

## MARCH 2003

### FUNDING APPROVED TO BROADCAST RADIO PROGRAMS IN CREOLE

Mayor David Schmidt and Joe Weldon, Director of Parks and Recreation for Delray Beach have been meeting with the Haitian American Council to find ways to best communicate with the large Haitian community in this city. Karli Richardson and Danielle Henry of the Haitian American Council along with Joe Weldon gained approval from the City Commission to apply \$3,900 towards half-hour programs, broadcast in Creole, over a six-month period to inform our Haitian residents about park and recreation events as well as general information regarding City Hall and how to access various City departments. Stations WLYJ, 640 AM and WHRS, 980 AM will each carry these programs once a week for three months each. The Haitian American Council will provide translators for the show.

Best estimates gauge the Haitian population in Delray Beach approaching 10% of the City's total population of just over 60,000 permanent residents. Members of the Haitian community are becoming more active in volunteer efforts as well as being an important extension of the Delray Beach Police Department. Radio is the primary medium for Haitians in South Florida and the City Commission is determined to communicate to and include our Haitian residents in all the opportunities Delray Beach has to offer. The exact time of the broadcasts and the start dates are yet to be determined, but they will be aired in peak times in both English and Creole.

### FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS AT OLD SCHOOL SQUARE

Thanks to the interest of area residents and visitors, the Friday Night Flicks series at Old School Square's outdoor Pavilion will extend into April. The series has provided the novelty of outdoor movies for families, couples, seniors and singles who can enjoy the free movies under the stars. A colorful, old-fashioned wagon has delicious refreshments for sale. Chairs are available for rental or bring your own blankets or lawn chairs. Movies start at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming movies are:

February 28-Like Mike (2002, rated PG, comedy) and The Tuskegee Airmen (1995, PG13, drama).

March 14-Monsters, Inc. (2001, rated G, animated family fantasy) and Caddyshack (1980, rated R, comedy).

For more information, call 243-7922.

### DELRAY BEACH TO INSTALL NEW BUS SHELTERS

A process that began nearly two years ago has finally come around to provide public transportation passengers on Palm Tran with bus shelters. Palm Tran, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Florida Department of Transportation were involved in acquiring government grants to make these bus shelters possible. The grants are based on a 50/50 split between the City and Palm Tran. Most of the shelters, depending on specific site requirements, will cost between \$7,500 and \$15,000 to install. The grant will cover 50% of those costs, up to \$7,500, with the City funding the balance.



In a survey taken by Palm Tran in preparing the grant request, passengers were asked if they would prefer lower fares or bus shelters. A surprising majority opted for bus shelters. Palm Tran estimates a significant increase in ridership (as much as 20%) with the advent of the bus shelters.

Thirteen of the bus shelters are scheduled to be installed in the immediate Downtown district with the Community Redevelopment Agency providing the matching funds. The area is generally SW10th Street to the South, I-95 to the West, the Intra-coastal to the East and NE 4<sup>th</sup> St. to the North. Bus shelters will be available along Congress Avenue, Military Trail, Linton Blvd., Lawson Blvd., and Lake Ida Road.

The criteria to qualify an area for a bus shelter were: Near Tri-Rail stations, designated Park-N-Ride lot, transfer point for Palm Tran bus riders, major transit destinations (malls, hospitals, schools, shopping centers, governmental centers), end of the line or scheduled bus recovery location, major arterial or thoroughfare intersection, high density urbanized location, and special consideration facilities such as senior citizen centers, clinics, nutritional centers, and welfare facilities. The City is now assessing the designated sites, seeking the necessary permits, and selecting a bus shelter style with disabled access. Construction will begin in approximately two months. All 39 bus shelters must be completed before the end of 2003 as stipulated in the grant. **The bus shelters will be located at the following proposed sites:**

- Swinton Avenue at Atlantic Avenue NE Stop #6452
- Congress Avenue at Lake Ida Road SE Stop #790
- Lake Ida Road at Congress Avenue SE Stop #7316
- NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street at NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE Stop #7618
- Atlantic Avenue at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE Stop #7620
- Atlantic Avenue at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW Stop #7677
- SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue at SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW Stop #7111
- SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Auburn Drive SW Stop #7112
- Atlantic Avenue Opposite Delray Square SE Stop #7429
- Delray Medical Center / Main patient entrance SE Stop #6425
- Congress Avenue at Lawson Blvd. NW Stop #709
- Lawson Blvd. at Congress Avenue SE Stop #6374
- NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue at NW 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (MLK Drive) SW Stop #7323
- SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Atlantic Avenue SW Stop #7324
- SE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (US 1) at Atlantic Avenue SW Stop #210
- SE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (US 1) at SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE Stop #7681
- SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street at SW 11<sup>th</sup> Terrace SE Stop #6437
- Swinton Avenue at SE 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE Stop #6447
- Atlantic Avenue at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Stop #7673
- Atlantic Avenue at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Stop #6529
- SE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (US 1) at SE 10<sup>th</sup> Street SW Stop #215
- Federal Hwy. (US 1) at Banyan Tree Lane SW Stop #217
- Federal Hwy. (US 1) at Linton Blvd. NE Stop #286
- Congress Avenue at Linton Blvd. NE Stop #782
- Linton Blvd. at Old Germantown RD SE Stop #6429
- Linton Blvd. at Palm Forest Way NW Stop #6380
- Linton Blvd. at Military Trail SE Stop #6427
- Atlantic Avenue at Sunset Pine Drive SE Stop #7301
- Atlantic Avenue at Sunset Pine Drive NW Stop #7404
- Barwick Road at Atlantic Avenue NE Stop #7302
- Congress Avenue at Atlantic Avenue SW Stop #703
- Congress Avenue at Palm Beach County Health Dept. NE Stop #917
- Congress Avenue at SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street NE Stop #785
- Federal Hwy. (US 1) AT #1400 (Denny's) SW Stop #216
- Federal Hwy. (US 1) at Banyan Tree Lane NE Stop #287
- Linton Blvd. at Palm Ct. Plaza Professional Center SW Stop #6426
- Congress Avenue at #2101 NE Stop #780
- Federal Hwy. (US 1) at Lindell Blvd. NE Stop #281

## **RESIDENTS ACADEMY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

Reservations are being taken for the City's 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the popular Residents Academy which starts **Thursday, April 3, 2003**. This is an opportunity for the residents of Delray Beach, or any other interested parties, to engage the staff of City Hall directly and learn just how Delray Beach works. The Academy sessions are held on Thursday evenings, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and last about three hours. Every City department is represented over a six week period and graduates of the Residents Academy are presented with a plaque honoring their interest and commitment to a better informed community.

Nearly 100 Delray Beach residents, some who come only for the winter season, have passed through the Academy process and everyone has been very enthusiastic about the knowledge they gained. Every topic from local taxes, City finances, police protection, fire department services, public works, parks and recreation, building permits, trash disposal, and the quality of City water are examined and discussed. Each Residents Academy participant receives a "Citizen's Notebook" containing volumes of reference material and information about the City and its resources.

There is no charge and registration forms are available at the City Hall reception desk or may be received by mail. Registration forms can also be accessed on our Web site at [mydelraybeach.com](http://mydelraybeach.com). **For more information, call Janet Meeks at (561) 243-7231.**

### **FREE TENNIS TICKETS!**

The City is offering the **public at large** 200 pairs of general admission tickets for the **opening match** of the International Tennis Championships on **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The ticket giveaway will begin on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and end at the end of business on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Interested persons, over the age of 16, should come by City Hall at 100 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, during business hours (8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). The first 200 people showing up at the reception desk in the lobby will get a pair of tickets to that event. The tournament will run from March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be purchased at the Tennis Centre box office or call (561) 330-6000.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH  
100 N.W. FIRST AVENUE  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33444**

## **PED/BIKE TASK TEAM MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Delray Beach residents who are interested in helping to make our City safer and more pedestrian and bicycle friendly are invited to attend the monthly Pedestrian & Bicycle Task Team meetings. The meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall First Floor Conference Room.

There are a number of significant challenges facing the Ped/Bike Task Team. One of the biggest challenges is how to retrofit our City in such a way that it is not overly costly to make it safer and more pleasant for pedestrians and cyclists. Another challenge will be how to inform and educate the public about what they can do to protect themselves from injury as they walk or ride. Another challenge will be to make intersections safer. Some intersections have 10 or 11 lanes of traffic to cross and these present a real danger especially for our children and our elderly.

Jim Smith, a dedicated and accomplished volunteer for Delray Beach causes, is heading the Task Team to plan and develop areas and paths for bicycle enthusiasts throughout the community. It has long been Smith's dream to provide for bicycle routes in and around the City to ease traffic to our beaches and parks as well as opening up another pleasant activity for residents and visitors.

The Ped/Bike Task Team has begun Street Surveys to personally observe problems that pedestrians & bicyclist face in walking & cycling in Delray Beach. They also record where schools, parks, and community centers are located. They take pictures, make note of problems, analyze the problems, and then make a report of their findings to the other Task Team Members. After the Task Team completes all the Street Surveys, and considers recommendations received from other Citizens, the Senior Management Team of Delray Beach and from outside experts, the Team will make its final recommendations to the City Commission.

On Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> the Task Team will conduct a work session meeting with the Boca Raton Bike/Ped Coordinator, Joy Puerta. They will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the fountain area in Veterans Park. The work session will involve a walking tour of the downtown area with ideas shared on how the City can become more pedestrian friendly. The general public is invited to walk along with them. Just show up at Veterans Park.

The next meeting of the Ped/Bike Task Team will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Local residents who would like to participate in the discussion are encouraged to attend. Citizen involvement will translate directly into better recommendations by the Task Team. Please mark your calendar now so you won't forget to attend.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT CANCELLED**

The fourth annual Neighborhood Summit, scheduled for Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, was cancelled today as announced by the Community Improvement Department of Delray Beach. The Neighborhood Summit has and will be an important gathering of interested citizens who are eager to learn more of how their city works and how they can improve their own communities. Reservations for this year's edition have been unusually slow.

Lula Butler, Director of the Community Improvement Department, felt that over the past six months, the many meetings regarding the Master Plan, West Atlantic Avenue re-development, City Commission meetings, Old School Square expansion meetings, the Town Hall Meeting presenting the Annual Report for Delray Beach, and the South West Development planning sessions, have simply "got folks weary of meetings."

The Neighborhood Summit will be rescheduled at a later time and the many experts willing to contribute their time and special knowledge will be available to discuss a variety of community issues with residents.