

HOMETOWN CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS OF DELRAY BEACH

OFFICER PULLS WOMAN FROM BURNING HOME

Police Sgt. David Weatherspoon was in the right place at the right time and because of that – and his decision to put himself in jeopardy in order to save someone else – a woman who was trapped inside a burning building is alive today.

“If Sgt. Weatherspoon had not gone above and beyond the call of duty the situation would have been a lot different,” said Delray Fire-Rescue Chief David James. “There’s no doubt he did in fact save a life.”

Weatherspoon was recognized last month with a lifesaving award presented by Chief James, Police Chief Larry Schroeder and the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, for his efforts in saving the life of 57-year-old Olga Velez.

And while he appreciates the recognition, Weatherspoon says he was just doing his job. “I think any other officer would have done the same thing,” he said. “I was just moving without ever thinking about it.”

Weatherspoon, a Delray Beach native and veteran police officer, was on routine patrol around 9 a.m. one day in January when the call came over the radio of a possible house fire just a few blocks away. “It was unusual because usually when there’s a fire we get a lot of calls,” Weatherspoon said. “But we only got one call.”

While Delray Beach Fire-Rescue was on the way, Weatherspoon sped the short distance to the location to find a neighbor, Javier Nieves, standing outside the home and waving him down. “The flames were billowing out of the house,” Weatherspoon said.

Nieves, who knows the Velez family, told the officer that he thought someone might be in the home.

As he opened the door, Weatherspoon was met by a dense cloud of smoke. Re-



HOMETOWN HERO

Sgt. David Weatherspoon is credited with using his training to help pull a woman, overcome by smoke, from a burning home.

lying on his training, Weatherspoon got down low and discovered Velez passed out not far from the doorway.

“She was trying to get to the door and probably collapsed from the smoke,” Weatherspoon said.

With the help of Nieves, Weatherspoon was able to pull Velez out, only to discover that she was not breathing.

He feared the worst, but as he tilted the woman’s head back to perform CPR, he heard a cough and saw that she was breathing again on her own.

But Weatherspoon wasn’t done yet. Fearing there might be someone else in the house, the officer attempted to go back in but was pushed back by the smoke. Within a few minutes, Fire-Rescue had arrived and ended up treating the officer, as well as Velez, for smoke inhalation.

“This is an excellent example of the cooperation that exists between the police and Fire-Rescue,” James said.

“I think any other officer would have done the same thing.”

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER INCREASES PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

For the members of the Paradise Heights Homeowner’s Association, moving their monthly meetings to the city’s Neighborhood Resource Center ended up having unexpected benefits.

Just before a recent meeting, one of the Paradise Heights residents who needed assistance was able to get guidance from a center staff member right then and there.

“He was able to get an immediate referral,” says Pamé Williams, president of the association. “He didn’t have to call back in the morning to find out who could help.”

In recent months, the center, on Southwest 12th Avenue, has been hosting several homeowner’s association meetings and is continuing to expand the services available to residents.

“We’re getting more and more residents coming to the Neighborhood Resource Center and learning about all the services available,” said Jennifer Costello, a long-time city resident and employee, who was recently appointed as Delray Beach’s neighborhood planner.

The Neighborhood Resource Center continues to host a variety of programs, including the United Way’s Prosperity Center, the Caring Kitchen, Families First, the Palm Beach County Health Care District and the Delray Beach Community Land Trust. The center also hosts the Coalition for Community Renewal.

For residents, that means there’s easy and convenient help with everything from accessing health care to getting help with food stamps or short-term financial assistance.

In addition, Costello said, there is now a representative from Palm Beach Community College available at the center.

And during the tax season, the center is hosting a tax assistance program with the United Way. “Our focus is on helping residents access resources and on helping our communities so we can meet the City Commission’s goal of creating quality neighborhoods where people want to live,” Costello said.



Neighborhood Planner Jennifer Costello (left) and representatives of Neighborhood Resource Center agencies.

LT. TRISHA DUNKELMANN USES EDUCATION TO HELP SAVE LIVES

Lt. Trisha Dunkelmann no longer puts out fires or crawls into burning buildings in search of victims.

Although she is a paramedic, she no longer rides the rescue truck or attends to those suffering from a heart attack or potentially fatal injuries sustained in a car wreck.

But just like she did in those jobs, Dunkelmann is saving lives. The difference, however, is that she's doing it before there's a crisis.

A member of Delray-Fire Rescue since 1991, Dunkelmann has worn many hats and served in many roles. For the last three and a half years she has been the department's community education specialist.

Last month, she added another title to her name: 2007 Firefighter of the Year.

"I was in shock, considering I didn't even rescue a cat," says Dunkelmann, who has taken the lead in the department's efforts to help educate residents – especially kids – on how to avoid emergencies.

But Chief David James is quick to point out that Dunkelmann's assessment isn't quite on the mark.

"She's probably rescued more people than she can imagine," he says. "She's educating the public and preventing them from needing our services. There's a lifesaving aspect to everything she does in community education."

Making that impact, Dunkelmann says, is what she loves about her job and what keeps her coming back.

"Impacting my community is what I choose to do," she says. "Just like other jobs in the department are important, so is this."

Just how important is it?



Community Education Specialist Lt. Trisha Dunkelmann was named Firefighter of the Year for 2007

Well, Dunkelmann will tell you the story of the time not too long ago that she gave her "One Woman Dunkelwoman" fire safety presentation at Banyan Creek Elementary school.

A week later, there was a fire at a home in a nearby neighborhood and two boys who were in the home at the time, had attended the presentation. When they learned of the fire, they immediately got their mother out of the house, then ran to a neighbor's home to call 911. The boys later ran up to one of the firefighters who had been at Dunkelmann's presentation and said they did exactly what they had been told.

Dunkelmann smiles after telling the story.

"I love what I do," she says. "I love every minute of it."

Dunkelmann sees her selection as Firefighter of the Year as an acknowledgement of how important her job actually is. James agrees, pointing out that more and more firefighters are seeing the value of working with the community.

"Firefighters do recognize the importance of community education," he says.

Along with visiting schools, teaching first aid to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and coordinating the department's Community Emergency Response Team, Dunkelmann has also taken the lead in organizing Fire-Rescue's highly successful open houses.

For Dunkelmann, whose husband is also a firefighter but in another department, the job in community education has been a bit of an eye opener.

"This is a job I never considered taking," she says, pointing out that her goal was to become the city's fire marshal or maybe even chief. Now, she says, it's a job she says she's glad she has.

"Now that I'm here, I hope I can stay here for some time," she says.



PUBLIC SAFETY DAY AND RUN FOR PUN SET FOR SATURDAY APRIL 12

Chances are you often see police officers patrolling throughout the city, but do you really understand all that it takes to help ensure public safety?

"There's a lot more to the police department than arresting people and writing tickets," says Officer Joe Hart.

That's one reason that the department will hold its first Public Safety Day, set for April 12, at Atlantic High School.

"We think it's important that the community understand what public safety is all about," says Officer Fred Glass who, along with Hart, is one of the event coordinators.

The Public Safety Day activities, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be part of a full schedule that starts off at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast at the school. That will kick off the Third Annual Run for Pun, a motorcycle event held in the memory of Officer Johnny Pun, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in 2005.

Tickets for the two-hour motorcycle run, which begins at 9:30 a.m., are \$25 and in-



The Delray Beach Police Department will hold its Third Annual Run for Pun and its first Public Safety Day on Saturday, April 12.

clude breakfast and lunch. Also during the day, there will be a raffle for a new Harley Davidson, with only 250 tickets sold, each for \$100. All proceeds from the run and the raffle will go toward a college fund for Officer Pun's children and to the Delray Youth Vocational Charter School, which he helped

get started.

Continued support of the school is just one of many ways the Police Department is involved in the community and those who visit Public Safety Day will have a chance to learn about other programs the department is involved in.

Activities for Public Safety Day will include demonstrations from the Police Department's K-9 and SWAT teams as well as demonstrations by other police departments and Delray Beach Fire-Rescue. There will also be many information tables where visitors can learn about everything from bicycle safety to how to properly install a child safety seat in the car.

And there will be plenty for the kids to do too, with dunk tanks, bounce houses, a U.S. Army rock wall and a Marine obstacle course. There will also be plenty of food and beverages for sale.

For more information about Public Safety Day and the Run For Pun, visit www.mydelraybeach.com and scroll down to "events."

LARGE SCULPTURE ADDS ARTIST DIMENSION TO KNOWLES PARK

It's orange, it's large and most of all, it's art.

Last month, the 15-foot high sculpture of steel coiled pipe made its debut in front of Knowles Park, marking the first major installation of artwork approved by the city's Public Art Advisory Board.

"Art is part of culture and art enriches lives," says artist Sharon Koskoff, who chairs the board. "It creates a marker."

Formed in August 2005, the Public Art Advisory Board has been working to bring a variety of public art projects to the community.

"Art adds another dimension to the city," says City Engineer Randal Krejcarek, who works with the seven-member art board.

One of the goals of public art, Koskoff says, is to get people talking while at the same time add another distinctive characteristic to the city.

"A dialogue is what you want," Koskoff says. "We don't think twice about decorating our homes. The whole city is our home and we want to make it beautiful and memorable."

The sculpture at Knowles Park, currently named "Sea Room," certainly does attract attention. According to Krejcarek and Koskoff it also serves as a gateway of sorts to those traveling north on U.S. Highway 1.

"We're very excited about the Knowles Park sculpture," Koskoff said. "It's our first large-scale installation."

Created by New York artist John Clement, the 50-foot-long work was specifically commissioned for Knowles Park and was funded by a \$25,000 grant from Palm Beach County along with \$25,000 from the city. Clement is also making a \$100,000 in-kind contribution.

A key part of the project, Koskoff said, will be community involvement and sculpture workshops with Clement will be scheduled soon. In addition, she said, the board will be looking to rename the sculpture and turning to the community for recommendations.



The city's Public Art Advisory Board commissioned "Sea Room," a large sculpture by artist John Clement.

Koskoff said the board is hoping that the community, especially youngsters, will be drawn to the sculpture.

"We want people to go sit on it, to have their picture taken with it," she said. "It's certainly not a 'do not touch' piece."

The sculpture is actually the second piece to be installed following the recommendation of the board, with the first being a student painting that is now part of a bus shelter on Swinton Avenue near Old School Square.

Koskoff and Krejcarek said three more pieces have been created for bus shelters by students working with the Milagro Center, and will be installed within coming weeks. The works will officially be unveiled on May 8, during an Art and Jazz on the Avenue celebration.

"We want art all over the city on view 24-hours a day, seven days a week," Koskoff says.

CITY BEGINS TESTING OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY STREET MODIFICATION PROJECT

During the next several months, the city will be implementing and monitoring a test project to reduce the number of lanes along certain stretches of Federal Highway in an effort to slow traffic and increase safety.

As part of a one-year test project, the city will be using primarily temporary measures to close off one lane of Southeast and Northeast Fifth and Sixth Avenues – southbound and northbound Federal Highway – between Southeast 10th Street and George Bush Boulevard.

"We'll be removing the inside lane and converting it to parking," City Engineer Randal Krejcarek said.

The street modification project, which has been in the works for some time, is designed to make traveling on Federal Highway safer, to make it easier for people to walk on Federal Highway and at the same time to increase visibility for the city.

"A goal is to slow traffic to reduce crashes and to encourage vehicles to travel at 35 miles per hour," Krejcarek said. "We have a high crash rate at Atlantic Avenue and Federal Highway."

While the long-term plan calls for increased landscaping and

other beautification efforts, along with curb extensions at intersections, the test phase of the project will see only limited curb extensions, primarily at the Atlantic Avenue and Federal Highway intersections.

"We want to encourage pedestrian traffic at those intersections," Krejcarek said.

Another goal, he said, is to bring more visibility to the city and to the businesses along the Federal Highway corridor.

"It's possible now for motorists to speed through Federal Highway and never know they're in Delray," Krejcarek said.

Because there is some concern that the street modification project could cause significant delays for motorists,

the decision was made to create a one-year test project that will include significant monitoring. Crews will be measuring how long it takes to get through the corridor between 10th Street and George Bush Boulevard and will also be monitoring travel speeds.

"We think it may take a little longer to get through the corridor but we don't think it will be significant," Krejcarek said.

He said the city will be making adjustments as necessary during the project.



The city has begun a test street modification project designed to slow traffic and increase safety on northbound and southbound Federal Highway. The images above show what the road looks like now and a possible future look.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OFFERS RESIDENTS A CHANCE TO HELP THEIR CITY

Arnold Fine knows where he's going most mornings. It's the same place he's been going every workday for the last 10 years and a place that has become his home away from home.

The place is Delray Beach Fire-Rescue's main station on Atlantic Avenue, where you're likely to find the 74-year-old volunteer working on the department's portable radios, replacing batteries and light bulbs or helping to make sure all the supplies other volunteers might need in an emergency are available.

"This gives me a reason to get out of bed in the morning," Fine says. "I know I'm helping to save lives."

Fine, along with Jim Friedman – who at 80 still gets to Fire-Rescue headquarters



Volunteers assisting the city are: (left to right) Judi Rosenblum, Shirley Richman, Fran Chassen, Bea Leff, Liz Tarakan and Charlotte Lichenstein.

every day – are among a small group of volunteers working with city staff in departments outside of the Police Department.

Now, the city is making a concentrated effort to increase its core of volunteers through a revised citywide Delray Beach Volunteer Program.

"The city always needs volunteers," says Nancy King, who is coordinating the program. "There are many opportunities."

As the volunteer program gears up, King says, the city will be building a database of volunteers and trying to match the interests and abilities of those assisting with the needs of various departments.

"We're always looking for more volunteers to help with clerical support," King says.

Several opportunities for volunteers exist in the Parks and Recreation Department where volunteers can help by coaching teams, helping at summer camp or working as a receptionist.

In addition, there are many other opportunities, including helping out at special events or serving specific needs, such as helping with language translation or operating ham radios in an emergency.

"This is really a good opportunity for residents to help out their community," King says. "It's a chance to help make Delray Beach a better place to live."

To make it easier for residents to find out



Fire-Rescue volunteers Jim Friedman (left) and Arnold Fine enjoy being part of the Fire-Rescue family.

more about the program and to participate, the city has added a section to its Web site.

Residents interested in volunteering can visit www.mydelraybeach.com and scroll down on the home page until they come to "Volunteer Program" where applications and additional information are available. Residents interested can also call King at (561) 243-7085 or e-mail her at king@ci.delray-beach.fl.us

For those who are thinking about volunteering but haven't fully decided, Fire-Rescue volunteer Friedman has this piece of advice.

"Get out of the chair and come do something for your city," he says.

POLICE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

Officer Andy Arena thinks the numbers tell an important story about the impact the more than 400 Police Department volunteers have on their community.

During a 10-year period that ended in 2005, the department didn't add any new additional officer positions, yet the crime rate fell dramatically. What happened during those years, Arena says, is that the department focused on enhancing the training of the officers it had, and on building a volunteer force that is a model for other departments around the county.

"Through the volunteer program we were able to add visibility and that added visibility really helped," Arena says.

Made up of mostly retired residents, the team of volunteers working with the Police



Parking enforcement volunteers Anthony DeStafano, Dick Adler, Bob Marks and Joel Mendelson.

Department is providing important eyes and ears on the streets, and they're also helping to take a burden off the department's staff.

Dedicated and reliable, the volunteers are helping the police department with parking enforcement, staffing of the marine patrol and clerical support.

"This shows that the people of this community are willing to give back," says Arena, pointing out that the volunteers come from all walks of life. "They want to give back to something that will outlast them."

Last month, the city and the department recognized the efforts of the volunteers during special awards ceremonies in which Mayor Rita Ellis and other city leaders thanked the volunteers for the work they're doing.

Recognition also comes from outside of the city.

Arena has been selected to help other departments in South Florida develop volunteer programs and has also hosted representatives of police departments from throughout the country who want to know why the program here is so successful.

One of the keys is the structure of the program, Arena says, which in many ways mirrors the structure of the police department.

The volunteers are divided into two major groups, an operations group and a sup-



Homefront Security volunteers Charlie Goldberg and Lt. Gerard Popp patrol public buildings.

port group. A major, who has captains reporting to him, leads each group.

Within the Operations Group are volunteers participating in everything from parking enforcement to Homefront Security Patrols to the Marine Patrol and a variety of roving patrols. A captain who has overall responsibility for the group leads each of the divisions.

The same structure applies to the Support Group, which includes the Citizens Observer Patrol division, the Staff Support division, an Elder Affairs division as well as several other divisions.

With its large number of volunteers, it's clear that the volunteer program is something that is working well. "These volunteers really are our eyes and ears," Arena says.

CITY STAFF MEMBERS MAKE TIME FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

Terrill Pyburn knows how devastating cancer can be.

Lung cancer claimed the life of one of her grandmothers and a second grandmother is a cancer survivor.

Pyburn, an assistant city attorney, also knows how rewarding it can be to help out in the fight against cancer.

So it was no surprise that last month Pyburn was serving for the second consecutive year as event chair for American Cancer Society's Delray Beach Relay for Life, held at Atlantic High School.

The event, which raised an estimated \$35,000, pulled many volunteers from throughout the community together and among those involved were many city employees.

In addition to Pyburn, Parks and Recreation Department employees Alberta Gaum-Rickard and Gail Vanhove played vital roles serving as volunteer recruitment chair and entertainment chair respectively.

Employees from the City Attorney's Office and Fire-Rescue also took part in the event, helping to raise money. And a related program, the Cruise for a Cure, was coordinated by employees in the Police Department.

Mayor Rita Ellis was also at the event, thanking participants on behalf of the city.

City employee involvement in the events, Pyburn says, is a positive



On hand for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life were Mayor Rita Ellis (second from the right) and Alberta Gaum-Rickard, Terrill Pyburn and Gail Vanhove.

reflection on the city and on the staff as a whole. "It shows we really care about the city and

we're not just involved in the day-to-day operations," says Pyburn, who serves as secretary on the board of the South Palm Beach Chapter of the American Cancer Society and is also president of Delray Beach Sunrise Kiwanis Club. "It's good that employees and city officials are taking time out of their busy schedules to show they care."



Assistant City Attorney Terrill Pyburn and the Police Department's Richard Weinstein with Capt. Joe Reardon of Delray Intra-coastal Cruises.

DONNIE'S PLACE HOPES TO BRING NEW BUSINESSES TO FIFTH AVENUE

For Donnie Dobson, the grand opening of Donnie's Place, a new restaurant on Historic Fifth Avenue, signified the realization of his desire to transform his successful Parker's Kitchen into a sit-down restaurant.

For city and Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency representatives, the opening of Donnie's Place marked yet one more milestone in efforts to restore a corridor that once was a hub for African-American owned businesses.

"Donnie's Place is the most visible representation of a promise to help redevelop Historic Fifth Avenue," says City Commissioner Brenda Montague, a former chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency, which played a key role along with the city in helping Dobson open the 3,000 square foot restaurant.

Dobson, a Delray Beach native who remembers the days when Northwest Fifth Avenue was a thriving business community, is hoping that Donnie's Place will spark other businesses to consider opening in the area.

"They're really trying to bring it back," Dobson said. Those who visit Donnie's will discover that it is also a bit of a throw back in time. Serving southern-style cooking, Donnie's offers a unique experience that is continuing to draw customers from as far away



On hand for the official ribbon cutting for Donnie's Place were Deputy Vice Mayor Brenda Montague, City Commissioner Woodie McDuffie, Jeannette and Donnie Dobson, Mayor Rita Ellis, Commissioner Gary Eliopoulos and the Chamber of Commerce's Beth Johnston.

as Miami to Delray Beach.

It is also continuing to draw business to Northwest and Southwest Fifth Avenue, which have recently undergone beautification efforts.

"Donnie's represents the hopes we have of rebuilding Fifth Avenue," Montague said.

EVENTS CALENDAR



April 12
Run for Fun
7:30 a.m. registration
Public Safety Day
10 a.m to 4 p.m.
Atlantic High School
(561) 441-0416

April 12
Take it Easel
Pineapple Grove
Arts District
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(561) 279-1380

April 13
Performances in the Park
Veterans Park
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
(561) 243-7277

April 18, May 9
"Art Feast"
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
(561) 272-9155

April 19
Earth Day Celebration
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sandoway Nature Center
(561) 274-7263

April 19 - 20
Asian Food Fair and
Cultural Show
Old School Square
10 a.m to 6 p.m.
(561) 876-2255

May 3
Cinco de Mayo Festival
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Old School Square
(561)276-3396

May 8
Art & Jazz
On the Avenue
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Atlantic Avenue
(561) 279-1380, ext. 3

May 16
Pineapple Grove
Bed Race
5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Pineapple Grove
Arts District
(561)279-1380, ext. 36

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CITY DIRECTORY

General: 243-7000 • Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 243-7800

Accident Reports243-7830
Reportes de Accidentes * Rapo Aksidan

Advisory Boards243-7056
Comite de Recomendacion /
Sugerencia* Commite
Suggestionpou

Animal Control243-7330
Mando de Animales * Depatman
Ki An Chaj Zannimo

Building Permits.....243-7200
Permisos de Construccion *
Building License

Cemetery Plot
Information243-7050
Información de Planos Cementerios
*Enf omasyon sou Anplasan Simity'e

City Clerk's Office.....243-7050
Oficina del Actuario de la Ciudad
* Biwo Komi pou Vil-la

City Commission.....243-7010
Comisión de la Ciudad * Komite
Konsey'e pou Vil-la

City Manager's Office.....243-7010
Oficina del Administrador de la
Ciudad * Biwo Manadj'e Vil-la

Code Enforcement.....243-7219
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Commission Agendas.....243-7050
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Ingenieria * Depatman Engeny'e

Fire-Rescue243-7400
Departamento del Fuego *
Depatman pou Dife

Garbage Collection/Waste
Management243-7219
Recogida de Basura *
Kol' eksyon Fatra

Golf Course Pro-Shop.....243-7380
Campo de Golf Tienda de
Profesionales* Magazen Golf

Human Resources.....243-7080
Recursos Humanos * Depatman
P'esonel (Resous Imen)

Job Line243-6201
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Jwenn Travay

Litter Prevention243-7138
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Prevansyon Fatra

Neighborhood Resource
Center243-7629
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Neighborhood Services
Division.....243-7280
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• Ofisye Relasyon Piblik

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Rekreasyon

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Departamento de la Policia *
Depatman Polis

Public Information Office ...243-7190
Oficial de Información Publica *

Public Works.....243-7334
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Recycling1-866-new bins
Conservation * Reciklaj

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Pw'opte Lari

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Bil Dlo/Elektrik

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Maintenance.....243-7312
Mantenimiento del Agua y
Alcantarilla* Depatman pou
Pw'opte Dlo av'ek Egou

Water/Sewer
(after hours)243-7318
Agua/Alcantarilla * Depatman pou
PwopteDloav'ek Egou (asw eewikenn)

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