

Waterfront Jungle

It seems that our riverfront condo bubble has developed a slow leak. "The Vue" project overlooking Centennial Park is offering refunds to its investors, (i.e. sharpies.) If ever a disaster was brought to what is left of the public waterfront space, The Vue takes the prize. Mayor Humphrey and his supporters, i.e. developers, are turning downtown into an obscene concrete jungle, the public be damned.

There is no way Fort Myers could capitalize on its unique waterfront location as did San Francisco, Boston and Miami once the river was walled off by high rises. Perhaps this latest development will discourage other greedy interests and result in a people-friendly downtown with restaurants, theaters, aquarium, museums that are no-brainers for successful growth on the waterfront.

BURT RUBIN, Alva

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Info manipulation

There is an eerie symmetry in the news reported from Washington and from the City Hall in Fort Myers these days. From Washington, we hear that President Bush has been attempting to manipulate the flow of information in order to shape the perceptions of his reasons for war in the eyes of Congress and the public. The president claims his manipulation of the flow of information to create a misleading and incomplete picture is a proper prerogative of his office. Most Americans aren't buying it.

>From Fort Myers, we hear Mayor Jim Humphrey is attempting to shape perceptions of the development proposals his "developer-friendly" administration is pushing by controlling the flow of information. He tries to do this by manipulation of the experts who speak to the council and to the public. Consider real estate consultant Janet Watermeir playing both sides in the WCI hotel proposal, the silencing of environmentalist Kevin Erwin in the Orchid Isles matter, the currently circulating, city staffer-sponsored petition in support of the troubled "Vue" high-rise in Centennial Park, and the ever present one sided, always positive, rezoning recommendations by the mayor's planning staff.

Humphrey claims this manipulation of information is his proper prerogative as mayor. Most Fort Myers residents aren't buying that either. If information is power, the power to control the flow of information is the ultimate power. As we are seeing on several levels, this is a power easily abused. It is becoming harder and harder to trust the abusers with it.

CHARLES BIGELOW, Fort Myers

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River view, no shower

I live on the 16th floor of a riverfront building in downtown Fort Myers. Last Spring the water pressure fell so low that we could not take showers for weeks for fear of not being able to complete the shower because the water would cut off either completely or to a trickle!

Now the same thing is happening. The city cannot supply enough water pressure to our building! Can someone please tell me how permission to build

36-story high rises is granted when we cannot be supplied water to the 16th floor? What good are million dollar condos if you have to carry water to drink? What happens when there is a fire? Wake up folks. We need answers.

SELMAJANE STUCHEL, Fort Myers