

News for Neighborhoods



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH - October 2008



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

Citizen Service Requests 243-7012
or www.mydelraybeach.com

Peticiones del Servicio del Ciudadano
Sèvis ke Sitwayen Bezwen

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

RATE CHANGES ELIMINATE THE OCEAN SEWER OUTFALL AND ENSURE QUALITY SERVICE FOR RESIDENTS

Effective October 1, 2008, water and sewer rates are expected to change to pay the cost of stopping the discharge of treated sewage into the ocean and continuing to provide quality water service to our residents.

The need to increase sewer rates involves stopping the practice of pumping treated sewage from the South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant into the Atlantic Ocean through an ocean outfall. The South Central Plant provides sewage treatment and disposal services for the City (as well as Boynton Beach). Delray Beach has taken a leadership role in working toward the elimination of the ocean outfall. We will be the first utility in South Florida to do so. Eliminating the outfall required the construction and operation of additional treatment facilities at the South Central Plant along with a well for pumping reclaimed water deep into the earth when there is insufficient demand for such water. The cost of these additional facilities is the major factor in the increase in sewer rates.

At the September 3, 2008 Delray Beach Commission meeting, the City Commission gave initial approval to increase water rates by 5% and to increase sewer rates which results in an overall sewer rate increase of approximately 15%. These increases were recommended by City Manager David Harden after carefully assessing preliminary reports from an independent consultant. Information from the consultant indicated that revenues collected for water service were actually subsidizing sewer services. The approximate 15% sewer rate increase helps ensure that adequate revenues are collected to fund sewer services, particularly the capital investment required to eliminate the ocean outfall. Double digit increases in rates are not expected to continue in the near future. Final approval of the rate changes will be considered by the Commission at their September 16, 2008 meeting.

The South Central Plant expansion has also increased the capacity of the plant to provide reclaimed water. Reclaimed water is treated water from the wastewater plant that can be used for irrigation. The City has an ongoing project to expand the reclaimed water distribution system to various parts of the City. Reclaimed water provides the benefit of less costly water that can be used for irrigation. Conservation of potable water is also a benefit since less is used for irrigation.

Some may wonder why the cost of providing water services needs to increase if people are using less water. Public utilities are not motivated by profit; pricing is based solely on the cost of providing services. Customer response to our conservation message has been extremely positive, resulting in an approximate 23% reduction in average daily use over the past two years. Unfortunately, this also results in a significant reduction in revenues on which the City relies to operate and maintain the utility system. About 84% of the City water and sewer budget consists of fixed costs. This only leaves 16% of the budget that fluctuates based on demand. The rising cost of fuel, electricity, water treatment chemicals, materials and equipment also have a significant impact on the water and sewer budgets since water and sewage treatment processes require lots of energy.

Regardless of demand, public utilities are required by state and federal regulations to provide certain levels of plant flow capacity. Even though people are using less water, the City must maintain these mandatory levels. Facility staffing must also remain at a specified level.

The increases to water and sewer rates will enable the City to continue providing a clean and safe water supply. The importance of quality water and sewer services may sometimes be overlooked. However, anyone who has experienced the loss of these services due to the impact of hurricanes and tropical storms in our area realizes how critical water and sewer services are in our daily lives.

For more information, please call (561) 243-7328.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 2008

October 7

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

October 8

Job Fair Expo
Pompey Park
9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Info: (561) 243-7356

October 11

AVDA 5k Walk/Run
Anchor Park
7:30 AM
Info: (561) 265-3797

October 21

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

October 23

Art and Jazz on the Avenue
Atlantic Ave
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Info: (561) 279-1380

October 25

Delray GreenMarket in the Park
Season Opening
150 E Atlantic Ave
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Info: (561) 276-7511

October 25

Downtown Trick or Treating,
Halloween Parade and KidsFest
Atlantic Ave
11:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Info: (561) 243-7277

October 31 – November 2

18th Annual American Orchid
Society Judged Show and Sale
Old School Square
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Info: (561) 272-9855

October 31 – November 2

Chris Evert Pro-Celebrity
Tennis Classic
Delray Beach Tennis Center
Info: (561) 394-2400

November 3

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

PROPOSED COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT ALLOWS LOCAL VOTERS TO MAKE LOCAL DECISIONS



A proposed **Home Rule Charter Amendment** on the November 4, 2008 ballot gives the opportunity for Cities to have a greater say in important matters that affect their communities.

It requires that Palm Beach County Charter changes that affect City services, powers and authority be approved by both county voters and City voters. This will protect City residents from changes to services and regulatory authority against their wishes.

Proposed changes to the Palm Beach County Charter that affect city services, functions, powers or authority would require approval of both voters countywide and voters within the affected City. Examples of issues that should be decided locally are building appearance rules and park regulations. If a majority of residents within an affected City do not approve the Charter Change, it would not take effect within that municipality.

Adoption of this Charter Amendment will ensure that a City's services, powers, functions and authority rest in the hands of that City's residents, not voters countywide.

Make your voice heard. The City of Delray Beach encourages you to Vote "Yes" on the **Home Rule Charter Amendment** to the Palm Beach County Charter on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

For more information including ballot language, visit www.letusvote.info.

pd., through the provision of in kind services, by the City of Delray Beach on behalf of the Let Us Vote Political Committee, P.O. Box 3286, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

CHRIS EVERT/RAYMOND JAMES PRO-CELEBRITY TENNIS CLASSIC OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 2, 2008

Delray Beach will once again host the Chris Evert/Raymond James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic. Held in association with the Broward Health Chris Evert Children's Hospital, the Tennis Classic raises funds to fight drug abuse and assist at-risk children in our home state. The three day event begins October 31, 2008 and features two days of pro-celebrity tennis from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 1st and Sunday, November 2nd at the Delray Beach Stadium and Tennis Center, 201 West Atlantic Avenue.



Chris Evert/Raymond James
PRO-CELEBRITY TENNIS CLASSIC

A special evening of dining and dancing is planned for November 1st as Chris Evert hosts the Pro-Celebrity Gala at the Boca Raton Resort Club. Sponsored by Esurance, the night promises lively auctions and exceptional entertainment.

Now in its 19th year, Chris Evert and friends continue to support programs that strive to help families in need. To date, the Chris Evert/Raymond James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic has donated more than \$16.8 million to charitable organizations.

To purchase tickets for the Gala and Tennis Classic, call (561) 394-2400. Additional information is also available at www.chrisevert.org.

Official sponsors of the 19th annual Chris Evert/Raymond James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic include Raymond James Financial, Esurance, Clear Channel Radio, Quantum Foundation, Lincoln, 304 Media, Boca Raton Resort and Club, Rolex Watch USA, WPTV Channel 5, Marchon Eyewear, Hilton Garden Inn, the Palm Beach Post, Indulge Special Events & Catering, Swiss International Air Lines, Broward Health, City of Delray Beach, Merle Wood & Associates, Comcast Corporation, Rooms To Go, Nike, White Stallion Productions, Global Wings, Tavaero Jet Charter and Ace Boca Aviation.

PARKS MAINTENANCE DIVISION RECEIVES GRANTS



The City of Delray Beach Parks Maintenance Division applied for and received two \$5,000 Public Land Grants from the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management for the removal of exotic plants in two of the City's parks. The removal included non-native, invasive plants such as Brazilian Pepper, Carrot Wood, Air Potato and Schefflera in Orchard View Park and Leon M. Weekes Environmental Preserve. For more information, please contact Tim Simmons at (561) 243-7260.



CITIZEN SERVICE REQUESTS

Phone: (561) 243-7012

Online: www.mydelraybeach.com

To report a problem, ask a question, offer a comment or file a complaint.



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