

news for NEIGHBORHOODS

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH — JULY 2004



PREPARATIONS FOR THE 4TH OF JULY IN DELRAY BEACH BEGIN IN FEBRUARY

Nearly 100,000 people crowd the beaches, hotels, restaurants, Veteran's Park and the Intracoastal water way of Delray Beach on the 4th of July to watch a spectacular fireworks display burst over the surf accompanied by stirring music precisely timed to match the blazing pyrotechnics in the night sky.

Planning for the 4th of July in Delray Beach begins in February. The Parks & Recreation Department in cooperation with Joint Venture (a collaboration of the CRA, DDA, and Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce), convene meetings with Public Works, Police, Fire-Rescue, Ocean-Rescue, the Marriott Hotel, Florida Sound, Sunny 104.3 FM (WEAT), Boston's On The Beach, Café Luna and liaisons with the Department of Transportation and the U.S. Coast Guard. The actual fireworks arrangements with one of America's foremost pyrotechnics companies, Grucci, Inc., are months in the planning. The entire cost of the fireworks show is over \$70,000.00.

Streets are closed to vehicular traffic beginning at 12:00 noon so throngs of people can stroll Atlantic Avenue near the beach and enjoy the continuous entertainment. The fireworks go off at 9:00 pm.

Approximately 300 extra trash containers are placed on and around the beach, 350 barricades are placed to block vehicular traffic leading to the beach area on East Atlantic, detour signs and disabled parking notices are put in place, stages for entertainment are set up and when it's all over everything is cleared away overnight. Just 30 Delray Beach Parks & Recreation, Maintenance and Public Works employees do it all.

Residents and visitors are urged to park west of the Atlantic Avenue Bridge in downtown Delray Beach. All the public parking lots will be open: City Hall, CRA, the surface lot behind the County Court House, on Pineapple Grove Way, and the Public Library. Metered parking will be scarce at the beach north of Thomas and south of Mirimar and approachable only from Linton Blvd. on the south or George Bush Blvd. from the north. Anyone parked near the beach or east of the Intracoastal can expect a two hour delay in leaving the beach area. Handicap parking is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis and those persons must have placards and registration ready when approaching check points.

It should be noted that no personal fireworks, including sparklers, are permitted at the event and no alcohol is permitted outside the food and beverage courts.

The Linton Avenue Bridge, Atlantic Avenue Bridge and George Bush Bridge will be locked down from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm and raised only in emergency situations. There is also a 1000 foot perimeter around the fireworks barge off shore enforced by a police patrol boat.

The Fire-Rescue Department will have two fire engines and two Rescue vehicles on station for medical transport and a mobile unit with paramedics on duty. Emergency wards at Delray Medical Center, Bethesda and Boca Raton Community Hospitals are the principle medical destinations.

It takes a lot of time and effort to arrange for and coordinate the details. The City of Delray Beach and the Joint Venture team do everything possible to deliver the best and safest 4th of July celebration in South Florida for the public's pleasure. Because they do, all of us can enjoy another fabulous Fourth this year and for many years to come in Delray Beach. For details about all the events during the day, please contact Theresa Travatello at (561) 279-1380, Ext. 17 or check the Joint Venture web-site: downtowndelraybeach.com

"THE SUMMER DAYS OF ROOTS" ARE HERE. THE 27TH EDITION OF THE DELRAY BEACH ROOTS CULTURAL FESTIVAL BEGINS EIGHT WEEKS OF COMMEMORATION AND CELEBRATION THIS WEEK

"Roots: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture, Sustained by IMANI (Faith)" That is the theme of the 27th year of the Roots Cultural Festival that runs from Thursday, June 17, 2004 through Sunday, August 8th in Delray Beach. There are a large number of events, both educational and entertaining, that will take place over the next eight weeks, dubbed "The Summer Days of Roots." Elizabeth J. Wesley, Founder and CEO of the non-profit organization, welcomes one and all to "Come see and enjoy the Roots."

Just some of the special events to look forward to include:

Youth on Parade Talent Show, Thursday, July 15th at the Pompey Park Auditorium, 7:00 pm. A showcase of local youth singing, dancing, and other creative expressions. Volunteers are needed for this event. Please call Roots Headquarters at (561) 274-0365.

Tennis Tournament at the Delray Beach International Tennis Center on July 16th through July 18th for single elimination, men and women singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Sanctioned by the American Tennis Association for Juniors and Adults. For more information call Bill Murray, (561) 789-3410.

Roots Cultural Festival Coronation of Royal Court, Saturday, July 17th, at the Old School Square Gymnasium; crowning of the Roots Festival 2004 King & Queen, Prince & Princess and a luncheon to honor major supporters of the Roots Cultural Festival.

Continuing events include: The Academic Olympics (5 days of academic contests) at Pompey Park; a theatrical play, Alle Miller's "My Soul is Satisfied" at the Crest Theatre in Old School Square; a health fair and seminars focusing on strategies to improve the quality of life will be held at Pompey Park and the Roots Cultural Festival Parade on August 6th proceeding from Pompey Park up "ROOTS" - *Continued on Reverse*

THE HAMLET COUNTRY CLUB CONTRIBUTES TO THE DELRAY BEACH POLICE AND FIRE- RESCUE DEPARTMENTS



Left to right: Art & Sandy Tobias of Hamlet Country Club, Officer Jeff Messer representing Perry Donfrancisco of Delray Citizens for Delray Police, Fire-Rescue Chief Kerry Koen and Police Chief Larry Schroeder.

At the regular City Commission meeting of Tuesday, June 10th, Arthur and Sandra Tobias, Co-Chairs of the 25th Hamlet Country Club charity Day fundraiser, presented checks totaling \$25,000.00 to the City of Delray Beach. \$10,000.00 each went to the Police Department and Fire-Rescue Department and \$5,000.00 to the Citizens for Delray Police. This past May, at a ceremony at The Hamlet, John Callahan, Chief Librarian for the Delray Beach and Jay Alperin, Chairman of the Old School Square Cultural Center each received checks for \$5,000.00.

In all, The Hamlet Country Club, made up of 300 families, contributed \$41,000.00 to benefit all the citizens of Delray Beach. This year's fundraiser featured a golf tournament and a sumptuous Oriental buffet dinner party.

Over the past 25 years, the Hamlet Country Club has supported the Delray Beach Police, Fire-Rescue, Emergency Medical Services and the Library through annual events.



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THE COUNCIL'S CORNER FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hello Delray Beach Residents!

As your 17 volunteer members of the Neighbor Advisory Council (NAC) to the city commissioners, we are very interested in hearing about challenges that affect the quality of life in your individual neighborhoods. To learn more about your communities, we invite you to send a representative, such as your association president, to one of our monthly NAC meetings and report on livability issues that affect your community. After we have heard reports from most of the neighborhood representatives, we will select the most common issues and conduct educational clinics to help resolve them.

The NAC meets every third Monday at 5:30pm sharp in the first floor conference room at City Hall. We encourage you to schedule a date to speak about your neighborhood by calling Janet Meeks, educational coordinator, at (561) 243-7231.

Last month we sent a letter and made follow-up calls to association presidents throughout the city that included a questionnaire about challenges in your neighborhoods. We could not reach many presidents, possibly because they may be away for the summer. If so, please have another representative from your community call Ms. Meeks to schedule a presentation and how your NAC volunteer can reach you to fill out the questionnaire. The more neighborhood representatives we hear from at NAC meetings and through the questionnaire, the better we can tailor educational clinics to your needs.

Meanwhile, you can find NAC news on the city's Web page at mydelraybeach.com. Soon we will have our own Web page there with updates. We are looking forward to your participation at the meetings. That's how you can help us help you to improve your neighborhood and make our city an even better place to live.

Karen Lustgarten – www.mydelraybeach.com

PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE EXPANSION OF POMPEY PARK RECREATION CENTER

In the passage of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Bond referendum this past January, one of the major items proposed was the establishment of a Western Community Center (west of I-95) and the improvement and expansion of the Pompey Park Recreation Center located on Martin Luther King Drive in NW Delray Beach. To implement those two projects, the Parks & Recreation Department is holding public meetings to hear the comments of community residents as to the type of facilities and programs they desire.

The first of these meetings was held on June 28, 2004, at the Community Center next to City Hall. The second meeting will be held at the Pompey Park Community Center, located at 1101 NW 2nd off Martin Luther King Drive, to discuss the renovations to and expansion of the park's Recreation Center, July 8, 2004, beginning at 7:00 pm. Rick Durr of TetraTech, the City's engineering consultant on these projects, will be there to lead the discussion.

It is important for all citizens of the area to attend as these are major facilities serving a great number of people. A good deal of consideration will be given to the public's opinion on the kinds of programs that may be offered and just what the facilities should include. For more information, please call the Director of Parks & Recreation, Joseph Weldon at (561) 243-7251.



Israeli Scouts visiting Delray Beach on their national goodwill tour show their stuff at the City Commission. The 16 and 17 year old Israeli Scouts performed over a dozen shows for appreciative audiences in and around Delray Beach.

"ROOTS" - Continued from Front

West Atlantic to Old School Square followed by performances of Island music and Blues at the Pavilion beginning at 8:00 pm. The Roots Cultural Festival culminates on the weekend of Saturday, August 7th with entertainment, music by local and nationally known artists and plenty of ethnic foods, arts and crafts. On Sunday, August 8th, gospel and spiritual music will ring out from Old School Square Park and Pavilion to bring the two month celebration to a rousing climax.

Volunteers are needed for these and many more events over the eight week celebration and all are urged to call the Roots offices at (561) 274-0365.

Doughty and Robert Wells and Lily Pon-Gaines. For further information, please call the Roots Headquarters at (561) 274-0365 or Elizabeth Wesley at (561) 278-1013.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH
100 N.W. FIRST AVENUE
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.