



**Dec/Jan/Feb
2025/2026**

Dear Imperial Point Neighbors,

South Florida is in full winter mode as we welcome slightly crispier weather this season. In this issue learn about great news for your surrounding areas as several major achievements have been accomplished, with the grand opening of the east Convention Center, Convention Connector and Omni Hotel, bringing economic vitality into our community. And while saying goodbye to hurricane season this past November, we also say hello to the friendly cows of the seas (manatees) who join us from mid-November through the end of March. See full stories below.

East Convention Center Expansion Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening



Broward County celebrated a major milestone in October with the grand opening of the East Convention Center. The east expansion adds more than 1.2 million square feet to the existing facility, creating one of the most modern and versatile convention spaces in the Southeast. The project includes 525,000 square feet of meeting space, a 350,000 square foot exhibit hall, and a 65,000 square foot ballroom overlooking the intracoastal waterway.

Now we will be able to host major conferences like the highly anticipated IPW 2026. For the first time ever, Broward will serve as the host site for U.S. Travel Association's IPW, the United States' largest driver of international tourism. From May 17-21, 2026, hundreds of international travel enthusiasts, buyers, journalists and tourism officials from over 60 countries will get to know why Broward is a vibrant destination. The event is expected to bring more than \$14.2 billion in economic impact over the next three years. For more



information about the County's Convention Center, please visit FortLauderdaleCC.com.

Convention Center Connector (Port Bypass) Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening



In October, we also celebrated the grand opening of the Convention Center Connector (Bypass Road). The Connector is a \$55 million, 1,300-foot elevated bypass road directly connecting U.S. 1/Federal Highway to the newly expanded convention center complex, which allows vehicular traffic bound for the Convention Center, OMNI Hotel guests and even residents in the surrounding neighborhoods to bypass Port traffic, local traffic and stop lights along US-1 and SE 17th Street with less stress. The new roadway makes it easier for customers to reach shops and restaurants while improving logistics for local deliveries.

Omni Fort Lauderdale Preview and Grand Opening

In late October, I had the distinct pleasure of touring the Omni Hotel, located at our Convention Center District. As previously reported, the enhanced Convention Center district will include the 801-room Omni Fort Lauderdale, new waterfront amenities, and public spaces that connect the community to the Intracoastal Waterway. Combined, these projects are expected to generate more than \$450 million in annual economic impact and create more than 3,000 full- and part-time jobs in Broward County.

The hotel offers guests expansive meeting spaces, six dining venues, an urban outdoor pool deck and Mokara spa. The property's signature restaurants include Reef 76: Kitchen & Bar, serving fresh seafood and coastal dishes, and Fair Ketch, a lively sports and entertainment bar featuring a Topgolf Swing Suite home to two bays. I'm excited for residents and visitors to get the opportunity to experience this space both inside and out! For more information, visit OMNI Fort Lauderdale.



Manatee Season is Back!

Manatee Season runs from November 15 through March 31. As weather drops, manatees begin their seasonal migration to warmer waters, bringing them south to our regional waterways. Broward County encourages residents and visitors to be especially careful when traveling in our waterways during these months. More specifically, FWC has manatee migration cold weather changes to speed zones in our waterways which include idle speed by the Port Everglades Power Plant area, portions of the South New River Canal and Dania Cut-off Canal near the Lauderdale Power Plant. Additionally, slow speed must be adhered to in all Intracoastal Waterway from the Palm Beach County line through Hillsboro Inlet south to Fort Lauderdale/Port Everglades area.



Residents and visitors are also encouraged to download the I Spy Manatee app to report manatees and their activities, view manatee protection and learn more about boating safety zones. For more information, please visit Broward.org/Manatees.

As always, I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4. If I can ever be of assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or LFisher@broward.org. Also, follow me [@LamarPFisher](https://twitter.com/LamarPFisher) on X (Twitter) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LamarPFisher).

Best regards,



Lamar P. Fisher
Broward County
Commissioner
District 4

Additional Resources:

- Libraries: Broward.org/Library
- Parks: Broward.org/Parks
- Business Assistance: Broward.org/EconDev
- Broward's Official Hurricane Site: Broward.org/Hurricane
- Mosquito Control Services: Broward.org/Mosquito
- Fort Lauderdale International Airport: Broward.org/Airport
- Port Everglades: PortEverglades.net