



The Oakleaf



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 19, 2011

www.oaklandparkfl.org

City Commission Meetings: Holiday Schedule

The City Commission approved a revised meeting schedule for the Holiday Season that includes one meeting in December (**December 7th**) and one meeting in January (**January 11th**). City Commission meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at Oakland Park City Hall, 3650 NE 12 Avenue.

For more information, please call the Office of the City Clerk at **954-630-4300**.

Library Gives Children a Sweet Surprise



The Oakland Park Library hosted its annual "Trick or Treat" activity at City Hall on Monday morning, October 31st. Despite the heavy rainfall, about 50 pre-school children joined Miss Jo in a costume parade around the Library and then over to City Hall where the various City departments handed out candy and treats while meeting the children and their parents. Afterwards, the Oakland Park Fire Rescue personnel joined the children outside and showed off the fire trucks and safety equipment.

Flood Damage Loans Available

A Disaster Assistance Survey of the recent flooding impact was conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Small Business Administration, State Division of Emergency Management and Broward County Emergency Management Division. It was determined that the flooding was severely impacted by various factors, including seven inches of rain in three hours in the early morning of October 31st and more than 12 inches of rain over the weekend combined with the high tide and the C-13 Canal water level more than five feet above normal which released a large volume of water from the west into Oakland Park. Mayor Suzanne Boisvenue and City Manager John Stunson were assessing the damage at 3:30 a.m. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is assisting with low-interest disaster loans to help homeowners, renters, businesses and private non-profit organizations to cover the cost of repairing or replacing lost or damaged structures and personal property, including economic losses for small businesses and private non-profits. For more information, call the SBA Customer Service Center at **1-800-659-2955**.

Beautification and Enhancements



A tree planting ceremony was conducted at Veterans Park on October 25th. The beautiful pink Tabebuia tree was donated by the Lions Club. The Lions Club is a service organization that assists members of our community that have vision loss and blindness. The tree was planted by the Parks and Leisure Services' Special Project crew in an area north of the tank. This is the second time the Lions Club has donated a tree to the City. The first donation was a mahogany tree planted at the Oakland Bark Park last October.

The Prospect Road and NW 21 Avenue Roadway Beautification Project is taking shape. City crews recently planted 122 trees along Prospect Road from Powerline Road west to NW 21 Avenue, and also along NW 21 Avenue from Prospect Road south to Veterans Park. The tree species include: gumbo limbo, royal poinciana, crape myrtle, live oak, paradise tree, mahogany and sabal palm. These trees will provide beauty, shade and wildlife habitat to adjacent neighborhoods. Collaboration of various City departments contributed to make this project a success.



2-1-1 Broward Ribbon Cutting

2-1-1 Broward hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 14th attended by the City Commission and other local leaders to celebrate the agency's new administrative offices.

2-1-1 Broward's new offices, which were made possible through cooperation with the City of Oakland Park, provides room for growth while having a tremendous impact on 2-1-1's ability to reduce overhead costs.

"This is a monumental occasion for 2-1-1 Broward. Moving into this new facility will allow the organization to devote more of its resources to serving the citizens of Broward County," said Gregory A. Haile, Chair of 2-1-1 Broward.

"We are thrilled to call Oakland Park our home," stated Sheila Smith, CEO of 2-1-1 Broward. "The City of Oakland Park Board of Commissioners and the staff who managed this renovation project could not have been more supportive and cooperative."

2-1-1 Broward has received more than 1.4 million calls for help since its inception fifteen years ago and provided 1.7 million referrals to health and human service providers. "With just one call, Broward County residents find hope and the help they need to not only survive, but to thrive," said Haile.

Oakland Park continues to support community assistance through partnerships.

"Besides being beneficial to 2-1-1 Broward and the City of Oakland Park, most importantly our efforts are benefitting people throughout Broward County who may be in need of our assistance during these trying times," stated Mayor Suzanne Boisvenue.



Mayor and City Commission

Suzanne Boisvenue
Mayor, Seat #5
Telephone: 954-298-8899
Term Expires: March 2013

Anne E. Sallee
Vice Mayor, Seat #1
Telephone: 954-253-0850
AnneS@oaklandparkfl.gov
Term Expires: March 2013

John Adornato III
Commissioner, Seat #3
Telephone: 954-646-9342
JohnA@oaklandparkfl.gov
Term Expires: March 2015

Shari McCartney
Commissioner, Seat #2
Telephone: 954-295-0527
ShariM@oaklandparkfl.gov
Term Expires: March 2015

Jed Shank
Commissioner, Seat #4
Telephone: 954-647-5349
JedS@oaklandparkfl.gov
Term Expires: March 2013

City Administration:
John Stunson
City Manager
Telephone: 954-630-4209
JohnS@oaklandparkfl.gov

Oakland Park Honored for Financial Reporting



The City's Financial Services Department has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. The annual award is presented to government units and public employee retirement systems whose Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) achieves the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting. This is the 10th consecutive year the City of Oakland Park has earned this honor, according to Director of Financial Services William Underwood. The City's CAFRs can be viewed in detail on the City's website under City Government/Departments/Financial Services.

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget-at-a-Glance: Governmental Funds

In keeping with Oakland Park's Strategic Plan to maintain financial stability and sustainability, the City has focused on bringing operations in line with the current fiscal realities.

The City's Office of Management & Budgets reports taxable values in the City declined 6 percent (\$800,000) from last year (the fifth year of reduced property tax revenue). To offset the budget gap, the City continues to implement aggressive cost-cutting measures, including departmental reorganizations that generate staff reductions, and fee increases.

Property taxes provide 29 percent or \$12.33 million of the City's \$42.2 million Governmental Fund revenue. Other sources of revenue such as fees, sales taxes and permits, have continued to shrink as a result of the prevailing economic environment.

The adopted Fiscal Year 2012 Governmental Funds budget is \$1.3 million less than last year and \$1.5 million less than the FY 2010 Governmental Funds budget.

Public safety is one of the most important elements of quality of life in Oakland Park. Accordingly, the largest portion of Governmental Funds expenditures is in law enforcement and fire rescue, followed by Parks & Leisure Services, Public Works, and Engineering & Community Development.

The allocation of property taxes includes Broward School Board (33 percent), City of Oakland Park (29 percent), Broward County (25 percent) and Special Taxing Districts (13 percent).

Parks and Leisure News and Notes



"Turkey Break"

Parks and Leisure Services staff will host "Turkey Break" for school children on November 21, 22 & 23 (the days Broward County Schools added to the Thanksgiving school break). Turkey Break will be held at the City's Spiker Recreation Center (1246 NE 37 Street) from 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Registration is underway with the cost of \$10 per child, per day (resident) and \$15 per child, per day (non-resident). This supervised program will feature games, field trips and arts & crafts. Tentative trips include bowling and roller skating. Space is limited so call **954-630-4500** or **954-630-4505** for registration assistance.

T-Ball, Pitchball & Girls Softball

Just as the World Series becomes a memory, the Oakland Park Parks & Leisure Services Department is getting ready for the first pitch of the 2012 Season. Registration for T-Ball, Pitchball & Girls Softball serving children 4-17 begins on December 12th for residents and December 19th for non-residents. Space is limited. Parents can register children on-line or at City Hall 3650 NE 12 Avenue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteer coaches are needed. Please call **954-630-4500**.

Open Gym

There may be a NBA lockout, but the City's Parks & Leisure Services Department continues to bounce along with the Open Gym program. This is a great way to get active and spend time with other basketball enthusiasts. Check out either of our two sites: Harris Chapel on Mondays and Wednesdays and Rickards Middle School Monday through Thursday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and we hoop it up until the last buzzer at 9 p.m.



December 9: "An Evening with Santa"

Can it be? Is it true? That's right kids -- Santa Claus is coming to Jaco Pastorius Park (4000 North Dixie Highway). Come join us at 6:15 p.m. for a magical evening with the North Pole's favorite jolly, old elf and a special Holiday tree lighting. Sit on Santa's lap and let him know your wishes, visit the elves' workshop to create your own holiday memories, and play in the fresh, new fallen snow. Don't forget to stop by Mrs. Claus' kitchen for some holiday refreshments and take on the X-Treme Snowboard Challenge. At the request of Santa and Mrs. Claus, this entire event is free. For more information, please call 954-630-4500.



Upcoming Events

November 18: "Senior Health Fair"

The City's Active Adults program is pleased to host the annual Senior Health Fair at Collins Community Center (3900 NE Third Avenue) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free health fair will include health screenings, exercise demonstrations, entertainment, refreshments and prizes. For more information, please call 954-605-7947 or 954-267-0070.

November 19: "Tellabration; A Night of Storytelling for Adults" will be presented by the Broward Storytellers Guild at 8 p.m. This is an international celebration of the world of storytelling sponsored by the National Association of Storytellers and The Friends of the Oakland Park Library. For more information on the free activities at the Oakland Park Library, please call Jo Bridges at 954-630-4372.

December 12: "Santa's Phone Calls"

Children between the ages of 3 and 7 who live in the City of Oakland Park may receive a personal phone call from Santa Claus on December 12. Santa will be making his phone calls between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Parents should complete an information sheet (available on-line or the Parks and Leisure office) and return it to the Parks and Leisure Services, 3650 N.E. 12 Avenue, by December 9 or fax it to 954-630-4352. Regrettably, due to Santa's busy schedule, no makeup calls will be made.

December 22: Holiday Reception

The Oakland Park Library will host a Holiday Reception to thank Library volunteers, members of the The Friends of the Oakland Park Library, the Oakland Park Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club of Oakland Park/Wilton Manors. For more information, please call the Library at 954-630-4370.

Welcome Our Wildlife



The month's showcase "Certified Wildlife Habitat" property is a NE 40th Place residence. To learn how you can certify your property as a wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), please pick up an application at Parks and Leisure Services Department, located at City Hall, 3650 NE 12 Avenue or contact City Horticulturist Charles Livio at CharlesL@oaklandparkfl.gov or 954-630-4511. The City's website has a "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" page under Latest Information/Neighborhoods. The NWF website is: www.nwf.org/certify



November 19: "Yard Sale on the Green" will be held at Jaco Pastorius Park (4000 North Dixie Highway) from 7 a.m. until Noon. Space is limited so don't miss this opportunity to bring your tables full of goodies or come and shop for some great bargains! Residents may reserve a 10' X 10' space for \$20 (non-resident cost is \$40). For more information please call 954-630-4507.

BSO/Oakland Park District Employee of the Month

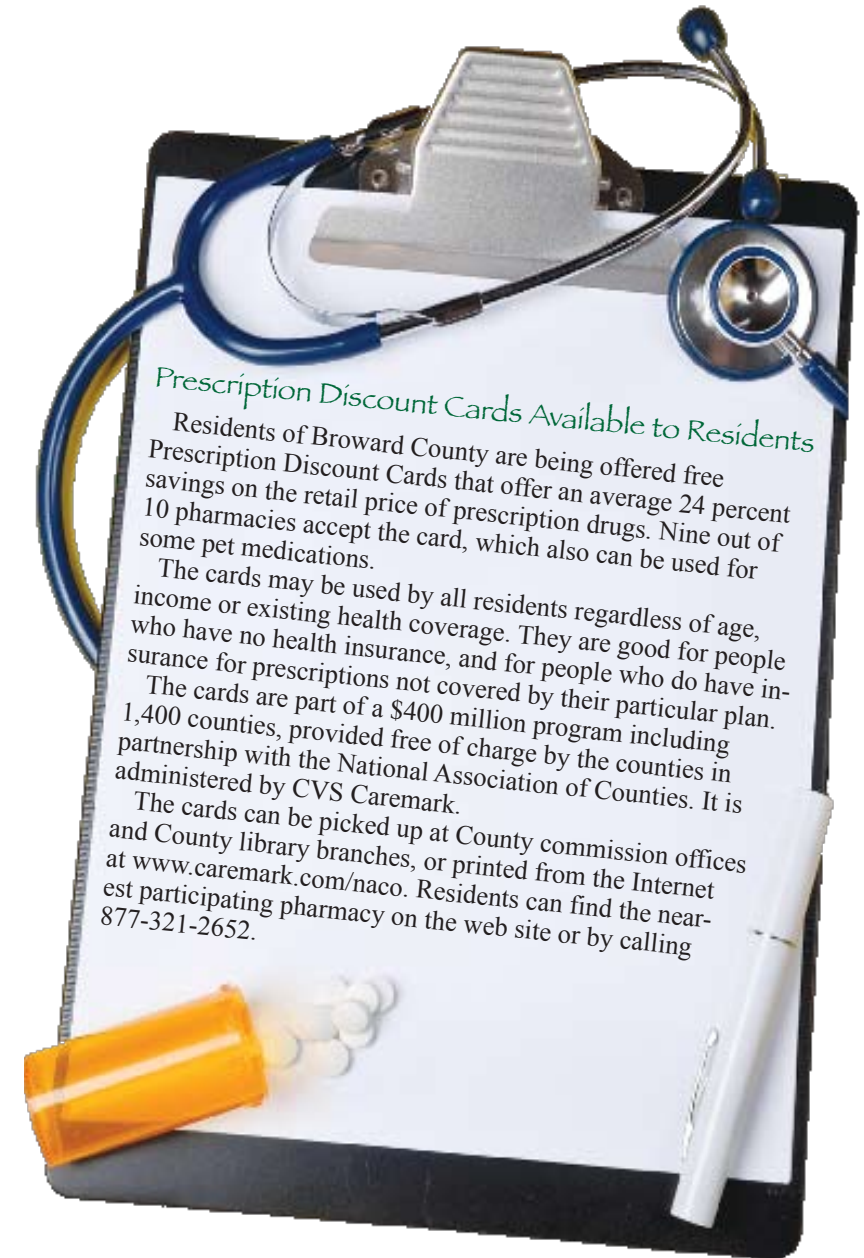
On September 23, 2011 a suspect walked into the lobby of the Universal Palm Hotel, approached the front desk clerk and told her, "This is a robbery. I have a knife in my pocket. Give me everything you have. Don't make me use it." The victim, in fear for her life, fled into the backroom of the business and called BSO. The subject ran away empty handed. An alert was issued and Oakland Park Deputies responded. Within minutes of the call, Deputy Eric Versteeg located a possible subject changing his shirt, but otherwise still wearing the same clothing the victim described. The victim was able to positively identify the subject. Deputy Versteeg's keen sense of awareness is to be commended. He possesses a positive attitude at all times and exhibits professionalism in the manner in which he completes his calls for service. In recognition of a job well done, BSO/Oakland Park District Chief John Bukata presented Deputy Versteeg with the honor of Employee of the Month.

BSO to Host AARP Driver Safety Class in Oakland Park

The BSO/Oakland Park District invites drivers age 55 and over to participate in the AARP Driver Safety Class on Wednesday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Collins Community Center, 3900 NE Third Avenue. Participants who successfully complete the course will be provided with a certificate for their auto insurance (most insurance agencies allow for a discount on auto insurance premiums for up to three years). The cost of the class is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. For registration and other information, please call 954-739-2673.

Fire Rescue News

Oakland Park Fire Rescue has used a Broward County Emergency Medical Services grant to purchase five (5) Automated External Defibrillators. These defibrillators will be placed in various City facilities and staff will be trained in their proper use. Chief of Fire Rescue showed one of the new defibrillators to the Mayor and City Commission at the November 2 City Commission meeting. "Having new defibrillators in our key City facilities will improve the level of safety for both visitors and employees," said Chief Widing.



Prescription Discount Cards Available to Residents

Residents of Broward County are being offered free Prescription Discount Cards that offer an average 24 percent savings on the retail price of prescription drugs. Nine out of 10 pharmacies accept the card, which also can be used for some pet medications.

The cards may be used by all residents regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. They are good for people who have no health insurance, and for people who do have insurance for prescriptions not covered by their particular plan.

The cards are part of a \$400 million program including 1,400 counties, provided free of charge by the counties in partnership with the National Association of Counties. It is administered by CVS Caremark.

The cards can be picked up at County commission offices and County library branches, or printed from the Internet at www.caremark.com/naco. Residents can find the nearest participating pharmacy on the web site or by calling 877-321-2652.

Oakland Park Property Owners Qualify for Flood Insurance Discount

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) informed Oakland Park City Hall that the City's National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS) has improved to a Class 7. **The floodplain management activities implemented by City staff qualifies property owners for a 15 percent discount in the premium cost of flood insurance for policies issued or renewed in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFH).** "I commend you on your community actions and your determination to lead your community to be more disaster resistant," the letter states. "This commitment enhances public safety and property protection and protects the natural floodplains as well as reduces flood insurance premiums." In addition, this rating results in a savings of approximately \$400,000 citywide by our residents on their flood insurance premiums. The City participates in the program annually with a recertification required.