

"Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner." --James Bovard

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# Boca Raton News

9/11/01

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52nd Year/Issue 182

Thursday, September 11, 2008



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## Bowled Over

BOCA COUNCIL IRKED ABOUT LEASE OFFER FOR FURNITURE STORE

By Dale M. King  
CITY EDITOR

The Boca Raton Airport Authority has offered a lease to City Furniture to build a new store on a 4.67-acre parcel of land on Airport Road. In the process, the authority rejected a plan for a recreation facility. The City Council thinks the recreation facility would be a better use.

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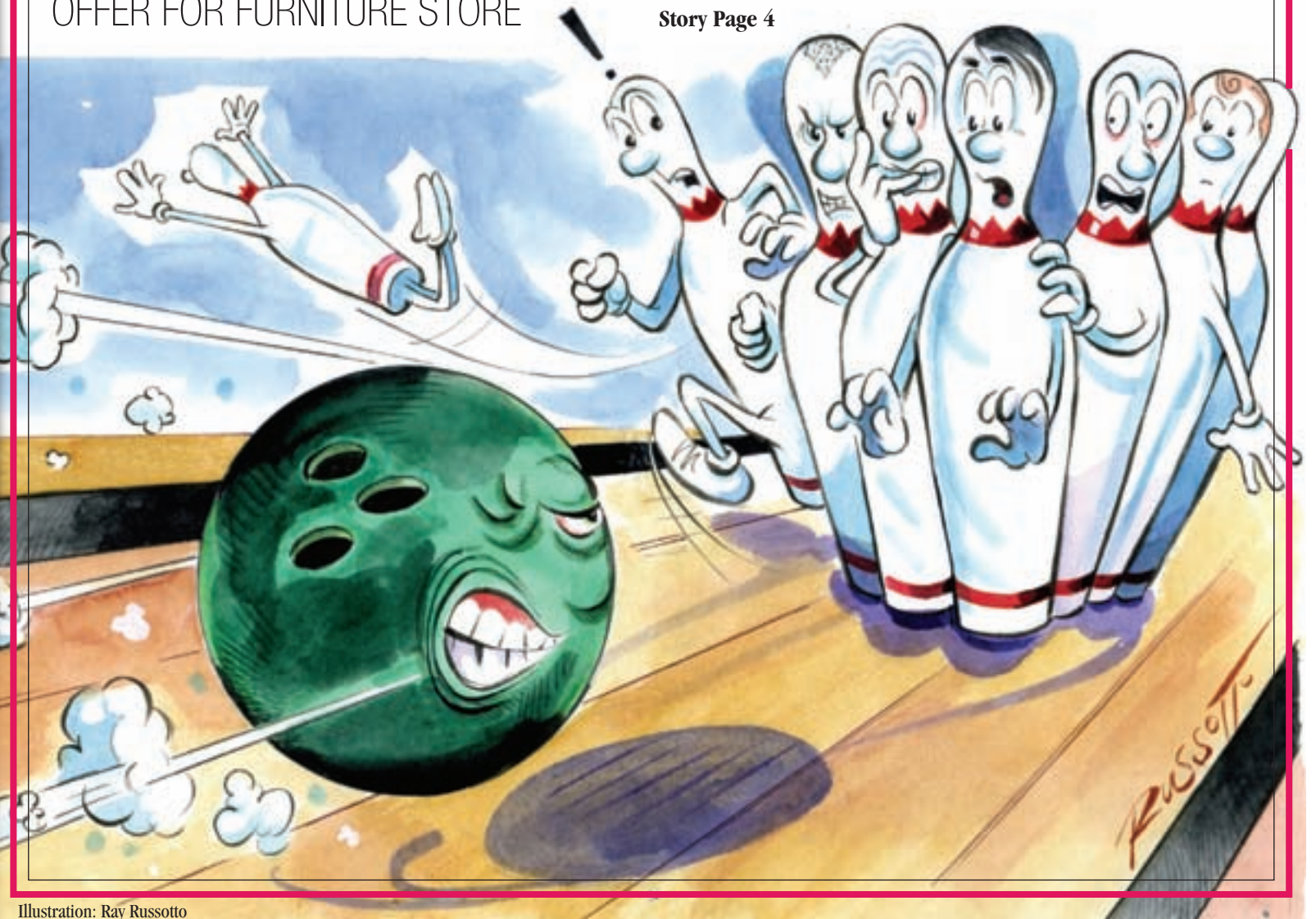


Illustration: Ray Russotto

### FAU senior dies

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Florida Atlantic University senior Jason Weinstein died Friday while surfing off the coast of Delray Beach, according to police reports.

A funeral service was held Wednesday for the student. FAU spokeswoman Kristine McGrath confirmed that he was a senior at the university, studying for a bachelor's degree in business management.

According to police, Weinstein

was found underwater at about 11:30 a.m. Efforts to resuscitate him with not unsuccessful.

The 26-year-old's death remains under investigation. It was not immediately known if he drowned or suffered from another medical condition. Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office is waiting for test results before determining a cause of death, said investigators.



### Boca in bust

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Two units of Boca Raton police joined hundreds of other officers Tuesday in a massive drug bust in Boynton Beach.

"Our VIN (Vice Intelligence Narcotics) unit and the SWAT team were involved," said Public Information Officer Sandra Boonenberg. "Crimes of that sort typically cross city boundaries and the local agencies all have a good working relationship, hence our involvement."

In all, some 450 police officers from local and federal agencies took part in the sweep of the city's northeast section where drug activity is said to be rampant.

Boca Raton Police Chief Dan Alexander said he did not know if any Boca Raton residents were arrested. But he did note that drug activity in Boynton Beach can "trickle down" to Boca.



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#### NEWS ANALYSIS

### McCarty says appoint, not elect, elections head

ABRAMSON SUES IN JUDGE'S RACE

By John Johnston  
MANAGING EDITOR

Enough is enough, says Commissioner Mary McCarty. The most recent fiasco with the Palm Beach County Elections office makes it clear to her that the present system is "sort of like having a fighter jet that

you're asking someone to win a social contest to fly."

McCarty's solution proposed Tuesday is to change the county charter, making the Supervisor of Elections an appointed, rather than elected position.

"The people's right to vote is so valuable," she said, "and it's not good enough to be friendly and walk off the street and pull this off anymore."

"We need a professional," McCarty said.

#### Department Head

The most recent elections' office problem, in which Supervisor of Elections Dr. Arthur Anderson apparently lost about 3,500 ballots during the recent primary election, was the end of the line for McCarty.

On election night, attorney Wil-

See **MCCARTY** on page 7



Commissioner Mary McCarty



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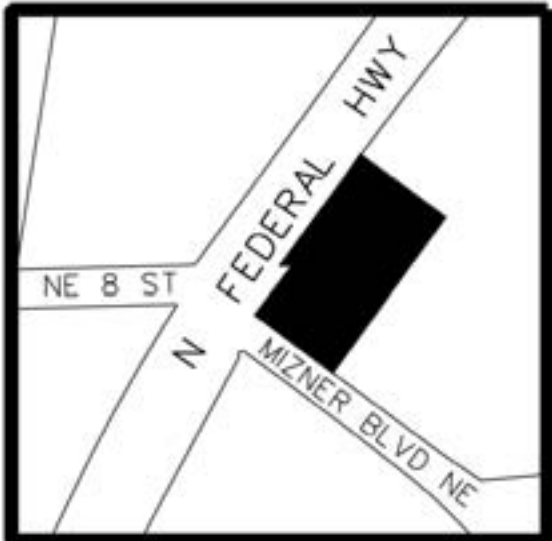
## CITY OF BOCA RATON NOTICE OF PROPOSED REZONING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council of the City of Boca Raton will hold a quasi-judicial public hearing on the following proposed ordinance on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, at which time Council will consider its adoption. A presentation on the ordinance may be made by staff at the City Council Workshop Meeting on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. At the workshop meeting, Council may make inquiries; no public comment will be taken.

Both meetings will be held in the Council Chamber at Boca Raton City Hall, 201 West Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, Florida. The ordinance in its entirety may be inspected at the Office of the City Clerk during regular business hours. All interested parties may appear at the meetings and be heard at the public hearing on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 with respect to the ordinance.

Ordinance No. 5022

An ordinance of the City of Boca Raton rezoning, pursuant to Article VI, Chapter 23, Code of Ordinances, a parcel of land consisting of 1.08 acres more or less, located at 600 North Federal Highway, from General Business (B4) to Professional, Office and Institutional (PO&I); providing for severability; providing for repeal; providing an effective date (UC-08-02/ZC)



■ PETITION AREA NO SCALE NORTH

Information regarding quasi-judicial procedure may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk (561-393-7740). Information on the petition may be obtained from the Planning and Zoning Division of the Development Services Department, City Hall, 201 West Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, Florida 33432 (561-393-7781).

**NOTICE:** If any decision of City Council affects you, and you decide to appeal any decision made at this meeting with respect to any matter considered, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (The above NOTICE is required by State Law. If you desire a verbatim transcript, you shall have the responsibility, at your own cost, to arrange for the transcript.)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statutes 296.25, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 393-7741 at least three business days prior to the proceeding (whenever possible) to request such accommodation.

Sharma Hagerty, CMC, City Clerk  
City of Boca Raton, Florida

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## COVER STORY

# Boca Council irked about lease offer for furniture store

By Dale M. King  
CITY EDITOR

The Boca Raton Airport Authority apparently thinks a new City Furniture Store on a 4.67-acre parcel of land on Airport Road next to Premier Aviation and Muvico would be a better use of the property than for a recreational facility.

Authority members voted that way following presentations Aug. 20 from City Furniture and Premier Aviation.

But the City Council has to rule on that decision. And some of them — particularly Deputy Mayor Peter Baronoff, who attended the authority meeting night — are upset with the ruling.

“When you are passing by on I-95, do you want to see a big box store or a recreational

use?” the councilman asked at a recent meeting. He said the recreational facility proposed by Premier Aviation — a use that includes a bowling alley — would tie in well with the nearby Muvico Theatre and Boomer’s, another recreation site on the south side of the cinema.

Baronoff said the authority asked “few questions” during the presentations, and he also felt members expressed “no concerns about the qualitative issues.”

According to figures presented at the hearing, Baronoff said, the recreational use would bring in \$610,000 while the furniture store is supposed to produce revenue of \$625,000.

The authority is currently negotiating with City Furni-

ture to reach a lease agreement, said authority spokeswoman Kim Singer.

In response to a request for proposals, three companies submitted suggestions to lease the property, said Singer. Restaurant Associates, she said, was “not responsive” and was disqualified.

That left two active applicants -- City Furniture and Premier Aviation. The latter already leases 15 acres and is in the process of building a development there in phases, Singer said.

### Bowling Added

In its written proposal, she said, Premier said it planned to build a restaurant and retail uses. On the night of the meeting with the authority, its attorney said the firm also wants to put in a bowling al-

ley. Earlier this year, the City Council designated the property as non-aviation land — not needed for airport use. The parcel is the remaining undeveloped area on Airport Road.

When the council redesignated the land earlier this year, it created a number of categories of approved uses for it, including business and professional offices, retail uses, banks and financial institutions, hotels and motels, educational institutions, radio or television studios, indoor theaters, bowling alleys, recreational facilities and medical offices.

Dale M. King can be reached at 561-549-0832 or at [dking@bocanews.com](mailto:dking@bocanews.com).

## Bowling bash for BHH

(Special to the News)

The South Florida VIPs (Very Innovative Professionals) will host the 2nd Annual Boca Bowling Bash to benefit Boca Helping Hands Saturday, Sept. 27 at Strikes@ Boca Raton. Check-in begins at 8:15 p.m. and Cosmic Bowling will begin at 9 p.m., followed by an awards presentation and after party at Big City Tavern. Tickets are \$25 per person and include two cocktails, pizza, soda, two games of bowling and shoe rental. Tickets for teams of six can be purchased for \$150. The South Florida VIPs was formed to plan events throughout the area, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting various local charities. Shown are the founders, Nicole Flier, left, and Lori Ludwig with Linda Gove, executive director of Boca Helping Hands, in front.



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