



## Oakland Park Achieves Prestigious Parks Accreditation

The City of Oakland Park's Parks and Leisure Services Department became one of only 95 park and recreation agencies in the United States to receive accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This distinguished accomplishment was announced at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Congress & Exposition in Minneapolis.

"This prestigious accreditation exemplifies the commitment of our City staff to provide the highest quality of services and programs to the residents and businesses of Oakland Park," said City Manager John Stunson. "Our City continues to implement process improvements within our core service areas and we are pleased to see this national recognition for the results we are able to achieve during these turbulent times."

National accreditation through CAPRA is an extensive multi-year process. Director of Parks and Leisure Services Jenna LaFleur and her staff completed an application and detailed self-assessment report, as well as hosted a site visit by a committee of experienced park and recreation professionals. The final assessment was completed by the agency

and the Commission. The Accreditation required Oakland Park to respond to 144 standards, representing elements of effective and efficient park and recreation operations. To become accredited, agencies must fully meet 36 standards deemed fundamental to a quality agency and at least 92 of the remaining standards.

LaFleur reported that CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of the Parks and Leisure Services Department's overall quality of operation, management and service to the Oakland Park community. Accreditation is valid for a period of five years.

"By successfully completing the CAPRA accreditation process, the City of Oakland Park has demonstrated our ability to provide the highest level Parks and Leisure services and programs," said LaFleur. "NRPA commended Oakland Park for our overall excellence in serving the community and contributing to the health and vitality of America."



CAPRA is comprised of representatives from NRPA, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Management Association, the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, the Armed Forces Recreation Society and the Council of State Executive Directors.

## City Saves Taxpayers \$2 Million by Refinancing Bonds

The City's Financial Services Department continues to explore options to better implement its strategic planning area of financial sustainability. One method to meet this goal is to identify opportunities where the City can save money on any of its outstanding bond issues.

After the City completed its recent water and sewer bond issue and improved Oakland Park's credit rating to AA- by Standard & Poors and Fitch Ratings, Director of Financial Services Bill Underwood began an examination of outstanding bonds the City issued to evaluate the possibility of refinancing at more favorable

terms.

In the current economic environment where interest rates charged to municipal governments are at historic lows, Underwood instructed the City's Financial Advisor from Dunlap & Associates, Inc. to perform an in-depth analysis to determine the potential for significant savings for any of the older debt issues of the City.

The analysis revealed the City could comply with the City Commission-approved Debt Management Policy from earlier this year. Eligible to be refunded is the Florida Municipal Loan Council Series 2000B bonds that were issued in November

2000. Preliminary estimates indicate Oakland Park can save City taxpayers in excess of \$100,000 per year for the next 20 years or more than \$2 million by refinancing the old bonds.

"This is another example of City staff's focus on key Strategic Performance Areas," said City Manager John Stunson. "Financial Stability and Sustainability is the foundation of maintaining a balanced budget and positioning our City on firm fiscal ground as the economy recovers and opportunities for redevelopment or capital improvement project funding can be capitalized upon."

### SPECIAL SOLID WASTE INSERT

### Revised Collection Routes for 2011

The City's Public Works staff will implement a revised routing system for the collection of refuse, recyclables and bulk trash. **The revised routes will take effect on January 1, 2011** and the new maps are posted in a special insert in this issue of the Oakleaf. For more information, call **954-630-4452** or visit the City Services page at: [www.oaklandparkfl.org/cityservices/solidwaste/](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org/cityservices/solidwaste/)

## Business Spotlight: King's Barbershop

The Oakland Park community is pleased to welcome Norman Briones -- the owner and operator of King's Barbershop which is located at 1256 NE 38th St/Park Lane East in downtown Oakland Park.

"I liked the City of Oakland Park due to the history of the City," stated Briones. "The City complements the community with its friendly residents and variety of civic activities it holds every year."

King's Barbershop specializes in hot towel shaves for only \$10 (with a straight-edge) and in precision fades for men and children. Other haircuts include scissor cuts, flat tops, blow-outs and bush cuts. They offer \$10 haircuts all day on Tuesdays and \$8 haircuts with this article or a flyer on Wednesdays. Seniors, military, law enforcement and fire-rescue personnel can receive \$10 haircuts Monday through Saturday. The barber shop



has a neighborhood feel and even has a foosball table for those waiting for their haircut.

Briones and his team of barbers have more than 15 years of experience in barbering and guarantee satisfaction or the customer does not have to pay. King's Barbershop accepts debit/credit cards. Call 954-353-2526 for more information.

**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.

## Capital Improvement Project Update Posted To Web

City Manager John Stunson and staff presented an update on the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program at the November 17 City Commission meeting. From 2007 to 2010, the City completed more than 30 Capital Improvement Projects valued at nearly \$45 million with more than 40 percent covered by grant funding. Many of these projects were storm-water-related and have significantly alleviated the flooding problems which plagued the residents and businesses of Oakland Park in the past. To learn more about ongoing and future Capital Improvement Projects, log on to the City's website [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org) and view the "Business/Redevelopment" or "Latest Information" pages.

## Mayor and City Commission

### Allegra Webb Murphy

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### City Administration:

#### John Stunson

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## Registration Opens for City's 7th Annual Local Government Academy

Participation in the City of Oakland Park's Local Government Academy is a unique opportunity for citizens to learn about municipal government. The academy will meet nine consecutive Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. beginning in early February.

Assistant to the City Manager Marie W. Elianor stated the focus of the LGA is to provide a forum for residents to have a better understanding and greater awareness of how the City delivers a multitude of services and programs to residents and businesses.

"Our goal is to provide a 'hands on' orientation as to how the City of Oakland Park delivers each of its core services every hour of every day," Elianor said. "We also explain and quantify the City's capital improvement and redevelopment progress, as well as walk the members through our city's ordinances, policies and procedures."

Graduates of the Local Government Academy include current City Commissioners Anne E. Sallee and Jed Shank, as well as former Mayor Layne Dallett Walls and former Vice Mayor Anthony Neidwiecki.

"We have witnessed our LGA graduates become ambassadors for our City and take a more prominent role in Oakland Park," Elianor said. "From becoming active in their homeowner or neighborhood association to serving on City Advisory Boards to following the path to elected office, the LGA continues to graduate new leaders in our community."

To apply for the City's Local Government Academy and become more engaged and take an active participation in Oakland Park and how it is being run, please call **954-630-4205** or e-mail [MarieE@oaklandparkfl.org](mailto:MarieE@oaklandparkfl.org). Space is limited so applications are requested by January 13 and will be accepted on a first-come basis.

# Bulk Trash, Recycling and Refuse Collection Route Guide 2011

As part of ongoing efforts to increase efficiency and provide the same high quality of service to more than 4,000 additional residential customers, the City's Public Works staff will implement a revised routing system for the collections of refuse, recyclables and bulk trash. **The revised routes will take effect on January 1, 2011 and the new maps are posted on the following pages.**

The City Commission approved the City's Solid Waste Division assuming responsibility for collecting refuse, recycling and bulk in the 2005 annexed areas of Oakland Park through the Fiscal Year 2010 budgetary process. The current solid waste service vendors in the annexed areas (All Service Refuse and Waste Management) have been informed their contracts for service will not be renewed after December 31, 2010.

There will be a positive fiscal and environmental impact to the City as a

result of the proposed new routing systems for refuse, recycling and bulk collections. The revised collection routes will be more efficient and reduce the number of large collection vehicles on the neighborhood streets; thereby reducing green house gas emissions and making the residential areas a little safer.

The City will no longer have to pay the vendors an amount which is greater than the City charges the customers for solid waste and recycling services. The savings realized by Oakland Park assuming responsibility for solid waste services in the annexed areas allowed the City to significantly reduce cart service rates in Fiscal Year 2010 in anticipation of these future savings.

The collection vehicles to provide the additional solid waste services have been purchased, financed, and are currently in operation and available for the startup date in the annexed areas.

The vehicles are currently in operation on a rotating basis with the other frontline collection vehicles in order to ensure their operational reliability.

The City has hired five additional Refuse Service Operators as reflected in the final Fiscal Year 2011 budget to allow supervisory staff adequate time to train the new employees and to ensure they are prepared to perform their assigned duties in an efficient and effective manner.

The 4,077 new 95-gallon refuse carts for the annexed areas will be delivered to the City by the manufacturer the first week in December. The vendor quoted a cost of \$18,297 to deliver the carts to residential and commercial customers in the annexed areas. The City opted to have staff provide this service at an estimated cost of \$3,000 (saving the City approximately \$15,300).

The residents of the annexed areas will

be provided with their new City refuse carts during the last two weeks of December 2010 and are only to be used for the collection of refuse after January 1, 2011.

The refuse carts are collected through the use of an automated collection system which requires less labor and reduces the incidents of worker injuries when compared to the current collection systems in the annexed areas. The refuse carts also reduce the incidents of litter in the neighborhoods since the lid is attached to the container and must be closed when collection is provided.

The City will work with the current vendors to ensure a smooth transition of essential refuse, recycling and bulk collection services. The Public Works Department has also published its 2011 "Talkin' Trash" guide on the City's website and printed copies are available at City Hall and the Oakland Park Library.



BULK COLLECTION VEHICLE



REFUSE COLLECTION SIDE LOADER



RECYCLING COLLECTION VEHICLE

The new vehicles will be used to collect refuse, recycling and bulk waste in the recently annexed areas of the City beginning January 1, 2011. During the last two weeks of December 2010 the City will be delivering 95-gallon refuse carts to the residents of the areas to use for the twice weekly collection of refuse.







## Parks and Leisure News & Notes

Parks and Leisure Services staff have completed the planting of a 60-foot long Cocoplum hedge at Royal Palm Park between the north side of the tennis courts and lake. The Cocoplum shrubs, in conjunction with the existing Paradise trees that they planted in a row with, will provide additional food and shelter for the Park's wildlife.



The City's Active Adults group enjoyed a walking tour of the Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve. At the Preserve, the City's horticulturist conducted a walk and talk tour and spoke of the unique geology and ecology of this rare and endangered plant and animal community.

The City's Environmental Lecture Series will continue on January 13. The free lectures take place at the Oakland Park Library in the Marie Wright Room at 6:30 p.m. The January guest speaker Barry Heimlich will be speaking about Climate Change.

### OAKLAND PARK LIBRARY PRESENTS 'TELLABRATION'

"Tellabration" is an international event for storytellers and audiences and it is held the Saturday evening before Thanksgiving in communities worldwide. Join us at the Oakland Park Library as we participate in the tradition of storytelling and listening. Our Tellabration will be on Saturday, November 20 at 8 p.m. in the Marie Wright Room. Adult storytellers from the Broward Storytelling Guild will entertain and delight audiences with their tales. The Friends of the Oakland Park Library will sponsor refreshments and the event is free. Hear tall tales and urban legends told by the finest storytellers in our area and share the tradition of oral literature. Call **954-630-4372** for more information.

### HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Come visit with Santa Claus and friends, play in snow shipped straight from the North Pole, skate on the holiday-themed roller rink and make homemade crafts while enjoying jolly holiday music. This free event is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, December 3 at Collins Community Center, 3900 NE Third Avenue. Also register your child with "Santa's Phone Call", a free service for Oakland Park children ages 3-7, to receive a call from the North Pole on Monday, December 13. For more details, please Parks and Leisure Services at **954-630-4500**.

## Oakland Park Community Volunteer Corps

### 'Make a Difference Day' Projects Update

Two groups of community volunteers recently participated in a "Make a Difference Day" as part of Florida City Government Week. A team of adult and youth volunteers pitched in along with City Commissioner Anne E. Sallee to spruce up the grounds of Royal Palm Park and paint the inside of the recreation building.



Mount Zion Church also conducted a "Make A Difference Day" with the newly organized Young Adult Ministry which canvassed the local community and identified 23 senior citizens, age 62 years and above. The volunteers prepared hot lunches, delivered the meals to their homes and spent time with each resident identifying the needs for which the young adults could assist with in the near future. Most responses were simply for companionship, while others included occasional help with various light interior and exterior household chores. For more information on the Young Adult Ministry, please call Mount Zion Church at 954-563-3060.

The City of Oakland Park Community Volunteer Corps invites every citizen to join the efforts to improve our City. There are a wide variety of areas in which the public can volunteer their time such as Park Cleanups, Special Events, Active Adults and more.

Applications can be found on the City's website [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org) or picked up at City Hall. The next Community Volunteer Corps project will take place at Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve 2820 N. W. 27th Avenue (2 blocks South of Oakland Park Boulevard) in January.

Please contact Crystal Rothe at [CrystalR@oaklandparkfl.org](mailto:CrystalR@oaklandparkfl.org) or **954-630-4513** about volunteering your time or donating items for upcoming projects and activities to help make Oakland Park a better place.

## Oakland Park Pioneers Honored by Broward County

The Oakland Park Historical Society recently nominated two residents of the community who were recognized at Broward County's Annual Pioneer Days Event. Dr. Dorothy Jackson Orr, a Broward County native and longtime resident of Oakland Park, enjoyed a distinguished career of more than 30 years with the Broward County School Board, including serving as Deputy Superintendent. Dr. Orr continues to serve her community, including appointments to the City's Code Enforcement Board and Civil Service Board. Joan Ann Landers has been a resident of Oakland Park for nearly 50 years and was instrumental in helping to bring the Wildlife Rescue Center to fruition.



Photographed from left to right are: **Dr. Dorothy Jackson Orr**, Mayor **Allegra Webb Murphy**, Oakland Park Historical Society member **Fred Henry** and **Joan Ann Landers**.



## A Fire Safe Thanksgiving



As Oakland Park residents prepare Thanksgiving Day meals, your Fire Rescue Department urges families to be cautious in the kitchen and to take action to prevent a home fire.

Thanksgiving Day has more than double the number of home cooking fires than an average day according to the U.S. Fire Administration. In fact, each year more than 4,000 fires occur on Thanksgiving Day.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of Thanksgiving Day home fires, and it's easy to understand why. It's so easy to become distracted and lose track of what's happening in the kitchen when you are enjoying spending time with family and friends.

We want our residents to have a happy and fire-free Thanksgiving Day, so we're urging people to stay alert and keep safety in mind while preparing a holiday feast.

To prevent kitchen fires, we recom-

mend that you keep potholders and food wrappers at least three feet away from heat sources while cooking. In addition, stoves, ovens, and ranges should be turned off if the responsible adult leaves the kitchen. Also, set timers to keep track of turkeys and other food items that require extended cooking times.

If you plan to use a turkey fryer this holiday season, we strongly recommend that you follow all manufacturer guidelines regarding the use of these appliances.

If you are entertaining guests, it's a good idea to designate a responsible family member to walk around the home making sure that all candles and smoking materials are extinguished once guests leave.

The entire Fire Rescue Department wishes you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving.

## BSO/Oakland Park District Holiday Safety Tips

- Avoid using ATM's in remote locations or at night. Be attentive to vehicles and others in the area especially when obtaining cash.
- Carry only small amounts of cash and the credit cards you need to use.
- Be cautious when driving. During the holidays there are more vehicles on the roadways and in parking lots.
- Keep your car doors and windows locked – even while driving.
- Never leave your new purchases – or anything else of value – on your car seat in plain view. If you cannot immediately take them home, secure them in a locked trunk and move your vehicle to another location.
- At shopping malls, do not park in a remote area or a place that is not well-lit. When returning to your car, look inside before entering. If anything is suspicious, return to the store and report the problem.
- When purchasing large ticket items (such as laptops or televisions) take them directly to a secure location and do not leave them in your vehicle. Do not make any other stops. Be cognizant of your surroundings and anyone who may attempt to follow you.
- Do not leave your purse or wallet in your vehicle when getting gasoline or making a brief stop at a store or restaurant.
- Do not leave navigational equipment (or attachments) on your windshield. Safely secure these items prior to your arrival at a shopping center or leave the system at your residence if you will not be utilizing it that day.

## Utility Services Billing Update

Oakland Park provides water, sewer, solid waste and stormwater services to many of the City's residences and businesses.

With two exceptions, these services are usually invoiced via a monthly utility bill. The two exceptions to this practice are: 1). Inclusion of a quarterly charge of \$18 from Broward County for stormwater service; and 2). The charge for solid waste cart service, which appears as an assessment on the annual property tax bill of the areas annexed in 2005.

Inclusion of the residential solid waste assessment in the property tax bill has been a very efficient and effective way of collecting for these services. The City is studying the possibility of including all City residences receiv-

ing solid waste cart service. This would not apply to commercial accounts receiving solid waste cart service or to large residential accounts receiving solid dumpster service. The City is also considering including stormwater service fees as an assessment on the annual property tax bills.

A public hearing to discuss this possibility will be held at the December 1 City Commission meeting. With input from residents, the Commission will consider a resolution to include these fees on the property tax bills. A proposed resolution would only be an indication of a possible intent to include these fees as assessments on the property tax bills. State Statute requires that an intention must be indicated at this time, but does not commit the City to

actually implementing this method. If a resolution is adopted, there would be a further public hearing in 2011 when the City would make a final determination to implement this collection.

If the proposed resolution is adopted, the fees would appear annually on the property tax bills, beginning November, 2011. One important aspect relates to rental properties where utility accounts may currently be in tenant names. Landlords would receive the bills for all stormwater fees. This is also true for residential rental properties in regard to residential solid waste cart service.

The public hearing on December 1 should provide the City Commission with input whether the City should ultimately be move in this direction.

### ON-LINE BANKING MAKES "CENTS" TO AVOID LATE FEES ON UTILITY BILLS

An improved process was implemented this month to expedite customer's on-line Utility Bill payments through their personal bank. PLEASE complete the scheduled payment a minimum of 2 business days prior to the bill's due date so your payment can be processed in time to avoid a late fee. For banks with electronic conversion, payments made via "On-line Bill Pay" will be converted electronically and remitted to the City. For more information, call Utility & Billing Services at **954-630-4280** or visit "E-Gov Services" at [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org).