something special about reminiscing with a loved one about their life and the unique path that shaped who they are today. It would be even more meaningful to record and keep those memories for years to come.

Nancy Leve is one person who has found a way to do exactly that and, in turn, now creates priceless mementos for people to remember their loved ones through her business, Video Journals Online.

Leve, who interviews and captures people's life stories on video, originally started her business 25 years ago, but back then, she interviewed her subjects in person.

"I had a small studio in Lighthouse Point, and people would come into the studio, and I would record the interviews on a digital video camera. So, I did that for a few years, and I recorded hundreds of people's stories. It was so rewarding because I knew that when I finished an interview, hundreds of people in that family would benefit from that video," she said.

However, after going through life changes, Leve decided to press pause on this endeavor and instead opted for a

more stable career in digital marketing, which she did for 12 years. That was until one day, she realized that she had lost the passion she once had for her career.


"One day, I woke up, and I said, 'I'm tired of this, and I don't want to do it anymore.' But I didn't want to retire. Then it hit me – Zoom. Everybody knows how to use Zoom, and people don't have to have a video camera in their face. So, that's when Video Journals Online started," said Leve.

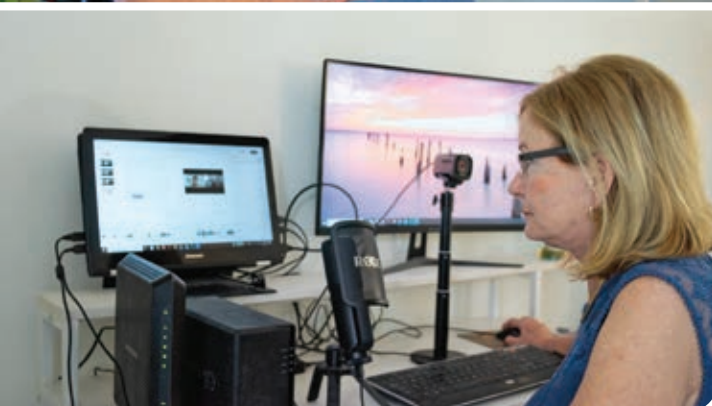
Since relaunching her company, Leve has now captured numerous people's stories with even more ease than before. During a recorded Zoom call, Leve conducts a casual-style interview similar to talking to a friend and asks several questions to capture and record each person's unique life story. For an hour-long interview, the cost is \$600, and a two-hour interview is \$850. Once Leve completes the interview, she edits the video and shares a link for them to download to their computer.

Yet, what makes a Video Journal Online recording unique is that instead of leaving behind a written account of your life, you can leave behind a recording of you telling your story firsthand.

"I hear all these interesting stories, even though lots of times people don't think their stories are that interesting. But what makes these videos special is the fact that we're creating a recording of your life story being told by you while also capturing your facial expressions, hand gestures, and tone of voice, which are just as valuable as the stories themselves," she said.

Video Journals Online are not just meant to memorialize a person's story toward the end of their life. Leve has interviewed people at many different stages in their lives, including engaged couples before their wedding, pregnant women before giving birth, and even children predicting what their life might be like when they're older.

"Something I've learned from doing this is a lot of people wonder how they'll be remembered once they're gone. This is a way to keep your memory alive for your loved ones to treasure long after we're gone," said Leve. 



VIDEO JOURNALS ONLINE

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LISTENING, EVALUATING AND CONNECTING

DANTO'S VISION AS 2025 CHAIR OF THE CHAMBER

I am excited to welcome Debbie Danto, MBA, LEED AP, CGC, as the 2025 board chair of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. Danto's vision for her tenure involves deeply listening to our diverse membership in order to deliver even more value and connection through our programs and events.

Originally from Ohio, Danto moved to South Florida in 2003. When she joined Danto Builders as chief operations officer, she brought extensive business expertise from roles at major corporations like Pizza Hut and Arby's.

Under Debbie and Craig Danto's leadership, Danto Builders has earned multiple accolades, including the

Chamber's 2019 Business of the Year Award and honors from AIA Fort Lauderdale and Architectural Digest.

A true community leader, Danto serves on the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association board and will be recognized by the South Florida Business Journal as a Power Leader for 2025. Together, she and Craig are known for championing the Big Bad BBQ Bash for Special Olympics.

Her energy extends beyond professional and charitable realms — she is also an impressive runner, consistently finishing prestigious marathons and leaving the rest of us in the dust by winning her age group at the 2024 Fort Lauderdale Turkey Trot.

Danto was originally encouraged to get involved at the Chamber by the persistence of staff and fellow members. She quickly embraced the Chamber's events and discovered the wealth of opportunities it provided. She understands all facets of business and is learning more about public policy.

"At first, I wanted a return on my investment. But I realized the Chamber offered so much more — resources, connections, economic impact and incredible people who supported me and my business," Danto said. These relationships proved invaluable for her from both professional and personal standpoints.

Danto's leadership approach — focused on listening — aligns with her servant leadership philosophy and her passion for helping people. She is creating systems for evaluating current offerings, identifying what works, and pinpointing areas for improvement. Maximizing the value of every program, event, and council, ensures that the Chamber will continue to be a vital resource for its members.

"The Chamber serves members with varying interests, businesses and goals. To support them effectively, we must listen to what they need and want," she said.

She is especially enthusiastic about working with the three newest Chamber councils: Council Chamber Advisory Council, Programs and Events Council, and Past Chairs Council.

Danto's advice for new and prospective Chamber members: get involved, build relationships, and be patient.

"You can't just sign up and expect immediate results," she says. "Start without an agenda — volunteer, participate and contribute. By giving, the value will come back to you."



.ArtServe

2025 SCHEDULE



AfriKin
Collaboration **1/31**

ArtServe's 3rd
Annual Impact
Awards **4/25**

WILD: Invasive
Species of
South Florida **5/9**

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Florida
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INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH

IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Our local economy thrives on the water that surrounds us. Preserving and protecting this precious resource is a cause everyone can rally behind.

While local efforts are crucial, coordinated initiatives throughout Florida and beyond are needed to holistically protect global water resources, which will have positive impacts on human and environmental health.

Enter the Marine Research Hub (MRH), headquartered in Fort Lauderdale. MRH plays a pivotal role in elevating innovative solutions through collaborations with businesses, universities, accelerators and philanthropic foundations. MRH supports Blue Economy-focused businesses and startups, bringing innovative solutions to the market.

Whether it's backing the annual Ocean Exchange competition, an accelerator pitch program held annually in Fort Lauderdale (Oct. 26-28, 2025) awarding three \$100,000-award prizes to investable solution-based companies with more than 130 applications worldwide or working directly with innovators in the Blue Economy space MRH executes its mission in diverse and impactful ways.

Take South Florida-based Allini Water Filters, a proud sponsor of the Marine Research Hub. For over 30 years, Allini has been providing clean, purified water to homes, businesses and yachts with its sustainable water filtration systems. Their process mirrors natural biological filtration, ensuring a green approach to clean water.

Allini also joined forces with Informa Markets and the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) to provide healthy, filtered water to more than 100,000 attendees for the second year at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. If you filled up at one of the refill stations scattered throughout the show, you were drinking Allini-filtered water.

Another company tackling health for people and the planet is Cordelia Biosciences, the 2023 Ocean Exchange Collegiate Award winner. This startup was founded by two University of Florida PhD candidates using naturally occurring ocean microbes to replace toxic chemicals found in everyday items like cosmetics and food, focusing on eliminating harmful preservatives and synthetic dyes. Cordelia's efforts not only reduce toxic waste but also cut down on the water and energy needed to produce synthetic chemicals.

And Cordelia isn't depleting the world's oceans to fulfill its mission. Microbes are harvested naturally only one time from a pea-size sample, with future supplies grown in

the lab. This "harvest once" ethos is another way Cordelia contributes to ocean health. Lastly, if these products do end up back in the waterways and ocean, it has no impact because it from nature.

Another Florida-based startup is tackling our health through ocean-based solutions, Soarce. This company uses regenerative plants, seaweed and fruit waste to replace synthetic materials with non-toxic alternatives. Their materials are used in various industries, including textiles, industrial coatings and additives. These solutions provide benefits like fire resistance, UV protection and reduced water and energy use. Soarce is poised to expand into industrial markets, like concrete, composite and automotive coating, replacing traditional toxic additives with plant-based alternatives, which has a positive impact on our health and our waterways.

These companies are just a few examples of how the Marine Research Hub continues to work with innovators to connect the dots that protect the world's Blue Economy throughout South Florida and beyond. [60](#)



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARINE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA



2025 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

WHAT PROPERTY OWNERS NEED TO KNOW

After your initial application for Homestead Exemption has been approved, it automatically renews each year unless there is a change of ownership or eligible use of your homesteaded property. Each January, our office mails a Homestead Renewal Notice and “Change Card” to all homesteaded properties. Florida law requires the property owner to notify the property appraiser of any change which may affect homestead eligibility. This “Change Card” provides an easy way to communicate these important changes to our office.

If there are NO changes to the use and/or ownership of your property, simply keep the card as your receipt that your Homestead Exemption has automatically renewed for another year. However, if there are changes, please mark the Change Card accordingly when you receive it and return it to our office.

If your name is not printed in the “Homesteaded Owners” section on this card, it means you are not protected by Homestead Exemption at this property. You may be on title to your property, but not receiving Homestead Exemption. If you are eligible for Homestead Exemption on this property, but your name is not listed in the homesteaded owner section of the renewal you must complete your own Homestead Exemption application. You can apply online at web.bcpa.net and click on “Exemptions & Classifications.”

If you are a co-owner, surviving spouse, trust beneficiary or otherwise believe you are eligible for this exemption, you must file your own Homestead Exemption application to receive the benefit. If you have any questions relating to the death of the owner, the Change Card or need assistance in filing for Homestead or other tax-saving exemptions, please visit our website at web.bcpa.net or contact our Customer Service Department at (954) 357-6830.

Where did my portability savings go?

A portability deduction is only posted to your property record page in the first year you receive your new Homestead Exemption. The portability savings from the first year form the basis of your new Save Our Homes value on a going forward basis and -- in subsequent years -- will rise or fall based upon market just value changes and the 3 percent cap, as your new Save Our Homes value has incorporated your portability savings. When our website is updated to display subsequent year property values, your portability deduction is no longer shown independently because it is already factored into your new Assessed/Save Our Homes value.


If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at martykiar@bcpa.net. 



PHOTO BY JASON LEIDY

FEEL HEALTHY AND WELL

FUN ACTIVITIES TO PRIORITIZE YOUR HEALTH IN THE NEW YEAR

WRITER MADELAINE K. BOYER

With a new year looming just around the corner, prioritizing our health and wellness is once again on everyone's mind. That's why there's no time like the present to check out some of the many places and groups in Fort Lauderdale offering various activities and experiences that will have you feeling healthy and refreshed.

Gears & Beers/Run Club

At Tarpon River Brewing, beer isn't the only thing you can enjoy on a weeknight. They also offer some great fitness activities for their patrons to enjoy throughout the week. The first is their Gears & Beers event, which takes place every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. and invites guests to join in on a bike ride around downtown Fort Lauderdale. The casual ride stays at a consistent but manageable pace of around 10 to 12 mph.

Riders 21 and older are encouraged to arrive early to grab a beer beforehand. If you can't arrive early, rest assured that riders will return to the brewery around 9 p.m., giving them plenty of time to order a post-ride meal and a beer.

The only rules for the ride are you must wear a helmet, bring bike lights, stay within the lane of the group and respect the rules of the road and the traffic we share it with. If you're not a bike rider, they also offer another great weekly health-focused activity to join in on – their Two-Mile-Tuesday Run Club. The run club takes place every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and invites patrons to run with lots of other passionate runners while taking in a beautiful view of Fort Lauderdale. Upon returning to the brewery, runners can enjoy a free beer. "Our philosophy is 'Run Local, Drink Local, Shop Local' and we always encourage everyone to socialize and meet new people," said Adam Fine, co-owner of Tarpon River Brewing.

COST: Free

ADDRESS: 280 SW 6th St., Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (954) 353-3193

WEBSITE: www.tarponriverbrewing.com



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ADAM FINE/TARPON RIVER BREWING

Float8

Wellness isn't always about moving your body. Sometimes, it's nice to take a break and simply float at a wellness lounge like Float8 in Fort Lauderdale. The lounge offers flotation therapy, which has become all the rage over the years, and involves floating in a large tank filled with 10 inches of water and approximately 1,000 pounds of Epsom salt. The water is maintained at 94.5 degrees, which is considered skin-receptor neutral, meaning you lose track of where your body ends and where the water begins. The tanks are also insulated, blocking out all outside noise, which allows guests to fully relax. Once inside the tank, guests can rest for 60 minutes at \$80 unless they opt for extra time at \$15 for each additional 15 minutes.

"We provide our floaters an experience and the space for introspection and personal growth," said Destiny Beck, co-founder of Float8.

Aside from offering guests a moment of uninterrupted relaxation, it also has numerous health benefits. "Various studies reveal that floating in a state of weightless relaxation can provide a wealth of health benefits. Along with the psychological benefits of float therapy, those who float regularly also enjoy improvements to their physical and emotional well-being," she said. For those who are hooked after their first float, however, they also offer three membership options, including one float every four weeks, four floats every four weeks, or unlimited floats.

COST: Single, \$80; memberships, \$60 to \$400

ADDRESS: 714A NE 13th St.,
Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (954) 869-4034

WEBSITE: www.float8ion.com



Ales & Asanas Yoga

Taking care of your health and wellness doesn't always mean pushing yourself to your limit. Sometimes, it means slowing down and connecting with your body. That's why Ales & Asanas Yoga has been inviting yoga enthusiasts of all levels for the last four years to come out for an easy flow-style class at Tarpon River Brewing. The class takes place every Monday at 6:30 p.m. and is meant to be a more casual atmosphere where both first timers to yoga and experienced yogis can get their flow on.

"We like to think it's not about being able to touch your toes, it's about letting go of your stress, what you learn about yourself, and who you meet along the way," said Alyssa Gruber, owner of Ales & Asanas Inc.

All ages and levels are welcome, but you must be 21 or older to consume alcohol. So, this class is for you if you're curious about yoga but don't like the vibe of a traditional yoga studio and love to move your body but don't take working out so seriously that you won't enjoy a treat afterward. In fact, participants can get a special 20 percent discount on draft beers before or after class.

"Many folks hang out after class to enjoy the great local craft beer or grab a bite to eat, so it's also a social outlet, and it supports small community businesses. Sometimes people even sip while they stretch, and that's ok with us too," said Gruber. Space is limited, so be sure to register.

COST: \$12 in advance, \$20 at the door

ADDRESS: 280 SW 6th St., Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (954) 353-3193

WEBSITE: www.tarponriverbrewing.com



City Cave

When it comes to prioritizing your well-being, it requires more than just moving your body. It's also just as important to take time to do activities that aid in recovery. At least, that's what wellness spas like City Cave aim to do for their clients.

City Cave offers solutions to address some of life's most common challenges that negatively affect our mind, body and spirit. These wellness solutions include float therapy, infrared sauna and massage. Their float therapy experience involves lying in an open pool filled with 1,000 pounds of Epsom salts for an hour, with water heated to match your external body temperature.

They differ from other float therapy spas in that their spa features an open float room with a float pool the size of a double bed. After relaxing and unwinding in their float room, you can then step into one of their infrared saunas, which can provide extensive health benefits, including pain relief, increased circulation, skin purification and muscle relaxation.

COST: \$45 to \$408

ADDRESS: 625 E. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (754) 663-2283

WEBSITE: www.citycave.com



Paddle With A Purpose

Our region has several fun recurring events, and one happens to combine spending time outdoors doing something that supports our health and well-being while also giving back to the community.

Paddle with a Purpose offers exactly that here in Fort Lauderdale. The group meets every third Saturday of the month at Delevoe Park, where they invite people to join them for a fun day of recreational water sports and cleaning up our beautiful waterways.

Upon arrival at 9 a.m., volunteers can choose either a kayak or a paddleboard and take to the water to remove trash directly from the water. In just a year, volunteers have removed more than 13,500 pounds of trash from the north fork of the New River. Some of the trash collected has included all sorts of items like tires, fire extinguishers, and even a kitchen sink.

The only requirements are that volunteers are at least 15 years old and you RSVP in advance. All tools will be provided, but it is recommended that volunteers wear proper attire that they do not mind getting dirty, including a t-shirt, pants, closed-toed shoes, a hat, and sunscreen, as well as bring snacks, water, and a pair of garden gloves for easier cleanup. Other than that, get ready for a fun day outdoors filled with friends and helping keep our waterways clean for everyone to enjoy.

COST: Free

ADDRESS: 2520 NW 6th St., Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (954) 998-7618

WEBSITE: www.robertjfigueroa.wixsite.com/paddle



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SPONSORS



FORT LAUDERDALE 'PASSES GO'

FEATURE

THE OFFICIAL FORT LAUDERDALE
MONOPOLY BOARD UNVEILED

WRITER MADELAINE K. BOYER

Mr. Monopoly made a trip back to Fort Lauderdale for an extra special event – the unveiling of the brand-new Monopoly: Fort Lauderdale Edition. At the unveiling on Dec. 16, Mr. Monopoly arrived alongside Mayor Dean Trantalis at the Riverside Hotel in style in a Rolls Royce provided by the Fort Lauderdale Collection South. From there, they joined guests on the eighth floor of the iconic hotel, where attendees sipped on beer, wine and soft drinks, snacked on hors d'oeuvres like mini spanakopita and bacon-wrapped scallops and posed for photos with Mr. Monopoly himself.

Next, Mayor Trantalis took to the podium to address the crowd and reflect on what an important and special moment this is for Fort Lauderdale.

“We’re so fortunate to have the folks at Top Trumps bring this game that many of us grew up with to our city. This is an amazing opportunity for the city to promote itself because here in Fort Lauderdale, we have so much to be proud of and we’re very thankful to everybody who contributed to this,” he said.

Afterward, it was time for the moment everyone had been waiting for – the big reveal.

The producers of the Fort Lauderdale edition received more than 10,000 suggestions for businesses, restaurants and landmarks to be included on the game board. Numerous Fort Lauderdale locales made the edition, including the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Riverside Hotel, Stranahan House, Winterfest Boat Parade, Riverwalk, Mai Kai and Fort Lauderdale Beach, just to name a few. Even the Brightline is highlighted as two of the four railroads.

WHERE TO FIND IT

Monopoly: Fort Lauderdale Edition

retails for \$44.99 and is now available for purchase online at www.us.toptrumps.com. It will also be available soon at national retailers, including Barnes & Noble and Amazon.



Danielle Rice, Jared Illa, Ann Marie Fox, JoyEl Duff, Genia Duncan Ellis, Madelaine Boyer, Jeremy Collette and Richard Rodriguez.



PHOTO BY JASON LEIDY

The Fort Lauderdale Monopoly board was unveiled at an event Dec. 16.

ADVERTISE IN

GO RIVERWALK

FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

WHAT WE DO!

Go Riverwalk Magazine connects our readers with all facets of Fort Lauderdale:

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- Citywide array of social, cultural and neighborhood events
- The world-class business and professional community
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For advertising information, contact

Mark Budwig,
Publisher

(954) 523-1980

Advertising@GoRiverwalk.com



MEET THE COMMISSION

FORT LAUDERDALE WELCOMES NEWLY SWORN-IN LEADERSHIP

WRITER CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

Fort Lauderdale's newly sworn-in City Commission is made up of leaders with deep roots in the City and a long history of civic involvement. The Commission will continue its work overseeing the City's growth and daily operations.

Here's a closer look:



Mayor Dean Trantalis

Dean Trantalis returns for his third and final term as mayor. First elected as mayor in 2018, he has presided over significant infrastructure improvements, the transformation of Downtown, and the creation of new public amenities. Previously, he served eight years on the City Commission, representing District 2. Mayor Trantalis serves on several influential boards, including the Broward County Tourism Development Council and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. His dedication to equality and community service has earned him numerous honors, including being the inaugural honoree of the Diversity Honors awards by the Harvey Milk Foundation.



Commissioner John Herbst, District 1

John C. Herbst, CPA, Commissioner for District 1, brings extensive experience in finance and public service. He established the City of Fort Lauderdale City Auditor's Office in 2006, overseeing audits and advising the City Commission on financial matters until 2016. Prior to coming to Fort Lauderdale, Herbst held executive level positions in both the private sector and in the cities of Jacksonville and Neptune Beach. He was first elected to the Commission in 2022.



Vice Mayor/Commissioner Steven Glassman, District 2

Steven Glassman is in his third and final term representing District 2 and currently serves as Vice Mayor. A dedicated public servant and community advocate, Glassman previously served as President of the Central Beach Alliance for seven years and was a member of the City's Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board and the Planning and Zoning Board. He's also served in various civic leadership positions, including President and founder of the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation.




Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, District 3

Pam Beasley-Pittman, a proud Fort Lauderdale native, is deeply invested in her community. Before joining the City Commission, she served as President of the Historic Dorsey Riverbend Civic Association, advocating for neighborhood development and unity. With 32 years of civilian service with the Broward County Sheriff's Office, Beasley-Pittman brings extensive experience in public safety and community service. She is also the Founder and CEO of the Unified Central Broward Neighborhoods Alliance.



Commissioner Ben Sorensen, District 4

Ben Sorensen returns to the Commission after previously representing District 4 from 2018-2022. A dedicated leader with a background in military service and community involvement, Sorensen has worked with residents to solve key city issues. He currently serves as a Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander and is on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward and History Fort Lauderdale. Ben and his wife, Anna, are proud parents of two daughters.

Fort Lauderdale is poised for continued growth and positive change under the leadership of its newly sworn-in City Commission. 



The Beach is Just Where The Day Begins

A dip. A sip. A view. An airboat tour through the swamps. Oysters by the dock. Full moon kayaking to wrap the day. Greater Fort Lauderdale is called that for a reason. Whether it's a family trip, a romantic getaway, or just a quick layover, there's always something greater waiting for you here.



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[VisitLauderdale.com](https://www.VisitLauderdale.com)

REFLECTIONS THROUGH TIME

PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR JASON LEIDY CHANGES FOCUS

Jason Leidy and his photos have been synonymous with Go Riverwalk Magazine since the beginning of the magazine. From documenting Riverwalk events to styling fashion and cuisine shoots, Jason's beautiful photography has graced the magazine's covers and pages for years.

Now our favorite photographer has decided to explore options for the next chapter in his professional life and will be spending less time photographing for the magazine. He's not leaving the area and we're confident he'll still be the man about town. We wish him all the best on whatever he focuses on next.

— Lynn Peithman Stock, Executive Editor



Winterfest White Party in 2013 with Genia Duncan Ellis



Get Downtown 2010 with Renée K. Quinn



Magazine dream team with Lynn Peithman Stock and Genia Duncan Ellis



Second-to-last Space Shuttle on May 16, 2011, with Lynn Peithman Stock



Riverwalk Cruise with Mark Budwig and Margarethe Sorensen in 2015



Winterfest Boat Parade in 2012 with partner Eric Bader



School of Rock in 2021



Renée K. Quinn and the "Ugly Sisters," Jonny Altobell and Penny Sanfilippo



At the 2024 Artserve Impact Awards

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY RIVERWALK STAFF

SNAPPED@ WINTERFEST 2024

FOR MONTHS LEADING UP TO THE ACTUAL BOAT PARADE, WINTERFEST HOSTS SEVERAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE



Lacey Rollins Brisson, Greg Barretta, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis, Jared Illa, Genia Duncan Ellis and Ann Fox



Bill Walker and Katie Donahue



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EMILY'S GARDEN

A WELCOMING EATERY IN DOWNTOWN FORT LAUDERDALE

WRITER JOYEL DUFF

Editor's note: This month, we continue our feature in which Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale employees, board members and friends share a local restaurant they particularly enjoy. Perhaps you'll discover a new favorite as well. Opinions are the writer's own. JoyEl Duff is administrative manager at Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale.

The owners of Pummarola have transformed the old O-B House into Emily's Garden, a magical oasis that transports you away from Downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Walking into the building you feel like you are in a comfy Italian family villa that you want to spend hours relaxing in. The most amazing surprise awaits outside where the old parking lot was. Plants, tables with butterfly chairs and a sand bocce court bring you into your favorite neighbor's backyard. Sunshades and fans all over keep the temperature less tropical.

The entrance features a classic European car whose secret is that it is a gelato stand. Please try all the flavors and see if you can pick a favorite because I can't!

Choose a table and use the QR code to see the menu. The restaurant features menu items from partners River Café, Patio Tapas & Beer, Pummarola pizza and On The Run Coffee. It's hard to decide!

For dinner, we had the garden pizza. It was full of fresh mushrooms, zucchini, bell peppers and the freshest whole milk mozzarella I've ever tasted. The crust was crispy while everything else just melts in your mouth. This was followed by a smoky octopus and rosemary focaccia.

Quite possibly my favorite menu item is the grilled cheese. I've had this on several occasions. Lots of sharp cheddar with a twist of black pepper and hint of honey are surrounded by house made sourdough heaven. It was plated with a garden salad and various house pickled veggies. The caprese panini is also rather scrumptious.

Honestly, everything we ordered here has been wonderful. Bertha has a mobile coffee bar in the garden that serves the best coffee and teas in the city. My favorite is a large Americano with dark chocolate melted in it ... hot chocolate without those extra calories! The breakfast sandwich and American breakfast are cooked to perfection and will fill you with good energy for the rest of your day.

Beyond food, the Emily's Garden wine selection will satisfy anyone. They also do a monthly wine tasting that should be on everyone's calendar. Probably my favorite part of the garden is the wine container. This must be seen in person to fully appreciate the imagination that built it. The restaurant offers personal cabinet rentals and has a monthly wine and charcuterie club. Next to the wine container is another shipping container converted into a stage for live music complete with a vintage motorcycle table.

The owners, management and staff are all very knowledgeable and some of the friendliest people in the Fort Lauderdale restaurant industry. They have created a much-needed welcoming space in the downtown area. It's fun to watch people come in and sit with a glass of wine while the kids go play. Then they start walking around and end up meeting new friends and all sitting together. You will leave already thinking about your next visit. 🍷



WANT TO GO?

Emily's Garden

LOCATION: 327 S.W. 2nd St., Fort Lauderdale

PHONE: (954) 955-9582

WEBSITE: www.emilysgarden.us

PARKING: Street and downtown lots

COST: \$

THE VIBE: Relaxing and comfortable, inviting



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JANUARY 3

Jim Gaffigan

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www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

JANUARY 4

15th Annual Riverwalk Stone Crab & Seafood Festival

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Esplanade Park
954-468-1541
www.goriverwalk.com/seafood



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www.browardcenter.org

Sixtiesmania — A Journey Through the Sixties

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www.parkerplayhouse.com

JANUARY 5



Herman's Hermits

Starring Peter Noone
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JANUARY 8

Gold Coast Jazz

Shelly Berg Trio, Alegria! Happiness & More
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JANUARY 10

Rapunzel: Smart Stage Matinee Series

An enticing classic complete with the long-haired beauty
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Jowell & Randy

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www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Paula Poundstone

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JANUARY 11

Judy Collins

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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

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JANUARY 12



Styx

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Pink Martini featuring China Forbes

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www.browardcenter.org

Songfest Broward

Swan Songs, poignant final works of legendary composers
Florida Grand Opera
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305-854-1643
www.fgo.org

JANUARY 15



Cirque Kalabante: Afrique en Cirque

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JANUARY 16

South Florida Symphony Orchestra

Leonard Bernstein's Candide
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
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www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 17

Al Di Meola

Bonafide living guitar legend inducted into the Gallery of Greats
The Parker
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Billy Joel

New York's iconic native
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www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Paul Mercurio's Permission to Speak

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www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 17-18

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets in Concert

Live symphony orchestra performing John Williams' iconic score
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 18

Miami Comedy Festival

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www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

The Screwtape Letters

Acclaimed and faithful adaptation of C.S. Lewis' satiric masterpiece
The Parker
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www.parkerplayhouse.com

JANUARY 19

Fort Lauderdale Flow Fest

Annual festive gathering featuring workshops in flow and circus
Monkey Dust Productions
Esplanade Park
561-704-0054
www.flowfests.com

Joe Gatto: Let's Get Into It

Well-known comedian, actor and producer
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

JANUARY 20

King Holiday Parade & Festival

Multicultural Unity Festival
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5th Ave and Sistrunk to
Carter Park
954-828-5365
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov



Keb' Mo'

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JANUARY 21



Hot Tuna: Acoustic

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Hope & Triumph

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www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 22

An Evening with Josh Gad

In Gad We Trust
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954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Dweezil Zappa

The Rox(Postro)phy Tour
The Parker
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www.parkerplayhouse.com

JANUARY 23

Jessica Kirson

Dynamic force in comedy
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JANUARY 24-25



Jerry Seinfeld

Award winning comedian and actor
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www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

JANUARY 24

Jon McLaughlin and Eric Hutchinson

The Just the Two of Us Tour
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org



Rumours ATL: A Fleetwood Mac Tribute

Electrifying renditions of Fleetwood Mac songs
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JANUARY 25

Al Stewart and Livingston Taylor

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Meet Loaf: The Ultimate Tribute to Meat Loaf

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Community singers that'll ignite your spirit
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www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov



Jeff Leeson

Combining traditional stand up comedy with long form improv
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

JANUARY 26

Rhythm by the River

A festival celebrating black voices
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Esplanade Park
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Pete the Cat

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Yacht Rock Revue

World's premier soft-rock party band
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JANUARY 29



Step Afrika!

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JANUARY 31

The Brit Pack: Decades of British Invasion Hits

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Robert Jon & The Wreck

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www.browardcenter.org

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

Capturing the hearts and souls of fans for more than 60 years
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

FEBRUARY 1

3rd Annual Fort Lauderdale International Book Fair

Celebrating words, stories and the magic of literature
Fort Lauderdale International Book Fair
Esplanade Park
754-837-1298
www.ftlbookfair.org

The Doo Wop Project

Tracing the evolution of Doo Wop
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Dude Dad: On Thin Ice

Colorado-based video creator and viral sensation
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

FEBRUARY 2



Seminole Tribal Fair & Pow Wow

Free Event & The Frontmen Concert
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Jim Brickman: Hits Live! in Concert

Grammy-nominated songwriter
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

Chris Botti

Grammy Award-winning master trumpeter and composer
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

FEBRUARY 6



Mandy Patinkin in Concert

Being Alive with Adam Ben-David on Piano
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

FEBRUARY 7

Foghat

New date for June 15 postponement
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

FEBRUARY 8

9th Annual Riverwalk Chili Cook-off

Sample chilis from local amateur and professional chefs
Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale
Esplanade Park
954-468-1541
www.goriverwalk.com/chili



Burton Cummings of the Original The Guess Who

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

FEBRUARY 11



Mary J. Blige

The For My Fans Tour with NE-YO & Mario
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass & Other Delights

In honor of the 60th anniversary of their iconic LP
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

FEBRUARY 12

South Florida Symphony Orchestra

Don Juan | Strauss & Berlioz
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Gold Coast Jazz: Michael Kaeshammer, Turn It Up

Acclaimed Canadian virtuoso pianist and singer
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

FEBRUARY 13

Florida Grand Opera: The Elixir of Love

Love can indeed lead to some ridiculous situations
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

FEBRUARY 14



Kathleen Madigan

The Day Drinking Tour
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

FEBRUARY 15

Kijiji Moja

An immersive experience, celebrating diverse cultures
City of Fort Lauderdale
Lincoln Park
954-828-5365
www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov



Gilberto Santa Rosa

The Gentleman of Salsa
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
954-779-3990
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Florida Grand Opera: The Elixir of Love

Love can indeed lead to some ridiculous situations
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org



DDA presents The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra

One of the best swing orchestras in the world
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

Anthropologist's Delight

Through January 3
What do artist's wish their artistic legacy will be?
ArtServe
954-462-8190
www.ArtServe.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

The Water Taxi Holiday Lights Cruise

Through January 4
This festive journey showcases the beauty of our famous waterways
Water Taxi
Water Taxi Stop 1/Riverside Hotel
954-467-6677
www.watertaxi.com

Scooby-Doo Mansion Mayhem

Through January 5
Work alongside Mystery Inc. to solve the case of the jewel-thieving ghost
Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital
Museum of Discovery and Science
954-467-6637
www.mods.org



Slow Burn Theatre Co: Anastasia: The Musical

Through January 5
Inspired by the beloved films
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

Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum: The Exhibit

January 17-May 11
Based on the children's book series, "Ordinary People Change the World"
Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital
Museum of Discovery and Science
954-467-6637
www.mods.org



A Beautiful Noise

January 21-February 2
The Neil Diamond musical
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

MODJ: Pause for Laughter Tour

February 6-18
One of the comedy circuit's most sought-after performers
The Parker
954-462-0222
www.parkerplayhouse.com

Slow Burn Theatre Co: Parade

February 8-23
Parade reminds us that to love, we must truly see one another
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
954-462-0222
www.browardcenter.org

IGNITE Broward 2025

February 14-23
Annual festival featuring spectacular displays of art, light and technology
Broward County Cultural Division
Esplanade Park & Riverwalk/MAD Arts
954-357-6705
www.ignitebroward.com

ONGOING



Programming for all ages:

- Arts and crafts
 - Book club and storytime
 - Education, literacy and writing
 - Finances and career
 - Technology and science
 - Yoga, Tai Chi
- 954-357-6555
www.broward.org/library



EVENTS CONNECTION



Recreation for all ages:

- After-school and Camps
- Camping, hiking and nature
- Swimming and water recreation
- Court games and sports fields
- Running, biking and fitness

954-357-1100

www.broward.org/parks

ArtServe

Classes and Workshops:

- Adult Acting & Modeling
- Painting & Drawing
- Fitness & Tai Chi

954-462-8190

www.artserve.org

Fort Lauderdale Segway Tours

Daily | Reservation required
Take a one or two-hour Segway tour on the Riverwalk. Training Provided.

954-304-5746

www.segwayfortlauderdale.com



Programming for all ages:

- Tennis, Aquatics & Athletics
- After-school & Camps
- Classes & Programs
- Cultural Arts & Club 55+

954-828-7275

www.parks.fortlauderdale.gov

Guided Museum Tours

Monday-Friday | Times vary
Tours of Fort Lauderdale's oldest surviving structure
Historic Stranahan House Museum

954-524-4736

www.stranahanhouse.org



Programming for all ages:

- Times and availability varies
- Florida Panthers Open Practice
- Public skating
- Adult, Youth & Girls Hockey
- Camps & Clinics

FTL War Memorial

954-835-7080

www.ftlwarremorial.com

Interpretive Walks and Tours

Friday & Saturday
Interpretive ranger-guided programs
Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

954-564-4521

www.floridastateparks.org

The MKT at The LOOP

Saturdays & Sundays
Featuring small and local vendors with live music and more!
Las Olas Oceanside Park

www.theloopflb.com



Circle of Life Experience

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



Sunny Days/Starry Nights

First Thursday
Free admission and 2-4-1 Happy Hour

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 quadricycle 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

MEMBERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE!

When you become a member of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, you are not just showing your support for a valuable community asset, you also receive some great benefits in return. These benefits include invitations to exclusive receptions held at unique locations around the city and a listing in Go Riverwalk magazine. Members also receive discounts on hotels and attractions across the U.S.

Support Riverwalk and you support your community!

For more information, go to www.GoRiverwalk.com/membership or call (954) 468-1541 or email membership@goriverwalk.com



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2681 West McNab Road
Pompano Beach, FL 33069



DÉJÀ VU GOES COUNTRY

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County raised \$400,000 at Déjà Vu Goes Country, presented by JM Family Enterprises and hosted by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Proceeds of the event support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward’s mentoring programs.



JOHN CORRADO WITH HIS LITTLE BROTHER PATRELL



SUSAN RENNEISEN AND MARLENE WILLIAMS



CHIP LAMARCA AND EILEEN LAMARCA WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

PROVIDED BY LITTLE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

GUY HARVEY FOUNDATION

Guy Harvey Foundation recognizes ocean conservation advocates during annual Love the Blue Gala.



PAOLO COEN, RECIPIENT OF THE CONSERVATION AWARD FOR AN OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL, AND JESSICA HARVEY



BRYNN HILL, LILY MILLS, AMY HILL, JIM HILL AND SOPHIA HILL



FRANK JENKINS, GUY HARVEY, CHERYL COPHAM, GILLIAN HARVEY, DAVE COPHAM AND PIERRE AUSSET

PROVIDED BY MICHAEL MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

BROWARD PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION

The Broward Performing Arts Foundation kicked off the 2024-2025 season at its annual reception, where guests were treated to a performance of a real-life "Lion King" story by Zoo Miami's "Goodwill Ambassador," Ron Magill.



ANN BURRIS, RON MAGILL, LISA KITEI AND TY SUTTON



CHARLIE LADD, VALERIE PERU AND SANDY AND PERRY STAMOS



SONEET KAPILA, SUSAN AND BARRY SOMERSTEIN AND PRABODH KAPILA

PROVIDED BY DOWNTOWN PHOTO



XAVIER RIDDLE

AND THE SECRET MUSEUM

THE EXHIBIT



PRESENTED BY

**Joe DiMaggio
Children's Hospital**



January 17 – May 11

Exhibit included with Museum admission.



Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum: The Exhibit was generously made possible by the Crawford Taylor Foundation.
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mods.org @modsftl



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