

September 2007

SoRoPa Neighbors

* Neighborhood Watch Alert *

Beware of Bad Guys (& Gals) – They're Back!

Have a Safe and Happy



Lieutenant Hubrig warned of the resurgence of "Felony Lane". There has been an escalation of criminal activity as close as Oak Tree and 39th St. Stay vigilant.

Don't leave anything of value in the seat of your car. Beware of unknown individuals at your door and don't invite anyone into your house if you aren't 100% sure who they are! If someone offers to do repairs for you, ask for a certificate of insurance and a business license

Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors and keep them out of our neighborhood.

Call Oakland Park BSO if you have any questions or concerns.

(954) 561-6111

Help Maintain Our Reputation

Individual Highlights:

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Monthly Meetings & Mission 7

Our vigilant Neighborhood Watch has paid off in South Royal Palm Acres. The #1 deterrent to crime is you, the watchful neighbor! You know better than a cop on patrol what is normal for your neighborhood.

Have you ever seen something next door and wondered if everything was alright? Did you wonder if maybe you should call the police?

Did you hesitate? Were you afraid you might be wrong? Then what?

Put the shoe on the other foot. What if you didn't call and you were right? How would you explain that to your neighbor? Think about it.

Our Oakland Park BSO confirms that they would rather you call at the first hint of a suspicion.

There are of several services that our Oakland Park BSO offers to us as city residents;



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!!!

1) If you are going away, submit a vacation alert. Call (954) 561-6111. BSO will stop by and keep an eye on your home.

2) If you call Oakland Park BSO at (954) 561-6111, they will send an officer out to perform a security review of your home. (The Fire Department offers a similar service for fire safety.)

3) The Police Department is here to serve and protect us. Don't hesitate to contact them.

Call Oakland Park BSO at (954) 561-6111 or the general BSO non-emergency line at (954) 765-4321

Oakland Park Tree Giveaway Coming Soon – Mark your Calendars
Saturday, September 29, 2007 9 am. – 1 pm.



A free tree giveaway will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2007 from 9 am to 1 pm at Collins Community Center, 3900 NE 3 Avenue, Oakland Park. Native trees will be available in 7 gallon and 15 gallon sizes; informational booths will teach residents how to select, plant and care for a tree; refreshments will be provided by the Kiwanis Club, and volunteers from the City's Disaster Assistance Team and Northeast High School will assist Parks staff in managing the event. Two trees will be available to each household while supplies last, with proof of Oakland Park residency. Arrive early for the best selection.

This event is sponsored by the Oakland Park Parks and Leisure Services Department and funded with a grant from Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, 2006 Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Urban and Community Forestry grant program and the Oakland Park Tree Trust Fund. Any questions: Please call Cathy D'Angelo, 954-630-4512.

Block Representatives

32nd Ct - Karen Nagy

31st St. & 32nd St – Dennis & Gwen Cox

33rd Ct. - Richard & Jean Bernhardt

33rd St. - Hope Gold

34th St. - Anne & Steve Sallee

35th & 36th St. - Marshall Belmaine

21st Ave - Paul Spearing & Louis Weinberg



Florida Power & Light - Update

Do you have trees branches touching power lines? (HINT – the power lines are the top set of lines. FPL is not concerned about trees touching the phone or cable lines below.) Do you have concerns about leaning poles, low wires, power outages, or anything else?

I will be following up with the representative who attended our last meeting next week. Contact me at aesallee@yahoo.com, or by phone at (954) 253-0850 and let me know what your issues are.

Oakland Park Homeowners Coalition

Oakland Park Homeowners Coalition - Determined to make OUR community a better place to live!

Who's invited? What are your neighborhood concerns?

This invitation is being sent to Residents of the city of Oakland Park. As the leaders of their respective communities, we know that they are actively involved in their communities and are the voices for their individual neighborhoods. We are asking for all these communities to participate and pass this invitation to anyone that they feel is interested in contributing to a better Oakland Park.

Neighbors and neighborhoods joining together to make a better Oakland Park!

Date: Thursday, September 13

*Oakland Park Public Library
Marie Wright Room
1298 NE 37 St., Oakland Park*

*RSVP to Elaine Brown
Phone: 954 684-9435
Email: Lainers@Comcast.net*

The city is aware that we are forming this group. This gathering is organized by private citizens who are concerned about their city. It is being created for the citizens of Oakland Park to form a collective voice to help our elected officials make the decisions that a the residents happy.

Community Appearance Standards

What do you think is the worst offender with regard to the appearance of out city?

Is it pole signs, unkempt properties, FPL poles and lines, industrial areas, open dumpsters? What do you think is the number one change that would improve the image and the pride in our city?

City Hall has retained *Michelle Melgren & Associates* to help develop a code of Community Appearance Standards to address the look of Oakland Park. But they need your input. The results of the initial city survey can be found on the city website, www.oaklandparkfl.org.

I have attended both workshops and would be glad to discuss the results with you if you want more information. If you have comments or suggestions, send them to the City Managers office for inclusion in the process.

- **Anne Sallee, (954) 253-0850**
asallee@yahoo.com

*Have you checked out the
City website?*

www.oaklandparkfl.org

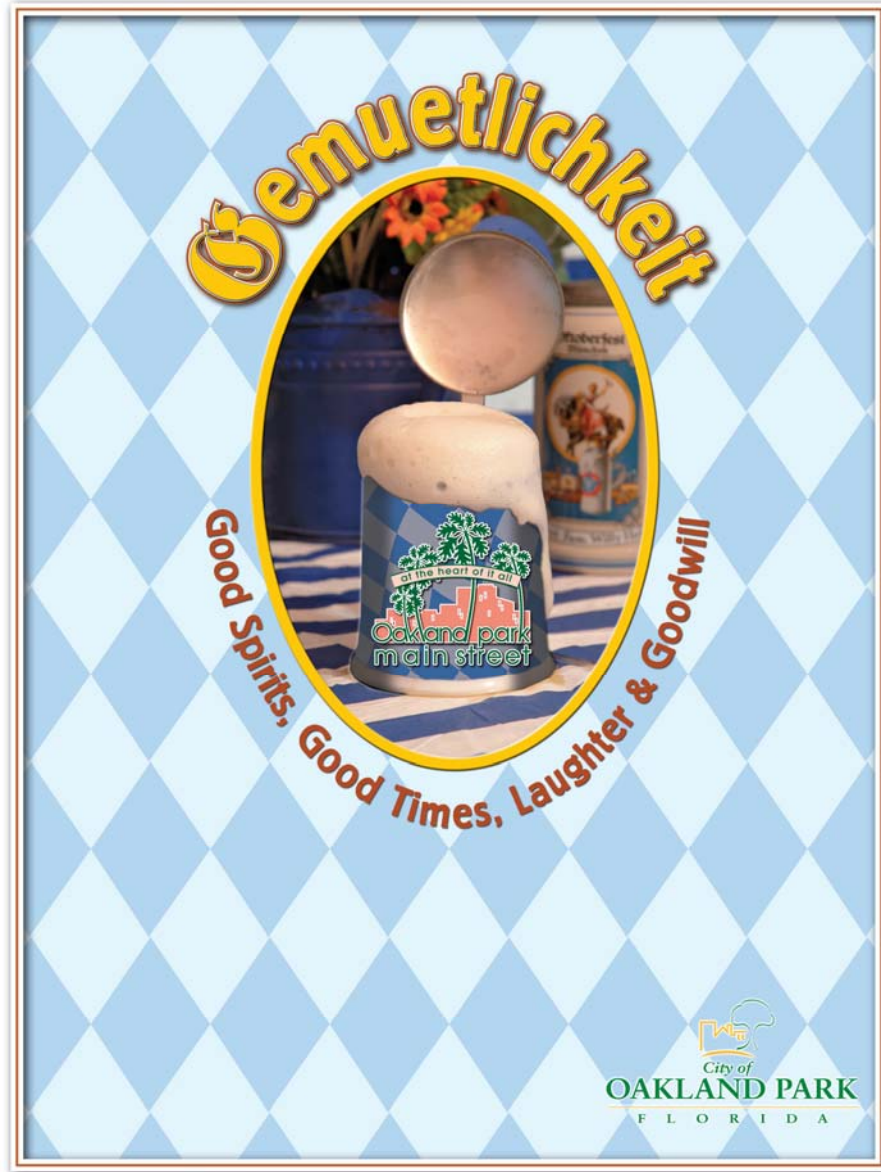
*Its chock full of valuable
information!*

**City of Oakland Park
1298 NE 37th Street
Oakland Park, Florida
33334**

**Phone: 954-561—6181
Website:**

www.oaklandparkfl.org

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Saturday, September 29, 2007 9 am. – 1 pm.



Oakland Park Main Street

proudly presents...

Third Annual/Authentic Bavarian Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 6, 2007

From: 10am - 11pm

Corner of Dixie Highway & NE 38th Street, Oakland Park

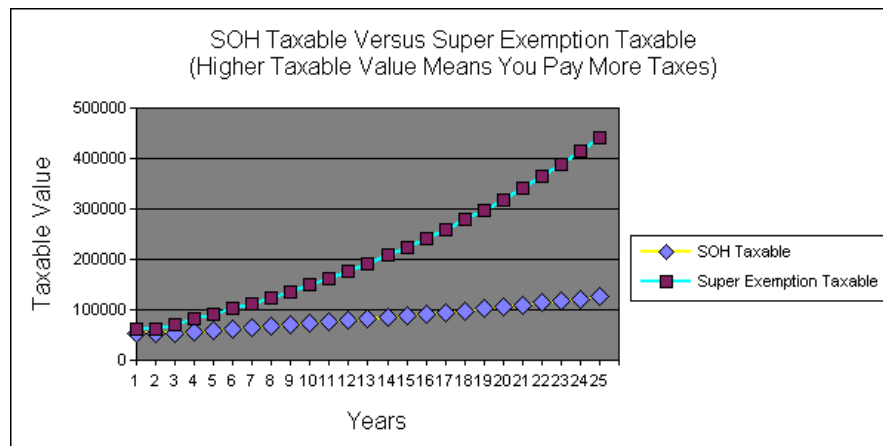
For more information visit www.oaklandparkmainstreet.com or call 954-565-2627

Property Tax Issues in Florida

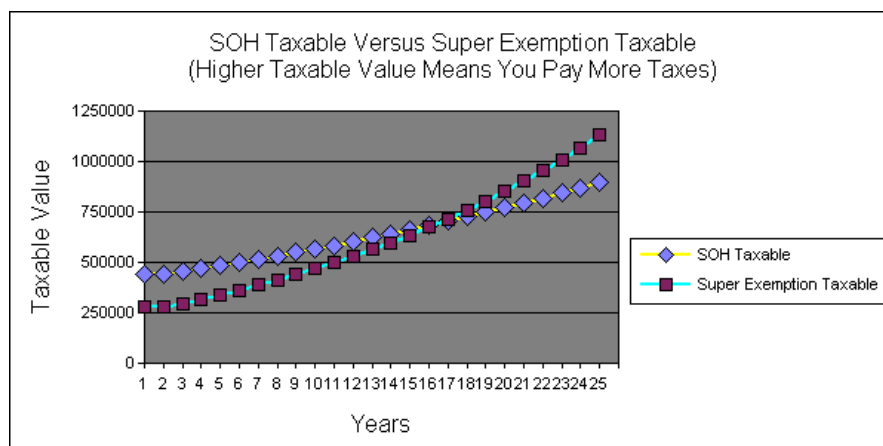
Unless you've been living under a rock, you know that property taxes in Florida are a hot button issue. Property owners feel overtaxed, new buyers are scared to commit to a purchase, sellers can't sell and government is cutting corners to try to come up with a budget that will satisfy the taxpayers. But will the changes made Tallahassee this year and proposed for next year solve the problems we face?

When you compare the total tax burden of Floridians to the rest of the nation, Florida ranks 36th of the 50 states; the residents of 35 states pay more in taxes than we do in Florida. According to the Tax Policy Center, in 2005 the median tax collection per capita in Florida was \$3,369. New Yorkers paid \$5,752 and Californians paid \$4,055. Alabamans paid the least with a median tax burden of \$2,569.

This year Tallahassee drafted changes to the property tax structure, first with the tax rollback for the coming fiscal year and second with the Super Exemption Amendment on the ballot in January. Do you know which best for you? Go to the Broward County Property Appraiser's website at www.BCPA.net and find your property page. Look for the **Super Exemption Calculator** at the top of the page to compare your taxes over the next twenty five years with the present Save Our Homes exemption and the proposed Super Exemption. You might see a chart like one of these which clearly demonstrates which choice is better for you:



Or one like this ...



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(Property Taxes Continued)

You should have received your TRIM Notice by now. You will see at the bottom of the Notice, there are hearing dates for each of the components of your tax bill. If you have something to say or want to participate in the process, attend these meetings! They are very informative.

In the big picture, Tallahassee, our counties and cities need revenue from our property taxes to operate. The voters have ordered the state and local governments to tighten their belts, and they have. But the belts can only tighten so far before the taxpayers start to feel pinched. As the property tax burden is drastically reduced, the cities and state will need to find other revenue sources.

Are you willing to see property taxes reduced to the point that services are dramatically impacted? Have you thought about the overall tax burden you pay as compared to other states? Would you be better off paying into other sources of revenue that may spread the cost more fairly, such as another penny in sales tax or a state tax on your personal income? Your opportunity to speak up is on primary election day, January 29, 2008.

Now that municipalities have tightened their belts for the coming budget year, we are looking at even greater cuts next year if the Super Exemption passes. If the cities are to provide the services we demand, we will have to find some other source of revenue, such as a penny sales tax or a state income tax, and closing some of the gaping tax loopholes. By one state estimate, legal exemptions, credits, deductions and loopholes available to corporations cost Florida \$1.2-billion a year - more than corporate taxes generate. The bottom line is that the state and local coffers must be filled, but is the “Super Exemption” the answer?

It's up to you to send your message to Tallahassee via your ballot. Consider the issues and vote in January. If you are not registered to vote – Go to the Broward County Supervisor of Election's Website, www.BrowardSOE.org. You can register to vote on line. The deadlines are:

Dates Registration Closes for 2008 Election

Presidential Preference Primary/Municipal Elections...December 31, 2007

Primary ElectionJuly 28, 2008

General ElectionOctober 6, 2008



What is SoRoPa Neighbors?

South Royal Palm Acres Neighbors United is a neighborhood group focused on improving crime prevention awareness, strengthening spirit and fostering pride in our community in order to provide a safer, organized and more beautiful place for all of us to live.

The mission of South Royal Palm Acres Neighbors United is...

- To encourage and promote community pride in our neighborhood by providing a forum for neighborhood activity.
- To be a voice for our common neighborhood interests by acting as liaison with governmental bodies and with institutions.
- To serve as a focal point for maintenance and improvement of institutions and facilities serving our neighborhood, including parks, schools, and public safety services, and to provide an avenue for neighborhood social activities.
- To encourage and facilitate vigorous citizen participation in all issues affecting our neighborhood, including land use, zoning changes, traffic patterns, and street modifications.
- To promote the welfare of the community.
- To Have Fun!



Please Join Us!

**Your Neighborhood Organization meets at the Fire Station
the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:30.**

If you don't participate in the process, you won't have a voice.
We look forward to your comments and participation.