

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy summer to our neighbors – both here at PDM and away for the season. Already the weather has heated up – we are into hurricane season – and concrete renovation is moving along on the building.

In my President's report to the owners, I mentioned in detail several projects that are happening right now at PDM. I don't want to repeat these, but let me list them. In case you missed the details, go back to the president's report. These include:

- **Work completed on cooling towers**
- **New Comcast contract**
- **New electronic lock system**
- **Added security through Galt beach patrol**
- **Pool deck repairs and renovation**
- **Sheriff's contract for communication tower on roof**

At the June 6 board meeting, other items were discussed that are important to owners. For example, the pipes that provide water for your unit's air conditioning are in bad shape and need replaced. We have solicited three bids and are working on a proposal to replace these pipes over a five-year period. We will start with those in worst condition first. One of the big issues is the rising cost of copper pipe – adding potentially \$300,000 to the overall cost of the project.

The owners were briefed on our building insurance policies – which expire on July 22. Our wind policy, carried by Citizens, will increase by 8% - from \$302,000 to \$334,000 per year. Other policies are expected to remain about the same cost. The board will review the insurance proposals and vote on their renewal in early July.

I want to personally congratulate all the members of Team Playa del Mar who participated in the Relay for Life event on June 1. I was extremely proud of the effort put forth by the team members and residents of the building. Being #1 was icing on the cake – but we also do not want to lose sight of the real goal, which is to find a cure for cancer. Job well done Team PDM.

As this board works on issues and through some difficult projects, I am pleased with the owners' support, enthusiasm and cooperation. None of these projects could be accomplished without your support. We have received many compliments on the building and support for what is on the drawing board. This is your building and your home. While you

may not agree with every detail of every project, the goal is to maintain and improve our home here on the Galt. We want to make this an enjoyable place to live and visit.

After all, we have the perfect location – fronting on the internationally-known Galt Ocean Mile and backing on the Atlantic Ocean, with sunshine, great ocean breeze (almost every day), and good friends and neighbors.

-Ray Garcia, PDM President

TEAM PDM PLACES FIRST

A team of Playa Del Mar residents and friends became a part of the Air and Sea Relay for Life at Lauderdale by the Sea on Saturday, June 1st to make a difference by walking and raising money for the American Cancer Society.

The event was held at Del Prado Park from 6:00 am to midnight. Unfortunately, the event had to be called off at 6:30 pm due to inclement weather. However, the team went above and beyond their goal. The team goal was \$2500; the team raised \$6268.54, which was near the entire total of last year's relay. The event's goal was \$18,000; yet all the teams helped to surpass that amount with \$43,604.63 as the overall total, a significant achievement.

Of 26 teams, **Team Playa Del Mar** placed first, and Arthur Koppelman, team captain, who raised over \$2000 single-handedly, was first over 176 participants. Susan Coviello brought in over \$1600 and Susan Schomer, co-captain, over \$700. Others were Marlene Barton, Millie Fox, Ray Garcia, Carolyn Kervin, Beverly Kohn, and David Stansel. Monk's Wine and Liquor was also part of the team. Team members not only made their own donations, but secured gift certificates, artwork, and other prizes for a raffle to earn even more for the cause. *(cont'd on pg. 2)*



FROM THE PROPERTY MANAGER'S DESK

As we continue with our preventive maintenance, we have completed the cooling towers concrete support columns and steel beam restoration. The South wing cooling tower pump was also replaced due to noise and vibration. The building concrete restoration project has started and will last approximately six months. This will eliminate the present water leaks some units are experiencing under heavy rains. We would have liked to have this all done before the hurricane season started but unfortunately it was impossible. If you are leaving your unit or planning to go on a trip, please remove all furniture from your balcony or make arrangements to have someone available to do it for you in case of a storm or for the concrete restoration of your stack.

We are also working on the pool deck restoration project and will keep you updated on the progress. The work related to changing from the Dom keys to the electronic access control system (key fobs) will be starting soon too. More information will be forthcoming to owners about the new system and how/when you can exchange Dom keys for the new key fobs.

In order to save on chemicals, we are starting to clean the water in the cooling towers using UV lights. This will replace the need for many chemicals and be more efficient. We started with the two cooling towers on the main part of the building – and will do the other two when the trial period is over.

Thermostats in the hallways are being replaced with new programmable thermostats. They are more efficient and accurate. Our goal is to set the temperature according to the time of day and thus save on electricity and our air conditioning units.

Please bear with us while all this is taking place, your patience and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me by phone or email or stop by the office anytime: 954-561-0990 or marcondo@bellsouth.net.

● *Tania Gonzalez, Manager*



TEAM (cont'd)

Relay for Life is an organized, community fundraising walk where members of our team took turns walking around the track. During the Survivors Lap, some of our team members and all cancer survivors took the first lap around the track, celebrating their victory over cancer while cheered on by the other participants who lined the track. There was also a breakfast held at Athena for participants and the caregivers, who give time, love, and support to their friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers facing cancer. At the park, there were food, games and activities for local residents and families.

Unfortunately, the Luminaria Ceremony, which takes place after dark to remember those who have lost to cancer and to honor those whose fight continues, had to be cancelled due to the weather.

What made the Relay for Life Air and Sea unique was the fact that several dive teams held their relay in the ocean, a first for the organization. Next year they are hoping to get canoeists and paddle boarders involved to help the event grow even larger. Team Playa Del Mar is proud to have done its part to make sure that cancer never steals another year of anyone's life.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR: SOME RULES TO REMEMBER

- **Put your trash down the chute – not on the trash room floor**
- **Inform your guests about our rules – so they are good guests**
- **Security is for everyone's protection – your cooperation makes it work**
- **Drive 5 mph in the garages – don't run over a neighbor**
- **Wipe down all gym equipment after use – it keeps everyone healthy**
- **Obey the pool rules – they keep us safe**
- **Guard against wet floors – dry off after pool use and before entering building and elevators**
- **Recycle – it saves our planet and reduces our carbon footprint**
- **Walk lightly on your floors – your neighbor below may be sleeping**



RECYCLE – RECYCLE – RECYCLE

PDM residents are recycling at a much higher rate than last year and we now have added 4 more containers. Since the City of Fort Lauderdale started their curbside recycling program for private homes last July, the city has been breaking recycling records and decreasing our waste production! The last three quarters showed an increase of 2,397 tons recycled.

During the last PDM Board meeting there was a discussion of items in our recycle bins that are not recyclables. At the last Green your Routine committee meeting Linda Eidingger attended, the question was asked about recycled items in plastic bags that are in the bins and whether the entire bag is thrown out. The answer is if the plastic bags are BLACK the entire bag will be discarded. If the recycle items are in a white or clear bag these items will be recycled and not discarded.

The PDM GO Green Committee asked that if you take your items in a plastic bag please empty it into the bins and either throw the plastic bag away in the small garbage can that is near the Brown Recycle Bins in the lower garage or reuse it and take it back to your unit. The recycle tote bags that can be purchased at several grocery stores are perfect for transporting your recycle items to the lower garage. Publix will also recycle the plastic grocery bags so take them back on your next trip.

The PDM GO Green Committee also wants to remind residents to use the recycle cans at the beach, pool, BBQ areas, Ocean Lounge and mail room. Here is a list of items that are acceptable in the Recycle Bins: newspapers, brown paper bags, inserts, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, office paper, soft-covered books, file folders, soda cartons and crushed boxes from items such as cereal, tissues, rice and pasta.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS AT PDM:

- 115** Carlos Escobar & Vanessa Malgarizio (Lease)
- 216** Daniel & Eleanor & Nicholas Paulish
- 305** Elisabeth Vanderheiden & Stephanie Dickes
- 403** Thomas Harrigan & Amy Broyles
- 409** Gennady & Lubov Sharovetsky (Lease)
- 1106** Robert & Linda O'Mara
- 1107** Robert & Marcia Lehmann (Lease)
- 1108** Sharon Elias (Lease)
- 1204** Douglas Geniti (Lease)
- 1209** Vincent Saladino (Lease)
- 1404** Kathryn Rinaldi
- 1503** Gerrard McConville
- 1507** George Kneier
- 1601** James Stief
- 1603** Laurent Lampron & Monique Vallee
- 1611** David Chambers (Lease)
- 1714** Marcus Bury (Lease)
- 1917** Avra Gross (Lease)
- 2015** Jeffrey Goodman & Gregg Bromberg
- 2612** Richard Luery

PDM SALES (FEBRUARY – JUNE 2013)

- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 216 - \$300,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 305 - \$390,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 403 - \$420,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 1106 - \$555,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 1404 - \$240,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 1503 - \$370,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 1507 - \$540,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 1601 - \$670,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 1603 - \$364,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 2015 - \$329,000**
- 3900 GALT OCEAN DRIVE 2612 - \$355,000**

(Information from the Broward County Appraiser's Office)

The new property appraisal values are posted on the Property Appraiser's website, www.bcpa.net, and are in effect for the 2013 tax year. Tax rates will be set by the governing bodies when budgets are adopted in September. The **TRIM** (Truth In Millage) notice, which is mailed August 1, states the taxable value that is set for the parcel compared to last year. It also lists any tax breaks on the property as well as the tax rates initially proposed by local governments.

If you have questions about your tax bill or about making tax payments, please visit the tax collector's website, or contact the tax collector by email at revenue@broward.org. The Property Appraiser does **NOT** set your tax rate nor collect the taxes. The Property Appraiser is responsible for ensuring the fair assessment (value) of all properties and applying all exemptions.



Recycling bins at PDM lining the sidewalk for pick-up.

GOINGS ON THE GALT

BEACH RESTORATION The beach restoration project remains on schedule. It will begin in November. Sand will be trucked from central Florida and used to expand the width of the Galt Mile beach to slightly less than half of the way out to the buoys. Work on the beach can only be done after turtle season ends November 1.

We are told that it will take around 2 to 3 weeks to restore the sand in front of each condo. Our building has the largest beach frontage on the Galt so we could expect our beach to be closed for three weeks or so. However, the actual schedule for the date our beach will be closed won't be announced until fall. It is then the Galt Association will be notified where the sand refill will begin ---that is -- will work begin in the middle of the Galt, or at the ends in Lauderdale By The Sea and Oakland and A1A. This total project will take several years - as work is restricted to six months a year. So, our beach could be closed for 2-3 weeks in 2013. As soon as the plans are made known to the Galt Association and PDM, we will notify residents of the beach closing schedule for our building.

GALT POLICE RESPONSE The Fort Lauderdale police meet with the Galt Association each month. As usual, the police reported that crime is very low on the Galt. In the past month there was one burglary and two larceny thefts - both by Walgreens on A1A near Oakland Park Blvd. The prior month there were nine larcenies, one burglary and one burglary vehicle all by Walgreens.

Four Condo representatives said they recently had disturbances within their buildings and had to wait for police to arrive for over an hour in each case. The police representative explained that depending upon shifts, days and events, there are as low as three police officers assigned to cover our police district - which stretches from 17th Street (around Port Everglades) up to Lauderdale By The Sea and A1A. If policemen are on another call or down on 17th Street it will take time to respond to calls from the Galt. 911 police emergency calls had nothing to do with 911 fire and ambulance calls. Those emergency calls are responded to in minutes on the Galt.

REAL ESTATE TAX A representative for Lori Parrish's Property Appraiser office--Bob Wolfe--reminded owners on the Galt that they can reduce their real estate taxes by applying for a homestead exemption. You would need to bring to their office a valid Florida driver's license or Florida ID, and Broward voter registration or declaration of domicile, and also the social security numbers of all owners. There are additional tax exemptions available to widow and widowers, disabled veterans, and seniors whose adjusted gross income did not exceed \$27,500.

The field office is locally located across A1A at our Beach Community Center near 36th Street on the last Friday of each month 10AM to 11:30 AM. You can call with your questions at 954-357-5579 or go online at www.bcpa.net. Wolfe warned

individuals that the office will verify your data with other states and sources in order to prevent fraud. There is also a full time detective assigned to review cases for possible home-stead fraud.

WINN DIXIE RENOVATION After coming out of bankruptcy a few years ago, Winn Dixie is now in the process of either closing down stores or renovating them. Our Galt Winn Dixie is being renovated right now. They will not close down the store for this work, but rather seal off one section of the store at a time until all work is complete. Most work is done at night. They promise a complete restoration, new counters, layout, freezers, etc. Work will continue for 3 to 4 months and expected to be done when the season begins. They will also paint the exterior of the building -- again. By the way, be prepared to hunt for your favorite relocated items in Winn Dixie during the work period.

HIGH SPEED TRAIN SERVICE MIAMI -FT LAUDERDALE- ORLANDO On schedule for 2015 is the introduction of high speed train service which will take you to Miami and Orlando from Fort Lauderdale. Total travel time from Fort Lauderdale to Orlando will be 2 hours 30 minutes. The new station in Fort Lauderdale is on schedule. The train will use existing rail tracks except for a new 40 mile track line from Cocoa to Orlando. This segment is now under construction. If this segment is not complete by 2015, the plan is to begin train service anyway-- and shuttle passengers on busses between Cocoa and Orlando.

The Miami - Orlando route is 240 miles long. It is privately owned with some money provided by the Federal Railroad Administration as a loan to cover start up costs. One segment of this line's tracks - Cocoa to Orlando - will permit the train to operate at speeds of up to 125 miles per hour which meet the federal government definition of high speed rail.. The train will travel at 79 miles per hour on the other track segments. The train system will connect with the existing Metrorail and Metromover systems in Miami, and the new SunRail commuter rail system in Orlando--which is scheduled for completion in 2014. The goal is to have this train system run at average speeds equal to the Acela Express (average speed is 80 MPH) which operates between New York and Washington DC.



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