

News for Neighborhoods



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH - June 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

CITY COMMISSION TAKES A HARD LOOK AT FUNDING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

A number of misperceptions have arisen among residents of Delray Beach regarding the City's potential sale of a \$40 million dollar revenue bond issue to complete ongoing projects approved over the past five years and to build needed new projects identified by the City Commission. As reported in the media and discussed at several City Commission meetings, the costs for projects identified as a result of the City's Parks and Recreation System Master Plan of 2002, financed by the \$24 million dollar Parks & Recreation Bond Measure of 2004, were inflated by unexpected circumstances. These included the extraordinarily rapid rise in property values, the devastating hurricanes, Frances, Jean, Katrina and Wilma, that put construction labor and materials at a premium and the compounding impact of energy expenses on construction costs.

The rise in property values made the City's acquisition of land for public facilities impossible to hold to original estimates. The initial estimate for land for the Old School Square Parking Garage and the adjacent park was approximately \$7 million. After months of negotiation with the owners of that site, the final cost went up to \$13.85 million. The cost of construction of the structure was initially estimated at approximately \$10.5 million and now, nearing completion, costs have totaled \$15.7 million.

In forming projections on the cost of public works, the City of Delray Beach retained respected consultants who specialize in design and cost estimating for municipal facilities. Their projections were well short of the realities over the past five years that have had a major impact on agreed upon plans and strategies. The uncertainty now rests in Tallahassee where state legislators struggle with property tax reform to appease frustrated Florida property owners. The unimaginable increase in property insurance rates ignited citizen concerns over the cost of living in Florida, specifically the exploding cost of real estate, not unlike California, Arizona or any of the other most desirable places to live in the United States.

With that as background, how does the City of Delray Beach plan to cope with these issues and the future growth of our community?

Anticipating the Florida Legislature and Governor's resolve to cut property taxes, perhaps to 2003 levels, the Delray Beach City Commission is taking a hard look at every aspect of the budget for fiscal 2007-2008 that begins on October 1, 2007. In the

City Commission Workshop held on Tuesday, May 8th, the Commission reluctantly deferred construction of the Delray Beach Family Recreation and Fitness Center at the Lake Ida Road and Congress Avenue site. Otherwise referred to as the Western Community and Senior Center, the project's construction estimate was \$7,600,000 in 2006. The guaranteed price this year put the cost at over \$10,853,000. This project will be addressed in the future. Fire Station #4 at Lake Ida and Barwick Roads, badly damaged during Hurricane Wilma, was determined to be an important public safety facility and critical to provide Fire-Rescue services to that area of the City. The Commission approved \$3,700,000 to rebuild that fire station, including a temporary station. Parks and Recreation projects that are in the planning stages, but not yet under construction, will go ahead with some important adjustments to reduce costs. Old School Square Park will be implemented with enhancements coming later when practical. Miller Field and Mangrove Park will be constructed with some minor alterations. A limited version of the City Hall renovation with the much needed Information Technology building will proceed, but will be financed from savings. Renovations to Pompey Park will go forward as planned and the Seacrest Soccer Complex was approved but with a one-story rather than a two story building. The Finance Department will prepare a revenue bond proposal for Commission review to finance these projects and others already being built. This bond issue will be about forty percent less than the \$40 million dollars initially identified.

The projects outlined above represent initiatives based on the community's desire to improve the quality of life in Delray Beach. It is the goal of the Commission to proceed with these projects in an effort to support the residents of this City and continue its path toward enhanced, long term growth.

Mayor Rita Ellis and the Commission also heard from the City's independent auditors, Caler, Donten, Levine, Druker, Porter & Veil, P.A. The financial report, covering the 2005-2006 fiscal period, showed the City of Delray Beach to be in excellent financial health and meeting every accounting standard with high marks for efficiency and sound management. The City accomplished its goals, as prescribed by residents, the business community and with the City Commission's approval, with revenues exceeding expenses by \$2.8 million dollars.



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DELRAY BEACH CALENDAR OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES JUNE – JULY 2007

June 22 – 24

Roots Cultural Festival
Youth Basketball
Pompey Park
Info: (561) 274-0365

June 23

Family Fun Fishing Day
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Lake Ida Park, Heron Pavilion
Free Food and Fishing
Info: (561) 243-7277

June 28

Art & Jazz on the Avenue
Entertainment – Music
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Atlantic Avenue
Info: (561) 279-1380 EXT. 17

July 4

City Hall Closed
Fabulous Fourth on
Delray's Municipal Beach
Info: (561) 279-1380 EXT. 17

July 10

City Commission Meeting
6:00 PM, City Hall
Info: (561) 243-7000

July 13

Sushi & Stroll Summer Walk
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Morikami Museum and
Japanese Gardens
Info: (561) 495-0233

July 15-22

USTA Boys 16's & 18's
National Clay Court Championships
Delray Beach Tennis Center
Info: (561) 330-6000

July 24

City Commission Meeting
6:00 PM, City Hall
Info: (561) 243-7000

July 27

Friday Night Flicks
Free Admission
8:30 PM
Old School Square
Entertainment Pavilion
Info: (561) 243-7922

City Website:
MyDelrayBeach.com

HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS



2006 spared Delray Beach from any serious storms with the El Nino effect pushing threatening hurricanes away from our shore. 2007 may be an entirely different story. Delray Beach residents recall our recent mishap with Wilma; the hurricane that snuck up on the City with devastating force. It's time to prepare and the annual ritual includes reviewing or developing your own plan for sheltering in place or evacuating the area, stocking up on bottled water, batteries, flashlights, portable radios and non-perishable foods. Your family should have a plan that includes evacuation routes, location of nearest approved safe shelters, a haven for pets and a common meeting place if family members get lost in the confusion of the storm. The Delray Beach Emergency Operations Center, located at the main Fire-Rescue Station #1 on West

Atlantic Avenue, will be activated well before a serious storm reaches our coastline and will issue regular alerts to the local media and on **Delray Beach Emergency Radio at 1620 AM**. To contact Delray Beach Fire-Rescue and reach the Emergency Operations Center, call (561) 243-7400, when the EOC is activated. The City of Delray Beach always prepares for immediate action following the storm with Public Works and Parks & Recreation staff clearing debris and fallen trees. A contract company begins the pick up of major storm debris and the Community Improvement Department starts damage assessment throughout all neighborhoods and the entire City. Everyone should expect that they may be 3 days without any help depending on the severity of the storm. For more information on hurricane preparedness, please visit the City's web-site at **mydelraybeach.com** and click on "Hurricanes".

CITY VOLUNTEERS ARE STARS AT HONORARY LUNCHEON



City Hall-ywood Volunteers

The red carpet graced the Delray Beach Golf Club and Restaurant as the City "Hall-ywood" volunteers arrived at the Annual T.E.A.M. (The Effort Always Matters) Volunteer Luncheon on April 26, 2007. Based on the famed Academy Awards event, the ten guests of honor were treated with celebrity status for their outstanding service to the City of Delray Beach. Each received a mini "Oscar" engraved with a best picture nominee title characterizing the volunteer's dedication.

The T.E.A.M. Volunteer Program began in 1990, utilizing members of the community to assist with a variety of City government duties. These individuals work primarily in City Hall and Fire-Rescue, providing invaluable support to City personnel. Volunteer duties include clerical tasks and low-end equipment maintenance. Thanks to these non-compensated resources, Delray Beach not only benefits monetarily but is able to expand and enhance its effectiveness in community projects and programs.

The City of Delray Beach recognizes and appreciates the men and women who participate in the T.E.A.M. Volunteer Program. These unsung heroes genuinely make a difference in the daily operations of City government, reflecting the true spirit of this Village by the Sea.

2007 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION TO BE DELRAY'S BEST

Since the early 1980s, Delray Beach residents and visitors have congregated on our beautiful beach to observe Independence Day and plans for the upcoming festivities have never been more elaborate.

The Fourth of July in Delray Beach is a day long celebration with something for everybody. Sand sculpting by 17 world class sculptors begins three days in advance of July 4th with the grand unveiling of the large scale sculptures on the morning of Independence Day. On that morning of July 4th, a local sand sculpting contest, sponsored by the Delray Beach Rotary Sunrise, will commence at 8:00 AM. All of this activity takes place on the Delray Beach Municipal Beach at A1A and Atlantic Avenue. At 3:00 PM, the traditional Patriotic Bicycle and Scooter Parade, presented by the Delray Beach Youth Council, will depart from Veterans Park en route to the beach with prizes for the best decorated bicycles, wagons and scooters.

Beginning at 3:00 PM a free live concert and dancing on the beach. More music and entertainment starts at 5:30 PM with other free concerts on stage at Atlantic Avenue and A1A with dancing in the streets. Great food and beverages will be available from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, prepared by the fine restaurants at the beach. At exactly 9:00 PM, all eyes will lift to the night sky as South Florida's most brilliant pyrotechnic display, accompanied by music choreographed to the dazzling fireworks, brings a climax to another Fourth of July in Delray Beach. For participant information in the Bicycle and Scooter Parade, please call (561) 243-7231 and for more information on July 4th activities call (561) 279-1380 ext 17.

