

June 2007

# SoRoPa Neighbors

South Royal Palm Acres Neighbors United, Oakland Park, Florida

## Neighborhood Meeting June 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm - Fire Station

### Items of Note:

Oakland Park City website:

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

### Oakland Park Concert and Jazz Band is Seeking Musicians

Interested musicians  
are invited to contact  
Patrick

[pf1111@aol.com](mailto:pf1111@aol.com) /

(954) 536-1928 or

Jennifer –

[Jennifer39@aol.com](mailto:Jennifer39@aol.com) /

(954) 564-3844

### Oakland Park City Hall

3650 NE 12 Avenue  
Oakland Park, Florida  
33334

Phone: (954) 630-4200

### Oakland Park Library

1298 NE 37 Street  
M-W-F & Sat.

9 am - 5:30 pm

Tues. & Thurs

12 pm - 9:00 pm.

(954) 630-4364

### Oakland Park Library

#### Tip of the Day!

If our city library doesn't  
stock the book you want,  
ask them. They will get  
it through interlibrary  
loan or purchase it!  
They also have DVD's &  
CD's to borrow!!!

### Tentative Topics:

- Oakland Park's Budget & Strategic Initiative
- NW 44 St Connector, NW 21<sup>st</sup> Ave to 441 & Oak Tree
- Broward Beautiful Grant for Entryway Design for Neighborhood?
- Broward County Traffic Planning Trip

## Oakland Park's 2008 Budget & Strategic Initiative

This has been a busy month in Oakland Park. The City Managers office and the Commissioners have been struggling with the potential budget cuts as well as the city's strategic initiative. The proposed budget using a 25% cut across the board is in the library for public review. Watch the upcoming Commission Meetings for the Details.

## Northwest 44th St. – Oak Tree Golf Course Property Update

You may have noticed traffic study strips out on the roads in our area a couple of weeks ago.

The initial traffic study was done before the opening of NW 44<sup>th</sup> St. The intention was to do a second study three months after the opening. It was determined that the three month mark fell after the closing of school which may have skewed the study somewhat. The timing of the second study was moved forward so as to include traffic resulting from school attendance. It is unclear when the next study will be scheduled.

The potential purchasers/developers of the Oak Tree property have unofficially submitted their initial proposal for the development of the 140 acre golf course property. Their plan includes approximately 1000 homes (single family and townhomes) and a large school, leaving two very small bodies of water but otherwise utilizing the entire property. The response from the city seems indicative of the beginning of an approval process.

Our commissioners have let it be known that the decision must be made at the County level not at their level as to whether or not to rezone the land from recreational to residential. There is still a grave threat to the quality of life in our neighborhood if this zoning change is made. Please contact both the City Commissioners and the County Commissioners to let them know how you feel about this.

## **Oakland Park - 2007/2008 – City Commission**

**Larry Gierer, Mayor**

**Layne Dallett Walls, Vice Mayor**

**Steven R. Arnst, Commissioner**

**Allegra Webb Murphy, Commissioner**

**Suzanne Boisvenue, Commissioner**

www.oaklandparkfl.org



### **WATER MANAGERS UPHOLD CONTINUED WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Don't forget the tightened water restrictions. Citations are being issued and fines will be applicable – if you have any questions, see the city website at [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org)



## **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, 1920 NW 36<sup>th</sup> St., (954) 714-0758

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



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

## **Want to get involved in our city?**

In addition to the city boards, there are a number of areas just waiting for your contribution!

**Oakland Park Emergency Volunteers**

**Oakland Park COPS (Citizens on Patrol)**

**Oakland Park Historical Society**

**Friends of the Library**

**Oakland Park Environmental Protection Society (new group forming)**

**Contact City Hall or check the city website for more information**



# ***DID YOU KNOW?***

## ***OAKLAND PARK HISTORY – Part II***

(compiled by Renee Shrout)

### **How did Oakland Park get its name?**

Oakland Park earned its name from the massive oak trees that lined the Middle River when the community was established.

### **What popular industry was once slated for operation in the City?**

A movie studio was planned for construction within Oakland Park by Miami based Screen Talent Studios in 1922. A 10 acre plot was purchased at a cost of \$3,000,000 to establish a Greenwich type village to house the production crew for the studios. In August 1922, Miami Movie Magazine started a 30 day subscription campaign that gave away a lot of land in Oakland Park with each subscription sold.

### **What year was Oakland Park incorporated?**

The City of Oakland Park was incorporated in 1929. However, the subdivision of Oakland Park was established in 1923. The opening of the subdivision was celebrated with a barbecue with an estimated attendance of 5,000 people from Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Despite offers from Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, the citizens of Oakland Park agreed that the community could be run more efficiently as an independent city.

### **Which school in Oakland Park is the oldest school in Broward County?**

Oakland Park Elementary, founded in 1925, is the oldest school in Broward County still in operation. In 1926, the school was used as shelter for local residents during the catastrophic hurricane that ripped through South Florida. The school is listed on the National Register of Historic Places due to its significant contribution to the region's history and heritage.

### **What famous Country Club was once developed in Oakland Park?**

In 1925, Oakland Park was incorporated into the now defunct Floranada Club Development. The resort was billed as a residential and resort community intended to rival Palm Beach. Plans for the resort included two 18-hole golf courses, a polo field, an aviation field, tennis courts, and a waterfront yacht club. The city's most renowned residents included John S. Pillsbury, Agnew J. Dice, President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, and the Earl and Countess of Lauderdale of London. Bankruptcy and the devastating damage caused by the 1926 hurricane brought forth the end of the development.

(Look for more installments in future months)



### ***Broward County Traffic Engineering Facility Tour***

For those who expressed an interest, I should have details of the planned trip to Broward County Traffic Engineering to see the facility and get a preview of the new traffic management measures being put in place. If you are unable to attend the meeting, contact me by email at [aesallee@yahoo.com](mailto:aesallee@yahoo.com) or call me at (954) 253-0850. - Anne

**Please Join Us!**  
**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.

## **What is SoRoPa Neighbors?**

South Royal Palm Acres Neighbors United is a neighborhood group focused on improving the quality of life for our residents through 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.*
- ***... and most important - To Have Fun!***

***FYI***  
***May 9, 2007***

**Fire Rescue.**

**Fire-Rescue Station 20 Improvements:** In addition to interior renovations that includes separate sleeping quarters for firefighters, the exterior of this station received protective paint. The color scheme was selected to blend with adjacent neighborhood.

**Celebrating Our Success:** Oakland Park Fire-Rescue celebrates 65 years of service with special employee recognition and refreshments, May 25, 2007, 6-8 P.M., Collins Center.

**New Fire-Rescue Vehicles:** Final pre-delivery inspection of our new rescue (EMS transport) vehicles will occur next week with delivery anticipated in June.

**City Disaster Exercise:** Broward County Emergency Management Agency facilitated a simulated disaster exercise May 4th in our Emergency Operations Center. The exercise tested our abilities to assess and mitigate numerous critical incidents related to a Category 3 hurricane and significant transportation accidents. The exercise tested the application of the City's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan with specific emphasis on the National Incident Management System.

**Cherry Creek Dredging Project.**

Commissioner Boisvenue, City Manager John Stunson and staff: Harris Hamid, Harvey Rambarath, and Marie Elianor, meet with affected residents (attached is a list of residents attending.) on May 9, 2007 to discuss the Cherry Creek Dredging project. The meeting was a frank yet constructive discussion of how to address the accumulation of sedimentation in Cherry Creek; protection of the natural reserve, health of the Coral Lakes; and storm water flow. Additional reviews of environmental issues will be performed by appropriate personnel etc prior to the submission of any project plan and or permit application to the County. The City and residents are committed to working together to find an amenable solution(s) that addresses the problems and preserve the Cherry Creek natural habitat.

**North Ridge Medical Center** has completed its final inspection and they have fire sprinklers throughout the entire facility. When the Medical Center was built in the mid 1970's they were not required to have fire sprinklers. Over the years the fire codes changed and they were required to install the system. In May of 2001 an agreement was drafted, a time line was established requiring compliance, and work began. Whenever they remodeled or constructed an area of the hospital, sprinklers were installed. During this time our staff worked diligently with the different Engineers, Contractors and personnel involved. We are pleased to announce the Life Safety Systems installed have made this entire facility safer for patients, employees and visitors.

**Parks & Recreation.**

The City of Oakland Park is pleased to announce that we are designated as a 2007 Take Me Fishing Park Community. This opportunity, provided to us by a partnership between RBFF (Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation and NRPA (National Recreation & Parks Association) provides the City with \$1,000 to implement education and/or programming

related to boating and fishing. Additional resources include educational material, networking opportunities, technical tools and resources and access to online trainings. We are excited to bring this opportunity to the community.

**Great News!!** We will be implementing a new camp location this summer, which will allow us to clear our waiting list of 58 resident campers.

Our locations will be as follows:

**North Andrews Garden** - Ages 5-7 (100 kids)

**Collins Community Center** - Ages 8-12 (175 kids)

**Sphier Recreation Center - Ages 8-12 (75 kids) - NEW SITE!**

**Royal Palm Park** - Ages 13-15 (30 kids)

**Parks and Recreation** has been working with Lynn McCaffrey and Human Resources for hiring additional camp staff. We will be finalizing this in the next day or so and calling the waiting list to notify them of the opportunity. We look forward to being able to better serve the community.

**Beginning on June 4th**, the Parks & Recreation Department office hours will be extended to 8:00am - 7:00pm Monday - Friday. This will allow participants easier access to register for programs, gather information and/or speak to a staff member about our services.

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

1. At the Commission meeting of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Commissioner Arnst mentioned that there was a quality of life concern between Royal Palm Park and the School Board facility on NW 38 St. Oakland Park deputies immediately conducted checks of the area and verified that a homeless camp was erected in the marshland. The community concern was resolved on May 8 by Deputy Debra Wallace and Deputy Ira Rubinstein who coordinated with the School Board and also BSO's Inmate Work Crew who cleaned the area to make it a safe location. The BSO Work Crew also cleaned other locations in the city which were overgrown with vegetation.
2. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Chief Bukata and Lieutenant Allan Hubrig met with Derek Stein Assistant Administrator of the Life Skills Centers of Broward County (2360 W. Oakland Park Blvd) and toured the facility. This facility is a charter school for students with additional needs which traditional schools cannot regularly provide. The meeting and tour were conducted so that BSO Oakland Park is aware of the layout of the facility which opened in October 2006.
3. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chief Bukata, Lieutenant Allan Hubrig, and Sergeant Adam Rubin attended the Broward County Department of Transportation Traffic Incident Management Meeting. The BSO/Oakland Park District was recognized for our assistance in the recent fatal traffic crash and fire incident on I-95 at Atlantic Blvd where our deputies were the first responders. This is the incident where Deputy Gina Bascone risked her life to save the life of the truck driver. Deputy Bascone will be recognized at the city commission meeting of May 16. Deputy Bascone also has been nominated for the BSO Gold Cross Award which is the highest award a deputy sheriff can receive in the agency. FDOT presented BSO/Oakland Park with a letter of Commendation and a framed certificate of appreciation.
4. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Chief Bukata and Lieutenant Linda Canada-Stuck attended the "8<sup>th</sup> Annual

Rebuilding Together Day” project in the City of Oakland Park. This one day event, held nationally by Rebuilding Together, brought approximately 200-300 volunteers to Oakland Park to refurbish 13 separate locations within the Harlem McBride neighborhood. The mission of Rebuilding Together is to restore safety and a sanitary environment to families with children living in poverty, as well as to the elderly and disabled. Several deputies, including the Mounted Patrol, the Oakland Park Motors Unit and bicycle patrol, provided security in and around the event. COP volunteers assisted with traffic control and parking issues.

5. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Chief Bukata, Lieutenant Allan Hubrig, and Sergeant Richard LaCerra met with Mr. Daniel Sanchez of Crystal Lake Condos to discuss security plans he has implemented since he recently became their Management Director for Security.
6. On May 1, BSO/Oakland Park received a letter of appreciation from Enrique M. Suarez who is the Postmaster of the United States Post Office. This letter expressed appreciation to BSO/Oakland Park in providing Oakland Park deputies to the Main Post Office facility on W. Oakland Park Blvd to assist with traffic control and security for the facility and their customers.

**Street Closure.** Please be aware that Oakland Park Blvd. will be closed TO ALL TRAFFIC and under construction at NE 6th avenue for the following four (4) weekends from Friday at 9:00 PM till Monday at 5:00 AM starting May 11, 2007. The planned dates of closures are:

- Friday, May 11, 2007, from 9:00 PM to Monday, May 14, 2007, at 5:00 AM.
- Friday, May 18, 2007, from 9:00 PM to Monday, May 21, 2007, at 5:00 AM.
- Friday, May 25, 2007, from 9:00 PM to Monday, May 28, 2007, at 5:00 AM.
- Friday, June 01, 2007, from 9:00 PM to Monday, June 04, 2007, at 5:00 AM.

Construction detour signs will be in place prior to the closure. Local traffic access will be allowed. Eastbound thru traffic will be detoured at N. Andrews Avenue and Westbound thru traffic will be detoured at N. Dixie Hwy

**City Continues to Graduate Employees from the Academy for Strategic Management at F.I.U.**

As part of our ongoing Performance Excellence Initiative, the City of Oakland Park continues to encourage employees to enroll in the “Academy for Strategic Management” at Florida International University in Miami. More than 10 employees representing various City departments, including the Office of the City Manager, City Clerk’s office, Financial Services, Fire-Rescue, Information Technology, Parks & Recreation and Public Works. In addition, City Manager John Stunson serves as an Academy Advisory and Assistant City Manager Chuck Schwabe serves as a Volunteer Instructor. The commitment from participants involves classes at 8 a.m. on Saturday mornings. The Mission of the Academy is to train and develop senior managers in state-of-the-art strategic management techniques and ethical leadership skills throughout Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties to enable them to become change agents within their organization. The objectives of the program are fourfold: 1). To enhance professional management practices 2). To train an expanding cadre of professional managers 3). To professionalize local government administration 4). To develop a network of public/nonprofit managers. To learn more about the Academy for Strategic Management, please contact Assistant to the City Manager at **954-630-4205**.

## **'Relay for Life' at Northeast High School on May 19 to Benefit the American Cancer Society**

With less than two weeks before the American Cancer Society's annual "Relay for Life" event scheduled at Northeast High School, there is still plenty of time to join the City's team led by Honorary Chairman Mayor Larry Gierer. Relay For Life® is a fun-filled overnight event designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer in our community. At the event, we celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society in its mission to save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times. We have added a link to the City's website (Click on Calendar of Events and then Relay for Life on May 19) which allows for safe and easy on-line donations or you can cut and past this link on your web browser:

<https://www.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp?ievent=205486&team=1962210>

For additional information, please contact Team Captain Susan Fairchild at **954-630-4318**.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

2007 Broward Senior Hall of Fame  
Honoring Commissioner Allegra Webb Murphy  
Diamante's Banquet Center  
6501 West Commercial Blvd.  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### **Saturday, May 19, 2007**

Youth Basketball Clinic Series  
Dr. Carter G. Woodson Park  
3490 N.W. 26th Street  
City of Oakland Park

#### **Friday, May 18, 2007**

Teen Dance  
Collins Community Center from 7pm – 10pm

#### **Saturday, May 26, 2007 at 10:00 AM**

Meet Your Commissioner  
Vice Mayor Layne Dallett Walls  
Oakland Park Library  
1298 NE 37th Street  
City of Oakland Park

#### **Saturday, June 2, 2007**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Broward County Hurricane Preparedness Expo  
Broward County EOC