

APRIL 2003 CITY PREPARES FOR CODE RED ALERTS

When and if the Department of Homeland Security issues a Code Red Alert, the highest level alert status to counter terrorist strikes, the City has planned ahead for just such a contingency.

At this writing, the nation is at Code Orange, just one level below Code Red. The Police and Fire Departments of Delray Beach are on alert and have prepared and trained to meet any emergencies. Our web site, mydelraybeach.com, has a Homeland Security link (shaded in pink) that goes to the Fire-Rescue homepage which has several links at the bottom of that page. The Homeland Security "Be ready . . ." link can be accessed plus the American Red Cross web site. These sites offer pertinent information to residents on how they should prepare and conduct themselves in case of an emergency.

The City has copies of the Homeland Security Preparations and Planning Guide for City employees and residents of Delray Beach. These guides are available at all Fire Stations, the library, Police Department, and City Hall.

Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners recently established a "County-wide Anti-Terrorism Committee" to plan and coordinate our response to terrorist activities.

RESIDENTS ACADEMY HAS OPENINGS

The 4th edition of the popular Residents Academy is set to start on April 3rd and will run for six weeks, on Thursday nights from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The sessions are held at City Hall in Delray Beach and are open to all area residents interested in how a Commission/City Manager municipality works.

All phases of the City's departments will be explained and discussed with the managers and department heads who are responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the City. There is no charge for participating in the Residents Academy and everyone will receive a "Citizen's Notebook" with materials and directories to reach anyone at City Hall.

Our Residents Academy is the model for like programs in other towns throughout South Florida and a rare opportunity for citizens to meet and question their City's elected and appointed leaders. **Interested persons can access registration information at our web site: mydelraybeach.com or call Janet Meeks at 561-243-7231.**

MAYOR SCHMIDT PRAISED AT FINAL MEETING

March 18, 2003, was an emotional day for Mayor David. W. Schmidt. That evening's City Commission meeting would be the last time he would officially preside over the City's legislative sessions. The City Commission and many others present at that meeting heaped praise on the Mayor, including citations from the Kiwanis Clubs and a handsome plaque with a key to the City for his honor to display on the wall of his law offices. Mayor Schmidt returned the favor at the close of the meeting by lauding his associates, Jon Levinson, Alberta McCarthy, Pat Archer, and Mayor-Elect, Jeff Perlman, as partners in the progress of Delray Beach over the past few years when he, Schmidt, was a commissioner for three years prior to his three years as Mayor. An organizational meeting of the City Commission took place on March 27th, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall to welcome new Commissioner Bob Costin, assign specific responsibilities, and officially install Mayor Jeff Perlman.

MAYOR PERLMAN TO APPEAR ON ADELPHIA CABLE

Mayor Jeff Perlman will appear on Adelphia's "Around Our Town", hosted by Sid Snyder. The conversation about the immediate future and long term prospects for Delray Beach was taped at the Lynn University studios the day after elections, March 12th. Perlman, who was unopposed in the primary election, has served the City of Delray Beach as a commissioner for the past three years, but his prior activities in the City include: the Community Center of Delray Beach, Village Foundation, West Settlers Advisory Committee, Downtown Master Plan Steering & Implementation Committees, and serving on the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce Board for Governmental Affairs. Coming from a journalistic background in upstate New York and an editor for the South Florida News, Jeff Perlman became a resident and homeowner in Delray Beach in 1988.

Sid Snyder's program, "Around Our Town" can be viewed Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays on Adelphia Cable, channel 23. His program provides local citizens and civic groups access to communicate and inform their communities regarding issues and events.

The program with Mayor Perlman will be scheduled to air in late March and during the month of April.

FIRE-RESCUE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE TROOPS

The Delray Beach Fire Department is cooperating with an initiative of Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue to gather personal care items which may be helpful to military personnel overseas in the coming months. The collection drive is being called, "Firefighters Supporting Our Troops" which is probably the first campaign of its kind in Florida.

Fire-Rescue has established a military liaison in the Middle East that has provided the County with a complete list of acceptable items that can be donated and distributed. Sun screen, lip balm, eye drops, hand sanitation, handy wipes, and foot care products are among the items in greatest demand.

All Delray Beach Fire-Rescue stations will be designated as drop-off sites for these supplies, as will stations throughout the County. The effort will continue for the duration.

For further information, please call Chief Steve Jerauld, 561-616-7006, or Capt. Sean Pamplons, 561-616-7077.

FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH EVENTS IN DELRAY

The 8th annual Palm Beach International Film Festival comes to Delray Beach with two extravagant nights celebrating today's independent film makers and tomorrow's Oscar winning actors, writers, and directors. This year, the Festival reaches out from West Palm Beach with events occurring from Jupiter to Delray Beach.

The Film Festival will literally kick-off the festivities in Delray Beach with an outdoor screening of the very popular "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" at the Old School Square Pavilion, 8:00 p.m. The public is invited to bring along their lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the movie at no charge.

There will be music and traditional Greek dancing beginning at 6:00 p.m. and everyone will be encouraged to shout "OPA!"

On Thursday, April 10th, the Film Festival's final awards ceremonies will take place at the Old School Square Gymnasium starting at 9:00 p.m. The "Annual Film Competition Awards & Wrap Party" is the Festival's "mini-Academy Awards." There are 79 films entered in this year's competition. It is no coincidence that one of last year's entries was "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

To purchase tickets for the Competition Awards on April 10th, please call 561-218-1370. The cost is \$25.



RHYTHM & BLUES TO ROCK WEST ATLANTIC AVENUE

The next Rhythm & Blues on West Atlantic Avenue will take place on April 12th, in the 400 block of West Atlantic, which is the Wideman Bldg. Plaza.

Adults, parents, and children will enjoy a safe, relaxed atmosphere with all the entertainment elements of a carnival. Starting at 2:00 p.m. and continuing until 9:00 p.m., the music of the Caribbean, reggae, soca, salsa, and calypso will accompany all the activities available to the entire family. The children can romp in a "bounce-house" or have their faces painted by Freckles, the clown, while there parents may visit a variety of merchants' booths and feast on the good food. **For more information, call Rosalind Murray at 561-276-8640.**

CREATIVE FORCE BEHIND SPADY HOUSE HONORED

Vera Farrington, founder of EPOCH (Expanding and Preserving Our Cultural Heritage) is the recipient of the **African American Achievers Award**, sponsored by JM Family Enterprises.

Mrs. Farrington is a retired Palm Beach County educator and Delray Beach resident. Through her efforts, EPOCH, a non-profit organization, was created to preserve the City's history of the black community. She worked diligently with the Community Redevelopment Agency, the City, County, and State of Florida to create the S.D. Spady Cultural Arts Museum.

The award was presented on March 13th at the Broward County Convention Center.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19th at Miller Park. The Easter Bunny arrives at 8:00 a.m. and the egg hunt starts at 8:30 a.m. sharp! Children, ages 1 to 8 years old, are invited to bring their Easter Baskets hunt for over 10,000 Easter Eggs filled with candy and special prizes. Show up early and bring a camera for that perfect photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny. For a complete list of upcoming events in Delray Beach, please visit our Web site at mydelraybeach.com

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
City of Delray Beach
100 N.W. First Avenue
Delray Beach, Florida 33444

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ADVISORY BOARD OPENINGS

Delray Beach is blessed with a cadre of volunteers giving of their time to make our "village by the sea" the envy of South Florida. The City is looking for interested residents to fill a number of critical commission openings on our advisory boards. The commissions and advisory boards requiring new board members are:

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

To hear appeals from employees under Civil Service who have been discharged, demoted, or suspended without pay for a period in excess of seven days. Term: two years for appointed members; one year for elected members. There are five regular members and two alternates. Two members are City employees elected by their peers and the other members are appointed by the City Commission from the pool of applications. Meetings are called only as needed.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Five members appointed for 2-year term. This Board hears appeals regarding zoning and fire codes. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm as needed.

BOARD OF CONSTRUCTION APPEALS

Nine members appointed for 2-year term. Hears appeals concerning building codes. Meets quarterly on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm as needed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD

Seven members for 3-year term. Adjudicates allegations of City code violations. Conducts hearings and recommends action. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

NUISANCE ABATEMENT BOARD

Five members appointed for 2-year term by an affirmative vote of at least 4 City Commissioners. Adjudicates allegations relating to public nuisances. Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 3:30 p.m. as needed.

PARKING MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Eleven members appointed for 2-year term. Advises with respect to parking management policy and related issues. Meets the 4th Tuesday, monthly at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RELATIONS COMMISSION

Three members for 4-year term. Oversees the collective bargaining rights guaranteed to municipal employees. Meets as needed.

All applicants must have some background experience for the particular board on which they would like to sit. These board commissioners serve the City in important capacities that benefit the entire community and give them the satisfaction of having a role in the progress of Delray Beach. **If you are interested in applying for a board, please call Karen Schell, City Clerk's Office at 561-243-7056.**

AUTO RESPONSE MOBILE SYSTEM EARNS AWARD

Public Technology, Inc., has selected the City of Delray Beach as a **2002 PTI Solutions Technology Achievement Award** winner. Only 15 Solutions winners were recognized nationally this year. The City earned the award for the Police Department's Auto Response Mobile System (A.R.M.S.) which combines its mobile computers (patrol cars) with advanced software.

The system was developed after the department sought to install an efficient, time-saving computer application that would allow the officer in the field to send and receive information from the dispatch center via a mobile digital terminal, obtain information on individuals and vehicles via the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) directly to the officer's patrol car, and for the officer to complete all reporting requirements from a field location. Since implementing the system, the results have been outstanding. Criminal citations and stops have increased 84%. Officer response time has been reduced and the average time spent on a routine traffic stop has been cut in half.

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) 243-7127, at least (24) hours prior to the program or activity in order for the City to reasonably accommodate your request.