



53rd Annual Youth Day a Sunny Success

On Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20, the City of Oakland Park hosted the 53rd Annual Youth Day celebration. This year's theme was "Superheroes". Nearly 15,000 people attended the two-day extravaganza.

On Friday, members of the City's Census 2010 Complete Count Committee hosted and celebrated along with several hundred residents comprising all ages of the City's diverse community at "Census Night" during Oakland Park's Annual Youth Day Event.

Friday's entertainment included the North An-

draws Gardens Elementary School Magnet School of the Arts who performed with their 5th Grade dance group and the "Pizzazz Show Choir" and the "World Music Express" trio that performed music and dance renditions from the various South American, Caribbean and Latin American countries that were well represented in the crowd. Also, hundreds of children enjoyed the carnival rides and games until 10 p.m. when the festival gates closed.

Youth Day continued on Saturday with the Annual Youth Day Parade which showcased colorful floats,

marching units and decorated vehicles. The Greensward Landscaping float took top honors as Batman passed out hot dogs and hamburgers along the parade route. Marching bands from four local schools, including Northeast High School, pounded out the rhythmic beat as the parade wound its way through Oakland Park, beginning at Northeast 17 Avenue and Oakland Park Boulevard and concluding at the Wimberly Field Athletic Complex.

Saturday's entertainment featured the Mai-Kai Polynesian Revue, the Florida Singing Sons



choir, the Northeast High School Jazz Ensemble and Forge and Trilogy featuring William Penn House. The "Miss Oakland Park" crown was awarded to

Kiley Ryan with Kimberly Peters and Kayla Latourrette named first and second runner-up respectively. Youth Day was capped off with a fantastic

fireworks display. Special thanks to more than 40 community volunteers who assisted to make Youth Day a success.

VICE MAYOR ANTHONY NIEDWIECKI ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

City of Oakland Park Vice Mayor Anthony Niedwiecki made a heartfelt speech at the April 7 City Commission meeting to announce his resignation.

"The obvious sad part of this is that I will leave one of the greatest jobs I have ever had—working as a City Commissioner here in Oakland Park. As such, I will have to resign my position effective June 1, 2010. I timed my announcement early to minimize the impact on the city. This announcement gives the city plenty of time to deal with finding a replacement for my commissioner seat and allows the election to fill that vacancy to coincide with another election," said Vice Mayor Niedwiecki.

Vice Mayor Niedwiecki became active with Oakland Park through his participation in the City's annual Local Government Academy (LGA). Upon his graduation from the LGA, he was appointed to the City's Planning and



Niedwiecki

Zoning Board and also served as President of the North Andrews Neighborhood Association and on the Oakland Park Main Street Board.

"I entered government as a community activist, fighting for equality and fighting to improve our City," Vice Mayor Niedwiecki stated. "I feel fortunate to have been able to take that fight to this dais, and I know that there are many new activists in town waiting to sit up here. As this Commission decides how to find a replacement, I hope you look for someone that shares our values and goals in making this a great City that is on the move. We need to foster and support new faces and new ideas. Most importantly, we need to make sure that all of our residents and businesses are heard in the process."

Tornado Touches Down in Oakland Park



At approximately 8:27 a.m. on March 29, the National Weather Service reported a tornado moved through an area of Oakland Park from the Royal Palm Condominiums (NW 38th Street) through the Lloyd Estates neighborhood and to the business area of NE 5th Avenue and NE 5th Terrace. The City received local and national media coverage and everyone is thankful there were not any serious injuries or the severe flooding which was common prior to Oakland Park's recent drainage improvement projects.

Mayor and City Commission

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Volunteer in Oakland Park

Are you aware of the many volunteer opportunities available to you in the City of Oakland Park? In honor of National Volunteer Week (April 18 – 24), Oakland Park is celebrating volunteers and encouraging the community to be a part of all the positive things going on in Oakland Park. Whether you want to roll up your sleeves and help clean up our waterways or judge in the local Youth Day parade, the City has something for everyone. Volunteer opportunities are available year round in various parts of the City. Each volunteer is required to complete an application and be screened



through a background check before participating in any volunteer opportunities. We hope you will make time in 2010 to be a part of your community. Questions? Contact the Parks and Leisure Services Department at **954-630-4500**. Information and applications can be found on the city's website: <http://www.oaklandparkfl.org/activities/volunteercorner/>.

Business Spotlight of the Month Feature

Oakland Park is home to many unique businesses and the variety of businesses, specialty shops, restaurants and large retailers reflects the diverse populations of our "City on the Move." With the City's thriving business community and easy access to major thoroughfares and roadways, Oakland Park's population often doubles or triples during daytime hours.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS: The Oakleaf would like to feature your Oakland Park business. Please e-mail us your story in 250 words or less telling readers about your business:

- **Why did you choose Oakland Park?**
- **What special service or product do you offer?**
- **Do you have a newsworthy promotion to share with our readers?**
- **How is your business unique?**

Please include a photo of your business façade and/or employees to: DavidR@oaklandparkfl.org **Note:** One submission will be drawn each month and may be edited for clarity and length.

Zaldiva is a retailer of new and vintage Pop Culture collectibles, comic books and memorabilia at its highly visible brick and mortar location at 331 East Commercial Boulevard in Oakland Park. Allen Bellman, of the original Timely Comics, now known as Marvel Comics, will be at Zaldiva's Oakland Park store for "Free Comic Book Day" on May 1 to sign autographs, do freelance drawings and tell stories of the history of the comic book industry.

"Free comic Book Day is a great idea. It can bring fans together and introduce the comic book store to those who are not comic

book fans", says Mr. Bellman.

The Comic Book Industry continues to get more attention daily, from comic books selling for \$1.5 million and becoming part of pop culture with many being adapted into movies such as "Watchmen," "Wanted," "Iron Man," "Spider-Man" and "X-Men Origins: Wolverine."

Zaldiva is also a licensed eBay drop-off center with full auction house capabilities where collections are bought and sold. For more information on Free Comic Book Day, please call **954-938-4133** or visit Zaldiva at www.zaldiva.com.

BROWARD EMERALD AWARDS RECOGNIZE OAKLAND PARK BUSINESS and HOMEOWNERS

The Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department recently recognized several businesses for their outstanding environmentally responsible business practices. The German Bread Haus (311 East Commercial Boulevard in Oakland Park) received an Emerald Award for their exceptional efforts in protecting the environment.

The Emerald Award program recognizes businesses for their voluntary efforts in four areas: waste reduction,

recycling, improved operating practices and other "green" strategies that reduce pollution and waste. Both large and small businesses are eligible.

The Emerald Awards program also includes a component to reward homeowners, governments and other groups that have incorporated NatureScape Broward techniques into their landscaping (Oakland Park City Hall was a past recipient of this award). NatureScape yards are designed to conserve water by using native

and drought tolerant plants in place of lawn; provide food, water and shelter for wildlife; use integrated pest control practices; reduce stormwater contamination caused by pesticides and fertilizers; and recycle yard waste into mulch and compost.

Oakland Park homeowners Richard Allen and Steve Grzywacz (both graduates of the City's Local Government Academy) were one of two NatureScape Emerald Award residential honorees in Broward County.

Oakland Park Library

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

All programs are FREE. Call 954-630-4372 for more information

MAY 3, 17

10 a.m. "Fired Up About Reading" Storytime. Come and meet an Oakland Park Fire Fighter as she/he shares stories with the children.

MAY 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27

3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Homework Help provided for elementary age students.

MAY 4

6:30 p.m. Family Night Puppet Show "My Mother is the Most Beautiful Woman in the World." Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 5

10 a.m. Puppet Show "My Mother is the Most Beautiful Woman in the World." Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 7

10 a.m. Toddler Time Puppet Show "My Mother is the Most Beautiful Woman in the World." Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 10, 24

10 a.m. Deputy Story Time. Come and meet a Broward Sheriff's Deputy as he shares stories with the children.

MAY 11

6:30 p.m. Family Night "Love You Forever" storytelling in celebration of Mothers everywhere. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 12

10 a.m. Toddler Stories "Love You Forever" storytelling in celebration of Mothers everywhere. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 14

10 a.m. Toddler Time "Love You Forever" with storyteller Miss Jo. Everyone is invited to attend.

MAY 18

6:30 p.m. Family Night "Mega Trucks" stories and crafts. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 19

10 a.m. "Mega Trucks" stories and crafts. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 21

10 a.m. Toddler Time "Mega Trucks" stories and crafts. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 25

6:30 p.m. Family Night "Share the Love: Sibling Stories." Children of all ages are invited to attend.

MAY 26

10 a.m. Toddler Time "Big Brother/ Sister" stories and celebration with Miss Jo.

MAY 28

10 a.m. Toddler Time "Big Brother/Sister" stories and celebration with storyteller Miss Jo. Everyone is invited to attend.

Parks and Leisure Services News

SUNSATONAL SUMMER CAMP

Are you looking for a safe, fun and exciting place for your kids this summer? Well, look no further! The City of Oakland Park is hosting a SunSational Summer Camp program. The program is available to children who have completed Kindergarten and will be entering 1st grade through age 14. The camp features indoor/outdoor games, bowling, swimming, field trips, sports instruction, arts and crafts, free lunch and much more. For more details, contact the Parks and Leisure Services Department for availability at **954-630-4500**. Registration for Summer Camp sessions began on April 12th so register your child for this fun and exciting program.

OPEN GYM at Rickard's Middle School started back up on April 14. The gym will be open for drop-in basketball Tuesday through Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$1 for entry into the gym.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Registrations are currently being accepted for Summer Youth Basketball. The program is open to boys and girls 7 to 16 years old (as of June 1). The cost is \$50 for residents and \$90 for non-residents. Scholarship opportunities are available for those who qualify. Please inquire at the Parks and Leisure Services administrative offices located at City Hall, 3650 NE 12 Avenue between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by calling **954-630-4500**.

MEN'S SOCCER

There are currently 12 teams playing on Saturdays at Stevens Field beginning at 4 p.m.

T-BALL, COACH PITCH AND GIRLS SOFTBALL

is in full swing. The Parks and Leisure Services Department currently has more than 200 participants (4 to 17 year olds) on 21 teams. The leagues are a fun and exciting way to spend time with friends while learning and participating in a sport. Games and practices are being held on Northeast High School, Wimberly Athletic Complex and Stevens Field throughout the week.



An **EARTH DAY PROGRAM** is scheduled for Thursday, April 22nd. This environmental awareness activity will run from 8 to 11 a.m. at the City's Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve, 2820 NW 27 Avenue. Northeast High School Ecology Club students will be participating in the program. It will also be open to the general public. In the first hour City Horticulturist Charles Livio will speak about the unique geology and ecology of the scrub pine habitat. In the next two hours, the students and community volunteers will break into smaller groups to do some clearing in pre-selected areas and for trash removal.

The **ARBOR DAY PROGRAM** will be on Friday, April 30th at Northeast High School. The two-hour program will start at 10 a.m. in the auditorium. The guest speaker will be Victor Suarez, Naturescape Broward Education Specialist. The program will conclude with a tree planting in front of the school.

7TH ANNUAL POLYNESIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Co-sponsored by the City of Oakland Park will take place on Saturday, May 1st at Jaco Pastorius Park, 4000 North Dixie Highway. The cultural event will feature live Polynesian entertainment, native foods and arts & crafts from the South Pacific islands. Admission is \$7 for adults and teens with children 12 and under admitted free. For exhibitor, sponsorship and other information, please call **954-938-9010**.

3RD ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND FISHING TOURNAMENT

at Royal Palm Park on June 19 beginning at 7 a.m. (the early worm gets the fish). All ages welcome for this free event. Trophies will be awarded for the biggest fish caught, most fish caught and the casting contest winners. Refreshments will be available.

For more information please call the Parks and Leisure Services Department at **954-630-4500**.

NORTHEAST REBELS

Tackle Football & Cheerleading Club will begin its Spring Camp in May with practices beginning July 6th and games starting in July at Northeast High School fields off 6 Avenue (between Commercial Boulevard and NE 56 Street). The Rebels play a 10-game regular season and have seven Football & Cheerleading teams with ages ranging from 6 to 14 years old. For registration, coaching and sponsorship information, please call **954-771-7151** or visit www.NERebels.com

CITY EMPLOYEES KEEP FIT IN CORPORATE RUN



As part of the City's wellness initiative, a team of 17 Oakland Park employees led by Parks and Leisure Services Director (and veteran marathoner) Jenna LaFleur participated in the annual Corporate Run in downtown Fort Lauderdale. More than 4,000 runners and walkers participated in the event comprising 150 local companies and organizations. The purpose of these healthy activities is to foster company spirit and teamwork through physical fitness.

BSO/Oakland Park District News

Traffic concerns remain the largest source of complaints to the Oakland Park District. Consequently, the Oakland Park District's Traffic Unit is tasked with the enforcement of safe driving. Recently the traffic unit was assigned several specialized operations. The first of these operations addressed dangerous rail crossings within the City of Oakland Park. Drivers can routinely be observed to ignore flashing lights and even closing gates in their haste to beat the train. Unfortunately this haste often results in deadly outcomes. The recent special enforcement of rail crossings resulted in 41 citations and one arrest. School zone enforcement is always a priority for the Oakland Park Traffic Unit. A school zone blitz resulted in 14 citations.

The Oakland Park Bike Patrol Unit was deployed last month in an effort to increase visibility and deter crime from several areas in the City. The Bike Unit logged over 40 hours of patrol last month and was well received among the neighbors.

Finally, the Oakland Park District again requests that residents take all precautions to secure their property and vehicles against crime. An emerging trend being seen city wide is a crime of opportunity. Cars and homes left unlocked are now the favorite target of several criminal groups operating within the city. Numerous arrests have been made and the intelligence garnered from the suspects indicates that these groups are not interested in making any forced entries, but instead find plenty of opportunities with unlocked or unsecured property. They target items from just change in the ashtray to a laptop left on a counter in plain sight. The number of crimes occurring in this manner is surprising. Please lock your doors and take all the security precautions possible to deter criminals and force them elsewhere. Remember, if you see what you think might be a crime occurring or about to occur, call 911.

The Rotary Club of Oakland Park/Wilton Manors

The Rotary Club of Oakland Park/Wilton Manors will host an Auto Show on Sunday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. along "Main Street" (NE 12 Avenue) just north of Oakland Park Boulevard and east of North Dixie Highway. The show will feature both cars and motorcycles on display, as well as various vendors. Admission is free and there will be entertainment provided by a Blues Brothers Soul Band and radio station Majic 102.7 FM. As an added attraction, hot air balloon rides over Oakland Park will be available for \$5 per child and \$10 per adult. To register a vehicle and other information, please **954-551-3181**.

SCRAMBLING FOR EASTER EGGS



More than 300 attendees enjoyed picture-perfect weather at Royal Palm Park for the annual Easter Egg Hunt presented by Oakland Park's firefighters. In addition to the free Easter Eggs and candy, Oakland Park firefighters served complimentary hot dogs and soft drinks to the crowd. The Easter Bunny also made an appearance to welcome the children and pose for photos. "Thanks so much to the Oakland Park Firefighters for making such a great community event possible!" exclaimed Sara Guevrekian of the nearby Royal Palm Isles Neighborhood Group.

Fire-Rescue Department Passes EMS Inspection



The State of Florida Department of Health - Emergency Medical Services Division, conducted an unannounced inspection of Fire-Rescue Station 87 EMS response units, paramedic licensing, certification and training records, and EMS equipment demonstrations by paramedics on April 1.

In addition to the zero deficiency findings, Ms. Shelly Lewis, Compliance Officer for the State Bureau of EMS wrote, "I thank you and your staff for your help and cooperation during this unannounced inspection. The citizens and visitors of Oakland Park and Broward County can be proud of this well-run professional service".

This is the third consecutive State Bureau of EMS inspection that resulted in zero deficiencies; the last site visit was January 2008.

Community Contact Information

Our Mission: We strive every day to deliver – in a friendly, courteous, reliable, and responsive manner – a diverse set of efficient and effective City services that exceed the expectations of our residents, businesses, and employees.

CITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Active Adults Program	954-630-4494
Building & Permitting	954-630-4350
Business Tax Receipts	954-630-4337
City Clerk/City Boards	954-630-4300
City Manager/City Hall (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)	954-630-4200
Code Enforcement	954-630-4400
Collins Community Center	954-630-4515
Community Redevelopment (CRA)	954-630-4344
Dillon Tennis Center	954-561-6180
Engineering	954-630-4480
Financial Services	954-630-4250
Fire Department (NON-emergency)	954-630-4550
Human Resources/Employment	954-630-4313
North Andrews Gardens Community Center	954-938-0619
Oakland Park Library	954-630-4370
Parks and Leisure Services	954-630-4500
Planning & Zoning	954-630-4333
Police Department (NON-emergency)	954-561-6161
Public Works (After Hours Emergencies)	954-561-6275
Solid Waste & Recycling	954-630-4460
Spiher Recreation Center	954-630-4495
U.S. Census Complete County Committee	954-630-4205
Utility & Billing Services	954-630-4280
Volunteer/CERT Team	954-630-4544

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Emergency (police, fire and medical calls)	911
First Call for Help	211
Broward County Services (NON-emergency)	311
Broward County Animal Care	954-359-1313
Broward County Emergency Operations	954-831-4000
Broward County Schools	754-321-0000
Comcast (Cable Operator)	954-252-1937
Drivers License Office	954-497-1570
Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport	954-828-4955
FPL	954-797-5000
Poison Control	800-222-1272
Post Office	800-275-8777
Taxes (Property Appraiser)	954-357-6830