



**A Message From  
Lois Wexler  
Broward County Commissioner  
District 5**

For the past six months I have continued to familiarize myself with the operations and services of Broward County's various divisions and offices. I have met with a number of managers and employees, including staff in Finance and Administrative Services, Community Services, Aviation and Elderly and Veterans Services. I have had an opportunity to meet with staff of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Florida Department of Transportation to discuss transit issues and solutions to our traffic congestion. I continue to serve as a member of the Children's Services Board. A highlight of my orientation activities was an airboat tour of the Everglades led by the South Florida Water Management District and the South Broward Drainage District. The first-hand glimpse of Broward County's fragile ecosystem gave me a new perspective on a number of environmental issues.

There have been a number of important issues aired before the County Commission during the past few months. We have discussed these at great length in order to make informed policy decisions. Topics debated included affordable housing, rising property values, escalating ad valorem taxes, and the state legislature's failure to implement legislation on slot machines. I want to be as knowledgeable as possible on these and other issues so that my votes reflect your wishes and the County Commission's decisions benefit you. Your input is important to me. If you want to discuss an issue, we can now meet closer to your home! I recently opened a District Office in the City Hall of Cooper City, located at 9090 SW 50th Place. The office is open Wednesday and Friday mornings, or by appointment. If you want to meet with me, please contact my office at (954) 357-7005.

Summertime is here and there is an abundance of new ways to enjoy the sunshine, especially if you're an animal lover.

Markham Park in Sunrise is now home to a 2.73-acre dog park. The facility, located just west of the entrance to Markham Park, is the largest dog park in Broward County. There are two separate areas, one for small dogs and another for large dogs. Bermuda sod, a grass similar to that found on golf courses around the world, has been utilized as a ground cover. It is designed specifically to keep ticks and fleas away. The dog park also contains centrally located dog washing areas for both small and large animals. Markham Park is located at 16001 West State Road 84 in Sunrise. The dog park is open whenever Markham Park is open. For more information, call (954) 389-2000.

In Plantation, a new Equestrian Center has just opened in Volunteer Park. This brand-new equestrian-friendly environment is located within a picturesque, 86-acre sub-tropical setting. It was developed with safety, security, and enjoyment of both horses and their owners in mind. Some of the features of South Florida's newest equestrian facility include two stables which house 96 stalls, a lighted ring and two additional show rings, turn-out paddock areas, and an ancillary building which includes a concession area, restroom, announcer's booth with PA system and office space and bleachers to accommodate approximately 300 spectators. While at Plantation's Volunteer Park, please take advantage of Camp Everglades – your children will enjoy this state of the art play area! The Equestrian Center is located inside the City of Plantation's Volunteer Park located at 1451 Northwest 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For more information, please call (954) 476-4316.

If your children are looking for fun this summer, try a swim at Safari Isle in Markham Park. This recreational pool features depths varying from three to 12 feet, and also includes a waterfall designed with younger children in mind. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult; no pets are allowed. Until August 5, Safari Isle is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. After August 5, Safari Isle will only be open on weekends. Entrance fee is \$2 per person.

A little further south in Pembroke Pines is Broward County's newest aquatics facility: Paradise Cove at C.B. Smith Park. This exciting play area includes a man-made beach, two large water playgrounds (one specifically for toddlers) and a lazy river tube ride. In addition, the park's original two 350-foot water slides have been resurfaced so they're faster than ever! The entrance fee for the entire day is \$7 per person. After 3 p.m., the fee is \$4 per person. C.B Smith Park is located at 900 North Flamingo Road. From now until September 6<sup>th</sup>, Paradise Cove is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., seven days a week; after September 6<sup>th</sup>, it is open only on weekends. For more information, please call (954) 437-2650.

I hope you have a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact my office at (954) 357-7005; or you can e-mail me at [lwexler@broward.org](mailto:lwexler@broward.org). I look forward to hearing from you.