GAME CHANGER
Neighbors urged to take action to take control of their main roadway...but time is short

Pending before the City of Miami Commission is proposed legislation that would have the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Miami swap jurisdiction over several Miami streets. If approved, control of Brickell Avenue from Southeast Eighth Street to I-95 would pass from the FDOT to the elected Miami government officials and Miami Police who have supported the community’s outcry to lower the speed limit and make Brickell safer for pedestrians.

The BHA Board unanimously approved a resolution in support of this strategy to gain local control of their main thoroughfare. Brickell residents are urged to send a message to Miami City Commissioners immediately as the matter will come before the Commission for a second reading on June 13. Three of five votes are needed for approval and thus far the item has two of the votes.

By the Numbers
Petition drive pushes to grow Miami’s police force

BHA has been advocating for increased police coverage for years and has included the specific desire to see “a dedicated police force for the Brickell community” in its Legislative Agenda for the past two years. The BHA Board did not hesitate, therefore, to unanimously adopt a Resolution at its May meeting urging officials to hire more police in the City of Miami, supporting a push by Commissioner Marc Sarnoff and Miami Chief of Police Manny Orosa.

Calling all Artists!
The vision of adding art to Brickell Avenue became a reality in December as the first installment featuring six sculptures debuted during a public art walk with city officials, the artists, BHA board members and neighbors.
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From the President  Ernesto Cuesta

The time is now: take control, improve safety

For 23 years BHA News has been reporting the issues that your board representatives and elected officials are working on together. We always welcome your feedback, and at times we need to hear from you to meet your needs. At other times, we need you to make your voice heard.

Now, with two momentous opportunities before us, is one such time.

The first “Game Changer” as described in the cover article would transfer authority of Brickell Avenue from FDOT to City of Miami. This holds with it the promise to significantly improve our local control and increase the safety of our community’s main artery. For years FDOT has not been receptive to neighbors’ pleas to slow down traffic on Brickell Avenue to a uniform, neighborly speed of 30 mph or to add signals and crosswalks to make the roadway safer for both cars and people.

City officials and staffers have supported BHA on this. The police have supported it. And The Miami Herald has written in support of it many times and chronicled the dangers of Brickell Avenue for pedestrians. But FDOT won’t change its stand that lowering it would have any positive effect.

For years, the Brickell neighborhood’s walkers, strollers, bikers and joggers have had a rocky alliance with the highway authority and its need to move cars through fast. Not unlike a bad marriage, now is the time (just like in a bad marriage) to end the acrimony, formally separate, and do what each party needs to do for itself.

Time is short. Write to Commissioners Francis Suarez, Michelle

Continued on next page
President’s Column  continued from previous page

Spence-Jones, and Frank Carollo to urge them to support Commissioner Sarnoff’s proposal and our community’s desire for improved safety in the Brickell corridor, Miami’s economic driver.

But don’t stop yet

Another important movement needs your voice. (See cover story “Police By the Numbers”.) Commissioner Sarnoff and Miami Police Chief Manny Orosa lay out cogent, well-documented arguments as to how increasing Miami’s police force will not only dramatically decrease Part I (violent) crimes, but also outweigh the budgetary investment by yielding economic benefits to the community.

We need to feel secure. We need the quality of life that having more officers brings to a community. We need to know that the police will be able to respond quickly in an emergency.

Again, let your Commissioners hear from you. Commissioner Sarnoff has made it very easy by setting up a petition online at http://bit.ly/moremiamipolice. You can also get to it from a link on the main page of the BHA website. It takes just a minute to complete.

Not just any cops

Having local police you can call on and who are responsible and engaged in their community makes all the difference. On behalf of BHA, I want to formally thank Commander Jose Fernandez and Officer Daniel Rodriguez for their work in the Brickell community and for listening to our issues, responding and being there for us. They have given significant attention to traffic and pedestrian safety, issuing 16,000 vehicular citations since December 2012, with about 40% of those for motorists failing to yield the right of way to pedestrians. They answer our community’s calls and work on our particular problem. They make the difference in making the community safer.
The swap concept began with Commissioner Marc Sarnoff, who has been BHA’s biggest advocate on this issue, who also enlisted the help of Florida Senator Miguel Díaz de la Portilla. When the Commissioner approached the Senator about the safety concerns of Brickell earlier this year, the Senator included the swap in a larger piece of legislation that passed in the Florida session that just ended.

However, the deal has yet to be approved by the Miami City Commission. The measure did not pass upon first reading on May 23, but some Commissioners may not have had the opportunity to fully consider how important the issue is to the Brickell neighborhood. Commissioners Francis Suarez, Michelle Spence-Jones, and Frank Carollo voted against it. The proposed trade directly impacts Commissioner Spence-Jones because some of the streets are in her district. In the meantime, Commissioner Sarnoff is seeking a swap that will not impact any other commissioner’s district.

FDOT made some changes

Residents welcomed the fixes that FDOT finally put in place in April at the urging of BHA and elected officials. FDOT had promised these compromises last July when our community’s elected leadership and BHA met with Florida Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad and FDOT District VI Secretary Gus Pego. Among other items, community leaders and BHA requested that the Brickell Avenue speed limit be kept at 30 mph post-completion of the latest roadway project.

BHA has advocated for slowing down Brickell traffic for most of the organization’s 23 years, but the need has become more acute as the urban community has grown and become dense with people of all ages. In December 2011 FDOT officials agreed to lower the speed limit from 40 to 30 mph during the roadway reconstruction project, but vowed that it would go back up to 35 mph upon completion. In April, the FDOT removed the unsightly black garbage bags covering the newly placed speed limit signs, reminding residents of who’s the boss in our neighborhood.

Please use the contact information in the box opposite for each Commissioner and Mayor Regalado. Send each a brief email, call or message:

“The Brickell community needs local control over its main street to better protect the pedestrians who live, work and play here. Please approve the proposed plan to give the City of Miami jurisdiction over Brickell Avenue from Southeast Eighth Street to I-95.”

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**BHA News** is published by the Brickell Homeowners Association to keep neighbors, public officials and others in the community informed of the activities and concerns of its residents. Advertising is accepted on a space-available basis, and BHA reserves the right to accept or reject all advertising. For advertising information or other details, reserve your space at the BHA website, www.brickellhomeowners.com or send an email message to Natalie Brown at nbrown@brickellhomeowners.com. Editorial suggestions are welcome for consideration.

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By the Numbers: Growing the Miami Police Force
continued from front page

BHA joins Commissioner Sarnoff in calling upon the City Commission to make adding police a priority in its budgeting. The March announcement that 33 new officers would be hired next year was welcome news, but Miami Chief of Police Manny Orosa and now most Miami Commissioners agree they need to add 100 new police officers over the next year, bringing the total to 1,244.

The Miami Police force is significantly understaffed, with the City of Miami Police having one of the lowest per-capita police ratios among large U.S. cities. Budget shortfalls, retirements and losing officers to other better-paying municipalities are the main reasons for the shortage.

The need for more officers is becoming acute.

- The increased density in the urban core—Miami’s Downtown and Brickell—has increased the need for more officers. The Chief has recognized that the Police should break Brickell away “from the Coral Way NET Service Area and staff it with its own contingent of patrol officers, sergeants, and lieutenants.”

- The daytime population of Miami, a city of 406,000 residents, grows to 560,000 people with those from other municipalities who work in Miami, particularly Downtown and Brickell. The daily addition of so many people to a city significantly increases the demand for police service.

- Major special events draw even more people to Miami and the surrounding areas. Miami is the 44th largest city in the U.S. in terms of residential population, and the fifth most-visited metropolitan area with 38 million visitors per year.

Commissioner Sarnoff launched a drive petitioning Mayor Tomas Rega-
do, the City of Miami Commissioners, and City Manager Johnny Martinez to “hire hundreds more police, increase the pace of new hires and raise standards.” Brickell neighbors are urged to sign the petition at http://bit.ly/moremiamipolice. It’s also available through www.brickellhomeowners.com

According to Chief Orosa, the City of Miami Police force currently employs 2.6 officers for every 1,000 inhabitants. More than half of the 34 municipalities in Miami-Dade County have a larger police force, including tiny bedroom communities like Biscayne Park and Virginia Gardens. Compared to other large cities, Miami is way behind in its ratio of officers per 1,000 inhabitants:

- Miami Beach: 4.1 officers/1,000
- New York: 4.2 officers/1,000
- Boston: 3.5 officers/1,000
- Baltimore: 4.7 officers/1,000
- Philadelphia: 4.3 officers/1,000

Chief Orosa also provided compelling research that correlates an increase in the number of police officers with a decrease in crime. He also shared intriguing data about the cost of crime, pointing to studies that have derived a dollar value for particular criminal acts by factoring in tangible and intangible costs for all those involved (government and private sector).

Chief Orosa concludes that adding 100 new hires for a total of 1,244 police officers would have two significant consequences. First, crime would decrease by 2.8%. That’s 805 fewer homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies/thefts, motor vehicle thefts, and arsons. Second, the government and private sectors would see a combined total crime cost savings of $116 million.

The Chief also reported that each additional officer above the current level would cost an average of $73,000 in salary and benefits annually, but would provide a value of $710,965 in terms of crime prevented. While the crime cost savings is split between government and the private sector (15-30%), each new officer’s value would still exceed the City’s cost of employing him or her, the Chief reported.

If approved, the 100 new positions would be used to create new uniform patrol positions, fill vacant positions in the Criminal Investigations Division, and create additional beat and bicycle patrol positions for the City’s population centers. In the intermediate to long-term, Chief Orosa set the goal at 1,360 to meet various thresholds when Miami is compared to counterparts throughout the U.S.

The Miami Herald has written in favor of increasing the police force and reminds its readers that our reliance on tourism, along with our desire to attract new business and lure new residents, makes a strong police presence and fast response times particularly important. History has shown that a slight uptick in crime, or one horrific incident, can put all of that in jeopardy.

BHA salutes Commissioner Sarnoff’s efforts in this area and Chief Orosa’s presentations of the facts and figures behind the issue. Neighbors are urged to sign the petition. At the link you can also read the Chief’s internal memos released with the research that show how far Miami needs to go to catch up.
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Diana Puentes looks forward to every day at The Metropolitan Condominium.

Her journey to Miami is a familiar one, arriving here as a young child in 1962 when her parents fled Cuba during Fidel Castro’s turbulent Cuban revolution and government takeover. The daughter of a U.S. Marine World War II veteran and a Cuban mother, Diana is practically a Miami native, having attended school and worked here all her professional life.

One of Diana’s first jobs was working for a developer. She was involved in all aspects of the business, including dealing with conversions from rentals to condominiums, sales, unit upgrades, rules and regulations, condominium documents and management of operations. It was this work that fueled her interest in pursuing a career in property management.

“While working with the developer I obtained my real estate and CAM (Common Area Maintenance) licenses and came to enjoy the management side of the business the most,” she said.

The main highlight of Diana’s job is meeting and interacting with different people and helping them solve problems. She likes to “promote social harmony among the residents,” but doesn’t shy away from enforcing the rules and regulations of the building when needed. Along with the “people side” of the job, Diana is responsible for a wide range of administrative and management duties, which she said she equally enjoys.

Immediately prior to coming to The Metropolitan in 2005, Diana worked for a management company with properties in Miami, Miami Beach and Doral, giving her the depth and breadth of experience to take on a major Brickell condo association. As a property manager at The Metropolitan for nearly eight years, she is intimately familiar with the building’s history and evolution.

The site on which The Metropolitan stands is located at 1814 Brickell Park Drive.
tan sits was originally the home of a Native American woman who maintained a beautiful flower garden around the house, said Puentes. When the owner died, her heirs sold the property to Coscan Developers who built the Metropolitan and turned it over to the homeowners in August 2001.

The property features several recreational facilities that are always abuzz with residents, including the sixth floor deck with spa, Jacuzzi, pool, barbecue and indoor gym and media room.

The sitting area outside the Bistro Café is the perfect spot for residents to relax over breakfast or lunch. The Multifunction Room hosts several BHA meetings every year, there’s generally at least one party going on every weekend….birthday parties, baby showers, wedding celebrations….or one of The Metropolitan’s own spirited resident holiday parties.

Apartments at The Metropolitan serve as a second home for many owners from around the United States, Greece, France, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, among other countries. Residents include couples, families, retirees and single people. And even though the building is full, the residents concur it is very quiet, pleasant and well kept.

“Many guests that visit our building immediately notice our grand lobby entrance and the overall cleanliness of the building. We owe this to our dedicated staff who keeps The Metropolitan in top condition,” Diana said.

Having worked on Brickell for nearly a decade now, Diana has enjoyed being part of the renaissance Brickell has experienced. Now, more than ever, Brickell is a dynamic, growing urban community. More and more families are moving to the area, Diana said, taking advantage of Brickell’s close proximity to many great amenities.

“I love how close I am to the ocean and the uniqueness of the Brickell area,” she said. “It’s close to downtown, beaches and great restaurants that residents can visit on bike, by foot or via the Brickell Trolley.”

When she’s not busy at work, Diana enjoys traveling with her husband and taking mini-vacations with their grandchildren. “Family is always a priority,” she said. “But when I do have some time alone, I enjoy reading and listening to music.”
Brickell Art Project

continued from front page

Starting and ending at 1814 Brickell Park, the group made their way down Brickell to learn about the artists and their sculptures situated along the avenue. Stops were made at each piece for photo ops with the artists and a brief explanation of each work itself. The city provided the foundations for each installation and will be adding lighting and brass plaques for each piece.

The most exciting part of the project is that more spots are available and more artists are urged to consider showcasing their work on Brickell.

Genesis

BHA President Ernesto Cuesta had long envisioned artwork on Brickell in the medians announcing the unique and distinguished nature of Brickell Avenue. Commissioner Marc Sarnoff tried to make it happen, and predictably met with objections from FDOT. When the Commissioner told BHA it would be possible along the side of the avenue in public right-of-way space that each condo association beautifully maintains, BHA readily endorsed the plan.

Commissioner Sarnoff enlisted the assistance of artist Christian Bernard to lead Brickell’s public art project. Commissioner Sarnoff asked if Bernard wanted to display two sculptures along Brickell Avenue and if he could find other artists who were interested in participating.

Last year Bernard donated his time and talent to create the permanent 9/11 Memorial sculpture at 1814 Brickell Park. The impressive, emotion-provoking piece created from a steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center attack was unveiled during the park’s dedication a year ago, on June 13, 2012.

Bernard steps up for Brickell

Bernard was successful in convincing five other artists to donate their time and talent with a piece for Brickell Avenue. They each agreed to create and loan a piece at their own expense, as well as maintain it should it need any repairs due to the elements or vandals. The rotation is anticipated for a period of a couple of years, except in the case where a piece is sold and the buyer wants immediate delivery.

“The most exciting part of the project is that more spots are available and more artists are urged to consider showcasing their work on Brickell.”

Having brought Brickell’s art project to fruition, both Sarnoff and Bernard were obviously pleased on the morning of the walk as they toured the works with neighbors and friends, just in time to coincide with Art Basel.

“Today is the day we finally finished the project. The project is now in place,” said Bernard. His two fiberglass pieces were highlights of the tour. The bright, multi-colored vertical piece titled “Sentinel” measures 14 feet and the strikingly bold, chunky red “Delores” tops out at seven feet.

Bernard added, “This is a great opportunity for me to be able to show my work on an avenue such as Brickell. I hope to repeat the experience soon.” And for anyone interested he says “both pieces can be reproduced on demand for private collections.”

Bernard, who also goes by Narbero, is no stranger to public art in Miami. The French artist has created
Calling More Artists for Ongoing Brickell Art Project
continued from previous page

public installations for the Miami Children’s Museum, the YMCA and Coral Gables. He has lived in Miami for 15 years and his work is featured in galleries in Florida, North Carolina, Georgia and New York.

In fact, it was Bernard’s familiarity with public art that first drew the attention of Commissioner Sarnoff and led the Commissioner to tap his talents to bring Brickell some much-needed public art.

“For the citizens who can’t afford it, it becomes part of their every day. For the person who is driving south to Pinecrest, they might calm down a little bit. Maybe they actually look at the art and they think to themselves, ‘this is something beautiful and I live in a beautiful city.’ I think it changes the way we think about ourselves and our environment,” Sarnoff said.

The presence of Bernard’s fellow artists the morning of the walk added to the excitement surrounding the unveiling of their sculptures.

Chilean-born artist Marcia Ramos-Pellero whose studio is at the Bakehouse Art Complex, was excited to contribute to the Art in Public Places initiative saying “it was an opportunity to make a contribution to the city and get my work exposed on beautiful Brickell Avenue, so I conceived my piece ‘Sensoria’ for the project.” She went on to say that “culturally, Miami needs the opportunity to see more art. Miami is a new city and is rich in the architectural side of art.”

The circular “Sensoria” showcases Ramos-Pellero’s trademark use of light, diluted colors and overlapping stains that allows her to achieve an aerial sense of landscape.

Italian-born Rosaria Pugliese’s “Urban Tree” measures 8 feet by 3 feet and is made of aluminum with a double coating of industrial paint. Pugliese, whose work has been exhibited in Europe and Latin America, says her sculpture “resembles a tree in an abstract and contemporary way. Its free form and resistant materials were chosen to allow wind, sun and rain to pass through, interacting playfully with nature.”

Her well thought out piece reveals the artist’s love affair with Brickell. “My goal was to incorporate a piece of art into the rich landscaping and the architectonic beauty of Brickell. Since I arrived in Miami in 1983, Brickell has always been present in my life, so having a sculpture in this elegant and central street is not only an honor but also quite sentimental.”

Fellow artist, Elyan Biscayn, who collaborated with Bernard on an exhibition seven years ago, was also beaming with pride and posing for photos with her sculpture “Florida.” Absent that morning was French-born Jean Michel Correia. His piece “No Title” is a painted wood sculpture created in his studio in Quebec last year. Correia says it represents the spatial modulation of his painting.

“It is from a series I started in 1993. Other sculptures from this series are currently on display in SVR Fine Art Gallery and Stellar Union Gallery, both in Southampton, NY,” Correia said. “I am an architect and my approach as a painter is space.”

Adding an exciting dimension to Brickell Avenue, the Brickell Art Project is very much a living project and was envisioned as dynamic. Several locations have been identified for more pieces, and several condo associations have indicated interest in having a work on their front lawn.

Artists interested in contributing a piece for both the satisfaction of sharing their talent with the community and the unmatched exposure of Brickell Avenue, are urged to contact BHA or Commissioner Sarnoff’s office. •

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Progress Report
Brickell Avenue Improvements

The Brickell Avenue median and sidewalks project will most likely start in August, Commissioner Sarnoff reported to the BHA Board in late May. The sidewalks will be expanded to 10 feet in most spots, with 4 feet of that width made of a rubberized surface, ideal for joggers. The sidewalks will not be garden-variety gray cement, but rather will have a design element.

The medians will get new trees and ground cover. The Commissioner delivered the sad but not surprising news that many of Brickell Avenue’s trees have been mangled by storms, some improperly trimmed in the aftermath in an effort to clear streets, and some are deceased. The arborist’s report was dismal, with the bottom line that approximately 50 trees need to be replaced. But, the Commissioner said, “now is the time to do it while we have the funding.” And, he promised the trees that replace those that have to go will be tall, mature trees, upwards of 21 feet.

“We’re getting large, robust trees,” the Commissioner said, “You can see the trees you’ll be getting on Florida Street in Coconut Grove” in a recently completed project.

BHA will have input into the median design, with an ad hoc committee led by Gail Feldman. Anyone with expertise in horticulture or public space planning and who is willing to volunteer is asked to contact BHA at nbrown@brickellhomeowners.com.

Important Community Contacts

The City of Miami NET office is generally residents’ first line of contact in resolving neighborhood concerns. The NET office will contact the appropriate City department on your behalf, if it is a City of Miami matter, or direct you to the right resource to resolve your issue.

**Neighborhood Enhancement Team-NET**
Administrator Haydee Wheeler
(305) 416-2074
hwheeler@miamigov.com

**City of Miami Police**
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**U.S. House of Representatives**
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Miami (305) 688-2285

**U.S. Senate**
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Coral Gables (305) 536-5999
Senator Marco Rubio
D.C. (202) 224-3041
Miami: (305) 418-8553
Brickell neighbors enjoyed a happy hour in March hosted by the BHA Board and Taverna Opa restaurant at Mary Brickell Village. The Board enjoyed the informal change of pace at the festive evening of spirits and samplings, including Mediterranean specialties such as Greek spinach pies, fried calamari, feta-topped flat-breads, spicy feta spread, imported Greek olives, and of course, hummus and pita.

The atmosphere of Taverna Opa was warm, welcoming, and open, but on the weekends, we understand, they really let loose with belly dancing on the tables. Special thanks to Public Relations Director Alexandra Marcil for putting the event together and to the wonderful staff at the restaurant for a great evening. •
Welcome New Members

BHA welcomed many new members so far in 2013. Below we formally introduce five of our new Condo Association and Associate members.

**Asia Condominium**

The newest condominium on Tony Brickell Key, Asia Condominium, has joined BHA. This luxury high-rise — which opened in 2008 — is another beauty in the portfolio of Brickell condominiums built by Swire Properties. At 36 stories, it made the Miami Top 20 list of tallest buildings at #20. It has 123 units, all within easy walking distance of the amenities of Brickell Key including the five-star Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Asia’s Board President Brian S. Campbell will represent the building on the BHA Board along with Property Manager Aracely Samuel. Asia is managed by The Continental Group.

**1110 Brickell Office-Condo**

BHA welcomes 1110 Brickell. It is one of only a handful of office condos in Florida—a relatively new concept for office space. A significant portion of the owners at the 227-unit building use their units as office space, making the property a prime example of mixed-use space in the heart of Brickell. Managed by The Continental Group, the building houses several law firms, real estate brokers, import/export firms, insurance and investment brokers, a bank and a translation service. Property Manager Emilia Nabais, CAM will represent 1110 Brickell on the BHA board.

**1060 Brickell**

Opening in 2008, the two-tower 1060 Condominium, also known as 1050 & 1060, includes Tower 1, the 46-story building on Brickell Avenue, and Tower 2, the 34-story building on South Miami Avenue. With access to both of Brickell’s main arteries, the best restaurants, bars, grocery stores and shops are just a hop, skip and a jump away for 1060 residents. The condominium buildings feature 15 different floor plans, ranging from 600 square feet to 2,566-square-foot penthouses. There are 12 stories of parking garage, 24-hour security, gym, pool, spa and concierge. 1060 is also a pet-friendly building. Board President John Toohey and Property Manager Aracely Samuel will represent the building to BHA.

**Brickell Fountains Condominium**

BHA is pleased to welcome back Brickell Fountains, which had been a member for many years and is active again with BHA. Located on the west side of Brickell at 1990 Brickell Avenue, Brickell Fountains is a quaint, two-story condominium built in 1974 that is comprised of 16 two-bedroom/three-bathroom units. Board President Neil De Leon will represent Brickell Fountains on the BHA board.

**ThyssenKrupp Elevator Americas**

BHA welcomes ThyssenKrupp Elevator Americas as a new associate member. It is the largest producer of elevator’s in the Americas, with innovative products and services that create sustainable infrastructures and promote the efficient use of resources. Founded in 1891, ThyssenKrupp might very well be BHA’s oldest member. In this case, age is an advantage, with ThyssenKrupp on the cutting edge of elevator innovation and service. The company provides an invaluable service to many condo associations and office high rises in the Brickell community. Account Manager Eddie Alorda will represent the company on the BHA board.

**Siegfried, Rivera, Lerner, De La Torre & Sobel P.A.**

Established in 1977, the law firm of Siegfried, Rivera, Lerner, De La Torre & Sobel is viewed as one of the city’s most trusted sources for legal counsel and representation for condominium and homeowners associations. They provide 24-hour online access for associations to manage and track their accounts as well as handle enforcement and collection of condominium and homeowner association rules and assessments. The firm currently represents various Brickell condominiums and is a welcome addition and valuable asset to the BHA. Attorney Helio De La Torre, who has more than two decades of experience working with condos in the Brickell area, will represent his firm as the BHA board representative. On June 19, he will present an educational program on managing construction claims to BHA members and Brickell area friends. ●
Back up, Back up, Back up  By Bill Fitch

“I don’t know how.” Like preparing for a natural disaster, most of us understand how important data backup is, but don’t know where to start. The first step is deciding how you are going to store the data you back up.

Two good options are removable backup media (CDs, DVDs, Flash Drives) or an external hard drive. Another good option is to back up data to an Internet-based location, which allows you to back up a file, a folder or your entire hard drive to a separate location online.

“My computer won’t crash.” You’ve had your computer this long and never had a problem, so, why worry now? Data backup is about protecting your data’s future, but with computers, it isn’t if you crash, it’s when you crash.

In today’s high-tech world of sneaky spyware and venomous viruses, you are in more danger of data loss than ever before.

Data backup recovery software is designed so that even those who don’t feel comfortable performing technical computer processes can easily back up their data. With many backup applications, you can schedule daily automatic backups.

No matter why your computer calls it quits, whether it is corrupted data, viruses or natural wear and tear, with the right data backup software, you’ve got it covered.

Common excuses

“I’m too busy.” We’re all busy; work, family and friends fill our days and leave us little time for boring things like computer maintenance. But today’s backup software manufacturers make it easy. Through scheduled backups, your system can automatically perform a backup that fits your needs, at an interval you choose, without interrupting your life.

Bill Fitch is President of Brickell on the River and BHA Secretary of the Board. He is an engineer, so naturally interested in how things work. He’s been an Apple user since Apple introduced their first desktop computer in the early 1980s, and has mastered their array of products along the way. To get help from Bill, visit www.AppleHelp4U.com or call (305) 582-7288.
BHA Legislative & Advocacy Agenda – 2013

Traffic & Pedestrian Safety

• Lower the speed limit 30 mph for all of Brickell Avenue from Southeast 26th Road north to Miami River.

• Add a left-turn arrow at the Southeast 15th Road and Brickell Avenue intersection traffic signal and improve intersection configuration for improved visibility and traffic calming.

• Address the eastbound left turn lane on 26th Road going north onto Brickell Avenue where the lane configuration needs to be changed to discourage illegal left turns from the second lane or striped area.

• Improve sidewalks and crosswalks throughout the district for pedestrian safety.

Landscaping & Beautification

• Provide improved median and swale landscaping, fix and widen sidewalks, remove impediments, and improve the utility hardware on Brickell Avenue.

• Improve the system of utility markings that leaves our sidewalks, streets and public spaces littered with spray creating unsightly sidewalk graffiti throughout the community.

Parks and Green space

• Continue to seek additional green space for the growing Brickell residential and business community.

• Garner support for events and improved oversight of 1814 Brickell Park.

School for Brickell Community

• Revisit the Mater Academy Proposal for a Charter School in the Brickell area and/or other opportunity, as the need for a school remains acute and is critical for the area’s success as an urban neighborhood that accommodates people of all ages, including families.

Impact Fees

• Ensure the proper and legal use of fees to be invested in infrastructure that will mitigate impacts in the area affected by development, and not to be diverted to the general fund.

Garbage & Waste Hauling

• Provide condominium owners refunds or garbage service. Condo homeowners have historically been assessed in property taxes for garbage collection but don’t get the service; high-rise buildings—whether commercial or residential—must pay a private waste hauler for service.

Police Coverage of the Brickell area

• A dedicated patrol unit is sought for the Brickell Avenue neighborhood.

Other Issues

• Extend the Downtown Development Authority catchment area to include all of the Brickell community, from SE 15th Road to SE 26 Road and Point View.

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Is Your Roof Ready for the Rainy Season?
Roof maintenance planning can help you weather the worst

By Gregg Wallick, President & CEO of Best Roofing

The inevitable storms and hurricanes that batter us fairly regularly in South Florida will soon be upon us. While every element of storm preparation is important, the roof system is probably the most critical and most often overlooked. Consider that your roof system must keep water from entering the building despite rain, hail, ultraviolet rays, foot traffic, various mechanical servicings, and building expansion and contraction.

During a storm the roof is a transfer point of wind energy and part of your first line of defense against immediate and future damage. How your roof is built is as important as what it’s made of. Your roof system should properly account for the following factors: access, deck, slope, weight, traffic, local weather conditions, wind zone, codes, insurance and budget constraints. Proper maintenance — and sometimes retrofitting of braces or hurricane straps — can help ensure that damage will be minimal when tough weather hits.

Every condo association board should give someone the responsibility of looking after the roof of their building. The roof should be treated as a depreciating asset to ensure the benefit of its entire service life.

Here are some things you can do to help you prepare your roof before South Florida’s rainy/storm season.

Create an historical file
Every condo association board should create a file of the following items:
- Roof specifications
- Material manufacturer specification and product data the different components of the roof
- Roof warranties from the manufacturer of the material and/or the roofing contractor
- Contact information of your roofing contractor

Conduct Periodic Inspections
Your roof should be inspected at least twice a year by a qualified architect, engineer, roof consultant or roofing contractor who has a good understanding of the basic components of the roof system. Spring and Fall are good times to do this because they are prior to and just after the severe Florida rainy and hurricane seasons. Additional inspections should be ordered after severe hail and wind storms or after any installation of new mechanical equipment. If you haven’t already assessed your property’s vulnerability to wind loading, now is the time to do it.
Utilize preventive maintenance

The results of the inspection process will determine your preventive maintenance needs. It is very important that you select a contractor who specializes in this area. Preventive maintenance is a special part of the roofing trade, very different from conventional roofing contracting. Hiring a roof technician properly trained in all roof systems, who has served an apprenticeship of diagnosing the proper corrective procedures, is as important as taking your car to the mechanic that specializes in a specific make and model.

Considering that your roof protects a significant portion of your real estate and personal assets, a few dollars in preventative maintenance are a worthy investment. If it’s been a while since your last roof inspection, you should anticipate a significant charge to bring your roof up to a manageable level. Once you’ve established a routine inspection/maintenance pattern you can expect costs to range between $0.01 to $0.10 per square foot, per inspection. Considering the cost to reroof a building can run from $5.00 to $20.00 per square foot, extending the service life of your current roof through proper maintenance is worthwhile. When the restoration work is completed, don’t forget to add the new information to your historical file. List what was repaired, how it was repaired, how much it cost and who did the work.

The best emergency strategy is an established relationship with a qualified roofer. Don’t risk making the repairs yourself. It is dangerous for untrained individuals to climb up on a roof and attempt to make repairs without professional guidance. It can sometimes even result in more costly damage.

Gregg Wallick is the President and CEO of Best Roofing Inc. and one of the foremost Forensic Roof Specialists in the country. He understands the complex high velocity building code requirements and has been designing commercial roof systems for over 33 years. Gregg is a former Director of the National Roofing Association (NRCA), a member of the Board of Governors of Alliance for Progress, and Chairman of the Board of Everglades University. He regularly teaches “Commercial Roofing 101” for property managers and condo boards. He received his Masters of Business Administration from the University of Miami and is a former Captain of the University of Miami Hurricane Football Team. He can be reached at (954) 941-9111 or gwallick@bestroofing.net.

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