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## City Commission Candidates Kick Off Campaigns

By Nicol Jenkins  
Editor

The Coral Springs City Commission race for 2010 is already heating up and with some new faces.

Seven candidates have put in their bids to run for Commission seats. Familiar faces will run again. Current City Commissioner Roy Gold has announced that he will run for Mayor. Current Vice Mayor Vince Boccard will run for his current seat. Also, current City Commissioner Claudette Bruck will run for her current Commission seat.

However, there are also some new faces, including: Gillian Coote Martin, Larry Vignola, Mark Gendal, and Max Lashin.

### Candidates Campaign

Mark Gendal kicked off his candidacy campaign with an event at the Coral Springs Museum this past week. Gendal says he is 99 percent certain that he will run for Roy Gold's open Commission seat.

Gendal will advocate for pedestrian and bike safety, efficient and affordable public safety, a full service college,

■ See COMMISSION CANDIDATES on page 3



Gillian Coote Martin



Larry Vignola



Max Lashin



Mark Gendal

### Commission Candidates from page 1

and bringing downtown to fruition with an outdoor amphitheater.

"Coral Springs is looking tired and its landscape looks aged. We have hundreds of thousands of square feet of unleased retails and commercial space. We have crime issues and are not attentive enough to our special needs population. We are in the midst of the worst economic downturn in our country's history, and there are pressing small business issues relating to signage and visibility," said Gendal. "As City Commissioner, I will enhance and protect the fiscal, environmental and physical health of our city and its residents for now and its future."

Gendal had many supporters at the event.

"Mark has the zeal for learning the issues to be as effective as possible, and that is most important," said Bruce Weinberg, Treasurer for Roy Gold's campaign and Head of Government Affairs for the Chamber.

Parkland Mayor Michael Udine added, "I've known him for a long time. He's a nice guy, and I wanted to show my support."

Business partner Jeff Reisch praised his colleague, "He loves the city and has lived here for 25 years."

One of his greatest supporters, Broward County Mayor Stacy Ritter introduced Gendal, stating, "I'm

here for a great candidate. He went into politics for the right reasons."

Many City Commission candidates are also beginning their campaigns.

Max Lashin plans on running for the seat that will be vacated by Gold.

"I felt there is no other way to both serve the city I live in and facilitate my passion for politics," said Lashin. "As a current city employee as a lifeguard and swim instructor, there is no better way to experience city politics firsthand. Additionally, my involvement in the Coral Springs Fire Explorer program provided me an opportunity to help a variety of citizens in their most helpless times." Lashin is currently working on "getting my name out, learning what the citizens of Coral Springs want, and promoting my platform."

"My four years serving as a fire explorer for the city made it evident that the most important issue is to keep our residents healthy and safe," said Lashin.

Gillian Coote-Martin will announce which seat she will run for next year.

"The Board of Commissioners for Coral Springs could benefit from a different perspective. It is a fact that the country is going through a recession but this is the time to make lasting changes that would not only help the majority of city residents but also

bring in the revenue that the city and small businesses need," said Coote-Martin. "The Commissioners that have run this city have done a good job; however, there is room for improvement." As an educator and business consultant, Coote-Martin has helped those in the community reach their aspirations - a college degree or starting a new business. She has also volunteered at the homeless shelter, led fundraisers, and collected food for those in need.

"Our goal is to reform education, increase public safety and advocate for the financial and physical health of Coral Springs and our residents," added Coote-Martin, who will host a fundraiser New Year's Eve.

Larry Vignola will run for Gold's open seat.

"I grew up in Coral Springs and was involved in many of the programs the city had to offer, and it helped shape my life. I graduated from Coral Springs schools, and I learned to play baseball and soccer in Coral Springs parks. I started to give back to our community as a young teenager. Later in life, I gave back by being a volunteer coach for soccer, baseball and softball for numerous years," said Vignola. "My family owns a business in Coral Springs, and I know how to work with others to get the job

done. I have two daughters of my own now, and they are the reason I decided to run for the seat. I want to assure my children the same opportunities I experienced here in Coral Springs. I was privileged to grow up in a safe community, with outstanding schools, great youth sports programs and high aesthetic standards."

Vignola is also actively involved in the youth and family committee and a sponsor and adviser for the teen car club, Project CS. He is also a member of the Coral Springs Chamber of Commerce.

His fundraiser will be held Oct. 19 at Wings Plus on Sample Road from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

"My campaign will focus on four principals. These key points are what the hundreds of citizens I have already spoken with feel are important. What our citizens have to say will play an important role in my campaign. Government is not about the elected officials, but rather serves as a voice that should reflect the wishes of the community," he said. "I will focus on fiscal responsibility, public safety, education, and aesthetics of the city."

Roy Gold's Mayoral campaign kickoff will be held Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Walk near the big fountain.

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