Special Election on March 12 for New Parks and Public Safety Complex

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 12, 2019! That’s when voters will have an opportunity to participate in a Special Election that will shape the future of our City.

The City Commission unanimously approved placing two bond proposals on the March 12 ballot that, if approved, would allocate up to $200 million for citywide improvements to our parks and recreation facilities, and up to $100 million to construct a new police headquarters and improve public safety.

The parks bond would fund signature projects in each Commission District, plus hundreds of additional capital improvements throughout our community. In District 1, we would see a complete redevelopment of Lockhart Stadium and the surrounding property, including rehabilitating the football/soccer complex, adding new multipurpose synthetic turf athletic fields, and developing the adjacent open space with walking trails and fitness stations.

Other major initiatives would include extensive renovations at Holiday Park, including the addition of a water playground, sand volleyball courts, a parking garage, fitness trail, tennis courts, and new playground. A new community center would be built at Joseph C. Carter Park, along with new synthetic turf athletic fields, security lighting, and a vibrant destination playground. Las Olas Boulevard would be home to a new Tunnel Top Park, which would be constructed on top of the Henry Kinney Tunnel above Federal Highway.

Nearly every park in our City would see significant upgrades that would encompass a wide range of enhancements including new playgrounds, walking trails, pools and splash pads, boat slips and ramps, outdoor fitness equipment, athletic courts and fields, lighting, solar panels, and shade structures, pavilions, restrooms, ADA improvements, and even new dog parks.

A portion of the parks bond would also be used for land acquisition to expand our green space and help us continue to promote active, healthy lifestyles, increase leisure and social engagement, and enhance quality of life.

Ensuring the safety and protection of our neighbors remains the City’s top priority. Maintaining and enhancing the outstanding level of service provided by our Fort Lauderdale Police Department requires proper resources, equipment, and modern facilities.

The public safety bond would enable us to replace the current police headquarters which was built in 1958 when the police department and our City were both significantly smaller. The 85,000 square-foot building is 60 years old, functionally obsolete, and parts of it are in deteriorating condition. The new facility would offer 225,000 square feet, provide expanded work space and integrated
state-of-the-art technology to a department that has grown to 525 sworn officers and 727 sworn and non-sworn personnel. The station would be constructed with energy and operationally efficient features, along with hurricane resistant materials and techniques to better serve the public safety needs of our City which is expected to grow to over 203,000 in the next decade. The complex would also include a parking garage and additional training rooms, public meeting areas, and community space where residents and officers could work together on crime prevention and safety initiatives.

If approved, the bonds would bring more than $300 million in much-needed public safety and parks and recreation improvements to our City, strengthen our economic viability and livability, and enhance our stature as a great place to visit and an even better place to call home!

The bonds would be paid off over a 30-year period. Based on preliminary estimates, the owner of a single-family home with a taxable assessed value of $300,000 after a homestead exemption would pay about $3 a week more in City taxes, which is less than most people spend on their morning drink at Starbucks!

We will provide additional updates about the bond proposals, as well as ways that you can be involved in the process as more information becomes available. Sincerely,

Heather Moraitis

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Light up the Galt

The Inaugural Light up the Galt in District I was a great success! Thank you North Beach Restaurants and Shoppes owners and city staff for working with us to plan this event. We can't wait for next year!
Out and About in the Community

Serving as a celebrity waiter for the recent 18th Annual Breakfast for Champions of the Homeless at Broward Partnership.

Great spending time with the FOP Lodge 31 raising money for the holiday toy drive.

Enjoyed spending time with our neighbors from Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations spreading holiday cheer!

Had a wonderful time at the Coral Ridge Association Board of Governors December Meeting.

Check Out Events Happening in Our City
Apply Today to Serve on a District 1 Advisory Board

The following boards are available to serve on for District 1:

- Cemetery System Board of Trustees
- Community Appearance Board
- Education Advisory Board
- Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee
- Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board
- Parks, Recreation and Beach Board

If you are interested, please apply online.

Feel free to contact our office or Erica Franceschi at EFranceschi@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5288 for any questions.