

News for Neighborhoods



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH - APRIL 2007



CITY DIRECTORY

Delray Beach City Hall
100 NW 1st Avenue
Delray Beach, Florida 33444
General Information
(561) 243-7000

Emergency 9-1-1
Non-Emergency 243-7800
English-Spanish-Creole

City Manager's Office 243-7010
Mayor and City Commission
Oficina del Administrador de la Ciudad
Biwo Manadjè Vil-la

Police Department 243-7888
Departamento de la Policía
Depatmin Polis

Fire Department 243-7400
Parque de Bomberos
Depatman pou Dife

City Clerk's Office 243-7050
Oficina del Actuario de la Ciudad
Biwo Komi pou Vil-la

Utility Billing 243-7100
Cargos de Utilidades
Depatman Bil Dlo/Elektrik

Water/Sewer Maint. 243-7312
Mantenimiento del Agua y Alcantarilla
Depatman pou Pwòpte Dlo avèk Egou

Animal Control 243-7330
Mando de Animales
Depatman Ki An Chaj Zannimo

Jobline 243-6201
Linea de Trabajos
Liy Telefòn pou Jwenn Travay

Parks & Recreation 243-7250
Parques y Recreación
Depatman Pak & Rekreyasyon

Municipal Golf Course 243-7380
Campo de Golf Municipal
Magazen Golf

City Website: MyDelrayBeach.Com

TAX REFORMS ARE TOPIC NUMBER ONE IN DELRAY BEACH



The complexities of tax reform in the State of Florida have come to the fore in conversations throughout Delray Beach. Property owners of single family homes, condo units, rental apartments and businesses are all concerned about the effect any of the proposals being debated in Tallahassee will have on residents and the business community.

The Palm Beach County Property Appraiser establishes the assessed value of your property. Various taxing authorities; Palm Beach County, County School District, Health Care District, South Florida Water Management and the City of Delray Beach set the tax rates. The City of Delray Beach is actually about 34% of your total tax bill. The rest goes to the above named and other taxing authorities.

Permanent residents have the option to file for an annual Homestead Exemption. This gives the resident a \$25,000 reduction in their gross property value for tax purposes. In addition, the Homestead Exemption automatically qualifies the property owner for the

Save-Our-Homes amendment which means their annual taxable property valuation cannot increase more than 3% or the actual Consumer Price Index, whichever is less. In recent years, this cap on taxable assessed value increases has ranged from 1.77% to 3.00%. Therefore, tax increases have been capped annually for Homesteaded properties. Plus, the recent lowering of the City's tax rate from \$8.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$7.30 per \$1,000 actually meant a tax reduction for most home owners. Rental apartments, commercial entities and businesses do not have the privilege of filing for either the Homestead Exemption or the Save-Our-Homes tax cap.

The current problem in all of Florida is that property values have soared over 100% in the past few years. Homesteaded properties never increased more than 3% annually, but non-homesteaded properties and businesses have seen the extraordinary rise in their annual tax bill. "Snowbirds", whose permanent residences are out of state, are not homestead eligible and have also felt the full impact of taxable value increases. City and County taxing authorities hit with hurricane costs and double digit increases in pension costs, healthcare costs, fuel costs, construction expenses and astronomical property insurance increases are requiring tax revenues well beyond the 3% cap on homesteaded properties. All of these circumstances shift a heavy burden onto non-homesteaded properties and businesses creating tax inequities in the community.

The City of Delray Beach is currently evaluating all the tax reform proposals being offered by our state legislators. In the May issue of News For Neighborhoods, we will address the impact of these various schemes on your individual taxes and on the City of Delray Beach.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CITY

There are several ways residents can keep in touch with City Hall and activities throughout the City of Delray Beach. The most comprehensive tool is the City's web-site, mydelraybeach.com, that offers a free e-mail subscription service. Delray Beach **Emergency Radio at 1620 AM** broadcasts local information 24 hours a day,

7 days a week. Delray Beach programs and continuous text information are available on **Comcast Cable Community Television, Channel 98**.

For more information, please call the Public Information Office at (561) 243-7190.



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**DELRAY BEACH
CALENDAR OF
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES
APRIL 2007**

April 8

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Services 6:30 AM
Delray Municipal Beach
Atlantic Avenue at A1A

April 8 – 14

USTA Boys' and Girls'
National Tennis Championships
Delray Beach Tennis Center
Info: (561) 330-6000

April 10 (Tentative)

City Commission Meeting
City Hall 6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

April 12

"African American Good News Gospel"
Spady Cultural Heritage Museum
Photo Exhibit
Info: (561) 279-8883

April 13 – 15

45th Annual Delray Affair
Info: (561) 279-1380 ext. 22

April 19 – 26

Palm Beach International Film Festival
Premieres
"World Showcase of Films"
Info: (561) 362-0003

April 21

Annual Circle On The Square Food &
Wine Tasting Soiree
Old School Square
Entertainment Pavilion
6:30 PM – 9:30 pm
Info: (561) 243-7922 ext. 310

April 22

Performance In The Park
Veterans Park
Klezmer Orchestra Jazz
Free Admission
Info: (561) 243-7277

April 24 (Tentative)

City Commission Meeting
City Hall 6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

April 29

Sunday Musical Matinee
Big Band Nostalgia
Latin Music From 50's – 60's
Delray Beach Public Library
2:00 PM Info: (561) 266-0194

**City Website:
MyDelrayBeach.com**

**GLADIOLAS HAVE COME A
LONG WAY IN 45 YEARS**



In 1952, the City of Delray Beach celebrated the advent of Spring with the Gladiola Festival. From that humble beginning, the Delray Affair was born and has prospered ever since. The 2007 version of the Delray Affair will welcome approximately 250,000 visitors over Friday, April 13th, Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th opening at 10:00 AM each morning.

Atlantic Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic as of 4:00 AM Friday morning of April 13th, from NW – SW 1st

Avenue (west of Swinton) to the Intracoastal Waterway on East Atlantic Avenue. Delray Affair vendors and exhibits will extend one block north and south of Atlantic Avenue and traffic will flow north and south on Federal Highway, 5th and 6th, also designated as U.S. 1. Police will direct traffic and monitor vehicular and pedestrian movement. Free shuttle bus services will bring visitors from parking areas located at the old Atlantic High School site on NE Seacrest to Pineapple Grove Way at NE 2nd Avenue and the Downtown Roundabout will provide transportation from the Tri-Rail Station on North Congress Avenue to Atlantic Avenue and will drop-off passengers just one block west of Swinton and the entrance to the festivities.

This 45th Annual Delray Affair will feature arts, crafts and entertainment as Florida's oldest and largest outdoor festival with over 600 exhibitors and vendors offering an incredible variety of original and handmade products. The Delray Affair is open from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM each day with continuous music and strolling entertainers throughout the festival and a great assortment of foods for every taste.

For more information, call (561) 279-1380 ext. 22.

**THERE'S A NEW
MAYOR IN TOWN**



Mayor
Rita Ellis

Former City Commissioner Rita Ellis was elected to the post of Mayor of Delray Beach on March 13, 2007. Her honor is the first woman to be elected as Mayor of Delray and during Mayor Emeritus Jeff Perlman's administration, acted as Vice Mayor. Nelson S. "Woodie" McDuffie ran uncontested and replaced Commissioner Jon Levinson, who, like Perlman was subject to term limits. Gary Eliopoulos, well known local architect, was selected for the Commission seat vacated by Rita Ellis. Congratulations to all.

FED CUP RETURNS TO DELRAY BEACH

In 2005, the women's Fed Cup Quarter Finals were held in Delray Beach for the first time featuring Venus and Serena Williams. The USTA (United States Tennis Association) has selected Delray Beach in 2007 to host the Fed Cup once again and both Venus and Serena Williams will anchor the United States Team versus Belgium. Zina Garrison, U.S. Fed Cup Team Captain, is excited about returning to the enthusiastic crowds that fill the Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center. She says, "We expect to field a very strong team and have our sights on winning the Fed Cup title this year." Sabine Appelmans has been appointed Fed Cup Captain for Belgium and as a previous player, has an impressive record in Fed Cup competition.



The City of Delray Beach hosted sell-out matches for the last U.S. Fed Cup home quarter-finals in 2005 as well as the men's Davis Cup Quarter Finals versus Sweden in 2004. Fed Cup, sponsored by BNP Paribas, is the world's largest annual international team competition with 89 countries competing this year. Ticket prices range from \$35.00 to \$225.00 with VIP packages available. Tickets may be obtained by calling (888) 334-8782. For more information, please call (914) 696-7000.

**VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO SERVE
ON CITY ADVISORY BOARDS**

Opportunities exist for citizen volunteers to work in harmony with the government by serving on Advisory Boards. The City of Delray Beach has 21 active Advisory Boards and Committees, each set up to perform specific functions. All positions are voluntary and members are not compensated for their time. However, the individuals who serve on Advisory Boards and Committees provide an invaluable service to the City. Their advice and expertise on a wide range of topics assist the City Commission in its decision-making process.

The City is seeking individuals to serve on the Board of Adjustment, Board of Construction Appeals, Civil Service Board, Code Enforcement Board, Neighborhood Advisory Council, Nuisance Abatement Board, Parking Management Advisory Board, and the Public Employees Relations Commission.

Advisory Board and Committee vacancies are listed in News for Neighborhoods, the City's monthly newsletter, and on the City's web-site at www.mydelraybeach.com. Applications can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall, Room 207, 100 NW 1st Avenue, Delray Beach, by visiting the City's web-site or by contacting Venice Cobb at 561-243-7056.