

FROM COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS
September/October 2014



HURRICANE SEASON has started - now is a good time to remind everyone to make sure you are ready. I know this article is a repeat; however, it is very important for residents to prepare. Though only a few may lose power, we cannot forget the damage that even a tropical storm can do. Part of this preparation should include creating a disaster plan and assembling a disaster supply kit. The kit should include at least three days' worth of water (one gallon, per person, per day) and non-perishable food for each person in your family. Other essential supplies you should have readily available include: a can opener, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, batteries, cash, pet supplies, medications, extra eyeglasses, contact lenses and supplies for people with special needs. For a complete list of emergency supplies and other preparedness tips, visit the City hurricane website at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/hurricane>. If you are interested in helping your fellow residents after a hurricane, I encourage you to join the Community Emergency Response Team (or "CERT"). CERT is a highly trained, volunteer group that assists the City after local emergencies. Through Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue, you can receive free training that covers disaster terminology, standard triage, basic first aid, fire suppression, light search and rescue techniques and disaster awareness. After graduation you will be prepared to care for your family and your community, and you will be part of a team that may be called upon to assist the City during an emergency. Free beginner and continuing education classes are available. For more information please call 954-828-6832.

UPTOWN TROLLEY SERVICE: The City has launched a new FREE midday shuttle bus service for the Uptown Business District which provides transportation service along the Cypress Creek corridor Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm. Two routes originating from Cypress Creek Tri-Rail station serves the Uptown area from Calvary Chapel (west boundary) to Radice Corporate Park (east boundary). The Uptown Link provides commuters, students, employees, and visitors with convenient access to the Cypress Creek Tri-Rail station, as well as surrounding restaurants, shops, educational campuses, the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, and other destinations during the busy midday hours.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS: Yes, it is that time of year again when the kids go back to school. Just a reminder that the new school year begins August 24, 2014, with approximately 250,000 students attending schools in Broward County – most of who will be walking, biking, driving or taking the bus. The most important tips include:

- Do not text or talk on your cell phone while driving.
- Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Be alert for school zones that have a reduced speed limit at designated times of the day.
- Watch for school buses. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm indicate the school bus is stopping to load or unload children. State law requires you to stop.
- Keep an eye out for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks.
- Be alert for children playing and gathering near bus stops and for those who may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods or school zones, watch for young people who may be in a hurry to get to or away from school and may not be thinking about getting there safely.

NEW NON-EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER/24 HOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL CENTER: As part of the Broward County's new regionalized communication system, the City will have a new phone number for non-emergency public safety calls. Neighbors should dial (954) 764-HELP for non-emergency police or fire services. In an emergency you will still call 911. For all other City inquiries, please contact the 24-hour Customer Service Call Center at (954) 828-8000 or download our new Lauderserve app from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

The Lauderserve app allows users to submit customer service requests right from their mobile device. Neighbors can report a streetlight outage, clogged storm drain, pothole, or broken waste cart; find out collection days for sanitation, recycling and bulk trash; discover how to pay a water bill or parking ticket online; and much, much more. Lauderserve can also be used to access the City's social media accounts and get beach conditions. Visit the Lauderserv webpage today!! <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv/index.htm>

10 BEST BEACH RESORTS IN FLORIDA (emantravels.com): People from all over the world are drawn every day to Florida's tourist attractions that include famous theme parks, Spanish historic sites, lively nightlife and glorious beaches. With a booming tourism industry, Florida welcomes its visitors with a plethora of hotels and resorts that are located right on the beach. With amenities like fine restaurants, lively bars, full-service spas, fitness centers, sand white beaches and water sports, beach resorts in Florida present fun-packed vacations in and of themselves.

FORT LAUDERDALE'S BUSIEST FIREHOUSE: Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue has the new title of 'Busiest Firehouse in the entire United States and Canada.' Firehouse 2 responded to 25,018 calls in 2013. Fort Lauderdale Engine 8 was ranked as the busiest engine in Florida and the 10th busiest in the Country. Battalion Chief 2 was the second busiest in the state. The Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Department responds to fire and medical emergencies and is also responsible for emergency services for the City of Wilton Manors and Lazy Lake. Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue is dedicated to the City's mission statement of 'We build community.' When firefighter paramedics are not responding to calls or training, they can be found at local schools or community events teaching fire safety, how to make your home safe for your children, or collecting toys, food or school supplies for children. Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue just celebrated its 100 year anniversary in 2012. Firehouse magazine conducts the survey every year comparing fire department call volume and truck responses.

POLICE ACTIVITY: There have been many calls for service around the City regarding car break-ins and home invasions. Officers are always present at our pre-agenda meetings to update us on these incidents in our District, and share action plans if needed. A big reminder is to ALWAYS lock your car door and NEVER leave anything on your car seat that would entice someone to break in. Also, if someone is knocking at your door that you do not know, let them know that you are home and that you have called the police. If you do not answer them, they may think no one is home and may enter via the back. We also have a Crime Prevention Division, and a detective can either come to an HOA meeting OR individual home to let you know what you can do to make your surroundings more secure. Always call the non-emergency number at 954-764-HELP (4357), or if you feel you are in danger call 911.

UPCOMING DATES TO CALENDAR:

- 8/25/14 Joint Commission Workshop with Budget Advisory Board (7pm, City Hall)
- 9/1/14 HOLIDAY – City Hall is closed
- 9/3/14 Commission Meetings (conference and regular)
- 9/4/14 State of the City Address – (6pm, Huizinga Pavilion)
- 9/10/14 Second Meeting for budget hearing (6pm, City Hall)

OFFICE CONTACT: Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov

In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule.