



## Downtown Redevelopment Update: Blighted Plaza Demolished

The Oakland Park City Commission approved \$1.7 million of Redevelopment Capital Program (RCP) funding for the acquisition and demolition of the Nader Soliman building at the southeast corner of NE 12 Avenue (Main Street) and NE 38 Street (Park Lane East).



The Commission directed staff to construct an interim public parking lot to support the parking needs during events at of Jaco Pastorius Park, the Oakland Park Library, and City Hall. The additional space will also serve the proposed “Green Market” at the Oakland Station. The project includes construction of 84 additional parking spaces, sidewalk, landscaping/beautification, benches, bicycle racks, a trellis and decorative lighting.

This redevelopment project will also complete the roadway improvements for NE 12 Avenue (Main Street) and NE 38 Street (Park Lane) providing full pedestrian sidewalks, street amenities and create a striking entrance onto downtown Main Street. The construction contract was awarded to MBR Construction on November 2nd, 2011 for the amount of \$456,734.93. Construction began on December 26th, 2011 and is expected to be completed within 120 days.

## Keep Our Community Safe

On December 13, BSO Sheriff Al Lamberti and Oakland Park District Chief John Buktata presented a “Keep Our Community Safe” crime prevention program at the North Andrews Gardens Community Center. Vice Mayor Anne E. Sallee joined BSO deputies to help spread the safety message throughout the North Andrews Gardens neighborhood. A total of 2,365 residences were visited.



## Lloyd Estates Residential & Industrial Drainage Project

The Lloyd Estates Residential & Industrial (LERI) Drainage Project has been designed to provide drainage improvement to NW 38, 39 and 40 Streets between North Andrews Avenue and Powerline Road and on NW 10 Avenue and side streets between



Looking east on NW 38 Street/Park Lane West from Powerline Rd.

Oakland Park Boulevard and NW 36 Street. These drainage improvements are partially funded by a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant. The LERI project bid award was approved by the City Commission on October 19 and a pre-construction meeting held on November 9. Construction began November 14 with installation of the water main in the industrial area west of Powerline Road. On November 30, the contractor began work in the residential area east of Powerline Road on NW 3 Avenue and NW 7 Avenue. Drainage installation started in the industrial area in late December and on January 9, the contractor began drainage work along NW 38 Street from Powerline Road to North Andrews Avenue. The project is on schedule for completion on or before July 11, 2012. Residents can refer to the City’s website for current alerts on traffic detours and road closures.

The Park Lane West Roadway Improvement Project was separated from the LERI drainage project due to funding restrictions. The Park Lane West Roadway Improvement project will include the installation of landscaping, irrigation, sidewalks, and decorative lighting on NW 38 Street (Park Lane West) from North Andrews Avenue to Powerline Road. The project will be advertised for bidding as soon as the funding becomes available after July 2012. The plans have been revised to satisfy Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requirements. In order to secure a Local Agency Program (LAP) agreement for funding, City staff submitted the necessary documentation to FDOT. The City’s Engineering & Community Development staff continues its efforts to secure the LAP agreement in a timely manner.

## Mayor and City Commission

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### City Administration:

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City Commission Meetings, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. Agendas and Backup on-line at [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org).

Mayor Suzanne Boisvenue to recognize past City officials at March 21 City Commission meeting. Please contact the City Clerk's office (954-630-4299) or the Oakland Park Historical Society (954-566-9957) with information on past City officials to invite.



City Commissioner Jed Shank will be available to meet with residents and business owners on Saturday, January 28 from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Oakland Park Library.

## KNOWING WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1

Thousands of people in our community know the value of calling 9-1-1 for saving lives and property in emergency situations.



Nationwide, the 9-1-1 system receives approximately 500,000 calls per day or 183 million calls annually. Although everyone knows that calling 9-1-1 is for emergencies only, it is estimated that 35% of all 9-1-1 calls are pranks, hang ups or non-emergencies. If you are hurt, in danger or in need of immediate police, fire or medical assistance, then call 9-1-1. If you are not sure, err on the side of caution and call 9-1-1.

Calls to 9-1-1 require a combination of valuable resources, from the operator to public safety personnel and equipment. Inappropriate calls to 9-1-1 potentially delay service to those truly in a life-threatening situation because emergency resources are being tied up on non-emergency calls.

“Our goal is to educate the citizens of Oakland Park so that, when seconds count, we can get them the help they

need quickly and efficiently,” says Donald P. Widing, Chief of the Oakland Park Fire Rescue Department. “People with non-emergency needs can receive assistance by calling the listed numbers. We want to keep the 9-1-1 system and our resources available and ready for individuals who need them.”

There has been documented evidence that abuse of the 9-1-1 system has been growing which has public safety providers concerned. 9-1-1 hang up calls require callbacks and many times a police unit to respond to the location of the call to determine if police or fire rescue is needed.

Other improper uses of 9-1-1 include calling to get traffic condition information, garbage pickup times, chronic non-emergency aches or pains, minor cuts, needing a ride to the doctor, to report a loss of power or to complain about a water pipe break inside a private residence or business.

When faced with an emergency, call 9-1-1 and they will be promptly dispatched to your location ready to save lives and property. If you are calling for a non-emergency, call the fire department at 954-630-4550 or Broward Sheriff's Office at 954-561-6161.

## PRESTIGIOUS M.I.T. HONOR FOR NORTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to the faculty and students of Oakland Park's Northeast High School for being awarded a Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

InvenTeams are comprised of high school students, teachers and mentors that receive grants up to \$10,000 to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. The grant initiative aims to inspire a new generation of inventors and innovators.

Northeast High School was one of 16 teams nationwide – and the only one in Florida -- to be selected as an InvenTeam this year.

The \$9,570 grant is for the 14 Northeast High School InvenTeam students to create an Emergency Water Filtration System Station for disaster relief in tropical areas – such as the Haiti Earthquake.

“The idea was born from one student's experience on a mission trip to Haiti,” said Northeast High School Science & Research Teacher Randa Flinn.

The Northeast students design calls for the use of natural materials such as sand, bamboo, cotton, coconut husk and palm bark for filter construction. The station will provide clean water for an affected population and aid workers through access to sanitary outdoor showers and potable water.

The invention is designed to address potential water contamination following disaster events and can be utilized by relief organizations because it is designed for easy transport and set-up.

“The students are super enthusiastic about applying their science and math creatively to meet a need in the world in a meaningful way,” Flinn added.

Congratulations to InvenTeam:



- Jahtsa Christophe
- Washington Cusquillo
- Kiona Elliott
- Cesar Hernandez
- Kalie Hoke
- Eric Irizarry
- Payton Kaar

- Gabriella Kriebel
- William Leonard
- Clara Mabour
- Santiago Mayorga
- Vibhor Nayyar
- Elizabeth Sanchez
- Daniel Ward

# Parks and Leisure News and Notes

## Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Oakland Park Library will present a Used Book Sale on Friday, January 20 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Saturday, January 21 (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at the Oakland Park Library, 1298 NE 37 Street. The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization that plans programs and activities in support of the Oakland Park Library. For more information about joining the Friends of the Library or to inquire about upcoming programming, please call **954-630-4370**.



## City Yard Sale

The City of Oakland Park will host a **Yard Sale on the Green** Saturday, January 21 at Jaco Pastorius Park (4000 North Dixie Highway) from 7 a.m. to Noon. Space is limited so don't miss this opportunity to bring your tables full of goodies or come and shop for some great bargains! A 10' X 10' space is

available for \$20 (non-residents \$40). For more information please call **954-630-4507**.

## Performing Arts Program

The City of Oakland Park Parks and Leisure Services Department -- in partnership with Curtain Call Productions -- is proud to present "**A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum**" at the historic Oakland Park Elementary School Theatre, located at 936 N. E. 33rd Street, Oakland Park, FL 33334.

Performances are scheduled for **February 11 & 12** and tickets are \$5 (all seating is general admission). Tickets are available at the Parks and Leisure Services Department located in Oakland Park City Hall at 3650 NE 12 Avenue. Contact the Parks and Leisure Services Department at **954-630-4500** for further information. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at the theatre.

## 7th Annual Dr. Carter G. Woodson Heritage Festival

On February 18, the Harlem McBride/NE 43 Street Neighborhood Association and the City of Oakland Park Parks and Leisure Services Department will present the **7th Annual Woodson Heritage Festival at Jaco Pastorius Park** located at 4000 North Dixie Highway in Oakland Park.

The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Heritage Festival was established in 2006 to educate and inform about Dr. Woodson, an African-American historian, author, journalist and the founder of Negro History Week which later became known as Black History Month.

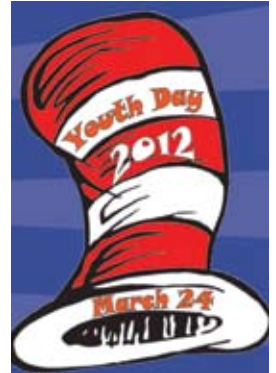
Visit [www.oaklandparkfl.org](http://www.oaklandparkfl.org) or call **954-630-4500** for more information.

## 55th Annual Youth Day

The City's 55th Annual Youth Day will take place on Saturday, March 24 beginning with the Youth Day Parade at 10 a.m. Come join us at our parade for

this historic event beginning directly in front of City Hall, for beautifully decorated floats, talented marching bands and thousands of smiling faces as the parade winds its way through Oakland Park concluding at the Wimberly Field Athletic Complex where the day's activities begin with live entertainment, midway games, carnival rides, incredible food, demonstrations and a fantastic fireworks display to cap off the evening.

Don't miss it! For discounted ride wristbands and information, call **954-630-4500**.



## Parks Beautification

The yearly overseeding of ryegrass for the athletic fields at Wimberly Field, Stevens Field, Northeast High School Field and Jaco Pastorius Park was completed during December. The germination rate of the seed was close to 95%, which achieved excellent results. Overseeding is necessary during the cool months because the athletic turf becomes dormant. The ryegrass, which is a cool season grass, allows the athletic fields to hold up to the demands of recreational sports leagues and is aesthetically pleasing from a parks beautification standpoint.



The Parks Beautification & Image crew recently planted 4 Vera Wood trees behind the bus bay on East Commercial Boulevard between NE 4th and NE 6th Avenues. As the trees mature they will provide cooling shade and yellow flowers during the spring, summer and fall.

A Community Volunteer Cleanup has been scheduled for the City's Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve on Saturday, February 11 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. The preserve is located just south of Oakland Park Boulevard at 2820 NW 27 Avenue. Participants should wear closed shoes or work boots and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Please bring gloves, hats and sunscreen. City staff will provide water and tools.

For more information, please call 954-630-4511.

## Highwaymen Artists Presented by Oakland Park Historical Society

The Oakland Park Historical Society is proud to present Florida's famed "Highwaymen" artists on Saturday, January 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Jaco Pastorius Park Community Center.

Highwaymen artists scheduled to appear include:

- Curtis Arnett
- R.L. Lewis
- R.A. McClendon
- Willie Reagan

The event will feature an art show, demonstrations by the Highwaymen artists, and light refreshments. Admission to the event is free. For more information, please call 954-566-9957 or visit [www.oaklandparkhistory.org](http://www.oaklandparkhistory.org).

## City's Fire Marshal Completes Professional Designation Process

Fire Marshal John Preston of the Oakland Park Fire Rescue Department has successfully completed the process that awards him the professional designation of "Fire Marshal."

The Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) officially confirmed the designation upon Preston as one of only 15 designated Fire Marshals worldwide.

The CPC awards the Fire Marshal designation only after an individual successfully meets all of the organization's stringent criteria. The process includes an assessment of the applicant's education, experience, professional development, technical competencies, contributions to the profession, and community involvement.

Fire Marshal Preston has been a member of the Oakland Park Fire Rescue Department since 2003.

The CPC is an entity of the Center for Public Safety Excellence. The CPC consists of individuals from academia, federal and local government, and the fire and emergency medical services profession. To learn more, visit [www.publicsafetyexcellence.org](http://www.publicsafetyexcellence.org).



**PRESTON**

## Oakland Park District Employee of the Month: Dep. Robert Martínez

A recent homicide occurred in the City of Fort Lauderdale's Twin Lakes North neighborhood this past November. During the investigation, one of the leads indicated that the suspects attended Northeast High School. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Homicide Unit detectives contacted BSO/Oakland Park District Deputy Robert Martínez to help identify the suspects. During the investigation, he was instrumental in the identification of the suspects, gathering intelligence on additional suspects involved in the homicide and identification of witnesses.

During the investigation, Deputy Martínez maintained surveillance on the suspects as they attended school, documented their actions, demeanor and associates and relayed the information to the homicide detectives to help build their criminal case.

When probable cause was established, Deputy Martínez, with Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Homicide Unit detectives, safely arrested two of the suspects at the school without disrupting school functions.

Deputy Martínez performed his duties in the highest standards of competency and professionalism while carrying out the functions and standards of the Broward Sheriff's Office during this high-profile investigation. If it were not for his knowledgeable observations regarding evidence of the crime, crime scene and knowledge of the suspects, the apprehension of the suspects and recovery of key evidence may have not occurred.

**BSO Reminder:** An AARP Driver Safety Course is scheduled to be held at Collins Community Center (3900 NE Third Avenue) on February 1. Participants who successfully complete the AARP Driver Safety Course will be eligible for a three-year vehicle insurance discount. For registration and other information, please call 954-739-2148.

## Certified Wildlife Habitat



This month's showcase "Certified Wildlife Habitat" is a NW 3 Avenue residence. To learn how to certify your property as a wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), please pick up an application at Parks and Leisure Services Department, located at City Hall, 3650 NE 12 Avenue or contact City Horticulturist Charles Livio at [charlesl@oaklandparkfl.gov](mailto:charlesl@oaklandparkfl.gov) or 954-630-4511. The City's website has a "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" page under Latest Information/Neighborhoods. The NWF website is [www.nwf.org/certify](http://www.nwf.org/certify).

## Evening with Santa and Holiday Tree Lighting



Oakland Park's annual holiday event had a new look with a venue change and the Holiday tree lighting. Jaco Pastorius Park was the setting and Santa Claus joined Mayor Suzanne Boisvenue, Vice Mayor Anne Sallee and Commissioner Shari McCartney in "flipping the switch" to magically light the 16-foot holiday tree. Santa then took his place in the wonderfully decorated community center and hundreds of children lined up to meet him. The children enjoyed playing in the eight tons of snow, making holiday crafts in the Elves' workshop, listening to live holiday performances by the Gay Men's Choir and the talented Scott Nathan on the main stage or playing in the giant lighted snow globe ride.