

news for NEIGHBORHOODS

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH — AUGUST 2004

24 MILLION DOLLARS: SIX MONTHS LATER

On January 20, 2004, the voters of Delray Beach approved a 24 million dollar Parks, Recreation and Cultural Bond in a special referendum that garnered nearly 64% of the ballots cast for the bond. What has happened since that vote six months ago? How has the City Commission acted on the confidence of Delray Beach residents up to now?

The Delray Beach Public Library broke ground for its new and much more spacious structure June 17th and will probably be completed by the Fall of 2005. With twice the capacity (47,000 sq. ft.) of the present building, the structure is definitely in the South Florida style reminiscent of the Keys. The architects are Perkins & Mill of Coral Gables (principal architect, Jose Gelabert) and the construction company is BSA Corporation of Delray Beach. BSA has been involved with several well known projects in Delray Beach namely Old School Square renovations and its outdoor Pavilion. The new library will contain not only a great many more volumes of books, but more computer stations, meeting rooms, special sections for children, an auditorium and a coffee shop.

The Catherine Strong Park project, located adjacent to the Village Academy, promises to be one of the jewels of the Delray Beach Parks & Recreation Department. The initial concept of the park was designed by Digby Bridges & Marsh, a local and highly respected architectural firm, this beautiful new park will include an elaborate splash park with a waterfall and dancing fountains as well as picnic areas, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds and restroom facilities. This project is now in the final design stage with construction to begin later this year.

The City's portion of Lake Ida Park at the end of NW 11th Street (leased from Palm Beach County) is due for major renovations and improvements and the creation of a Boy Scout Hut Park, just west of Swinton on Lake Ida Road, are measures approved by the City Commission on June 22, 2004.

Kimley-Horn & Associates have been retained as consultants for the site plan on the Boy Scout Hut Park and public meetings will be announced to get resident's opinions on the site plan and future facilities. Currie Sowards Aguila Architects are the site plan consultants for the Lake Ida Park improvements and the public's input will be sought on those preliminary designs as well.

Public hearings held on June 28th and July 8th have provided the Parks & Recreation Department with resident's input on the facilities they would like to see at the future Senior Center/Community Center to be established west of I-95. Tetra-Tech consultant Rick Durr led the public discussion for needs assessment on June 8th and program development should be finished within four months. Residents also gave their opinions on what the expansion of the Pompey Park Recreation Center should include. A meeting at Pompey Park on June 28th was well attended and residents had many interesting suggestions. The Recreation Center building is slated for a \$500,000.00 upgrade and City staff is now beginning negotiations with the selected design firms. Conceptual recommendations and initial designs will be considered by the City Commission and be returned to the residents again for approval.

The City is also identifying the locations of two additional new parks and appraisals have been ordered on several parcels. The City hopes to close on these properties by this Fall. The building of a future club house at the Swim & Tennis Center in SE Delray Beach on Jaeger Drive off Lindell Blvd. is being designed by Currie Sowards Aguila Architects and should be completed by next summer. Part of the George and Harriet Cornell estate, Cornell Park in the Lake Ida Neighborhood will become a very natural public space out of what was the Cornell's backyard. Robert Walters, Architect is developing the site plan.

One of the major measures passed in the special referendum last January gave the go-ahead to the construction of a large parking garage next to Old School Square and an expanded Old School Square Park. The properties on the south-west corner of Pineapple Grove Way and 1st Street are being negotiated for acquisition with construction anticipated in 2005.

The projected Old School Square garage will be a multi-use structure with some retail and parking on the ground floor and parking above the street with approximately 500 parking spaces. That nearly triples the number of parking spaces available in the public parking lot now at that location.

The Bexley Park development off Barwick Road will include a public park of at least 11 acres designed for family use. CH2M Hill are consultants for the preliminary designs. Bexley Park is a community of 101 single family

homes, 81 manor units and 82 townhouses. D.R. Horton, the builder, agreed to set aside a portion of that site for a public park. The City will begin construction on the park later this year pending any additional acquisitions that would allow for a larger park.

All of this activity will be much more apparent by the summer of 2005 and the citizens of Delray Beach will see and begin to enjoy the investment made in their City.

Aside from the funds allocated from the Parks & Recreation bond issue, there is even more going on to make Delray Beach the envy of South Florida. The Community Redevelopment Agency and the City have numerous projects to enhance the quality of life throughout Delray Beach. By the end of September this year, 47 bus stop shelters, costs shared by the City and the CRA, should be in place in and around the City. These bus shelters will provide protection from sun, rain, a place to sit and are accessible to the disabled.

The Gateway Project at Atlantic Avenue and I-95 is being developed by a group of engineering, design, and environmental consultants who are taking the City's history, diversity, character and natural attractions into consideration. PBS& J of Ft. Lauderdale is the contracting firm.

The CRA has retained Michael Singer of Delray Beach, Public Artist; Gary Moore of Miami, a Public Artist working on several Delray Beach projects; Margi Glavovic Nothard of Ft. Lauderdale, architectural design; and Patrea St. John of Ft. Lauderdale, landscape architecture.

This distinguished group is intent on creating an entrance to Delray Beach from I-95 unlike any other in South Florida. This is another element in unifying the diverse communities of Delray Beach by creating an "official entrance" to Atlantic Avenue and the "new extended downtown." Anyone arriving at the Atlantic Avenue exits on I-95 will know they are about to experience something unique.

The public is invited to attend meetings where the concepts and designs for the Gateway Project will be displayed. Meetings will be held on August 5th at the Delray Beach Golf Club, 6:00 pm and September 2nd at Old School Square, Ocean Breeze Room also at 6:00 pm.

The Southwest Neighborhood Development Plan has been discussed, debated and surveyed for over three years. Establishment of the new Public Library on West Atlantic, the completion of Atlantic Grove on West Atlantic adjacent to the Stadium & Tennis Center and the renewal and beautification of Southwest/Northwest 5th Avenue off Atlantic Avenue are harbingers of what is yet to come. The CRA is heavily involved in all these projects. The goal is to include our African-American, Haitian, Bahamian, Jamaican, Asian, and Hispanic communities in the economic and cultural development of all Atlantic Avenue, creating a charming and diverse downtown district stretching from I-95 to A1A.

Speaking of A1A, the Metropolitan Planning Organization looked upon the Delray Beach Consensus Committee report on refurbishing A1A with favor and on June 17th agreed to forward those recommendations to the Florida Department of Transportation for a final review with the City of Delray Beach.

The final plans for the re-paving, lighting, landscaping and the adding of bicycle lanes and sidewalks along Ocean Boulevard must be completed by February, 2005. Construction will begin in early 2006

Last, but not least, the new Atlantic High School will open its doors to 2,500 students in 2005 providing the youth of Delray Beach with a state-of-the-art learning facility among the best in the nation. The gymnasium, outdoor sports complex and stadium, large theatre, library, computer stations and meeting rooms will provide a center for the community to meet, learn and gather to celebrate the achievements of our youngsters.

The construction and development of a new soccer complex on the grounds of the present Atlantic High School is being coordinated with the County School Board. A new middle school being proposed for this site will have a lot to do with how the remaining space at this location will be used. The "old" Atlantic High School will be torn down with the exception of the auditorium and science building. The Aqua-Crest Pool, a County facility, will be expanded with the addition of a "water park."

The next 4 years will see significant progress in the City of Delray Beach. In that time, there are also challenges to meet. Affordable and work-force housing, traffic congestion, improved educational opportunities, elder-ready facilities, public transportation and unifying our diverse population to participate in the City's progress are issues that must be met so that all residents can partake of our beautiful, charming village by the sea.



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**THE COUNCIL'S CORNER
FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Hello Delray Beach Residents!

At last month's meeting, your representatives serving on the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) voted for a mission statement, slogan and logo that would set the course to serve you. The NAC mission is: "Enhancing the quality of life in Delray Beach by educating, assisting and communicating with community associations and residents to improve their neighborhoods with the aid of available city services and resources." That means we are here to help you access city services and resources so you can resolve livability issues in your neighborhood. Our slogan therefore: "Improving Delray Beach Neighborhood by Neighborhood." The NAC logo will appear soon. Now the work begins.

At the beginning of each monthly meeting, we hear presentations from a neighborhood or association representative about livability issues. Last month we heard from the association presidents of Osceola Park and Rainberry Woods. The residents there formed a crime watch program and are working with the police. The city's redevelopment plan for this neighborhood is on a faster track.

Different quality of life challenges awaited the new association president of Rainberry Woods. They included poor maintenance of homes, which has contributed to reduced property values. A strategic task team approach has helped educate residents about maintaining their asset and upgrading the neighborhood. Despite the progress, advice on running an association legally and effectively is a need expressed by the novice president.

We invite your neighborhood representative to report on livability issues. Please call Janet Meeks, educational coordinator (243-7231), to schedule a brief presentation at a NAC meeting. After hearing reports from most neighborhood representatives, we will select the most common issues and conduct educational clinics to help resolve them.

We are still contacting neighborhood representatives to fill out the questionnaire that will help us tailor educational clinics to your needs. If you represent a neighborhood and did not receive the questionnaire, please call Ms. Meeks. Also, we are planning another potluck dinner with a group of neighborhoods, so do get to know your NAC representative.

(The NAC meets the third Monday of every month, 5:30pm sharp in the City Hall conference room.)

Karen Lustgarten – www.mydelraybeach.com



SOLOMON D. SPADY

**EPOCH OF DELRAY
BEACH HONORS
SOLOMON D. SPADY
FAMILY AT REUNION
BREAKFAST**

One of the pioneer teachers in the early days of Delray Beach and namesake for the S.D. Spady Cultural Arts Museum and Complex and Spady Elementary School was honored at a reunion breakfast sponsored by EPOCH (Expanding & Preserving Our Cultural Heritage) Saturday, July 24, 2004 at the Delray Beach Golf Club.

**Welcome to the MOMS Club!
The only international support group
specifically for all at-home mothers!**

We meet during the day, when at-home mothers most need support!

We believe being a mother shouldn't isolate you, so mothers may bring their children with them! For meetings, groups set up children's rooms with member volunteer baby-sitters (the children think they are at their own club!) and at activities, having children present is considered a natural part of life!

We have an established support system for our local chapters. Our volunteer Coordinators are experienced MOMS Club Moms who are ready to help you every step of the way! You can call them for advice, ideas and help! Where there are several groups in an area, we help set up luncheons and get-togethers so officers and members can network and exchange ideas, and we have special newsletters and other support just for our local chapters and members!

The MOMS Club is a nonprofit corporation and a 501 (C) (3) publicly-supported charity registered with the IRS!

We know being an at-home mother today means making a financial sacrifice, so dues to our local chapters are only \$15-25 per year! Registration fees for chapters are only \$30 per group or \$2 per member per year!

At-home mothers of any age children are welcome! You don't have to leave the group

when your children enter school! We know you still need support as your children grow!

Contact Information: There are 2 chapters in Delray Beach: If you live WEST of I-95, please contact Shelly Hilliard at 495-1854 or skhilliard@adelphia.net. If you live EAST of I-95, please contact Jennifer Deer at 330-0560 or shmenny@aol.com

**City of Delray Beach
Directory**

Serious Emergencies	911
Accident Reports	243-7830
Police Response	243-7800
Animal Control	243-7330
Beach Patrol	243-7352
City Clerk	243-7050
City Manager	243-7015
Fire Department	243-7400
Garbage Collection	278-1717
Job Line	243-7200
Parks & Recreation	243-7250
Public Information	243-7009
Utility Billing	243-7100
Water/Sewer	243-7312
Water/Sewer (After Hours)	243-7318

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH
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DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33444**

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.