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The Daily Pulp BOB NORMAN'S BLOG

TOP
 blog
 STORIES



**Mayor Seiler
 Employs
 Lawyer/Politician
 Speak**

By Bob Norman



**LaMarca
 Resigns, Will Run
 Against Keech**

By Bob Norman



**His Name Was
 Earl**

By Bob Norman



**UPDATED:
 Father-Son Duo
 Both Charged in
 Joseph M...**

By Bob Norman

Tamarac Officials Shaking as Corruption Investigation Heads Into Town

2
 tweets

retweet

Comments (31)

By Bob Norman, Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 9:49AM

By all rights, Tamarac should be the most boring city on Earth.

The Broward suburb started, after all, as a retirement community and is still dominated by senior condo housing. It's named after a chain of car washes that were owned by city founder Ken Behring ("Car-A-Mat" spelled backward). Here's how the city was recently sold in a newspaper real estate special ad:

"Tamarac offers 649 acres of freshwater canals and lakes, a \$250,000 roller hockey rink, nine private golf courses and an expanding industrial park with access to the Sawgrass Expressway."

Did they say a \$250,000 roller hockey rink *and* an expanding industrial park? How could anyone possibly resist?

But some serious excitement is coming to Tamarac -- and a lot of politicians are very nervous as a result.

The drama is due to a decidedly dirty developer named Bruce Chait, who is cooperating with state prosecutors in a corruption investigation that boomeranged from the recent federal sting operation that brought down Broward County Commissioner Joe Eggelton and former School Board Member Beverly Gallagher.

Chait, who has been charged with bribery, unlawful compensation, and perjury, is said to be spilling on a whole lot of officials.

Several local Tamarac politicians have lawyered up, say sources. State Attorney's Office investigators allegedly paid one commissioner, Patricia Atkins-Grad, a visit recently about her previous support for Chait's housing development.

Atkins-Grad, a realtor who advertised herself around town as "Positively Patte," refused to talk about

any of it last night. I phoned her, and when Atkins-Grad returned the call, I immediately asked her if she had hired a lawyer in light of the Chait investigation. She wouldn't answer, saying she couldn't talk because she was out to dinner. Funny, a yes or no to my question would have been quicker than her excuse. I asked her if she would talk about it later, and she replied in the negative. "Please, Mr. Norman, I have to go," she said. "Bye."



Atkins-Grad: "I'm the most ethical person I know."

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Then she hung up the phone. It was a far cry from the open reception she gave me when I interviewed her last October about [another bit of Tamarac political ugliness](#). Fortunately, at that time, I had already figured that the corruption investigation was heading toward the Tamarac commission, and I asked Atkins-Grad about her support for Chait's project.

"Yes, I supported [Chait]," she told me at the time. "I was trying to get more tax money into our city... We need the tax money."

Atkins-Grad received \$1,750 in campaign contributions from Chait and his company, Prestige Homes. She later returned the contributions (Tamarac Mayor Beth Flansbaum-Talabisco also returned Chait contributions). I asked her point-blank at that time if the Chait's ever offered her a bribe of any kind and if she ever accepted one. She said nothing like that happened.

"I'm not unethical," she told me. "I'm the most ethical person I know, probably the most ethical person anybody knows."

I don't know of any specific allegations that have been made against Atkins-Grad, and although she has apparently come under the scope of the investigation, it's important to note here that no evidence has surfaced to indicate that she did anything wrong.

I tried to contact Mayor Flansbaum-Talabisco about the matter but was told she is out of town and unavailable.

But when it comes to Chait and his housing development, nothing would come as a surprise. The guy was paying politicians -- and their spouses -- left and right. When he started trying to get government approvals to build housing on the Sabal Palm and Monterrey golf courses, he paid off Eggelletion with a golf club membership in Parkland and cash totaling \$25,000.

When he wanted a discount in a fee owed to the School Board for his development, he hired board member Stephanie Kraft's husband, Mitch, to help. Kraft then [used her influence as an elected official](#) to help Chait secure a \$500,000 break. Kraft is also under investigation, according to sources. (Mitch Kraft was also on the payroll of School Board lobbyist Neil Sterling at the same time Stephanie Kraft pushed through a controversial multibillion-dollar health contract for one of Sterling's clients, Vista Health.)

Chait also [gave Broward County Commissioner Stacy Ritter a golf cart](#) while she was running for office. Ritter said it may have been an in-kind contribution, but it doesn't seem to have been reported. Ritter voted to approve Chait's project in 2008.

Chait also hired Broward County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman's husband, Stuart Michelson, to do legal work for him last year. Michelson, who serves as Sunrise city attorney, told me that [he did only minimal work](#) and that it had nothing to do with his wife's vote in favor of the project in 2008.

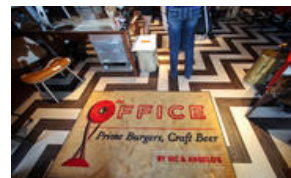
And former Tamarac Mayor Joe Schreiber told me that Chait [offered him \\$200,000 in](#)



South Florida Times
Eggelletion, top, Bruce Chait, middle, and son Shawn Chait at bottom



The Office in Delray Beach



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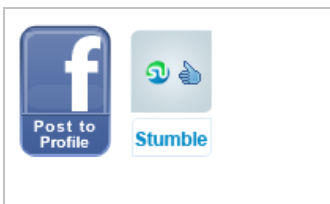


"Good Old Guido's" on the Hill

cash if he would remove his wife, Mae, from the mayor's race in 2006. Schreiber didn't take the money.

It basically looks like Chait went totally rogue and was paying off everybody he could to get his project through the approval process. Although the Scott Rothstein saga hit Broward County hard on a number of levels, the Chait investigation will likely trump that in terms of local political fallout.

So who else did Chait throw money at? It's the central question of the corruption investigation and a source of great drama in the suddenly oh-so-exciting town of Tamarac.



Comments (31)

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Comments (31)

dp says:

another morning another first

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 9:52AM

scanshift says:

2nd! Time to buy a lotto ticket.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 9:58AM

scanshift says:

2nd! Time to buy a lotto ticket.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:00AM

Menachem Mendel III says:

Cinco De Mayo + 1 = 0

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:19AM

Kevmo says:

I read you blog everyday and always get information days and weeks before the mainstream media. Now you are spicing up your reports with a little broward history. Who knew how the city of Tamarac got it's name.....PULP that who. You are the best, keep up the good work.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:24AM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Apparently Tamarac's elected officials are graduates of the Sylvia Poitier Advanced Institute for the Study of Graft, Grift, and Gravy...

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:26AM

PHAT Black Chick says:

Another day, another political corruption scandal in Broward County. Is there a city in Broward without corrupt government officials?

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:26AM

Godfather 3 says:

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@ Pulp

A little Freudian slip? Rotter instead of Ritter? I liker it.

I'd love to see these people behind bars.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:31AM

Menachem Mendel III says:

@ LARRYBOY

Mazel Tov on your month of Cinquo De Mayo festivitess coinciding with Seferat ha'oymer. Must be nice.

I have a skill question for you WRT to your Yiddishkite lifestyles since your knowledge of Pesach etc. is most impressive.

Please be advised this is Uber advanced Post Grad stuff which is a nice way of saying insane beyond comprehension. I bet your wife has no clue about: Sechitah, Chavalah, Memareach and Uvdin D'Chol and that you were all living a lie.

Don't bother googling it just go to:

<http://www.kosherimage.com/toothcare2.html>

so your misery will be alleviated and you can get on the right track before it is too late!

Check out the toothbrushes in detail and all the great Xmas stocking stuffer ideas in the products section including the stylish teffilin sweater and of course a must have for every frummie and apikoros, a Shabos

clock that is fully muktzah compliant and has the good houskeeping seal of approval.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:38AM

larryboy says:

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Apparently Tamarac's elected officials are graduates of the Sylvia Poitier Advanced Institute for the Study of Graft, Grift, and Gravy...

Yea Pulp. Tamarac is not the only home of graft this week. Been some funny housepainting going on in Deerfield Beach, uncovered by Commissioner Chaz Stevens, Genius on his first day on the job.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:39AM

Let's Grade The Semester says:

Pulp, you're doing a great job. Feds, not so sure. Citizens, too much inactivity regarding all the new information the Pulp has delivered to you.

We need more community action! How about a non-violent anti-corruption protest day in the city?

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 10:43AM

Anonymous says:

With regard to the Seidlin exploitation case, wouldn't common sense and decency suggest the best thing to do is return the monies allegedly taken, go home, have a coupla/three drinks, call it a day?

But if our experiences with Helen Lavelle O'Keefe, Dorothy Lavelle Adams, Girard R. Visconti, and Linda Zecchino, among others who comprise that mixed bunch known as The Zecchino Estate Grifters is any indication, they won't.

People who steal estates from elderly persons are cunning, well schooled, and practiced, in the words of law enforcement. They often enjoy ties to influential persons who can smooth over their transgressions - for a modest tribute, of course.

People who steal estates from elderly persons and their heirs, as with many criminals, are imbued with a sense of entitlement, are masters of rationalization, and smugly justify any vile act which provides more oil for their greasy, shiny, stink-coats.

As forensic clinicians say, 'Their reality testing is ever so slightly skewed'.

People who steal estates from elderly persons will gladly ruin the lives of any family members who come to the aid of their elderly exploited relative. They'll set up any family member on trumped up garbage charges, violate their rights, and falsely

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imprison them by any means in order to cover their sleazy crimes and make a profitable escape.

Isn't that our experience with the ilk of Girard R. Visconti (www.viscontilaw.com), George Allen Wilson, II, of Cheffy, "We Make Housecalls!", Passidomo, and 'dirty divorce lawyer', Mark V. Silverio (www.silveriohall.com)? It certainly seems to be standard procedure for these bloodticks to shift their guilt to the innocent family members in order to save their own sorry carcasses, doesn't it?

What's this mean? Likely a battle royal twixt Clan Seidlin and the relatives of Mrs. Kasler, so might's well grabby the popcorn, couple bottles diet Coke, enjoy the show, the good Judge's crocodile tears and all.

Survival Tips: The smartest act on part of Mrs. Kasler's relatives is that before they called the cops, before they hired a lawyer, by all available reports first thing they did was go public. They called the papers, hit the Net, came forward immediately with the truth, and thus made it rather difficult if not impossible for the tiresome lies of Estate Grifters to prevail.

Kudos to them for their bravery and insight.

Paul Vincent Zecchino
Manasota Key, Florida
22 April, 2010

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 11:03AM

Christy says:

@ Menachem Mendel III

No Cinco De Mayo + one??

Not to worry, you now have a better countdown:

Shavout + two!!

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 11:15AM

Christy says:

Sorry MM 3:

This year Shavout is (Changes each year)!

When is Shavuot 2010?

Shavuot is celebrated May 18, 2010*

(begins at sundown)

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 11:19AM

larryboy says:

Macher Menscheleh, III

I am forwarding your link to a friend who pens a folksy, humorous, monthly column called "Mishugas" in the San Antonio Jewish Journal.

I figure the toothbrushes are good for a column, the kosher clock for another.

Most of the frummies I know in San Antonio, realizing that to become happily drunk on Shabos is a double mitsveh,

and that sex (with your wife of course) on shabos is also a double mitsveh,

skip teeth brushing, and clock watching and get right down to the triple mitsveh play.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 11:25AM

Elevator Repair says:

If you are handicapped and can't get off your floor without an elevator call the fire dept. I'm sure they will help you down so you can go out for provisions.

(hint from Herb to the guy in Tamarac, Kings Point, his elevator is broken, bldg B)

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 11:32AM

Hold Government Accountable says:

Perhaps they will also look into Coral Springs Commissioner Roy Gold, who in

December took a \$500 contribution from Wheelabrator to his 2010 campaign for Mayor, less than 10 days after Gold moved for Coral Springs to adopt Resolution 2009-046 approving the terms of the MOU among Broward County, the Broward Solid Waste Disposal District, and Wheelabrator.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 11:37AM

All That Glitters..... says:

@Paul Vincent Zecchino

Nice to hear from you. I enjoy your posts. You write so well.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 11:58AM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Hold Government Accountable says:

Roy Gold, who in December took a \$500 contribution

A new meaning for the phrase "the Gold standard".

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 12:09PM

Steve-O says:

Bernie Madoff, Mark Sanford, Scott Rothstein, Sean Healy, Gaston \$ Teresita Cantens, Michael Riolo, Michael (and Victoria) Meisner, William Kirschner, Abner Alabre, and now Nevin Shapiro.

South Florida must be the Ponzi Capitol of the World!

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 12:25PM

Non-violent anti-corruption day says:

Who will we get for event dignitaries:

Seiler has his hands full.

Judges mostly are full of it.

County and City Commissioners simply Can't Even Be There

Satz? Lamberti? Adderley? Uh....No.

Maybe Dan Marino. Where has he disappeared to?

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 12:34PM

Steve-O says:

@Non-violent anti-corruption day

They can always get the poor man's Dan Marino; Alonzo Mourning.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 1:05PM

Menachem Mendel III says:

@ Christy

Yes, holidays change from year to year because of the lunar calendar.

If I recall correctly the Eastern Orthodox Church use the same method.

Regardless if it is lunar or solar my life is ruined. My deposit for The Pulparrazi Cinco De Mayo + 1 party that I bankrolled is non refundable and non transferable.

Perhaps if Mr. Morse, Mr. Bekkadam, Mr. Von Whatever, Michael Gabbai Szafranski or Ovidia are reading please send me some coinage via Mr. Pulp because you know how consistent and dedicated I am to the cause. A Ferrari would be even better and I will let you surprise me with the choice of color.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 1:11PM

why don't they learn? says:

The Tamarac Commission did not learn from Sabal Palm. Look into what is happening to Woodmont.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 1:13PM

Anonymous says:

Let them shake! If you have been honest, you have nothing to worry about!
If not, well...Your days are numbered!

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 1:29PM

Bit of info says:

Hey Pulp.....I think Mitch Kraft was Tamarac's city attorney for quite some time.....Funny, these folk must be tethered, they all seem to stay with in a certain range.....

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 1:31PM

Wayoutwest says:

MMIII - Is your pseudonym after the great Hasidic messiah Schneerson?

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 1:52PM

Oink Oink Oink says:

Piggies...don't the two Shits...I mean Chaits look just like big fat pigs?

Oink Oink you're gonna get boinked in the slam.

I crack myself up!!

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 2:09PM

Menachem Mendel III says:

@ Wayoutwest 1:52PM

Well sorta.

Mencham Mendel Schneeroson was not and is not the Messiah. There are some deranged idiots that think he is this mythical figure. If you want more info click on failedmessiah.com and have a look see.

After reading about The Jewish Avenger's escapades, gang bangs, his Jewish-Wiccanese bride by night and stealing, cheating and conning by day and 'donating' million of stolen dollars to Chabad Of Downtown Fort.

The worst was not Rothstein, it was this so called defrocked Chabad "RABBI" (Chabad kicked his circumcised peni out of the organization) who refused to give back the stolen money once he became aware of the crimes knowing the money belong to innocent victims and most importantly according to the talmud they "did not give up hope or abandoned" their property.

My "MM" is very Chabadish and I dedicate my name to the defrocked "rabbi" and since 99.99% of all Chabadist are named Menachem, Mendel, Shneur or Zalman or Chany or Musky if the are girls if it is good for them it is good for me as well since we are all brothers. Yiddish excels at poking fun or making fun of a bad situation by twisting things around in order to make the it less painful I embrace that way of thinking.

The III in MM3 is very non Jewish since Jews do not have Jr, II, III, IV or Bartholomew there was no way given the opportunity to 'do it right' the second time around I would miss out on the opportunity. Similar to Scott Rothstein Esq. (disbarred) when he became a billionaire he relived his high school days with all the odds stacked him is favour allowing him to "win the whore" and drive all things expensive straight to jail where he belongs.

I have no doubt, Rothstein The Benevolent's mother agrees that her son best remain rotting in jail, ergo for all the destruction he caused to others.

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 2:43PM

Anonymous says:

@2:09

You're missing the point!

It doesn't matter what they look like.

You are juvenile

It matters what they do!

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 2:47PM

Melmon says:

Is Patty Atkins-Grad related to David Grad? You know, the recently suspended athletic director who has been accused of fraud?

I really would like to know because with the tie to Mitch and the Tamarac commission there is a possible tie to David Grad and Stephanie Kraft. He worked at a school in Kraft's district.

Can anyone help?

Posted On: Thursday, Apr. 22 2010 @ 2:55PM

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