

City of Fort Lauderdale Civic Packet April 2009

This civic packet contains news and information about events and programs available to residents, businesses and visitors in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Regular City Commission meetings are scheduled for 6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 6 and Tuesday, April 21, 2009

New pilot program provides an alternative for contacting City's 24-Hour Customer Service Center

The City of Fort Lauderdale 24-Hour Customer Service Center's mission is to provide quality service in a timely and professional manner. In keeping with that mission, the Customer Service Center is pleased to introduce a new pilot program that provides an opportunity for customers to request assistance through the Internet.

In addition to calling the 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000, customers may now request assistance by completing a new online web form, which is posted at www.fortlauderdale.gov/customerservice.

The new pilot program is designed for customers who have routine questions such as "How do I replace my garbage cart?" "What are my sanitation pickup days?" or "Where do I pay my water bill?" Customers may also use the online form to report non-emergency service issues such as potholes, broken sanitation carts, non-working street lights, etc.

Customers who need to report time-sensitive, urgent issues such as a broken water line, a sewer issue, or other emergency situations should not use the online form. Instead, they should call 954-828-8000 for immediate assistance.

If you like the ease of using the Internet you will enjoy the simplicity of this new form. To contact customer service using the Internet, all you have to do is type www.fortlauderdale.gov/customerservice into the browser address bar and complete the short form. Once the form is submitted, it will be e-mailed directly to Customer Service, e-mail where representatives are eagerly waiting to provide assistance. Upon receiving the form, customer service staff will follow up with you either by e-mail or telephone within one business day.

City of Fort Lauderdale to host Public Transportation Workshop on April 1

Meeting to Examine Options for Passenger Service Along FEC Railway

How do we relieve traffic congestion and provide convenient public transportation service in southeast Florida?

A potential solution being studied centers on establishing a new passenger transit service using the 85-mile FEC Railway that connects the downtown areas of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and numerous other cities throughout the tri-county region.

You can find out more about how this integrated regional public transportation system would work by attending the City of Fort Lauderdale's upcoming South Florida East Coast Corridor (SFECC) Workshop. Details are as follows:

City of Fort Lauderdale South Florida East Coast Corridor (SFECC) Workshop
Wednesday, April 1, 2009 • 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Holiday Park Social Center • 1150 G. Harold Martin Dr.
(Located in Holiday Park • corner of Sunrise Blvd. and U.S. 1)
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Hosted by the City's Planning & Zoning Department in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation, the workshop will focus on the portion of the FEC Railway corridor located within the City of Fort Lauderdale and neighboring communities.

Participants will have an opportunity to provide input and feedback on a variety of topics related to the project including:

- Examining various modes of transportation
- Identifying potential locations for future transit stations
- Reviewing various types of station designs
- Considering potential station area zoning changes
- Discussing potential opportunities and challenges to the community and environment

For more information about the workshop, please call the City's Planning and Zoning Department at 954-828-5265 or visit www.fortlauderdale.gov.

For more information about the South Florida East Coast Corridor Study, visit http://www.sfecstudy.com/project_description.html.

Remember to GO GREEN on April 25!

We all care about the environment. On Saturday, April 25, learn how you can help protect it!

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Utility Advisory Committee invites residents of all ages to a free, family-friendly event to celebrate Earth Day, Water Matters Day, Water Conservation Month and Going GREEN!

Participate in fun activities, get free giveaways and gather practical information that will teach you how to be more eco-friendly. Look for more information in the next civic packet.

The City Riverwalk Survey

We Value Your Opinion!

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department invites you to share your thoughts on Riverwalk Linear Park.

Please share your comments and suggestions with us by participating in a brief survey at www.fortlauderdale.gov/Riverwalk.

We look forward to the opportunity of serving you better!

For more information, please call (954) 828-5721.

Melodies in the Park

The City of Fort Lauderdale presents Melodies in the Park, a free, evening concert series at Riverland Park. Salsa Mania is scheduled to perform on April 3 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Bring your family and friends, a blanket or a chair and your favorite snack. Kick your weekend off on a high note! For more information, please call (954) 321-1234.

Jazz Brunch – First Sunday of each month

The SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch is an ideal way to relax and enjoy Fort Lauderdale's scenic Riverwalk. Listen to the soulful sounds of outstanding local jazz artists on four stages from 11 am to 2 pm on the first Sunday of each month. For more information, please call our 24-hour hotline at (954) 828-5363 or visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/life.

The scheduled performers are:

April 5

Esplanade Stage – Trisha O'Brien
Connie Hoffmann Gazebo – Gold Coast Jazz Society Band
Peck Courtyard – Othello
Las Olas Riverfront Stage – Rich Hernandez Trio

May 3

Esplanade Stage – Mad Romance
Connie Hoffmann Gazebo – Tommy Nehls Trio
Peck Courtyard – Porcelain Quartet
Las Olas Riverfront Stage – Ed Quintana Electric Band

If you need reasonable accommodation or need to inquire about wheelchair seating at these events, please contact Stephanie Brady at sbrady@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 396-3696 at least 7 business days prior to the event.

Spring Break Camp

Looking for a fun-filled, enriching spring break program for your child? Register now for our Spring Break Camp being offered April 6-10. Activities include arts and crafts, swimming lessons, outdoor sports and much more! Camp fees begin at \$90. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today by calling (954) 828-PARK.

Spring Fling Luncheon

Please join us for our Spring Fling Luncheon on Wednesday, April 8, from 11 am to 3 pm at the Holiday Park Social Center. Lunch will be accompanied by live musical entertainment. Guests are also welcome to compete in bingo and other games for a chance to win great prizes. Reservations are recommended and lunch is only \$12 per person. For reservations or more information, please call (954) 828-5383.

Family Fun Day

Come enjoy a fun-filled day with your family on Saturday, April 11, from 10 am to 2 pm, at Carter Park. Activities will include an egg hunt, field tournaments and other children's activities. Light refreshments will also be available. This event is free to the public. For more information, please call (954) 828-5411.

Spring Egg Hunt

Grab your basket and join us for our Spring Egg Hunt! Croissant Park will host the annual event on Saturday, April 11. Children will enjoy the adventure of finding treasures in special eggs and meeting the Spring Bunny. This event is free to the public.

Scheduled by age groups:

- 2-3 yrs. 12:00-12:30 pm
- 4-5 yrs. 12:30-1:00 pm
- 6-7 yrs. 1:00-1:30 pm
- 8-9 yrs. 1:30-1:45 pm
- 10-11 yrs. 1:45-2:00 pm

For more information, please call (954) 523-1063.

Summer Camp Registration

Summer Camp registration begins for City residents on April 13. Enroll early to reserve your child's spot. For rates and more information, please call (954) 828-PARK.

Mother's Day Brunch

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Parks and Recreation Department cordially invites you to our Mother's Day Brunch being held on Saturday, May 9, from 11 am to 2 pm at

Bass Park. Make this a memorable day as we celebrate with delicious food and wonderful entertainment. For more information or to register, please call (954) 828-8498.

Jimmy Evert Tennis Center USTA National Open Clay Court Championships

The prestigious USTA National Open Clay Court Championships will be held May 16 through May 22, 2009, at the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center. This championship is the first part of a four-tournament series to be played. Awards will be given to winners in Men's and Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles categories. Singles winners will also receive a wild card entry into the USTA Professional Circuit Tournament. For more information, please call (954) 828-5378.

Big Toy and Truck Extravaganza

Mark your calendars! The 2009 Big Toy and Truck Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 10 am to 2 pm at George English Park. Children will have the opportunity to get hands-on with law enforcement vehicles, rescue vehicles and much more! This event is free. For more information, please call (954) 828-5363.

Recreational Programming

Holiday Park:

Junior Golf

Junior Golf is now being offered at Holiday Park on Thursdays, beginning April 16, from 6 to 7 pm. Children will learn the fundamentals of golf while receiving hands-on instruction. Each child will also receive a shirt and trophy. Registration fees begin at \$55 for a 6-week session. For more information or to register, please call (954) 828-5993.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi encourages health and longevity while reducing stress. Classes are now being offered on Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 am at Holiday Park. For more information or to register, please call (954) 828-5993.

Basketball

Let the games begin! Holiday Park is accepting Youth Basketball registrations for children 6-14 years old beginning April 27. Pee Wee Basketball registration begins May 4 for children 4-5 years old begins May 4. Registration fees begin at \$85 for Youth Basketball and \$55 for Pee Wee Basketball. For more information or to register, please call (954) 828-5993.

Youth and Pee Wee Basketball games begin June at Holiday Park. Registration for Youth Basketball opens April 27 and on May 4 for Pee Wee Basketball

Osswald Park

Golf Fort Lauderdale

Come take a swing and enjoy free youth golf instruction at Osswald Park on Saturdays, from 10 am to 12 pm. Free classes are offered to youth between 6-18 years old. For more information, please call (954) 497-1636.

Riverland Park

Dice and Spice

Sharpen your cooking skills to create new, tasty dishes! Dice and Spice cooking classes are held every Wednesday evening at Riverland Park. Class fees are \$32 per month for residents, \$48 per month for non-residents and include all supplies. For more information or to register, please call (954) 321-1234.

Teen Club

Come meet new friends and join the Riverland Park Teen Club. Sessions are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. For more information, please call (954) 321-1234.

Fitness at Riverland Park

Riverland Park offers a variety of fitness classes and activities to keep your resolution alive. Zumba is a high-energy dance workout while Shape Up with Luisa combines body sculpting, step and light, weight training. Classes are conveniently offered throughout the week and fees begin at \$30 for a 10-visit pass. For more information or to register, please call (954) 321-1234.

Smart Yard Maintenance Saves Water

Lawn irrigation accounts for half of all residential water consumption in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Current water restrictions limit lawn irrigation to two days a week. The tips below will assist you with maintaining a healthy, drought resistant lawn while adhering to the ongoing restrictions.

Use Ground Cover

Use mulch to retain moisture. Mulch insulates plant roots from heat and controls weeds that compete with plants for moisture. Pine straw, Melaleuca mulch, recycled yard waste and shredded hardwood are types of mulch or chips that are often used for retaining moisture.

Keep it Clean

Excess water that runs off your yard travels to the City's waterways via storm drains. You can help keep this water clean by fertilizing less and using slow-release fertilizers that last longer and release nutrients gradually. Look for a fertilizer with a phosphorus level of two percent or less. Ensure your sprinklers are properly adjusted so they are only watering your lawn, not the sidewalk, driveway or street. This prevents excess runoff to the storm drains and saves water.

Mow Better

Cut your grass regularly. Set your mower to its highest setting and have the mower blade professionally sharpened regularly. Do not cut your grass too short. Longer grass has more leaf surface, which enables it to absorb more sunlight, grow thicker and develop a deeper root system. Longer grass also shades the soil surface, which helps retain moisture and resist weed growth.

Right Plant Right Place

Select and group plants according to their watering needs to eliminate unnecessary watering. Put moisture-loving plants in areas of your yard that holds more moisture. Put plants that prefer well-drained soil in drier areas.

Bug Off

Buy plants that are naturally resistant or tolerant to pests so that you can reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides. Poisons sprayed on plants eventually end up in rivers, lakes and streams when they run off lawns during heavy rains. This leads to waterway pollution.

Turn it Off

Turn off sprinklers if rain or heavy wind is expected, or if it is raining. Install a rain sensor device that automatically shuts off sprinkler system timers.

For more information about water conservation, please visit the City of Fort Lauderdale website at www.fortlauderdale.gov or call the 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000.

Summer Jobs Available

Looking for a great summer job? Secure your summer job early! The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department has a variety of employment opportunities available for this summer. Positions are available at 12 parks and five community pools throughout the City.

Positions Available

- Summer Camp Counselors
- Summer Camp Directors
- Specialty Instructors (Arts, Sports, ESE)
- Seasonal Lifeguards
- Pool Lifeguard

To complete an application, please visit any of our park facilities. You may also obtain an application by visiting our website at www.fortlauderdale.gov/cityjobs or in person at our Human Resources Department, 100 N. Andrews Avenue, 3rd Floor. For more information, please call Human Resources at (954) 828-5300.

Community Appearance Board Announces March 2009 WOW Award Winner

The City of Fort Lauderdale Community Appearance Board is proud to award Vicki Eckels the March 2009 WOW award. (Property photos available online at www.fortlauderdale.gov)

Vicki purchased her home in January of 2003, which is located in the Harbordale neighborhood in District IV. When it was built in the mid 1950s, it was a modest two-bedroom home with a carport and a detached storage building. Over time, the carport was enclosed and the house was converted into a duplex.

The initial plan was to perform a simple renovation to return the property to a single-family home. However, as walls were torn down, problems and opportunities resulted in a complete gutting and makeover of the home.

One of the main construction goals was to implement "green" design and building features aimed at reducing her carbon footprint. The insulation in the home is made from recycled blue jeans. The home is also powered by a 5,000 watt solar power system, which contains a data module that monitors daily solar power production. Since monitoring the system since last August, it has provided as much as 58 percent of her electric usage.

The home also includes new ENERGY STAR® appliances, a high efficiency central air conditioner, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs and tinted windows.

About the Community Appearance Board

The Community Appearance Board recognizes residential properties throughout the City that contribute to the aesthetic appeal of the neighborhood through its WOW Award Program. Board members nominate homes for a WOW award, but this year the Board is expanding the program to provide additional opportunities for Fort Lauderdale homeowners to receive recognition for the outstanding appearance of their properties. For more information about the WOW Award Program, nominating a home for a WOW Award, please visit:

www.fortlauderdale.gov/neighborhoods. Nominations can be made online!

For more information about becoming a Community Appearance Board member, please <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/clerk/boards.htm>.

Support Water Conservation Month by Saving More Water this April!

In 1998, former Governor Lawton Chiles signed the first proclamation designating April as water conservation month, which is widely recognized by numerous Florida cities and counties. This April, the City of Fort Lauderdale, along with the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida and the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association will again participate in this 11-year tradition by declaring April as Water Conservation Month.

Conserving water is a cost-effective, environmentally sound way to reduce the demand for water. While conserving water should be a year-round practice, it is particularly important during April because it is the last month of Florida's dry season. As a result, there has historically been a higher demand for water in April, which could be the result of increased lawn irrigation caused by rising temperatures.

The City of Fort Lauderdale is inviting citizens, business owners, and visitors to join the water conservation effort this April by practicing water savings measures and becoming more aware of the need to save water.

By practicing the following tips, as well as those listed on the City of Fort Lauderdale's website, www.fortlauderdale.gov, you can do your part to save water, energy, and the environment.

- Look for the WaterSense label to identify water-efficient products and programs. The WaterSense label indicates that these products and programs meet water-efficiency and performance criteria.
- Don't let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Buy water saving, high-efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- Repair all leaks (a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water a day).
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best).
- Water plants differently according to what they need. Check with your local extension service or nursery for advice.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only – not the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- Keep your yard healthy - dethatch, use mulch, etc.
- Sweep outside instead of using a hose.
- Learn how to plant trees, build a pond, compost, and more from the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard>).

More information about water conservation is available on the Internet at www.fortlauderdale.gov or www.savewaterfl.com.

Water conservation tips in this article courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense website, <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>.

Riverside Park Residents' Association presents A Block of Art

A Celebration of Our Community

10am – 5pm
Saturday, April 4, 2009
Radford Community Center
555 SW 11th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

“Glad to Be Here”
Art n Food Children's Art Area Entertainment

For more information, call Mark Hill, 954-306-3541
or email Markhowmark2@aol.com

Family Fun Day at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

SATURDAY, MAY 2
9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Now is your chance to learn about all of the exciting activities and programs that are available to residents of all ages at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex. Bring the whole family to this FREE event, which will feature:

Games and Prizes • Face Painting • Swim and Dive Team Tryouts
Summer Program Registration • Safety Demonstrations • And More!

DON'T FORGET YOUR SWIMSUIT!

The Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex is located at 501 Seabreeze Boulevard on Fort Lauderdale Beach. For more information call (954) 828-4580 or visit www.fortlauderdale.gov.

The City of Fort Lauderdale is pleased to announce the opening of the new public day dock located on the New River at SW 4 Avenue.

For more information, please contact the City Dockmaster at 954.828.5833

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Please help us keep the Civic Packet mailing list current. Following civic association elections, please send new contact information to:

Matt Little
City of Fort Lauderdale
101 NE 3rd Avenue, Suite 300
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
or email to:
mlittle@fortlauderdale.gov

Thank you