



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES

City staff has continued to aggressively pursue grants and other funding sources to undertake an ambitious Capital Improvement Project plan. The economic downturn has helped staff obtain lower bids and complete projects under budget in many instances. Among the major Capital Improvement Projects to improve drainage and beautify neighborhoods are:

**The NW 21 Avenue & Lakeside Estates (Rock Island) Capital Improvement Project** is divided into three phases that are all being built by Broward County as a result of several Joint Participation Agreements (JPAs) with the City.

### First Phase (NW 21 Avenue)

– This phase began in October of 2009 with the reconstruction of NW 21 Avenue south of West Oakland Park Boulevard. The new roadway will provide for a three-lane section with drainage, street lighting, and landscaping with irrigation. A 72-inch drainage pipe will be installed on NW 27 Street, go under the CSX railroad track and north to the C-13 Canal. A new right-hand turn lane will be installed on the west side of NW 28 Street for southbound traffic turning movements onto NW 21 Avenue. Three new Mast Arms for traffic signalization will be installed at the intersection of NW 21 Avenue & West Oakland Park Boulevard and a new raised median is being constructed from West Oakland Park Boulevard to NW 32 Court. Drainage work is nearly completed. The final project completion is estimated to be on March, 2011. This project originally included the installation of the NW 21 Avenue Pedestrian Bridge over the C-13 Canal. How-

ever, the County has decided to complete the NW 21 Avenue Pedestrian Bridge as a separate project as soon as South Florida Water Management District Permitting issues have been resolved.

**Second Phase (NW 26 Avenue area)** – This phase began last February with the installation of water, sewer, drainage, and roadway improvements in the NW 26 Avenue area north of NW 26 Street. The contractor has completed the installation of the water main, drainage and sewer. The first lift of asphalt has been completed. Landscape is currently being installed and final lift of asphalt will follow after landscaping is completed.

**Third Phase (NW 24 Avenue area)** – This phase began last March with the installation of new sewer, drainage, roadway reconstruction and the water main improvements in the NW 24 Avenue area north of NW 26 Street and west of NW 21 Avenue. The contractor has completed the installation of all underground water, sewer, and drainage lines. Road restoration is under way and the contractor is hoping to have first lift of asphalt installed prior to Christmas, provided that the asphalt plant is open. Substantial completion for the Second and Third phase projects is estimated for January, 2011.

### NE 5 Avenue Improvements Project

This project consists of water, drainage, roadway, landscaping and lighting improvements to NE 5 Ave from Oakland Park Boulevard to NE 38 Street. Construction began last June and to date the vast majority of the water mains have been installed



Installing new drainage pipes on NE 34 Court for NE 5 Avenue Project

and the service will be switched once the Broward County Health Department has certified the installation. Drainage work is nearly complete and road restoration is underway. Project is targeted for completion by the end of January 2011.

### Lloyd Estates Drainage Project

Construction began in November 2009 and is nearly complete. Drainage and water main replacement on NW 37 Street, NW 36 Street, NW 35 Court, NW 3 Avenue, NW 5 Avenue and most of Lloyd Drive is completed. All streets within the project boundary have been resurfaced with a 1-inch asphalt overlay. All driveways and sprinkler systems will be restored to their original condition or better by the end of the project. Construction was delayed due to permitting issues for a change order to do additional work on Powerline Road to facilitate a future drainage project. Drainage pipe installation on Powerline Road for the outfall into Sleepy River is complete. Powerline Road crossing issues have been resolved and the contractor is scheduled to complete the project this month.

## City Projects Savings of \$2.5 Million Due to Bond Refinancing

Oakland Park's refinancing of its Florida Municipal Loan Council (FMLC) Bond Series 2000B was approved November 15. The loan bears current interest at variable rates ranging from 4.750% to 5.375% on the outstanding balance of \$15,025,000.

“Our City diligently examines opportunities to provide efficient and effective use of capital to meet the Strategic Performance Area of financial stability and sustainability,” stated Financial Services Director William Underwood. “Our staff reviewed existing outstanding debt to determine if an opportunity existed to realize savings due to the current climate of low interest rates.”

In order for the City to complete the financial refunding process, the City must adopt on second reading an authorizing ordinance to issue a \$15,637,000 note at an interest rate of 3.70%. This ordinance provides for the redemption of outstanding FMLC 2000B bonds, and establishes accounting funds and standards. Additionally, the ordinance **excludes the ad valorem taxes** and taxing authority to pay the bonds. The only funding for this debt is the pledge of the annual appropriation.

This refinancing will save the City of Oakland Park residents approximately **\$2.595 million** over the 20-year remaining life of the debt. Annual budgetary savings range from a low of nearly \$113,000 to a high of close to \$130,000 with an annual average savings of almost \$129,800.

## Registration Open for 2011 Local Government Academy



The City of Oakland Park is currently accepting applications for its 7th Annual Local Government Academy (LGA). The academy will meet nine consecutive Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. beginning February 4.

“Participation in the City of Oakland Park’s Local Government Academy is a unique opportunity for citizens to learn about municipal government,” said Mayor Allegra Webb Murphy. “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.”

Past 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 Niedwiecki. Several candidates for the two Oakland Park City Commission seats up for election in March are also graduates of the academy.

“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,” added Assistant to the City Manager Marie W. Elianor. “We also explain and quantify the City’s capital improvement projects and redevelopment progress, as well as walk the members through our City’s ordinances, policies and procedures.”

Past activities include using the “jaws of life” to open up a damaged vehicle, riding in the BSO helicopter and planting trees in City parks.

“We have witnessed our LGA graduates become engaged and inspired 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, please contact Assistant to the City Manager Marie W. Elianor at **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.

## Mayor and City Commission

**Allegra Webb Murphy**  
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Telephone: 954-849-3804  
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**Suzanne Boisvenue**  
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**Anne E. Sallee**  
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**January City Commission Schedule – January 19 at 6:30 p.m**

## CITY MAINTAINS EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The City of Oakland Park Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the 2009 fiscal year has received the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting – a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).



Ming Meyer, CPA, Comptroller of the City of Oakland Park, commended staff’s efforts in preparing the information necessary to qualify for the certificate. She noted that the requirements of the award are lengthy, but worth the effort to provide a more open form government to the citizens of Oakland Park.

“The GFOA Certificate of Achievement is recognition of governmental entities that take the extra step to prepare comprehensive financial reports in the spirit of transparency and full disclosure,” Meyer said.

Meyer (photographed on the left with Accountant Millicent Powell) proudly states this marks the ninth consecutive year that Oakland Park has achieved this honor and added the City’s annual CAFR reports can be viewed on the Financial Services page of the City’s website: [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org)

The GFOA established the CAFR Program in 1945. Reports submitted to the CAFR program are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and the GFOA Special Review Committee which comprises individuals with expertise in public sector financial reporting and includes financial statement preparers, independent auditors, academics and other finance professionals.

## Parks and Leisure News & Notes

### T-BALL & PITCH BALL

Both activities are simplified versions of baseball for boys and girls. Players must be ages 4 thru 7 as of February 4. The ball is hit off of a batting tee in T-ball and is pitched to the batter by the coach in Pitch Ball. Players will be divided into two leagues.

### GIRLS SOFTBALL

Players must be ages 8 thru 16 as of February 4. Minor, Junior & Senior division will play fast-pitch softball. Players will be divided into three divisions.

Register through January 21 at City Hall, 3650 N.E. 12 Avenue or online at [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org). Office hours for registration are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Fees: Oakland Park residents \$55; non-residents \$100.

**\*\*Volunteer coaches are needed in all leagues\*\***

### OPEN GYM

Continues to operate in the Rickards Middle School gymnasium, but the schedule has been modified to Tuesday & Thursday from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. The last game starts at 8:30 p.m. (During Winter Break – Open Gym will be closed).

### FIELD CLOSURES

Wimberly Athletic Complex, Stevens Field and Northeast High School Athletic Complex will be CLOSED December 19 – January 4 for maintenance. Please visit the City of Oakland Park website for a list of other Parks in the City for your recreational purposes during this time.

### YOUTH SOCCER UPDATE

Shin Guards, Balls & Goals – oh my! The City's Youth Soccer Program is underway with more than 350 participants on 37 teams in 5 divisions. Games are being played Monday – Thursday nights and Saturday mornings. The schedule can be found on our website [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org) – please come by and witness the Future MLS stars play ball.

### MEN'S 7-ON-7 SOCCER LEAGUE

This league plays with modified rules and soccer field. Games are played at Stevens Field on Saturdays. Registration begins January 3 with a fee of \$500 per team (includes \$100 officials fee).

For more information on any of the above activities, please call **954-630-4500**.

## Dr. Carter G. Woodson Heritage Festival Annual Event Will Honor Black History Month

The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Heritage Festival was established in 2006 to honor the legacy and contributions of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an African-American historian, author, journalist and the founder of Negro History Week, which became **Black History Month**.

On February 19, the Harlem McBride-NE 43 Street Neighborhood Association and the City of Oakland Park Parks and Leisure Services Department will host the 6th Annual Dr. Carter G. Woodson Heritage Festival at a **new** location, Jaco Pastorius Park located at 4000 North Dixie Highway in Oakland Park. This celebration will take place from Noon to 9 p.m.

Continuous entertainment will feature Joe Wright & Pure Justice Band with Felicia Flint, Eloquence the Band, African Drums and Dance, Spoken Word and Step Show exhibitions. Attendees will enjoy food booths serving a variety of traditional festival foods. The vendor market place will offer an assortment of art, crafts and collectables.

In addition to great food, music and fun, the festival provides midway rides and games for all. Packed with music, dance, food and fun, children of all ages will have a valuable cultural and educational experience.

For more information, please visit [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org) or call: **954-552-0890** or **954-630-4500**.



## Community Volunteer Corps to Hold Cleanup at Lakeside Sand Pine Nature Preserve

The Oakland Park Community Volunteer Corps will be working off those Holiday calories with a cleanup event scheduled for Saturday, January 29 at the City's Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve located at 2820 NW 27 Avenue (just south of Oakland Park Boulevard).

Volunteers will work on sprucing up the nature preserve from 8:45 a.m. to Noon and then enjoy a potluck lunch together.

Participants should wear comfortable work shoes and clothes they don't mind getting dirty. No open-toe sandals. Please bring work gloves, hat and sunscreen. Water and tools will be provided.

Volunteers will need to fill out and submit a Community Volunteer Corps registration form prior to event day. Please call Community Volunteer Corp Coordinator Crystal Rothe at 954-630-4513 or Parks Division Horticulturist Charles Livio at 954-630-4511 for additional information.



## Oakland Park Recognizes Students for Recycling Poster Contest

Oakland Park Mayor Allegra Webb Murphy and the City Commission recognized three of the City's After School Care program students for the "Why We Recycle" poster contest sponsored by the Public Works and Parks and Leisure departments.



The winning posters were created by (left to right in photo):

- **1st Place Chloe Powell**, grade 5, Oakland Park Elementary School
- **2nd Place Yesenia Yataco**, grade 3, North Andrews Garden Elementary School
- **3rd Place Leila Cook**, grade 4, North Andrews Garden Elementary School

Each of the three students received a Holiday gift card and a prize ribbon.

"We recently expanded our recycling services to provide residents with 'single-stream recycling' and will revise our collection routes effective January 1st," said the City's Public Works Director Dave Womacks. "Our staff makes every effort to communicate with the community. Children are just one of the ways we can convey a message to parents."

The Recycling Posters are on display in the lobby of Oakland Park City Hall.

Nearly 100 children in the City's After School Care Program participated in the poster contest.

## Community Meeting Scheduled for Twin Lakes South Improvement Project

City Engineering and Community Development staff will be coordinating a community meeting with residents and property owners of Twin Lakes South to obtain input and discuss the planned Neighborhood Improvement Project and other issues impacting the neighborhood located off Prospect Road.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on January 12 at Jaco Pasorius Park Community Center, 1098 NE 40 Court.

City staff will convey any neighborhood issues to Broward County to help finalize the civil engineering design of the infrastructure improvement plans, including but not limited to street lighting, sidewalks, parks connectors and a timeline for improvements.

Twin Lakes South residents and property owners may call City Engineer Marlon Lobban at **954-630-4484** or Senior Planner Rick Buckeye at **954-630-4345** for additional information on the meeting and Neighborhood Improvement Project.

## City of Oakland Park Utility Bill Payment Options

**Automatic Deduction with EZ-Pay Program** - Payments may be made using Oakland Park's EZ-Pay program that allows the City to deduct the amount billed from your financial institution the day before the due date to ensure posting to your account on time and avoiding late fees. This service is free and reliable. The signup form can be downloaded from the City's website: [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org)

**Mail Payments** - When mailing utility payments (not for business tax or EMS payment), please use the return envelope provided and mail to the processing center at P.O. Box 70520 as shown on the payment voucher.

**Credit Card Payments** - You can now pay by most Credit Cards online or at City Hall weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The City's third-party processor, Point And Pay, Inc., charges a nominal charge for this service. Oakland Park does not retain any portion of this fee. MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards are accepted. VISA credit/debit cards are no longer accepted. (Note: You will be directed

to a third-party processor using SSL encryption to safeguard your information.)

**Personal Banking On-line Bill Pay** You can also pay your Oakland Park Utility Bill by using your bank's on-line bill pay.

**An improved process has been implemented to expedite customers' On-line Utility Bill payments through their personal bank.** For banks that offer Direct Feed (electronic conversion), payments made via On-line Bill Pay will be converted electronically and remitted to the City. **Please complete the scheduled payment a minimum of two business days prior to the bill's due date so your payment can be processed in time to avoid a late fee.** Sufficient funds must be available on the scheduled payment date for the transaction to be completed. **Customers may need to update their payment method with their bank if it's not already set for it.** Please consult your bank for assistance.

## NW 39th Street Greenway Update

City staff met with a group of residents on December 7, 2010 to discuss the status and scope of the NW 39th Street Greenway and Canoe/Kayak Launch. The City's design firm Kimley Horn has been working on the design of the project and are nearing the final stages of completion once provided direction from staff. Staff is planning on taking the residents' comments and a preliminary project design to the City Commission on January 19, 2011 for final approval. Following discussion and direction from the City Commission, the project can be finalized and a Request for Proposal released.

## Protecting Plants From Cold Spells

In the past weeks, South Florida has already recorded temperatures in the upper 30's and low 40's, including the western areas of Oakland Park. Tender tropical plants can be adversely affected by these low temperatures. Here are some cold weather precautions that our residents can take as suggested by City Horticulturist Charles Livio.

- Bring any tender potted plants indoors or at least in the garage before the cold wave.
- For tender plants, shrubs, trees & palms that cannot be brought indoors, make sure that they are watered well before the cold wave.
- Blankets and sheets may also be put over and around tender outdoor plants prior to the cold wave, just make sure that they are secured well; otherwise they may crush and damage the plants. In the daytime remove the blankets and sheets.

Please note that cold weather damage may take anywhere from one day to two weeks to show up, depending on the particular species. Residents should not be alarmed to see leaf color changes and leaves drop after a cold wave.