

August 2007

# SoRoPA Neighbors

## News of Note:

- Boardwalk at Veterans Park to be removed
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oktoberfest Celebration planned for October 6, 2007
- City Budget to be presented for approval
- Amoco Station Returns to Commission
- Code Enforcement Department goes online. Check the city website:

[www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org)

## Individual Highlights:

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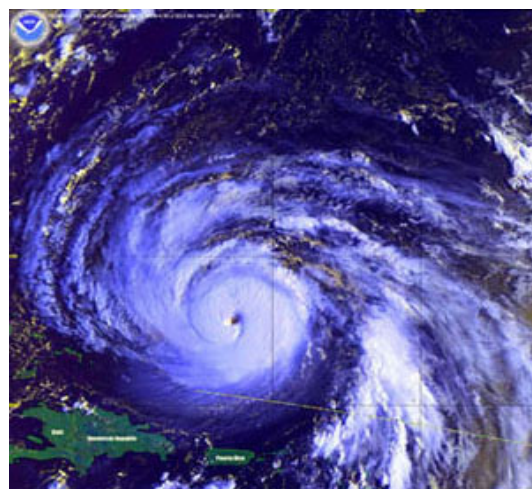
## Neighborhood Meeting – August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 7:30 pm – Fire Station

### Tentative Topics:

- Alternative Energy Discussion
- Hurricane Preparedness and Emergency Planning
- Preliminary City Budget
- Amoco Station, Update
- Other topics as suggested by you, the residents!

### Speakers to include:

- ❖ Lynn Shattas, FPL Representative, to discuss the recent outage issues
- ❖ Oakland Park BSO Update



## Are You Prepared For The Season???

We have been fortunate so far to have a quiet hurricane season. Dry, then rainy, followed by hot – but quiet!

The Hurricane center has reduced their predictions BUT the season still has three months remaining. Do you have your Emergency Supplies on Hand?

### Emergency Supply Kit:

- [Water](#), one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- [Food](#), at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- [First aid kit](#)
- Whistle to signal for help
- [Dust mask](#), to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

(continued next page)

## Additional Items to Consider Adding to your Emergency Supply Kit:



Our Neighborhood Website:  
[www.neighborhodlink.com/op/soropa](http://www.neighborhodlink.com/op/soropa)

***It's Hurricane Season  
Be Prepared for Hurricanes  
now.***

***Go to the City Website for the  
2007 Broward County  
Hurricane Preparedness  
Guide.***

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



## Block Representatives *(Contact your rep with questions & comments)*

32nd Ct - Karen Nagy, 1980 NW 32<sup>nd</sup> Ct., (954)609-8845

31st St. & 32nd St – Dennis & Gwen Cox, 1851 NW 32nd St , (954) 730-7254

33rd Ct. - Richard & Jean Bernhardt, 1851 NW 33rd Ct, (954) 486-4057

33rd St. - Hope Gold, 1940 NW 33rd St, (954) 684 0638

34th St. - Anne & Steve Sallee, 1971 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St, (954) 717-3090

35th & 36th St. - Al Wakefield & Marshall Belmaine, (954) 714-0758, 1920 NW 36<sup>th</sup> St.

21st Ave - Paul Spearing & Louis Weinberg, 3520 NW 21st Ave, (954) 733 9871-H & (954) 579 9662-C



## **“SAVE OUR HOMES” vs “SUPER EXEMPTION”???**

By Anne Sallee

I recently met with Lori Parrish, Property Tax Appraiser, to discuss the proposed Property Tax Amendments, the “Super Exemption.” Essentially while the proposed plan is far from perfect, it is a step and we the voters have an opportunity to express our feelings at the polls. As Thomas Jefferson said, *“Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone.”* It is up to the people to keep their government on the right track and to communicate with them to let them know what they should be doing!

The amendment that is on the ballot in January only affects homeowners who qualify for the “Save Our Home exemption. It does not address the concerns of businesses, landlords or “portability.” The proposed amendment may be a benefit for some homeowners, particularly those who have recently purchased a home and those who plan to buy in the near future. The Florida Association of Realtors has pledged one million dollars in support of this plan as a plan to encourage first time home buyers because of the initially larger homestead exemption, reducing the sticker shock of property tax bills. BUT ... remember that the property tax bill is only part of the story, it’s the result of two calculations.

While it sounds like something may have been done to solve the skyrocketing tax issue, the figures tell a far different story for many of us.

Much of the cloud over the present and proposed property tax method is due to a lack of understanding as to how property taxes are calculated. Florida’s property’s tax figure is determined by two things: the property’s taxable value and the tax rates (millage rate) of the city or municipality in which the property is located.

The millage rate is set by the taxing authority and is determined by the budget developed and adopted by the taxing authority, in our case, the City of Oakland Park. The assessed value is determined by the property tax assessor. If the property assessment values are higher, as they will be with the “Super Exemption” and the millage rates remain the same, the taxing authority will have greater income. Conversely, if the taxable values of the properties are lower, the millage rate can be increased to meet the budget. Are you confused yet? **It’s quite a taxing shell game we participate in!**

The Broward County Property Appraiser has put a “Super Exemption Calculator” on the BCPA website. Go to **[www.BCPA.net](http://www.BCPA.net)** and find your property. Click on the link at the top of the page, which will take you to a chart that shows, over the next 25 years, how the property taxes for your home compare with the “Save Our Homes” calculation versus the “Super Exemption.”

## **Oak Tree Golf Course Update**

The Oak Tree Golf Club has closed its doors. It is believed that the proposed developers plan to close on their purchase of the property around the end of 2007.

There are several issues being investigated for the proposed development. A major concern is the environmental condition of the greens which are alleged to be contaminated with arsenic and other toxins.

The plan for the development has been revised to include a Commercial Property, a charter school and slightly less dense residential development with a park bordering NW 44<sup>th</sup> St.

The property has not yet been rezoned and no proposal has been submitted to the city to do so.

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*Have you checked out the City website?*

[www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org)

*Its chock full of valuable information!*

## **Reports from the City Manager's Office - FYI - July 25, 2007**

### **Engineering and Community Development - Oak Tree Golf Course**

Representatives of the Oak Tree Golf Course developer met with staff from ECD and Parks and Recreation on Tuesday, July 24th to discuss a new approach to the proposed redevelopment of the Oak Tree Golf Course. Purportedly in response to staff's initial comments at the first meeting which was held on April 25th, the proposed plan has been changed significantly. A commercial component has been added to the plan which consists of "service oriented office uses" comprising approximately 17.5 acres along Prospect Road, with the residential component to follow.

The reasons for the proposed change in concept were given as the City's request to provide a ten acre park along 44th Street; the need to do additional research on levels of contamination on the golf course and current market conditions. We were also informed that the Land Use Plan Amendment application from Open Space to Commercial could be submitted in the next few weeks.

In attendance were:

- Ali Waldman, attorney
- Lisa Maxwell, Charter Schools USA
- Howard Jablon, AJ Hydro Engineering
- Harris Hamid, ECD
- Brian Pagliaro, Parks and Recreation
- Reagan Yarbrough, ECD
- Donna Stuart, ECD

Other issues discussed at the meeting were as follows:

- ♦ Submission requirements for the Land Use Plan Amendment and Plat.
- ♦ Proposed use of the property as office being a low traffic generator.
- ♦ Future phases of development including:
  - ♦ Residential at 6 units per acre.
  - ♦ Park site
  - ♦ Possible school site.
- ♦ Access to 44th Street as a very sensitive issue.
- ♦ Drainage via a controlled structure with connection to canal is crucial.

City staff stressed that comments issued for the April 25th preliminary review still apply, and that Phase I and II Environmental Assessments needed to be submitted with the LUPA/Plat applications. The applicant indicated that they were reconsidering the inclusion of a school site with options including no school site or possibly a charter school which would require less acreage. Staff reminded the applicant that they would need to provide evidence for the need of a school in terms of current and projected capacity of neighboring elementary schools. The meeting concluded with the applicant's assessment that the science of the environmental analysis with regard to the golf course is the most critical and time consuming issue facing this project.

### **Planning and Zoning Division of the Engineering and Community Development Department**

• The Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan was adopted by the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District in February of 2007. Within eighteen months, the City must adopt amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and prepare 10 Year Water Supply Facility Work Plans by identifying specific water supply projects which will meet projected future needs. Staff from ECD and Public Works will be working with our engineering consultants as well as the City of Fort Lauderdale, who is our water supplier, to complete this project on time.

- In response to notification that his client's lease of city property adjacent to Roxanne's Bar would not be renewed, the attorney for Roxanne's (formally Oakland Park Café) has inquired if the City would accept a donation of improvements made by Oakland Park Café which consist of a 20x 50 foot steel reinforced vinyl awning, 1000 square feet of brick pavers and landscaping consisting of palm trees and other plants. Staff is currently evaluating this offer.

## **Parks & Leisure Services**

**ActiveNet** - Staff is busy populating the ActiveNet software program with names and addresses of past program participants in preparation of going live in early September. ActiveNet is a internet based program that will enable residents to register and pay for Parks and Leisure Services programs on-line and in the comfort of their own home or office. This customer friendly program would simply require the user to open an account with us and provide proof of residency. Once this requirement is met, they can register for youth soccer, view facility reservations with easier access, or receive e-mails of upcoming program and events. Look for this exciting new software program to begin in early September.

**Athletics** - Staff has coordinated maintenance efforts at the NEHS Athletic Complex in preparation of the upcoming NE Rebels Tackle Football season. Renovations included field repairs, installation of portable goal posts, and painting. In addition, staff has scheduled the first NYSCA volunteer coaches clinic on August 15 for the upcoming youth flag football and cheerleading programs. This was done through a \$1000 Daniels Fund and in partnership with the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

**Safe Haven for Newborns** - The Parks & Leisure Services Department in partnership with the Fire Department and Broward Sheriff's Office is devising a plan of action to educate all middle and high school students in Oakland Park and promote awareness for the Safe Haven for Newborns program. Staff will be also coordinating with the School Advisory Board for support in the schools and brainstorming alternative ways of student outreach.

**Sand Pine Preserve** - In order to increase use and programming at Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve, staff met with representatives from Kids Ecology Corps, a not for profit environmental education organization.

Many partnership opportunities were identified and staff plan to solicit schools in Oakland Park for interest in field trips and programs that highlight the unique habitat found at the preserve.

Phase one and two of landscape renovations were completed by Parks Division staff at the SW corner of City Hall. Using wholesale plants and our in-house expertise resulted in much savings to the City. Phase three and four (to be completed separately) will come in the very near future and will tie in a neat and consistent appearance at the cornerstone of our City.

## **Unusual Events:**

- On Saturday, July 14, ten team members from the Community Volunteers met at Royal Palm Park for a mock hurricane drill. Greg Lewis assisted with the drill.

- On July 14, 16:52 Squirt 9 responded to a brush fire. On arrival, SQ9 found that some mulch was on fire. SQ9 extinguished a very small fire that was in the landscape.

- On July 17, 13:37 Oakland Park Fire Rescue responded to a residential structure fire. The origin of the fire was in the laundry room located on the north side and east wall of the residence. There was a propane gas heater in this room with an accumulation of clothes piled around the base of the hot water heater. The cause was the heat from the flame and lack of ventilation. The owners were not home at the time of the fire, but the house suffered major damage.

- On July 19, 5:49 Oakland Park Fire Rescue responded to a warehouse fire. The fire was located in an outside meter room in the rear of the building. There were approximately 5 automotive tires in the room and they were burnt almost completely. There was paint damage to a car just south of the opening as a result of the fire. Battalion 9 established command and control of activities.

- On July 20, 8:53 Oakland Park Fire Rescue responded to the City of Lauderhill Flea Market. The unit was assigned to the operations section for assignments. Quint 87's assignment was to survey the roof of the fire building from the Quint's ladder for damage.

- On July 20, 10:55 Quint 87 responded to a recreational vehicle on fire. Upon arrival, found small RV fully engulfed. Fire appeared to have started in the living area of the vehicle not in the engine compartment. The fire was extinguished with foam from Q87 without incident.



- On July 21, 18:59. Squirt 9 arrived to a Mitsubishi Eclipse with fire in the engine compartment. Occupant was outside the vehicle and unharmed.

#### **Specialized Training:**

- On Monday, July 16 all firefighter personnel commenced three week water rescue training. Upon completion of this water rescue class, participants will be able to demonstrate proper water entry procedures to effectively conduct water rescue; how to identify and react to such situations accordingly. The firefighters will be able to familiarize themselves with the equipment needed and utilize it properly. Also, they will be able to recognize and treat spinal injuries at any facility, including: pool, aquatic part, lake, etc. This training will also cover proper procedures for removing both conscious and unconscious victims from bodies of water. The training will take place at Northeast

High School pool and the instructors are FF Vaughn and FF Gonzalez.

#### **Public Education events:**

##### **Employee Information:**

- Fire Rescue would like to extend a warm welcome to our new firefighter Talia Sandola, who was hired on July 19.
- Kudos to Fire Inspector John Preston. Last Sunday July 15, John was traveling on the turnpike when he pulled over to assist a vehicle that had crashed into the guard rails. John was the only driver to pull over in the rain. John asked if both passengers were alright and they replied they were, but John could see that there was something wrong with one of the passengers. John went to his truck and returned with his emergency kit and treated the passenger as she was suffering from shock and hyperventilation. John treated her until Fire Rescue arrived and called for Florida Highway Patrol as well. A job well done!

#### **Fire Safety Tip of the week:**

In addition to working smoke detectors, every household should have UL listed fire extinguishers strategically placed in rooms such as the kitchen, garage, or workshop. Fire extinguishers are useful for putting out small fires, but recognize your limits and the limits of the extinguisher! Your first step is to call 911.

Never fight a fire unless you are certain that you know how to use the extinguisher properly and that the fire is not blocking your only exit. For more important information on portable fire extinguishers, including what type to purchase, please contact your Oakland Park Fire Prevention Division at 954.630.4544. Excellent information can also be found at the following website,

<http://www.fire-extinguisher101.com>

#### **Broward Sheriff's Office, Oakland Park District**

On July 19, 2007 Oakland Park deputies conducted a warrant sweep searching for violent juvenile felony offenders who are on probation. During the initiative, deputies located 6 probation violators and ensured their incarceration. Another offender sweep will be conducted in August (TBA)

Deputy Debra Wallace will continue to remain assigned to Code Enforcement however her duties will primarily be focused on complex code violations as well as public safety/law enforcement concerns where criminal prosecution could result for major code violations.

Chief Bukata and Director Hamid are coordinating their efforts to implement a strategy to ensure the success of this interdepartmental initiative which is designed to enhance public safety. This initiative is also in accordance with the Cities Strategic Plan as a Strategic Performance Area.

Due to the number of traffic crashes with trains throughout Broward County as well as within the State, beginning Monday July 23, Oakland Park District Deputies began conducting zero tolerance enforcement actions at the various railroad crossings throughout the City. Deputies will be operational conducting this dedicated enforcement throughout the week. Times and specific locations of the enforcement will vary based upon traffic conditions in areas with railroad tracks. It is expected that the morning and afternoon rush hours will be the focus of enforcement times although deputies will be operational throughout the day from Monday to Friday July 27th.

Oakland Park Deputies and Oakland Park Code Enforcement Officers worked in conjunction on a quality of life initiative within North Andrews

Gardens South. The operation will begin on Wednesday, July 18th and ran through Sunday, July 22. Deputies expended 74 hours on the initiative and members of the C.O.P. provided 15 hours of patrol services. Other enforcement actions included 135 watch cards (crime prevention) distributed, 25 speeding tickets generated by deputies with radar guns, 19 other traffic citations (moving and non-moving), 7 total arrests with 2 of those being felony offenses. Neighborhood Response Team conducted 3 business security surveys and also attended one homeowner's association meeting. North Andrews Gardens North will be the focus on the next quality of life initiative to occur in August (TBA).

In order to combat auto burglaries which are occurring throughout the city but more specifically at gyms and large businesses such as Lowe's and Home Depot, undercover Oakland Park deputies have conducted several days of surveillance at various locations. During the initiative, deputies arrested one individual who was lurking in the parking lot at Lowe's looking into vehicles. When confronted by deputies, the individual was found to be in possession of a screwdriver. He was also found to have an active warrant for armed burglary. He was arrested. Further surveillance operations are continuing.

**Detectives Timothy Metz and Brian Rupp** are commended for their proactive role in apprehending two suspects caught in the act of committing a vehicle burglary. During undercover surveillance in an area where car burglaries had increased, both detectives observed a car burglary in progress. Upon approaching the burglars, they ran from detectives but were quickly apprehended. One of the suspects was additionally charged with grand theft and dealing in stolen property at a pawn shop in an unrelated burglary. Both detectives are recognized as the Oakland Park Districts Employees of the Month for July 2007.

On July 25 Oakland Park Deputies along with detectives from BSO's Career Criminal Unit and the State Department of Probation and Parole will conduct checks and searches of all sexual offenders residing in the City of Oakland Park who are on some sort of probation or other sanction of the court requiring supervision. This Oakland Park District initiative will be lead by Sgt. Kelvin Phillips. Other participants were Deputy Daniel Richter and Deputy Michele Miller who have taken on the additional responsibility over and above their assignment in patrol to conduct all investigations and checks on the sexual offenders residing in Oakland Park.

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## **Wanted:**

**Ideas, suggestions, questions?**

**Is there a topic you would like to see discussed at the monthly meetings? Who would you like to have come speak to us?**

**IMPORTANT NOTE** - Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at noon, there will be a tour of the Broward County Traffic Engineering Facility on Commercial Blvd. If you are reading this before that time, call me at 954-253-0850, if you would like to join us.

**And an important reminder - If you suspect danger, a crime in action or want fast attention, call 911. If you have a funny feeling about something and just want a second pair of eyes to check it out, call BSO's non-emergency line at (954) 765-4321. If you can't get through, call the Oakland Park Station non-emergency number at (954) 561-6111**

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

## 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! **We repeat, To Have FUN!!!**



**Please Join Us!**

**Your Neighborhood Organization meets at the Fire Station  
the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.