

Scenic Watch

Citizens for a Scenic Florida



February, 2012



Photo: Will Dickey

Round Marsh Sunrise

"We get used to ugly" -- Gerald Ensley - Tallahassee Democrat

It's worth a moment to pause and reflect on what exactly we are working to preserve in Florida.

Fine art photographer Will Dickey took this lovely photo in the Theodore Roosevelt area, which is part of the vast Timuncuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

Thanks to Will for sharing this photo to help remind us that our state's beauty is worth protecting.

March



Fun Festivals and Events

Central Florida

March 1-11

Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City

March 3-4

Swamp Fest, Weeki Wachee

March 3-4

Floral City Strawberry Festival, Floral City

March 3-4

Palm Harbor Art and Craft Festival,



Photo: Rapid City Journal

Late Breaking News:

Rapid City Voters Outraged As State Passes Ban on Billboard Bans

Legislation passes despite strong citizen opposition

"...Rapid City lawmakers expressed frustration Thursday with the vote for a bill that some believe could reverse the will of the voters in Rapid City.

'It's not the place of this Legislature to override the will of the people,' said Rep. Don Kopp, R-Rapid City. "This is about a big company trying to force its will onto the people of Rapid City and using you, the Legislature, to do exactly that.'

Advertising companies and Daktronics, the Brookings-based manufacturer of

Palm Harbor

March 7-May 20

Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival, Lake Buena Vista

March 6

Moonlight Carillon Concert at Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales

March 9

Moon Over the Mounds, Crystal River

March 9-18

Bike Week, Daytona Beach

March 9-11

All-Florida Championship Rodeo, Arcadia

March 9-11

Nature Coast Civil War Reenactment, Crystal River

March 10-11

Manatee Festival of the Arts, Apollo Beach

March 16-25

Sarasota County Fair, Sarasota

March 17

Kowtown Festival, Kissimmee

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South Florida

Feb 18-March 11

Carnaval Miami, Miami area

March 1-3

Sanibel Shell Fair and Show, Sanibel Island

March 3

Conch Shell Blowing Contest, Key West

March 3-4

16th Annual Butterfly & Garden Festival, Davie

March 3-27

Sanibel Music Festival, Sanibel Island

March 9-10

Englewood Music Festival, Englewood

March 11-13

All-Florida Championship Rodeo, Arcadia

March 9-11

Fairchild's 10th Annual International Orchid Festival, Coral Gables

March 3-11

digital billboards, supported the bill, arguing that the Rapid City initiated measure was illegal.

Voting on SB157 broke down largely on regional lines, with West River lawmakers almost unanimous in opposition and most of the more numerous East River lawmakers supporting the bill.

Rapid City lawmakers have tried several times to defeat the bill. They had their only success last week, when by a 34-33 margin the House amended the bill to strike the limitation on advertising technology bans.

But a conference committee of lawmakers restored the bill's original language, with some minor changes.... "

"...On Wednesday, the South Dakota Senate adopted SB157 24-9..."

-- Rapid City Journal

City Adopts a Wait and See Attitude

"Rapid City's chief attorney would not say Thursday how he thought the passage of Senate Bill 157 would affect the billboard regulations approved by Rapid City voters last year. "

-- Rapid City Journal

[Read full article on bill here>](#)

Miami: Mural Battle Spreads to County



Photo:Scenicmiamidade.org

Threat of more mega-billboards

"On March 6, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) will consider on second reading an ordinance sponsored by Commissioner Bruno Barreiro which enlarges the existing extensive Miami mural ad zone with two ordinance amendments..."

At the February 15 meeting of the Miami-Dade County Commission Infrastructure and Land Use Committee, Comm. Bruno Barreiro's two proposed enlargements were approved.

One is south of NW 5th Street along the Miami River, including historic Lummus Park, low rise residential homes except for a few mid rise residential towers, facing I95, Spring Gardens and the River.

During a public hearing, neighbors including Spring Garden representatives,

Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival and Parade, Fort Myers Beach

March 10-11

Original Marathon Seafood Festival, Marathon

March 10-11

Peace River Seafood Festival, Punta Gorda

March 15-Apr 2

Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Miami

March 16-17

52nd Annual Historic House Tours, Key West

March 17

Lee County Reading Festival, Fort Myers

March 17-18

Peace River National Arts Festival, Punta Gorda

March 17-18

Key Biscayne Art Festival, Miami

March 17-18

Jazz in the Gardens Music Festival, Miami

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North Florida

March 3

Greater Good Music, Art and Children Festival, Milton

March 3-4

Azalea Festival, Palatka

March 3-4

Amelia Island Garden Show at Central Park, Fernandina Beach

March 3-9

Paddle Florida, Lee

March 9

Moon Over the Mounds, Crystal River

March 9-11

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, Amelia Island

March 9-11

Nature Coast Civil War Reenactment, Crystal River

March 10

Gate River Run, Jacksonville

March 12-17

Garden Week 2011 at Cummer

condo residents who will face the mural ads and Miami River Commission and Scenic Miami/Scenic Miami-Dade representatives testified against this enlargement.

The proponents represented the outdoor advertising industry and one politically active property owner who wants the mural ad on the walls of his residential building. The City did not appear at the hearing to ask for the enlargement. The public hearing was closed...

...Sponsor Commissioner Barreiro amended his ordinance again to include an area west of N. Miami Ave between NW 36th and 37th Streets.

This is the first enlargement of the mural ad zone near Mid-Town, Buena Vista neighborhood and Design District area that juts west of N. Miami Ave near I 95.

Commissioner Barreiro called a representative from the outdoor ad industry to the podium to ask him to address the amendment which is for the benefit of 3650 N. Miami Ave.

The public hearing did not reopen and the committee voted 4-0 to send the ordinance with both amendments to the BCC for second reading (not a public hearing).

These billboards on buildings are supposed to be in the "urban core" and now are permitted from SW 8th St up I 95, along the Miami River, along 836 to NW 14th Ave, along NW 20th St, down I-95 to 395, up NW 2nd Ave to NW 37th St and down NE 2nd Ave., over 19th St to Biscayne Bay to S. Miami Ave.

This is a very large area which is defined as the "urban core".

Miami residents and visitors downtown, in Mary Brickell Village, in Spring Gardens, in the hospital district, in Overtown, in Mid-Town, in Buena Vista, in the Design District, in the Upper East Side now are assaulted by ads everywhere."

-- Barbara Bisno, Scenic Miami-Dade

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Photo: Jacksonvillearboretum.org

State of Florida Letter to Salter Advertising: Demands Plans and Admin Penalty

"...The Florida Department of Transportation (Department) has reviewed the January 5, 2012, Second Judicial Circuit Court Grand Jury Report 'In Re: Salter Advertising Right-Of-Way Tree Removal' and looked further into its subject matter.

Museum of Art and Gardens,
Jacksonville

March 16-18

Lions Seafood Festival, St. Augustine

March 17

Wild Azalea Festival, White Springs

[Read More >](#)



Note from the Editor

Suggestions for improvement are
always welcome.

As a result of the Department's review, this letter is written to advise you that the Department is prepared to take all appropriate steps to assure that Bill Salter Advertising, Inc. (Salter Advertising), complies with the letter and spirit of Chapter 479, Florida Statutes.

The Department has concluded that Salter Advertising failed to submit a vegetation mitigation plan and also failed to surrender 54 non-conforming signs as required by Section 479.106, Florida Statutes, and Rule 14-40.030, Florida Administrative Code, for vegetation management permits issued in 2009.

Accordingly, the Department demands that Salter Advertising promptly submit a vegetation mitigation plan for the subject 61 sign sites (110 sign facings), identify the 54 non-conforming signs it will surrender, as well as pay an administrative penalty under Section 479.106(7), Florida Statutes..."

[Read FDOT letter and enclosure here>](#)