

The Rodstrom Report

Charlotte Rodstrom
Fort Lauderdale City Commission - District 2



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Progresso Point housing complex opens in Flagler

Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom joined other officials in February to celebrate the grand opening of Progresso Point, an affordable housing complex in Flagler Village.

Co-developed by the Broward County Housing Authority and Reliance Housing Foundation, the building boasts 76 units. Progresso Point embodies smart growth priorities of producing affordable rental housing in an economically and environmentally sustainable building.

A Broward Housing Council study showed a severe need for workforce housing. Downtown restaurants, retailers and healthcare providers and their staffs need high-quality workforce housing, and Progresso Point helps fill that niche.



New initiative launched to design better streets in Fort Lauderdale region

A new initiative is underway to make streets throughout our community safer for pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists and transit-riders.

As vice-chair of the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, I recently helped launch the Complete Streets Initiative to change our approach to road planning. It hopefully will result in streets and adjacent rights-of-way being better designed to balance all modes of transportation.

The goal is to make it easier to cross streets, walk to shops, bike to work and ensure buses run on time. This is particularly important given the growing congestion on South Florida roadways as well as the dangers that pedestrians and cyclists frequently face.

Those of us who serve on the MPO board believe a more balanced approach to street design will encourage smarter growth and healthier communities. More accessible streets should also boost business development and increase real estate values.

The MPO, which is in charge of transportation planning for the Broward region, teamed up with the Broward Regional Health Planning Council, the Smart Growth Partnership and the Urban Health Partnerships. Together, we obtained a grant from the Centers for Disease Control. The coalition will work over the next eight months to develop the specifics of the initiative.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in a short survey for the project. We need to hear from residents about their transportation concerns and travel behavior as we look to incorporate the Complete Streets policies into existing codes and plans. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/browardcompletestreets>.

The MPO will schedule workshops in April and then again in September to take public input. To learn more about the workshops, please contact Patrice Gillespie Smith, the program manager at Urban Health Partnerships. Her phone number is 786-224-2309, and her email is Patrice@urbanhs.com.

Broward is one of a handful of urban areas across the nation to win a CDC grant to improve street design.

One of the local examples of how streets can be improved is Northeast 15 Avenue in the Poinsettia Heights neighborhood. It was once a five-lane street, but then the city transformed it into two lanes for traffic and added a landscaped median and bike lanes.

To learn more about the Complete Streets Initiative, please visit the Urban Health Partnerships website, www.urbanhs.com/completestreets.

Sincerely,



LAUDERDALE AIR SHOW

The Air Show will return to Fort Lauderdale beach on April 28-29 after a five-year hiatus.

The show will feature some of the nation's premier military and civilian acts, including the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

General viewing is free. A premium viewing section will be available between Sunrise Boulevard and 14th Avenue along State Road A1A.

Flagler Drive greenway

The city is beginning construction of the greenway. The greenway will use the two western lanes of Flagler Drive and run from North Andrews Avenue to Sunrise Boulevard.

Amenities will include adjacent landscaping, lighting and street furniture. The path will link to a dedicated bike lane that will be added southward on existing streets leading to the bus depot.

Sea turtle nesting season

The annual sea turtle nesting season began March 1 and will run Oct. 31. During this time, green, leatherback, and loggerhead sea turtles find their way to our beaches to nest.

The turtles are protected as an endangered species. It's illegal to disturb their nests, and beach property owners are urged to make changes to beachfront lights to prevent them from being visible to turtles..

New whitefly infestation

The rugose spiraling whitefly has been found in South Florida. Look for a build-up of a white, waxy substance on the underside of leaves. Plants can become covered with it. You should thoroughly wash plants off with a steady stream of water. Follow up with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil sprayed once a week for 3-4 weeks.



Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom joins Mayor Jack Seiler and other officials on March 9 in launching St. Patrick's Day weekend festivities.

If you would like to receive an email version of this newsletter or other updates from Commissioner Rodstrom, please send an email to swyman@fortlauderdale.gov or call her office at 954-828-5923. You can also visit her web page at www.fortlauderdale.gov/rodstrom.

