



The
Oakleaf

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



January/February/March 2007

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VOTE VOTE VOTE

Oakland Park Municipal Election

The City of Oakland Park's municipal election
will be held Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

Oakland Park City Commissioners serve the City at large, which means all qualified registered voters in the City are eligible to vote for and will be represented by all Commission Seats. City Commissioners serve for a term of four (4) years, and Oakland Park has an election every two years. On March 13, 2007, Commission seats 2 and 3 will be on the ballot.

Pursuant to our City Charter, the City Clerk is the Elections Officer for Oakland Park's municipal elections. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming municipal election, please contact the City Clerk's office at 954-630-4300.

Your Vote Counts — remember to VOTE!



PARKS & RECREATION NEWS & NOTES

Spring Programing

February – Black History Month

On February 17th, The Harlem-McBride & Northeast 43rd Street Neighborhood Association and the City of Oakland Park Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2nd Annual Dr. Carter G. Woodson Festival at Dr. Carter G. Woodson Park, 3490 Northeast 3rd Avenue in Oakland Park.

This celebration honoring the great historian and educator will include a little Mr. & Miss Dr. Carter G. Woodson Contest, a baking contest, field events, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, bounce houses, food, raffles and plenty of fun.

City staff has been working with neighborhood residents and a wonderful group of volunteers from the Oakland Park Rotary Club to improve and refurbish Dr. Carter G. Woodson Park.

For more information, please visit www.oaklandparkfl.org or call 954-552-0890 or 954-630-4500

March

Dust off those letter sweaters and poodle skirts and get ready to relive one of the greatest decades in the history of the United States.

On Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24, the City of Oakland Park will host the 50th Annual Youth Day celebration and appropriately this year's theme will be "A Salute to the 50's." This event has become an institution within our City and Youth Day 2007 will prove to be the greatest Youth Day ever.

For the first time in the event's 50 year history, Youth Day will actually begin on Friday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m. and the evening's activities will include the Little Miss Oakland Park Contest, live entertainment, a variety of popular midway rides and games, bounce houses and delicious food.

The fun continues on Saturday, March 24 with the Annual Youth Day Parade at 10:00 a.m. The Grand Marshal of Youth Day will be the person most synonymous with "oldies" music in South Florida – the legendary disc jockey Rick Shaw of radio station Majic 102.7.

Come join us for beautifully decorated floats, incredible marching bands and thousands of smiling faces as the parade winds its way through Oakland Park, beginning at Northeast 17 Avenue and traveling west on Oakland Park Boulevard. The parade continues northbound on Dixie Highway to N.E. 38 Street and then west to N.E. 5 Avenue. The parade concludes northbound on 5 Avenue at the Wimberly Field Athletic Complex.

The activities will then resume on Wimberly Field with the addition of a craft fair, live musical acts, martial arts demonstrations and the world famous Mai-Kai Polynesian Revue. Youth Day 2007 will then draw to a close with a fabulous fireworks display that will light up the skies over Oakland Park.



City Sponsored T-Ball/Pitch Ball/Girls Softball

Registration: Collins Community Center, 3900 NE 3rd Ave.
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Resident registration – January 2 through January 26
Resident fee – \$37.50 (proof of residency required)
Non Resident registration – January 22 -26
Non Resident fee - \$90.00

T-Ball – boys and girls – ages 4 and 5
Pitch Ball – boys and girls – ages 6 and 7
Softball – girls ages 8 – 15

For information, please call 954-630-4500.



Northeast Little League

Northeast Little League, Inc. will be entering its 48th year of youth baseball serving the community with the upcoming 2007 season. Registrations for candidates will be held on the following dates at the Concession Stand located at the west fields off of NE 6th Avenue at Northeast High School.

Parents of candidates must bring originals and copies of the following items:

1. Three proofs of residency i.e., driver's license, cable bill, water bill, electric bill (you may only use 1 utility bill as proof, anything else with your address is permissible).
2. Copy of child's birth certificate.
3. Proof of insurance coverage (if available).

Children between the ages of 5 and 18 (as of May 1st 2007), may register on the following dates:

Saturday – Jan. 13 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
Tuesday – Jan. 16 (7 to 9 p.m.)
Saturday – Jan. 20 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
Tuesday – Jan. 23 (7 to 9 p.m.)

Registration fees will coincide with last year, but are subject to change.

For further information please call 954-771-7151. Listen for the information that will direct you to the NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE LINE.

Oakland Park Baseball Club, Inc.

Registration Information

Wimberly Field Concession Stand, 4000 NE 3rd Ave.
6:30-8:30 pm on Tuesday and Thursday through mid January
For children between the ages of 7-18.
Fees: \$70 - \$100 per player

This club offers in-house and travel baseball. A parent or legal guardian must provide a copy of the player's birth certificate and a Florida driver's license. For information, please call Brian Davis at 954-771-2899.



Performing Arts Program

All performances are free. Many of the shows take place in the historic Oakland Park Auditorium at Oakland Park Elementary School (936 NE 33 Street). To confirm shows or reserve tickets, please call the City's Special Events Coordinator Ed Smith at 954-630-4364.



The "Swing Sisters" pictured with Vice Mayor Larry "Elvis" Gierer

"An Evening with Ray Charles"

starring Frank Rondell
Monday, January 15, 2007, 7 p.m.
Oakland Park Auditorium

"Last of the Red Hot Lovers"

Saturday, January 27, 7 p.m.
Sunday, January 28, 2 p.m.
Oakland Park Auditorium

"The Importance of Being Earnest" (a reading)

Tuesday, January 30, 7:30 p.m.
Marie Wright Room, Oakland Park Library
1298 NE 37 Street

"My Fair Lady"

Saturday, February 24, 7 p.m.
Sunday, February 25, 2 p.m.
Oakland Park Auditorium

"Beyond the Horizon" (a reading)

Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.
Marie Wright Room,
Oakland Park Library

"Victor Victoria"

Friday, March 23, 7 p.m.
Oakland Park Auditorium

Popular television star/ventriloquist

Jeff Dunham and friends

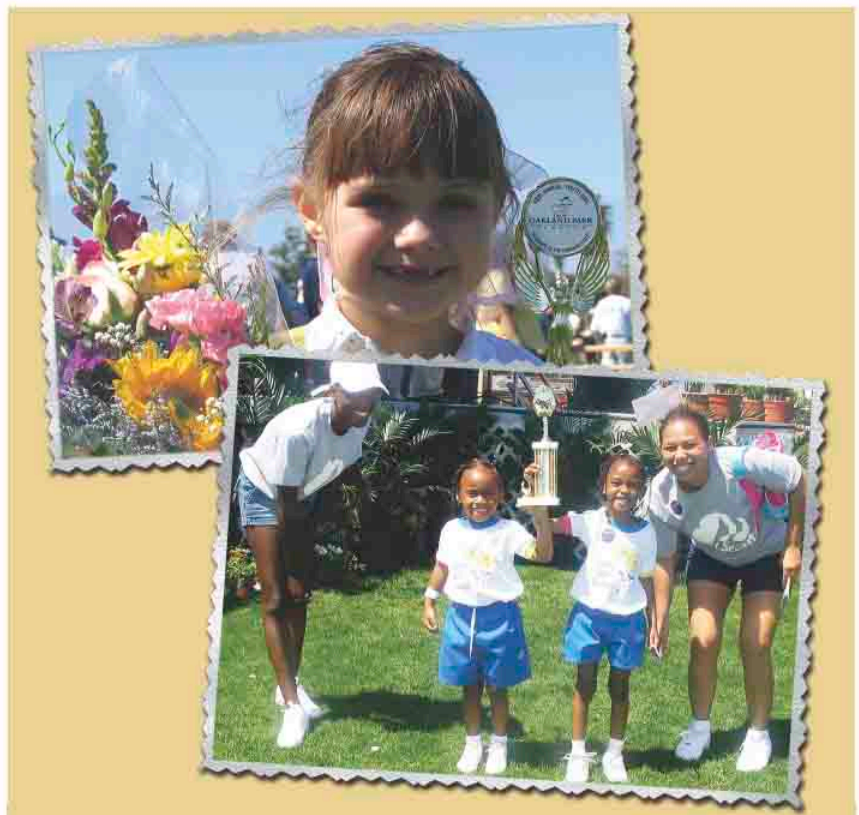
To be announced
Oakland Park Auditorium
Call 954-630-4364



Send Us Your Favorite Youth Day Photo

As the City prepares to celebrate its 50th Annual Youth Day on March 23 and 24, we would like to display a photographic timeline of the rich history of Oakland Park Youth Day as part of the festivities. For 50 years, Youth Day has attracted three generations of past and current residents. Although the City has literally 1000's of photographs, we kindly request your assistance in creating this photographic history. We are calling on residents and looking for old photos of past Youth Days. Along with old photos, we welcome any comments or personal accounts that helped mold family memories. These pictures and testimonials will be displayed inside the Collins Community Center. In order for us to return the photos, we ask you to please identify your pictures with your name and phone number. We thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to this milestone event.

The Parks & Recreation Department also encourages residents and organizations to check on the City's website (www.oaklandparkfl.org) to download applications for entering floats or processions in the annual Youth Day Parade. Youth Day Parade applications can also be picked up at during regular business hours at the Collins Community Center (3900 N.E. 3rd Avenue) or call 954-630-4500.



Teen and 'Tween Programs at the Oakland Park Library

Saturday, January 27, 1:30 p.m., Florida Gold Coast Gem & Mineral Society presents *"Rocks and Gems from Florida and Elsewhere – Do You Know What Is under Your Feet?"* All ages.

Saturday, February 3, 1:30 p.m., The Royal Chessmen present *"Medieval, Renaissance, and Pirate Costume and Combat – Discussion and Demonstration."* All ages.

Saturday, February 17, 3:30 p.m., TJ Chang & Yun-Tung Lo present *"Chinese New Year – Stories and Facts about the Festival, and Live Erhu Performance."* Free snacks from Golden Express, Happy House, and Ming Wok. All ages.

Saturday, March 10, 1:30 p.m. Monty Clark, Academic Chair, Game Art & Design, The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale presents *"Computer Game Design with The Unreal Engine."* Ages 9 and above.

Saturday, March 17, 1:30 p.m., *"Irish History and Saint Patrick's Day."* All ages.

For more information about teen and 'tween programs, call 954-630-4368 or e-mail TEENFLA@yahoo.com



ACTIVE ADULTS DO MUCH MORE THAN TALK TURKEY

The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of programs for the Active Adults. These programs are designed for the mature generation and are held at the Active Adult Center, 250 N.E. 33 Street. Activities and Programs include:

- Arts & Crafts
- Low Impact Aerobics classes
- TOPS (Take Off Pound Sensibly)
- Contract Bridge
- Oakland Park Red Hatters
- Day Trips
- Bi-Monthly Entertainment (w/ light snack)
- S.T.R.O.N.G. (Strength, Training, Results in Our National Elders Growing & Stronger!)
- Health and wellness programs
- Monthly Themed Luncheons
- Weekly Ceramics

The coordinator of the Active Adults Center is Parks and Recreation staff member Tove Hughes. Hughes has many admirers among the Active Adults Program.

"Tove has been here a long time and does a wonderful job," said Wanda McGee, who has lived in Oakland Park for 15 years and was enjoying the pre-Thanksgiving turkey luncheon and activities.

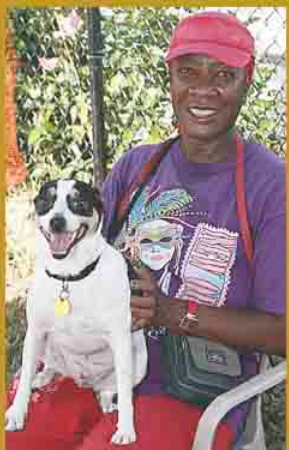
Oakland Park resident Toni Rodríguez epitomizes the "active" in Active Adults. She participates in many of the Active Adults programs when she isn't busy with the "Friends of the Oakland Park Library" and volunteering at the American Legion Post.



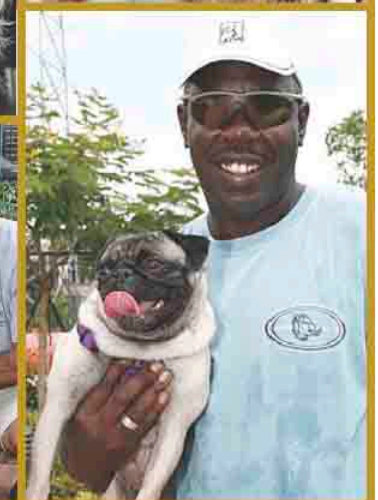
"Tove doesn't just give 100 percent, she gives 150 percent," Ms. Rodríguez gleefully exclaimed.

For more information or to sign up to receive the monthly newsletter, please call the Active Adults Center at 954-630-4494





Mayor Steven R. Arnst and the City Commission cut the ribbon on Oakland Bark Park – the City's first dog park. The park is located at 971 Northwest 38th Street between Powerline Road and Royal Palm Park. The 2.26 acre Oakland Bark Park features separate fenced areas for large dogs and small dogs, as well as parking for 30 vehicles. There are individual stations providing additional exercise and recreation features for dogs. The Dog Park was funded through a lease agreement and the local parks fund. The hours of Oakland Bark Park will vary depending on the season. For current hours and other information, please call 954-630-4500.



John Bukata Appointed Chief of BSO's Oakland Park District



BSO Oakland Park District Chief John Bukata (pictured at right) with Executive Officer Lt. Allan Hubrig and Administrative Specialist Margie Uyttewall

Veteran law enforcement officer John Bukata has been appointed District Chief for the Oakland Park District of the Broward Sheriff's Office, assuming the responsibilities of Chief Dave Rahinsky who retired from the agency.

Chief Bukata began his career with the City of Ft. Lauderdale Police Department in 1981 before joining the Broward Sheriff's Office where he has served the past 23 years. During his diverse career, he has been assigned to a wide variety of specialized assignments including the Organized Crime Division, street level and major narcotic investigations, Child Protective Investigations, Strategic Investigations Division; as well as supervisory responsibilities in the cities of Deerfield Beach, Dania Beach, Pembroke Park, unincorporated Pompano Beach, and unincorporated Ft. Lauderdale.

Prior to assuming command as the Executive Officer in Oakland Park, Chief Bukata served as the Executive Officer in BSO's Central Broward District which encompasses unincorporated Ft. Lauderdale. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Professional Studies from Barry University and a Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix.

The Oakland Park District is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well being of the City's residents. Chief Bukata believes in strengthening the partnership between the Oakland Park District and the community. Based upon this partnership, the Oakland Park District has been assisting the community with not only crime fighting, but also addressing quality of life issues which concern the residents. These quality of life issues include items such as abandoned cars, trash piles in vacant fields, dilapidated homes in need of repair, noisy neighbors, and graffiti.

Chief Bukata is encouraging Oakland Park residents to join their neighborhood homeowners association and also the Broward Sheriff's Office Citizens On Patrol (COP) program.

The COP program is open to any resident of the City of Oakland Park who has an interest in working with BSO and their community. COP members are issued uniforms, a cellular phone to be able to communicate with our supervisors and are assigned a COP vehicle which is utilized on patrol during your volunteer hours. COP members are deployed as additional eyes and ears for BSO deputies to improve the quality of life for our residents and also enhance communications with the Oakland Park District and the community.

Please check out the BSO web site located at www.sheriff.org and select the Community Programs icon for more information about the COP program.

If you would like additional information about the COP program, want to learn about crime prevention techniques or are interested in becoming a member of the COP program or to learn more about community involvement, please contact BSO's Oakland Park District Neighborhood Response Team coordinator Deputy Ira Rubinstein, or Executive Officer; Lt Allan Hubrig at **954-561-6111**.

Volunteering in Oakland Park Can be a Scream

The City of Oakland Park wishes to express its appreciation to the dedicated members of the City's Community Volunteer Program who not only are trained and available to assist during weather disasters and other emergencies, but also play an integral role in helping make our community events an enjoyable experience.



Oakland Park volunteers assisted with the "National Night Out" at Northeast High School, the annual Main Street Oktoberfest celebration and most recently the Park & Recreation Department's Halloween activities.

Volunteers welcomed the excited faces of the trick or treaters who lined the entrance of Wimberly Field at the Collins Community Center.

One by one, the groups of Power Rangers, pirates & princesses eagerly accepted their complimentary treat bags. Almost 1,000 tots flooded the field at the Collins Center for the Halloween costume contest.

Parents and children alike joined in the frightacular at the Haunted House.

After last year's Hurricane Wilma sidetracked Halloween - residents made sure they weren't going to miss the much anticipated event.

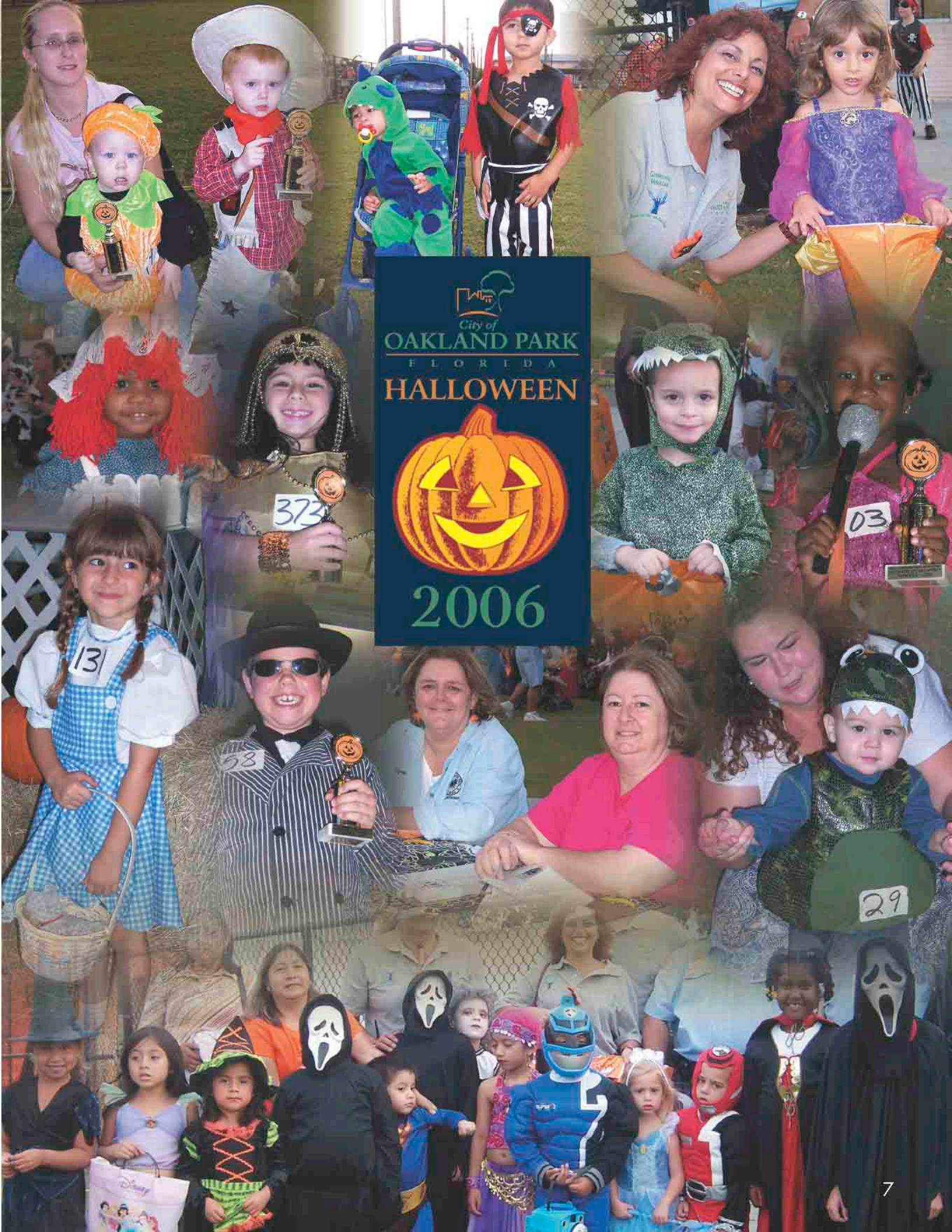
Big smiles and Halloween howls were the order of the evening, according to Oakland Park Volunteer Hope Gold.

"You couldn't tell who was having more fun - the parents or the kids," Gold said. "And it was rewarding experience for all of our volunteers as well."

The City of Oakland Park and the Parks & Recreation Department want to thank everyone for making the City of Oakland Park Halloween Festivities 2006 a success.

If you would like to become part of the City of Oakland Park Community Volunteer Program, please call **954-630-4550**.





COMMISSIONER CORNER

Capital Improvement Project Update

by Steven R. Arnst, Mayor

When reviewing the status of the City's many Capital Improvement Projects, I have three rules of thumb that I follow.

1). the lowest bid is not always the best bid. 2). when following a project's progress, check if it is being completed on (or hopefully ahead of) schedule. 3). did the project come in at (or hopefully under) the budgeted estimates. With the skyrocketing prices of construction materials and labor costs, we always ask the City staff to be careful when providing us with projected costs.

Some of the recent Capital Improvement Projects have involved our City parks, stormwater drainage projects, potable (drinking) water lines, and sanitary sewer line & lift station projects throughout the City. We are excited to see many of these projects coming to fruition.

The refurbishments to Royal Palm Park were necessary due to age and then the destruction caused by Hurricane Wilma. This is our largest park in the City and we hope you are pleased with the improvements.

By now, we hope most the City's dog lovers (among which I am proud to count my family) have had the opportunity to enjoy the new Oakland Bark Park. This project was "resident driven" and it was one of the highlights of my political career when our City Commission cut the ribbon. Making it even nicer was the fact that the dog park was funded through a lease agreement and the local parks fund.

Another Capital Improvement Project we are pleased with is the NW 38th Street Drainage Project, which will be completed under budgeted cost. Fortunately, the rainy season was a bit more forgiving to Oakland Park this year.

The CIP includes three major stormwater drainage projects which require the installation of 6 feet equivalent diameter drainage pipes along NE 6th Avenue, NE 13th Avenue (Kimberly Lake Basin), and NW 21st Avenue. Also, the City was awarded almost \$1 million by the Florida Department Environmental Protection and South Florida Water Management District to dredge Sleepy River and Cherry Creek with both projects already in the design phase.

Work continues to take place on other important projects around Oakland Park, including, but not limited to: NE 12th Avenue drainage & streetscape, NE 6th Terrace and NE 45th Street drainage, as well as Floranada Business District drainage, multiple lift stations, and a Privacy Wall along Commercial Boulevard.

We appreciate your patience with the various traffic detours and occasional water shut downs during the construction phase of these projects. Please tune in to our City Commission meetings to catch the monthly updates to our Capital Improvement Projects presented by the Engineering & Construction Management staff.



Calendar Continues to Get Busier in Oakland Park

by Larry Gierer, Vice Mayor

Many people are already familiar with the City's Mission Statement to provide friendly, responsive and quality service to all residents, businesses and visitors in our diverse community.

As your next Mayor, one of my priorities is to ensure that this includes quality special events and entertaining performing arts that appeal to all demographics and enhance the quality of life in our community.

When I attended the recent ribbon cutting for Oakland Bark Park and the Oakland Park Main Street Oktoberfest, I was reminded how far we have come as a community in the past few years.

When you click on the "Calendar of Events and Meetings" on the City's website (www.oaklandparkfl.org), there always seems to be something going on. News of events can also be found by checking the City's OPTV-Channel 78 and our radio station which is 1680 on your AM dial.

Whether it was the Park and Recreation Department's Halloween and Holiday activities or an upcoming Performing Arts event, people no longer need to venture outside of Oakland Park to have a good time with their family and friends.

A lot of planning and effort goes into each event as I recently learned when I performed with the "Swing Sisters" at their "golden oldies" show in the historic Oakland Park Auditorium. Believe me when I tell you it felt a lot different being on stage in front of a packed auditorium than it does sitting on the dais in the City Commission chambers.

And speaking of golden oldies, we hope all generations of Oakland Park will re-unite for the upcoming Youth Day parade and carnival in March. We are excited to have "Mr. Golden Oldie" himself - South Florida radio icon Rick Shaw as our Grand Marshal.

I would like to remind everyone that our events and activities will always be "resident driven." Please contact our City Parks & Recreation Department and Special Events office to let them know what you would like to see or as always feel free to contact me personally to discuss this or any other issue.

In the meantime, dust off those leather jackets, penny loafers and poodle skirts, slick back or tease up your hair and join us for the City's 50th Annual Youth Day celebration.

Let's Go to the Hop!

Larry

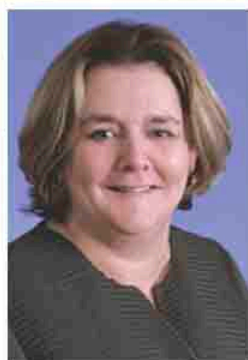
LarryG@oaklandparkfl.org
or 954-772-8385



Welcoming a New Local Government Academy Class

by Layne Dallett Walls, Commissioner

When the City Commission requested staff to develop a Local Government Academy (LGA) several short years ago, our goal was for the LGA to serve as an impetus for greater community and civic involvement.



Thanks to the outstanding quality of participants, the LGA has exceeded even our lofty expectations and continues to evolve as we prepared to welcome our third class next month.

Through the LGA, our residents gain valuable firsthand knowledge as to how our City operates so they can better understand the complex issues facing Oakland Park and take a more active role in making our community a better place to live, work and play.

Some of the nine special sessions of the LGA include Emergency Response, Public Works, Serving the Community through Accountability and Responsiveness and Assuring a Safe Community through Dedication.

When one considers the cost to the City is less than \$500 per participant, the LGA provides a tremendous return on the dollar. Half of the 2005 Charter Class and many of the 2006 Class have gone on to either serve as officers of their homeowners/neighborhood/condominium associations or on City advisory boards. And at least one of the City's recent employment hires is an LGA graduate.

We choose not to think of the LGA as an investment of staff time or City funds; we prefer to view it as an investment in our residents and in the future of Oakland Park.

I am already looking forward to meeting and greeting the 2007 LGA Class at the first session when we brief them on the City's mission, history and leadership.

On behalf of the City Commission, I welcome all of the 2007 LGA Class and look forward to you taking a more active role in the City of Oakland Park.

To apply for the 2007 LGA Class, you can download the application from the City's website or call the City Manager's office at **954-630-4202**.

Or you can call me to discuss the LGA or any other issue of interest at **954-565-8475**.

See you at the City's 50th Annual Youth Day Parade and Celebration!

You Spoke and We Listened

by Suzanne Boisvenue, Commissioner



I am happy to bring the New Year by reporting that one of my resolutions to revise the City's Bulk Trash rules was approved by the City Commission.

As a healthcare professional, I am all too aware that the past restrictions on bundling were not fair to many people due to medical, mobility and other issues.

During my two years as your Commissioner, I have gone on record as opposing the past restrictions and advocated for a change in the Bulk Trash collection rules.

I had personally met with senior citizens and disabled individuals who were unable to bundle their bulk trash and people on fixed incomes made it financially prohibitive for some residents to hire assistance with bundling. Why should you have to?!!!

I am pleased to report that it is no longer necessary to bundle bulky yard waste (tree trimmings/branches) as long as the material is placed out separately from other bulk items.

And those cumbersome tree limbs must no longer be cut down to 4 feet. The City's Bulk Trash crews will now pick up tree limbs up to a maximum length of eight (8) foot sections.

I have also asked the City to diligently enforce the rules with the builders and remodeling workers who leave their refuse and other unusable materials by our residential curb areas with the expectation that our bulk trash staff will properly dispose of it. Another abuse occurs when tree service companies cut down an entire tree and pile it at the curb for bulk-pick up when this should have been hauled by the contractor.

My goal will continue to be making Oakland Park the most beautiful – and the safest – community we can be.

As your elected Commissioner, I am sincerely interested in your feedback and ideas on how we can work together in the most effective manner possible. If you would like to share your ideas, I am here to serve you and find solutions.

I welcome telephone calls on my personal cell phone (**954-298-8899**) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so I can represent each and every resident of Oakland Park to the best of my ability.

Thank you for your support!

Suzanneboisvenue@yahoo.com



The Broward County Supervisor of Elections is recruiting poll-workers and instructors for the March 13, 2007 municipal election. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the City Clerk's Office at **954-630-4300**, or visit the Supervisor of Elections' website at www.browardsoe.org.



We Hope the New Fiscal Year Budget Will Make "Sense"

by Allegra Webb Murphy, Commissioner

In September the Fiscal Year 2006-07 operating and capital improvement program budgets were approved by the City Commission. The process started last March. Department directors submitted resource requests to the City Manager, who, after extensive review, eliminated \$2.3 million, or nearly 6%. This resulted in a preliminary balanced budget being presented to the Commission in July which recommended continuation of the City's property tax rate of \$5.89 per \$1,000 of taxable property.

After significant Commission debate and consideration of valuable resident comments at two public hearings, it was decided to eliminate another \$0.6 million of expense and reduce the City's property tax rate to \$5.58 per \$1,000 of taxable property, a 5.2% reduction from the prior year. Consequently, nearly every residential property in the City covered by the homestead statutes had a reduction in their Oakland Park property taxes.

The resultant budget effectively meets the City's requirements while providing tax relief. The General Fund, the primary general governmental budget, will grow 4.3% even while dealing with increased costs of energy, construction and property insurance as faced by everyone in South Florida. No increases are assumed in the budget for either the fire assessment or for the rates for water, sewer, stormwater and solid waste pick-up services.

The capital improvement program will authorize expenditures of \$25.0 million this year, of which \$6.5 million is grant money provided by the County, State and Federal governments. A key focus is continuation of major upgrades to the City's drainage system. Another highlight is major improvement to the downtown infrastructure.

Additional major efforts include a new downtown park, expansion of the Dr. Carter Woodson Park and major improvements to the North Andrews Gardens Community Center. A new municipal building will be considered for acquisition to provide adequate quarters for the City's BSO organization and other City departments. There will also be upgrades to the City's water and sewer infrastructure, including establishment of a fund for future sewer systems in the Rock Island and Garden Acres areas.

One very exciting focus of the budget is the decision to greatly enhance the process by which the City manages itself. Called the Performance Excellence Initiative (PEI), it addresses how the City plans for the future, provides services, measures and motivates the staff and ensures accountability to our residents and business owners.

This program is based on concepts being adopted by leading organizations in both the public and private sectors to enhance the quality of operations. Aspects include greater citizen involvement in the identification of City objectives, a planning process focusing on clearly defined quantifiable objectives, significant improvement in City-provided services, a clear and common understanding of City objectives shared at all levels within the City from the Commission down to the staff in the field, and development of appropriate measurements throughout the organization to reinforce accountability and assist in continuous service improvement. This program will become increasingly visible in future year budgets and performance.



Consequently, not only does the City have a budget that will serve it very well for the coming year, but it is an important platform for even more efficient and effective government in the future. This will be extremely important in supporting the City values of Respect, Integrity and, even more directly, Service and Excellence.

Raising the Quality of our Performance

by John Stunson, City Manager

As City Manager, I adhere to the adage that we should raise the quality of our performance to meet the expectations of our residents.



To achieve Oakland Park's mission to provide friendly, responsive and quality service to all residents, businesses and visitors in our diverse community, the City is embracing the Baldrige quality and performance excellence model and has implemented performance initiatives for city staff to follow.

In order to gain the necessary insight into what residents expect, various forums have been created for citizens to have a greater say and take a participatory role charting the new course for Oakland Park. These include the Local Government Academy (LGA), a Flood Control Focus Group, the Community Roundtable and a Volunteer Initiative that trains residents to assist during weather or other disaster emergencies, as well as assist with City events such as the robust Oktoberfest celebration and our upcoming 50th Annual Youth Day parade and carnival.

Oakland Park will design and implement a strategic thinking and planning process this fiscal year. The City's key strategic challenges will be identified through the strategic thinking and planning process.

The City's performance improvement system is an integral part of a newly created Performance Excellence Initiative. Oakland Park is proactively addressing a changing local and regional economy that will add cost pressures and limit revenue growth, as well as instilling a mindset in which employees are encouraged to creatively provide the best service possible and work to control costs.

Some of these improvements you will begin to see are mentioned in other areas of "The Oakleaf," including revising our Bulk Trash collection rules and improving our utility and billing services, as well as notifying the City of potential Code Enforcement violations via the user-friendly online feature that we have added to our website.

Here in Oakland Park, we strive to achieve these improvements one step at a time. To help convey the importance to City staff, Oakland Park recently welcomed John Pieno, Chairman of the Florida Sterling Council to speak on the importance of high quality Customer Service to residents, businesses and visitors.

On behalf of all of us here with the City of Oakland Park, we thank you for your continued support and patience as we work to continually improve our performance in 2007.

Financial Services Department Implements New Payment Programs

Service. The Utility and Billing Services staff is dedicated to meeting and exceeding the financial revenue collection needs of our City. The staff is located on the first floor City Hall (formally know as Customer Service). The staff just announced its new "motto" kicking off fiscal year 2007 – Customer Satisfaction, ¡One Customer at a Time!

New Programs. The City hopes that our new Credit Card program scheduled to be available through our third-party processor, Point and Pay, Inc. will help residents and business owners continue utility services rather than be shut off due to cash shortages and non-payment. The program is web-based and available at the City Hall Utility and Billing Services payment windows. You can find the link on the City's website that will take you directly to the Utility Bill Pay pages.

The City also offers "AutoPay" to account holders which allow them to pay their utility bills directly from their financial institutions. Residents and business partners can down load the form from the City's website: www.oaklandpark.org; click on Departments; click on Financial Services; and then click on Utility & Billing Services. At the bottom of the page, click on the Signup Form. Fill out the form and attached a voided check or saving deposit slip and mail it in. Frequently asked questions are answered on page two of the form along with our address and telephone number.

There is a third way to make payments, as well. You can use your bank's on-line payment service, set up your utility account number and our address and phone number and allow your bank to make the payment for you. Please keep in mind that your bank will prepare a hard check and usually takes four days to post. You do not want to be late with your payment because of the interest penalty charge.

New Treasurer. Our new City Treasurer Donald Judge is a resident of our City and a graduate of Oakland Park's Charter Local Government Academy (LGA) Class – a 12-week program designed to introduce involved citizens to the basic structure and operation of our City government. Although he is new to our City, Mr. Judge continues applying his financial acumen and expertise of 30 years of Financial Public Service.

Survey. Once the new programs are in effect, the City will conduct a

survey to help us serve you better. The survey will be brief, but very important to providing you with the utility service you deserve and expect.

Contact Information: Treasurer Donald Judge can be reached Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 954.630.4280 and by e-mail at donaldj@oaklandparkfl.org. Acting Utility & Billing Services Manager is Geneva Burgess, same telephone number and genevab@oaklandparkfl.org.

Residents Can Now Report Potential Code Violations On-Line from the City's Website

As part of the City's ongoing Performance Improvement initiative to be more "customer friendly," residents have been provided with access to an easy on-line system to register possible City Code violations which can then be investigated by the City's Code Enforcement officers in a prompt and efficient manner.

The City's website (www.oaklandparkfl.org) has this direct link on its homepage and the Code Enforcement page which connects to the online E-code system. This will make it easy and convenient for residents to enter a potential code violation against any address in the City.

To report/investigate an address, you will be asked to enter numbers or names only (no Street, Terrace, Avenue, etc. and no N.E. or N.W.) in two (2) boxes:

1. HOUSE NUMBER: Enter ONLY the house NUMBER
2. STREET NAME: Enter ONLY the number/name of the street

EXAMPLE:

To enter the address of Oakland Park City Hall (3650 N.E. 12 Avenue)

1. HOUSE NUMBER: 3650
2. STREET NAME: 12

Then click on "Find Address" and this is where the addresses will be broken down by Street, Terrace, Avenue, etc. Click on the address you are reporting/investigating.

We hope in time that everyone will become comfortable in using this system as an additional way to report/track Code Violations. Residents can continue call Code Enforcement at 954-630-4400.

This new feature has been brought you by the City of Oakland Park and your elected officials.

OAKLAND PARK COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Incorporated in 1929, Oakland Park is a friendly community where people make the difference. Our residents enjoy 154 acres of parks, an award winning recreation department, an outstanding library facility, and renewed redevelopment.

Frequently called numbers

Emergency (police, fire and medical calls)..... 911

Police Department (non-emergency).....	954-561-6111
Fire Department (non-emergency).....	954-630-4550
Mayor and Commission/City Hall.....	954-630-4200
City Manager's Office.....	954-630-4200
City Clerk.....	954-630-4300
Human Resources Department.....	954-630-4313
Customer Service (Water/Sewer).....	954-630-4280
Building/Permitting Department.....	954-630-4350
Occupational Licenses.....	954-630-4337
Code Enforcement.....	954-630-4400
Parks & Recreation.....	954-630-4500
Spiher Recreation Center.....	954-630-4495
Active Adults Program.....	954-630-4494
Dillon Tennis Center.....	954-561-6180
Library.....	954-630-4370

Community Development Department....	954-630-4333
Finance Department.....	954-630-4250
N. Andrews Gardens Community Center	954-938-0619
Public Works After Hours Line.....	954-561-6275
Comcast (cable).....	954-252-1937
Broward County Schools.....	954-765-6000
Drivers License Office (Ft. Laud.).....	954-497-1570
Hazardous Waste, North Area Station.....	954-765-4999
Poison Control.....	800-282-3171
Post Office.....	800-275-8777
Social Security.....	800-772-1213
Taxes - Property Appraiser.....	954-357-6830
Taxes - Revenue Collection.....	954-765-4697
Wildlife Care Center.....	954-524-4302
First Call for Help.....	211
Broward Emergency Operations Center...	954-831-4000

OAKLAND PARK *the Beautiful*

Submit Photos of the Most Scenic Spots in Oakland Park

The staff of "The Oakleaf" is grateful for the positive response to our new feature entitled "Oakland Park the Beautiful." We have received a variety of outstanding photos showing some of the beauty found in the City of Oakland Park and welcome more submissions. Photos may be from a park, a yard, a waterway or any other scenic spot in Oakland Park. We will be happy to provide you with a photo credit and include contact information. This issue's photographers include clockwise from top right: Gary Short (Royal Palm Park lakes), Jan McLane (NE 16 Ave.), Patricia Evans (Oakland Forest), Gary Short and "Peggy" (Royal Palm Park). To submit your favorite photos of Oakland Park, please e-mail to davidr@oaklandparkfl.org



3650 NE 12th Avenue, Oakland Park, FL 33334 • www.oaklandparkfl.org • 954-630-4200

Steven R. Arnst, *Mayor*
Larry Gierer, *Vice Mayor*
Layne Dallett Walls, *Commissioner*
Suzanne Boisvenue, *Commissioner*
Allegra Webb Murphy, *Commissioner*

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