



Expedited Permitting For Qualified Businesses

The City of Oakland Park has been recognized by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance for the streamlined development/permitting commitment recently approved by the City Commission. "This is intended to make Oakland Park's development, permitting and inspections process more business friendly and transparent, especially for targeted industry companies looking to relocate or expand in our area," said Mayor Suzanne Boisvenue. The Alliance will market those communities that meet the criteria and pass a resolution supporting the streamlined process as "Platinum" cities in terms of development/permitting. The following criteria are being used to determine whether a business qualifies for the expedited permitting program:

1. The business must fall into one of Broward County's targeted industry clusters or the City's Local Activity Center (LAC) businesses which supports the economic vitality of the city.
2. The business shall demonstrate the capability of creating new full-time positions within the first two years of operation or within two years of expansion of its operation within the city.
3. New employment positions shall be value-added employment defined as the average salary for new employment positions created at least 15% higher than the average current per capita income in Broward County or 15% higher than the industry average as reported by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.
4. The business shall submit sufficient financial information to the City to establish solvency and status as an ongoing business.

For those businesses satisfying the above described criteria, the City will designate specific staff members to facilitate and process applications throughout the development and permitting process, give the subject project priority at every phase of the review process, expedite the scheduling of public hearings, and provide an online database which will allow the applicants an ability to review their permit/plan review comments in real

time. Time is money and the expedited permitting is a measureable factor in being promoted as being "business friendly".

Gary Lanham, who recently opened his new business Real Estate Recovery in downtown Oakland, is impressed with the City's efforts. "The staff realizes the importance of economic development and understands what it takes to get a business open," Lanham said. "They were active throughout the process from permitting to opening. To have the City Manager John Stunson attend my grand opening and thank me for opening my business in Oakland Park meant a lot to me, my employees and customers." Lanham's new firm already employs eight full-time real estate agents.

PROJECT UPDATES



North Dixie Highway/ NE 38th Intersection Project

The intersection improvement project is approximately 90 percent completed. The mast arms are installed and operational. The contractor is currently completing milling and roadway resurfacing on both North Dixie Highway and NE 38th Street. The intersection

is scheduled to reopen for traffic at press time with the entire project expected to be completed by the end of this month. For additional information, please call Project Manager Ronald Desbrunes, P.E., at 954-630-4482.

NW 21st Avenue Pedestrian Bridge

Broward County continues with the plans to redesign and build the NW 21st Avenue Pedestrian Bridge. When the plans for the revised design are completed they will be submitted to the South Florida Water Management District. Broward County anticipates having the redesign plans completed and South Florida Water Management District permits ready to advertise for construction bids by the end of this calendar year. For additional updates, please contact Project Manager John Michael Perez at 954-630-4479.

Federally Funded Mortgage Assistance Available

The federal government has allocated funding for the Florida Hardest-Hit Fund (HHF) to help pay the mortgages of qualified homeowners who are unemployed or underemployed through no fault of their own. Troubled homeowners from Oakland Park who want to apply for HHF financial assistance are able to do so via the website www.flhardesthithelp.org

Homeowners who qualify for financial assistance may receive up to six (6) months of monthly mortgage payments (including mortgage escrow-related payments) and/or funds to pay past due mortgage payments to bring the mortgage current; these funds are paid directly to the loan servicer/lender.

Homeowners must meet eligibility requirements to be considered for the program. To review the criteria, log on to the website or call toll-free 1-877-863-5244 for HHF assistance. Application for the Florida's Hardest-Hit Fund program is free and you will not be asked to pay for any eligibility determination services in conjunction with applying for the Florida HHF.

Mayor and City Commission

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

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

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

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

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

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

City Commission Meetings, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. Agendas and Backup on-line at www.oaklandparkfl.org. Call the Office of the City Clerk at 954-630-4300 for meeting information.

Dog Day Afternoon in Downtown Oakland Park

Canine Assisted Therapy, (C.A.T.), is a non-profit organization that recently held a ribbon-cutting at its new downtown facility at 3554 NE 12 Avenue (Main Street). Mayor Suzanne Boisvenue, Vice Mayor Anne Sallee and Commissioner John Adornato were on hand to assist with the ribbon-cutting.

C.A.T. was founded by Wayne and Debra Berger and Joanne Jurgle, all lifelong dog lovers and first-hand witnesses to the

transformational power of canine therapy. They started C.A.T. with the mission of providing a network of qualified, dependable and caring therapy teams. These teams are committed to delivering a therapeutic benefit through the use of dogs to both children and adults who need comfort, companionship and the unconditional love that only a dog can provide.

According to the website, C.A.T volunteers have logged over 4,000 hours to address the need of companionship for those in nursing homes, hospice, assisted living, and hospital. To learn more, please call 954-990-5175.



Small Business of the Year Awards Ceremony

Oakland Park Vice Mayor Anne E. Sallee recently represented the City at The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Annual "Small Business of the Year" Awards. Vice Mayor Sallee is pictured between 2011 Small Business of the Year Award winner Sully Dawson of Eco-Friendly Auto Center (1139 East Commercial Boulevard in Oakland Park) and Bill Feinberg, head of the Oakland Park/Wilton Manors Chamber of Commerce. The mission of the organization is to bring together businesses that are located in this geographic area for the purpose of driving business development through networking events and leadership on common goals. For more information about the Oakland Park / Wilton Manors Council, contact the chair Bill Feinberg at bill@alliedkitchenandbath.com.



Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Schedule

In keeping with the City's Strategic Plan to maintain financial stability and sustainability, the City has focused on bringing operations in line with the current fiscal realities. Some of these steps include significant reductions in costs, while minimizing tax and service fee increases to the community.

Taxable values in the City fell 16 percent last year, but the City maintained the current millage rate at the FY10 level resulting in a \$2.6 million reduction in property tax revenue. To offset this loss of revenue, the City implemented aggressive cost-cutting measures, which included departmental reorganizations that generated staff reductions, and some fee increases, without significant impact to service delivery.

Property taxes are the principal source of Oakland Park's Governmental Funds revenue. Other sources of revenue, such as fees, sales taxes and permits, are also declining as a result of the prevailing economic environment.

The largest portion of City expenditures includes the BSO contract for police services, followed by Fire Rescue, Parks and Leisure Services, Public Works, Engineering & Community Development and others.

About 26% of Oakland Park property taxes go to the City; the rest is paid to other taxing authorities such as the County, the School Board, and other special taxing districts.

Tentative dates in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Schedule include:

- June 14, 2011 – Budget Workshop
- July 13, 2011 -- Budget Workshop
- July 20, 2011 - Regularly Scheduled City Commission Meeting (Adoption of preliminary millage rate and preliminary assessment rates for Fire, Solid Waste, and Stormwater)
- September 7, 2011 - Regularly Scheduled City Commission Meeting (Tentative millage rate and tentative budget adopted)
- September 12, 2011 - Special Meeting of City Commission (Public hearing to adopt Fire, Solid Waste, and Stormwater assessments)
- September 21, 2011 - Regularly Scheduled City Commission Meeting (Final adoption of the millage rate and City budget)

Earth Day at City's Lakeside Sand Pine Nature Preserve

Earth Day Volunteers helped collect trash and plant three native beauty berry shrubs. These flowering shrubs are a favorite source of nectar for butterflies and the berries provide food for birds.

The volunteers also planted native wildflower seeds in the parking area. Sand pine needles from the preserve were collected and to cover the seeds. We look forward

to their germination to enhance the entry at the preserve. City Commissioner John Adornato attended the event and read the Earth Day Proclamation while City horticulturist Charles Livio conducted a tour of the Sand Pine Nature Preserve trails and explained the geology and unique flora & fauna

The following week, City staff conducted an Arbor Day program at Rickard's Middle School. Assistant Principal Denise DePasquale invited students to a program on "Why Plant Trees?" Gary Carlson, Chair of the Beautification Advisory board read the Arbor Day Proclamation and history. The program pointed out the many community benefits of planting an urban tree canopy and concluded with the planting of a native gumbo limbo tree on the school grounds by the Parks Division.



4th Annual Father's Day Weekend Fishing Tournament



Please join the City's Parks and Leisure Services Department for the **4th Annual Father's Day Weekend Fishing Tournament** at Royal Palm Park, 1701 NW 38 Street, on June 18 beginning at 7 a.m. 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 **954-630-4500**.

Active Adults

The Active Adults splashed into spring fun at the Miami Seaquarium and danced to their hearts' content at the spring break luncheon. The seniors attended a cancer awareness seminar followed by a tour of the Nova Southeastern reflexology garden. The reflexology pathway features a collection of special rocks from around the world, artistically embedded in cement. The seniors walked barefoot on the stones, massaging the 7,000 or so nerve roots in their feet. A sign explains which pressure points relate to which body part. Working the spot just under your heel, for example, is meant to relieve back pain. The nursery has beautiful greenery, some plants were chosen for their looks, their fragrances, or for "their natural harmony with butterflies and birds." The garden also utilizes color therapy and natural sound, such as water trickling. The next big event on the Active Adults calendar is the upcoming Senior Health Fair at Collins Community Center on May 21.



City's New Garden Club Growing

Oakland Park Garden Club members received a beautiful Certificate of Membership plaque from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. The plaque is on display in the Parks and Leisure Services office at City Hall. If you are interested in gardening, horticulture, landscaping, the environment and making new friends plan on attending the third Tuesday of each month. Each meeting will have lively topics and speakers. For more information, please call 954-630-4511.



USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Oakland Park Library will present a Used Book Sale on Friday, June 10 and Saturday June 11 at the Oakland Park Library, 1298 NE 37 Street. The hours of the Book Sale will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization that plans programs and activities in support of the Oakland Park Library. For more information about joining the Friends of the Library or to inquire about upcoming programming, please call 954-630-4370.



BSO CyberVisor Reminds Residents to Stay Alert



The more information citizens have, the safer they will be. Registering for BSO's CyberVisor updates allows residents and businesses to receive e-mail or text alerts from the Broward Sheriff's Office with information on criminal activity, traffic, events or other security concerns arising in your business or residential neighborhood. To sign up, simply enter the required information and choose Oakland Park as the city from which you would like to receive information. Once signed up you will need to confirm your e-mail address, so please keep your e-mail application open. An example of a recent Oakland Park CyberVisor message: **An alert neighbor in the area of 4700 NE 15 Way reported a suspicious person going door to door. Deputies located the person and discovered the person was wanted from Michigan for burglary. The person was arrested and is being interviewed by Detectives. Good job! Keep an Eye on Crime call BSO at 954-765-4321 or 911.**

The more information citizens have, the safer they will be. Registering for BSO's CyberVisor updates allows residents and businesses to receive e-mail or text alerts from

Fire Rescue Update

Oakland Park fire trucks and emergency vehicles have a new look. The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) requires at least 50 percent of the rear-facing vertical surfaces, visible from the rear of the apparatus, to be equipped with retro reflective striping in a chevron pattern. This is part of a continuing effort to ensure the safety of our first responders and visibility of their vehicles from a distance.

Congratulations to **Leroy Dykes**, left, who was recently recognized by Chief of Fire Rescue Donald P. Widing for his 30 years of service to the Fire Department. Leroy began his career on April 20, 1981 and currently is a Driver Engineer/EMT.



City to Utilize CodeRED for Emergency Notifications

CodeRED is an extremely fast telephone communication service utilized by Oakland Park's Emergency Operations team for mass emergency notifications.

The Community Notification Enrollment Page allows residents to confidentially enter an unlisted number, their cell phone number or any other secondary phone numbers. This will enable Oakland Park to reach more residents with essential emergency information.

Look for the CodeRED icon on the City's homepage at www.oaklandparkfl.org and enter or update your contact information on the enrollment page. Your contact information will remain private and will only be used for notifications through the CodeRED system. Any residential or business telephone numbers currently listed in the telephone book are automatically in the City's CodeRED database and do not need to be added again.

Watering Reminders

Due to the ongoing drought conditions, the South Florida Water Management Districts has imposed the following restrictions:



- Watering is **not** allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Residents and businesses with **odd**-numbered street addresses may water lawns and landscapes on **Wednesdays** and **Saturdays** from Midnight to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- Residents and businesses with **even**-numbered street addresses, no street address or multi-family units and homeowners associations, may water lawns and landscapes on **Thursdays** and **Sundays** from Midnight to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Local Flood Hazard Information Update

Substantial Improvement Requirements -- The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires that existing buildings meet the same construction requirements as a new building if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, addition, or other improvements equals or exceeds 50 percent of the building's market value.

Disaster Information -- Each year the City of Oakland Park Library features a special display of disaster preparedness material. The City also has an extensive selection of both reference and handout material available year round. Topics include: flood insurance, flood protection, hurricane preparedness, floodplain management, and flood maps. Several items are available in Spanish as well as English. To obtain this valuable information, visit the Oakland Park Library (954-630-4364), located behind City Hall, or visit the Flood Protection Information page on the City's web site:
http://oaklandparkfl.org/news/advisories/flood_protection.cfm

Severe Storm or Flood Warnings -- Major local radio stations such as 1680 AM (City Radio), 610 AM, 93.9 and 102.7 FM and local television stations such as Channels 7 and 10 broadcast severe weather warnings. In the event of a hurricane, advisories are given every six (6) hours. Intermediate or special advisories are given every three (3) hours. For the latest weather information and other emergency updates, visit the City News and Advisories page of the website: <http://oaklandparkfl.org/news/advisories/index.cfm>