



Town Topics

THE PRETTIEST
SMALL TOWN
IN AMERICA

www.lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov

LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA'S OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2005

Town News

CHRISTMAS-BY-THE-SEA

Christmas-By-The-Sea, A Journey To Candy Land, will be held from 3 to 10 PM on Dec. 6th. This is an official **Winterfest** event.

Christmas-By-The-Sea will feature choirs, hand bells, carolers and bands. Drop by the Peppermint Forest or venture over to Gumdrop Mountain to see Santa.

There will be hayrides, sidewalk sales and the lighting of the Town's giant Christmas tree. Don't forget to bring the entire family to see it snowing at Commercial Boulevard and the beach.

For more information, please call the Chamber of Commerce at 954-776-1000.

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!

Santa Claus is coming to Town! Children can get their picture taken with **St. Nick** on Saturday, Dec. 17th at **Marie**



White's Santa's Coming to Town event.

The picture taking session will take place from **12 to 3 PM** on Commercial Boulevard at the

beach.

Photo processing will be done courtesy of Walgreens. In addition to pictures, there will also be free gifts for children.

Community learns preparation lessons from Hurricane Wilma

□ BSO Chief Scott Gooding said residents who remain in Town need enough food, water and gas to survive for at least three days.

Broward Sheriff's Office Chief **Scott Gooding** said the community learned some valuable lessons from the direct hit it received from **Hurricane Wilma**.

"Many people did not prepare," he said. "I don't even think some people had candles."

Shortly after Hurricane Wilma — a Category 2 storm when it reached the east coast of South Florida on Oct. 24th — some Town residents were out driving around looking for food or gas, Gooding said. Other residents called BSO that very same day seeking water and ice.

Clearing streets blocked by downed power lines, broken tree limbs and other debris is dangerous enough without drivers trying to navigate around emergency personnel working under already hazardous conditions.

Gooding said residents must realize they need enough food, water and

(See **RECOVERY** on Page 4)

Town to create CRA to help spur business revitalization

To help spur downtown revitalization, the **Town Commission** — following a path taken by other cities — approved moving forward to create a **Community Redevelopment Agency**.

"The CRA's mission, in a nutshell, is to revitalize the business community within Lauderdale-By-The-Sea," said **David Nixon**, chairman of the **Economic Development Task Force** created by the Commission in June to conduct research and then recommend the best structure to accomplish that mission. Other task force members include residents **Jack Cooney** and **Michael Arker**.

"We think a CRA is the ideal structure to initiate programs that help existing business be more successful and enable us to attract vibrant new businesses, including upscale hotels, restaurants, retail stores and others to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea," Nixon said.

The area included in the Town's CRA would include Commercial Boulevard from the Intracoastal bridge to the beach, and the area running on the north-south line of Bougainville Drive and Poinciana Street east to the beach, including State Road A1A and El Mar Drive.

It is expected to take nine months to get all the necessary governmental approvals to establish the CRA. □

TOWN DIRECTORY



Mayor
Oliver Parker
 Vice Mayor
Ed Kennedy
 Mayor Pro Tem
Chuck Clark
 Commissioners
David Wessels
John Gianni

Town Manager
Robert Baldwin
 Town Attorney
James Cherof
 Town Clerk
Alina Medina
 Finance Director
Esther Colon
 Municipal Services Director
Bill Mason
 Development Services Director
Harry Diehl
 Broward Sheriff's Office
Chief Scott Gooding
 Fire Administrator
Frank Buchert
 Volunteer Fire Chief
Ian MacLean
 Town Chaplain
Rev. John Handrahan
 Public Information Officer
Steve d'Oliveira

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
 4501 Ocean Drive
 LBTS, FL 33308
 Tel: 954-776-0576

TOWN TOPICS

Town Topics is published at the beginning of each month. Information or ads can be dropped off at Town Hall or submitted via e-mail to the Town's Public Information Office at lbtspio@yahoo.com.

Trimming yard trees damaged by storms

Homeowners and commercial property owners are advised there are Broward County Code requirements and recognized industry standards for trimming trees.

Photographs should be taken in all situations regarding removal or trimming of storm damaged trees. Trees may need to be replaced if properties fall below minimum landscape code standards.

Brochures are available to assist owners in the selection of suitable trees to replace lost tree canopy.

For brochures and questions on removing or trimming storm damaged trees, please contact 954-519-1230. You can also visit www.hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning.

The Web site contains a wealth of practical information pertaining to the management of uprooted, leaning and storm-damaged trees, corrective and preventative pruning and tips for hiring a licensed tree care professional.

The removal of toppled, uprooted but standing or severely storm-damaged (loss or damage of more than 50 percent of the canopy) trees or nuisance trees — as defined by County Code — do not require a contractor possessing a Broward County Tree Trimmer's License.

Viable trees may require licensing for removal, and trimming must be done by a licensed trimmer.

Poor quality trimming may result in further damage that could otherwise be restored. Trimming by unlicensed trimming contractors must be limited to the removal of storm damaged limbs, not corrective pruning.

Property owners who trim their own trees are exempt from this requirement. However, they are still expected to observe recognized standards for trimming trees.

To find out if a contractor is a licensed Broward County Tree Trimmer, call 954-519-1456. You can also visit www.broward.org/bio/

MEETINGS GUIDE

Town Commission

DEC. 13 - 7 PM

*DEC. 27 - 7 PM

This meeting will probably be cancelled.

Town Commission regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in Jarvis Hall. Pre-meeting agenda conferences start at 6 PM and are open to the public.

Board of Adjustment

Meets as needed on the third Tuesday of the month at 3 PM

Planning & Zoning

Meets as needed on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM

DEC. 21 - 6:30 PM

Parking Hearing

NO MEETING

Code Compliance

Meets as needed on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2 PM

Master Plan Steering Committee

DEC. 19 - 6 PM

TOWN MEETING DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PUBLIC ACCESS

- The Town Commission agenda and related backup materials are available for review in Town Hall during business hours (9AM - 4:30 PM). The agenda is posted on our Web site: www.lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov
- Commission meetings are televised live on Channel 78. Meetings are also re-broadcast at noon on Wednesday, Friday and the following Monday.
- The Town will provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services as required under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. **Town Topics** will be read, upon request, to those persons with visual impairments. Persons with disabilities should contact the Town Clerk at 954-776-0576 for further assistance in accessing Town information important to you.

HURRICANE WILMA

Town enacts emergency permit program

The **Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** has implemented an **Emergency Permit Program** to allow residents and businesses to begin needed repairs as quickly as possible in the wake of **Hurricane Wilma**.

Storm damage repairs may begin once a "Notification to perform emergency services affidavit" has been submitted and approved by the Town's **Department of Development Services**. Thirty days after the affidavit is filed, a permit application must be submitted. The permit application must include the drawings and all other required documents. Inspection reports will be accepted from qualified professionals for the work performed. The **Broward County Building Department** will perform the final inspection.

Electrical work must be "tagged"

EMERGENCY REPAIRS

The following type of emergency repairs may be authorized:



- Roof.
- Fence repair or replacement
- Electric service weather head replacement.
- Window and door replacement or repair.
- Water heater replacement.
- Plumbing supply line repair.

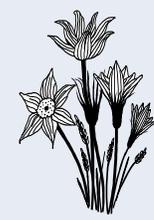
by the contractor who did the work showing the company name, license number, insurance information and scope of the work performed. Electrical work is hazardous and should be undertaken only by a licensed professional. For more information, call 954-776-3611. □

Garden Club set to meet on Dec. 12th

The **Lauderdale-By The Sea Garden Club** will meet on **Monday, Dec. 12th at 10 AM** in **Jarvis Hall**. The club will host its annual **Holiday Luncheon and Plant Exchange**.

Please plan on dropping by for this festive gathering. Bring any potted plant to participate in the Plant Exchange. Lunch is \$13.

Following the noon luncheon will be the club's **Holiday Make & Take**, where those participating will make centerpieces to grace your holiday table! The fee for members is \$10. The guest fee is \$13. For more info or for reservations, contact **Christine Carlson** at 954-290-5609. □



CORAL RIDGE BASEBALL REGISTRATION

ALL LBTS RESIDENTS AGES 5 to 18 ARE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY

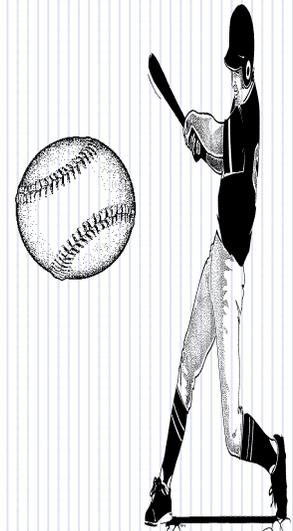
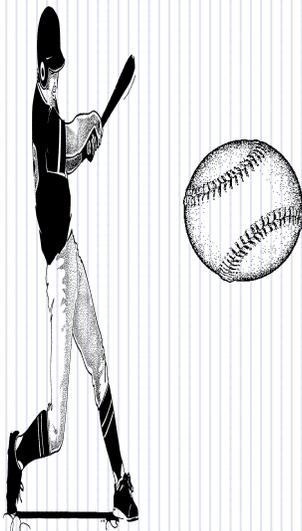
REGISTRATION DATES & COST

- NOV. 19TH - 9 AM to NOON: \$95
- DEC. 10TH - 9 AM to NOON: \$105
- JAN. 14TH - 9 AM to NOON: \$120

**SIGN UP AT BAYVIEW PARK
IN FORT LAUDERDALE,
SOUTH OF COMMERCIAL
NEXT TO THE CHURCH!**

FOR MORE INFO, CALL 954-263-6065.

www.coralridgelittleleague.com



RECOVERY (continued from Page 1)

gas to last a minimum of three days, when essential services knocked out by the hurricane will start to return, such as the opening of supermarkets and gas stations.

"We prepare to be self-sufficient for five to seven days," Gooding said.

He said Town residents need to realize they live on a barrier island with no schools, hospitals or **Florida Power & Light** substations. In other words, there is no urgency for Broward emergency personnel to worry about restoring services to our Town right away.

The Town's delivery point for water and ice was originally located outside the Town, but it was changed to across the street from Town Hall after Town officials asked the County to make it more convenient for local residents.

Hurricane Wilma knocked down numerous trees and power lines. It also damaged a number of buildings in Town, causing some structural damage.

The Town's **Weatherbug station** at BSO's headquarters in Town recorded top sustained winds of 86 mph. However, Gooding said wind gusts were higher. **Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport** recorded 118 mph winds.

Because Wilma was approaching from Florida's west coast, storm surge did not pose as grave a threat to coastal communities. As a result, the **Broward County Emergency Operations Center** did not issue a mandatory evacuation order, which it normally does when a hurricane warning is issued when a storm is approaching from the east.

Gooding said he believes BSO and Town officials need to be self-sufficient for five to seven days, because help won't come quickly if we get hit by a Category 4 or Category 5 storm, which would probably cause enough storm surge to flood the Town between the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway.

The big problem with Hurricane Wilma was its huge size. The storm knocked out power to 6 million

ASK LORI PARRISH

Q: I own a home in Deerfield Beach that sustained \$8,000 in damage from Hurricane Wilma. We have a \$9,950 deductible, about five percent of our home value. Can we possibly get a property tax break from this disaster?

A: Unfortunately, none yet exists. This does not mean Broward residents badly impacted by the storm will not be able to receive some property tax relief. The **Florida Legislature** met in special session last year and approved tax breaks for the victims of the 2004 hurricanes, but the tax relief was limited to those victims.

Any post-hurricane property tax relief would require passage by the

Florida Legislature of a new law covering Hurricane Wilma's victims.

If the Legislature adopts a similar law for us, your home would have to be uninhabitable for a period of at least 60 days and the damage to your property would have to drop your market value below your **Save Our Homes** taxable value.

Rest assured we will support any effort to bring storm-related tax relief to Broward taxpayers. Until then, there is no available "hurricane tax breaks." If you support these proposals, be sure to contact your state legislators.

Lori Parrish

Broward Property Appraiser

Tel: 954-357-6904

people in Florida, including 3.2 million FP&L customers.

"This was just so huge," said **Town Fire Administrator Frank Buchert**, who is also in charge of coordinating the Town's compliance with federal emergency plans.

Buchert said the Town's emergency plans worked well, especially in light of the fact that Broward County had not suffered a direct hit by a hurricane in decades.

"With the experience of going through Wilma, we will review our plans and be even better prepared next time," Buchert said. "We also

need to ensure we comply with federal emergency guidelines."

With phone lines out, communication between BSO and the Town needs to be improved, Gooding said.

BSO Fire Battalion Chief Don King said residents relied on firefighters to hand out water and ice, which they were glad to do. However, he said that would not be possible if a bigger storm had required fire personnel to handle numerous medical and fire calls.

Town Hall opened on Tuesday, the day after the storm was over. Phones were not restored for several days, but a generator provided Town Hall with power.

Municipal Services Director Bill Mason said **Public Works** crews began clearing roads on Monday afternoon as soon as the storm winds dropped to 30 mph.

The only Town building to sustain any serious damage was the Town's Public Works Garage on Dixie Highway near Commercial Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. The building sustained roof damage.

Town Manager Robert Baldwin will meet with Gooding, Buchert and other administrators to hear their recommendations for what the Town and public safety personnel need to do to prepare if another hurricane threatens us. □

HURRICANE EXPO PLANNED

The **Town** plans to sponsor a hurricane supply and information expo in June to coincide with Florida's first **Hurricane Supplies Tax Holiday** (June 1 - June 12).

Town Manager Robert Baldwin said the event will allow Town residents to meet and talk with hurricane supply experts and vendors to ask questions about generators, hurricane shutters and a variety of other emergency supplies. Residents would also be able to purchase these items if they so desire.

Details for the Town hurricane expo are still being worked out. More information will be published in Town Topics about this event as it becomes available. □

Exercise proper caution when hiring contractor

Homeowners in **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** who are seeking contractors to make repairs to their property from damage caused by **Hurricane Wilma** should take precautions to hire licensed and insured contractors. This also applies to homeowners who may want to hire a contractor to clean-up their yard.

Following a disaster, the demand for qualified local contractors usually exceeds the supply, opening the door for unlicensed contractors or rip-off artists who:

- **May overcharge.**
- **Perform shoddy work.**
- **Skip town without finishing.**

Because many legitimate, licensed-home repair companies are booked for months in the wake of a major storm, anxious homeowners eager to repair their property often neglect to take the usual precautions when hiring contractors. As a result, some homeowners fall victim to part-time contractors, including:

- Contractors who may not get the job done in a reasonable time.
- Contractors from surrounding areas who may be difficult to track down for follow-up.
- Inexperienced contractors who may not do the job well.



— People posing as legitimate contractors who are -- all too often -- just plain crooks who are seizing the opportunity to make a fast buck at your expense.

— To avoid unnecessary hassles and extra expenses and to ensure that home

repairs are done correctly and to code, follow these tips:

- Deal only with licensed and insured contractors.
- Verify the track record of any roofer, builder or contractor. Ask for a list of recent customers. Call them.
- Get recommendations from friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, insurance agents or claims adjusters.
- Check with the local Consumer Protection Agency, building officials, and the **Better Business Bureau** to see if complaints have been lodged against any contractor you're considering.
- Don't rush into a contract. Be sure to obtain a written estimate that includes any oral promises the contractor has made to you. Remember to ask if there's a

charge for an estimate before allowing anyone into your home.

— Ask for explanations for price variations, and don't automatically choose the lowest bidder.

— Get a copy of the final, signed contract before the job starts.

— Resist dealing with any contractor who asks you to pay for the entire job up-front. A deposit of one-third of the total price is standard procedure.

— Don't pay cash. Pay only by check or credit card — and pay the final amount only after all the work is completed to your satisfaction.

— Be skeptical of contractors who encourage you to spend a lot of money on temporary repairs. Make sure there's enough money for permanent repairs.

— Ask a knowledgeable friend, relative or attorney to review a home repair contract before you sign.

— If you get a loan to pay for the work, be cautious about using your home as security. If you don't repay the loan as agreed, you could lose your home. Consider asking an attorney to review the loan documents as well.

If you suspect a repair rip-off, immediately call the **Broward County Consumer Affairs Division** at **954-357-5350**. □

CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

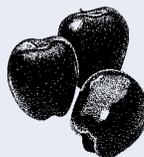
Saturday, Dec. 10 — 9 AM-4 PM

All items handcrafted by top local crafters and artisans. Home-made baked good sale. Crafters and vendors wanted for this event.

Please contact **Marilyn Shaw** of the **Women's Association** at 954-563-1431. You can also call the church at 954-776-5530.

COMMUNITY CHURCH

APPLES FOR ADVENT
Saturday, Dec. 24 — 6 PM



Light refreshments made from apples. You are invited to bring your favorite apple dish.

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE — 7 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Sunday, Dec. 25: 10 AM

The **Community Church of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** is located at 4433 Bougainville Drive. For more information, please call 954-776-5530.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Here is a listing of **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** homeowner groups, community groups, civic organizations and churches. To update listings, please call the Town's **Public Information Office** at 954-776-3611.

HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS



Bel Air Civic Association

Contact: Bob Eckblad Tel: 954-788-1352

LBTS Property Owners' Association

Contact: Cindy Geesey Tel: 954-776-5974

North Beach Civic Association

Contact: Mark Brown Tel: 954-781-6538.

Terra Mar Island Civic Association

Contact: Kit Cashman Tel: 954-943-5594.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Garden Club

Meets Second Monday, 9:30 AM, Jarvis Hall.

Contact: Christine Carlson Tel: 954-290-5609.

Kiwanis Club

Meets Second & Fourth Monday, 6 PM, Damon's Grill.

Contact: Sunny Eckhardt Tel: 954-772-6831.

Optimist Club

Meets Second Wednesday, 7 PM, Damon's Grill.

Contact: James Silverstone Tel: 954-771-0355

or Oliver Parker Tel: 954-772-6468.

Lions Club

Meets First & Third Wednesdays, 7:30 AM, Jarvis Hall.

Contact: Marguerite Remigy Tel: 954-971-1707.

Woman's Club

Meets last Thursday, 11 AM.

October through April. Tel: 954-772-0707.

Oceanside Chapter of Hadassah

Meets the third Tuesday, Holy Cross Hospital. Contact: Joan. Tel: 954-565-0161.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Chamber of Commerce

4201 Ocean Drive Tel: 954-776-1000.

Monday - Sunday: 9 AM - 5 PM.

Community Performing Arts Center

Contact: Vincent Ragusa Tel: 954-202-2666.

Citizens Action Committee

Contact: Bob Karley Tel: 954-772-7332.

Hillsboro Inlet District

Meets Third Monday, 7:30 PM, Dixon AHL Recreation Center in Lighthouse Point Town Hall. Contact: Oliver Parker Tel: 954-772-6468.

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Merchant Association

Contact: Angela Aldahwi Tel: 954-958-9241.

Lions Eye Foundation

Contact: Nels Pearson Tel: 954-564-5258.

National Save The Sea Turtle Foundation

Contact: Jennifer Hartwig Tel: 954-351-9333.

Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Business Meetings: First Monday at 7 PM. Drills Second, Third & Fourth Mondays. Tel: 954-772-8978.

Sister Cities Association

Contact: Dr. Kenneth S. Most. Tel: 954-946-1783.

CHURCHES



Assumption Catholic Church

2001 South Ocean Blvd., LBTS, FL 33062

Tel: 954-941-7647. Winter Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4 & 5:30 PM (Vigils).

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:30 PM.

DAILY: Mon-Fri 9 AM

Community Church of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea

4433 Bougainville Drive

Tel: 954-776-5530. Sunday Worship: 10 AM.

Women's Group meets on the second Wednesday at Friedt Fellowship Hall. Dinner meetings held September through May. Moderator: Jeannette Checchia.

Tel: 954-772-4391. Taize Worship Service is the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

251 Commercial Blvd.

Sunday Service & School: 10:30 AM.

Wednesday Meeting: 7:30 PM.

Reading Room: Monday - Saturday 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Tel: 954-772-0424.

BSO POLICE BLOTTER

10/01/05

— A subject was arrested at 4644 El Mar Drive for two counts of resisting arrest without violence.

— A subject was arrested at 4644 El Mar Drive for disorderly conduct and obstruction without violence.

10/03/05

A subject was arrested at 4116 Ocean Drive on an active warrant reference an alcohol violation.

10/08/05

A subject was stopped at 2800 E. Commercial for expired tags. Subject was arrested for failure to pay child support.

10/10/05

A subject came to the district office at 4501 Ocean Drive and turned himself in on an active felony warrant reference violation of probation for possession of

cocaine.

10/16/05

A subject was arrested at 4900 N. Ocean Drive for resisting arrest without violence and resisting by disguise.

10/23/05

A subject was arrested at 2800 E. Commercial Blvd., reference a warrant for transporter license violation.



KEY PHONE NUMBERS

TOWN HALL

954-776-0576

BUILDING / CODE COMPLIANCE / 954-776-3611

MUNICIPAL SERVICES / 954-776-5119

POLICE & FIRE

EMERGENCY / 911

NON-EMERGENCY / 954-765-4321

BSO BUSINESS OFFICE / 954-491-3920

SHIFT COMMANDER CELL / 954-275-9939

BSO FIRE & RESCUE BUSINESS OFFICE / 954-831-8200

WEB SITE

www.lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov

TOWN TOPICS

Town Topics is published 12 times per year and is available on the Town's Web site the first of the month. All articles or ads for the upcoming issue must be submitted by or prior to the seventh of each month. Ads must be dropped off at Town Hall and are only accepted from businesses with bonafide Lauderdale-By-The-Sea occupational licenses. All articles must be submitted on a computer disc in word format. Articles can also be submitted via e-mail to the Town's **Public Information Office** at lbtspio@yahoo.com. E-mail submissions are preferred.

KIWANIS BINGO STARTS IN JANUARY
Kiwanis bingo starts on Jan. 5th in Jarvis Hall. The early bird is at 6:30 PM

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
4501 Ocean Drive
Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, FL 33308

Prsrt Std
U S POSTAGE PAID
FT LAUD FL
PERMIT 572