

Stalking trial stirs doubts in

BY NOAH BERMAN
noah@herald.com

Mary Puccetti had long forgiven Georgia Roberts for killing her daughter 17 years ago in Chicago.

But now that Roberts is embroiled in a sensational stalking trial in Broward County, Puccetti has learned more about Roberts and changed her mind.

Chicago police ruled the shooting of Angela Puccetti an accident in 1986. Roberts served a year under supervision after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor charge for reckless display of a shotgun.

"I'm mad at the Chicago Police Department," Puccetti said Monday in a telephone interview from her Chicago home. "My daughter was very terrified of guns. She would never have been playing with guns."

MORE DELIBERATIONS

Jurors did not reach a verdict Tuesday, so deliberations will continue today.

Puccetti is most disturbed by the revisions she believes Roberts has made in retelling the old story.

Roberts, 37, told The Herald June 18 that the incident was "two 19-year-olds playing with a shotgun. Who cares?"

The gun incident has not been divulged in Roberts' stalking trial, where she is accused of harassing and threatening local television news anchor Kristi Kruger. That trial has gone to the jury, which will resume deliberating at 9:30 a.m. today.

But details of the old killing

emerged in The Herald in ground stories about Roberts.

Angela Puccetti was a 29-year-old beauty queen and syndicated broadcast journalist when she was shot in Chicago apart from a shotgun blast to the Roberts, then 20, told The Herald the two were the best of friends since elementary school and she's regretted the accident ever since it happened.

Mary Puccetti agrees Roberts and her daughter were friends, but only in the last year of high school. And a police report from the time revealed they also had reason to be rivals.

"When she was killed, Angela Puccetti was dating a boy, Mike Booker, who Roberts had dated."

▶ PAGE B3 SHOOTING, B1

RISING PROPERTY VALUES

	2002 VALUE	2003 VALUE	CHANGE
COCONUT CREEK	1,907,806,719	2,253,876,644	13.9%
COOPER CITY	1,544,582,337	1,371,465,392	10.2%
CORAL SPRINGS	8,032,157,670	6,675,484,161	10.7%
DANIA BEACH	1,740,721,212	1,993,534,541	10.2%
DAVEE	4,870,003,153	4,955,097,562	14.4%
DEERFIELD BEACH	3,689,275,154	4,129,178,312	12.1%
FORT LAUDERDALE	16,309,801,196	18,313,241,061	13.7%
HALLANDALE BEACH	1,926,449,322	2,305,176,071	19.5%
HILLSBORO BEACH	992,895,987	741,883,338	24.1%
HOLLYWOOD	7,378,238,465	8,278,555,945	14.5%
LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA	1,937,415,825	1,273,515,274	12.0%
LAUDERDALE LAKES	715,898,349	783,338,375	10.8%
LAUDERHILL	1,674,621,006	1,886,163,478	13.9%
LALY LAKE	3,942,034	3,298,344	12.1%
LIGHTHOUSE POINT	1,905,217,301	1,349,171,907	12.0%
MARGATE	1,719,671,425	1,938,374,374	12.6%
MIRAMAR	5,185,025,501	4,842,457,353	24.0%
NORTH LAUDERDALE*	724,608,901	947,810,850	30.8%
OAKLAND PARK	1,558,814,273	1,747,738,063	12.1%
PARKLAND	1,500,498,987	1,887,889,077	25.4%
PEMBROKE PAISÉ	214,375,712	302,756,398	15.4%
PEMBROKE PINES	6,440,267,324	7,328,568,214	13.8%
PLANTATION	5,186,649,708	5,731,306,563	10.0%
POMPANO BEACH	8,306,500,818	7,880,965,542	12.2%
SEA RANCH LAKES	114,719,685	102,390,032	6.7%
SOUTHWEST RANCHES	743,319,725	814,855,700	11.0%
SUNWISÉ	3,789,278,293	4,252,195,516	12.5%
TAMARAC	2,164,021,037	2,448,324,213	11.6%
WILTON	4,675,820,454	5,333,514,400	14.1%
WILTON MANORS	545,145,576	645,078,063	18.2%
BROWARD COUNTY**	91,478,874,502	103,918,829,657	13.7

* Much of North Lauderdale's increase is the result of annexation.
** Broward County's valuations are based on School Board figures.
Source: Property appraiser

Property values set record increase

Broward tax roll hits \$104 billion

BY BETH REINHARD
brein@herald.com

Broward County property values escalated 13.7 percent over the past year, surpassing the record increase set in 2002 and defying fears of a fragile real estate market verging on a crash.

Last year's increase was 12.7 percent. As of Jan. 1, the tax roll reached \$104 billion, according to

INSIDE

A complete list of housing values for Broward cities, 7B.

final figures released Tuesday by Property Appraiser William Markham.

"The demand for all types of property has been phenomenal,"

Markham said. "We're practically built out and there's very little land, so there's a tremendous demand and limited supply. Low interest rates are helping, too."

One month ago, Markham predicted the tax roll would cross the \$100 billion mark, but his office had not yet calculated all construction, restoration and appreciation. The preliminary 7.4 percent increase over the past year was certain to reach double digits by the time the final report was complete, Markham said at the time.

"That we almost reached 14 percent is incredible," he said Tuesday.

For homeowners who sell or refinance, soaring property values mean more money in their pockets.

▶ PAGE B1 PROPERTY, 7B

OAK TREE 1, CRANES 0



BIG JOB: Three cranes were unsuccessful Tuesday in moving a 50-foot tree to its new home in La Preserve development.

MOVING HULK IS A TALL ORDER

Property values set record increase

PROPERTY RISE

For cities, higher values mean greater spending power without higher tax rates.

North Lauderdale recorded the biggest increase in property values among Broward County municipalities, mostly because the city annexed unincorporated areas. Parkland, Hillsboro Beach and Miramar followed. Miramar's values jumped 24 percent, with more than half of the growth coming from sales of new homes.

City Manager Billson says the city attributed Miramar's appeal to its high aesthetic standards for roadway landscaping and new construction.

"The city's vision is paying off," he said.

"Even a gas station has to adhere to our Mediterranean theme."

Hallandale Beach and Wilton Manors also posted substantial hikes in property value, but nearly all of the gains in these cities came from the increased value of existing properties. The slowdown in new construction in Wilton Manors has fueled renewed interest in the eastern side.

Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood saw the biggest increases in total dollars. Fort Lauderdale's tax roll rose \$2.2 billion, while Hollywood's jumped \$1 billion. Miramar came in third with an addi-

tional \$817 million.

Broward's real estate industry cheered the news of the county's record-setting property values.

The market is thriving, said Larry Rowe, president of the Realtors' Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale, though homes are sitting on the market longer because of

more competition and instability.

The association's review shows single-family home sales were down 47 percent from one month last year compared with 48 percent this year. Among condominiums, 31 percent closed in one month last year compared with 47 percent this year.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPERTY OWNED BY GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC. 2121 NW 21 STREET, MIAMI, FLORIDA

The Miami City Commission requests public comment and will hold a Public Hearing on July 15, 2003 at 9:00 AM to discuss development of the 1.81 acre Goodwill-owned property located at 2121 NW 21 Street, Miami, Florida, as follows:

- Proposed submission of a grant application in the amount of \$7,500,000 for development of a Goodwill Signature and public parking garage (the "Project") to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") under its Broadband Economic Development Initiative grant program;
- Proposed submission of an application to HUD for a Section 108 Loan Guarantee Assistance in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 for the Project and a pledge of future Community Development block grant funds for this purpose; and
- Proposed amendment to the City's current 5-year Consolidated Plan to provide for this Project as an activity to be completed under the scope of said Plan.

The Public Hearing will be held during a Special City Commission meeting at 9:00 AM on July 15, 2003 at:

City Hall
3300 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida

It is requested that all notices be received at least 10 days before the hearing. The hearing will be available to the public through a live broadcast on WFLA-TV Channel 8, 11:00 PM - 11:35 PM. A Miami Department of Planning Development website located at www.miamipda.com will also be available for more information. (JLW 07/03/03)

...understand why she was going to jail." ▶ PAGE B1 TROUBLE

Pension fund deal puts Hollywood in a pinch