

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE A NEW YEAR?

We celebrate the new year for two main reasons: as a practical measure to mark the passage of time and as a cultural and psychological opportunity for renewal. The specific date and traditions vary across different cultures and religions, but the underlying motivations are universal.

Historical and logistical reasons

For thousands of years, civilizations have used a new year to mark a turning point in the annual cycle.

- Timekeeping: New Year's Day serves as a critical milestone for tracking the year. Historically, this was essential for agriculture to track the seasons and for governments to record civic dates. The Roman custom of inaugurating new consuls on January 1, for example, aligned their political calendar with the start of the new year.
- A calendar benchmark: The annual reset of the calendar provides a convenient point for accounting, planning, and other record-keeping. The Gregorian calendar, now used by most of the world, codified January 1 as the start of the year in 1582, standardizing this global civil tradition.
- Survival: For ancient societies, the winter solstice was a perilous time of cold and little food. A new year celebration was a way to rejoice in having survived another year and to look forward to the return of spring.

Psychological and cultural significance

Beyond practicality, the turn of a new year offers powerful psychological benefits.

- A chance for a "fresh start": The new year symbolizes a clean slate and a time to leave behind past mistakes and disappointments. Many people embrace this as a chance for a fresh start, allowing them to forgive and move forward.
- Reflection and resolution: It is a time for introspection, prompting people to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and failures. The tradition of making New Year's resolutions is a human practice dating back thousands of years, serving as a motivator for self-improvement and setting new goals.
- Communal celebration: New Year's celebrations, often involving parties, fireworks, and special dinners, bring communities and families together to mark the transition collectively. This shared experience fosters a sense of togetherness and collective optimism for the year ahead.

happy new year





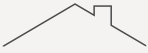
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Buying or selling a home can be a stressful process if you don't have the right real estate agent. With over 30 years of experience, you can rely on me to get you the best possible result. Call, Text or Email me anytime.

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REAL ESTATE AGENT
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CONTACT:

✉ TAMISTG@BELLSOUTH.NET
📞 954-770-7506

ALWAYS \$ SAVING \$ELLER\$



CHECK OUT MY 5 STAR REVIEWS ON ZILLOW.COM

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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LAUDERDALE WEST NEWS

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Message from the President

By Steve Rose

Dear Residents,

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season! It's great to finally feel the temperatures starting to cool down.

As many of you may already know, the Board of Directors has voted to **terminate our contract with Castle Property Management**. Beginning **February 1, 2026, Lauderdale West will once again become a self-managed community**.

We have already started the process of requesting **resumes for an on-site property manager, office staff, and a professional accounting firm** to handle our financial operations. Our goal is to have the new team in place before Castle's departure so there will be a smooth and well-organized transition with appropriate overlap.

This change also means that **Lauderdale West will oversee the March 2026 Board of Directors election process** directly. We'll continue to keep everyone informed as these plans progress.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our **sincere appreciation to Kristi Woods for her outstanding leadership and dedication in overseeing the installation of the new tile flooring in the Clubhouse**.

The results are truly remarkable — the space looks beautiful, and the high-quality stone selected will serve our community for many years to come.

Congratulations, Kristi, on a job exceptionally well done. Your attention to detail, commitment to excellence, and hands-on oversight exemplify the very best of what it means to serve the Lauderdale West community.

The Board is also in the process of developing the **Fiscal Year 2026 budget**. We will be holding an open meeting to review the proposed budget so that any interested residents can attend and understand how we approach the budgeting process.

I want to take a moment to address a rumor that

has been circulating about monthly maintenance fees increasing to \$800. **This is not possible.** Our bylaws clearly state that **monthly maintenance cannot increase by more than 15%** in any given year.

To provide some perspective on how your Board manages the budget responsibly:

1. **We live here too**, and we share your desire to keep monthly maintenance as affordable as possible.
2. The Board has a **fiduciary duty** to every owner to ensure that any increases are reasonable and necessary, with full awareness of how they impact our community.
3. The **2024–2025 increase for Single-Family Homes** was **\$32 (about 6.5%)**, bringing the monthly total to **\$520**.
4. The **2024–2025 increase for Plexes** was **\$14 (about 2.1%)**, bringing the monthly total to **\$508**.

As you'll see at the upcoming budget meeting, your Board continues to be **careful and thoughtful** in our planning. While some projects must move forward for maintenance and improvement, we are committed to obtaining **competitive bids and fair pricing** to ensure every dollar is well spent.

Thank you once again for your continued support and engagement. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any **questions, concerns, or suggestions** — we truly value your input as we move forward together.

Warm regards,

Stephen Rose

President, Board of Directors

Lauderdale West Community Association #1, Inc.

Lauderdale West Board Meetings

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

Meeting – **Tuesday**, Dec 9 – 10 AM – Room 113

Meeting – Wednesday, Jan 28 - 10 AM – Room 113

The Board meetings are **open to all residents of LW**. Meetings are subject to change or cancellation. Please check the Community Channel 901, the Lauderdale West Website (www.lauderdalewest.org) or signage at the Main Clubhouse for changes or cancellation notification. If you have signed up for email or text messages, you will be informed accordingly.

Videos of previous Board Meetings are available on the Lauderdale West Website Owners' Corner and the most recent are available on Blue Stream Channel 902.

FYI - LW'S ACCOUNTANTS

Please be advised the accountants for Lauderdale West are:

Castle Group
12270 SW 3 Street Suite 200
Plantation, FL 33325
800-337-5850

Mail your maintenance assessment to:

Popular Bank
PO Box 169010
Miami, FL 33116

Payments are due on the **FIRST** of each month

Lauderdale West HOURS OF OPERATION

Business Offices	M-F	9:00AM – Noon
Castle Property Manager	M-F	9:00AM – 5:00PM
Gym	Daily	5:00AM – 9:00PM
Main Clubhouse	Daily	8:00AM – 9:00PM
Main Swimming Pool	Daily	6:00AM – 9:00PM
Satellite Swimming Pool	Daily	Dawn to Dusk

BULK & GARBAGE PICKUP

BULK PICKUP DATES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 (2nd Tuesday)

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 (2nd Tuesday)

Please **DO NOT** put Bulk Pickup items out until Monday afternoon **AFTER 5 PM** the day before Bulk Pickup is scheduled. Place Bulk Pickup at least

5 feet AWAY from the mailboxes, trees, and street signs.

Thank you for your cooperation.

• **BULK PICKUP** – Our next Bulk Pickups will be Tuesday, December 9, and Tuesday, January 13. The following items will not be accepted: batteries, **black bags**, chemicals, concrete including bricks or pavers, electronics, fencing, fluorescent bulbs, glass not properly wrapped, insecticides, oils and paints, paint cans, x-rays, construction materials, tires. To ensure the safety of Waste Management drivers, mirrors, glass tabletops, windowpanes, plate glass, etc., will only be picked up if they are properly and safely placed in a rigid container. Any broken glass must be placed into a secure container and marked as glass. If items are small enough, they must be put in clear bags. **Black bags will not be accepted.** Empty cardboard boxes will be accepted.

• BULK PICKUP DATES FOR FUTURE MONTHS

Feb 10 (2nd Tue) Mar 10 (2nd Tue)
Apr 14 (2nd Tue)

• **GARBAGE PICKUP** – On Tuesday - blue bags and clear recycle bags should be placed **at least 5 feet AWAY from your mailbox**. On Friday – blue bags only, also **5 feet** from your mailbox. **Bags must not be put out until 5 PM** the night before pickup.

LW NEWS SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE REMINDER!

FOR THE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026 ISSUE

Articles are due December 16, 2025

New advertisers due November 26, 2025

Returning advertisers due December 3, 2025

ALL DEADLINES ARE FIRM

Email to: newspaper@lauderdalewest.org
or drop off at room #121

The Newspaper Office is open
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
from **9 AM** until **noon**



Helpful Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

Beach Environmental (Pest Control)	954-458-1104
Blue Stream	954-282-6578
Broward County Call Center (Non-Emergency)	311
Broward County Health Department	954-467-4700
City Hall – General Information	954-797-2200
Code Enforcement	954-797-2267
Elderly & Veterans Services	954-357-6622
Fire Department – NON-emergency	954-797-2150
Florida Power & Light (FPL)	954-797-5000
LW Maintenance	954-473-2595
Plantation Recycling	954-452-2535
Poison Control Hotline	800-222-1222
Police Department – NON-emergency	954-797-2100
Suicide Prevention Lifeline	988
Water Department	954-797-2290
Westside Hospital	954-473-6600

* To reach the MAINTENANCE Department during regular hours, please call: **954-473-2595**.

Maintenance: maintenancedept@lauderdalewest.org
Sales: applicationsapproval@lauderdalewest.org

WELCOME

New Residents!

Michelle Corell
Joseph Delgado
Annette Evans
Celso Gonzalez
Rosemae Kalichman
Enrique & Elizabeth Mosia
Colleen Riley
William Spivey
Alvetta Marie Taylor
Laura Webster & Lacie Allen

OFFICIAL LAUDERDALE WEST COMMUNICATION VENUES

Bulletin Board Outside Clubhouse
Lauderdale West Website Home Page
Blue Stream Channel 901

LW BUS SCHEDULE

Your Driver is Pete - 954-496-2543



MONDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM	TUESDAY -----	WEDNESDAY 9:00AM - 12:30PM	THURSDAY 9:00AM - 12:30PM	FRIDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM
DESTINATION PUBLIX (Jacaranda) BANK OF AMERICA DOLLAR TREE (Jacaranda)	NO BUS	DESTINATION WALMART (Oakland Park) BRAVO SHOPPING CENTER BANK OF AMERICA CHASE BANK	DESTINATION ALDI (Broward Blvd.) BROWARD MALL	DESTINATION PUBLIX (Jacaranda) BANK OF AMERICA DOLLAR TREE (Jacaranda)
NOTICE SIGN IN REQUIRED BEFORE BOARDING BUS STOPS ONLY AT DESTINATIONS PLEASE BE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME VIDEO SURVEILLANCE IN USE				PICK UP FOR PICK UP CALL PETE ON DAY OF TRIP 954-496-2543
BUS FARE IS FREE TO ALL LW RESIDENTS				

Rev. 1-7-2024



**Don't miss out on all the fun
at Lauderdale West!**

Make sure you get your tickets at the Clubhouse in advance of the event.

December Events

Dec 2 Women of Lauderdale West in LW Auditorium – 11:00 AM
 Dec 7 Holiday Party in Room 113 – 8:00 PM
 Dec 9 Lauderdale West Board Meeting in Room 113 – 10:00 AM
 Dec 16 Hadassah in Room 113 – 11:00 AM
 Dec 31 New Years Eve Party in LW Auditorium – 7:00 PM – 12:30 AM

January Events

Jan 6 Women of Lauderdale West in LW Auditorium – 11:00 AM
 Jan 20 Hadassah in Room 113 – 11:00 AM
 Jan 28 Lauderdale West Board Meeting in Room 113 – 10:00 AM

February Events

Feb 3 Women of Lauderdale West in LW Auditorium – 11:00 AM
 Feb 17 Hadassah in Room 113 – 11:00 AM
 Feb 25 Lauderdale West Board Meeting in Room 113 – 7:00 PM

MESSAGE TO ALL RESIDENTS WITH PETS

For those who have animals, including cats, at Lauderdale West, may we remind you that you must:

- **Personally attend to and keep the animal on a leash when outside the home.**
- NEVER leave animal alone on a leash.
- Follow all City and County Ordinances.
- Clean up after your animal anywhere in Lauderdale West.
- Properly dispose of animal waste disposal bags in **YOUR** trash container, **NOT** in a Community trash can.
- Do not put waste down a drainage grate or throw it in the lakes or canals. This becomes a bacterial hazard to our water system.

**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

**Safety
First!!**

All Lauderdale West owners and residents **MUST** use their fobs when entering the Clubhouse, gym, pools, and all other areas. **DO NOT** open a door for anyone. We have discovered that people are opening doors for or allowing others to enter the facilities as they enter, and non-residents are using our facilities. This could be a **safety issue**. As a resident or owner, please do not expect someone else to allow you to enter when they open a door or to open a door for you.

Be alert and be responsible. Thank you.



In our continued efforts to keep our Community safe, we have implemented a Neighborhood Watch Committee. Meetings are held at 6:30 PM in Room 113 on the 3rd Thursday of the month. If you are interested in being part of this very important committee, please join us at a monthly meeting.. If you have questions or comments, contact Ralph Rickel at rrickel@gmail.com or Eric Johnson at ericjackie@aol.com.

**IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING,
SAY
SOMETHING**

**REPORT
SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY TO
THE POLICE**

HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

What to include in Report

If you see suspicious activity, report it to law enforcement and describe specifically what you observed, including:

- **Who** or **what** you saw;
- **When** you saw it;
- **Where** it occurred; and
- **Why** it's suspicious

Take your phone out and add this number to your contacts.

**Plantation Police
954-797-2100**

Wood Shop

The Wood Shop continues to be closed, however progress is being made. We hope it will reopen soon. Sorry for any inconvenience.

InMemoriam



**Linda
Owen**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING LATE PAYMENTS!

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS are due on or before the first day of each month; NOT the 5th, NOT the 10th.

If you do not pay your monthly maintenance or any special assessments on time, you are subject to additional fees. Those fees can add up very quickly.

If not paid by the 10th, a late fee of **\$5** will be assessed, plus a **\$30** late letter fee. If payment is not made within 30 days, expect to receive a legal letter fee for **\$195** from Lauderdale West to prepare documents to send to our attorneys for collection.

Once your account is turned over to our attorneys for collection, you will also be responsible for their legal fees in addition to FedEx postage, etc..

Please remember, all fees are subject to increase.

hope and possibility

original poetry by Lydia Shutter

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- the calendar pages have fluttered and turned
- through this fragile year
- a year that reminded us of our mortality
- we cannot rewrite the year
- for it will soon be a wave on memory's shoreline
- horizontal lines will soon meet the vertical
- at the right angle of "what if"
- so when the orb descends every so slowly
- at midnight
- it will be time to do a little victory dance
- we made it through!
- time to start the collage of 2026
- be sure you fill yours
- with multicolored hope and possibility
- *happy new year to LW!*
- *let's hope 2026 is a good year for us all!*



Plantation News

PLANTATION CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Plantation City Council meetings are typically held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at Plantation City Hall, 400 NW 73rd Avenue. Periodically, meetings may be cancelled, or special meetings may be held. Please check the City Council & Advisory Board Meeting Details and Live Video page for meeting schedules, agendas, minutes and meeting video.

DECEMBER

December 3, 2025

JANUARY

January 14, 2026

January 28, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Nick Sortal

Greetings, Lauderdale West!

I'm delighted to announce the first millage cut in eight years in Plantation. The city council approved my proposal to reduce residents' rate from 5.800 to 5.700. Thank you to Finance Director Anna Otiniano for finding a way to make it work.

City property taxes are about one-fourth of your total property tax bill, alongside county taxes and school taxes. For example, my total tax bill is \$5,216.72. It breaks down to \$1,479.68 for Plantation, \$1,393.33 for county taxes and \$1,593.66 for schools and the rest is scattered about.

More than half our general fund is spent on police, fire and EMS services, and that's common in cities.

Water bills: You might have noticed your water bill increased 6 percent starting Oct. 1. We hired a consultant to study every angle of water rates, and the city council voted in 2022 on his recommendation to invoke slight increases over time, rather than one big raise. Most of the money goes to maintaining water and sewer lines, to prevent incidents like the one that stunk up Fort Lauderdale a couple of years ago.

I also want to note that revenue from Utilities and from our Building Safety Department must stay in those silos, called Enterprise Funds, and be used only for that operation. The state mandates these procedures to stop cities from siphoning off money to pay for, say, new park equipment or police cars.

Bulk trash crackdown: A point of pride in our city is that it is "clean and green." But we are having problems with residents putting their bulk trash out before their pickup time.

The earliest permitted is the Monday before your scheduled pickup, after 5:00 PM. Don't just rely on seeing your neighbor's bulk, please.

Code enforcement will crack down on this. To report a potential violation, call 954-797-2267 or email askcode@psd.plantation.org.

Stay informed: Our city will improve if we can educate our residents as much as possible. To that end, please subscribe to my newsletter via Plantation.org/SignMeUp. A video Mayor's Minute each Monday gives you a rundown of events coming up for the week. You'll see that if you follow the City's feed on Facebook or Instagram

RAIN GUTTERS

All gutters are the responsibility of the homeowner. They must be kept clean, both inside and out – meaning the owner must remove, on a regular basis, all leaves and trees that may be growing out of the gutters. If the debris in the gutter causes damage to your roof or fascia board, you will be held responsible for all repair costs.

Gutters should be cleaned every other month, especially if you have trees near your homes.

ROOFS

NO ONE is permitted on your roof **EXCEPT LAUDERDALE WEST APPROVED** contractors. If you hire a contractor to clean or repair your roof, and they damage your roof in any way, you are responsible for all repair costs.

AVOID SELLING DELAYS

Applications and Approvals

If you are planning on selling, please clean up the outside of your home. Any plants, trees or bushes in the common area must be removed; awnings cleaned and painted; flower beds weeded; and patios and driveways pressure washed. The most common holdup in processing the sale of your home is the seller's delay in cleaning up the outside of their home. Be proactive – avoid delays and clean up now!

Owners must return their fobs to the Applications Approval Office prior to sale. A \$25 fee for each fob will be charged to the seller in the Estoppel Form required for all closings. If the seller returns the fobs in a timely manner, the fee will be returned by check to the seller after closing.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL

Used needles must be disposed of in a Sharps container. A Sharps container can be purchased for minimal cost at:

Prescription Pad Pharmacy
333 NW 70th Avenue, Ste 102, Plantation
Phone 954-791-2000

Once the container is full, it can be dropped off at this pharmacy and a new container obtained.

BLACK RODENT BAIT BOXES

We live in a water community and wherever you have water, you are more susceptible to rats. Throughout our community, there are rodent bait boxes set up by our pest control company to deter/kill rats/rodents. Each box is numbered and has been strategically placed on the property against the house.

- Do not move the boxes. The boxes **MUST** remain where they have been placed. Each box is marked on a map and must remain in that spot.
- You will be **fin**ed if the box on your property is not in its designated position.
- **Do not TOUCH the boxes.** They are filled with **poison**.
- If a rodent problem occurs, call maintenance at 954-473-2595 and report it.
- Broken or missing bait box replacement cost is \$22. The resident will be charged when one is missing.

ROOM RENTAL PROCEDURE

Lauderdale West rents out Room 113 for small family gatherings or residents with no more than 50 people. The cost to rent room 113 is \$150; set up and cleanup is \$100; security deposit is \$500, payable in three separate checks.

The paperwork required to rent Room 113 is as follows: photo ID; Declaration page for your Homeowners/Renters Insurance; three checks as stated above.

If you are interested, please call the Clubhouse any morning from 9 AM until Noon and you will be directed to the Room Coordinator.



**PROTECT YOURSELF
AND YOUR DOG!**



When it gets dark it is important that you and your dog are protected when out walking. We would advise that you have your dog wear a blinking collar or vest and that you carry a flashlight. It has been mentioned that drivers cannot always see people walking their dogs on the street in the early hours of the morning or after dark in the evening. Please, heed this warning and protect yourself and your dog.

HADASSAH *Happenings...*

By Susan Rose, President
954-288-8494
Mssrose@aol.com

L'CHAYIM HADASSAH

December and January bring opportunities to connect, contribute, and celebrate together.

December 2 – Board Meeting, 9:30 AM

At Susan's home. All members of the executive board—and anyone interested in joining or sharing new ideas—are warmly invited. Bring your enthusiasm and creativity as we plan for an exciting season ahead.

December 9 – Lunch Bunch, 11:30 AM

Call Dorothy (973-715-7811) to RSVP and learn the location. Everyone pays for their own lunch, and we ask for a small donation to Hadassah.

December 16 – Installation of Officers & Luncheon, 11:00 AM

Celebrate with us as we welcome our new officers and enjoy a festive Hanukkah luncheon. The cost is \$14 per person. We'll also have drawings and a bargain table—fun and creative ways to raise money for Hadassah. RSVP to Karen (954-205-1939).

December 21 – Challah Bake, 2:00–4:00 PM

Join us at Susan's for a fun afternoon of baking,

learning, and laughter! Cost is \$18, which includes supplies, refreshments, and good company. RSVP to Susan (954-288-8494) to reserve your spot.

January 6 – Board Meeting, 9:30 AM

At Susan's. Start 2026 by getting involved—your participation keeps our chapter vibrant and strong.

January 13 – Lunch Bunch, 11:30 AM

Call Dorothy (973-715-7811) to RSVP and find out the location.

January 15 – Candle-Making, 2:00–5:00 PM

A creative and relaxing afternoon you won't want to miss! Look for the flyer in the clubhouse for full details.

January 20 – General Meeting, 11:00 AM

Join us as we share ideas, friendship, and our continued commitment to Hadassah's mission. As we celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's, may the lights of the season remind us of the power of community and the difference we make when we come together.

L'Chayim—to life, friendship, and a bright new year ahead

WOMEN *Of Lauderdale West*

By Pinky Trapani
954-472-1652

It is hard to believe that this is the last letter for this year. What a year! It has been bittersweet with the passing of some family members as well as some dear friends.

We begin the month of December with our **holiday party at the Olive Garden on Dec 2nd at 12:15 PM**. Reservations are \$5 per person. Kay Wilson will handle this event. All children's gifts will be brought back to my house on Dec 4th & Dec 5th. My address and times are on the paper given to you when you took the Angel from the tree. Kevin, Director of Education Services, will pick them up on Saturday, Dec 6th.

The children's holiday party will be on Tuesday, Dec 9th. We are looking forward to the smiles and laughter we helped put on their faces. Mr. Scott Biederman of SCI Roofing has donated the funds for milk and cookies that will certainly add to the children's happiness.

Our **general meeting is December 18th – Thursday – 10 AM** - due to the holidays.

Our January luncheon will be most interesting.

You will be notified of the date, time and location.

From my thankful and grateful heart, with love pouring out to each and everyone; the newspaper office, Jeff Bender and Nicole Lloyd for getting the word out, also our channel 901 and the beautiful flyers. Read your Lauderdale West Newsletter and watch channel 901.

There is much joy and love from my heart to each of you who made these past 7 1/2 years a success. The hard work and endless jobs you fulfilled makes it a real pleasure to look forward to our eighth year in 2026.

By the end of December 2025 we will have given over \$62,000 to support Kids in Distress; providing supplies, strollers, laptops, bicycles, musical play yard and the list goes on. Thank you for the many donations and support of the luncheons and raffles that made this possible.

May your holidays, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's hold many special memories to carry in your hearts for a lifetime.



Unparalleled Property Services

EMERGENCIES

Castle after-hours on-site emergencies: 800-337-5850

The call center responds to calls outside of business hours and on holidays.

Plantation Police non-emergency number: 954-797-2100

In emergencies, call 911. *Ask for the Plantation 911 service.*

Maintenance Department Admin

Edna Roman

Office hours are 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM, weekdays

Telephone: 954-473-2595 • Fax: 954-358-2804

Email: maintenancedept@lauderdalewest.org

Castle Support Staff

Mill Whitehead

Office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, weekdays

Telephone: 954-473-8219 X 113 • Fax: 954-358-2804

Email: mwhitehead@castlegroup.com

Castle Group Holidays

Memorial Day • Labor Day • Independence Day

Thanksgiving Day • The day after Thanksgiving

Christmas Day • New Year's Day

Blue Stream 24-hour support 954-282-6578



Castle Management, LLC.

**“AUTO PAY” AUTHORIZATION
Maintenance Fees**

In order to have the Auto-pay program begin automatically deducting maintenance fees from your checking account, please clearly fill out the information below.

Please complete each and every item below:

ASSOCIATION NAME: Lauderdale West Community Association No. 1, Inc.

UNIT OWNER NAME: _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NUMBER(S): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MONTH START DATE: _____

MAINTENANCE FEE FREQUENCY: ☒ Month _____ Quarterly _____ Annually _____ Semi Annual

NAME OF YOUR BANK _____

ACCOUNT # _____ ROUTING # _____

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE MY FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO DEBIT/CHARGE MY ACCOUNT IN THE NAME OF MY HOMEOWNERS/CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION. I grant the Association the right and authority to amend the auto debit as maintenance fees are amended by the Board of Directors.

I UNDERSTAND THAT:

1. Notification of auto-pay confirmation will be sent by email.
2. That the debit/charge will occur between the 5th and 10th working day after the assessment is due.

The auto debit will remain in effect until I notify my association in writing 30 days prior to canceling the auto debit.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

2025 DECEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PLEASE NOTE Since this calendar must be prepared weeks in advance, there may be last-minute changes. We suggest you verify dates on BlueStream Channel 90.1. Revised 10-27-2025	1 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards	2 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 9:30 am Hadassah Board Mtg AUD 11 am Women of LW, Inc 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis	3 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 113 10 am Board Workshop 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics	4 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing	5 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 113 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass	6 Satl 8 am Social Tennis
7 Satl 9 am Social Tennis 208 1-4 pm Bridge 113 5-8 pm Holiday Party	8 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards	9 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 113 10 am LW Board Meeting 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis	10 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics	11 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing 113 6:30 pm Spanish Club	12 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 113 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass	13 Satl 8 am Social Tennis
14 HANUKKAH BEGINS Satl 9 am Social Tennis	15 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards	16 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer AUD 11:00 am Hadassah Gen Mtg 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis	17 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics	18 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards 111 10 am Women of LW Bd Mtg Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 113 6:30 pm Neighborhood Watch 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing	19 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 113 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass	20 Satl 8 am Social Tennis
21 Satl 9 am Social Tennis	22 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards	23 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis	24 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics	25 CHRISTMAS 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing	26 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 113 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass	27 Satl 8 am Social Tennis
28 Satl 9 am Social Tennis	29 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards	30 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis	31 NEW YEARS EVE 104 8 am-2 pm Wood Shop 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 7 PM-12:30 AM - LW Auditorium	DIRECTORS' OFFICES CLOSED CASTLE & MAINTENANCE CLOSED CLUBHOUSE OPEN	DIRECTORS' OFFICES CLOSED CASTLE & MAINTENANCE OPEN CLUBHOUSE OPEN	KEY TO LOCATIONS AUD = Auditorium BC = Bocce Court EXT = Outside of Lw LIB = Library SATL = Satellite TO = Ticket Office

2026							Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY							PLEASE NOTE Since this calendar must be prepared weeks in advance, there may be last-minute changes. We suggest you verify dates on BlueStream Channel 901. Revised 10-20-2025	KEY TO LOCATIONS BC = Bocce Court EXT = Outside of Lw JBA = Auditorium LIB = Library SATL = Satellite TO = Ticket Office			1 New Years Day 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing DIRECTORS' OFFICES CLOSED CASTLE & MAINTENANCE CLOSED CLUBHOUSE OPEN	2 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 111 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass DIRECTORS' OFFICES CLOSED CASTLE & MAINTENANCE OPEN CLUBHOUSE OPEN	3 Satl 8 am Social Tennis
							4 Satl 9 am Social Tennis 208 1-4 pm Bridge	5 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards	6 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 111 9:30 am Hadassah Board Mtg AUD 11 am Women of LW, Inc 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis	7 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics	8 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing 113 6:30 pm Spanish Club	9 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 111 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass	10 Satl 8 am Social Tennis
							11 Satl 9 am Social Tennis	12 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards	13 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis BULK PICKUP	14 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics	15 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 113 6:30 pm Neighborhood Watch 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing	16 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 111 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass	17 Satl 8 am Social Tennis
							18 Satl 9 am Social Tennis	19 MLK Day 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards DIRECTORS' OFFICES CLOSED CASTLE & MAINTENANCE OPEN CLUBHOUSE OPEN	20 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 113 11:00 am Hadassah Gen Mtg 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis	21 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics	22 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing	23 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 111 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass	24 Satl 8 am Social Tennis
							25 Satl 9 am Social Tennis	26 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 206 2 pm Bingo 208 7 pm Cards	27 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 111 10 am Women of LW Bd Mtg 208 1 pm Cards 106 1-4 pm Sewing Circle Satl 6 pm Social Tennis	28 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 113 10 am LW Board Meeting 106 1 pm Stained Glass 208 1 pm Cards 106 7 pm Ceramics	29 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8:30-9:30 am Low Impact Exer 208 10:30 am Cards Satl 6 pm Social Tennis 202 6:30 pm Pool Playing	30 104 8-1:30 Wood Shop (Temp Clo) 111 8-9 am Low Impact Exer 111 9-11 am Blood Pressure 206 Noon Mah Jongg 202 12:30 pm Pool Playing 106 1 pm Stained Glass	31 Satl 8 am Social Tennis

Puzzles & Quizzes

Answers, page 19

ACROSS

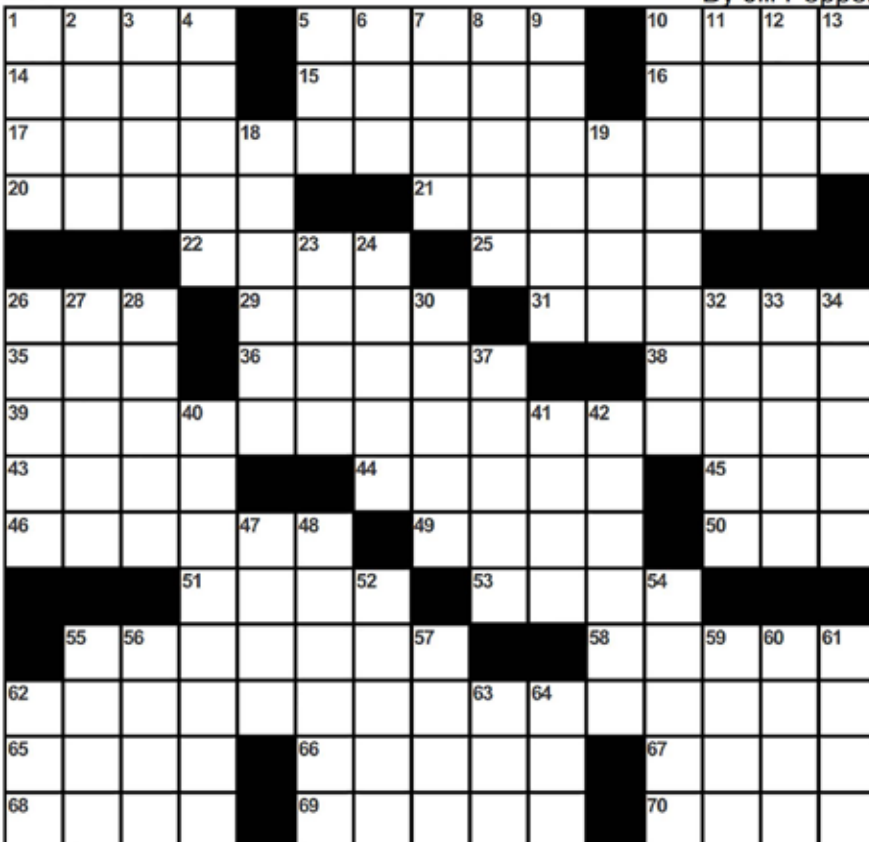
- 1) Baby bleater
- 5) Blood and acid, for two
- 10) Preschool lesson
- 14) Field of expertise
- 15) It may accompany waves on 51-Across
- 16) Tantrum-prone kid
- 17) One month after New Year's
- 20) Topps rival, once
- 21) Scraped
- 22) Apply crudely, as paint
- 25) Per
- 26) Degree for a CEO, often
- 29) "1,001 ____"
- 31) Ice Capades performer
- 35) Dadaist Jean
- 36) Deserving praise
- 38) Archaeological find
- 39) New Year's Day
- 43) Bakery appliance
- 44) Largest of the Florida keys
- 45) A start for "few"
- 46) Kingdoms
- 49) Spot for Hitchcock's "Window"
- 50) "You, over there!"
- 51) Hawaii's "Gathering Place"
- 53) Dutch cheese
- 55) Like some cars, colorwise
- 58) NBA position
- 62) One month before New Year's
- 65) Place for a nice apple
- 66) Princeton athlete
- 67) Furniture wood
- 68) Sean in Hollywood
- 69) Dictator's helper
- 70) Put in a hold

DOWN

- 1) Joke response, in entertainment mags
- 2) Seed covering
- 3) "A ____ formality"
- 4) "____ on a true story"
- 5) Guiding principle in Chinese philosophy
- 6) Worker up north?
- 7) Parlor perch
- 8) Monetary unit of Botswana
- 9) Israeli natives
- 10) Capital on the Persian Gulf
- 11) Scottish hill
- 12) Hand part
- 13) Porky pen
- 18) Severe emotional shock
- 19) Scrabble tiles holder
- 23) End ____ (ultimate customer)
- 24) Emerald, for one
- 26) Thatcher's successor
- 27) Atlanta player
- 28) Snorer's disorder
- 30) Guitar relative
- 32) Weight for Miss Liberty
- 33) Follow logically
- 34) Take another crack at
- 37) Little-pigs complement
- 40) Free from restraint
- 41) "Ods bodkins!"
- 42) Search for food
- 47) Actor LeBlanc
- 48) Photo opportunities
- 52) Out of shape
- 54) Illness that is a swell time?
- 55) Become bored
- 56) "Beau Geste" author
- 57) Perimeter
- 59) "This won't hurt ____"
- 60) "Divorce capital," once
- 61) Obtained water
- 62) Modern way to transfer documents
- 63) Poet's dusk
- 64) ____-Magnon

DAY ONE

By Jill Pepper



Sudoku (answers page 19)

	2				3			4
				2		8	3	
	4				7	1		
5						9	4	
		9				3		
	1	4						5
		8	1				5	
	9	2		5				
4			6				2	

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

Pepper Plants

September 8, 2025

L	W	O	B	P	N	I	G	H	T	S	H	A	D	E
T	D	A	N	U	B	O	L	N	A	N	A	N	A	B
E	K	E	Y	E	L	L	O	W	I	B	E	L	L	F
E	P	M	C	D	E	B	V	O	C	H	E	W	A	S
W	A	A	E	I	N	R	E	R	E	H	H	D	P	D
S	I	N	S	N	D	T	G	B	E	I	E	E	C	B
F	N	O	S	L	T	E	E	A	T	E	C	I	U	J
T	I	U	R	F	A	R	T	E	L	K	B	R	T	S
D	C	E	O	I	O	S	A	A	S	U	S	D	T	T
E	I	S	R	L	P	M	B	S	R	T	M	R	I	A
T	A	S	O	Y	I	E	L	N	E	D	O	P	N	S
A	S	C	H	L	L	L	E	M	W	N	Y	E	G	T
L	P	A	I	E	A	L	S	L	G	A	P	H	L	E
P	A	H	L	W	S	G	N	I	N	O	S	A	E	S
K	C	A	L	B	D	O	O	F	L	E	S	H	Y	D

Bake, Banana, Bell, Black, Blast, Blend, Bowl, Brown, Bulb, Burn, Burst, Capsaicin, Chew, Chili, Color, Cutting, Dehydrated, Diced, Dishes, Dried, Fade, Fiery, Fleshy, Food, Fruit, Glove, Golden, Green, Heat, Juice, Label, Lump, Nightshade, Open, Pain, Peel, Plate, Ripe, Salad, Salsa, Salt, Seasoning, Smell, Soft, Specks, Stems, Strong, Sweet, Taste, Vegetable, Walls, Wash, White, Yellow.

Answer, page 19

Solution: 8 letters

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<http://howardwinter.matrix.southfloridaml.com>

Howard Winter
Realtor

BE COOL – FOLLOW THE RULES

Our Lauderdale West Community has established principles of conduct for the general good and welfare of all our owners, tenants, and guests. Every resident of our Lauderdale West Community has the right to live peacefully in their home and has the right to expect that the value of their property will be upheld in a reasonable manner.

The Board of Directors would like to remind everyone of the following:

- For the safety of everyone, we **MUST** follow all parking restrictions and the directional signs in the parking lots.
- Owners, tenants and guests are required to follow our documents and rules and regulations.
- Owners are responsible to maintain the exterior of their homes (gutters, awnings, patios, landscaping).
- Residents are not permitted to install any plants, shrubs or trees without written Board approval.
- Owners, tenants and guests are required to follow City ordinances regarding animals.
- Owners are required to seek approval for all home modifications in advance.
- Front pole lights and rear security lights must be kept on at night.
- Owners are responsible for their tenants, guests and animals.
- Sub-leasing is **NOT** allowed in Lauderdale West.
- Residents must respect quiet times from 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM.
- Non-adherence to the Lauderdale West documents and rules and regulations will result in the resident being fined accordingly.

For more information, please visit www.lauderdalewest.org (Owner's Corner) for a full explanation of our violation procedures and fines.

The following services
included when you list
with me

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FREE! Deep cleaning of vacant property.

FREE! Painting of awnings as needed.

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FREE! Reseal/paint driveway as needed.


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✉ KevenKane@hotmail.com

Puzzles & Quizzes Answers

Sudoku answer to puzzle on page 17

9	2	7	8	1	3	5	6	4
1	6	5	4	2	9	8	3	7
8	4	3	5	6	7	1	9	2
5	7	6	2	3	1	9	4	8
2	8	9	7	4	5	3	1	6
3	1	4	9	8	6	2	7	5
6	3	8	1	7	2	4	5	9
7	9	2	3	5	4	6	8	1
4	5	1	6	9	8	7	2	3

Crossword answer to puzzle on page 17

1	L	A	M	B		5	T	E	S	T	S		10	A	B	C	S
14	A	R	E	A		15	A	L	O	H	A		16	B	R	A	T
17	F	I	R	S	T	18	O	F	F	E	B	R	19	U	A	R	Y
20	F	L	E	E	R					21	A	B	R	A	D	E	
					22	D	A	U	B		25	E	A	C	H		
26	M	B	A		29	U	S	E	S	30		31	S	K	A	T	E
35	A	R	P		36	M	E	R	I	T			38	B	O	N	E
39	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	T	H	E	41	F	I	R	S	T	
43	O	V	E	N				44	L	A	R	G	O		45	C	U
46	R	E	A	L	M	S		49	R	E	A	R		50	H	E	Y
				51	O	A	H	U		52		53	E	D	A	M	
				55	T	W	O	T	O	N	E			58	G	U	A
62	F	I	R	S	T	O	F	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R		
65	T	R	E	E		66	T	I	G	E	R			67	P	I	N
68	P	E	N	N		69	S	T	E	N	O			70	S	T	O

Wonderword Answer: **PIMENTOS** (Puzzle on page 17)



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EXEMPTION FOR WIDOWED PERSONS Who Qualifies?

Every widowed person who is a bona fide resident of this state is eligible for an exemption of up to \$5,000 of their property's assessed value.

How to Apply

To apply property owner must provide a copy of spouse's death certificate, newspaper clipping or memorial card to the Property Appraiser's Office. Applicant must be a bona fide Florida resident to qualify for this exemption.

When to Apply

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING TAX YEAR 2025 EXEMPTION DEADLINES:

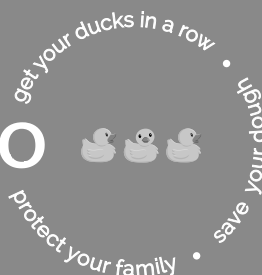
March 3, 2025, was the deadline to timely file for 2025 exemptions. Section 196.011(8), Florida Statutes, requires ALL late-filed exemption applications for 2025 be filed with the Property Appraiser by the September 17, 2025, statutory deadline. Once the September statutory "late-filing" deadline has closed, we cannot accept any more 2025 exemption applications, regardless of any good cause reason for missing the late filing deadline.

The timely filing period for all exemptions for 2026 is March 4, 2025 through March 2, 2026. The absolute deadline to LATE FILE for any 2026 exemption is September 18, 2026. State law (Sec. 196.011(8), Fla. Stat.) does not allow late filing for exemptions after this date, regardless of any good cause reason for missing the late filing deadline.

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA
Broward County Property Appraiser



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Attorney Bobbi Meloro

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They are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Your LW ID card or legal photo ID will be held until the receiver and earpiece are returned after an event.

The earpiece does not enter the ear; instead, it is positioned on the ear and secured with a soft strap. The receivers are sanitized before they are loaned to you. The devices weigh only a few ounces and feature + and - volume buttons.

There will be a \$35 charge for damaged or lost receivers, and a \$10 charge for damaged or lost earpieces.

If you have questions, please email webmaster@lauderdalewest.org.



Image is about actual size.

Posted September 20, 2025



Hanukkah is a Rabbinic Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from November 28 to December 27 in the Gregorian calendar. The festival is observed by lighting the candles of a candelabrum with nine branches, commonly called a menorah or hanukkiah. One branch is placed above or below the others and its candle is used to light the other eight candles. This unique candle is called the *shammash* (שַׁמָּשׁ, "attendant"). Each night, one additional candle is lit by the *shammash* until all eight candles are lit together on the final night of the festival.

Other Hanukkah festivities include singing Hanukkah songs, playing the game of dreidel and eating oil-based foods, such as latkes and sufganiyot (similar to jelly donuts), and dairy foods. Since the 1970s, the worldwide Chabad Hasidic movement has initiated public menorah lightings in open public places in many countries.

Originally instituted as a feast "in the manner of Sukkot (Booths)," it does not come with the corresponding obligations, and is therefore a relatively minor holiday in strictly religious terms. Nevertheless, Hanukkah has attained major cultural significance in North America and elsewhere, especially among secular Jews, due to often occurring around the same time as Christmas during the festive season.



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Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many countries, is observed religiously by a majority of Christians, as well as celebrated culturally by many non-Christians, and forms an integral part of the annual holiday season.

The traditional Christmas narrative recounted in the New Testament, known as the Nativity of Jesus, says that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in accordance with messianic prophecies. When Joseph and Mary arrived in the city, the inn had no room, and so they were offered a stable where the Christ Child was soon born, with angels proclaiming this news to shepherds, who then spread the word.

There are different hypotheses regarding the date of Jesus's birth. In the early fourth century, the church fixed the date as December 25, the date of the winter solstice in the Roman Empire. It is nine months after Annunciation on March 25, also the Roman date of the spring equinox. Most Christians celebrate on De-

ember 25 in the Gregorian calendar, which has been adopted almost universally in the civil calendars used in countries throughout the world. For Christians, celebrating that God came into the world in the form of man to atone for the sins of humanity is more important than knowing Jesus's exact birth date.

The customs associated with Christmas in various countries have a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular themes and origins. Popular holiday traditions include gift giving; completing an Advent calendar or Advent wreath; Christmas music and caroling; watching Christmas movies; viewing a Nativity play; an exchange of Christmas cards; attending church services; a special meal; and displaying various Christmas decorations, including Christmas trees, Christmas lights, nativity scenes, poinsettias, garlands, wreaths, mistletoe, and holly. Additionally, several related and often interchangeable figures, known as Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, and Christkind, are associated with bringing gifts to children during the Christmas season and have their own body of traditions and lore.

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