



As you are aware, Fort Lauderdale has close ties with Haiti and has been deeply affected by the devastation of the recent earthquake. Many residents and staff members alike have been personally affected and the city quickly mobilized to collect funds and supplies for delivery to Haiti. Our office received a report of members of the police department who took supplies by private plane to Haiti, searched for family members and continue to provide needed assistance to as many as possible. A team of South Florida firefighters including some Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue personnel also spent time on a search and rescue mission in the devastated island and worked hard to rescue and pull survivors from the rubble. The City of Fort Lauderdale is implementing several initiatives to raise funds and donate to the American Red Cross. Please visit this city webpage to find out how you can help:

- [http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/news/2010/haiti\\_relief.htm](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/news/2010/haiti_relief.htm).

The luck of the Irish is already in effect. The Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day Festival and Parade is not just a one-day event so start celebrating now. Festivities are already underway with a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner taking place at Hugh's Catering on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm. I'd like to thank the Planning Committee for hosting this fundraising event in support of the Parade. You can also go pub hopping when The Irish Pub Hop begins at 5:30pm on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> is parade day. Begin your day at the Festival at Huizenga Plaza and along the Riverwalk at 11:30am, then make your way to the parade route along East Las Olas from SE 8<sup>th</sup> Ave to SE 1<sup>st</sup> Ave for the 2:00pm parade start. Bring the entire family and be entertained with live music, entertainment and dance, cultural games, sheep herding, currach racing and hurling...and more. For more information about all of the St. Patrick's Day activities, please check them out at <http://www.ftlaudirishfest.com>.

If you can't wait for St. Patrick's Day to enjoy our downtown, why not head to the SunTrust Jazz Brunch *along the Riverwalk from Esplanade Park (400 SW 2nd Street) to Riverfront*. The SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch is an ideal way to relax and enjoy Fort Lauderdale's scenic Riverwalk. Listen to the soulful sounds of outstanding local jazz artists on four stages from 11a to 2p on the first Sunday of each month.

The SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch is produced by the City of Fort Lauderdale and is sponsored by SunTrust, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Las Olas Riverfront, News 610 WIOD and 93.9 WMIA. For more information, please call our 24-hour hotline at (954) 828-5363 or visit [www.fortlauderdale.gov/life](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/life).

Everyone is talking about the Census, and rightly so because April 1<sup>st</sup> is Census Day. I have encouraged you in a past newsletter to participate in the census. Did you know that it is mandatory to participate? This is serious business with serious implications if an accurate count is not obtained. So can I say it too often? No. Once you receive your Census questionnaire in the mail, please complete and immediately return it. All of us will thank you when we see that our city is able to receive all the federal funding needed and our communities are well served. It has been estimated that each person missed in the count will cost our community \$1,000.00. So, fill your form in, mail it back and make sure your neighbors and family members do too. Don't forget "*United States Census 2010 – It's in our hands.*"

The city is looking for members for the Audit Advisory Board. So, if you are familiar with audit procedures, live within the city limits and want to do your civic duty, please visit the city's website for more information and for an application form:

- <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/news/2010/aab.htm>

Please continue to provide me with your input on how to improve our dynamic city and your quality of life as I am here to serve you.

As always, I can be reached at my office at 954-828-5004, on my cell at 954-270-0696, or via email at [RRogers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:RRogers@fortlauderdale.gov)