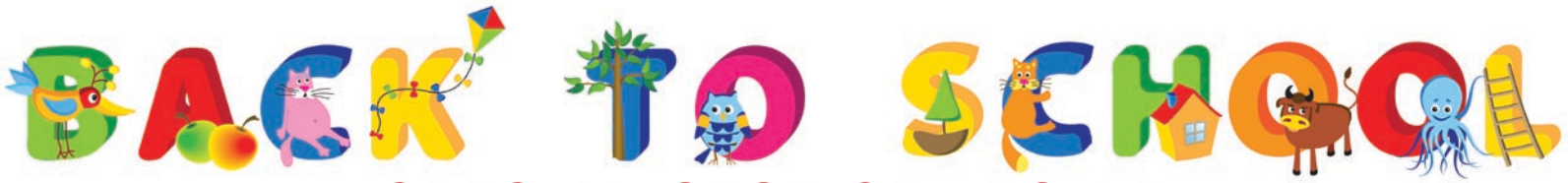

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

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Enter the Hollywood Gazette's 2009 'Best of Hollywood' Reader's Choice contest and find out.

Details at hollywoodgazette.com PAGE 8

HOLLYWOOD GIRL 'MAKES THE CUT' FOR CHARITY

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GET ON THE BALL!

Hollywood Wildcats fall soccer season is approaching. See page 10 to register.

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Dynamic duo dance their way through Downtown

ROBERT STOLPE PHOTOGRAPHY

By Caron Conway
Lead Correspondent

When Mort and Carol Schomer dance in the streets of Historic Downtown Hollywood, their smooth moves, exuberant style and flashy attire often elicit applause from onlookers.

But the North Miami Beach couple are not your typical street performers. Mort Schomer is a very active 80 years old and Carol is 78, and they go dancing just about every night of the week for the sheer fun of it and to stay active and young at heart.

The Schomers, who celebrated their 57th anniversary July 6, perform various dance styles, including the two-step, cha-cha and especially swing, for which they've developed more than two dozen different patterns.

"People flip out when we do it," Carol said.

A few times a month, the Schomers enjoy dancing their way through Downtown Hollywood, where their favorite spots offering live music include Chocolada and La Piazza Pasta Cafe. They also frequent the outdoor Hollywood Beach Theater along the Broadwalk, Las Palmas Tropical Grille & Sushi and Nikki's On the Green at the Hollywood Beach Golf & Country Club.

"No matter where we go, we put on a show," Carol said. "We just have so much fun."

As Mort, a retired optometrist, said, "You have to have a reason to get up in the morning."

As the Schomers' passion for dancing grew through the years, so has their inventory of dance costumes, which have completely taken over their dining room. Mort's "jazzy" outfits alone fill 12 racks and include

CONT. ON PAGE 24

Tourism vital to Hollywood economy

By Caron Conway
Lead Correspondent

Hollywood, Florida, once routinely confused with that famous West Coast city that shares its name, is making a name for itself throughout the U.S. and internationally, thanks to the aggressive marketing efforts of the city's tourism agency.

Now entering its fourth year of existence, the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Office of Tourism is spreading the word about the Hollywood destination and its many natural, cultural and historical assets to an ever-growing number of leisure and business travelers, tourism and travel industry professionals and journalists from around the world.

That's no easy feat at a time when many people are tightening their belts and forgoing vacations, and competition for a limited market is fierce.

Erickson

Judy Erickson, Hollywood's director of tourism, attributes the program's success to a number of factors, including an enhanced interactive Web site and various online initiatives, strong industry partnerships, visibility at industry events and value-driven promo-

CONT. ON PAGE 21

POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL. PLEASE DELIVER BY AUGUST 5.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Student accolades

Congratulations to **Michelle Mendez** of Hollywood Hills High School who received a $1,000 scholarship from the Burger King Scholars Program, which helps students offset the cost of attending college or a post-secondary vocational/technical school. Winners are chosen based on their grade point average, work experience, financial need, extracurricular activities and community service.

Hollywood elementary school student **Frances Aldana**, 9, won the Sourcebooks National Poetry Month Contest through her entry with Books & Books, South Florida's independent, locally owned bookstores.

Frances' poem, "My Best Friend Kaitlyn," took top honors in the category for hip-hop poems about your best friend. Kaitlyn, the subject of her poem, and Frances have been best friends since pre-school.

For winning, Frances and Books & Books will receive a visit from poet and author of the book "Hip Hop Speaks to Children" Nikki Giovanni.

Giovanni will present a signed copy of her book to Frances and present a reading at Books & Books during the early autumn.

Richard Neunie, a Hollywood resident and recent graduate of South Broward High School, was selected to participate in Bank of America's prestigious Student Leaders program, which provided him the chance to attend a weeklong Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. last month.

At the summit, participants learned how corporate, nonprofit and government collaboration is instrumental in community revitalization, and they met with Florida legislators on Capitol Hill.

Bank of America also provided Richard with an eight-week-long internship that he chose to complete at the Hollywood YMCA.

Student health fair offers shots, screenings Aug. 8

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital is hosting a series of Back-to-School Health Fairs, which will offer school physicals, immunizations and vision and hearing screenings. A copy of the child's current immunization record is required.

Immunizations will be provided for Medicaid patients and those without health insurance, for newborns up to 18 years old only. The Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine will not be available at the health fairs.

The date and location of the Hollywood Health Fair will be Saturday, Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carver Ranches Boys & Girls Club, 2205 S.W. 44th Ave.

For more information, call 954-276-5985.

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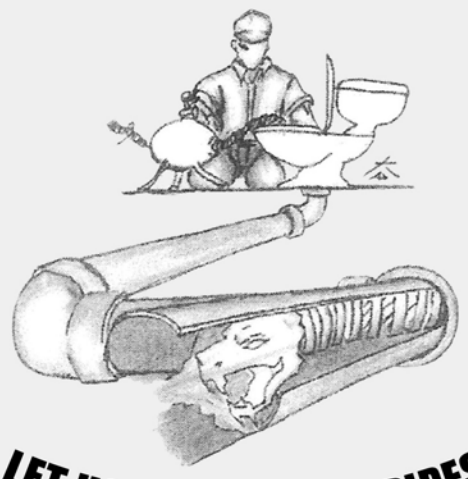
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HOLLYWOOD gazette
BRINGING YOUR NEWS HOME

BABY of the MONTH

Michael Jose Vargas

Three-week-old Michael Jose Vargas brings so much joy to his parents, Nicole Davidson and Michael Vargas. They said their son, Mikey for short, is so sweet when he's sleeping and so hungry when he's awake.

DO YOU WANT YOUR BABY TO BE HOLLYWOOD'S 'BABY OF THE MONTH'?

E-mail hi-res photo with the following information: Name of Parents; Name of Baby; Age; and Special traits to brett@hollywoodgazette.com

Hollywood girl donates hair to Locks of Love

Hollywood resident Lielle Morr knows a thing or two about giving back to those who need help, and she's only 6 years old.

Last month, Lielle entered the Hair Lounge Salon in Hollywood and donated 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that donates hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from hair loss from illnesses.

Lielle's parents, Tal and Shalva, and brother, Ilan, are very proud of her, and Lielle was proud that she could help another child.

The Morr family hopes that Lielle's actions will encourage others to donate to Locks of Love, too.

THINK YOUR BUSINESS IS THE BEST IN HOLLYWOOD?

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Some of Hollywood Gazette's 2008 winners. Will you be next?

Contest is open to all Hollywood businesses who have been open for a minimum of two years. Fee to participate is $139.
Deadline to enter is Monday, August 31. Online polls open Tuesday, September 1 and close at midnight October 10, 2009.

Winners will be announced in the November 2009 issue. Nomination includes a business listing, photos, ratings and reviews on Hollywood Gazette's online directory listing in one category (over 80 categories to choose from) for 12 months at hollywoodgazette.com, official Best of Hollywood promotional postcards for your customers and potential bragging rights.

HOLLYWOOD gazette
BRINGING YOUR NEWS HOME

Hollywood start-up charity launches first event

Three months ago, three Florida students decided to make a difference in their community. They decided they wanted a charity of their own where they could utilize their personal skills and talents.

Inspiration struck, and Cuts For a Cause commenced.

Sam Freeman, 26, Jared Reynolds, 25, and Greg Dickens, 22, created the Hollywood-based Cuts For a Cause to give back to the less fortunate, as well as give back to the individuals who devote their time and efforts to charity, by providing free haircuts.

Cuts For a Cause creators Jared Reynolds (left) and Sam Freeman (right) with a happy customer at the charity's first event last month at ASM Beauty.

"We really wanted to give back, and we really wanted to do something unique," Freeman said.

The nonprofit organization hosted its first charity event on July 13, 14 and 15, and Freeman called it a huge success.

Cuts For a Cause teamed up with ASM Beauty School, which provided the salon and the haircuts; Zenagen, a Hollywood-based shampoo company, which provided the shampoo; and Shirts R Us, which provided the charity with T-shirts for the event; and together they performed approximately 50 haircuts.

The organization hopes the haircuts will give everyone a boost both externally and internally, according to its Web site.

Over the three-day event, those in need and volunteers received haircuts at the same time, providing, Freeman said, great interaction between everyone.

"We're really making a difference," Freeman said.

This event gave haircuts to people involved with the Ronald McDonald House, which provides shelter to families traveling and seeking treatment for their sick children, and the Chrysalis Center, a mental health center providing mental health services to children, adolescents and their families. The COSAC Foundation, which runs a homeless shelter and helps feed the homeless, and Women in Distress, which provides victims of domestic violence with safe shelter, also received free cuts.

Instructor Anthony Ortiz and Assistant Director of ASM Letti Milazzo orchestrated the entire event, and Freeman said they were an integral part of the event.

Cuts For a Cause plans to host similar events each month with various charities and hopes to expand its outreach first statewide and eventually nationwide. They intend to host their next event at the International Beauty and Barber show in Miami to help expose their charity to more individuals.

Freeman said he would also like to have a mobile unit, so they can bring the stylists to the charities instead of the charities coming to them.

"Our main goal is to help as many people as we can," Freeman said.

For more information on Cuts For a Cause, located at 1940 Harrison St., or to become a sponsor, call 954-617-5154 or e-mail info@cutsforacause.org.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED
SO HAS PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

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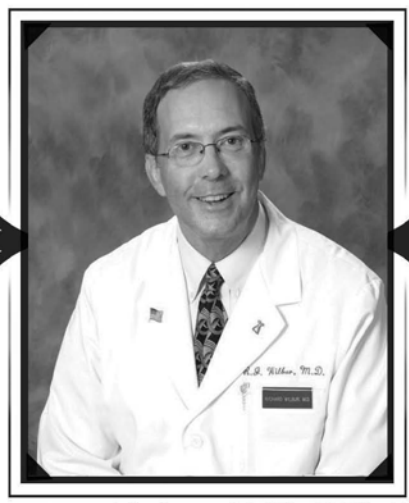

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Treasure hunt event promotes Park Sheridan Plaza

By Brett Daly
Associate Editor

Waving their orange and blue pompoms and proudly playing their musical instruments, the Hollywood Hills High School band and drill team kicked off the Park Sheridan Quest and Open House with a bang last month.

More than 300 people attended the pirate-themed event, which was designed to promote Hollywood businesses in the Park Sheridan Plaza while providing entertainment for participants, and all enjoyed a store-to-store treasure hunt, a book reading by author and pirate for the night Bob Wallace, games and, of course, lots of prizes.

Avi Frier and his family, seen regularly at Park Sheridan Plaza, came out to participate.

The Hollywood Hills High School marching band inspires the crowd.

"The event turned out great," said Mari Diaz, a volunteer at the event. "It was a great way to publicize shops, and I think it should be done again. Everyone said they'd come again."

She said many participants told her they learned a lot about the various stores in the plaza.

Tim Harisses announces the raffle winners with Mari Diaz.

Jennifer Sandomir with grand prize winner Sergio Barrantes.

The night began with participants receiving a map and list of clues to complete the treasure hunt, and culminated with a raffle drawing for a series of prizes.

After hunting and collecting all the clues for the treasure hunt, brothers Orlando, 23, Sergio, 21, and Salvordor Barrantes, 3, walked away with the event's grand prize – a three-night stay at the Doubletree Castle Hotel in Orlando.

"It was a good time and a good community event," said Sergio, who had a look of total surprise on his face when he was announced the top winner.

"It was a good family thing to do," Orlando added.

Tim Harrises, of TH Design Event and Theme Party Decor, and Marika Guyton, of It's All About You Event Planning and Coordinating, organized the event along with the Hollywood Gazette.

"This event was a perfect example of what can happen when you bring the residential community together with the cooperation of local businesses," said Hollywood Gazette General Manager Jennifer Sandomir. "It's just a win-win for the whole neighborhood."

For more information, call 954-962-8180.

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Hollywood Wildcat Soccer Club

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www.hollywoodwildcats.com

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Please mail to Hollywood Wildcat Soccer Club, P.O. Box 220570, Hollywood, FL 33022-0570 before September 1, 2009. Or bring to the clubhouse @ Boggs field (Sheridan st & 23rd Ave) during registration. For more information, please check our website at www.hollywoodwildcats.com or call (954) 929-2287

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2009 SPECIAL SECTION

FCAT ratings improve for Hollywood High Schools

By Caron Conway
Lead Correspondent

In the years before Hollywood founder Joseph Young created his "Dream City," high school students living within the 68-mile stretch between Miami and West Palm Beach had only one option: Fort Lauderdale High.

Today, Hollywood boasts three local high schools – South Broward, McArthur and Hollywood Hills – offering a wide range of educational choices that include Marine Science, Finance, Fashion Marketing, Exploratory Teaching, Building and Construction and Engineering Technology programs.

SOUTH BROWARD HIGH SCHOOL

Hollywood's oldest high school, South Broward High, opened at its current location at 1901 N. Federal Highway in 1948. The original site for the school was the current Dania Elementary site. It was constructed in 1913 with a subsequent addition to make it suitable for high school students. Dania High had its first graduating class in 1924. Also known as Old South Broward High School, it served as a regional high school for the southern portion of Broward County.

South Broward High, home of the Bulldogs and a Marine Science magnet school, now serves about 2,300 students. Extracurricular activities include service, leadership, academic clubs and athletic programs in football, flag football, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, wrestling, cross country, track, swimming, water polo, tennis and golf. A strong Band & Color Guard Department consists of several performing groups.

South Broward offers a wide range of curriculum choices such as Family & Consumer Science, Hospitality & Management and Culinary Operations. Students in the Marine Science Magnet Program gain in-depth experiences through hands-on activities, laboratory experiments, mentorships and field trips.

Marine Science offerings include the Shark Club, which works with researchers in catching, tagging and releasing sharks; the R.O.V. (Remotely Operated Vehicles) Team, which builds underwater robotic vehicles; Marine Mechanics, which focuses on the workings of engines; and the Geographical Information System (GIS) Program, a dual enrollment course offered through Broward College.

After a consistent FCAT School Grade of "C" from 2003 to 2007, South Broward became a "D" school in 2008.

This year, FCAT math scores increased, earning South Broward enough points for a "B" letter grade.

"Our success comes from a lot of planning and implementation," Principal Alan Strauss said. "We did have FCAT camps and focused plans to address the preparation for all of the testing."

Strauss said the goal for the coming school year is to continue to improve test scores. He added, however, that FCAT scores will only count 50 percent toward 2010 school letter grades, with the other 50 percent based on graduation rates, accelerated coursework and SAT/ACT/CPT test scores.

For more information on South Broward High, call 754-323-1800 or visit www.broward.k12.fl.us/sobrowardhigh.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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info: 954-921-3016 or DowntownHollywood.com

BACK TO SCHOOL

New Montessori academy opens on Hollywood Blvd.

Marware Montessori Academy announced that it is enrolling students for the 2009-2010 school year. School doors open on Aug. 24.

Construction on the school building, located at 2230 Hollywood Blvd., is well underway and is expected to be completed by mid-August.

Marware Montessori Academy was conceived in 2008 by Edward and Maria Martin, owners of Marware, Inc. in Hollywood. They are parents who wanted to provide the best education possible for their children and the children of others.

Marware Montessori Academy offers children ages 18 months through 12 years old a classic Montessori education updated with the latest technology for the 21st century. Its staff of Montessori-certified teachers is committed to offering the finest education in a caring, nurturing environment that allows all children to grow and flourish.

Koesten

Marware Montessori Academy offers a year-round program with extended hours and competitive tuition rates.

For further information or to schedule an enrollment appointment, contact Principal Alan Koesten by telephone at 954-923-7100 or e-mail at alan@marwaremontessori.com.

More information and updates are available at the school's Web site, www.marwaremontessori.com.

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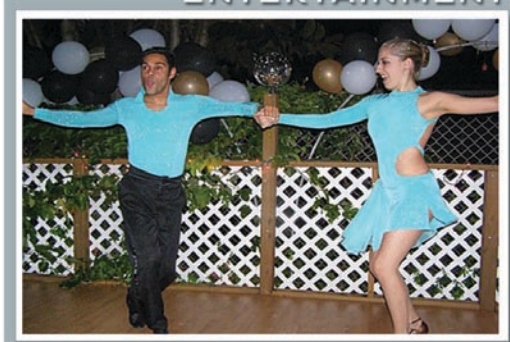

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A member of the Association of Death Education and Counseling
4197 South Circle Drive, Hollywood, FL 33021

954-989-7439

Valerie Panciera-Rieth is a native Hollywood Floridian and has been a valued bereavement resource since 1990. Valerie is a certified bereavement specialist, author, school teacher and speaker both locally and nationally. She and her husband Kevin Rieth live in Hollywood with their two daughters Alexandra and Francesca. Valerie has a wealth of hands on experience in all areas of counseling and motivating. Valerie brings with her over 20 years of involvement and experience in bereavement support, funeral service, pre-need development, marketing, counselor training, public relations and community outreach at the former Panciera Memorial Home.

Valerie hosts bereavement support group meetings on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The meetings are held at **4200 Hollywood Boulevard**, free of charge and open to the community. You may contact Valerie at the following new telephone numbers and e-mail address.

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954-989-7439 office 954-614-7718 cell
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BACK TO SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOLS CONT. FROM PAGE 13

McARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL

The second high school built in Hollywood was McArthur High. In early 1958, ground was broken for what was then McArthur Junior High School, named for J.N. McArthur, a former Miami-Dade principal and the founder of McArthur Farms and Dairy, who donated 40 acres of his farmland for use as a school site. The facility, at 6501 Hollywood Blvd., was soon converted to a high school and graduated its first class in 1960.

Interestingly, one aspect of the school's curriculum reflects the agricultural origins of the site. McArthur's Agriscience Program includes courses in Environmental Horticulture, Landscape and Turf Sciences and Landscape Operation.

After several years as a "C" school, McArthur's FCAT School Grade dropped to a "D" in 2007 and 2008. The school's grade is back to a "C" this year.

"The school grade improvement is attributed to the hard work and dedication of the staff in working on staff development activities and implementing them in the classroom," said McArthur High's new principal, Kathrine Hinden, who replaced former principal Carol Roland, who recently retired. "With activities like FCAT camp, before- and after-school tutoring opportunities and educating the students on their individual achievements and goals, the overall school achievement increased."

She said FCAT goals and strategies for the upcoming school year will be increasing the academic performance of the lowest 25 percent while maintaining the performance of each of the students reaching high standards.

For more information on McArthur High School, call 754-323-1200 or visit www.mcarthurseniorhigh.com.

HOLLYWOOD HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Hollywood's newest high school is Hollywood Hills High, which opened in late 1966 and moved to its current location at 5400 Stirling Road in August 1968.

The school has an active alumni association that meets monthly, as well as a student body that is active in the community. The 2009 graduating class earned a total of 41,789 community service hours and produced two Silver Knight winners and six honorable mentions, more than any other school in Broward or Miami-Dade counties this year.

One program that distinguishes Hollywood Hills High is its Small Learning Communities, whose data-driven curriculum is designed to challenge students academically and provide enriching experiences to prepare them for their future. Small Learning Communities are the School of Business and Human Resources; the School of Government and Communications; the School of Liberal, Creative and Performing Arts; and the School of Health, Science and Engineering.

Hollywood Hills' curriculum features interesting course offerings such as Advanced Cartooning & Animation, Court Procedures, Genetics, Early Childhood Education, the Academy of Fashion Marketing Program and the Vocational Health Occupational Courses program.

Hollywood Hills Spartans, who number approximately 2,300 students, can participate in more than 30 clubs and organizations, as well as athletic programs that include football, flag football, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, cross country, swimming and water polo.

Hollywood Hills' FCAT School Grade was a "C" from 2003 to 2006, dropped to a "D" in 2007 and raised back to a "C" in 2008. While the school earned enough points for a "C" letter grade again this year, "we did not show improvement in our lowest quartile of FCAT reading scores," Principal Chip Osborn said.

"We were, therefore, penalized one letter grade."

This year, the school will implement "an aggressive plan to teach and assess the mastery of the standards necessary for our students," Osborn said, with FCAT readiness assessed by numerous mastery checks.

Osborn said content-area teachers will be trained in reading strategies, and writing will be incorporated across the curriculum. Hollywood Hills also has been assigned three additional academic coaches in reading, math and science.

For more information on Hollywood Hills High School, call 754-323-1050 or visit www.hollywoodhillshigh.net.

2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR-BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
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28	29	30		

OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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30				

DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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22	23	24	25	26

MARCH

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15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

APRIL

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26	27	28	29	30

MAY

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31				

JUNE

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21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

Hurricane make-up days in order of preference: 1/15/10, 10/22/09, 4/22/10, 3/25/10

- Employee Planning (no school for students)
- Schools & Administrative offices closed
- Schools closed
- Report cards issued
- Early Release Day
- First & last day of school

Hollywood's public middle schools make the 2009 'FCAT honor roll'

Apollo Middle School
6800 Arthur St. • 754-323-2900
Principal: Lourdes M. Gonzalez
FCAT School Grade (2009): A
Eligible for participation in State & Federal Title I Programs

Extracurricular programs are offered in soccer, basketball, cheerleading, track and field and flag football. The new principal will host a "meet and greet" session at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12 in the school cafeteria.

Attucks Middle School
3500 N. 22nd Ave. • 754-323-3000
www.attucksmiddle.com
Principal: Carletha B. Shaw
FCAT School Grade (2009): A
Eligible for participation in State & Federal Title I Programs

Two magnet programs are offered: Center for Instructional Technology Education (C.I.T.E.) and Communications & Broadcast Arts. Under the school's Digital Learning Education Study (DLES) program, every student is assigned a laptop on which most work is completed.

Ben Gamla Charter School
2620 Hollywood Blvd. • 954-342-4064
www.bengamlacharter.org
Principal: Sharon Miller
FCAT School Grade (2009): A

Offers a Hebrew Curriculum that includes language, culture and history, and serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Driftwood Middle School
2751 N. 70th Terrace • 754-323-3100
www.broward.k12.fl.us/driftwoodms
Principal: Steven Williams
FCAT School Grade (2009): A
Eligible for participation in State & Federal Title I Programs

Offers the Academy of Health & Wellness magnet program, as well as the Alternative Education Program, which provides small-class instruction for students overwhelmed with the demands of a six-class schedule.

Florida Intercultural Academy
1704 Buchanan St. • 954-924-8006
www.interculturalacademy.com
Principal: Lori Bitar
FCAT School Grade (2009): N/A

Charter school offers multicultural integration, providing an understanding of heritage and cultures, and serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Hollywood Academy of Arts & Science
1720 Harrison St., #1A • 954-925-6404
www.hollywoodcharter.org
Principal: Donte Fulton
FCAT School Grade (2009): A

The first charter school housed in a residential building offers an enhanced, traditional curriculum with a focus on the arts and science, and serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

International School of Broward
3100 N. 75th Ave. • 954-987-2026
www.isbcharterschool.org
Principal: Dr. Jacquelyne Hoy
FCAT School Grade (2009): A

Charter school offers a two-way immersion language program in French and English, and serves students in grades six through 12.

McNicol Middle School
1602 S. 27th Ave. • 754-323-3400
www.broward.k12.fl.us/mcnicolmiddle
Principal: Darren S. Jones
FCAT School Grade (2009): B
Eligible for participation in State & Federal Title I Programs

Year-round school on a multi-track calendar offers Science & Pre-Engineering and International Affairs & Business magnet programs, as well as the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program for non-magnet students.

Olsen Middle School
330 SE 11th Terrace, Dania Beach • 754-323-3800
www.broward.k12.fl.us/olsenmiddle
Principal: Kim Flynn
FCAT School Grade (2009): B
Eligible for participation in State & Federal Title I Programs

Various academic programs are offered at Olsen, one of Broward's first junior high schools, including Advanced, STAR, Gifted, Self-Contained, TIE and ESOL, in addition to the Mainstream Program.

Paragon Academy of Technology
2210 Pierce St. • 954-925-0155
Principal: Dr. Steven Montes
FCAT School Grade (2009): B
Eligible for participation in State & Federal Title I Programs

Charter school emphasizes technology in the middle school curriculum and art in education in the elementary curriculum, and serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Charter schools are public schools holding state or local agency contracts to meet specified student achievement goals. In return, the charter school is allocated public educational funds for a stated period of time. Information: 754-321-2135; www.browardschools.com/schools/charter.htm.

Broward County Magnet Schools offer opportunities for in-depth experiences and study in specific areas of interest. The application deadline for the 2009-10 school year was Feb. 17, 2009. Information: 754-321-2380; www.browardschoolsmagnetprograms.com.

Local business owner wins $96K rent waiver in Firm Realty contest

After nearly 100 entries, letters, e-mail inquiries and phone calls, FIRM Realty announced and awarded All American Gator Products, Inc. as the winner of the Radius Retail Space Giveaway two-year lease in Downtown Hollywood on July 13.

Founded in 1988, All American Gator Products, Inc. is the largest processor of American alligators in South Florida, legally handling more than 2,600 wild alligators each year. The alligator processing plant and showroom offers meat packaging, skinning and processing, tanning of alligator skin into leather and manufacturing of the leather skins into finished leather goods to retailers and wholesalers.

AAGP plans to open its yet-to-be-named retail store this month.

"We are honored to have been selected as the recipient of the retail space in the Radius development," said Brian Wood, president of All American Gator Products, Inc. "This is a great opportunity for our company to branch out and showcase our one-of-a-kind products to a new customer base. As Downtown Hollywood continues to grow, we look forward to being a part of the area's success."

In addition, AAGP received a prize package worth more than $100,000, which includes $96,000 of waived rent, public relations and marketing support for the business' grand opening, business-law consultation services, a $250 Office Depot Card and a $250 Home Depot Card, among other resources.

Robin Robins hands over the keys to the vacant 1,741-square-foot space in the Radius mixed-use development to AAGP president Brian Woods.

"We are pleased to award the retail space to a company that exhibited a strong commitment to growing its business," said Robin Robins, vice-president of FIRM Realty. "All American Gator Products not only presented a unique business concept, but also demonstrated knowledge of their industry, had a strong business plan for expanding into a retail establishment and their financing and marketing plans were solid."

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Obesity: An On-going Epidemic

BY RICHARD J. WILBUR M.D.

Obesity is one of the most serious public health problems of the 21st century. Health care expenditures for obese Americans accounted for 35 percent of all costs in 2006 or $303 billion, an increase from $167 billion in 2001 (Mr. Obama take note).

From 2001 to 2006, the number of obese Americans increased from 48 million to 59 million people, and the day I wrote this article, 45 percent of the patients I saw in my office were obese.

Obesity is a condition where excess body fat has accumulated to the extent that it adversely affects your health. A medical degree is not necessary to make the diagnosis, since most people recognize obesity on sight.

A good estimate of obesity is to calculate a number called body mass index (BMI). You obtain this number by measuring a person's height and weight and applying a simple formula. I do it for every patient in my office practice.

A normal, healthy value for BMI is between 18.5 and 24.9. From 25 to 29.9, a person is considered to be overweight. Anything above 30 is obese, anything above 40 is considered morbidly obese and anything above 50 is super obese.

Many common diseases are strongly associated with obesity, particularly heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, breathing difficulties during sleep, certain types of cancer and osteoarthritis. It is estimated that obesity is the cause of 64 percent of the cases of Type 2 diabetes in men and 77 percent of the cases in women.

In addition to health risks, obesity is also a leading cause of death worldwide. A BMI of 30 to 35 reduces a person's life expectancy by two to four years, and a BMI of more than 40 reduces life expectancy for men by 20 years and for women by five years.

A combination of excessive dietary calories (eating too much), lack of physical activity and genetic susceptibility cause obesity.

In the American society, the increased rates of obesity are thought to be a result of the easy accessibility to food and an increased reliance on cars and mechanized manufacturing. The alarming increase in childhood obesity correlates with increased time spent watching TV and playing video games, as well as a poor diet. American diets contain an increased percentage of processed, fatty foods and sugars, and less whole grains, fruits and vegetables.

The primary treatment for obesity is dieting and physical exercise. In my practice, I find most people have trouble doing both.

Diets may produce weight loss over the short term, but keeping weight off requires making exercise and a lower calorie diet a permanent part of your lifestyle. Long-term success rates are low (2 to 20 percent). Commercial diet programs like Jenny Craig, Weight-Watchers or Nutri-Systems can be useful to help achieve weight loss.

Also, exercise alone in sufficient quantity can produce weight loss. In one study, during 20 weeks of basic military training with no dietary restrictions, obese military recruits lost an average of 27.6 pounds.

If diet and exercise alone fail, people can try anti-obesity drugs to reduce appetite or inhibit fat absorption. The FDA has approved only two drugs for long-term use: Meridia (an appetite suppressant) and Orlistat (inhibits fat absorption). Doctors may prescribe other drugs on a short-term basis, usually three months or less.

For morbidly obese individuals, the last resort is Bariatric surgery, which reduces the ability to eat large quantities and absorb calories. These procedures have risks but can be very successful at producing significant and permanent weight reduction.

Obesity is an extremely common problem and a very serious health concern. It goes far beyond cosmetics. It is an excellent reason to visit your doctor and begin a discussion. Getting your weight under control will improve your appearance, your energy level and your health.

Dr. Wilbur practices at Safecare Medical Center's Hollywood office, located at 4050 D Sheridan St., Hollywood, FL 33021. For an appointment with Dr. Wilbur, please contact his office at 954-989-7441.

TOURISM CONT. FROM PAGE 1

tions, as well as an effective television campaign and print and electronic marketing materials that showcase an affordable destination with much to offer visitors.

Erickson said the Office of Tourism has received great results from a TV commercial that recently began airing, which focuses on in-state drive visitation to Hollywood. The Office of Tourism also just produced a new Visitor Map & Guide that will be distributed at Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, all Turnpike Service Plazas, VISIT FLORIDA Welcome Centers throughout the state, the Hollywood Beach Welcome Center and any interested businesses.

Hollywood's tourism Web site, www.visitHollywoodFL.org, recently introduced a Travel Trade section, featuring information on pre- and post-cruise and group meeting options to assist travelers, tour operators and meeting planners. The Office of Tourism also has expanded its exposure to the popular social networking Web sites Facebook and Twitter.

"Our hoteliers are saying that these marketing efforts are paying off," Erickson said.

So are the Beach CRA's efforts with regard to a number of public improvements that include the complete makeover of the Broadwalk.

"These improvements have been a tremendous benefit to tourism," Erickson said. "Visitor reaction to these changes is very good."

She also praised the efforts of local hospitality partners during these challenging times.

"Hollywood's hospitality industry has worked so hard to adapt to today's economic situation," Erickson said. "New figures from Smith Travel Research portray a hotel market continuing to suffer through a challenging year. Room revenue, which measures both occupancy and the prices on rooms, dropped 13 percent in Broward and the Keys and 24 percent in Miami-Dade."

The Office of Tourism offers "a variety of opportunities for our local hospitality industry, including co-op advertising, free listings of 'HOT Deals,' inclusion in 'What's New' press releases and the ability to attend tourism sales events with us at reduced rates and also access the contacts we establish at these trade shows," Erickson said.

She said the Office of Tourism's presence at industry events, along with her recent appointment to the VISIT FLORIDA Industry Relations Committee, has resulted in invaluable contacts for the city. Hollywood also hosts FAM (familiarization) tours, or destination previews, for journalists, tour operators and travel agents, including recent FAM tours for Latin American, Canadian and U.K. visitors.

Erickson said other key markets for the Office of Tourism include visiting football fans at the upcoming bowl games at Land Shark Stadium and local and in-state residents seeking a fun, affordable "staycation."

As a function of the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency, the Office of Tourism is funded through the CRA budget and receives no bed tax dollars. The Office of Tourism works closely with a tourism board, the HoTMAC (Hollywood Office of Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee), which provides input for the Tourism Marketing Plan.

Erickson said she's looking forward to working on the 2010 plan for Hollywood.

"We will be addressing a number of key objectives, such as deepening the role of Hollywood's Web presence and further strengthening Hollywood's brand identity and using it to motivate new visitation," she said.

For details on promotional offers and HOT Deals at local hotels, call the Office of Tourism at 954-921-3478 or go to www.visitHollywoodFL.org.

The Office of Tourism and Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce will present a tourism luncheon at noon Aug. 14 at the Charnow Park Garfield Street Community Center, featuring an update on Royal Caribbean International by Vice President John Fox. The cost is $15. Call the Chamber at 954-923-4000 for more information.

Did you know...

The original site of the current Westin Diplomat Resort location on Hollywood Beach consisted of Tomato Farms.

Trivia submitted by Michelle Shulman; Westin Diplomat Resort

Do you know something about Hollywood that no one else does? E-mail your fun and interesting trivia to brett@hollywoodgazette.com.

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CALENDAR *of* events

Email your Hollywood events to calendar@hollywoodgazette.com by the 18th of the month for inclusion in the community calendar.

ONGOING

CASTAWAY ISLAND
All ages can experience the aquatics facility's new zero-entry lagoon; 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily; T.Y. Park, 3300 N. Park Rd.; $6.50 (1 water park session & all-day lagoon admission) + $1.50 park entrance fee on weekends/holidays (free for ages 5 & under). Call 954-985-1980.

YOUNG ACTORS & YOUNG ARTISTS
Summer camp session for ages 6-12 runs Aug. 3-14; 9 a.m.-noon (Young Actors) &/or 1-4 p.m. (Young Artists); Art and Culture Center Art School, 1626 Harrison St.; $225 members/$250 nonmembers (half day) or $325 members/$350 nonmembers (all day). Call 954-921-3274, ext. 232.

DOG-THEMED ART EXHIBITIONS
Exhibitions running through Aug. 16 include "Tillamook Cheddar Mid-Career Retrospective 1999-2009" & and the community show "We ♥ Pets," with a canned pet food drive to benefit local nonprofit animal rescue organizations; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. & noon-4 p.m. Sun.; Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, 1650 Harrison St. Call 954-921-3274.

"UNLEASHED"
Exhibition running through Aug. 28 features dog portraits & beach scenes by artist Runcie Tatnall; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; Visual Arts Pavilion Gallery, ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1; free. Call 954-921-3500.

JEWISH WAR VETS SOUGHT
The Jewish War Veterans of Post 613 meet the first Sunday of every month; 10 a.m.; Meyerhoff Senior Center, 3081 Taft St. Call Morton Weiner, 954-961-3330.

MOMS CLUB
The MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support) is a national organization for at-home mothers with monthly daytime meetings, activities, playgroups & special events. Call 954-921-2462.

SCORE VOLUNTEERS
SCORE #235 trains volunteers to counsel individuals in business or those who want to start a new business; 3475 Sheridan St., Suite 203. Call Phyllis Schwartz, 954-966-8415.

SENIOR PROGRAMS
Free classes for ages 60+ include Yoga, Tai Chi, Meditation, Current Events, Painting, Jewelry Making, Brain Aerobics, Bridge & Defensive Driving; field trips & Adult Day Care Program also offered; Joseph Meyerhoff/Southeast Focal Point Senior Center, 3081 Taft St. Call Janet, 954-966-9805.

WALKING CLUB
Commit 2B Fit program for all ages on 2-mi. walking path, with T-shirt & certificate for reaching distance goals & bandanas for canine companions; 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. daily; T.Y. Park, 3300 N. Park Rd.; free ($1.50 weekend/holiday park admission for ages 6 & up). Call 954-985-1980.

GOLF IN NO TIME
Learn the fundamentals of golf in 6 weekly lessons; various days & times available; Orangebrook Golf & Country Club, 400 Entrada Dr.; $89/session. Call 954-967-4653, ext. 4.

PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS
Nonprofit single-parent group offers indoor & outdoor activities for both children & adults & adults only. Call Susan, 954-484-6484.

MONDAYS

KINDER CHEFS
Cooking class for ages 3½-8; 3:30-4:15 p.m.; Muzart Kidz Konnection, 1205 S. 21st Ave. Call 954-924-1133 for fees.

HATHA YOGA CLASS
Instructor-led class for adults; 6:45-8 p.m.; Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park, 751 Sheridan St.; $10/session. Call 954-926-2480.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
Stay aware of your cardiovascular health; 9:30-11 a.m.; Memorial Senior Partners, 7031 Taft St.; free. Call 954-963-8030.

PRENATAL KUNDALINI YOGA
Strengthening postures & breathing techniques safe for all trimesters assist relaxation during labor & birth; 6-7 p.m.; Temple Beth El, 1351 S. 14th Ave. Call instructor Jiwan Kaur, 954-445-6775.

BEACH MEDITATION
Bring a chair; 5 p.m. (weather permitting); 1201 S. Ocean Dr. (behind the Summit Condo); free. Call Susie, 305-439-1993, or Rocki, 954-548-5760.

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY

MUSIC & DANCING UNDER THE STARS
Live music varies from easy listening to line dancing, R&B to rock 'n' roll; 7:30-9 p.m. (weather permitting); Hollywood Beach Theater, Johnson St. & the Broadwalk; free. Call 954-921-3404.

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

KUNG FU CLASSES
For ages 4-12; 5 p.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle (Visual Arts Pavilion), Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1. Call 954-921-3500 for fees.

KUNDALINI YOGA & MEDITATION
Adult classes; 7:30-9 p.m. Mon. & 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wed.; Temple Beth El, 1351 S. 14th Ave. Call instructor Jiwan Kaur, 954-445-6775.

ATEMI-RYU KARATE CLASSES
Ages 5 & up learn self-confidence, discipline & respect; 4:30-5:30 p.m.; T.Y. Park, 3300 N. Park Rd.; $40/month. Call 954-985-1980 or instructor Joseph Williams, 954-275-6121.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

MOMMIES IN MOTION
Fitness class features cardiovascular, strength & flexibility training (children optional); 9-10:30 a.m.; T.Y. Park, 3300 N. Park Rd.; $7/class or $60/10 classes. Call 954-864-9098.

TAI CHI
Adult classes; 7 p.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle (Visual Arts Pavilion), Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1. Call 954-921-3500 for fees.

MONDAY & THURSDAY

KARATE CLASSES
All ages are welcome at World Tae Kwon Do classes; 6-7:15 p.m.; Washington Park Community Center, 5199 Pembroke Rd.; $30/month. Call 954-243-7297.

DANCE CLASSES
Modern, liturgical, ballet, jazz & lyrical for ages 5 & up presented by the Feet That Preach Institute; 6-8:30 p.m.; McNicol Community Center, 1411 S. 28th Ave.; $30 residents, $40 nonresidents. Call Shirley Jones, 754-368-3171.

MONDAY & FRIDAY

SCRABBLE
Enjoy the popular game for fun & competition; noon-4 pm; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; $5.50 yearly membership/residents, $11/nonresidents. Call 954-921-3600.

MONDAY – THURSDAY

TEEN LOUNGE
Watch TV, listen to music & play favorite board & card games with friends; 6-8:30 p.m.; McNicol Community Center, 1411 S. 28th Ave.; free. Call 954-921-3511.

HOLLYWOOD BRIDGE CLUB
Featuring duplicate games, with free lunch on Wed.; 1 p.m.; Temple Sinai, 1400 N. 46th Ave.; $6 entry (free for those who bring a new player). Call 954-600-1899.

MONDAY – SATURDAY

AEROBICS AT THE YMCA
High- and low-impact step aerobics; mornings & evenings; 3161 Taft St. Call Patty Ceballos, 954-989-9622.

TUESDAYS

ROTARY CLUB
Lunch meeting; noon; Hollywood Rotary Clubhouse, 2349 Taylor St. Call Gary Smith, 954-889-0808.

RAJA YOGA MEDITATION
10-11 a.m. & 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Hollywood Library, 2600 Hollywood Blvd.; free. Call Roz, 954-962-7447.

OPEN MIC JAM SESSION
10 p.m.; Shenanigans, 3303 Sheridan St. Call 954-981-9702.

LAUGHTER YOGA
Participate in a blend of playful breathing techniques & stretching exercises that stimulate laughter; 8:30 a.m.; T.Y. Park (Pavilion 4), 3300 N. Park Rd. Call 954-989-3774.

GERMAN MOVIES
No subtitles; 7 p.m.; German American Society of Hollywood, 6401 Washington St.; $2 (meal available for $5 at 6:30 p.m.). Call 954-322-6227.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
7-8:30 p.m.; Memorial Regional Hospital South (1st Floor West), 3600 Washington St.; free. Call Brenda Ferriolo, 954-791-6318.

BEGINNERS YOGA
Relaxing stretches lay the foundation for basic yoga poses to restore body, mind & self; 5:15 p.m.; Visual Arts Pavilion's aerobics room, ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1; $10/class. Call 954-547-3079.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
2:30-4:30 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; free (metered parking). Call 954-921-3600.

BLOOD GLUCOSE CONTROL
Learn how to use your daily self-monitored blood glucose to improve diabetes control with Internet tools; 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; free. Call 954-270-2662 to register.

ADULT BALLET CLASSES
7:30-8:30 p.m.; Dance Explosion, 6878 Stirling Rd.; $60/6-wk. session. Call 954-983-9899.

YOGA WITH SARASWATI
Classical Hatha Yoga classes are based on the Sivananda Method; 6:30-8:15 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; $15 per class or $90/10 classes. Call 954-921-3600.

TUESDAY – THURSDAY

3HO KUNDALINI YOGA
As taught by Yogi Bhajan for all ages & levels: Postures, Breathing, Meditation, Chanting, Massage, Diet, Hygiene; 6-7 p.m.; 3901 S. Ocean Dr.; $15 (1st class free with 10 paid classes). Call Sadhana Kaur Khalsa, 954-237-4186.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY

DANCE CLASSES
Dance Explosion offers classes in tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop & lyrical/contemporary for ages 3 to teens; David Park Recreation Center, 108 N. 33 Ct.; $40/month. Call 954-985-5674.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

GROUP FITNESS
Adult classes; 6 p.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle (Visual Arts Pavilion), Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1. Call 954-921-3500 for fees.

FILM FLAM
Enjoy a movie & light refreshments; 10 a.m.-noon; Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center, 2030 Polk St.; $1. Call 954-921-3408.

WEDNESDAYS

KARATE CLASSES
USA Goju Karate classes develop courtesy & self-confidence while teaching self-defense; 6-7 p.m. (beginner kids), 7-8 p.m. (adults); Driftwood Community Center, 3000 N. 69th Ave.; $30/month resident ($20/2nd family member), $35/month nonresident. Call Ed Gonzalez, 305-801-3361.

THRIFT SHOP
Open to the public, volunteers needed; 9 a.m.-noon; Hollywood Hills United Methodist Church, 400 N. 35th Ave. Call 954-989-8304.

PEE WEE TENNIS LESSONS
For ages 4-8; 5:30-7 p.m.; David Park Tennis Center, 510 N. 33rd Ct.; $15/session. Call 954-967-4237.

SOUTH BROWARD BUSINESS COUNCIL
Broward's oldest networking business organization; 7:30-8:45 a.m.; Club at Emerald Hills, 4100 N. Hills Dr. Call Jim Stoodley, 954-962-9997.

INTRO-TO-POLE
Bring heels & a small towel for pole-dancing class; 5:30 p.m.; Union Dance Factory, 2021 Hollywood Blvd.; $20. Call 954-282-8300.

RAJA YOGA MEDITATION
7-8 p.m.; Hillcrest Playdium, 1100 Hillcrest Dr.; free. Call Roz, 954-962-7447.

MEN'S GOLF GROUP
Register for 9 holes of golf & dinner with the Hollywood Men's Golf Association; 4:30 p.m.; Orangebrook Golf & Country Club, 400 Entrada Dr.; $25 annual dues. Call Brian, 954-967-4653, ext. 24.

MUSIC THEORY CLASSES
For ages 4-6 & 7-11; 3:30 p.m.; Muzart Kidz Konnection, 1205 S. 21st Ave. Call 954-924-1133 for fees.

CHICAGO-STYLE STEPPIN'
R&B ballroom dancing; 7-8:30 p.m.; Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center, 2030 Polk St.; $10. Call 954-921-3408.

MEDITATION STUDIO
Features aromatherapy, mantras & sacred music; 6-8 p.m.; TheMeetUpClub.com, 1940 Harrison St. (Mezzanine); $5 donation. Call 954-367-6723.

WEDNES DAY & THURSDAY

TAI CHI
9-10 a.m. Wed. & 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thurs.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr. Call 954-921-3600.

ZAMAR SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS
Piano, boys' violin & band classes for ages 6 & older, with scholarships & family discounts available; 3-5 p.m. Wed. & 3-7:30 p.m. Thurs.; McNicol Community Center, 1411 S. 28th Ave. Call Dr. Brown, 954-288-5443.

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY

CARDIO P.A.R.A.D.E.
Dance your way into better shape to the rhythms of salsa, samba, merengue, konpa, soca & hip hop; 8 p.m. Wed. & Thurs., 11 a.m. Sat.; Synergize, 1948 Tyler St.; $10/class (1st class free). Call 954-924-4465.

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

SEA TURTLES AND THEIR BABIES
One-hour slide presentation & lecture followed by a release of hatchlings on the beach; 8-9:30 p.m.; Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park, 751 Sheridan St.; $5. Must preregister/prepay: 954-926-2480.

THURSDAYS

BLUE MOON THURSDAYS
Performances by local blues-inspired musicians; 7-9 p.m.; Main Stage, ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1; free. Call 954-921-3500.

LAUGHTER YOGA
7-7:45 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; free; metered parking. Call 954-921-3600.

CHEERLEADING CLASSES
Little League cheerleading classes for ages 4-7; 4:30 p.m.; Muzart Kidz Konnection, 1205 S. 21st Ave. Call 954-924-1133 for fees.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
Share your loss with others; 2:30-3:30 p.m.; Memorial Regional Hospital South, 3600 Washington St.; free. Presented by Hospice By The Sea. Must RSVP: 954-985-6371.

BNI HOLLYWOOD SYNERGY CHAPTER
Members of BNI (Business Network Int'l.), a business & professional networking organization, share ideas, contacts & referrals; 7 a.m. breakfast meeting; Orangebrook Golf & Country Club, 400 Entrada Dr. Call Rene Curbelo, 305-651-5777.

OJIMA ENERGY EMPOWERMENT CIRCLE
Noninvasive, relaxing mind-body technique includes a 15-minute guided imagery & intention contemplation with founders/facilitators Gilbert & Mary Lou Cruz, 7-8:30 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; $5 donation. Call 954-921-3600.

TAI CHI CLASSES
10-11:30 a.m.; Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center, 2030 Polk St.; $50/month adults; $30/month ages 60+. Call 954-921-3408.

ADULT JAZZ/EXERCISE
8:30-9:30 p.m.; Dance Explosion, 6878 Stirling Rd.; $60/6-wk. session. Call 954-983-9899.

BEGINNERS' YOGA
Classical Hatha Yoga classes are based on the Sivananda Method; 6:15-7:45 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; $81/9 classes (1st class free for new students who join by June 19). Call 954-921-3600.

FRIDAYS

FUNTASTIC FRIDAYS FOR KIDS
Downtown CRA family social features a bounce house, clowns, arts & crafts, kids' game shows, bingo & karaoke; 5-9 p.m.; Anniversary Park, Hollywood Blvd. & 20th Ave.; free. Call 954-921-3016.

KIDS EAT FREE DOWNTOWN
Ages 10 & younger enjoy a free kids' menu meal when accompanied by an adult ordering an entrée; 4-7 p.m.; A La Turca, Café Italia, Dolce Vita, Goyo El Pollo, Huang's Mandarin House, Lola's on Harrison, Los Pinchos, Luce Restaurant, Taverna Yiamas, The Little Bakery or Sage Café & Oyster Bar. Call the Downtown CRA, 954-921-3016.

TIKI SUNSETS HAPPY HOUR
Features live music & entertainment at the poolside Lava Tiki Bar & Grille; 6-9 p.m.; Crowne Plaza Hollywood Beach, 4000 S. Ocean Dr.; no cover charge & free valet parking before 7 p.m. Call 954-454-4334.

PLAZA PERFORMANCES
Bring a blanket or lawn chair & enjoy live entertainment in a variety of musical genres; 7-9 p.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1; free. Call 954-921-3500.

FL. POP SHOP
Interactive pop workshop with master instructor Aquaboogy exposes students of all levels to the hip-hop art of popping & locking in a party atmosphere; 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.; Union Dance Factory, 2021 Hollywood Blvd.; $12. Call 954-282-8300.

RAINBOW ART CLASS
For ages 2-3; 4-4:45 p.m.; Muzart Kidz Konnection, 1205 S. 21st Ave. Call 954-924-1133 for fees.

SINGLE GOURMET
Provides upscale gatherings for singles to meet & mingle at some of the finest restaurants in Hollywood. Call 954-723-9608.

GROUP SALSA CLASSES
Beginner/intermediate level; 8-9 p.m.; Union Dance Factory, 2021 Hollywood Blvd.; $12. Call 954-282-8300.

CLASSIC MOVIES NIGHT
Network with classic-film lovers; 7 p.m.; TheMeetUpClub.com, 1940 Harrison St. (Mezzanine). Call 954-367-6723.

FRIDAY – SUNDAY

DOG BEACH OF HOLLYWOOD
Dogs must have current rabies tag & owners are responsible for waste cleanup; 5-9 p.m.; North Beach between Pershing & Custer streets; weekend daily pass is $5/resident, $10/nonresident (per dog); 6-month pass is $30/resident, $60/nonresident. Call 954-921-3404.

SATURDAYS

IMAGINATION HOUR
Storytelling & interactive activities for children; 3-4 p.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1; free. Call 954-921-3500.

TAI CHI FOR SENIORS
Improve balance & strength, help prevent osteoporosis, weak bone density, hypertension & strokes; 10 a.m.; Classic Residence by Hyatt, 2480 N. Park Rd.; free. RSVP: 954-963-0200.

FITNESS BOOT CAMP
Adult program combines specific methods of military training, martial arts & fitness; 9:30-10:30 a.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle (Visual Arts Pavilion), Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1. Call 954-921-3500 or 954-963-7712.

ADULT YOGA CLASSES
Art and Culture Center of Hollywood's Art School, 1626 Harrison St. Call 954-921-3274 for times & fees.

ABC'S (ABS, BALANCE AND CORE)
Creative exercises focus on all abdominal muscles, followed by back-strengthening, core & challenging balance poses; 10:30 a.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle (aerobics room, Visual Arts Pavilion), Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1; $10/class. Call 954-547-3079.

INTRO-TO-POLE
Bring heels & a small towel for pole-dancing class; 6 p.m.; Union Dance Factory, 2021 Hollywood Blvd.; $20. Call 954-282-8300.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

ARTSPARK FUN SHOP
Interactive children's arts & crafts activities; 4 p.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1; free. Call 954-923-1950.

AQUARIUM: BEHIND THE SCENES
Get a closer look at a 3,500-gallon saltwater aquarium & learn about its inhabitants; 2-3 p.m.; Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park, 751 Sheridan St.; $1. Call 954-926-2480.

SUNDAYS

ORGANIC GREEN MARKET
Featuring Josh's Organic Garden; 9 a.m.-5:31 p.m., rain or shine; Harrison St. & the Broadwalk. Call 954-456-3276.

PALM COURT JAZZ
Light & breezy jazz performances; 4-6 p.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1; free. Call 954-921-3500.

TAI CHI
Adult classes; 9 a.m.; ArtsPark at Young Circle (Visual Arts Pavilion), Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1. Call 954-921-3500 for fees.

BALLROOM DANCING
Includes free line dance lessons, Music by Jay & dinner; 5:30-10 p.m.; Hollywood Moose Lodge, 2907 Taylor St.; $10. Call 954-927-

HOLLYWOOD gazette
BRINGING YOUR NEWS HOME

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SAT., AUGUST 1

PROGRESS IN THE PARK
A parade will be followed by a celebration with music, games & free back-to-school supplies & immunization services (children must be accompanied by a parent & have immunization records); 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2400 Charleston St.; free. Call 954-921-3412.

KAYAK FOR BEGINNERS
Skills include basic stroke, long-distance paddling, sea-kayaking & safety; 9-11:30 a.m.; Holland Park, Johnson St. & 6th Ave.; $35 (ages 15+); must pre-register. Call instructor Colleen, 954-328-5231.

FAMILY EXHIBIT HALL TOUR
Learn about the mangrove swamp & its fascinating creatures, then explore along one of the park's boardwalk trails; 11 a.m.-noon; Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park, 751 Sheridan St.; $1. Call 954-926-2480.

MEDITATION STUDIO
Enjoy a classical concert on a giant screen in a meditation setting; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; TheMeetUpClub.com, 1940 Harrison St. (Mezzanine); $5 donation. Call 954-367-6723.

SUN., August 2

DREAM CAR CLASSIC
Features pre-1980 vehicles, DJ music, a bounce house & awards; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Hollywood Blvd. west of Young Circle; free for spectators. Call 954-926-3377.

COIN & COLLECTIBLE SHOW
Presented by Gold Coast Coin Club of Hollywood; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; David Park Community Center, 108 N. 33rd Ct.; free. Call 954-967-4236.

TUES., August 4

SOUTHEAST REPUBLICAN CLUB
Includes refreshments; 7 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; metered parking. Call Ed Napolitano, 954-296-0041.

TAI CHI
Demonstration class; 6:30-7 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; free. Call 954-921-3600.

THURS., August 6

FULL MOON JAZZ
Featuring performances by Madd Jazz and Oriente with special guest Ira Sullivan; 7-9 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Theater, Johnson St. & the Broadwalk; free. Call the Beach CRA, 954-924-2980.

BOOK CLUB
Sponsored by the Broward County Library; 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; free. Call 954-926-2437.

PROPERTY TAX OUTREACH
Broward County Property Appraiser staff will assist taxpayers with homestead filing; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Hollywood City Hall, 2600 Hollywood Blvd.; free. Call Kelly Brown, 954-357-5579.

FRI., AUGUST 7

1ST FRIDAY NETWORKING PARTY
Biz to Biz Networking event for young professionals in their 20s-40s; 7-10 p.m.; Pangaea lounge at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 5711 Seminole Way. Call 954-838-9644.

BROADWALK FRIDAY FEST
Haitian cultural arts group The Backyard Movement performs; 7-9 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Theater, Johnson St. & the Broadwalk; free. Call the Beach CRA, 954-924-2980.

DATE NITE
"Journey to Africa" themed activities for ages 2 1/2-10 will include the movie Madagascar 2 - Escape to Africa & dinner; 6-9:30 pm; Muzart Kidz Konnection, 1205 S. 21st Ave. Call 954-924-1133 for fees.

TAI CHI
Demonstration class; 9-9:30 a.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; free. Call 954-921-3600.

SAT., AUGUST 8

STUDENT HEALTH FAIR
Offering school physicals, immunizations and vision and hearing screenings. A copy of the child's current immunization record is required. Immunizations will be provided for Medicaid patients and those without health insurance, for newborns up to 18 years old only. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Carver Ranches Boys & Girls Club, 2205 SW 44th Avenue, Hollywood; Call 954-276-5985.

MEDITATION STUDIO

HOLLYWOOD WEST SUMMER FUN
Karaoke fun with DJ Jim Moore; 7-9 p.m.; Boulevard Heights Community Center, 6770 Garfield St.; free. Call 954-967-4235.

MEDITATION STUDIO
Features aromatherapy, mantras, guided meditation & sacred music chants; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (walk in anytime); TheMeetUpClub.com, 1940 Harrison St. (Mezzanine); $5 donation. Call 954-367-6723.

TUES., AUGUST 11

JUNIOR CHAMBER MEETING
The Greater Hollywood Junior Chamber (Jaycees) general meeting & networking are open to all; 6-7 p.m.; Jaycees Hall, 2930 Hollywood Blvd.; Special Guest Speaker Judy Erickson; Call Executive Director Debra Gronvold, 954-981-4378.

WED., AUGUST 12

PROPERTY TAX OUTREACH
Broward County Property Appraiser staff will assist taxpayers with homestead filing; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Stirling Road Branch Library, 3151 Stirling Rd.; free. Call Kelly Brown, 954-357-5579.

AN EVENING OF ART & CULTURE
Join the Hollywood Women's Club at The Art & Culture Center of Hollywood to admire local artwork from 6 - 7:30 p.m.; 1650 Harrison Street; Free; Call the Hollywood Women's Club, 954-925-9394.

THURS., AUGUST 13

HOLLYWOOD ART GUILD
Monthly meeting open to the public will feature a fine art demonstration; 7 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; free. Call Peggy Austen, 954-924-1818.

PROPERTY TAX OUTREACH
Broward County Property Appraiser staff will assist taxpayers with homestead filing; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Hollywood City Hall, 2600 Hollywood Blvd.; free. Call Kelly Brown, 954-357-5579.

FRI., AUGUST 14

TRAVEL & TOURISM LUNCHEON
Hollywood CRA Office of Tourism & Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce present "Royal Caribbean International Update" with vice president John Fox; noon; Charnow Park Garfield Street Community Center, 300 Connecticut St.; $15. Must register: 954-923-4000.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, JR."
Summer campers in the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood's "Broadway Actors" program will perform; 5 p.m.; Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center, 1770 Monroe St.; $7 for adults, $4 for ages 12 & under. Call 954-921-3274.

BROADWALK FRIDAY FEST
Cezar Santana Band performs samba jazz; 7-9 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Theater, Johnson St. & the Broadwalk; free. Call the Beach CRA, 954-924-2980.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
Castaway Island aquatics park festivities include games & activities for all ages both in & out of the water; 6-8 p.m.; T.Y. Park, 3300 N. Park Rd.; $6.50 (free for ages 12 months & under). Call 954-985-1980.

SAT., AUGUST 15

ARTWALK
Stroll through Downtown Hollywood's galleries & boutiques & enjoy complimentary refreshments at all galleries & participating businesses; 7-10 p.m.; guided map available at Comfort Zone Studio & Spa, 2028 Harrison St., Suite 1; free. Call Downtown CRA, 954-921-3016.

MEDITATION STUDIO
Features aromatherapy, mantras, guided meditation & sacred music chants; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (walk in anytime); TheMeetUpClub.com, 1940 Harrison St. (Mezzanine); $5 donation. Call 954-367-6723.

ECO-ROOM ANIMALS
Explore the interesting creatures of the Exhibit Hall Eco-Room; 11 a.m.-noon; Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park, 751 Sheridan St.; $1. Call 954-926-2480.

SUN., AUGUST 16

FAMILY DAY
Features a hands-on art activity for all ages based on a current art exhibition; 1-3 p.m.; Art and Culture Center of Hollywood's Art School, 1626 Harrison St.; free. Call 954-921-3274.

FLASH RACE IN DOWNTOWN HOLLYWOOD
Proceeds to benefit the Hollywood Jaycees Charities Fund; For more information contact Jamie Mardis at (954) 309-3751.

MON., AUGUST 17

HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB
All ages are welcome to learn about gardening in S. Fla., share tips & trade plants; 7-9 p.m.; Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center, 2030 Polk St., Rm. 11. Call 954-921-3404 for fees.

MON. – FRI., AUGUST 17-21

SPECIALTY WEEK CAMP
"Summer Hurrah" is the theme of the final summer session, in which ages 8-19 will explore creativity through imagination, interdisciplinary arts & games; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Art and Culture Center Art School, 1626 Harrison St.; $150 members, $175 nonmembers. Call 954-921-3274, ext. 232.

TUES., AUGUST 18

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
"Basic Bookkeeping for Your Small Business"; 6-8 p.m.; Hollywood Branch Library, 2600 Hollywood Blvd.; free. Call Hollywood's Dept. of Business & Economic Development, 954-921-3388.

DEPRESSION GLASS CLUB
South Florida Depression Glass Club promotes awareness & appreciation of depression-era glassware through lectures, publications & exhibits; 7:30 p.m.; Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center, 2030 Polk St. Call 954-964-8073.

WED., AUGUST 19

CONSTANT CONTACT SEMINAR
Topic is "E-mail Marketing 101"; 8-9 a.m.; Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, 330 N. Federal Hwy.; free for members, $15 for future members. Must register: 954-923-4000.

THURS., AUGUST 20

DOG PARK PETIQUETTE CLASS
Ages 12 & older can learn how to have a safe & enjoyable dog park experience with their canine companion (not permitted in class); 7-8:30 p.m.; Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park, 751 Sheridan St.; free. Call 954-926-2480.

PROPERTY TAX OUTREACH
Broward County Property Appraiser staff will assist taxpayers with homestead filing; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Hollywood City Hall, 2600 Hollywood Blvd.; free. Call Kelly Brown, 954-357-5579.

FRI., AUGUST 21

FREE LUNCH 2 LEARN
S.A.L.T. Counsel & the City of Hollywood present a learning experience for all ages featuring the City's Home Rehabilitation Program, First Time Home Buyer Program & Social Services, as well as IRS First Time Home Buyer Credit, AARP – Your Voice Counts & FHA Specialist; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Fred Lippman Multi Purpose Center, 2030 Polk St.; free. Must register: 954-925-3737.

BROADWALK FRIDAY FEST
The Delusions perform "rootsabilly rock"; 7-9 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Theater, Johnson St. & the Broadwalk; free. Call the Beach CRA, 954-924-2980.

GOOD MORNING HOLLYWOOD
Breakfast features "Education and the Strength of Business Partnerships" with guest speaker Lynn Goldman of Sheridan Technical Center; 7:30-9 a.m.; Hillcrest Golf & Country Club, 4600 Hillcrest Dr.; $12 Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce members, $18 future members. Must register: 954-923-4000.

SAT., AUGUST 22

BACK TO SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY
Washington Park Family Fun Day activities include a sack race, Hula Hoop, BBQ cook-off & more; time & block TBA. Call Nadine McCrea, 954-629-9142.

INDOOR FLEA MARKET
22nd annual event sponsored by the Hollywood Antiques & Collectables Club features jewelry, clothing, antiques, coins, household items & more; 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center, 2030 Polk St. Call 954-921-3408.

MEDITATION STUDIO
Aromatherapy, mantras, guided meditation & sacred music chants; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (walk in anytime); TheMeetUpClub.com, 1940 Harrison St. (Mezzanine); $5 donation. Call 954-367-6723.

SUN., AUGUST 23

SHALOMFEST 2009
Meet Temple Beth El's Rabbi, Cantor & Women of Reformed Judaism and Brotherhood at this Open House featuring music, face painting, balloons, Judaic gifts & crafts, plus information on adult education, preschool & religious school, & High Holiday ticket sales; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; 1351 S. 14th Ave. Call 954-920-8225.

WED., AUGUST 26

MUSIC APPRECIATION CLASS
Multidimensional program introduces ages 6-10 to the classical composers & music theory basics; 10-11 a.m.; TheMeetUpClub.com, 1940 Harrison St. (Mezzanine); $12, with a discount for siblings. Call 954-367-6723.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce networking event; 5-7 p.m.; Gino's Italian American Deli & Meat Market, 5729 Johnson St.; $7 Chamber members, $12 future members. Must register: 954-923-4000.

THURS., AUGUST 27

PROPERTY TAX OUTREACH
Broward County Property Appraiser staff will assist taxpayers with homestead filing; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Hollywood City Hall, 2600 Hollywood Blvd.; free. Call Kelly Brown, 954-357-5579.

FRI., AUGUST 28

BROADWALK FRIDAY FEST
Diogo Brown Brazilian Funk Project performs; 7-9 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Theater, Johnson St. & the Broadwalk; free. Call the Beach CRA, 954-924-2980.

CLASSIC CRUISE NIGHT
Pre-1978 classic car show presented by the Beach CRA; 6-10 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Broadwalk; free for spectators (cars must register). Call 954-926-3377.

CPR CLASS
Presented by Nanny Poppinz; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center, 1301 S. Ocean Dr.; free. Must pre-register: 954-889-5829.

SAT., AUGUST 29

HOME BUYER SEMINAR
Learn about foreclosures, budgeting, down payment assistance & more; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 2305 Sheridan St.; free. Call Ellen Bithell at RE/MAX Executive Realty, 954-292-6412.

MEDITATION STUDIO
Features aromatherapy, mantras, guided meditation & sacred music chants; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (walk in anytime); TheMeetUpClub.com, 1940 Harrison St. (Mezzanine); $5 donation. Call 954-367-6723.

Upcoming Junior Chamber Events

September 11th, 2009
General Membership Meeting
Hollywood Jaycee Clubhouse; 2930 Hollywood Blvd.; 6:30 p.m.; Special Guest Speaker: Violet Nikolici Lowrey, A Plus Professional Resumes; "Resume, Interviewing & Dress for Success Tips"; For more information call (954) 981-4378.

September 24th, 2009
Special Event: Seminar & Speed Networking
Hollywood Jaycee Clubhouse 2930 Hollywood Blvd.; 6:30 p.m.; Special Guest Speaker : Peter Bober; Topic: The fair labor standards act "Can your employees sue you for unpaid overtime?"; For more information call (954) 981-4378.

Fitness challenge winners announced

After 12 weeks of boot-camp training, running, cycling and sweating through early-morning workouts, Chantal Fuhrman exercised her way to the first place finish of Hollywood's Best Body Challenge at Synergize gym last month.

She walked away with a new bicycle from Lee's Bike Shop, a makeover from Hair Industry and a $100 gift certificate from Hollywood Eyes.

Fuhrman

"It was exciting and amazing to win," Chantal said. "I didn't expect it."

Synergize owner Shondelle Solomon-Miles created the contest as a way to reach out to the community and make fitness a priority for them.

"Transformation contests are good motivators for people," she said. "I wanted to get people moving and in shape."

Nineteen-year-old Chantal decided to give the contest a try after hearing about it from her mother, Christine. She had been wanting to get in shape to help prepare herself for a career in acting and singing, so she signed up with her father, Gary. And although Chantal has juvenile diabetes, she pushed herself to finish.

"Everything was kind of difficult, but you work through it," she said.

In addition to all the exercise, Chantal also kept a healthy diet and kept a diary of everything she ate.

"She was completely dedicated," Christine said. "It takes a lot of hard work, and she did great. We're very proud."

Other winners included Sue Carlozzi, who won second place, and Samantha Rastagh, who won third place.

The contest, the first one for the gym, will not be the last. The second contest began at the end of last month, and it's something Shondelle plans to do quarterly.

"I'm happy with the success of the contest," Shondelle said. "And I'm happy for all those who finished."

For more information about Synergize or the Best Body Challenge, call 954-924-4465.

DANCING DUO CONT. FROM PAGE 1

about 250 jackets, a few hundred pairs of pants and a couple hundred pairs of shoes. The Schomers typically spend one day a week coordinating their outfits for the upcoming week of dining and dancing excursions.

After a night on the town, they'll stay up as late as 5 a.m. watching TV. The secret to their seemingly boundless energy?

"We take a lot of vitamins," said Mort, whose strict daily regimen consists of 40 vitamins. A heart attack and bypass surgery in 1972 served as "a wakeup call," and Mort has since lectured on vitamins and nutrition and is writing a book on the subject, "Help Your Child Build a Better Mind."

ROBERT STOLPE PHOTOGRAPHY

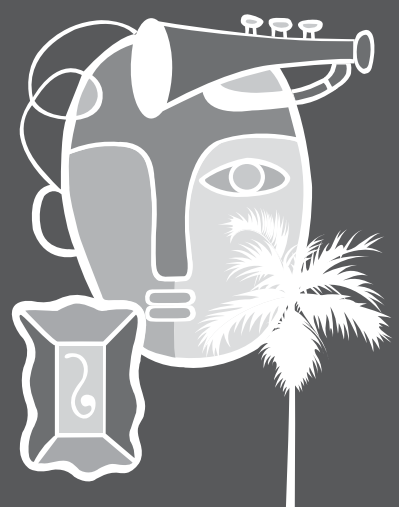
Mort Schomer is a very active 80 years old and Carol is 78, and they go dancing just about every night of the week for the fun of it and to stay active and young at heart. When Mort wrote a charming letter to Mayor Bober acknowledging his affinity for Downtown Hollywood, the duo stepped into the spotlight and captured the attention of the Downtown CRA and Hollywood Gazette.

Mort and Carol, who met back in 1950 at Ohio State University, relocated 30 years ago from Cleveland to South Florida, where opportunities to go dancing proved more plentiful. The Schomers are part of a group of more than a dozen couples who regularly hit the South Florida dance scene.

Long after their friends have called it a night, Mort and Carol can often be seen dancing the night away in Downtown Hollywood.

"There's many places that are very good to eat, and there's many places that are very good to dance," Mort said. "It's a great area."

DOWNTOWN HOLLYWOOD
ARTWALK



Enjoy an enchanted evening strolling Downtown Hollywood's quaint, tree-lined sidewalks while being serenaded by the sounds of a jazz saxophone, or the soft strings of a violin or harp. Look over the shoulder of an artist painting in the street and visit the art galleries and businesses showcasing local, regional and international artwork.

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2751 Ocean Drive PH SOLD!

1640 Jackson St. RENTED!

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