

**From:** [Tim McGovern](#)  
**To:** [Chaz Adams](#); [Angela Sabina](#)  
**Cc:** [Tim McGovern](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Walk of Fame Nominee - Walter Banks  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2019 12:52:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Walter L Banks Bio-2009.doc](#)

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**From:** Jim Pancallo <[Pancallo@lagomar.com](mailto:Pancallo@lagomar.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 5:51 PM  
**To:** Angela Sabina <[AngelaS@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:AngelaS@fortlauderdale.gov)>; Tim McGovern  
<[TMcGovern@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:TMcGovern@fortlauderdale.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ina Lee <[ina@travelhostftl.com](mailto:ina@travelhostftl.com)>  
**Subject:** Walk of Fame Nominee - Walter Banks

Hello Angela and Tim,

See attached. I believe Walter Banks is well deserving of being inducted into the Walk of Fame. His contribution and dedication to make Ft. Lauderdale a better place for our community and tourism alike for over 50 years makes him a person we all should thank.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,  
Jim

James L. Pancallo  
General Manager  
Lago Mar Beach Resort & Club  
1700 South Ocean Lane  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316  
Direct 954-245-3640  
Main 954-523-6511  
[www.lagomar.com](http://www.lagomar.com)  
[Pancallo@lagomar.com](mailto:Pancallo@lagomar.com)



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Please consider the environment before printing this email

# **Walter L. Banks**

**Date of Birth:** May 30, 1943  
**Place of Birth:** Newport News, Virginia  
**Education:** University of Miami, Finance Major; Cornell University, Summer Course in Hotel Administration

## **Professional Experience**

### **Lago Mar Beach Resort and Club: President, 1965 to Present**

Lago Mar Resort is a four diamond hotel facility located on 10 acres of beachfront in Fort Lauderdale with 204 units consisting of 156 suites and 48 hotel rooms. Most of the physical facility has been rebuilt over the past 15 years to include 250,000 total building square footage.

### **Lago Mar Country Club: Owner, 1970-80**

Developed the 160 acre 18 hole golf course, tennis and clubhouse facilities in 1970. Sold the property to the membership in 1980.

### **Walter Banks Development Companies**

1976: Developed 50 acres of residential property, creating 100 single family units  
1980s: Developed two condominiums near the Lago Mar Country Club  
1985: Developed condominium property on the ocean next to Lago Mar Resort and Club

### **Commercial Development Property**

1985-88: 40,000 sq. ft. distribution facility, Pompano Beach  
10,000 sq. ft. office building, Fort Lauderdale  
36,000 sq. ft. office building, Fort Lauderdale  
60,000 sq. ft. office building, Fort Lauderdale

## **Present Community Activities**

**Broward Workshop;** Past Chairman, Board Member (1995-Present)

**Holy Cross Hospital;** Past Chairman Board of Trustee (1992-2005) Past Member,  
Finance Committee (Present)

**Nova S.E. University;** Board of Trustees (2017-Present)

## **Walter L. Banks**

### **Past Community Activities**

**Holy Cross Hospital;** Chairman of Board of Trustees, Chairman of Personnel Committee,  
Executive Committee Member  
**Intercontinental Bank;** Board Member  
**Broward County Advisory Board of NCNB of Florida;** Chairman  
**Broward County Air & Water Pollution Control Board;** Chairman, Member  
**Broward Transportation Coordinating Council;** Chairman – appointed by the Governor  
**Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce;** Vice President  
**Broward County Food & Protection Advisory Board;** Chairman  
**Gulfstream Bank, Inc.;** Board of Directors, Executive Committee  
**1990 Florida Conference on Small Business Concerns;** Delegate – Legislative appointment  
**Executive Association of Ft. Lauderdale,** Past President  
**Florida Hotel & Motel Association;** Past Chairman, Board Member (1970-2005)  
**Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta, Miami Branch;** Past Board Member  
**Northern Trust Bank of Florida;** Board of Directors (2000-October 2006)  
**Pine Crest School;** Board of Trustees, Past Chairman of the Board  
**Florida Tourism Commission;** Past Vice Chairman  
**Visit Florida;** Past Chairman, Board Member

### **Awards**

**Nova Southeastern Entrepreneur Hall of Fame Award 2006**  
**Junior Achievement Award 2005**  
**South Florida Business Journal 2005 Diamond Award**  
**Florida's Hotelier of the Year 2003,** given by the Florida Hotel and Motel Association, 2003  
**Award of Appreciation,** Greater Than Ever Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2002  
**Walter Banks Appreciation Day Proclamation,** Board of County Commissioners, 2002  
**Distinguished Graduate Award,** Pine Crest School, 1992  
**Excalibur Award,** 1992

## **Walter L. Banks**

**Business Award for Tourism**, Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, 1992

**Pine Crest Athletic Hall of Fame**, 1987

**Top Management Award from Sales & Marketing Executives**, 1982



## 2019 Walk of Fame Honoree Nomination Form

The City established the Walk of Fame in 2010 at the inaugural Great American Beach Party to pay tribute to the legendary Connie Francis on the 50th Anniversary of “Where the Boys Are,” the 1960 film which made Fort Lauderdale an overnight sensation and a “must see” destination for visitors.

Walk of Fame Honorees are recognized for distinguishing themselves in their respective fields, while making lifelong, positive contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale. As part of the awards program, each honoree receives a commemorative marble paver that is placed in the Walk of Fame to memorialize their outstanding accomplishments. The Fort Lauderdale Walk of Fame is located on the beach along the east side of A1A at Las Olas Boulevard.

Walk of Fame Honorees are announced at the Great American Beach Party, which annually takes place on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend.

If you would like to submit a nomination for the 2019 Great American Beach Party Walk of Fame, please complete the information below. Please feel free to attach additional sheets or submit your responses via email to [tmcgovern@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:tmcgovern@fortlauderdale.gov). The deadline for the 2019 Great American Beach Party Walk of Fame nomination is **Friday, March 22**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**2019 Walk of Fame Honoree Nomination Form – Page 2/2**

1. Please describe the nominee's accomplishments or contributions to the community. Examples include civic responsibility, financial contributions, volunteer service, projects accomplished, or other categories.

2. Why is the nominee deserving of this award?

3. Please provide a brief biography, resume or any other background information about the nominee including contact information.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Background material such as nominee biography, resume, media copy, etc. is highly recommended.

All nominations must be received by **Friday, March 22, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** Submissions may be mailed to: Tim McGovern, City of Fort Lauderdale, Parks and Recreation Department, 1150 G. Harold Martin Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304. Forms may also be emailed to [tmcgovern@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:tmcgovern@fortlauderdale.gov). Nominations and background materials submitted after **Friday, March 22, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.** If you have any questions, please call 954-828-4340 or email [tmcgovern@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:tmcgovern@fortlauderdale.gov).



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Name: George Platt

Address: 1512 E. Broward Blvd, Suite 101

City, State, Zip Code: Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Home Phone: (954) 523-2584 Office: (954) 522-3588 Cell: (954) 770-1130

Email: GPlatt@LSNPartners.com



## 2019 Walk of Fame Honoree Nomination Form – Page 2/2

1. Please describe the nominee's accomplishments or contributions to the community. Examples include civic responsibility, financial contributions, volunteer service, projects accomplished, or other categories.

For more than 80 years, the Perry family has worked tirelessly to ensure that visitors to Fort Lauderdale beach have an unforgettable experience. In 1937, John Perry launched his beach service to rent chairs, cabanas, umbrellas and related beach equipment to beachgoers. As Fort Lauderdale continued to grow into a world-renowned tourist destination and more Americans and foreign tourists discovered the joy of a Florida vacation, the Perry business grew right along with the City.

The Perry family has taken great pride in their community and has made significant contributions to promote Fort Lauderdale's maintenance of a pristine, clean beach and to encourage a memorable experience for beachgoers. Along the way, the Perrys worked closely with our local Life Guard and Beach Patrol Service, the Police and Fire Departments, the Parks and Recreation Department, local hoteliers, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. The Perrys have helped raise money for beach area improvements and landscaping as well as dozens of worthy causes in our community.

2. Why is the nominee deserving of this award?

Over the decades, the Perry family became a lead supporter of our evolving local tourist industry. From the pre-war depression to the post-war boom, to "Where the Boys Are," through the Spring Break era to our modern world-class tourist destination, the Perrys were out there every day delivering first-class service. John Perry worked on the beach until his death at age 88 in 2003. After John's death, the Perrys merged their company into Boucher Brothers Beach Management Fort Lauderdale and continued to grow by enhancing service to beach hotels and their guests. Today, Charlie Perry continues to carry the Perry family flag as the CEO and Manager of this successful, home-grown business. Charlie's daughter, Shelly, an FSU student works on the beach in the summer. The company provides a first-class beach experience to visitors from around the world as well as local customers. The company is proud of its hands-on service where the customers' names are remembered with a sunny greeting. In addition, the concession has generated millions of dollars into City coffers to support the City efforts to beautify and enhance the beach and to ensure a visitor-friendly, safe, world-class resort setting. There is no doubt that the tireless work of the Perry family and their commitment have helped to make Fort Lauderdale beach what it is today. As wonderful new improvements further enhance the Fort Lauderdale Beach brand, the Perry family legacy is and will continue to be an important part of this story.

3. Please provide a brief biography, resume or any other background information about the nominee including contact information.

John Perry began his work on Fort Lauderdale beach in 1937. John married Charlotte in 1950 they continued to build the beach equipment business and worked closely with the City as it enhanced its reputation in the Post-World War II era that also saw thousands of new residents drawn to Fort Lauderdale by its beautiful beaches and sunny climate. Charlie Perry was born in 1953 and his brother, Bill, was born in 1956. Both Perry brothers were raised and schooled in Fort Lauderdale and started work on the beach in their teens. John Perry worked on the beach until his death at age 88 in 2003; and Bill Perry continued until his untimely death in 2010; Charlotte passed in 2011.

Submitted by: George I. Platt

Background material such as nominee biography, resume, media copy, etc. is highly recommended.

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**PRINT**

**SUBMIT**



## **Nomination of the Perry Family for the Fort Lauderdale Walk of Fame**

For more than 80 years, the Perry family has worked tirelessly to ensure that visitors to Fort Lauderdale beach have an unforgettable experience. In 1937, John Perry launched his beach service to rent chairs, cabanas, umbrellas and related beach equipment to beachgoers.

As Fort Lauderdale continued to grow into a world-renowned tourist destination and more Americans and foreign tourists discovered the joy of a Florida vacation, the Perry business grew right along with the City.

John Perry married Charlotte in 1950 they continued to build the beach equipment business and worked closely with the City as it enhanced its reputation in the Post-World War II era that also saw thousands of new residents drawn to Fort Lauderdale by its beautiful beaches and sunny climate.

Charlie Perry was born in 1953 and his brother, Bill, was born in 1956. Both Perry brothers were raised and schooled in Fort Lauderdale and started work on the beach in their teens.

Over the decades, the Perry family became a lead supporter of our evolving local tourist industry. From the pre-war depression to the post-war boom, to "Where the Boys Are", through the Spring Break era to our modern world-class tourist destination, the Perrys were out there every day delivering first-class service. John Perry worked on the beach until his death at age 88 in 2003; and Bill Perry continued until his untimely death in 2010; Charlotte passed in 2011.

Starting in the 1960's, the City of Fort Lauderdale began to regulate beach equipment rentals and the Perry family business became the City concessionaire.

The Perry family has taken great pride in their community and has made significant contributions to promote Fort Lauderdale's maintenance of a pristine, clean beach and to encourage a memorable experience for beachgoers. Along the way, the Perrys worked closely with our local Life Guard and Beach Patrol Service, the Police and Fire Departments, the Parks and Recreation Department, local hoteliers, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. The Perrys have helped raise money for beach area improvements and landscaping as well as dozens of worthy causes in our community.

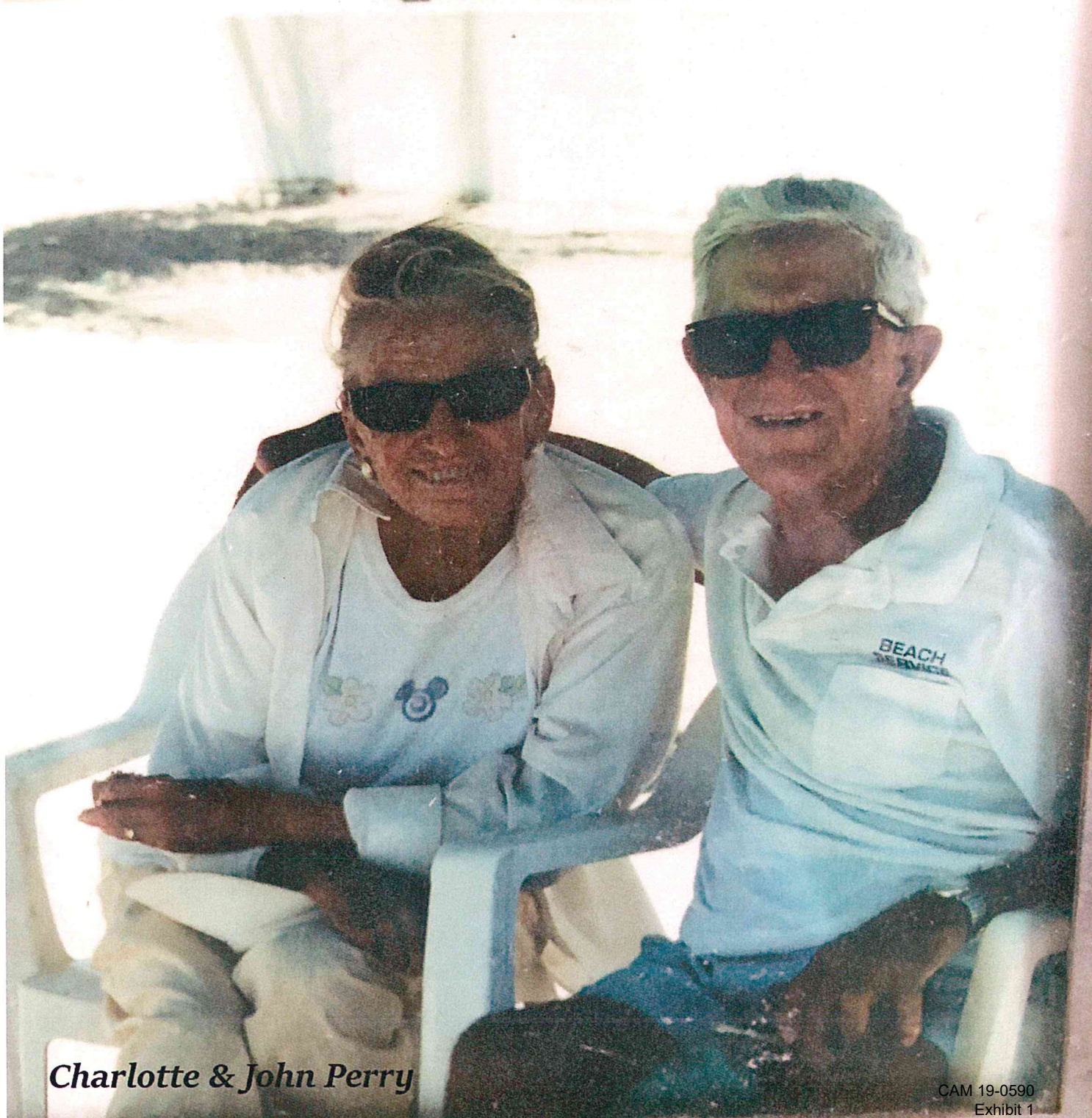
After John Perry passed away in 2003, Charlie and Bill merged their company into the present business, Boucher Brothers Beach Management Fort Lauderdale.

Today, Charlie Perry continues to carry the Perry family flag as the CEO and Manager of this successful, home-grown business. The company provides a first-class beach experience to visitors from around the world as well as local customers. The company is proud of its hands-on service where the customers' names are remembered with a sunny greeting. In addition, the concession has generated millions of dollars into City coffers to support the City efforts to beautify and enhance the beach and to ensure a visitor-friendly, safe, world-class resort setting.

There is no doubt that the tireless work of the Perry family and their commitment have helped to make Fort Lauderdale beach what it is today. As wonderful new improvements further enhance the Fort Lauderdale Beach brand, the Perry family legacy is and will continue to be an important part of this story.

It is for these reasons that I believe that the Perry Family deserves to be recognized on the Walk of Fame for their 80+ years of contributions to our Fort Lauderdale community.





*Charlotte & John Perry*





*John & Charlie Perry*





Charlie & Bill Perry





Beach Concession back in the Spring Break era



March 20, 2019

Mr. Tim McGovern  
City of Fort Lauderdale  
Parks and Recreation Department  
1150 G. Harold Martin Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304

RE: 2019 Walk of Fame Honoree Nomination Form  
STANFORD "STAN" K. SMOKER

Dear Mr. McGovern,

Please find the attached Nomination form on behalf of my Father,  
Stanford "Stan" K. Smoker.

Due to the additional attachments, it was considered best to have the nomination  
form and the attachments delivered to you.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you are in need of further information.

We appreciate your consideration for this distinguished award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Smoker Priest", written in a cursive style.

Beth Smoker Priest  
954.557.3657  
Bsmokerpriest@aol.com



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Name: Beth Smoker Priest. nominating my Father, Stanford "Stan" K. Smoker, visionary, developer, preservationist

Address: 2901 N.E. 35th Street

City, State, Zip Code: Fort Lauderdale, Florida. 33306

Home Phone: 954-557-3657 Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: 954-557-3657

Email: Bsmokerpriest@aol.com

## 2019 Walk of Fame Honoree Nomination Form – Page 2/2

1. Please describe the nominee's accomplishments or contributions to the community. Examples include civic responsibility, financial contributions, volunteer service, projects accomplished, or other categories.

- 1.) President of the Fort Lauderdale Executive's Association and long time member.
- 2.) Vice President of the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
- 3.) President of the Christian Business Men's Association
- 4.) Vice President of Tourism, New Industry and World Trade- Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
- 5.) Trustee of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society
- 6.) 2015 - HONORARY FOUNDER - City of Fort Lauderdale
- 7.) 1996 - Recognized as a Modern Pioneer by the Broward County Historical Commission
- 8.) 1993 - SMOKER FAMILY PARK designated a historical landmark (Resolution No. 93-146) through recommendation of the Broward County Historic Commission and the Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Board (bounded by the New River and SE 5th Ct. along the S. New River Dr. East.
- 9.) Donated the Historic King Cromartie house to the Fort Lauderdale Historic Society - now located at 229 SW 2nd Ave., Ft. Lauderdale.
- 10.) Donated a 100 year old oak tree relocated from Smoker Park to Bubier Park.

2. Why is the nominee deserving of this award?

My Father loved this city. He was a visionary, developer, preservationist. Moving our family to Fort Lauderdale in 1956, Dad viewed Fort Lauderdale as more than just a place to establish his business and raise the family. As reflected in his extensive civic involvement in numerous organizations, he was committed to cultivating harmony and prosperity throughout the community as well as creating a desirable City and lasting legacy for future generations. While many people were abandoning the downtown area to the sprawling new developments to the west, Dad had a clear vision for development of downtown recognizing the potential of a thriving downtown along the beautiful New River with a rare commitment to preservation. Long before other developers in the City, Dad worked tirelessly to acquire 10 acres on the north and south side of the New River and announced plans for the 1st high-rise w/skybridge 28 stories above the New River. During these years, he developed friendships with some of the original pioneers, Ivy Stranahan, Anne Beck and Mrs. Cromartie who instilled in him the importance of safeguarding our local heritage which compelled him to save the Historic King-Cromartie house and Anne Beck house as well as countless mature trees. Although the County Development led to changes in his development plans, many of the properties he had acquired along the New River are graced by modern, luxurious high-rise buildings today. Las Olas Grand, WaterGarden, Nu River Landing. The scenic shaded tree space on the south side of the New River has been named "Smoker Family Park" in his honor.

3. Please provide a brief biography, resume or any other background information about the nominee including contact information.

Please see the attached articles regarding Dad's contributions to the City, City of Fort Lauderdale Proclamations as well as his book, "This is my Story, East and West of the Gulf Stream". I am reminded of the quote by Abraham Lincoln, "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him". Dad had a developer eye, a historian's heart and a pioneer spirit and he was able to see his vision of downtown Fort Lauderdale become a reality. He was thankful to the many friends he made in this town as well as to the City of Fort Lauderdale for their recognition and honor of the Smoker Family Park. On behalf of the entire family, we are grateful for the abundance of joy this town has given to all of our family and we greatly appreciate your consideration for this great honor to my Father.

Beth Smoker Priest - Daughter - In honor of my Father, Stanford "Stan" K. Smoker

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Background material such as nominee biography, resume, media copy, etc. is highly recommended.

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**PRINT**

**SUBMIT**

Office of the Mayor  
City of Fort Lauderdale  
*P*roclamation

- WHEREAS, *Stanford K. Smoker was born in New Paris, Indiana, in 1921, to Ruth Kimmel and Ralph B. Smoker, and served as a pilot in the Air Force from 1943 to 1945 during World War II; and*
- WHEREAS, *Stanford was married to Evelyn R. Smoker, and is the father of Edward J. Smoker, Beth Ann Priest and Susan M. Kane; and*
- WHEREAS, *Stanford arrived in Broward County in 1956 and has been involved with Smoker Lumber Co.; Ready Mix Concrete Co.; Houdille, Duval, Wright Marketing; Colonel Mackey Real Estate; and as a developer of downtown Fort Lauderdale and Scotland Cay, Bahamas; and*
- WHEREAS, *Stanford has been involved with and president of the Ft. Lauderdale Executives Association; president of the Christian Business Men's Association; vice president of tourism, vice president of new industry and vice president of world trade for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce; and*
- WHEREAS, *Stanford's hobbies are flying, fishing, dining, friends, boating, diving and swimming; and*
- WHEREAS, *some of Stanford's memories of life in Fort Lauderdale include sitting with Mrs. Stranahan, Mrs. Cromartie and Mrs. Annie Beck on their porch swings, watching the first high rises go up in Fort Lauderdale; and*
- WHEREAS, *in the summer of 1993, Smoker Park was designated a historical landmark (Resolution No. 93-146) through recommendation of the Broward County Historic Commission and the Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Board; and*
- WHEREAS, *Stanford Smoker began assembling property, and his vision included two residential towers – one on each bank of the New River – that would connect by an enclosed sky bridge 28 stories above the New River; and*
- WHEREAS, *the County park consisting of approximately 2.24 acres bounded by the New River and SE 5<sup>th</sup> Ct., along South New River Drive East was once owned by Stanford Smoker; and*
- WHEREAS, *Smoker Park has a rich history starting with Indians and other sojourners coming from the south who would ring a bell on the land for a cable-operated ferry to Frank Stranahan's camp site; and*
- WHEREAS, *pioneer Edwin Thomas King called Smoker Park home in the King-Cromartie home that now exists at 229 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. in the Historic District after its donation by Stanford Smoker to the Junior League for relocation; and*
- WHEREAS, *Stanford Smoker donated a 100 year old oak tree that was relocated from Smoker Park to Bubier Park and helped preserve the Annie Beck house; and*
- WHEREAS, *Stanford Smoker had a clear vision for development of downtown Fort Lauderdale and the essential role of a waterfront district at the heart of the city combined with a rare commitment to preservation; and*
- WHEREAS, *the Smoker family has continued in Stanford's footsteps as stewards and leaders of the Fort Lauderdale community.*

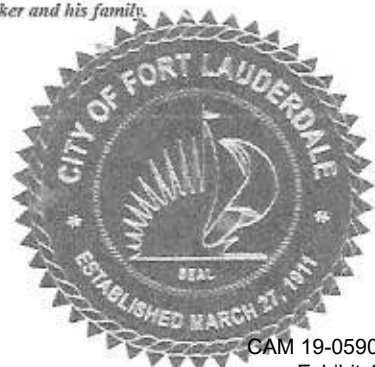
NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, April 16, 2009, as:

**SMOKER FAMILY DAY**

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and do celebrate the accomplishments of Stanford K. Smoker and his family.

DATED this, the 6th day of April 2009.

  
Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler



# *Honored Founder*

## PROCLAMATION HONORING STANFORD K. SMOKER AS HONORED FOUNDER FOR 2015

- WHEREAS,** Stanford K. Smoker arrived in Fort Lauderdale with his family in 1956 and began an auspicious career in construction materials, which eventually, propelled him to a position as a prominent developer with a vision for the City's downtown; and
- WHEREAS,** During a time when residents were leaving downtown Fort Lauderdale for sprawling properties and suburban communities, Stanford Smoker recognized the potential of the New River and envisioned it as the heart of a thriving urban metropolis; and
- WHEREAS,** Stanford Smoker gradually acquired 10 acres of property along the New River, and in the early 1970s, announced plans for downtown Fort Lauderdale's first high-rise apartments with a sky bridge that would connect residential towers on the north and south sides of the water; and
- WHEREAS,** His friendship with pioneers Ivy Stranahan and Annie Beck instilled in Stanford Smoker the importance of safeguarding our local heritage and compelled him to save the historic 1907 King-Cromartie House and the Annie Beck House, as well as countless mature trees in the area; and
- WHEREAS,** Although County development led to changes to his high-rise plans decades ago, many of the parcels Stanford Smoker acquired along the New River are graced by luxurious modern buildings today, including the Las Olas Grand, the Watergarden, and Nu River Landing, while the scenic shaded green space on the south side of the New River has been named Smoker Family Park in his honor; and
- WHEREAS,** Stanford viewed Fort Lauderdale as more than just a place to establish his business and raise his family, as reflected through his extensive civic involvement in numerous organizations committed to cultivating harmony and prosperity throughout our community; and
- WHEREAS,** Stanford Smoker has dutifully served as a Trustee of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society; Vice President of Tourism and New Industries and Foreign Trade for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce; President of the Fort Lauderdale Executives Association; and was recognized as a "Modern Pioneer" by the Broward County Historical Commission; and
- WHEREAS,** Stanford Smoker is to be commended for his vision, as well as the time and resources that he selflessly invested in Fort Lauderdale, thereby creating a desirable City and a lasting legacy for future generations; and

### NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

- Section 1:** That Stanford K. Smoker is hereby selected and honored as Honored Founder of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2015 in recognition of his many accomplishments and valuable contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale and that the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby publicly recognizes and acknowledges these achievements and contributions and does hereby express its heartfelt appreciation to Stanford Smoker.
- Section 2:** That a plaque honoring Stanford Smoker as Honored Founder of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2015 shall be placed in the lobby of Fort Lauderdale City Hall.
- Section 3:** That a parchment copy of this Proclamation shall be furnished by the City Clerk to Stanford Smoker as a further token of the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

**DATED this,** the 3rd day of November, 2015.

  
Mayor John P. "Jack" Seller



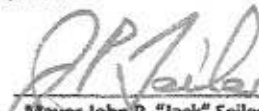
*Fort Lauderdale*  
*St. Bernard Foundation*

**PROCLAMATION HONORING  
STANFORD K. SMOKER  
AS HONORED FOUNDER FOR 2015**

- WHEREAS,** Stanford K. Smoker arrived in Fort Lauderdale with his family in 1956 and began an auspicious career in construction materials, which eventually, propelled him to a position as a prominent developer with a vision for the City's downtown; and
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- WHEREAS,** Stanford Smoker gradually acquired 10 acres of property along the New River, and in the early 1970s, announced plans for downtown Fort Lauderdale's first high-rise apartments with a sky bridge that would connect residential towers on the north and south sides of the water; and
- WHEREAS,** His friendship with pioneers Ivy Stranahan and Annie Beck instilled in Stanford Smoker the importance of safeguarding our local heritage and compelled him to save the historic 1907 King-Cromartie House and the Annie Beck House, as well as countless mature trees in the area; and
- WHEREAS,** Although County development led to changes to his high-rise plans decades ago, many of the parcels Stanford Smoker acquired along the New River are graced by luxurious modern buildings today, including the Las Olas Grand, the Watergarden, and Nu River Landing, while the scenic shaded green space on the south side of the New River has been named Smoker Family Park in his honor; and
- WHEREAS,** Stanford viewed Fort Lauderdale as more than just a place to establish his business and raise his family, as reflected through his extensive civic involvement in numerous organizations committed to cultivating harmony and prosperity throughout our community; and
- WHEREAS,** Stanford Smoker has dutifully served as a Trustee of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society; Vice President of Tourism and New Industries and Foreign Trade for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce; President of the Fort Lauderdale Executives Association; and was recognized as a "Modern Pioneer" by the Broward County Historical Commission; and
- WHEREAS,** Stanford Smoker is to be commended for his vision, as well as the time and resources that he selflessly invested in Fort Lauderdale, thereby creating a desirable City and a lasting legacy for future generations; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:**

- Section 1:** That Stanford K. Smoker is hereby selected and honored as Honored Founder of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2015 in recognition of his many accomplishments and valuable contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale and that the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby publicly recognizes and acknowledges these achievements and contributions and does hereby express its heartfelt appreciation to Stanford Smoker.
- Section 2:** That a plaque honoring Stanford Smoker as Honored Founder of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2015 shall be placed in the lobby of Fort Lauderdale City Hall.
- Section 3:** That a parchment copy of this Proclamation shall be furnished by the City Clerk to Stanford Smoker as a further token of the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the City of Fort Lauderdale.
- DATED this,** the 3rd day of November, 2015.

  
Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler





# EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

In Loving Memory  
Stanford K. "Stan" Smoker  
1921-2016

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in his infinite wisdom, has taken from us our faithful servant, Stan Smoker.

WHEREAS, Stanford K. "Stan" Smoker was born on December 6, 1921, in Indiana. As a child, his parents brought him to Fort Lauderdale, and he could not stop dreaming about the subtropical environment during winters in Indiana. That dream grew into a reality when the family moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1956 where the family still lives.

WHEREAS, Stan Smoker served his country as a United States Air Force Pilot during World War II from 1943 to 1945. After the war he returned to Indiana with his wife Evelyn (deceased) and started a family raising three children, Susan, Edward, and Beth.

WHEREAS, Stan Smoker loved Fort Lauderdale and invested his time and talents in the City by serving as President of the Christian Business Men's Association, a Trustee of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Vice President of Tourism, New Industries and Foreign Trade for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, and President of the Fort Lauderdale Executives Association.

WHEREAS, In 1993, Stan Smoker was honored by the historical landmark "Smoker Family Park," "Modern Pioneer" by Broward County Historical Commission in 1996, and as "Honored Founder" of the City of Fort Lauderdale in 2015.

WHEREAS, Although Fort Lauderdale was home, Stan Smoker had a second home on Scotland Cay in the Bahamas where he loved to spend time with his family and friends.

WHEREAS, Stan Smoker is survived by his wife Judy, daughters Susan Smoker Kane and Beth Smoker Priest, son Edward J. Smoker, daughter-in-law Norma Smoker, grandchildren Rory and Todd Kline, Liza Smoker, and Rachel Smoker Cox, and great-grandchildren Dylan Kline, Tanner Kline, and Cooper Kline.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as members of the City Commission of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby express our deepest sympathy in the loss of Stan Smoker to the Smoker family, to our City, and to our community.

DATED this, the 3rd day of September 2016.

  
Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

  
Bruce G. Roberts  
Commissioner, District I

  
Dean J. Trantalis  
Vice Mayor / Commissioner, District II

  
Robert McKinzie  
Commissioner, District III



  
Romney Rogers  
Commissioner, District IV

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

*41<sup>st</sup> Annual*  
CITIZENS RECOGNITION AWARDS

CITIZENS RECOGNITION AWARD HONOREES

Citizen of the Year  
Sharon Major-Hughes

Distinguished Citizen  
Donald Singer

Honored Founder  
Stanford K. Smoker

Exemplary Former City Employee  
Greg Brewton

Citizens Committee of Recognition  
The Honorable Robert A. Dressler  
The Honorable James Naugle  
The Honorable Gloria Katz  
Courtney Crush  
Eugenia D. Ellis  
Marilyn Mammano  
Birch Willey

The Fort Lauderdale City Commission cordially invites you to attend  
The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Citizens Recognition Awards

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015

11:30 A.M.

Fort Lauderdale City Hall

From: **Edward Smoker** [ed@ejsmoker.com](mailto:ed@ejsmoker.com)  
Subject: FW: City News: 41st Annual Citizens Recognition Awards - Nov. 3  
Date: October 16, 2015 at 4:49 PM  
To: [skane@mossemail.com](mailto:skane@mossemail.com), **Beth Smoker Priest** [bsmokerpriest@aol.com](mailto:bsmokerpriest@aol.com), **Liza Smoker** [lizafaw@gmail.com](mailto:lizafaw@gmail.com), **Rachel Smoker** [rachelannesmoker@gmail.com](mailto:rachelannesmoker@gmail.com), [christiancane26@hotmail.com](mailto:christiancane26@hotmail.com), **Norma Smoker** [normasmoker@gmail.com](mailto:normasmoker@gmail.com)  
Cc: **Bob Moss** [bmoss@mossemail.com](mailto:bmoss@mossemail.com)

ES

From: City of Fort Lauderdale [mailto:[publicaffairs@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@fortlauderdale.gov)]  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 4:11 PM  
To: [ed@ejsmoker.com](mailto:ed@ejsmoker.com)  
Subject: City News: 41st Annual Citizens Recognition Awards - Nov. 3



## CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

### 41st Annual Citizens Recognition Awards

Join the Fort Lauderdale City Commission and the Citizens Committee of Recognition for the 41st Annual Citizens Recognition Awards on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. at Fort Lauderdale City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Avenue.

The Citizens Recognition Awards recognize Fort Lauderdale citizens whose efforts and achievements foster civic pride and responsibility, encourage public service, develop appreciation of the City's heritage, and significantly contribute to the development of this community.

Since the program's inception in 1972, Fort Lauderdale has recognized 126 outstanding citizens. Congratulations to this year's honorees:

**Citizen of the Year - Sharon Major-Hughes**  
**Distinguished Citizen - Donald Singer**  
**Honored Founder - Stanford K. Smoker**  
**Exemplary Former Employee - Greg Brewton**

For more information about the 41st Annual Citizens Recognition Awards or to RSVP for the event (by October 26), please email the [Public Affairs Office](#) or call (954) 828-4750.

(Click the image below to add this event to your calendar.)



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RESOURCES

- More Obituaries for Stanford Smoker
- Looking for an obituary for a different person with this name?

## Stanford K. Smoker

Obituary Condolences



Stan was born in Indiana and served his country as a United States Air Force Pilot during World War II from 1943 to 1945. After the war he returned to Indiana with his wife Evelyn (deceased) and started a family raising three children Susan, Edward and Beth. As a child, his parents brought him to Fort Lauderdale and he could not stop dreaming about the subtropical environment during winters in Indiana. That dream grew into a reality moving the family to Ft. Lauderdale in 1956 where the family still lives. Stan loved Fort Lauderdale and invested his time and talents in the city by serving as President of the Christian Business Men's Association, a Trustee of the Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society, Vice President of Tourism, New Industries and Foreign Trade for the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, President of the Fort Lauderdale Executives Association and was honored in 1993 with the historical landmark "Smoker Family Park", "Modern Pioneer" by Broward County Historical Commission in 1996 and as "Honored Founder" of the City of Fort Lauderdale in 2015. Although Fort Lauderdale was home, Stan had a second home on Scotland Cay in the Bahamas where he loved to spend time with his family and friends. Stan is survived by his wife Judy, daughters Susan Smoker Kane and Beth Smoker Priest, son Edward J. Smoker daughter-in-law Norma Smoker, grandchildren Rory and Todd Kline, Liza Smoker, and Rachel Smoker Cox, and great-grandchildren Dylan Kline, Tanner Kline, Cooper Kline. A memorial Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church 401 SE 15th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, 33301 at 11:00 AM Saturday, September 3, 2016. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Riverwalk For Lauderdale, Inc. or the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. [www.baird-casefh.com](http://www.baird-casefh.com)

Published in Sun-Sentinel from Sept. 1 to Sept. 3, 2016

REMEMBER



Funeral

ancestr

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4 years later

# Stanford Smoker, Fort Lauderdale pioneer, dies at 94



Stanford K. Smoker, 94, of Fort Lauderdale, died Wednesday. (Handout)



By **Larry Barszewski**  
Sun Sentinel

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Stanford Smoker, an "honored founder" of Fort Lauderdale, died Wednesday. He was 94.

AUGUST 31, 2016, 6:49 PM

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-obit-stanford-smoker-20160831-story.html>

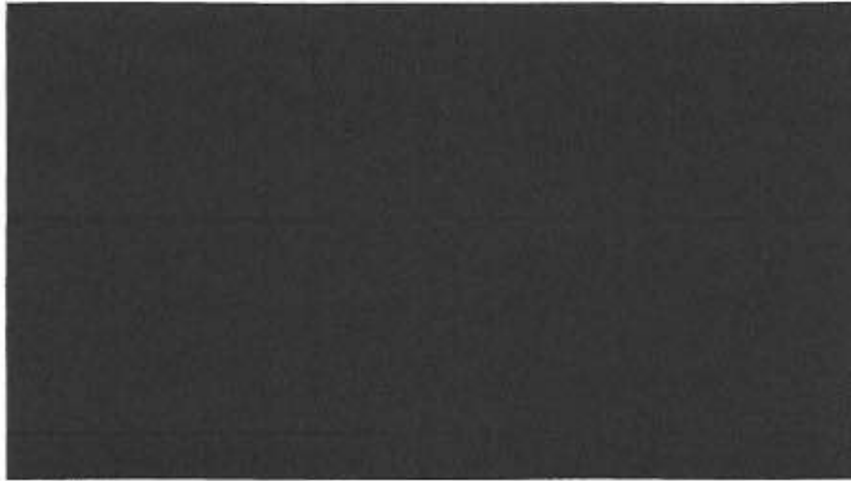
Page 1 of 3

Stanford K. Smoker, whose vision of a thriving downtown along the New River in the 1970s helped create the urban core of Fort Lauderdale today, died Wednesday. He was 94.

"His concept was when everybody was fleeing to the suburbs, he saw a downtown Fort Lauderdale," said his son, Edward J. Smoker.

Mr. Smoker, who served as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force in World War II, moved his family in 1956 from Indiana to Fort Lauderdale, where he got a job driving a cement truck for Ready Mix Concrete, eventually becoming a sales manager for the company.

Advertisement



He later acquired options for land along the New River, assembling 10 acres on either side of the river between Southeast Third Avenue and the Kinney Tunnel. He planned to build a pair of high-rise apartment buildings connected by a sky bridge over the river, but those fell through when the county took the southern land portion for a parking garage.

Mr. Smoker was able to get the county to commit to preserving an oak hammock on a portion of the property, now known as Smoker Park, named in his honor. He earlier had helped move a historic property on the land, the King-Cromartie House, to its present location in the Himmarshee Historic District.

He later worked with a group to develop Scotland Cay in the Bahamas, where he had a second home.

His son called Mr. Smoker a story-teller who tried to win over people with his personality.



"His mentality was to be liked by every person that he met. That was his mantra throughout his life," Edward Smoker said.

He was named an Honored Founder of the city in 2015 and has been recognized as a "modern pioneer" by the Broward County Historical Commission.

Mr. Smoker is survived by his wife Judy, daughters Susan Smoker Kane and Beth Smoker Priest, son Edward, daughter-in-law Norma Smoker, grandchildren Rory and Todd Kline, Liza Smoker, and Rachel Smoker Cox, and great grandchildren Dylan Kline, Tanner Kline, Cooper Kline.

A Memorial Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 401 SE 15th Ave., at 11:00 a.m. Saturday.

*[lbarszewski@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:lbarszewski@sun-sentinel.com) or 954-356-4556*

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**This article is related to:** Obituaries, U.S. Air Force

## IN MEMORIAM:

The October issue is dedicated to the memory of Mr. Stan Smoker and Mr. Paul Meli Jr., who both died in their 90s earlier this year after incredible lives of dedication and public service.

Mr. Smoker was often and deservedly referred to as a pioneer in Fort Lauderdale, for his role in revitalizing downtown. In 2009, Riverwalk Trust hosted a tribute to Mr. Smoker on Riverwalk's south bank at the picturesque Smoker Family Park. Mr. Smoker was also credited with getting the county to commit to preserve an oak hammock on the property, which was named in his honor. His wife Judy, daughters Susan Smoker Kane and Beth Smoker Priest, son Edward, daughter-in-law Norma Smoker, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren survive him.

Mr. Meli also was a pioneer, inventing an environmental chemical coating that sealed underground oil tanks, preventing tanks from leaking oil into the group. He opened his Chemical Manufacturing Company, first in the northeast, before re-locating to Santa Barbara Shores in Pompano Beach with his family in 1972, and re-opened his successful company, re-named Enviroline in Pompano Beach. Earlier in 1988, he worked with the Federal Environmental Agency where he was commissioned to write the federal regulations regarding leaking underground storage.

His wife, Theresa, and two sons, Dr. Paul Meli and Dr. Richard Meli, who both practice in Broward County, survive him, along with daughter-in-law, Dionne.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to both these families.

## Publisher/Editor

Betty Williams

## Associate Editor

Ann Carter

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Kathryn Summer

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Juan J. Millán

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Peter Windshetler

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## It's 'Harvest Wine Time' in this season's debut column

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## On The Cover

Seen getting ready for the Royal Dames' annual Tiara Ball are, from left, Lynne McGrath, event co-chair; Lorraine Thomas, honoree; Connie Caldwell, event co-chair; and Michael Berry, in back, honorary host Michael Berry of Hyatt Regency Pier 66. (See story, above. Cover photo and above photo by Tiffany Photographic Studio, Fort Lauderdale.)

[\(/\)](#)[GOLD COAST HOME \(/WWW.FORTLAUDERDALEDAILY.COM\)](http://WWW.FORTLAUDERDALEDAILY.COM)[MAGAZINE ▾ \(/WWW.FORTLAUDERDALEDAILY.COM/PRINT-SUBSCRIPTION\)](http://WWW.FORTLAUDERDALEDAILY.COM/PRINT-SUBSCRIPTION)[MEDIA KIT \(/WWW.FORTLAUDERDALEDAILY.COM/MEDIA-KITS\)](http://WWW.FORTLAUDERDALEDAILY.COM/MEDIA-KITS)[ARCHIVES \(/WWW.FORTLAUDERDALEDAILY.COM/ARCHIVES\)](http://WWW.FORTLAUDERDALEDAILY.COM/ARCHIVES)[Home \(/\)](#)[Home \(/www..com\)](#) >> [Bernie's Blog \(/\)](#)

# Farewell to an Optimist

by Bernard McCormick

Thursday, September 01, 2016

No Comment(s)

It was the early 1970s. We were new in town, still trying to figure out which way the ocean was, but we had learned that Maggie Walker was a reliable source. She was assistant editor of *Gold Coast* magazine, and when she suggested a piece on a fellow who had a renewal plan for Fort Lauderdale's downtown, we trusted her judgment.

Thus we learned about Stan Smoker, who had come to town in the 1950s, leaving behind a family business in Indiana. He took a job driving a truck for \$40 a week, and went on to become a developer who saw the future of downtown Fort Lauderdale when the tallest building was

## About Me

[\(/users/mmccormick\)](#)Bernard McCormick

Bernard McCormick is the publisher of Gulfstream Media Group, which operates the flagship magazine

about five stories high and Las Olas Boulevard was filled with gray windows of vacant stores. At the time, Commercial Boulevard, several miles to the north, was the center of entertainment.

The article included a double page rendering by the architectural firm of Gamble & Gilroy. It seemed absurdly optimistic, showing new tall office buildings and condos and featuring a new library and art museum. All expected to happen within a few years. It did not happen—not then. The economy took a downturn, and the city's major department store, Burdines, even moved out to the new Galleria Mall. It was a time when Bill Farkas, the new downtown development director, built tennis courts to give the appearance that something was happening where old buildings had been razed.

Stan Smoker never lost faith in his concept, however. He had acquired land on both sides of the New River and on Las Olas, and eventually, his vision rose from the ground. He died this week, at age 94, having lived long enough to see his concept fulfilled even beyond his ambitious plan, and having his foresight memorialized in Smoker Park, along the south side of the New River, part of his original holdings.

Smoker's optimism was his style. His son Ed, now a developer, told the Sun Sentinel his father wanted people to like him. They sure did, and he made friendship seem easy, with a happy personality that made you feel like the most important person in the world. Until the last year, when his health declined, he remained highly visible and little changed from the enthusiastic fellow of the 1970s.

Nowhere was that energy more apparent than when, a few

*Gold Coast*. He was part of the staff that pioneered the modern city magazine at *Philadelphia* magazine before moving to Florida in 1970. A graduate of La Salle University in Philadelphia, he roots for all Big Five basketball teams, except when they play the Explorers.

## Blog Archive

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2013 (51)

2012 (44)

years later, Maggie Walker again brought his name up in connection with his plan for developing Scotland Cay in the Bahamas. She went over to cover the story, along with photographer Bob Ruff. Her piece made it sound like a great place for a second home, free from commercial overkill. It featured a shot of Stan relaxing at one of the few homes on the island. You can feel his exuberance in the photo.

Again, his instincts were correct. Not only did he attract prominent Gold Coast people to invest in the island, he also sold to Europeans. Years later he credited the magazine for helping him put Scotland Cay on the map. It probably would have worked as well without the publicity, but appreciation was part of Stan Smoker's engaging way.

For this Gold Coast pioneer, optimism was its own reward.

**2012 (44)****2011 (49)****2010 (44)****2009 (14)**

## My Favorite Links

**Gold Coast Magazine**  
(<http://www.fortlauderdaledaily.com/>)

**Gold Coast Magazine on Facebook**  
(<https://www.facebook.com/GoldCoastMag>)

## Add new comment

Your name

E-mail

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Subject

Comment \*

**FortLauderdale.gov**

## Smoker Park

### Smoker Park

501 S. New River Drive East  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

**Tel:** 954-828-PARK (7275)

**Hours:** 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Park Size (Acres):** 1.7

### Map and Directions

Get a map to [Smoker Park](#).

### Park Facilities and Amenities

- Bicycle Racks
- Park Benches
- Water Fountain

### ADA Accessibility Information

For a complete list of accessibility information, visit our [ADA Accessibility Information](#) page.



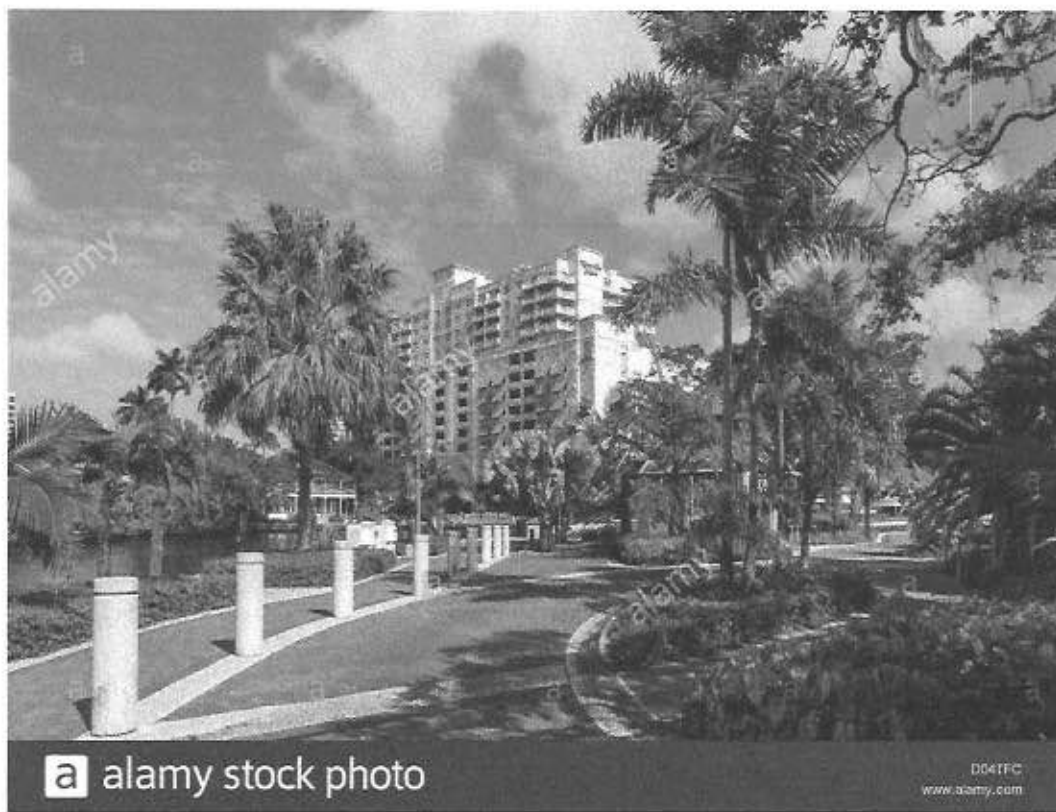
### Programs and Events

For a complete listing of classes and programs, please visit our [Recreation](#) page.



alamy

Riverwalk alongside the New River, Smoker Family Park, Stranahan Landing, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, USA - Image ID: D04TFC



Riverwalk alongside the New River, Smoker Family Park, Stranahan Landing, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, USA

Contributor: Ian Dagnall / Alamy Stock Photo

Image ID: D04TFC

File size: 64.8 MB (4.3 MB Compressed download)

Dimensions: 5736 x 3948 px | 48.6 x 33.4 cm | 19.1 x 13.2 inches | 300dpi

Releases: Model - no | Property - no | Do I need a release?

Date taken: 16 October 2012

Location: Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, FL, USA

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Florida History Today

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On this day in Florida history - June

On this day in Florida history - May

On this day in Florida history - April

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The Fierce Competition for Rollins College

The Hidden History of Everglades City

The Legend of Jose Gaspar

Burdine's: Sunshine Fashions & The Florida Store

Follow the Dollar - Horse breeding brings big money to Central Florida

In Cassadaga, the Seance Room is where they talk to the dead

St. Petersburg leaders worked overtime to promote their city

Paradise for Sale: Florida's Booms and Busts

Feature - The Curtiss-Bright Cities

Feature - Collected Works of South Florida pioneer Byrd Spilman Dewey

Facebook links - Spring Breakers riot in Fort Lauderdale

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Secret Florida life of the author of one of SF's greatest novels

## Florida History Network

## Announcements

### The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society launches fundraising effort to preserve King-Cromartie House

Ft. Lauderdale, FL (January 31, 2014) - Edwin T. King built the King-Cromartie House in 1907. Now, the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society needs your help to fund a new roof and keep one of Broward's oldest houses preserved in all its early 20th The State of Florida, Department of State and Division of Historical Resources have already pledged \$50,000 in the form of a Historic Preservation Grant Award Agreement but individuals, businesses and organizations are needed to pitch in and help fund the matching grant program. The deadline to donate is June 1 and construction on the roof starts in February 2014.

Bonnie Flynn, Executive Director of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, says the house is important because it helps connect today's generation with those of the past. "It's very special. It was the one house that was moved down the river from its original location. Children who come for tours learn what it was like to live back in those days.

They do laundry out on the front porch and it's adorable. They're so excited to learn about something done many years ago, to know that life wasn't easy back then. And when they walk away, they say "What an awesome day!"

King, the area's first contractor who also built the Stranahan House, built his home, complete with running water and carbide lamps, out of Dade County Pine and joists from salvaged ship's timbers. A second story was added in 1911. King died in the 1928 Okeechobee Hurricane. Years later, his eldest daughter, Louise, lived in the house with her husband, Bloxham Cromartie.

Stanford Smoker, best known for his efforts to preserve oak trees, donated the house in 1971 to the Junior League of Fort Lauderdale. They relocated the 150-ton structure by barge to its current location: 229 SW 2nd Avenue, on the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society's Historic Campus. Not long after, it was opened as a museum.

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society took control of the house in 1994 and continued the Junior League's vision of preserving the home as a place where future generations could learn about Fort Lauderdale's beginnings.

Tours are available and children can take part in "Pioneer School Day" and learn what school and life were like for children over 100 years ago.

To donate to the King-Cromartie Preservation Project, visit <http://www.fortlauderdalehistoricalsociety.org/get-involved/donate/>. The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Casey Stengel was a  
Daytona Beach  
troublemaker

True stories about The Real  
McCoy

Daytona's Deadliest Air  
Crash: Aug. 10, 1937

Blog - Zora Neale  
Hurston's Life on Florida's  
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Blog - Florida's Worst  
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## About the Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) brings the history of greater Fort Lauderdale to life through education, research and preservation for the enrichment of present and future generations. Believing that a sense of history is fundamental to understanding human experience, the FLHS collects, preserves and shares material from our community's past, so that present and future generations can comprehend more fully their predecessors, their community and themselves.

With education as the primary focus FLHS offers public lectures and workshops; publish teacher resource materials; arrange school and general group tours and activities; support scholarly research through significant research assistance; maintain a 1907 house museum and three other 1905 historic structures, and a museum of changing and permanent exhibitions, and operate a research center that has functioned uninterrupted for more than 50 years. To learn more visit [www.fortlauderdalehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.fortlauderdalehistoricalsociety.org)

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