

## FASHION OVERHAUL



GBS is not only a fashion forward, but socially conscious. GBS full service salons, along with OPI Nail Lacquer, will be holding a weekend of free makeovers Thursday through Saturday, May 2 - 4 to benefit the American Heart Association. Whenever a GBS customer purchases a \$6.00 bottle of OPI's *Color My Heart Red*, \$3.00 is donated to the American Heart Association. You may contact Meredith Foster of GBS toll free at 1-800-565-3233 for more information and to schedule a makeover.

Recently, I gave the GBS makeover a test run. Using my sister, Rachel Nash, an attorney at law and My P.R. Exec, as the test model, I set out to meet famous, brilliant, witty, charming Fashion Emergency King of E. Channel, the Makeover Master, Leon Hall at the GBS salon in Aventura.



Esther Nash with Fashion Emergency's Leon Hall.  
Photo Rachel Nash.

Rachel (being an attorney) is usually very cautious about placing her trust in the hands of another. Leon Hall won her over, though. His assessment took minutes, but the wealth of fashion insight he divulged will last a lifetime.

After meeting with Leon Hall, Rachel was escorted into the hands of Hair Wizard Daniel Benabou. "I love a challenge," he exclaims, smiling. "Flattering, funky, yet completely professional," is how he described the look he wanted to create for Rachel. And he succeeded fabulously "I can't believe it, I look like Miami Beach Fashionista. My hair has never looked this good. Thank you!" Rachel enthused and Leon Hall gave his stamp of approval.



Rachel Nash after makeover with makeup artist Javier Soto.

Next, Leon Hall escorted Rachel to cosmetologist and make-up artist Javier Soto. Leon Hall and Javier huddled and made their assessment. Then Soto, like a painter, mixed his colors and applied his brush completing his masterpiece within minutes. "I don't recognize myself. Can I come back everyday?" Rachel asked.

To complete the makeover, Rachel was escorted to resident manicurist, Sonia Calderon. Sonia gave her educated opinion on the latest OPI colors before choosing the perfect one. That, plus a massage of oil and exfoliator left Rachel with supple hands and a gorgeous manicure.

To top off your new look, don't be left standing without an Esther Nash original design to enhance your appearance. A makeover is not complete without a fantastic outfit!

*Esther Nash is a hot new fashion designer, model and boutique owner who has been featured in numerous publications including New York, Cosmo Girl and Teen People among many others. For fashion ideas and great bargains, check out her website at [www.babydollboutique.com](http://www.babydollboutique.com) or call 917-286-0614.*

May 2, 2002 • Volume XVII Number 18

## Under Threat of Litigation, Bay Harbor Islands "Grandfathers" Three High-Rise Projects

BY TONY GUZMAN

The Bay Harbor Islands Town Council moved forward on an amendment that would "grandfather" three previously approved high-rise projects in the town's comprehensive plan, set for a vote on April 24.

The ordinance was approved five to one with Councilman Jack Silver dissenting. Councilwoman Jill Jeffrey was absent.

The proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan's "Future Land Use" element will now be transmitted to the Department of Community Affairs and other State agencies for review. If approved by the State, the proposed changes must be passed by the town council on second reading. In the interim, the affected high-rise projects remain in limbo.

Last year, Bay Harbor Islands halted the issuance of building permits for projects over seven stories tall after planners discovered that an ordinance encouraging high-rise development on East Island did not comply with the town's low density comprehensive plan. On March 25, the council grandfathered two high-rise projects with building permits as well as a number of already existing buildings over the density by limit. The town also increased the town's base units per acre code from 14 to 40 as well as stipulating a maximum of 90 units per acre. The so-called "super" amendments allowed the two previously approved high-rise projects—the 19-story Indigo Bay and 14-story BlueVista—to proceed with construction.

But three previously approved 17-story high-rise projects exceeded the allowable units per acre under the 2000 rule: the Bay Harbor 100, the Palms and the Residences of Bay Harbor. Developers of the three projects threatened to sue, and last week's vote to grandfather them in occurred under the threat of costly litigation.

— *See HOUSING, p. 8*

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# PAC Attack Launched

**BY JASON JEFFERS**  
Staff writer

The debate over whether Miami Beach should renew its \$5 million contract with the Greater Miami Visitors and Convention Bureau is heating up.

An indication of the increasing discourse on the issue was an advertisement which appeared in the Wednesday edition of the *Sunday Miami Herald*. Bearing the headline "Miami Beach gets back three-thousand dollars for every dollar it invests with the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau," the advertisement implored Beach residents to support the renewal of the contract. (The SunPost is also running a similar ad this week.)

The small type indicated that the ad had been paid for by an organization named "Save Jobs & Lower Taxes," a political action committee later revealed to be affiliated with the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Michael Millberg, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, said the purpose of the PAC is to "empower the public through print, radio, and cable television ads" regarding the importance of Miami Beach's continued relationship with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau—in lieu for the next two years.

The two-year renewal of the CMCVB contract, a duty which every citizen

receives public resort taxes and private membership fees to promote the region, is on the Miami Beach City Commission May 8 agenda.

The PAC has also been created to discourage a public referendum on the contract's renewal, Millberg said. The public at large isn't informed enough on the issue to make such a decision, he contends.

"I think it is people who are inside the beltway and around city hall who are the most informed on this issue," said Millberg in a phone interview. "They go to great lengths to communicate with the public through newsletters, their website and on channel 48, but this issue hasn't been aired too heavily in these venues."

Mayor David Derner, a strong advocate for bidding out the contract, said he may also propose a referendum on the issue at next Wednesday's meeting.

"It's interesting to see that a political action committee has been formed to support the renewing of a contract that has not been through the public bidding process in 17 years. For me it's for me to say what a group can or can't do," Derner said. "I think if the Chamber is so concerned that the public isn't well enough informed on this issue that they should join in the effort to place this on a ballot."

At a meeting held a few weeks ago at the Chamber of Commerce, Derner and Tony Goldman, president of the CMCVB, debated whether the contract should be sent out to RFP (Request for Qualifications). After listening to both sides of the issue, the Chamber's Board of Government passed a resolution recommending that the city renew the contract with the CMCVB for two years while a nationally recognized consultant evaluates the performance of the Bureau.

"I think [a referendum] would be terrible. It's truly a political mechanism

— *See PAC, p. 4*

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