Community

FORT LAUDERDALE » DEERFIELD BEACH » POMPANO BEACH » SURROUNDING AREAS

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City to present study results

Pompano officials will use findings to evaluate redevelopment of three corridors

By Sean d'Oliveira
Staff Writer

As Pompano Beach continues its redevelopment efforts, a long-term study that examined corridor improvement projects will be reviewed during a City Commission workshop this week.

City commissioners are looking at corridors along Atlantic Boulevard, Dixie Highway and Federal Highway. Findings from the study will be presented at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at City Commission Chambers, 100 W. Atlantic Blvd.

"[The study] will help us figure out where we want to go with those corridors and how we want to structure various zoning areas and such so that we best optimize the redevelopment," said City Commissioner Rex Hardin.

The study includes an economic assessment of the city, zoning code assessments and input on how they can be improved through land changes, and available grant funding to help lure businesses to the areas.

"There's lots of opportunities for redevelopment along those corridors, and the studies are going to help us figure out what kind of blueprint we're going to have for the future redevelopment of those areas so we can help guide the redevelopment into something we want, as opposed to waiting for a developer to come along and pitch a project, and now they'll have an idea of what we're looking for," Hardin said.

With residential and business needs varying by area, city commissioners know that what works in one corridor may not be suitable in another.

"We've got a lot of different obstacles that we've got to overcome in certain areas, and each corridor is being treated differently because they all serve different purposes," Hardin said.

The city has also tried creating incentive programs to help update old buildings and entice businesses to the Atlantic Boulevard and A1A corridors.

"New businesses obviously bring tax dollars, but it also provides opportunities for our residents in terms of jobs and enjoyment of those businesses," Mayor Lamar Fisher said.

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Winning formula

Fort Lauderdale among the 'Best Cities to Retire'

By Don Crinklaw
Staff Writer

No state income tax, great weather, a bustling city center and 150 miles of canals — that formula has landed Fort Lauderdale on Money magazine's annual "10 Best Cities to Retire."

The city placed No. 6 on the list, sandwiched between Boise, Idaho, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

"They got their facts straight," said Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler.

The city has also made the "Best Of" lists in other national magazines and websites, Seiler said, and recently landed on Livability.com's Top 100 Best Places to Live.

"We've been ranked as one of the top places to start a new business, one of the best cities to be a young professional, one of the finest cities for minorities to do business. Now we're one of the top places to retire," Seiler said. "I'd say we're really hitting on all cylinders."

"Our residents live like tourists," said Nicki E. Grossman, president of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Fort Lauderdale is a top place to live, to grow up, to work, to visit and now to retire."

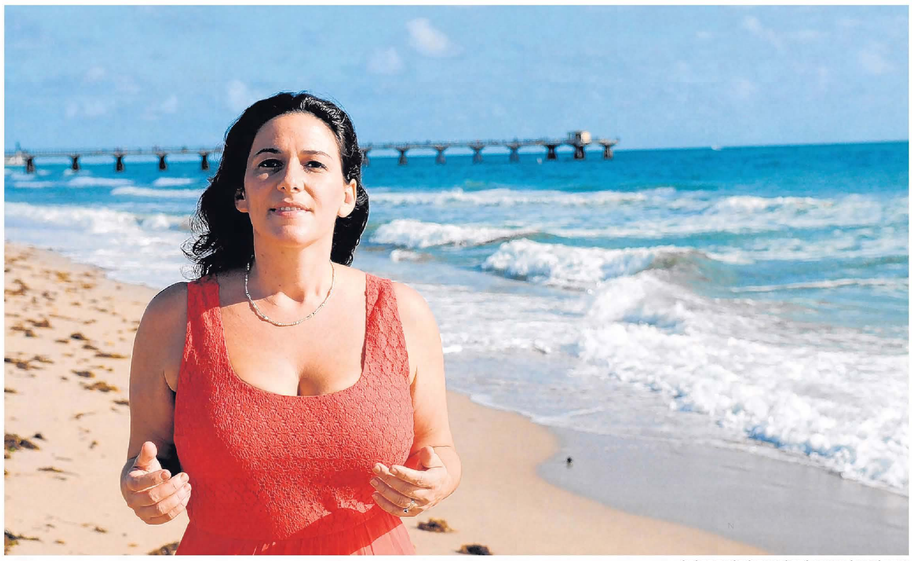
Seiler said those looking to retire here aren't seeking a slow pace.

"People are no longer looking for a sedate retirement," he said. "That's an important element in this Money magazine article and what it's about. People don't come here to retire into a passive life — quite the opposite. They want an active retirement in a nice climate, a nice environment.

"We're the New Age retirement, if you will. Retirement in a nursing home? That ain't us."

Don Crinklaw can be reached at dcrinklaw@tribune.com.

Helping with student's research



STAFF PHOTO BY MARTA MIKULAN MARTIN

When Coral Springs resident Keren Bolter began researching her FAU geosciences thesis on how residents perceive the risk of climate change, she asked every mayor and city manager in Broward to post surveys on their websites. Deerfield Beach and Coconut Creek have agreed.

Deerfield, Creek agree to assist with sea-level survey

By Elizabeth Roberts
Staff Writer

Ever see the photograph of a polar bear clinging to a tiny piece of ice amid a great ocean and wonder what you can do to stem sea level rise? A local Ph.D. candidate wants to give every Broward County resident that chance.

Recently, Deerfield Beach and Coconut Creek put out an online call for participation in a survey on the issue.

They agreed to assist with a survey requested by Coral Springs resident Keren Bolter, who is on the cusp of a Ph.D. in geosciences from Florida Atlantic University. The university's research department is helping with the survey.

Bolter will use the data for a doctoral thesis comparing the perceived risk of sea level rise with real data. Her goal is to find out if people are concerned — and whether they should be.

"Why are people buying property at 2 feet above sea level when the sea level is projected to rise up to 2 feet by the year 2060?" she said. "Inland areas think they are safe, but they don't realize the water comes up through the porous ground."

Bolter knows of what she speaks. She recently gave a talk for TEDxMiami about the misconceptions related to sea level rise that was later broadcast on a National Public Radio affiliate. The information, Bolter said, is vital to helping planners and emergency personnel identify where people are at greatest risk.

But of 30 Broward cities she contacted, only Deerfield Beach and Coconut Creek have agreed to help. Ironically, she said, those are among the Broward communities with perhaps the least to worry about.

"In general, the elevations in Broward County go from north to south, from high to low. Deerfield Beach, in terms of elevation, is close to 10 feet higher than Fort Lauderdale," Bolter said.

Bolter said she is hoping to get about 1,000 survey respondents.

The survey is available at www.kbolter.com through Dec. 31.

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AYFL's top teams lock horns in Super Saturday showcase >> Page 13

CUTTING CORNERS: Sally Deneen's column is on pg. 4

KIDS OF CHARACTER: This week's profile is on pg. 4

REAL ESTATE: Check out local transactions on pg. 5

If you act now...

If you "Like" our Facebook page, we'll throw in a set of ... OK, there are no steak knives, but you'll find local stories, information on upcoming events, and more. Find us at Facebook.com/browardforum. Operators are standing by.

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