

News for Neighborhoods



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH - November 2011

CITY'S PUBLIC INFORMATION TOOLS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY TIES

The City of Delray Beach continually strives to maintain transparency and open dialogue with its residents through public information. Over forty (40) information tools are utilized to promote effective communication that strengthen the City's relationship with our residential and business communities, some of which are listed below:

City Website and Social Media – www.delraybeach.com provides a wealth of information for residents, businesses and visitors on City departments, services and programs. The website is updated regularly with current news and events including City Commission and Advisory Board Meetings, Administrative Policies & Procedures, Ordinances, Resolutions, community projects, utility services and beach conditions. **(The City is currently redesigning its website with a new look, which is expected to be debuted in early 2012.)** Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/citydelraybeach, or like us on one of our Facebook accounts, which can be found on the City's website.

E-mail Subscriptions – The City offers free E-Mail Subscriptions, a service that delivers important City news electronically. Subscribers select the type of information that they would like to receive via E-Mail including agendas and/or minutes of City Commission Meetings, press releases and events. To become a subscriber, visit www.mydelraybeach.com and select *New Subscriber* under *E-Mail Subscriptions*.

City Commission Audio/Video Recordings and Paperless Agendas – City Commission Regular Meetings are streamed live and archived on the City's website, www.mydelraybeach.com. Residents and other interested persons can view the meetings firsthand and witness the official actions of our City Commission. Archived videos allow for viewing of the entire meeting and/or select agenda items. Both DVD's and audio CD's of the meetings are available for purchase from the City Clerk's Office by calling (561) 243-7050.

In addition, all agenda items and related backup material (i.e., Ordinances, Agreements, Resolutions, etc.) for each Commission Meeting are available for review on the City's website through electronic links under the City's Paperless Agendas option. To access Paperless Agendas, visit www.mydelraybeach.com and select *City Commission* under *City at a Glance*. Click on *Agendas and Minutes* and then select *Paperless Agendas*. From here, click the *HTML* button on any of the listed City Commission Meetings.

Publications – Newsletters are available in both printed and electronic format. The City publishes a monthly newsletter, *News for Neighborhoods*, which is included with utility bills. The City also produces the *Hometown Connection*, a multi-page publication that serves as the City of Delray Beach's Annual Report, Budget Report and the Sustainability Report. These publications are available online at www.mydelraybeach.com under *Newsletters*. The City's Community Improvement Department generates a quarterly newsletter, *Your Neighborhood*, which is mailed to homes in the NW/SW community. Numerous other City publications are also available and produced by various City departments.

Delray Beach Action Center – This service enhances how citizens interact with the City by providing a simple and efficient way to request information and/or services, report problems, find answers to common questions or ask questions that are not yet answered. The system is available 24/7 through the City's website, www.mydelraybeach.com, by selecting *Delray Beach Action Center* on the home page or by calling (561) 243-7012. Please note that telephone calls will be answered weekdays, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and calls placed outside of these hours will be addressed on the next business day.

Expanded Press Release Program – In June 2011, the City began a new program that expanded its efforts in distributing press releases on Consent Agenda and/or non-controversial issues (i.e., City infrastructure and community projects such as roads, sidewalks and water reclamation) that may not receive the same attention from our media. The Expanded Press Release Program allows the City to take an active role in telling our story to citizens and businesses on various issues including new or expanded programs & services, grant awards and cost-saving measures. Press releases, which are sent to our E-mail subscribers, City social media followers and local media, can also be found on the City's website, www.mydelraybeach.com, under *Media Releases* and/or on the City's Twitter account, www.twitter.com/citydelraybeach.

CodeRED Telephone Notification System – CodeRED is an emergency notification system that provides critical information to residents and businesses in a timely manner. This system is capable of placing sixty thousand calls per hour, contacting all registered persons or just those located within an affected area. Residents may be alerted to matters such as evacuation orders, missing person alerts, chemical spills, etc. The City has also utilized this system to advise citizens of controversial Public Hearings. To register with CodeRED, visit www.mydelraybeach.com and select *Emergency Notification* on the home page.



PROJECTS, UPDATES & REMINDERS

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

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

Parks & Recreation 243-7250

Parques y Recreación
Depatman Pak & Rekreyasyon

Municipal Golf Course 243-7380

Campo de Golf Municipal
Magazen Golf

City Clerk's Office 243-7050

Oficina del Actuario de la Ciudad
Biwo Komi pou Vil-la

Jobline 243-6201

Linea de Trabajos
Liy Telefòn pou Jwenn Travay

PBC Animal Control 276-1344

Mando de Animales
Depatman Ki An Chaj Zannimo

Police Department 243-7888

Departamento de la Policía
Depatmin Polis

Fire Department 243-7400

Parque de Bomberos
Depatman pou Dife

www.mydelraybeach.com

www.twitter.com/citydelraybeach

Fiscal Year 2012 Adopted Property Tax Rate and Budget - The Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Millage Levy (Property Tax) and Budget were approved at the September 20, 2011 City Commission Meeting. **The FY 2012 operating millage of 7.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value did not increase from FY 2011 and is less than the rolled-back millage rate (7.4922) by 4.03%.** The FY 2012 debt service millage rate is 0.6133 per \$1,000 of assessed value and supports various voter approved general obligation (GO) bond programs/projects (infrastructure, recreational, parking and building improvements). The FY 2012 millage rate of 1.0000 for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) did not increase from FY 2011 but is more than the rolled back rate (0.9860) by 1.42%. To view the FY 2012 Ordinances and Adopted Budget, visit www.mydelraybeach.com and select *FY 2012 Millage Levy and Budget – Adopted September 20, 2011* on the home page.

City's Education Programs Showcased in Video Documentary - The City of Delray Beach's education programs have been featured in a video documentary "Partnering for Excellence in Schools". This short video, which was produced by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), documents the City's innovative approach to raising the standard of education by investing over \$10 million in local academic initiatives. Through its partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, Delray Beach is now recognized as a leader in education due to the success of numerous initiatives including the City's Civics Education Programs, Atlantic Community High School's Construction & Criminal Justice Academies and Carver Middle School's Morning Program. For more information on the City's education programs, visit www.mydelraybeach.com and select *Education Board* under *Boards and Committees*. To view the City of Delray Beach video "Partnering for Excellence in Schools", visit www.icma.org.

Recycling Revenue Share Program - The City of Delray Beach is committed to preserving the environment through its green initiatives. These efforts have proven to be successful and contribute to the City Commission's Strategic Goal of "Quality Neighborhoods Where People Want to Live". In a continued effort to explore new opportunities that are environmentally friendly and cost-effective, the City has partnered with the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County's (SWA) Recycling Revenue Share Program. The SWA implemented this program to reward municipalities for the amount of recycled material that is recovered. Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, **the City of Delray Beach has received \$310,599 from the Recycling Revenue Share Program for the community's outstanding recycling efforts, which resulted in approximately 17,000,000 pounds of recovered material.** The City's overwhelming support for this program helps to conserve valuable landfill space and natural resources. For more information, contact the Sustainability/Public Information Office at (561) 243-7190 or E-mail pio@mydelraybeach.com. Additional information on recycling can also be found at www.swa.org.

Solar Trash Compactors Reduce City Expenses - Delray Beach became the first City in Palm Beach County to install four (4) solar powered trash compactors in three of its largest and most utilized parks: Pompey Park, Seacrest Soccer Complex & Miller Park. This new technology, which uses renewable (i.e., solar) energy, has helped turn our parks into eco-friendly zones while decreasing fuel consumption and energy costs. Powered by the sun, the compactors reduce greenhouse gas emissions, require fewer trash bags and only need to be emptied once every 15 days. **Funding for the purchase of the solar compactors (approximately \$12,000) was provided entirely through the City's current Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Franchise Agreement with Waste Management at no cost to taxpayers. The City will install six (6) additional solar compactors at Veterans Park (approximately \$26,000), which will also be funded under the Franchise Agreement. This project is expected to save the City an estimated \$15,000 per year and approximately three (3) tons of CO2.** Future plans include the installation of two (2) solar compactors near the City's beach and one (1) along Atlantic Avenue, which will be funded from the City's proceeds through the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County's (SWA) Recycling Revenue Share Program (see above).