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off Broward County's Black
History Features Many
Pompano Beach Locations



BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD UNVEILED NEW CAMPUS FOR C. ROBERT MARKHAM ELEMENTARY

By Kristen Hernandez

Pompano Beach - C. Robert Markham Elementary School is one of several significantly neglected and deteriorated schools within Pompano's black neighborhoods. Thanks to a collective cry for help, Broward County School Board secured government funding to make improvements.

THE board unveiled design plans for a brand-new campus scheduled for completion by 2026. The design features different architectural elements, technological advances and better security. Broward County School Board Unveiled New Campus for C. Robert Markham Elementary

"It's about time something is done," said Jennifer Walker, mother and former Markham student. "I'll say it, the reason that school is deteriorated is because black kids go there. Most of the schools in black neighborhoods are falling apart and left neglected." Young Markham students
■ *New Campus, see page 10*

New Housing Protection Laws Could Help Fight Pompano's Unaffordable Housing Crisis

By Kristen Hernandez

Law makers in Florida have stepped up to help combat the unaffordable housing crisis plaguing every county in the state. Historically, renters have had little to no government protection from uncapped rent hikes, units without working air conditioning, apartments that require major repairs or upgrades, or having to vacate a unit with little notice at a landlord's whim.

Rep. Jervante Edmonds, D, of Palm Beach is leading the calvary to make significant changes to Florida's housing laws. Edmonds sponsored two new housing bills; one focused on protecting renters and one on assisting homeowners.

House Bill 31, or HB31, passed through January's legislative session and will offer more tenant protections. HB 41 also passed and will offer funding for homeowners struggling with the recent surge in insurance rates.

"I took on Florida's biggest crisis" said Edmonds, in a Facebook post. "Affordable housing"

New Renter Protections

Key provisions addressed in HB31 include:

■ *Housing Crisis, see page 10*

Upcoming Laws to Watch - Faith in Florida Holds Pastors Meeting to Create Political Awareness

Rep. Patricia Williams and Clergy Leaders Call on Residents to Unite and Vote #PompanoStrong

By Kristen Hernandez

Pompano Beach - Over 20 pastors attended an "all hands on deck" meeting, hosted by Reverend Tim Griffith of Faith in Florida, with state Rep. Patricia Williams, D, as special guest speaker at Word of the Living God Church, located

at 149 NW 26th Avenue in Pompano Beach. The room had a hushed urgency as community reverends, pastors, ministers, and preachers settled in for an update on some disturbing House and Senate Bills scheduled to become law later this year.

■ *Faith in Florida, see page 10*



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 Pompano Wednesdays at 7 p.m.**

FATAL SHOOTING IN POMPANO KILLS A 16-YEAR-OLD & INJURES 3 OTHERS

16-Year-Old Killed in Fatal Shooting in Pompano Beach

Broward Sheriff's Office Homicide Unit detectives are investigating a fatal shooting that killed a 16-year-old and injured three other people in Pompano Beach.

AROUND 5 p.m. on Monday, March 25, Broward County Regional Communications received reports of a shooting in the 1800 block of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Pompano Beach. BSO deputies and Pompano Beach Fire Rescue responded. On scene, deputies located a male on the sidewalk suffering from gunshot

wounds and immediately began life-saving measures. Pompano Beach Fire Rescue transported the victim to Broward Health North where he died. Deputies also learned that three additional shooting victims were taken to a nearby hospital by a private vehicle. They are expected to survive.

According to detectives, the preliminary investigation re-

veals that the victims were in front of a business at 1780 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. prior to the incident when they were approached by multiple subjects who began shooting. BSO's Homicide and Crime Scene Units are investigating the motive for the shootings and attempting to determine who is responsible.

Anyone with information

regarding this incident is asked to contact BSO Homicide Unit Detective Steve Novak at 954-321-4325 or submit a tip through the SaferWatch app. If you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS (8477), online at browardcrimestoppers.org, or dial **TIPS (8477) from any cellphone in the United States.

Boys and Girls Club Improvements

The Thomas D. Stephanis Boys and Girls Club of Pompano Beach, located at 212 NW 16th Street, will get much needed upgrades. Tile floors will be replaced, as well as interior doors, main doors, a new remodeled gym, a new AC system and fence. The project is expected to be complete before Summer. The facility provides services to more than 180 kids daily. Approximately 58% of members earn less than \$30K, 71% live in a single-family household and 87% are Black, according to city documents.



Death in Real Life: A Conversation with the Funeral Diva

By Attiyya Atkins

We might run from it, we might hide from it, but we're all going to die.

DEATH is the one thing in this life that is guaranteed. But unfortunately, due to issues prevalent in Black communities like higher crime rates, lack of access to health care or high-quality food, single-family households and increased poverty, Black people die at a higher rate and at a younger age than their white counterparts, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Because of this, it's important that we look death in the face.

Our publisher recently had the opportunity to sit down with Sarah Noble, the first independent contractor in the state of Florida to offer funeral services and have an honest talk about death.

Noble is a licensed funeral director, embalmer, funeral insurance agent, funeral director, certified grief facilitator, and eye enucleator. She has spent more than 40 years in the funeral industry and finds joy and peace in helping families deal with death. But she is no Grim Reaper, Noble is one of the most caring and inspiring women in South Florida.

"I love to help families in their darkest hour," Noble said. "I say a funeral is a lifetime in one day. Death is sad. I help people to see the light in the midst of their darkness. Show them that they their loved one is valued, and they are honoring their loved one's legacy and memory."

Because Noble is an indepen-



dent contractor, she can help those who are hurting in a more personal way. She can help with logistics required to arrange a funeral service, including planning, hosting, decorating, preparing the body and more.

"It's that woman's touch," she said. "Women bring a different type of sympathy or empathy – were mothers, nurturers, we bring the softer side that families need."

Her experience in the funeral industry hasn't been without struggle, she says. "Funeral workers shed tears like anyone else. Mental health is part of my ministry."

Even being a woman in such a male-dominated industry causes its own issues. "It is not an occupation it's an anointing," she said. "I love everything about it. It is the gift of taking something that is diminishing and making it prosperous and helping a family in their darkest

hour be able to see the joy in the celebration of life."

Being in the funeral industry for so long, Noble has some tips to help us through the funeral process:

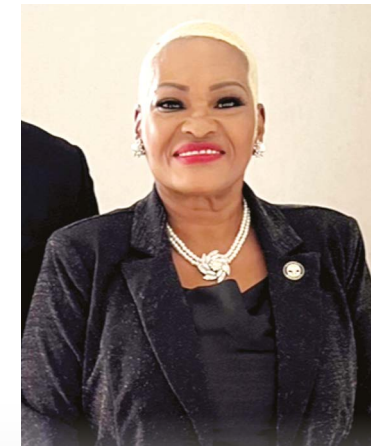
1. Don't Hold Grudges. "Forgive and move on," she said. "Nothing is worse than being mad at someone and they pass away. You'll have to deal with

that devastation and it's big." She shared a story of two brothers who hadn't spoken in 10 years. Before one brother died, the other called him. The brother did not answer. He died and was killed in such a way that he didn't even look the same. Noble recreated his brother's face to allow for him to get one last look.

2. Prepare Early. We're all going to die. Get ahead of the game and purchase the funeral arrangements ahead of time. "The price is only going to go up," she said. "Don't put yourself in a financial burden... because of inflation the price of a funeral doubles about every two years."

3. Get the Insurance. Get the pre-arrangements started with funeral insurance. Funeral insurance isn't life insurance, although that is important too. You can purchase the insurance starting at age 0. Get the insurance so we don't have to use GoFundMe or fry fish for funds.

If you have any funeral related questions, please email to villijnews@gmail.com, and the Funeral Diva will answer your questions in upcoming issues.



BLACK AMERICA DYING

- In 2015, Blacks had 40% higher death rates than whites for all-cause mortality in all age groups <65 years.

- At ages 18–34 years, Blacks had higher death rates than whites for eight of the 10 leading causes of death among blacks in that age group (heart disease; cancer; cerebrovascular disease; diabetes mellitus; homicide; HIV disease; and conditions resulting from pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium).

- At ages 35–49 years, Blacks had higher death rates than whites for heart disease; cancer; cerebrovascular disease; diabetes mellitus;

homicide; nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis; septicemia; and HIV disease.

- At ages 50–64 years, Blacks had higher death rates than whites for leading chronic diseases (heart disease, cancer; cerebrovascular disease; diabetes mellitus; and nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis) as well as for unintentional injury, septicemia, and HIV disease.

- Death rates from heart disease, cancer, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, and homicide began increasing at earlier ages among Blacks than among whites.

*data provided by the CDC

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Interactive Map Showing off Broward County's Black History Features Many Pompano Beach Locations

By Attiyya Atkins

What do the Blanche Ely Museum and Attucks Middle School have in common? They are stops on Broward County's interactive map called Threads. Threads is a joint project between Broward County Transit and the African American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC). The interactive map showcases the rich black history throughout Broward County.



A Broward County Transit GIS Analyst used ArcGIS to create the interactive map in which users can click on each location to learn more about its history and view nearby bus stops and routes that provide service to each site, according to a Broward County Transit press release.

The map uses a location to enlighten users on the history

of the property, whether it is a school, a church, or home. It features places that many people may have visited, but may not have understood the Black history behind it, such as the Dr. Von D. Mizell - Eula Johnson State Park, which is named after Eula Johnson, a civil rights activist. Johnson led the Fort

Lauderdale Beach "wade-ins" in the 1960s to desegregate Fort Lauderdale's beaches. She also became the first woman president of the Fort Lauderdale chapter of the NAACP. Dr. Von D. Mizell is a notable local doctor who co-founded Provident Hospital (also on the map), the first Black hospital in Broward

County, along with Dr. James Sistrunk. Even though Provident hospital is now closed, the history lives on.

Also on the map is the home and business of Frank and Florence Ali, now known as the Ali Cultural Arts Center in Pompano Beach. The Ali's were well known and opened one of the

first Black-owned businesses in Dania and now their home serves as a hub of art, dance, music, and local Black history.

"The map was created to educate the community about important figures who contributed to the creation of Broward County," according to a Broward County Transit press release.



WWE Monday Night Raw Returns To Sunrise For The First Time Since 2013

Live and broadcast to the world from Amerant Bank Arena
Individual Tickets Go On Sale Friday, April 12 at SeatGeek.com

SUNRISE, Fla. – WWE®, part of TKO Group Holdings (NYSE: TKO), announced 22 live events, including a stop at Amerant Bank Arena, as part of the company’s 2024 touring schedule. Tickets for each live event, including tickets for Monday Night RAW on Monday, Aug. 19, go on sale Friday, April 12 at 10 a.m. ET at SeatGeek.com.

Amerant Bank Arena will host WWE Monday Night RAW on Monday, Aug. 19 at 7:30 p.m. and will feature Cody Rhodes, Seth Freakin Rollins, Becky Lynch, Rhea Ripley & The Judgement Day, The New Day, Drew McIntyre and more.

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Unexpected Love Premieres at Historic Savor Cinema in Fort Lauderdale

By **Kristen Hernandez**

When love crosses borders, some cultures still consider marrying outside their own as forbidden. *Unexpected Love*, a film written by local Haitian American, Aly Laveaux, and co-written with his Nigerian American wife, Obiandju Sundra, is loosely based on the real-life challenges they faced when they fell in love and defied the cultural stigma.

DURING two years of production coronavirus caused on set drama in the form of production shutdown, illness, social distancing and last-minute recasting issues, but *Unexpected Love* finally premiered in December at Fort Lauderdale's historic Savor Cinema, located at 503 SE 6th street.

"Love has no barriers. It's one universal language," said Abdias

Laguerre, Director of the film. "The project was conceived 3 years ago. Then the entire cast and crew ended up getting Covid. Every two weeks, every single crew and cast member had to get tested. But even with everyone being sick at different times throughout production and a two-week shutdown, we rose above those challenges, just like the main characters of the movie."

Unexpected Love is the first film of its kind, filmed on location in each country, and celebrates the stand against the cultural taboo of marriage "outside" races. Using native Nigerian and Haitian crew and actors, including the first Haitian swimmer to compete in the Olympics, Naomy Grand 'Pierre, as the female lead, "Marie", set *Unexpected Love* above most indie films.

Right before filming, the actor playing the lead character, "Jean", was too sick to continue the role. Local Haitian actor, Athlet "Flav Gabel" St. Fleur, stepped in just three days before filming was scheduled. While



on location in Haiti, St. Fleur had two days to memorize the script and brought raw chemistry to his characters' interactions with Grand 'Pierre.

"I thought I did a bad job," said St. Fleur, during the screening. "The very first scene we shot was a kissing scene, and we had just met. I received the script on a Sunday and rehearsal was on Monday. It was crazy but this project became our baby."

Critically acclaimed Nigerian actress and co-star, Stella Damasus, played Marie's mom, "Nneka", spoke about being diagnosed with Covid and returning to set. "The crew made me so comfortable, and Aly was able to get me to let my guard down," Damasus said. "It was a beautiful project. I've never seen these two cultures brought together in this way."

The merging of Haitian and Nigerian cultures was what made *Unexpected Love* stand out from most independent films. For any young adult, defying their parents' cultural expectations can be terrifying, and especially so in Nigeria. Typically, Nigerian marriages are

arranged, and fathers of eligible daughters expect prospective husbands to be of high cultural status, such as in politics or medicine. Although a lot of Haitian culture comes from Nigerian immigration, Nigerians still frowned upon marriage between the two nations.

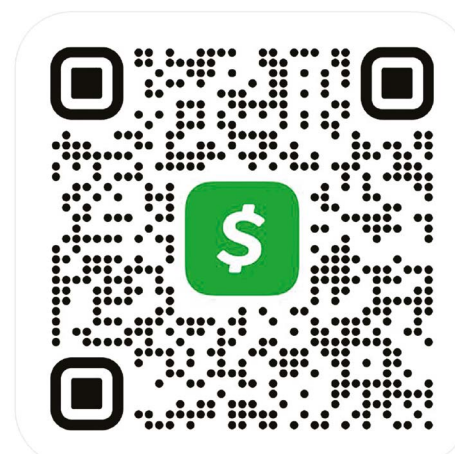
"It's about one love," said Dr. Guerda Nicolas, Chair and co-founder of Ayiti Community Trust and professor at Universi-

ty of Miami. "Haiti is the most African country in the Caribbean and has a clear connection to Nigeria and Ghana. It's lovely to see support for the actors of those nations."

Unexpected Love is now available to stream through various platforms. Visit the film's website for details on how to watch a true celebration of cross-cultural love that defies the taboo.



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Attiya Atkins

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A Look Inside a Black-Owned Art Gallery: 24 Marie Fine Art Gallery

By Attiyya Atkins

Art is an expression of the soul. Yet, many times, Black people don't see a reflection of their self in contemporary art.

MARRIED couple, Gavin and Tameka Jordan, set out to change that with the opening of 24 Marie Fine Art gallery. The gallery is located at 825 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, and specializes in featuring Black contemporary art.

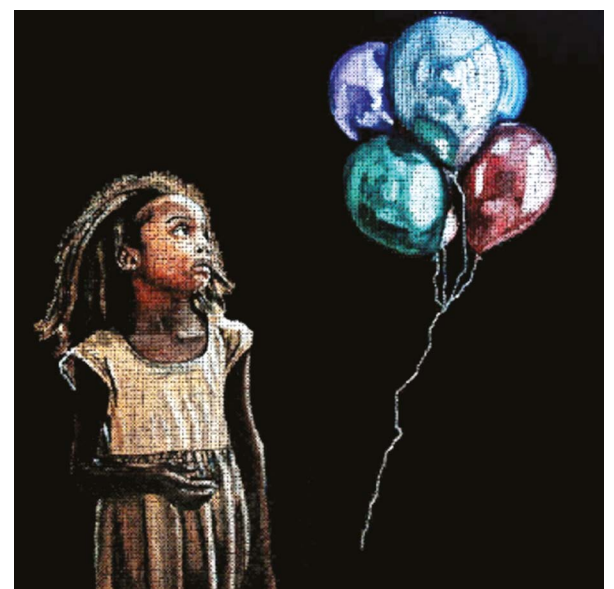
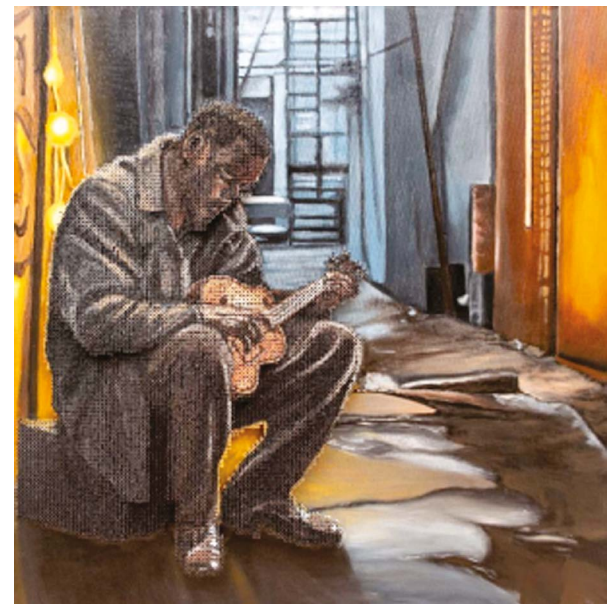
The business also serves as a base for the creative black community with exceptional artworks, including paintings, mixed media, pottery, and sculptures.

Gavin recently released his new collection, "Echoes of Sol-

itude," which is an expression of the Black human experience. The collection deals with themes of belonging, isolation, and desolation. Gavin uses the details of everyday life to highlight emotions and to tell a story of the silent battles that Black people face.

"The series reflects a personal journey, a rekindling of his passion for art after years in the corporate world," according a 24 Marie Fine Art Gallery press release. "The human figure takes center stage in his creations, brought to life through a unique technique employing industrial screws. This innovative approach adds a three-dimensional depth, creating a captivating effect that immortalizes the central figures within new narratives."

For more info, visit 24Marie.com





★

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND VOTE!

★



Your vote matters, your vote counts. Don't let anyone tell you different. If you are not registered to vote, stop by E. Pat Larkins for assistance. Keep in mind these upcoming election dates for the City of Pompano Beach.

General Election Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

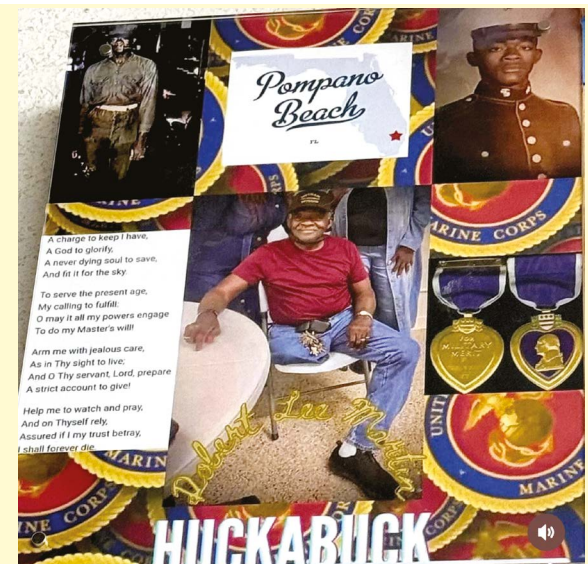
Qualifying Dates: Noon, Monday, June 10, 2024 – Noon, Friday, June 14, 2024

Elections for Office: District Commissioners 1 through 5 and Mayor-At-Large

Huckabuck's Corner

Huckabuck was a vital part of the growth of Villij News and now that he's no longer with us on Earth, Villij wants to keep his spirit alive. He was a good soul and would always ask when the next issue was coming out. Even when I was tired and even when local leaders rescinded their support, Huckabuck always encouraged me to push through. In fact, I just learned his name after his death in November, but I could

always feel his energy. He was always just the man that helped me at the laundromat and drove his power scooter around town. It was a pleasure to see him and he is truly missed. It took me almost four months to think of a way to honor him. So, we have a new staple in the paper, Huckabuck's Corner, where we focus on good news and bringing positivity to the community like Huckabuck did.



Housing Crisis

continued from page 1

Cap on Rent Increases – Uncontrolled rent hikes have been a major factor facing renters and causes financial instability. This provision restricts rent increases to no more than once in a 12-month period, with a cap of 30% of the current rent.

Requirements for Working Air conditioners in Rental Units – In South Florida's heat, working air conditioning is essential to everyday safety. The bill will ensure that the basic standards in rental properties,

except for single-family homes or duplexes, include functioning air conditioning.

Extended Notice Periods for Lease Termination- Revises the notification period landlords are required to provide before terminating a rental agreement.

Allowance for Landlords to act on Partial Rent Payments – HB31 also provides landlords the ability to terminate a rental agreement or take legal action for noncompliance, even if tenants make partial rent payments.

Between July 1, 2022, and July 1, 2023, South Florida counties reported 15,354 new eviction filings. Low-income households made up 32% of all rentals within Broward County in 2023, according to a Florida Rental Market Study Winter Update by University of Florida's Shimberg Center for Housing Studies. A household is considered low-income if combined earnings are 60% of area median income (AMI) or less.

Relief for Homeowners

Throughout Florida, homeowner's insurance has increased 102% in the last three years and costs three times more than the national average, according to the Insurance Information Institute. Edmonds' second housing bill, HB 41, is directed towards assisting homeowners struggling to keep up with soaring home and auto insurance rates.

"This bill would establish a grant program, awarding \$2,500 for those 65 and older and \$1,500

for those younger to pay for Home and Auto Insurance," said Edmonds, on his social media page. "Random people are getting dropped by their insurance companies, and right now we have to focus on real solutions. That's why I proposed this bill."

Both housing bills take effect on July 1, 2024. Florida's housing laws have been unbalanced for decades, and it'll take some time before the new protections will prove to be enough to curb the housing crisis.

New Campus

continued from page 1

have become used to eating breakfast and lunch inside stuffed classrooms, often cramped with up to 26 kids. At times, pieces of ceiling fall onto children's notebooks while they're learning. Kids are confined to small classrooms from breakfast through lunch, until recess.

The cafeteria is inaccessible and often becomes flooded because the ceiling is caving. Cafeteria staff sweat in portable kitchens with broken air conditioning, and without a fan. Teachers have lost valuable morning lesson-prepping time and gave up their lunch, or "woo-sah" hour, to care for their students.

Young ones sometimes have trouble carrying meal trays from food portables while balancing books and supplies. Little ones

often drop their food trays along the journey to their classrooms. Remnants of the week's meals, like Tuesday's taco meat and yesterday's corn, still linger on hallway floors. Students and staff dodge dropped trays and plastic sporks throughout the day.

"It's an unacceptable situation we're in," said Mrs. Hatcher, 5th grade teacher, to the school board. "We're totally neglected. Did we not know we wouldn't have a cafeteria?"

Parents that attended the unveiling agree they like the prospective design, but demand more for their children. Markham's campus size won't increase but will offer students more.

"It'll be a campus," said Deborah Hixon, member of the Broward County School Board.

"By the spring of 2026, it'll be a brand-new campus."

Design elements for Markham will feature a grand staircase leading to a sophisticated, partially covered outdoor eating space for children to spend mealtimes. In addition, the school will be technologically advanced with improved security.

"Classrooms in Broward run from 650-800 square feet. They're smaller because technology is in the kids' hands," said Dr. Peter Licata, Superintendent of Schools for Broward County. "We don't have infinite amounts of money. Kids don't sit in rows anymore, they work together. We'd love bigger rooms, but can we fill them? What are you taking away for bigger classrooms? Technology is on the wall or in

the student's hands."

Dr. Licata said that some Pompano Beach schools are suffering an under-enrollment problem. It's been well over a decade since the board added new schools or increased capacity. But parents are primarily concerned with the surge of new apartments surrounding Markham elementary.

"There are 11 apartments coming up and 2 new buildings on MLK where Markham is located," said Beverly Perkins, District 5 City Commissioner. "With all the developments coming, can the school handle it?"

The father of a young Markham student shared Perkins' concerns. "Around the corner is Golden Acres, which is adding hundreds of units. There's a casino up the street. There are 77 new

houses coming and there will be 200 units on MLK. Can this new campus handle all this growth?"

Parents also brought up "star-bursting", or the closing of schools in black neighborhoods and then transporting kids on a bus to "switch" them around the district. Dr. Licata assured parents they wouldn't implement "such a disservice to the kids". They've also promised teachers that the portable cafeteria will be working when they return from winter break.

"Thank you," said Perkins, "because Markham has been underserved for years."

The prospective design can be viewed at bcpsmartfutures.com/markhamcommunitymeeting. Final discussions of new features with parents and teachers will happen on January 30th, 2024.

Faith in Florida

continued from page 1

"I don't owe anyone anything except the people who voted me into this seat," said Rep. Williams, during the meeting. "I'm here because these laws matter. So do your votes." The current division and discord within both major political parties has led to mistrust among Black voters, and for some, the belief that voting is pointless. "They just don't want to vote anymore," said Pastor Terrance Kearney, of Abyssinian Baptist Church. "People feel their vote don't matter. Citizens need to be re-educated on voting, so they know – their vote matters."

Bills to Watch

Senate Bill 1264 (SB 1264) - History of Communism - Law

will require instruction in schools for students in Pre-K through 12th grade on the history of communism. It also requires the legislature to construct a museum dedicated to the history of communism. The law goes into effect July 1, 2024.

"Why do 5th and 6th graders need to be learning about communism but not black history?" said Rev. Griffith, during the meeting. "Why are our children required to learn this, but not our Black history?"

HB1365/SB1530 - Unauthorized Public Camping/ Public Sleeping – Bans any type of public sleeping on any public property within the state

of Florida. Republican Senator Jonathan Martin sponsored the bill, which only reshuffles the growing unhoused population. The law goes into effect October 1, 2024. "For them [policymakers], it's just another bill," said Rep. Williams, a Pompano Beach native. "For us, I know the true effect on the people in my community."

SB1596- Employment for Minors – This bill will allow employers to schedule 16- and 17-year-olds unlimited hours, allowing them to work up until midnight. It'll also require schools to provide Careers Education Program Basic Skills classes for as early as 2nd grade. The law goes

into effect July 1, 2024.

Florida's Don't Say Gay Law – Amendment 25 – Amendment 25 of Florida's controversial "Don't Say Gay" law will ban "classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity" through the 8th grade, expanding from the initial limit of 3rd grade. It will severely limit discussion in high schools, where gender discussions are allowed in an "age appropriate or developmentally appropriate" manner. It will also prohibit instructors from addressing transgender students by their preferred pronoun.

"I'm extremely concerned for our Black and brown LGBTQI+ community," Pastor Kearney

said. "Many of our queer Black residents are afraid to come forward."

Currently, there are dozens of bills slated to become law sometime this year. With so many bills to track, visit Faith in Florida's website for updates. Reverend Griffith has also offered to bring any resident that wishes to watch Florida's once-yearly law-making process, in person on a trip.

"We're going to charter a bus and take anyone who's never attended an active legislative session to Tallahassee," Griffith said. "We're going #PompanoStrong and witness how laws are passed. Let's unite and have our community voice heard."

Indulge in Scoops of Love & Joy: Godly's Dessert Café, the First Ice Cream Shop, to join the historic Sistrunk Corridor, Opened Its Doors

Godly's Dessert Café, is a sweet addition to the culinary landscape of historic Sistrunk, announced the grand opening of its flagship ice cream parlor on February 1st, 2024. Nestled in the heart of historic downtown Fort Lauderdale at the corner of Sistrunk Blvd and 27th Avenue, Godly's Dessert Café invites ice cream and italian ice enthusiasts of all ages to experience a heavenly array of flavors and a paradise of dessert delights.

CRRAFTED with passion and a commitment to quality, Godly's Dessert Café offers a mouthwatering supply of premium ice creams, fruity Italian ices, gourmet baked goods, and savory eats that promise to tantalize taste buds and evoke fond memories with every spoonful. From classic favorites like Butter Pecan, Pistachio Nut, & Coconut, to breakout flavors like Red Velvet & Blueberry Cheesecake, & Mango'rita, there's a flavor to suit every palate at Godly's Dessert Café.

"Our mission at Godly's Dessert Café is to spread love, one scoop at a time! We connect our community through gourmet treats," according to a press release.

In-Person/Curbside Pickup: 681 NW 27th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33311

Delivery: <http://GodlysOn6th.square.site>
Social Media @GodlysOn6th

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Italian Ice

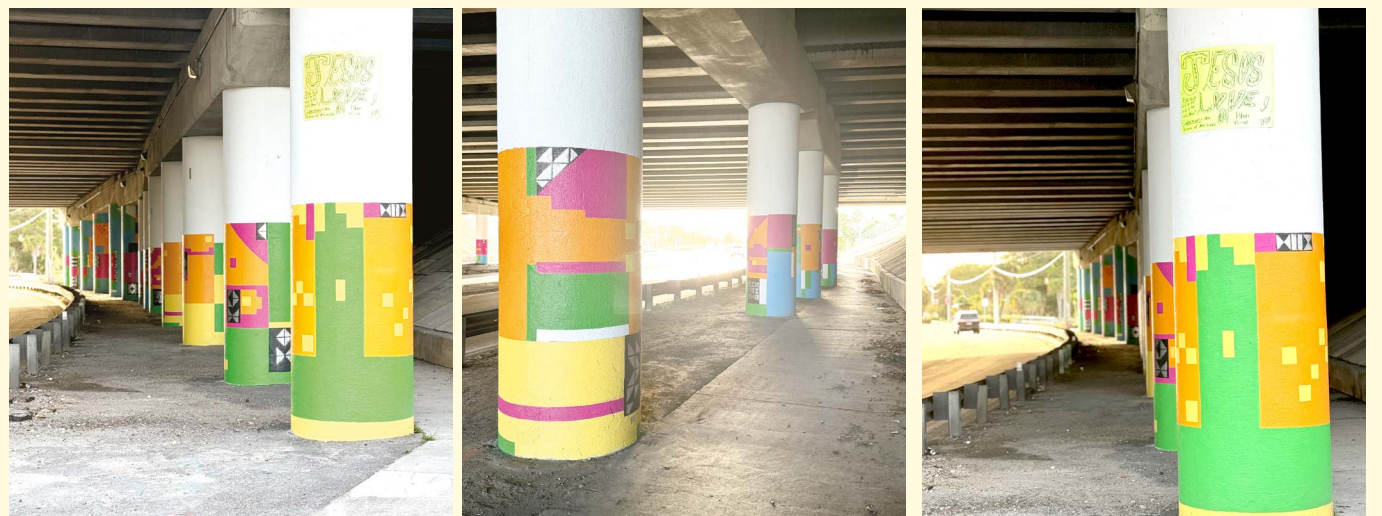
Ice Cream

Creamsicle

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Beautiful Improvements on MLK

The City of Pompano Beach approved enhancements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard from Dixie Highway to the Florida's Turnpike with widened sidewalks, landscaped medians and other transportation elements, such as bike racks and bus stops along the corridor. The most visible change is the artwork underneath the bridge.



Letter From the Editor



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Letter From the Editor: Spring is one of the most wonderful seasons ever. Don't debate with me. The rebirth, the roots cracking through the soil, the rain providing the essential mystical element that it does, and the beautiful flower that shines through.

THE winter is always worth it, please don't forget it. As you push through your struggles, remember the light... remember the sun is coming. March is the start of spring and I hope it's a start of something beautiful in your life. It's also Women's History month, and a time to celebrate all of the wonderful women in our lives. In this issue, I talked with Sarah No-

ble, a licensed independent contractor in the funeral industry, and really put some perspective on death. I'm sorry to make it sound morbid, but we have to face it. We have to understand that our Black people are dying quicker and more so than their white and Hispanic counterparts. It's all systemic and we have to stand up and fight the powers that are trying to flatline us. Spring is our time, let's spring up and make a change. Let's spring up in our community for our elderly, for our children, for our neighbors. Let's stand up and do it, because if we don't do it, no one else will.

Let's grow together.

Sincerely,
Attiya Atkins

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