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Friday, August 13, 2010 - Vol. XVIII, Issue 32

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Ladies' internet posse helps BSO nab the perp

Homeowner Association group spreads the word when crime is in the neighborhood

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Deerfield Beach - If Kurt Davis had known his felony crime would launch an internet 'posse,' he probably would not have snatched a woman's wallet.

Using what turned out to be his MO, Davis approached a women near the Publix at the Deerfield Beach Mall on Father's Day, carrying a gas can. He asked for a few dollars for gas. When the victim reached for her money, he grabbed her wallet and ran.

The gas can was a prop the 25-year-old Davis had used repeatedly. It was also the thing that gave him away when his crime was reported via email to the West Deerfield Community Alliance, a loosely connected network of 12 homeowners' groups.

Sharon Aslanian, a board member

See POSSE on page 8



CREATIVE KIDS AT POMPANO BEACH LIBRARY - Puppets get an entirely new look at the Pompano Beach Library. On Aug. 17, the summer campers at the library staged a puppet parade, showing off their hand-made puppets. [Photo by Phyllis J. Neuberger]

Commissioners irked at absence of early voting sites in Northeastern Broward County

By Marise Estime

PELICAN WRITER

Broward - Early voting for the Aug. 24 primary began on Tuesday, but voters who live in Pompano Beach, Deerfield Beach and Lighthouse Point will have to travel a few miles to cast early ballots.

In an effort to save money, Broward County eliminated a number of early voting polling locations. Mary Cooney, public service director for the Supervisor of Elections says, "The county directed us to cut the budget."

See EARLY VOTING on page 9



HEATED UP FOR EARLY VOTERS - Xavier Gamble, Eric Rupert, Elisa Calmer, James Mckisie, Alice Chattman and Rosanda Smolich campaigned for their candidates in Coconut Creek where early voting gave those candidates an edge. But North Broward voters had no place, from Pompano Beach to Deerfield to cast their early votes. [Staff Photo]

Fire fee?

Despite shortfall, Hillsboro officials not likely to take away residents' perks

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Hillsboro Beach - This town could be looking at a \$200,000-plus shortfall in its 2010-11 budget, but unlike other communities facing deficits, Hillsboro Beach has an option: transfer the \$99 individual fire fee and the \$300,000 total cost of waste collection to the

See FIRE FEE on page 13

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Flippen's no-show at House District 92 debate gives Clarke-Reed the floor

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Wilton Manors - The State House Dist. 92 race has turned contentious. Democratic challenger Justin Flippen, the vice

mayor here, is linking the incumbent, Democrat Gwyn Clarke-Reed, with right-wing Republican organizations who have donated to her campaign. He expands the reference to include photos

of Sarah Palin and George W. Bush on his literature.

His salvos were launched on the internet and in mailed pieces to voters. Flippen has yet to face Clarke-Reed on the campaign trail. His latest no-shows were this week when he sent a last-minute email to Wilton Manors' Central Area Neighborhood Association, or CANA, which hosted the forum, saying he could not attend a forum being moderated by Pelican Managing Editor Michael d'Oliveira.

Later that same evening, Flippen came early to the Dolphin Democrat Club's candidate forum and left before Clarke-Reed arrived.

"I don't know how you represent people if you won't interact with them," Clarke-Reed said at the CANA forum. Flippen was also absent from a North Andrews Neighborhood Association forum held last month in Oakland Park and did not respond in time to an invitation to attend a forum at John Knox Village in Pompano Beach.

Of Flippen's allegations the first-term representative said, "I am very angry about my opponent's literature. But I stand my ground. I support choice in education." Because of this stand, not gay issues, conservative's dollars have gone into her campaign she said.

A city commissioner in Deerfield Beach for 12 years,

See NO SHOW on page 9

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Nora and her husband, Eric, have adopted three children, two as babies, and the last as a foster child from Kids In Distress at age 10. Jared and Dylan (from KID) are now 17 in high school and Brenna, 12, is a sixth grader at Sawgrass Springs Middle.

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Oakland Park votes in special election on Aug. 24

By Judy Vik

PELICAN WRITER

Oakland Park - Three candidates are vying for city commission seat 4 in a special election Aug. 24.

John Adornato, Jairo Aragon and Jed Shank are running for the seat vacated by former vice mayor Anthony Niedwiecki, who resigned and moved to Chicago. The winner will complete the rest of the term and serve until March 2013.

On June 1 the commission appointed Layne Dallett Walls to fill the seat until the special election.

John Adornato

Adornato, 36, is regional director of the Sun Coast Office of the National Parks Conservation Association, or NPCA, a non-profit agency working to protect the nation's parks. Previously, he managed environmental affairs for Hawaii Sen. Daniel K. Akaka.

He has a bachelor of science
See O P CANDIDATES on page 21



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Business matters

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After a major renovation, HoJo's will become The Wyndam

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Deerfield Beach - For the first time in its 35-year-history, the Howard Johnson, or HoJo, Resort on the beach is closed. When it reopens after a massive renovation, it will be a Wyndam Hotel.

General Manager Julian Felder said property owners Chase Enterprises out of Hartford, Conn., have purchased the Wyndam franchise, an upscale brand.

"We have a great location. Now we'll have a much nicer product and better marketing. It's a great thing for everybody," he said.

Felder, who has overseen seven redoes of the building in his 22 years here, said he hopes to reopen partially in December.

Throughout the other re-decorating projects, the hotel remained open.

According to Felder the lobby, meeting rooms and guest rooms are being gutted.

Baths are being enlarged and glass installed floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall in rooms facing the ocean. "This will be a brand new hotel," he said.

HoJo's was the first national chain and first high-rise hotel on Deerfield's beach.

During construction, the Patio Bar, renovated two years ago, will remain open with food service and entertainment.

Also open on the north end of the building is Harpoon Louie's restaurant.

Two Guys Pawnbrokers at 3345 S. Federal Hwy, a business success in the same location for 25 years

By Phyllis J. Neuberger

PELICAN STAFF

"You know we must be doing something right," says Hal Wasserman, "or we wouldn't be here for so many years. Our customers know us and trust us. They know we will keep their identities secret from the public. Most of our pawns are on jewelry, gold, and high-end items such as lap tops, digital cameras and name-brand golf clubs. We buy, sell and make loans. It might surprise you to know that most of our sales happen on eBay which has revolutionized our business. Now, the world is our customer. We sell mostly to buyers in the United States and Canada, but we do get customers from as far away as Australia."

How does it work?

Wasserman says, "Let's say a customer comes in with a diamond ring. I evaluate its worth at \$1,000. I might offer to buy it for \$800, or make a loan on it for \$700. The customer decides depending upon her desires. If it's a pawn, it is done on a 30-day basis, renewable for a fee every 30 days."

As this interview was taking place, a customer came in and volunteered her experience to *The Pelican*, but asked to remain anonymous. "I'm here to retrieve my gold cross pendant which I pawned for \$30 cash," she said. Wasserman handed the pendant to her and she handed him \$36 which included her fee for retrieving it in under 30 days.

"I've been a regular here for 20 years," she explained. "I'm a single mom with no credit cards. This works for me. I trust them. I know that my possession is safe and that I can get it back. It helps when I'm in a bind. I like to



Hal Wasserman has owned Two Guys Pawn at 3345 N. Federal Hwy. for 25 years dealing in jewelry, gold and high end merchandise. [Photo by Phyllis J. Neuberger]

be private, and I do not want to ask for help from family or friends."

"She's a typical customer," Wasserman said after she left. "This poor economy, which is very unpredictable, and the record high price of gold create the best climate there is for our type of business. We've loaned as little as \$3 and as much as let's say six figures. An ID is always required."

For security purposes and in case of a robbery, all pawned jewelry is kept off the premise in a bank safe deposit box. Two Guys Pawn requires one or two days notice to bring the item to the store for the customer. Wasserman says he's purchased a lot of gold which is mostly melted and sold. "We weigh it on a jewelry scale and pay a fair price. We also deal in fine watches

such as Rolex, Cardier and Tag-Heyer.

The laws for pawnbrokers protect both the customer and the business. "We are governed by city, county and state," Wasserman says. "We send a daily record of our dealings to the BSO on the internet. We ask for a photo ID and right thumb print from all customers. Both of these go into the BSO Pawn Track System, which allows the police to locate stolen items. The BSO reports that through this system they have recovered items and identified thieves."

The law dictates that pawnbrokers hold a pawned item 60 days from the day of the pawn if no payments have been made. After that, it is at the pawnbroker's discretion. When the pawnbroker has purchased an item outright, he still must hold the item for

30 days in case it might be identified as stolen.

Asked if he can give a telephone quote, he responds, "If the caller can give a truly accurate description of an item, we can give them a fairly accurate quote."

Wasserman is proud of the way his business is run, and adds, "We have two locations: here and Deerfield Pawnbrokers, 618 S. Federal Hwy., Deerfield Beach. That store is owned by Frank Papper. Both of our stores are located in the safest locations possible which is very important in this business."

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Pompano Beach scouting to outsource city code enforcement

By Marise Estime

PELICAN WRITER

Pompano Beach – Commissioners pulled the plug on hiring a private company to take over its code enforcement department.

City Manager Dennis Beach made a recommendation to hire Calvin, Giordano & Associates for five years to manage the unit currently being handled by the Broward Sheriff's Office, or BSO. Beach says the company could save the city \$400,000 dollars.

Some commissioners were apprehensive about entering into the agreement with Calvin, Giordano & Associates because they did not receive bids from other companies. Now they want to send out proposals to companies specializing in code enforcement. And they wanted to know how feasible it would be for the city to monitor its own code enforcement or continue working with BSO. The recommendations will be reviewed when commissioners meet in September.

Pompano Beach pays \$1.4 million dollars to BSO for code inspection.

Thirteen inspectors and two administrators oversee the department.

Under the proposed agreement with Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc, the company would have 10 code enforcers and two administrators, cut-

ting the labor force by a third. The agreement also calls for the city to provide eight pickup trucks to the private firm for code enforcers to do their jobs.

The company developed its own software program that automates a citation form and prints the document right on the spot. George Keller, Vice President, Calvin Giordano & Associates, Inc., says the process works efficiently and it allows the company to track and plan routes. "We have 10 people and to administrators and that equate to 12 people," Keller said. "We don't structure in the philosophy of complaint. We work on a proactive basis."

Vice Mayor George Brummer warns there could be repercussions if code enforcement is not handled efficiently. "There has been some criticism of BSO, but it didn't come from me. Reducing the staff bothers me. We don't have enough people to find violations," Brummer said. "Code compliance is a personal service. If it doesn't work properly commissioners will be blamed." I would like to see the city take control and not outsource it to anyone. We should look at BSO's contract to see if they can offer better service or the city should take on code enforcement."

The idea did not sit well with everyone. George Cuolahan said, "Code enforcement is a difficult job. BSO has

been doing this for 10 years with 16 people and some of the BSO officers know Pompano code enforcement. Looks to me like one million dollars to make the change just to save \$400,000 dollars is not worth it." According to Keller, city officials can terminate the contract in 90 days if they are not satisfied with the service. He says the City of Pembroke Pines has contracted with his company and as part of the agreement they've hired former Pembroke city employees and are committed to doing the same in Pompano Beach. The firm also has a contract in Weston.

Commissioner Rex Hardin also opposed the proposed

agreement. "What concerns me is that no other firms were given an opportunity to bid," Hardin said. "We need to maximize our tax dollars." Hardin wanted commissioners to table the item to give other company's an opportunity to bid.

The consensus among the commissioners was threefold: find out if it would be feasible for the city to take on code enforcement, determine if BSO will continue overseeing the department at a better rate, and finally send out RFP's to other companies.



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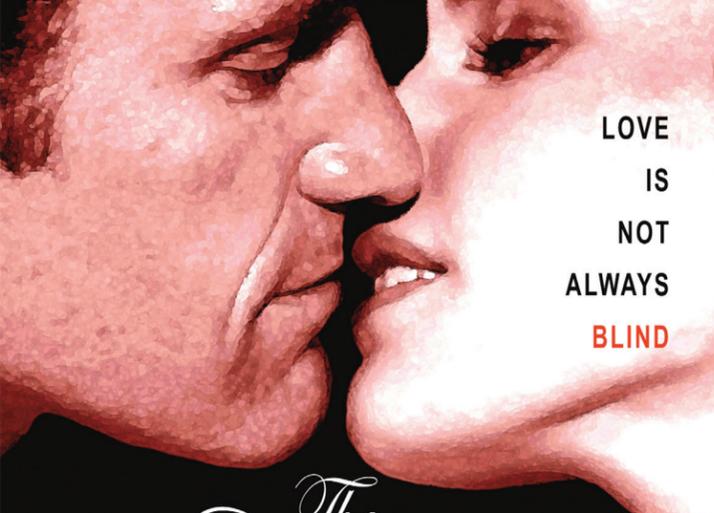


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We like Rupert in the Dist. 7 Broward School Board race

Voters in north Broward have a chance to elect a new school board representative Aug. 24. *The Pelican* is recommending Nora Rupert.

Rupert has been an advocate for better education for the last six years concentrating on boundary issues and equal opportunity for all students. The parent of three adopted special needs kids, she is particularly sensitive to their issues.

We like Rupert because she really wants the job.

Several weeks before Dr. Bob Parks announced he would not seek re-election for his Dist. 7 school board seat, Rupert had decided she would take him on. It was generally thought Dr. Parks would be extremely difficult to beat. So, she collected the 1,300 signatures needed to file and became a highly visible candidate showing up wherever a crowd gathered with persons who were interested in schools.

Her three opponents, Russell Kaufman, Jim Lansing and Travis Williamson, did not become candidates until after Dr. Parks was out of the picture.

Rupert is hardworking and determined.

A teacher of high school English, ESOL classes and special needs students, she understands the problems as both parent and educator.

As a parent she organized the attendance of 300 other parents at a school boundary meeting. As a teacher, she understands the real world of the classroom.

Rupert's lack of experience in the real world of business, however, is a drawback. It is interesting that the two candidates from the educational system, Rupert and Lansing, had no specific ideas for handling budget deficits.

Both said they would look to the community for input – not a bad thing in itself – but not a clear path to cutting budgets.

Rupert does score here in our opinion because she would review administrative salaries “where too many at the top who do not have contact with children make six figures.” She also favors keeping programs that make for well-rounded citizens - music, art and drama-in the curriculum.

Russell Kaufman is the only candidate that gives actual examples and dollar figures of ways to cut spending, and although we can't verify his numbers, we applaud his research and believe his inside knowledge of the system could be valuable. We encourage him to continue his advocacy.

Rupert is also the only candidate to delineate her ideas to improve school lunches, something that has become a national issue, and one which we believe should be taken seriously by school administrators.

All four candidates have their strengths. In the end, it is Rupert's strong desire for the job and her demonstrated ability to work extremely hard, that wins her our nod.

See Broward School Board candidates on page 7.

Florida has no need of an arrogant state representative *Justin Flippen's 'No-shows'* *demonstrate contempt for the democratic process*

Justin Flippen, candidate for state representative, District 92, resigned his elected position as vice mayor of Wilton Manors halfway through his first term to challenge incumbent Gwyn Clarke-Reed.

But after he publicly snubbing the same people who elected him and others whom he claims he will represent, it's clear he has no idea of the democratic process.

Here are the clues.

Flippen was invited to debate Clarke-Reed at a planned forum Wednesday in Wilton Manors. But he only toyed with his commitment to attend.

While he had given at least two affirmative verbal responses to attend the forum, he never officially confirmed that he would be there.

When *The Pelican* tried to confirm whether or not he would show up at the forum at Hagen Park, Flippen's response was, “You'll find out tomorrow.”

And we did.

Coordinators of the forum, the Central Area Neighborhood Association, or CANA; interested voters and Clarke-Reed, did show up.

The forum was planned for 7 p.m. Flippen sent an email an hour and a half before the event to a member of CANA saying he was not going to appear.

We understand that campaigns are exhausting and difficult.

But if a candidate cannot find time to meet the people and answer tough questions, what will he be doing in Tallahassee?

Clarke-Reed knows it's about work. She traveled 12 miles to meet with the 50 or more constituents waiting at Hagen Park. Flippen's 'No Show' should be seen as nothing less than a snub to the people of Wilton Manors, the same people who gave him his first elected office.

Flippen's snubs seem consistent.

When Flippen was invited to debate Clarke-Reed at John Knox Village in Pompano Beach, his response to the invitation came too late for the event to take place, according to Pauline Ulitsch, chair of the JKV legislative committee.

That was a stupid snub. JKV voters rarely miss a chance to cast a vote.

Flippen was a 'No Show' at a planned forum on July 15 in Oakland Park, hosted by the North Andrews Neighborhood Association.

Clarke-Reed was there.

At a time when voter apathy is widespread, it is an affront to the pro-active voters who seek information in order to make informed decisions on election day.

Meanwhile Flippen is waging a negative campaign accusing Clarke-Reed of an alliance with “the Biggest Republican Right Wingers” that include Sarah Palin, George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

But that campaign is a mailing campaign.

Flippen needs to stand up to State Representative Gwyn Clarke-Reed to hear her response to those claims before the voters.

But apparently he will not do that.

And apparently he will not face the voters.

But most apparently, Justin Flippen would be a bad choice for the voters in District 92.

Letters

Sheriff Al Lamberti: one of the good guys in Broward County

Dear Editor,

After being involved in law enforcement for almost 30 years, I have never met a man more qualified for the position of Sheriff of Broward County than Al Lamberti. He is very respectful to his personnel, and they serve with the utmost integrity.

He also has a great sense of humor and is very down to earth. He has saved the county thousands of dollars since his appointment by the governor and his election by the residents of Broward County. While in office, he instituted direct deposit payrolls that saved the county thousands of dollars. I met Sheriff Lamberti while serving in the COP program in Deerfield Beach and was very impressed with his professionalism. Congratulations to his son, Nick, for following in his father's footsteps by graduating from the F.B.I.

Nicholas Ricciardi,
Essex County officer, retired

Broward County School board candidates address some issues Four vie in primary election for District 7 seat

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Four candidates seek to replace Dr. Bob Parks in the Aug. 25 primary election for the District 7 School Board seat. Parks announced his retirement in May after serving 24 years on the board. The candidates in the non-partisan race are Coconut Creek activist Nora Rupert and three Pompano Beach residents, James Lansing, a Nova Southeastern University art professor, Russell Kaufman, an internet technician employed by the school system and Travis Williamson, who manages his family's irrigation business.

For this profile, the candidates were asked to answer four questions:

1. What specific talent would you bring to the School Board?
 2. How would you handle the budget deficit – cut programs, cut salaries, other? If you cut programs, which ones? Would you cut administrative salaries to save programs such as art, music and physical education?
 3. What is the number one change needed in the school system?
 4. Do you have an opinion on school lunches?
- Here's what they said:

Russell Kaufman, 25



Computer specialist employed by the Broward County School Board. **Education:** Attended local schools and graduated from Deerfield Beach High School and Broward Community College. Currently attends Florida Atlantic University.

Talent: In my seven years working for the Broward County School System, I have seen the waste firsthand. I have been fighting to save the district money for years. A plan that I submitted to the

board could have saved over \$10 million, but that has been set aside. I know the system. I have seen where it needs to work, and I have the energy to get things done.

Budget deficit: First we should stop the Benchmark Assessment Tests. This would save about \$1.5 million. Second, changing the type of equipment the district buys would save another \$10 million. Thirdly, the stimulus capital money should be used to reduce future expenditures. As an example, installing solar panels in our schools could save millions. And lastly, disallow district administrators from double dipping by taking both retirement and fulltime salaries. This would save \$2.8 million. There are many ways to save money. It's time for someone who does not have lobbyist and insider ties to implement much-needed improvements.

Change: Fresh ideas and energy to get things done. We have so many board members set in their ways. This makes it hard for the district to improve and expand our schools.

Lunch: I have seen students that do not have money whose parents don't want to file for free or reduced lunch because of their pride. In this hard economic time, we need to look at how we are going to feed students because the situation is likely to get worse. If money wasn't an issue, school lunches should be free for all students. Sadly, this is not possible. A more immediate solution is to encourage parents to apply for this assistance.

James Lansing, 64



Fine Arts professor at Nova SE University, Coconut Creek campus.

Education: Master of Fine Arts, Northern Illinois University; Master Science in Education, Northern Illinois University, Bachelor of Arts, SUNY Buffalo.

Talent: The ability to understand problems and make balanced, measured decisions based on 35 years experience as a college professor and professional

educator.

Budget deficit: The budget deficit should be handled by gathering input from all stakeholders in the school system and businesses and community groups. Classroom instruction costs should not be cut. We should seek creative ways to support music, art and PE in the schools.

Change: We need to develop a vision for the next five to 10 years for the district that includes cost cutting, eliminates waste and ensures ethical practices.

Lunch: Healthful, nutritious choices should be used for what is for some students the best meal of the day.

Nora Rupert, 44



Teaches high school English, ESOL and gifted classes. **Education:** BA in mass communications, Florida Teacher's Certificate.

Talent: I will be a strong voice for the children using my firsthand experience as a language arts classroom teacher trained to recognize the needs of all students. I will focus on expanding the curriculum to be innovative and relevant for today's world.

Budget deficit: I will fight to keep cuts out of the classroom especially programs that contribute to a well-rounded education such as PE, music, drama, etc. These programs not only contribute to positive emotional and creative outlets, but studies prove that learning does increase for these students. I would review high level salaries where too many people at the top, who do not have contact with children, make six figures.

Change: The number one change needed is to identify innovative, cost-cutting solutions by forming relationships, utilizing open-door communication with input from all stakeholders – PTAs, SACs, municipalities, teachers, community leaders and students – with a single goal, the best education possible.

Lunch: School lunches are not as healthy, appetizing, nor culturally diverse as they could be especially if we are cutting out PE. Feeding kids high-carb, high calorie meals only adds to the problems of obesity and early diabetes. The snack machines are filled with cokes and chips. Can we put in fruit, yogurt and low-fat granolas as alternatives?

Travis Williamson, 29



Vice president of family-owned business, B&R Industries.

Education: Graduate of Ely High School and Florida Atlantic University with degrees in business administration and marketing.

Talent: I am the only candidate with school board experience as having been a student advisor to the board. I am also the only candidate with financial management background and

will use this experience to put our children and schools back on track. My love and dedication to children make me the most qualified choice.

Budget deficit: The system is top heavy with administration. It is not necessary to have four or five assistant principals in each high school. Some departments at the school board could be merged. As a last resort, the voters should be given the option of a one cent tax or millage increase to solely support the public education system. And last, the promise of funding for education from the state lottery and gambling venues should be called out to ensure that those promises are kept. It is paramount that schools not only teach to a single standardized test, but also focus on intellectual capacity with programs such as art and music.

Change: A top priority of mine is to focus on putting children and education first. To accomplish this we must refocus on the core business of teaching and learning while reinforcing the need to expand student's intellectual capacity. It is evident that our community is displeased with the FCAT. We should rectify this by recognizing each child's individualism based on a range of achievements, not just a single test. Also needed, a transparent relationship between the school board and our community, teachers and labor management groups that will lead to advancing teacher quality, lifting student achievement and improving schools.

Lunch: I do not find this topic to be a current issue of priority.



School Board Numbers

Proposed 2010-11 Budget - \$3.6 billion

Lottery funds - \$13.5 million*

Average revenue per student - \$6,759

Total student population - 257,300 (k-12)

Proposed millage rate: 7.631 = \$763.10 for a home valued at \$100,000. The budget will be approved on Sept. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the KC Wright Building, 600 SE 3 Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

* Lottery funds are used for teacher bonuses and stimuli for schools that improve a letter grade by state standards.

Posse

Continued from page 1

at the Harbors of Riverglen Homeowners Association, or HOA, sent the information to her neighbors and several of them thought they had seen Davis and his gas can at other nearby locations, the Kohl's department store in Boca Raton and The Promenade in Coconut Creek.

They reported their suspicions and then one of them spotted Davis at the Olive Garden on Powerline Road in Boca Raton. She took his picture with her cellphone and sent it on to BSO Dep. Jim Engle who was investigating the case.

Engle, in fact, had been receiving all the information Aslanian's posse was submitting and in only eight days deputies spotted Davis again, this time at 4000 W. Hillsboro Boulevard just over the line into Coconut Creek where he was arrested. Davis, it seems, had an extensive criminal history. To Deputy Engle's knowledge he is still in jail.

Because of the ladies' sightings of Davis and their reports to Engle, BSO soon knew his hangouts. Tall and skinny with reddish blond hair, he wasn't hard to spot, Deputy Engle said. And this time, his old-time ploy, asking for a few dollars for gas, was no match for modern-day communication.

Aslanian and her girlfriends, Karin Goss, Dory Block, Vicki Sklar White,



Crime stoppers from left are, Dory Block, Vicki Sklar-White, Karen Goss and Sharon Aslanian. Behind them, Commissioner Bill Ganz.
[Photo courtesy the City of Deerfield Beach]

Bonnie Raleyh, Jackie Johnson and Lisa Amian, received a commendation for their civic-minded pursuit of a criminal last week from Dist. 4 City Commissioner Bill Ganz. Ganz, before he was a commissioner, was responsible for setting the internet crime watch in motion. The crime alerts began with the formation of the Deerfield Beach Alliance several years ago. Now when BSO encounters criminal activity in District 4, the information is emailed to Ganz who relays it to a person designated by each HOA to pass the word on.

Engle does not know if other criminals have been caught through the emails, but he does know that in-

formation is a deterrent to crime. "There is no way we could be as effective with our fight on crime without the help of the residents we serve," Deputy Engle said. "Their eyes and ears are the most helpful tools we have." Of the Harbors' 183 residential units, 102 occupants have signed up to receive the crime watch emails. Aslanian, the contact person, is trying to get everyone on her list.

To that end, anyone living in Dist. 4, the voting area west of Military Trail excluding Century Village and Crystal Lake, can be added to the contact list by emailing Commissioner Ganz at, bganz@deerfield-beach.com.

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Early Voting

Continued from page 1

We decided to cut the Pompano Beach site based on the turnout and size of the facility." Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes sliced the number of locations from 17 to 11, and she also reduced the hours of operation.

While budgetary constraint is the prime reason for the lack of polling sites, Pompano Beach Commissioner Barry Dockswell, says that Snipes should have mapped out a better plan to accommodate all voters.

"The whole Northeastern portion of Broward County is shortchanged by the way it is handled. Fort Lauderdale has two voting sites. You have to go to Coconut Creek if you want to vote [early]." Dockswell added, "We all pay taxes at the same time. I don't see why we were given short shrift."

Dockswell asked city manager, Dennis Beach, to get the inequality resolved. He hopes other commissioners feel the same way.

Dockswell said, "If you take a look at the maps, you will see voting sites in Pembroke Pines, Miramar, Tamarac, two sites in Fort Lauderdale, Coral Springs and Coconut Creek, but Northeastern Broward County has none. How can it be so skewed?"

Pompano Beach Vice Mayor George Brummer also voiced concern about the lack of voting sites. "I spoke to the Supervisor of Elections, and she said it will cost \$70,000 to put a site up, and we don't have the money. The way she placed the sites out is unrealistic," said Brummer. "There are 11 polling locations throughout Broward. Some of the people in my district can make it over to the library in Coconut Creek, but not other residents in Lighthouse Point and Deerfield. I guess we have to live with it."

Still that brings little consolation to folks who are pounding the pavement hoping to get voters out for

the primary. "We have major concerns about not having a site in Pompano Beach," said Alice Chattman, member of the Democratic Club, "Our concern is that they closed sites for early voting in Deerfield and Pompano. I haven't seen a lot of African Americans coming out, so we've been working hard to get the absentee ballots out. We've done a great job in the Collier City area."

Meanwhile, the Northwest Regional Library located on Broward College's campus was abuzz Tuesday with supporters and volunteers trying to entice voters to cast ballots for their political candidates. John Novak, a campaign volunteer said he's noticed that only a few Broward County residents in Coconut Creek are taking advantage of early voting. He hopes more people will come out before the Aug. 21 deadline.

Pompano Beach Resident, Al Dobronz says "I'm on my way home, so this is a convenient site for me. But for some people in the eastern part of Pompano it will be difficult to get here. There are a lot of cutbacks now. We have to live with what we have. I am sure county officials had a struggle in making that decision." He adds, "I think it's important especially for the elderly who live in Palm Aire to come out and vote."

James McKissie feels that Broward County Supervisor of Elections should have had an extensive campaign to alert voters of the reduced polling sites.

Mckissie says, "I don't think the advertisement was out there to let people know the voting sites were reduced. The Supervisor of Elections didn't do a thorough job and as a result I've only seen a handful of folks coming out here to vote."

Broward sites will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the hours have been extended on Saturday to help make up for the elimination of Sunday hours. The last day to vote early in Broward is Aug. 21.

No Show

Continued from page 2

Clarke-Reed added, "I've worked on more budgets than my opponent will ever see."

CANA member Bill Richardson says Flippen verbally confirmed twice that he would attend the forum, once on June 15 and again on July 27. Richardson says he also sent an email to Flippen's campaign. "He knew he wasn't coming. I don't know why he didn't let us know us sooner," said Constance Ruppender, CANA president.

Phone calls to Flippen and his campaign manager, Wally Eccleston, were not returned by press time Thursday. Write-in candidate Arthur Williams was also invited to the forum but did not respond. Flippen was elected to the Wilton Manors Commission in 2008.

Clarke-Reed told the CANA audience she does not support gay marriage, calling it a "personal opinion." She does support a number of gay issues including the right of gay couples to adopt children, civil unions, adding legislative protection for the lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender community.

"I have worked closely with Representative Gwyn Clarke-Reed. She has supported and stood with our community," said Michael Rajner, legisla-

tive director of the Florida Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Democratic Caucus, at the Dolphin Democrats forum. And she supports tax credit scholarships, called vouchers by some, that give parents the right to choose the best environment for their children's education. Clarke-Reed said 27,000 students used those funds last year. "I voted for tax credit scholarships for low income families. Now kids who meet the criteria have options for alternate school systems. The money is not from the state budget."

Clarke-Reed has authored a bill, yet to pass, that would earmark Powerball money for the education of children

in Pre-K through Grade 3 classes. She also favors eliminating the FCAT from the school system and setting up dual track curriculums one for college-bound students, one for others.

She told the largely supportive audience, that her top three priorities are more jobs for Floridians using incentives to bring business to the state and some sort of aid to small businesses, education, and the right of gay couples to adopt children. "I have always fought for equal rights for everyone. Gay adoption is at the top of my list. Gay couples can be foster parents. Why shouldn't they be allowed to adopt?"

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Briefs

Democrats to host Labor Day picnic

Look for flags, food and speeches on Sept. 6 at Pompano Beach Community Park, 2001 NE 10 St., Pompano Beach at 1 p.m. Congressman Ron Klein and State Representative Kelly Skidmore will speak regarding the upcoming elections and governmental events. Bring a covered dish, chairs, sun-screen and hats. Call 954-815-8838.

Clarke-Reed to discuss Women's Equality

The Democratic Women's Club of Northeast Broward will celebrate the 90th anniversary of when women got the right to vote at its monthly meeting, Aug. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE 6 St., Pompano Beach. State Representative Gwyn Clarke-Reed will discuss women's suffrage

Women in the United States won the right to vote on Aug. 26, 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment. Call 954-942-8711

Lifelong classes at Dave Thomas Center

New 8-week Fee-Support/Lifelong Learning classes begin Aug. 30 at the Dave Thomas Education Center.

All instructors are certified teachers and class titles include: Introduction to Computers, Microsoft Office, QuickBooks I, Spanish (Conversational), Accent Reduction and Cake Decorating. Fees vary. The Center is located at 180 SW 2nd Street in Pompano Beach; call 754-321-6750 for more information.

The Pelican
954-783-8700

Volunteers get great rewards from 'Listen to Children' and I'm Thumbody', Mental Health Association school programs

By Phyllis J. Neuberger

PELICAN STAFF

As youngsters begin the excitement of a new school year, just imagine what a gift of a few hours of time each week can do to build a child's self esteem. The Mental Health Association, or MHA, of Broward County offers a veritable treasure chest of services to the community. This article focuses on just three of those valuable programs geared to the youngest population in Broward County's elementary schools.

The programs in need of volunteers with a few hours every week are: Listen to Children, I'm Thumbody, and Thumbody Too.

Helen Leitch, children's prevention services director, was called to *The Pelican's* attention by Helen Daunt who wrote, "I want to suggest a wonderful woman who helps so many of us volunteers make a difference in a child's life. I have volunteered with Helen for the last five years and she is a gift from heaven to these kids. Take time to talk to her. You'll be glad you did."

Listen to Children

Imagine what it's like to never have adult attention all to oneself. This program pairs children in elementary school with caring adults for just one half hour once a week for a fun chat, game playing, or whatever the child wants to do. The children selected by the teacher for this one on one weekly friendship meeting are often starved for attention.

Children's issues could include shyness, trouble making friends, the birth of a new sibling, parental divorce or remarriage, or attention seek-



Helen Leitch works with a puzzle as a listener and friend to this boy who looks forward to his weekly one on one sessions with her. [Photo by Phyllis J. Neuberger]

ing behavior in the classroom. The volunteer becomes a non-judgemental adult friend who over time helps build that child's self esteem, improves communication and problem solving skills and makes a positive difference.

Anyone, young or old, male or female can be a listener. Listeners are friends, not therapists so no special education is needed. Listeners are trained by the MHA and agree to a background check to comply with school board requirements.

Once training is completed, volunteers are assigned to individual children in a specific school. They meet with a child for 30 minutes at the same time, same day, every week. Young children respond

See DIFFERENCE on page 20

Making a Difference

Phyllis J. Neuberger wants your suggestions about people you know who are making a difference. Call 954-783-8700 to recommend a candidate for this column.



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Lighthouse Point Chamber plans August Social to resemble a 'speed-dating' event

SPECIAL TO THE PELICAN
 "It's like speed dating only with different businesses," said Lucille Pignataro, branch manager for Bank United in Lighthouse Point and the new president of the Lighthouse Point Chamber of Commerce, or LHPCC.

On Aug. 17 the LHPCC will host its August Social at the Shoppes of Beacon Light, located at Federal Highway and Northeast 24 Street two blocks north of Copans Road on the east side of Federal. Participants will have an opportunity to visit Beacon Light Jewelers & Engravers, Body & Soul Boutique, My Own Cruising Journal, Merle Norman Cosmetics & Day Spa, Allstate Insurance, Bank United and others.

"Stores will be giving away something. But it's really up to each store," said Millie Walsh, owner of Body & Soul Boutique and LHPCC member, who adds that she will probably give away some merchandise and contribute a \$50 gift card to the raffle.

Pat Anderson, owner of Islandwear & Gifts and My Own Cruising Journal will be giving away gift boxes of note cards featuring artwork of local landmarks like Cap's Place, the Lighthouse Point Library and the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse. Anderson will also be introducing her new book: Pat Anderson's Island Artwork Tabletop Book. "Everyone's going to get a sneak preview," said Anderson.

Each location will also have beverages and snacks available to enjoy and participants can get a card stamped at

each business and enter for the drawing at 6:45 p.m. at Bank United, the last stop of the evening. Prizes include gift baskets, merchandise and gift cards.

Chamber seeks a few good restaurants

The 7th Annual Taste of Lighthouse Point will be Jan. 18, 2011. The committee in charge needs to be formed over the summer months. An event chair and committee chairs for the auction, sponsorship and restaurant committees are needed. Additional members are also needed to begin to meet and coordinate efforts for the event. The meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month at 3320 N. Federal Hwy. from 6 to 7 p.m. For more, visit www.lhpchamber.com.

Grant could pave way for new plans on Wilton Drive

By Michael d'Oliveira

PELICAN STAFF

Wilton Manors - Hopes for a \$10 million federal grant to takeover Wilton Drive may have given way to lesser aspirations.

On Tuesday members of Wilton Manors Main Street informed commissioners of another funding opportunity, a \$3 million planning grant from TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, II.

"We can go for either but we can't go for both," said Tom Tabor, chairman of the Wilton Manors Main Street Initiative to Improve Wilton Drive. Tabor added that he thinks the city has a good chance to get whatever grant it applies for.

Doug Blevins, president of Main Street, said the planning grant would help put the city in a better position to apply for other funding further down the road.

City Manager Joseph Gallegos said he thought the city would most likely be able to get a \$3 million grant.

In a later interview, Gallegos said the city would apply for a \$1 million grant. "We've basically already made a decision," said Gal-

legos. According to Gallegos, the city would have to supply a \$200,000 matching grant in order to receive the funding. Calls and emails to FDOT to confirm that figure were not returned in time. The \$10 million grant would require a \$2.5 million match from the city. In a later interview, Tabor said Main Street would continue to seek the \$10 million either now or in the immediate future.

"We're getting statements of intent from private investors," said Tabor.

The planning grants, funded with a total of \$35 million, are a joint venture between the U.S. Department of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development. Examples of approved planning projects are the expansion of affordable housing near transportation routes, the increase of public transportation options and the development of a particular transportation corridor that promotes mixed-use or transit-oriented projects.

Gables Residential, which owns and operates Wilton Park, a mixed-used development near city hall, has proposed another mixed-use development on top of the site for the old city hall and

See WILTON DRIVE on page 21

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Hanna from Norway, 16 yrs.
 Likes skiing, swimming, dancing and art. Hanna hopes to join a drama club while in the USA.

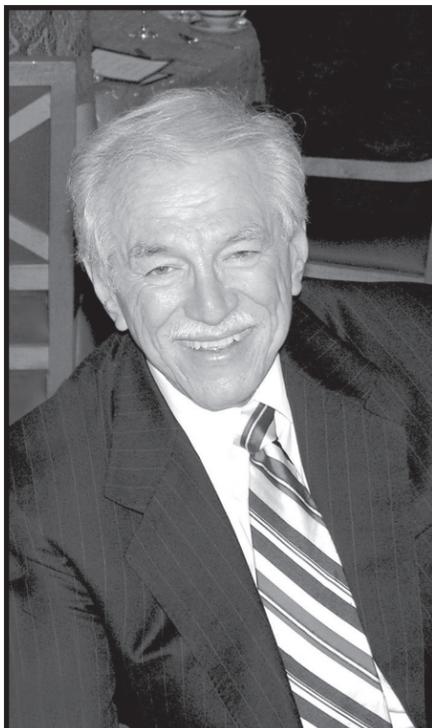


Klaus from Germany, 17 yrs.
 Loves camping and playing soccer. Klaus' dream has been to spend a school year in the USA.



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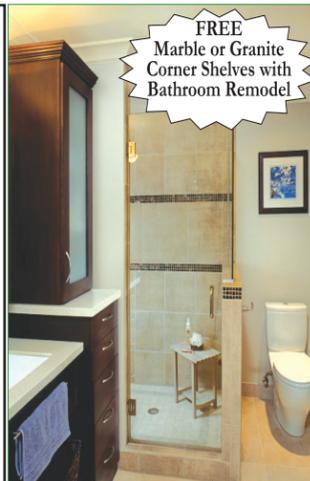
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Fire Fee

Continued from page 1

residents.

The owners of Hillsboro's 2,500 properties have never been assessed the fire fee which Deerfield Beach, provider of fire/rescue services here, initiated five years ago. Instead, town commissioners incorporated the fee into its fire budget, currently around \$814,000. If the 2,500 unit owners paid the fee, the town's fire budget would be reduced by \$250,000.

The town also absorbs the cost of garbage and trash collection for its residents, a \$300,000 contract with Waste Management. That contract

comes due the end of this year and officials from the waste hauling company have warned they will be asking for a rate increase.

Last summer the town trimmed costs and ended up with a \$3.9 million budget and a millage rate of 3.39. The town's revenues come chiefly from property taxes, currently about \$3 million. This year, they have been put on notice by the Broward County Prop-

erty Appraiser that assessed property values have fallen by seven percent. If there is no tax increase, there will be a shortfall in that revenue stream.

But shifting the cost of either the fire fee or the garbage contract to residents is not something Mayor Carmen McGarry endorses. McGarry said she would prefer a small tax increase to putting those burdens on the residents.

"Our community does not get services like libraries and parks that others have so they get these things. I'd like to keep it that way."

Commissioners won't see a proposed budget until a hearing September 13 at 5:30 p.m. McGarry said there are still many unknowns in the cost of services such as fire/rescue, health benefits and garbage collection. Still, she said, she would hope to find a way

around the projected deficit. City Commissioner Celinda Sawtelle said she had wanted to make recycling mandatory and charge residents for it in the next waste contract, but the notion never gained steam. As for the fire fee, she said the city attorney had advised it would be a complicated process to change the assessment. "The money comes out of the tax payer one way or another," Sawtelle said.

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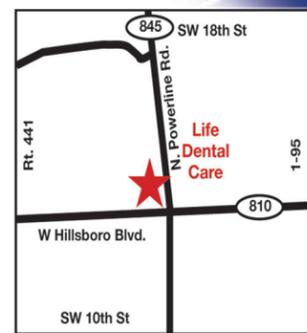
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Parking Permits are in the near future for Pompano Beach Residents

By Marise Estime

PELICAN WRITER

Pompano Beach – Saving coins for parking meters for the city’s pier or the beach may be a thing of the past for Pompano Beach residents.

Commissioners are considering a plan to create a \$75 annual parking permit for residents.

The permits will be accepted at city lots from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The 8 p.m. cut off is a deterrent to keep residents from using the lots as a storage facility for their vehicles.

City officials are currently

working out the kinks of the plan. Several suggestions were introduced as a means to accommodate business owners and residents. Vice Mayor George Brummer recommended offering the permits for only 6 months and lower the costs for seasonal residents. While Brummer wants the cost to be lowered, Commissioner Harding hopes the plan calls for a permit that will help boating enthusiasts. Rex Hardin says, “The time should be extended, we have a lot of residents who go fishing at night and they should have an opportunity to have per-

mits.” Commissioner Barry Dockswell added, “I want to have the permits, but I am not sure if the price is right. I want us to treat people fairly across the board.”

The consensus among the commissioners is to have a permit that will be cost ef-

fective for residents, possibly reducing the proposed fee to \$60 dollars. The city currently collects \$700,000 a year from parking meters at its city lots. Administrators aren’t sure how much money they will generate from the permits.

Permits will be issued for

the car, owners will not be able to transfer it to other vehicles. The permits cannot be used during special events. All violations must be cured before you can obtain a permit. The measure will go before the board sometime in September.

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Request for additional funds causes LBTS to re-negotiate reef contract with GCRA

By Judy Vik

PELICAN WRITER

LBTS - It's back to the drawing board to clarify the contract between builders of an artificial reef habitat and the town, so the project can be completed.

In response to a plea for an additional \$4,700 plus early payment of \$5,000 to cover increased costs, commissioners directed town administration to re-negotiate the contract between the town and Global Coral Reef Alliance, or GCRA, a non-profit agency dedicated to restoring coral reefs.

The project, the first of its kind in the country, is designed to revive diseased and dying coral reef. Its leader says the project "will put LBTS on the map in terms of being a leader in environmental restoration."

The town already has paid nearly \$50,000 of the total \$76,480 cost.

Commissioners met in a special workshop session July 28 to discuss the project and consider the request for more funds.

While all five commissioners supported

moving ahead, most agreed the contract needed work to protect both the town and GCRA. The agency is in breach of the current contract after not meeting some deadlines and by changing the original plans.

"It behooves both of us, the

town and you, to put in place a contract not currently in breach," said Commissioner Scot Sasser. "I think we could come to terms. I'm all for this project."

The issue of the new contract is expected to be on

See REEF on page 18



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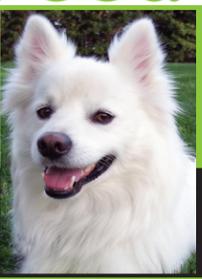
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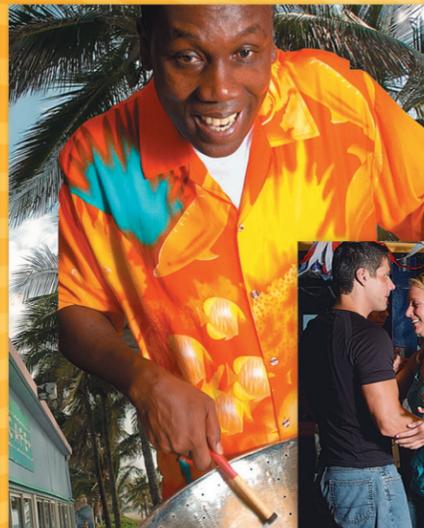
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SPECIAL TO THE PELICAN

Oakland Park - This year, Oktoberfest aficionados need not worry about airfare to Munich when Oakland Park Main Street hosts its 6th Annual Oktoberfest Celebration on Oct. 1 and 2.

Oakland Park's Oktoberfest is the largest in Broward or Miami-Dade Counties and has become one of the most popular in Florida, according to Siegi Constantine, executive director for Main Street.

"Everything about our event is authentic - from the food and the beer to the bands performing traditional

Oktoberfest party music," said Constantine. "Due to the popularity and demand, our committee agreed to begin the celebration on Friday evening this year."

Oktoberfest hours are Oct. 1 from 6 to 11 p.m. and Oct. 2 from 1 to 11 p.m. at the "Bavarian Village" set up in downtown Jaco Pastorius Park, 4000 North Dixie Hwy., just north of NE 38 Street, where the official "keg tapping" will commence the celebration. Constantine has been working with her committee to ensure each detail of the event is carried out in true Oktoberfest tradition. More than 5,000

people are expected to attend.

Hans Huber, owner of Fort Lauderdale's award-winning Ambry Restaurant, will operate the Bavarian-style "Biergarten" at the Oktoberfest offering a selection of popular German favorites such as bratwurst, knockwurst, spicy currywurst, chicken schnitzel, goulash soup, sauerkraut and German potato salad, as well as freshly baked pretzels, "Brotchen" and apple crumb strudel. In addition to soft drinks, a selection of German wines and authentic German-brewed Tucher Oktoberfest beers will be available for purchase by adults 21 and over.

The large tents will be erected to replicate the authentic atmosphere of a Bavarian village celebration, including a stage and a dance floor. The "Edelweiss Schuhplattlers," or children's dance troupe, and the "Original Auerhahn Schuhplattler Dancers," will perform. Vendors in the Alpine market will offer a variety of gift items and collectibles. A carnival featuring rides, games and refreshments will entertain children and adults alike. "Oktoberfest is truly meant to be a celebration for all ages and we want to encourage a lot of singing and dancing," said the city's Special Event Coordinator Eric Waters. "We will also have fun Oktoberfest games and contests such as our popular Central Bark 'Dachshund Dash,' keg races, and for the first time a bratwurst-eating contest."

The musicians scheduled to fill the air with oompah and polka dance melodies until the 11 p.m. closing each evening include Oktoberfest mainstays the "Euro Express." Longtime South Florida dance and party band favorites the "Funkabilly Playboys" will also be performing both nights with an Oktoberfest twist to their always popular show.

Sal's Towing of Oakland Park has offered to provide free transportation home for anyone who may have had too much to drink. And the nearby Days Inn Hotel at Oakland Park Boulevard and I-95 will offer discounted Oktoberfest rates for the weekend.

Visit oaklandparkmainstreet.com or call Siegi Constantine at 954-565-2627 or. There will be a \$3 donation for adult admission while children 12 and under are free. On-site parking is \$5.

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Reef

Continued from page 15

the agenda for the Wednesday, Aug. 25, commission meeting.

Meanwhile, since the commission workshop, nearly \$9,000 has been donated toward completion of the project, according to Commissioner Birute Ann Clotley.

Bob Roberts, a LBTS resident, donated \$6,000 in memory of his wife Adrienne, who recently died. He is a former chair of the Citizens Initiative Committee. Many others also have stepped forward with donations, Clotley said this week.

"This is an important, exciting time for reef restoration," Dr. Thomas Goreau, GCRA president, said

at the commission workshop. "Reefs in southeast Florida have practically disappeared. In the area where this habitat is to be installed off LBTS, reefs are dying, and there has been quite a decline in corals. Algae, diseases, coral bleaching and water quality are killing the coral, Goreau said. "We have to start trying to reverse that if you want to have an attraction for divers and snorkelers." In Bora Bora, French Polynesia, where a similar habitat was installed,

Goreau said they saw coral begin forming on the first day. Tourists come from around the world to see the artificial reef in Indonesia, Goreau said. He predicts the reef project in LBTS, "the beach dive capital of the U.S., will create a snorkel trail and diving attraction. The problem is where will they park when they come here," he quipped.

Switch to solar-powered buoys

The original plan for the LBTS project was to power the reef with electricity from the fishing pier, Goreau said, noting that that was before a hurricane destroyed the pier electrical system. He said cost to restore pier electricity was prohibitive, and they switched to building a solar-powered buoy.

An experienced boat maker in LBTS built the custom-made buoy, first with 90 watt power. Then the builder looked at the site again and determined the buoy should be stronger with double the power. In changing the design, the price went up. It took two years to get all the permits, Goreau said, "and we're stuck assimilating the rise in prices" for materials.

The contract calls for three buoys, two to provide power to the reef structure and a third as backup. Goreau said a third buoy is no longer needed.

"In my view, we should go ahead as is. We're ready to move ahead as quickly as possible." His preference would be to use the second buoy and keep the first in reserve.

Mayor Roseann Minnet said, "We have adequate parking in town when the influx of tourists comes. I'm sure we'll be able to find places to park."

Sasser asked about the cost of annual maintenance and if the town is responsible after a certain time. Dan Clark of Cry of the Water, an agency that works to protect Broward's reefs, said the contract includes \$10,000 for the first year's maintenance. Until the project has been in place for a year, he said he couldn't predict the actual cost.

Susan Trevarthen, town attorney, said the existing contract is not completely clear on who is responsible for maintenance.

Minnet said she understands the importance of the reef and favors protecting the natural resource. However, "We need to be prudent as far as where taxpayer monies go," she said. "We have invested money in this project. The contract may have areas where we need a better understanding of what the town gets and what you're providing. There are holes in the contract, hopefully not in the buoy." She said the contract needed to be reviewed and totally redone.

Connie Hoffmann, interim town manager, asked for clarification of funds needed. Clark explained they needed the \$5,000 allocated in the contract after completion of the third buoy plus an additional \$4,700 to cover cost of the buoys.

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This could be up to 10 miles away, depending on where you live. To avoid the time and expense of traveling to an early voting site, join the 70,000 + voters who have requested an absentee ballot and vote by mail in the August 24th primary election. To request your absentee ballot call the Supervisor of Elections at 954.357.7055 or visit <http://www.browardsoe.org> and click on the link "voting methods, absentee ballot voting" no later than August 18th.

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Difference

Continued from page 10

to these one-on-one sharing moments with great enthusiasm. They love the undivided attention they get from their caring adult friend. A one year commitment is expected.

This program is offered to all Broward County elementary schools where volunteers are available. Helen Leitch says, "Last year, we had Listen to Children in about 80 schools with about 150 volunteers. We wish we had twice that number."

Shirley Wine, a snowbird who spends the school year in her Deerfield home, has been a listener volunteer for 26 years. "I've had a lot of fun," she says, "and worked with so many darling children. Currently, I listen at Norcrest Elementary. I use games and different materials. I come to know each child's favorite topics, shows, subjects and people. The child might want to talk about feelings, play games, or discuss a problem. We are trained to know how to get started. Usually I spend one year with a child, but I have had several for more than one year. The teachers and guidance counselors are around for guidance, when we need it. I encourage other men and women with a few hours of free time each week to do this. It's fun and very gratifying to see the children blossom with the attention."

I'm Thumbody and Thumbody too

Everyone is different, just like a thumb print, which is how these programs got their name. Established in 1983, about 16,000 Broward County primary aged schoolchildren have experienced this nationally recognized program each year. The 55 minute program includes a video entitled Everybody's Different. Using Thumbody, the puppet, the presenter reminds the children of their uniqueness and talks about different feelings and how to talk to adults whom they trust about those feelings.

The children receive stickers, bookmarks and pledge cards with the Thumbody logo. The goals of the program are respect for self, for others, responsibility for behavior and awareness of sources for safe help. Men and women volunteers who are comfortable interacting with a classroom of children and have a little free time during the school day can be trained in three hours to participate in this program. Time is flexible because volunteers are directly responsible for arranging schedules with the schools. Teachers remain in the classroom and they are provided with posters and activity packets to reinforce concepts.

One teacher commented, "This is an excellent presentation which contains valuable information for the children. The activities will help them develop individuality and increase self esteem as well as tolerance for the differences of others."

Spelling skills may be

lagging, but The Pelican learned that these youngsters had set high standards for themselves.

One child wrote, "We all are special."

Another wrote "Do not quite. Always keep trying and maybe you will get it."

A third child wrote, "It dos'ent madder if you do not look like this girl it madders who you are in life."

Thumbody, too

Thumbody, too aims the same message at kindergarteners and pre-school classrooms. It reminds children to celebrate differences and affirm similarities. Through a game, a puppet and a video children learn to feel good about themselves and also gain an awareness of their feelings and how they impact their relationships with others. Trained volunteers bring the message to children in schools and community sites throughout Broward. All that's needed is a sense of fun and the means to get to assigned program sites. Each presentation takes about 45 minutes.

Meet Helen Leitch

Leitch began her involvement with MHA while in college. After college, she volunteered for seven years while being a stay at home mom with two sons. "When the youngest began middle school, I accepted a part time job with MHA

as I'm Thumbody program coordinator. Three years later, I took the full time job as Children's Prevention Services Director. And I love it."

Although her offices are in Lauderdale at 7145 Oakland

Park Blvd., after being trained, volunteers can usually be linked to a school near home be it Pompano Beach, Deerfield, Oakland Park or Wilton Manors. Call 954-746-2055.

PALM AIRE PARK FACILITIES PUBLIC INPUT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Pompano Beach Parks and Recreation Department will conduct a public input meeting regarding capital improvements for the following project.

Palm Aire Park Facilities

The sole purpose of the meeting will be to discuss a \$200,000 application for a Florida Recreation Development Assistance program grant that will finance public outdoor recreation facilities at the project site. The meeting will be conducted on the following day and date, and at the following time and location:

Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2010
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Pompano Beach Civic Center
1801 NE 6 Street
Pompano Beach, Florida

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	4			7	6		
	3						8
	9		7	2			1
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	5			6			
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	3				1	5	

.....

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1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8

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Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above. For strategies, go to csmonitor.com/sudoku.

By Ben Arnoldy

The Christian Science Monitor

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Wilton Drive

Continued from page 11

offered the city \$2.5 million in exchange for a 75-year lease on the property.

In July, commissioners voted to apply for a \$10 million TIGER II grant and requires that the city put up \$2.5 million of its own money. If approved, the city would have \$12.5 million to spend on roadway and infrastructure projects. That money would most likely be spent on taking over Wilton Drive from the Florida Department of Transportation, or FDOT, narrowing it to two lanes and building parking structures along the drive. The commission has voted to set up a task force - made of up residents, city officials, business owners and municipal planning officials - to explore options for improving Wilton Drive.

The grant money would have to be completely spent and none of it could go towards maintaining the street. FDOT estimates for maintaining the road are between \$75 and \$85,000 a year, plus \$500,000 to resurface it every 15 years and \$30,000 a year to maintain the bridge between Northeast 4 Avenue and Wilton Drive.

Main Street members have taken over the job of writing and preparing the grant application on behalf of the city. "The city does not have the resources to do this. We're relying on Main Street to put this grant together," said Mayor Gary Resnick, about the cost of writing the grant. Resnick added that he appreciates Main Street's effort. Tabor estimates the cost of preparing the grant is over \$20,000 "and we're trying to raise money."

Resnick and Blevins argued over Resnick bringing up the \$250,000 the city has previously given to Main Street over the years. Blevins said he was personally offended by Resnick bringing up the issue. "That's in the past," Blevins said.

Commissioner Ted Galatis said he has "yet to see businesses reach in their pockets" to support Main Street. "We're operating on

OP Candidates

Continued from page 3

degree in biology from Tufts University and a master's degree in wetland plant ecology from the University of Maryland.

Adornato and David Bogardus, his partner of 10 years, bought a house seven years ago in what was then unincorporated Broward County. He says he walked his North Andrews neighborhood to urge residents to vote to be annexed into Oakland Park.

Adornato says he will focus on consensus building and finding solutions. He will work to protect open space and oppose uncontrolled growth. He favors smart growth, increasing business in an appropriate way with a little more planning. And he will dedicate resources to improve public safety.

Jairo Aragon

Aragon, 56, is a commercial and residential real estate broker with Fitzgerald Financial Group in Fort

nothing but businesses," replied Tabor.

Blevins and Tabor also presented a map of possible locations for parking and retail on Wilton Drive, including the old city hall site, Acapulco Lindo Restaurant and the city's Pioneer site on Dixie Highway.

In a later interview, Tabor said a public parking site on the Pioneer property could be used as a tie in with the Florida East Coast Railway project, making the project more appealing to the federal government. "They want you more reliant on mass transportation," said Tabor.

In a later interview, Tabor highlighted the benefits of improving Wilton Manors to the City of Fort Lauderdale, saying it would be good for tourism for both cities. Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler agreed. "Obviously our tourism industries are interconnected. These cities are neighbors and intertwined in so many ways. We're trying to assist them and in the past they have assisted us," said Seiler. "I think we're generally in support of it."

Lauderdale. He says he's not a career politician. A native of Cali, Colombia, he says he is proud to be a U.S. citizen.

He has three associate degrees in general education from Polytechnical University in Cali, Colombia; voice and data telecommunication from the National Radio Institute in Washington, D.C. and business administration from the Center for Degree Studies in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Aragon bought his house in Royal Palm Isles 10 years ago. He has concerns about public safety and the need for a balanced budget. He says the city needs to put programs in place to get everyone together in a diverse community.

Aragon points out that one of four Broward County residents is Hispanic, and he believes it's time for a Hispanic commissioner in Oakland Park. "My ears are bilingual - English and Spanish," he quipped.

"My intentions are good. I want to be everyone's friend. 'El Amigo de Todos,' he said at a recent campaign forum, sponsored by the North Andrews Neighborhood Association.

Jed Shank

Born and raised in South Florida, Shank says he learned about customer service and cleaning kennels while working for his parents' Shank Animal Hospital. He also learned the value of environmental stewardship from them. They preserve a cypress tree canopy on their one-acre property on the Sleepy River.

Shank, 31, met his wife eidi at the University of Florida, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration. "We met in human sexuality class and now have five beautiful children," he said with a big grin at a recent candidate forum. They bought a house in 2001 in Twin Lakes South, where he is president of the neighborhood association.

Shank also has a master's degree in accounting from the University of Notre Dame.

"What sets me apart is my professional background. I'm a CPA, and I believe my

financial experience would be an asset in Oakland Park, particularly in these tough economic times," he says.

Shank, formerly a senior associate with Ernst & Young, is an audit specialist with the Broward County Auditor's Office. He says he will promote financial accountability and work to cut costs, improve services and raise the bar for safety.

"What have you done for Oakland Park?" all three were asked at the forum.

"I bought my house, and I pay my taxes," Aragon said. "I run four Toastmasters clubs, three in the city of Oakland Park and one bilingual."

He helps people buy and sell homes and commercial real estate, and he helps some downsize to smaller spaces.

Adornato said he was part of the first city Local Government Academy, or LGA. Before annexation, he helped arrange public forums with Oakland Park and Fort Lauderdale and lobbied residents to vote to become part of Oakland Park.

Shank, also an LGA graduate, said he went door to door in his neighborhood over the issue of traffic control devices. He also has worked

on sewer, lighting and park issues. He recently suggested cost-saving measures to the city regarding water bills, recommendations the city has implemented.

The three agree on the need to curb pain clinics in the city.

Adornato supports a city ordinance to restrict the clinics but says the city can only do so much. "The city has an ordinance that ensures few can come into the city, but we have to ensure the state legislature does something, too. We need to tell the legislature they need to eliminate pain clinics," he says.

He said coverage of pain clinics is not how he wants to see the city featured on CNN. He will bring his skills to advocate on the issue in Tallahassee.

"Pain clinics are bad, and I give credit to my opponent [Adornato] for fighting against them," Shank said.

"Oakland Park has a larger concentration of the clinics than anywhere else in Broward County or Florida," Shank added. He supports efforts under way to remove them.

Aragon said the city is doing a good job of controlling the clinics.



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A. C. CARBONE

John Knox Village honored by Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging



FAHSA Awards presentation are John Hooker, John Knox Village Resident and senate president accepting the Award for Resident Council of the Year, Bob Scharmann, John Knox Village President/CEO, and Orville H. Brink, awarded Trustee of the Year. [Photo courtesy of John Knox Village]

SPECIAL TO THE PELICAN

John Knox Village, a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community in Pompano Beach, was honored at the recent Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, or FAHSA, Awards Luncheon at the Boca Raton Resort.

Orville P. Brink was presented the Trustee of the Year Award, and the John Knox Village Resident Senate received the Resident Council Award.

FAHSA was established in 1963 as a Florida not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to provide leadership, advocacy, and education for retirement housing and

nursing home communities that serve the needs of Florida's retirees.

Brink was recognized for his 22-year service on the Board of Directors of John Knox Village. During his tenure Brink served as its interim Executive Director overseeing the daily operations of the community, chaired the health care committee, and was instrumental in the formation of the John Knox Home Health Agency which is an integral part of the Village health care delivery system.

Bob Scharmann, president/CEO of John Knox Village said that Brink's vision helped to develop the Village into a premier life-care community.

"Mr. Brink's relentless pursuit of excellence has kept us all focused on providing the best services in a compassionate and caring manner," Scharmann said. "His years of faithful volunteer service have been filled with extraordinary devotion and love. He has touched our lives and we are grateful."

Brink said it has been a great privilege to serve in bettering the status of the Village residents. "When I see improvement it encourages me to be an active contributing part of the mix," he said. The second award was presented to the Village's Resident Senate. The Resident

See JKV on page 27

Deerfield Beach Commission wary about going forward with new Cove parking lot

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Deerfield Beach - Commissioners backed off endorsing the redesign of the Cove Shopping Center parking lot after 46 landlords and business owners signed a petition protesting the \$2 million project. Their reluctance came as Assistant City Manager Keven Klopp gave them a progress report Tuesday night and caused Dist. 4 Commissioner Bill Ganz to say to his fellow commissioners, "Are you trying to fool people into thinking this project will happen? Either cut it, or move forward. Let's not keep dangling this carrot."

The project has moved through various planning phases for two years. Klopp said the money spent to date for design studies,

consultants, etc. is more than \$200,000. Mayor Peggy Noland said she was never a supporter of the redesign and "hated to spend \$2 million and not get one more parking space." The proposal is to install drainage, repave and redesign the parking area, put in new sidewalks and landscape the area. As currently designed, no additional parking is gained.

Vice Mayor Joe Miller, formerly a proponent of the project, was concerned about business disruption, the same thing that concerns the signers of the petition. Initial estimates are that the work will take 18 months.

"How can we get ADA compliance with the least disturbance to business there?" Miller asked. He urged Klopp to delay until after the tourist season.

See COVE on page 26

Back-to-School Fair at has free school supplies and more

Deerfield Beach - The Broward Sheriff's Office and the City of Deerfield Beach announce their annual Back-to-School Fair at Westside Park 445 SW 2 St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Deerfield Beach residents are encouraged to attend with their children to receive free school supplies. Lunch, entertainment, children's finger printing, a skills and agility camp by Tony Sands, and free health screenings by Holy Cross Hospital [blood pressure, blood sugar and rapid HIV test] will be provided. For more information, contact Deputy Morrison at 954-422-5818

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Rebound nabs KDW, sets tournament record with \$99,000 in winnings

By Michael d'Oliveira

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach - It took three years and nine tournaments, but someone finally caught the big one – big ones might be more apt. The KDW jackpot, worth \$81,715, went to Captain Stan Hunt and the crew of *Rebound* during the Saltwater Showdown on Aug. 7, held out of the Hillsboro Inlet. *Rebound* took the KDW by catching a 27.4 pound dolphin, 74.4 pound wahoo – also the biggest fish of the tournament – and a 23.6 pound king which helped bag them a total payout of \$99,025. “We’ve won a few tournaments but nothing like this. It’s definitely a dream come true,” said Hunt. “That wahoo was so big.”

“To put this in perspective, in the 12-year history of the whole tournament this is by far the most impressive catch,” said Jamie Bunn, tournament director. “It’s not just the KDW but also the size of the catch. And fishing is



Captain Stan Hunt, Captain Keith Bonnafé, Thomas Bardes and John Henry. [Photo courtesy of Jamie Bunn]

typically not as productive in August as it can be.”

Hunt and his crew didn’t have to go very far to get their record setting catch.

“We’re local charter fisherman right out of the Hillsboro Inlet. Basically we caught the big wahoo right

off Hillsborough Mile,” said Hunt.

It’s a phenomenal story. They’re just young, blue-collar guys trying to make a living on the water as charter fisherman,” said Bunn.

But for Hunt, the catching the elusive KDW didn’t just start with lines in that day.

“I’ve been fishing everyday that week. I pretty much found out what the fish were doing,” said Hunt, who added that it was a team effort. “Everything happened perfectly.”

Total payouts for the tournament were \$145,730. *Native Son* took home the second biggest winnings with \$19,165, followed by *Pop A Top* with \$7,810 and *Pauly’s World* winning \$4,965.

Asked what he plans to do with the money Hunt said, “I’m getting married soon so I’m hoping to upgrade my house a bit and start family.”

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PALM AIRE PARK IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC INPUT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Pompano Beach Parks and Recreation Department will conduct a public input meeting regarding capital improvements for the following project.

Palm Aire Park Improvements

The sole purpose of the meeting will be to discuss a \$200,000 application for a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant that will finance public outdoor recreation facilities at the project site. The meeting will be conducted on the following day and date, and at the following time and location:

Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2010
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Emma Lou Olson Civic Center
1801 NE 6 Street
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By RJ Boyle

RJ BOYLE STUDIOS

The crew of the Datsnasty and I had a great weekend of

swordfishing. We decided to head offshore on Saturday to bend the rod. We were not able to fish the tournament going on inshore so we figured we would bend the rod on a broadbill. We ended up with three good sword bites on Saturday which

yielded two nice fish. I was fishing with Kevin and Zach Mahfood from Lighthouse Point who are avid swordfishermen themselves. Sea conditions were prime and the current was light allowing us to really cash in on our bites. When swordfishing in the daytime, weather and current

conditions play a giant role with respect to your hook-up ratio. What we have noticed is that driving the boat correctly at the right angles sure seems to make a difference on the end result.

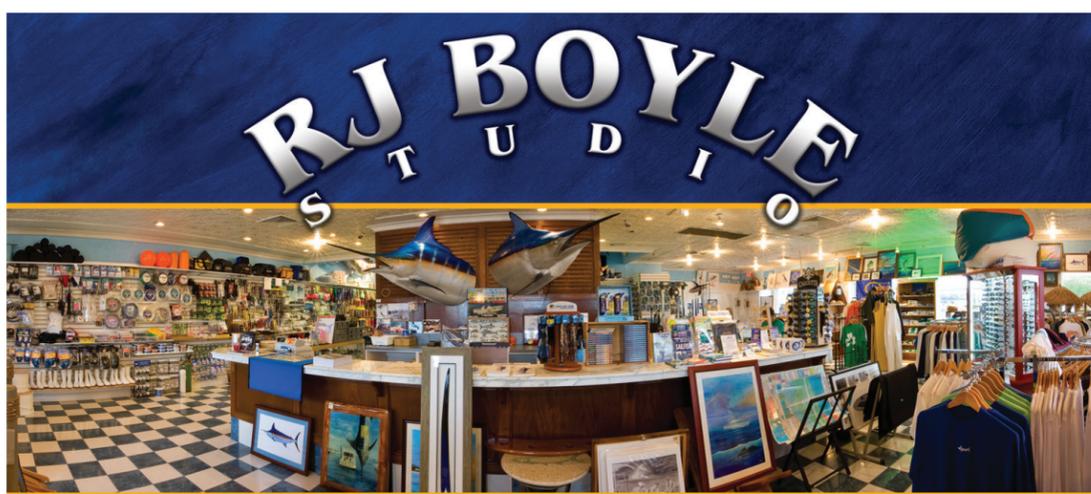
We had some serious bad

weather on the swordfish grounds. As we arrived to our destination at around 7 a.m. we noticed four water spouts at one time. Scary to say the least. We dodged the storms and were able to put two more nice swordfish in the boat that

day as well. We had friends Kenny and Allen on board for Sundays catch. Call RJ Boyle at RJ Boyle Studios, 5040 N. Federal Hwy. in Lighthouse Point, with your latest fishing stories. 954-420-5001.



Kenny and Allen with their swordfish catch of the day. [Photo courtesy of RJ Boyle]



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TIDES TABLE • HILLSBORO INLET

3835 26° 15.5' N 80° 04.9' W Hillsboro Inlet, Coast Guard Light Station

Friday, August 13 Low 5:18 AM High 11:43 AM Low 5:45 PM High 11:59 PM	Monday, August 16 High 1:42 AM Low 8:06 AM High 2:31 PM Low 8:38 PM	Thursday, August 19 High 4:47 AM Low 11:12 AM High 5:42 PM Low 11:44 PM
Saturday, August 14 Low 6:11 AM High 12:36 PM Low 6:39 PM	Tuesday, August 17 High 2:40 AM Low 9:08 AM High 3:35 PM Low 9:42 PM	This Week's Tide Tables should not be used for navigational purposes. Boaters should confirm tables with the Coast Guard Weather Station Information taken from www.saltwatertides.com
Sunday, August 15 High 12:49 AM Low 7:06 AM High 1:32 PM Low 7:36 PM	Wednesday, August 18 High 3:42 AM Low 10:11 AM High 4:40 PM Low 10:45 PM	

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Cove

Continued from page 22

Another wrinkle in the project is the need for landowners to grant temporary rights of way for sidewalk construction. If they are unhappy with the project, it will be hard to get them to sign the releases, the vice mayor said.

Commissioner Sylvia Poitier said she never favored the project and would prefer spending money to create a walkway between the Cove and Sullivan Park.

Interim City Manager Burgess Hanson warned that if the commission delays the project until after the season, they may have to go through the bidding process again.

A meeting between interested parties and the low-bidding contractor, West Construction, is set for Aug. 24. The construction schedule will be discussed then.

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JKV

Continued from page 22

Council Award is presented to a resident council that has contributed exemplary time and effort to the community through a high degree of dedicated services to its residents and a commitment to improving the quality

of life through volunteer programs.

The John Knox Village Senate has 13 committees with over 200 active committee members including 68 senators and alternates who represent the Village population.

Accepting the award was current Senate President John

Hooker, who said it was a great honor to receive the prestigious award on behalf of the all residents. "Without the dedication and hard work

by all of these folks we would not be deserving of this award," Hooker said. "We live in a 'Garden of Eden' that lets us enjoy our home

and we all also appreciate the hard work and dedication of our executive director and the many employees who care for our every need," he said.

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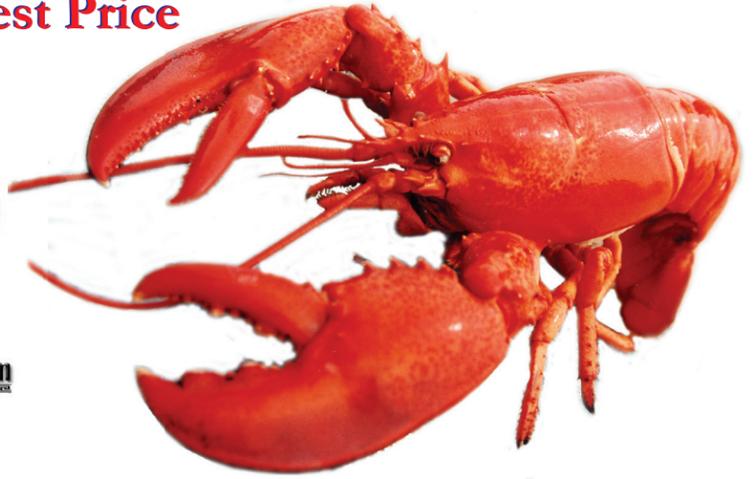
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