

news for NEIGHBORHOODS

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH — APRIL 2004

WATER: OUR MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY

By Ivan Ladizinsky,
City of Delray Beach Public Information Officer



Monitoring the SCADA system at the Water Plant.

An article in *Water & Wastes Digest*, a national industry publication, gave high praise to the City of Delray Beach and its water treatment facilities and staff in its January edition. Steve Whitlock, author of the article begins by saying "Imaginative, innovative, and creative. These terms are commonly used to describe artists, architects or musicians but are not usually associated with a utilities maintenance department. But these words accurately describe the attitude Environmental Services Director Richard Hasko instilled into the Utilities Maintenance Department of Delray Beach, Florida."

Other counties in South Florida have had problems with providing their communities with high quality water and/or dealing with waste water and sewage. Delray Beach has invested and improved its systems to give our residents superior potable water and an efficient waste water system. One of the major factors has been the installation of a computerized and automated process: SCADA, Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition. This was a program the City implemented in the early '90s from Data Flow Systems. It saves the City tens of thousands of dollars every month and that's something tax payers should know.

Like most people, I take the water I use for granted. I expect it to be clear and taste fresh. I expect my waste water to drain properly and without any hassle. I expect the water pressure to be sufficient for my shower. It takes quite a bit of effort and expertise to make all those things happen. It was time I learned for myself just how all this comes about and passed it on to my Delray Beach neighbors.

Bob Bullard, Utilities Maintenance Manager, arranged an afternoon for me to visit the Delray Beach

Water Plant and some of the facilities scattered around the City. It was a fascinating afternoon. Clayton Gilbert, Utilities Supervisor, was my guide. My first question was where do we get our water? There are 30 deep wells at various locations around the City that go down over 100 feet into the aquifer; an underground reservoir of water that is recharged mainly by rainwater filtering down and also supplied by underground waters coming from Lake Okeechobee that is replenished by rainfall and the Kissimmee River. Pumps at our City wells are running nearly all the time, bringing water up and through large pipes that terminate at the City's Water Plant located just off South Swinton Avenue. That's where water treatment begins.

The raw ground water goes through an aeration process, bubbling up into the air and streaming down into a clarifier where chlorine, phosphates, and fluorides are added. The water then flows into sedimentation tanks where sediments and particulates settle to the bottom and clear water flows into a filtration tank passing through anthracite (similar to charcoal filters) gravel and sand. The filtration elements (anthracite, gravel and sand) are reverse washed at least five times a week. This entire process is gravity driven as the water flows down from step to step. Now, we have "finished" water that streams into large storage tanks that feed transfer pumps and water mains that carry the water to all of Delray Beach.

Now we know where and how we get our drinking, washing, and bathing water. What about our waste water, drainage and sewage? It's been over a decade since anyone in Delray Beach can recall a significant overflow of sewage in our streets. How is that controlled? There are 125 lift stations all around Delray Beach. Most of us have never

noticed them but they are there working day and night. Gravity pulls water down from the drains from our homes to a lift station located somewhere near you. Lift stations are spacious concrete caverns beneath the ground that capture waste water and sewage for a given area. Above ground are automated monitoring devices that start and stop pumps located down in the lift station. When waste water and sewage reach a certain depth in the concrete cavern the pumps go into action creating a flow into large pipes that carry all of it to the Regional Waste Water plant on north Congress Avenue which we share with Boynton Beach.

Storm drains are an entirely separate system. The big grills you see in the middle of

Water
Continued on Reverse

Davis Cup Quarter Finals Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center Apr. 9 - 11

USTA selects Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center for U.S. vs Sweden Davis Cup Quarter Final

Delray Beach will host the quarter final matches between the United States and Sweden in their quest for the most prestigious prize in tennis; the Davis Cup. Play begins on Friday, April 9, 2004 and continues through Sunday, April 11th.

Some of the world's best, including Andy Roddick of Boca Raton, are scheduled to play including Sweden's tennis great, Mats Wilander.

"We're thrilled to bring Davis Cup's unique brand of team tennis to South Florida and one of the finest tennis facilities in the country," said Arlen Kantarian, Chief Executive, Professional Tennis, USTA. "Davis Cup is unlike any tennis event in the world and Delray Beach fans can anticipate three days of high-energy entertainment. We expect a loud, patriotic, sell-out crowd."

Tickets for the event are available by phone order only and can be purchased by calling (888) 484-USTA (8782).

Delray Beach Mayor, Jeff Perlman, looks forward to the global exposure for Delray Beach on ESPN and U.S. Davis Cup Captain, Patrick McEnroe looks at the Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center as a world class facility.

For more information, please call (561) 265-0255.



From left to right: Bob Williamson, Clayton Gilbert, Bob Bullard who are most responsible for the SCADA computerized controls that safeguard our water and drainage systems.



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SPRING IN DELRAY BEACH IS ABOUT TO BUST OUT ALL OVER LEAD- ING WITH THE DELRAY AFFAIR



The most beautiful season of the year in Delray Beach blooms with flowers, festivities, great food, and fine times. The 42 Annual Delray Affair, Friday, April 16th through Sunday, April 18, 2004, will undoubtedly attract over 250,000 visitors to stroll along East Atlantic Avenue from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm all three days.

Regarded as the City's signature event, the Delray Affair features over 650 arts, crafts, and food vendors stretching over 10 city blocks with entertainment on three stages, a children's area and four food courts.

Sponsors for the Delray Affair include The Real Yellow Pages from Bell South, Cadillac, Delray Medical Center, Crane's Beach House, Fidelity Federal Bank & Trust and WPBF, Eyewitness News 25.

Vehicular traffic will be blocked NW 1st / SW 1st Avenue (west of Swinton) to the Intracoastal Waterway along Atlantic Avenue. Delray Affair activities will extend North to NE 1st Street and South to SE 1st Street. Traffic going north and south will use U.S. 1 (Federal Highway, 5th & 6th) that will be Police controlled.

It's recommended that visitors use the Atlantic High School parking lots and take the shuttle busses that leave and return every twenty minutes. Atlantic High School is located on NE 22nd and Seacrest which is at the northern limit of Delray Beach. (Seacrest becomes 2nd Ave. in Downtown Delray Beach.) The shuttles drop off and picks up passengers on Pineapple Grove Way (2nd Ave.) at SE 1st Street. The last bus leaves for Atlantic High School at 5:45 pm.

The Spring Beat goes on with Art & Jazz on the Avenue, Thursday, May 13th with music, street performers, open boutiques, galleries and dining under the stars on traffic free Atlantic Avenue from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

On Friday, May 14th, the Hot Air Balloon Race and Festival features the Balloon Glow on East Atlantic near the beach Friday night beginning at 7:00 pm where everyone can see the huge colorful balloons filled with light. The Hot Air Balloon Race takes off from Lake Ida Park, 6:30 am, Saturday, May 15th.

For more information, please call Susan Skatoff at (561) 279-1380, ext. 20.

Water Continued from Front

your streets or access roads are drains for rain-storm water. That water is carried by huge storm drains directly into the Intracoastal water way, for the most part. That's why it's important not to pollute storm drains with oil, garbage, and especially toxic fluids or materials.

This entire system, from retrieving raw water from wells, treating the water, delivering the water, and handling waste water and sewage, is controlled by SCADA. Every station and pump has an RTU; remote transmitting unit. If you should notice a lift station in your neighborhood you will also see an antennae attached. That is a remote radio transmitter that is constantly sending status information back to the main water plant where computer programs assess and command response to any given situation. It is not only a warning system when something goes wrong. It is a working system that keeps every pump, every lift station, every step in the water management process at an optimum level. Many of the innovative applications offered by Data Flow Systems, Inc. were developed by Delray Beach Environmental Services personnel and are now being used by cities all over the United States.

Bob Williamson, Senior Instrumentation Technician points out that more than 60 "virtual point programs" have been created since the original SCADA system was installed and saved tax payers a lot of money in increased efficiencies, fewer man hours, and far less overtime. There are 26 full time employees managing our water, treating our water, monitoring 125 lift stations, 30 deep well pumps, and even landscaping those stations so they fit in with the neighborhood. That's getting a big bang for our bucks. According to Williamson there more improvements to come and the system has enough room to accommodate the growth in Delray Beach.

To insure that all of this controlled process results in a quality water supply for Delray Beach residents, the City operates a full time, fully staffed environmental laboratory which has the primary responsibility for monitoring water quality of the drinking water that is processed by the water treatment plant. The Environmental Compliance Division of Public Utilities monitors water quality parameters on a daily basis, performing over 45,000 sample analyses annually.

Data Flow President, Tom Smadris noted, "Some utilities use a telemetry system as nothing more than an alarm system while others utilize all or most our system's tools. But it's very rare to find a group like the guys from Delray Beach who stretch the limits of the system and push us to develop new capabilities."

I thought you'd like to know about the people who give us our most precious commodity day after day; good, clean, water.

DELRAY BEACH PUBLIC ARTS IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE WANTS TO HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC

The Public Art Implementation Committee was appointed by the City Commission in February of this year to conceive a Public Art Master Plan by June. The committee is now inviting all Delray Beach residents, employees, business and property owners to attend a community workshop to shape the new Public Art Master Plan. The second of two workshops is being held Saturday morning, April 3, 2004, at the Delray Beach Public Library from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The library is located at 29 SE 4th Avenue off East Atlantic Avenue.

Questions that will be asked of the public include: Where would you like to see art? What kind of art? What are your concerns about art in Delray Beach? Would you enjoy seeing sculpture on Barwick, Atlantic, or Linton? How about Pompey or Lake Ida Parks?

To get people thinking, a slide show displaying contemporary public art from around

the world and its role in various cities will be shown. Sodas and snacks will be served.

For more information, please contact Nancy Davila at (561) 243-7226 or Glenn Weiss at (561) 512-1218. Committee Chairperson is Carolyn Pendelton-Parker, (561) 441-1113.

NORTH BOUND EXIT ON LINTON OFF I-95 PROVIDES PARTIAL RELIEF TO BUSINESSES ON EAST LINTON

After months of frustration, businesses on Linton Boulevard east of I-95 may begin to realize a return of customers now able to exit onto Linton traveling north on the freeway.

A major thoroughfare, exits on Linton have been blocked or partially barricaded for construction over the past year. Automobile traffic has been diverted to exit at Congress (south of Linton) or Atlantic Avenue (north of Linton) exasperating the many businesses on the east Linton corridor.

Linton Boulevard west of I-95 is still under construction with much of the paving yet to be done and drivers are cautioned to take their time on the stretch of Linton from Congress to Military Trail. This is a County project and should be completed by mid-April. Yes, this April.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
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visit our website
www.mydelraybeach.com

The City shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity conducted by the City. Contact Doug Randolph, at (561) 234-7127, at least (24) hours prior to the program or activity in order for the City to reasonably accommodate your request.