

news for NEIGHBORHOODS

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH — DECEMBER 2003



The Pilgrim Belle, an authentic paddle wheel riverboat, is now the new attraction at Veteran's Park Pier in Delray Beach. Lunch, dinner, and sunset cruises along the Intracoastal waterway will be available from now through April of 2004.

Commentary

By Jon Levinson, Delray Beach Vice Mayor

I was asked the other day, "what's with all the building going on downtown?" The answer is simple, starting in late 2000 a community wide effort was undertaken to create a "Downtown Master Plan" that would guide development and redevelopment in the Central Business District from I-95 to A1A. We held community meetings, a Charette, and various subcommittee meetings involving literally hundreds of Delray Beach residents over 18 months, culminating in the City Commission's adoption of the Plan in March, 2002. The redevelopment you are seeing as a result of the implementation of that plan is the voice of our residents taking shape in brick and mortar. By following the plan developed by our residents, we can make sure future redevelopment is in line with our resident's vision for our Village by the Sea. If you would like to view the Downtown Master Plan you can do so online at the City's web site www.mydelraybeach.com just click on the "Downtown Plan" listing on the left side of the home page.

On January 20, 2004 you have a very important responsibility. That is the day you and your neighbors will be asked to vote on whether to expand and enhance Old School Square, our new library, and Delray's parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. This bond issue is the direct result of another Citywide planning effort which culminated in the adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2002. Again, hundreds of residents, community groups, focus groups and even a telephone survey were used to develop the

Parks and Recreation Master Plan to ensure the people's voice will shape our city's actions. This Bond Issue, consisting of four equally important questions, will enable us to implement the Plan. By taking advantage of record-low interest rates, the Bond Issue will support acquisition of land for additional parks, money for upgrades to existing parks and recreational facilities including a soccer complex, the construction of a much-needed western Community Center, upgrades to the Catherine Strong Center, Pompey Park, and the Swim and Racquet Club to name a few of the citywide benefits. It will also include essential funding for the next phase of the Old School Square complex that will have the benefit of creating hundreds of additional parking spaces downtown. Delray Beach has strong history of reinvesting in our community and this bond issue will determine our future progress.

As always, our City values its neighborhoods. We have helped formed over 150 neighborhood associations in the last 10 years to help insure quality of life. Communicating with them, however, has proved a challenge. The original group charged to do so has not been as effective as hoped, so the Mayor and City Commission have created the Neighborhood Advisory Council. This 17 member City Advisory Council will include representation from throughout the City, and will even have two members from our Youth Council. It will help to maintain a broad-based community dialogue with residents, create neighborhood outreach initiatives, enhance commu-

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100-FOOT TREE LIGHTS UP DELRAY BEACH FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR THE 11th YEAR

Office Depot has partnered up with the Delray Beach Joint Venture to create the Office Depot Season of Joy. The Holiday Tree will be the centerpiece of the season's festivities.

The tree will be featured at Old School Square through New Year's Eve as the focal point of an assortment of family-oriented happenings in downtown Delray Beach.

The Holiday Tree has more than 3,000 hand-fluffed branches, 39,500 ornaments and a shining sea of 15,500 lights in All-America red, white and blue. The tree is 10 stories tall and 50 feet wide at its base.

This year it is home to a North Pole village, including Santa Claus and his



"helpers" — a series of motorized displays. The display runs through January 4, and volunteers are available each day and night to answer questions.

"Phone Home for the Holidays," a new addition to the holiday festivities this year, is provided by Sprint. People visiting the Holiday Tree will be able to make a three-minute phone call to anywhere in the 50 United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Next to the tree is the ice skating rink, made with a "Super-Glide" surface to increase speed. The rink, 30 feet by 60 feet, is suitable for all figure skating, and skating will be available in 45-minute sessions. The

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DELRAY BEACH CIVIC AND BUSINESS LEADERS STEPPED INTO THE SHOES OF EDUCATORS AS PRINCIPALS FOR A DAY NOVEMBER 13TH

Nineteen (19) civic leaders and business executives became a Principal For A Day on November 13, 2003. This is the 3rd Annual Principal For A Day event headed up by Janet Meeks, Education Coordinator for the City of Delray Beach and longtime civic activist, Shelly Weil, Chairman of the PENCIL (Public Education Needs Civic Involvement and Learning) Program. Every public and private school in Delray Beach

A Day” get an education on what to expect from the next generation.

Mayor Jeff Perlman, addressing the “Principal For A Day” participants, says “Your presence in our schools will inspire our students and reinforce the message that we value our teachers and principals.”

The day began at 8:00 am and some of the things that a “Principal For A Day” did included meeting school staff and touring

the facilities, giving morning announcements over the PA, visiting classrooms and partaking in discussions, teaching a class, and in some cases addressing an assembly. The day concluded with a Town Hall Meeting of the “principals” to share their thoughts on the day.

All “Principals For A Day”, parents, and teachers met after school to discuss what they learned about inner workings of a

Delray Beach school. The Town Meeting of all concerned took place at the Delray Beach Marriott.



Florida State Representative Adam Hasner is Principle For A Day at Plumosa Elementary School in Delray Beach.

participates in this program. Teachers and children benefit from the experience that these civic and business professionals can impart and conversely, the “Principals For

THE CITY SITE PLAN REVIEW AND APPEARANCE BOARD PRESENTS AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL PROJECTS AND DESIGN

The City of Delray Beach Planning & Zoning Department in conjunction with the Site Plan Review and Appearance Board held an awards ceremony at the City Commission meeting of November 18, 2003. These awards recognize those property owners and their design teams whose projects have significantly contributed to the beauty of the community and enhancing the distinct character of Delray Beach.

This year’s winners are:

Fidelity Federal Bank (New Commercial Development), Cobra Construction (New Industrial Development), Renaissance Village (Co-winner Residential Development), The Colony (Co-winner Residential Development), Spanish River Resort (Exterior Renovations), "505" Teen Center (Signage).

visit our website
www.mydelraybeach.com

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
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Commentary (continued)

nication on a regular basis, identify potential challenges to the stability of neighborhoods and enhance the quality of life for the entire community. The City Commission has already accepted and confirmed the 17 volunteer members of the board and the first meeting will be on Monday, December 8, 2003.

Hope this information is helpful to keep you up to date with the happenings of our community. Please visit the City’s web site for additional information at www.mydelraybeach.com.

Christmas Tree (continued)

cost is \$5 to rent skates on site, and \$3 without rental.

A 60-horse carousel will be open for rides at Old School Square Monday through Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. and from 1 to 9 p.m. on weekends and during the holiday school break. Rides are \$2 each.

“Avenue in Style” carriage rides will be available for six- or nine-passenger groups. Take a 20-minute tour of Pineapple Grove and Atlantic Avenue, beginning at Old School Square or the Delray Beach Marriott, for \$40. Carriage rides will be available seven days a week from 5 to 11 p.m.

For more information about the 100-foot Holiday Tree, the Office Depot Season of Joy or the Delray Beach Joint Venture, please contact Marjorie Ferrer at (561) 279-1380, Ext. 16.

REGISTER TO VOTE

For the special referendum, January 20, 2004, on the Recreation Centers, Parks, and Cultural Facilities Bond, Delray Beach residents must register by December 19, 2003. For the general Election on March 9, 2004, registration closes on Monday, February 9, 2004. Vote for the future of Delray Beach.