



Free 'Rockin' with Santa' Concert Friday, December 11 Event to Include Lighting of Christmas Tree & Menorah



Oakland Park will celebrate the Holiday Season with an expanded "Music on Main Street" event Friday, **December 11**, from 6 to 10 p.m. This free Holiday event gets underway with seasonal

selections performed by the Florida Singing Sons choir, followed by the arrival of Santa Claus who will assist the City Commission with lighting Oakland Park's Christmas tree and Menorah at the front steps of City Hall, 3650 NE 12 Avenue.

Holiday headliners will be one of South Florida's premier party bands – the Funkabilly Playboys – who will bring their colorful interpretations of rockabilly, blues, soul and funk favorites.

This family fun event will include opportunities to meet and take pictures with Santa Claus, play in the "snow drift" and bounce houses, and enjoy complementary goodies from "Mrs. Claus' Kitchen." Refreshments will also be available for sale from several popular food trucks.

To learn more about this free event and other activities in the Downtown Culinary Arts District, please call **954-630-4240**.

Toy Drive – Anyone attending "Rockin' with Santa" can bring an unwrapped toy for a child or teenager. Collection boxes are available at City Hall, the Ethel M. Gordon Oakland Park Library, and Oakland Park Fire Rescue stations through December 17. All toys collected will be donated to The Light of the World free medical clinic in Oakland Park.

Santa Express – Off-duty Oakland Park firefighters will make special toy deliveries from Santa Claus in a fire engine on Sunday, December 20. Participants will be notified in advance the time of the toy delivery. Proceeds from this activity will benefit provide Christmas trees, decorations, gifts and clothing to three (3) disadvantaged Oakland Park families. The deadline to arrange a toy delivery to your home is Friday, December 18.

Parents can make arrangements by calling **561-901-3026**.



Code Enforcement Expands Scope to Community Enhancement

As part of the Oakland Park's continued efforts to enhance the aesthetics of our community, the City Commission tasked staff to focus on beautification efforts by committing \$750,000 in the current budget for landscape enhancements of commercial properties along high-traffic corridors.

With these landscape enhancements, the improved medians and streetscapes of our roadway improvement projects, and the attractive entrance way features for neighborhoods, Oakland Park continues to "POP" in the eyes of residents and visitors.

The City's increased emphasis on Code Enforcement led to a re-branding as the **Community Enhancement Division** with a wider range of services and a new mission statement:

"The Community Enhancement Division will work cooperatively to build strong community relationships in order to ensure code standards and elevate the appearance of our city."

Brad J. Ostroff, the Community Enhancement Division's project manager outlined some of the features and services stakeholders can expect moving forward:

- Stronger staff presence at homeowner association and Oakland Park Business Group meetings.
- Concentrating clean-up efforts on major corridors and working closely with Volunteer Services to remove snipe signs and ensure graffiti is eradicated.

- Phase I – Landscaping Initiative to identify all businesses along major corridors not in compliance with their permitted landscape design.
- Phase II – Community Outreach, including a letter sent to impacted business owners announcing a community meeting to discuss getting properties into compliance.
- A Lien Summary Program to efficiently manage open liens and provide oversight for all settled liens is being proposed.
- Initiated "Operation Clean Sweep" -- a long-term initiative aimed at cleaning up difficult areas of the City; i.e. alleyways, dilapidated homes and industrial areas. See the "before" and "after" photos below as an example.



Mayor and City Commission

City Commission meetings held 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Live streaming at www.oaklandparkfl.gov
Comcast Channel 78
AT&T U-verse Channel 99

Agendas and backup online at www.oaklandparkfl.gov



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Advisory Board Members Needed

Applications are located on the City's website www.oaklandparkfl.gov. Interested residents can learn more about City Advisory Boards by calling the City Clerk's office at **954-630-4300**.

Registration Open for 2016 Local Government Academy



Have you ever wanted to know how the City operates to deliver a wide range of services? The 2016 Oakland Park Local Government Academy presents an excellent opportunity to learn how each department and the City Commission work together to fulfill the City's mission.

Oakland Park is currently accepting applications from anyone residing or working in Oakland Park for its Local Government Academy (LGA). The academy will meet 10 consecutive Tuesdays from 6 to 9

p.m. beginning January 19, 2016. Tuition is free.

"As a proud graduate of the LGA Class of 2010, the knowledge learned has proven to be a valuable asset for me, first as a resident, then as a Commissioner," said Mayor Tim Lonergan. *"It helped me to understand the responsibilities of each department and how each works to achieve their objectives and goals."*

Other graduates of the Local Government Academy include all current City Commissioners, as well as several past mayors and numerous members of City Advisory Boards.

"Our goal is to provide a 'hands on' orientation as to how the City of Oakland Park delivers each of its core services every hour of every day," added Director of Parks and Leisure Services Heidi Burnett. *"We also explain and quantify the City's capital improvement projects and redevelopment progress, as well as walk the class through our City's ordinances, policies and procedures."*

Past LGA activities include using the "jaws of life" to open up a damaged vehicle, visiting the BSO Communications Center and planting trees with Parks staff.

"LGA graduates have become more engaged through increased activism and community service," said Mayor Lonergan. *"Many have applied for and have been appointed to serve on City Advisory Boards or have joined the Oakland Park Volunteer Corps to assist with citywide cultural events and beautification efforts."*

Mayor Lonergan refers to his LGA Class of 2010 as an example.

"I'm happy to have developed friendships with several of the graduates of the LGA Class of 2010," he smiles. *"As a thank you to the City, our class signed up with the Oakland Park Adopt-A-Street program and for the past 5 years, we meet on regular basis to clean Park Lane East from Dixie Highway to NE 5th Avenue."*

To sign up, visit the City's website and download the City Advisory Board application. Submit your application to join a dedicated group of citizens interested in learning how their local government functions. To learn more, please call Heidi Burnett at **954-630-4510**.

Fire Rescue Promotions



Hall, and Chief of Fire Rescue Donald P. Widing.

Oakland Park Fire Rescue announced two recent promotions. Ed Hall was promoted to Captain and Monica Maldonado was promoted to Lieutenant. Chief of Fire Rescue Donald Widing conducted the badge pinning ceremony which is a longstanding tradition honoring recently promoted personnel, as well as new firefighters, with symbolic pinning of their new badge on their dress uniform. Photographed from left to right are: Logistics Coordinator Greg Lewis, Lieutenant Monica Maldonado, Captain Ed

Community Redevelopment Agency Update

Oakland Park's Downtown Culinary Arts District continues to set the table for the City's successful redevelopment efforts. Residents and visitors will have several more dining choices this holiday season, including:

- **The Funky Buddha Brewery** -- Craft Food Counter & Kitchen with a pub fare menu and a new private events suite has opened.
- **Alberte's** -- popular Caribbean restaurant from Palm Beach County is opening next to Funky Buddha in Oakland Station.
- **Another Castle** -- a bar/arcade where patrons can enjoy their favorite video games of the past with craft beers has opened across from Funky Buddha on NE 38th Street/Park Lane East.

The City's CRA will also continue its monthly "Music on Main Street" concert series with shows in front of City Hall scheduled for **December 11** (The Funkabilly Playboys), **January 22** (The Otis Cadillac Band) and **February 26** (Joel DaSilva & The Midnight Howl).



Parks and Leisure News & Notes

Active Adults -- Looking for a way to exercise your mind and body at the same time? "Ageless Grace" exercises are based in the science of Neuroplasticity -- the ability of the brain to change structurally and functionally. This program consists of 21 tools that address all aspects of healthy aging exercises for the brain, joint mobility, spinal flexibility, and balance. Performed with music, in a chair, and barefoot, participants stimulate core organs and the nervous system. Join the journey to utilize the five functions of your brain -- analytic, kinesthetic learning, memory/recall, creativity and imagination; while exercising your body. All fitness levels are welcome.

Every Tuesday at 9 a.m. with a cost: \$7 per class or \$35 for 6 classes. **Note:** If you are eligible for Silver Sneakers, cost of class will be covered by Silver Sneakers.

Winter Break Camp (Child Care) -- Keep your children active and engaged over the school holidays by registering them for the City of Oakland Park Winter Break Camps at North Andrews Gardens Community Center (grades K-2) and Spiher Recreation Center (grades 3-8). The staff will keep them busy with crafts, games, and outdoor recreation with optional day trips available for pizza, bowling and other attractions. Registration is open thru December 14, 2015 by calling **954-630-4495**.

Dates/Hours:

December 21 to December 31

7:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Fee:

Residents \$35 per child per week

Non-Residents \$52.50 per child per week

Free Tree Giveaway on February 20, 2016--

The City of Oakland Park will conduct its annual Tree Giveaway at the southwest corner of Wimberly Field (near the hockey rink) at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, February 20. Proof of residency or ownership of an Oakland Park business is required. Educational stations will help residents/businesses make the right choice in trees and learn how to care for them. Each residence or business will be allowed up to 3 free trees. The young trees, palms and shrubs come in 3-gallon containers for easy transport and planting. The tree selections will tentatively include: Live Oak, Slash Pine, Mango, Bulnesia, Firebush and Thatch Palm. Plan to arrive early for the best selection. Please call **954-630-4511** for more information.

Date: Saturday, February 20

Time: Begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends when the trees are all given away

Location: Wimberly Athletic Complex (near hockey rink), 4000 NE 3rd Avenue

Quality of Life Enhancements Energize Western Oakland Park



Oakland Park recently unveiled attractive entrance way features for the Lakeside - Lake Tahoe community. The ribbon cutting was well attended by members of the Lakeside Homeowners Association, neighborhood residents, as well as current and past members of the City Commission and Broward County Commission.

Just a few weeks later, the focus moved to another neighborhood in western Oakland Park when the City officially opened the NW 21st Avenue Pedestrian Bridge across the C-13 Canal. This bridge provides a safe and convenient connector for neighboring residents to enjoy the adjacent Veterans Park and the City's Northwest 39th Street Greenway. City officials recognized the partnerships with Broward County's Highway Construction and Engineering Division and the South Water Management District to bring the pedestrian bridge project to fruition.

Making a Difference in Oakland Park



Members of the Oakland Park Volunteer Corps celebrated "Make a Difference Day" last month. The group of good deed doers assisted by Parks staff landscaped an entire City block. The Volunteers Corps welcomed 8 new members for this project, including volunteers from the BSO/Oakland Park District, Oakland Park Fire Rescue, Broward College North, local Girl Scouts and Northeast High School students. Mayor Tim Loneragan also participated with everyone getting their hands dirty in order to make Oakland Park cleaner and more beautiful. The noticeable improvement further complements the City's beautification efforts.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who continue to help beautify the City. Please call the Community Volunteer Corps at **954-630-4502** to become involved.

Holiday Safety Reminders From BSO

Whether you are traveling out of town or hosting festivities at home, the BSO/Oakland Park District wants you to be safe. BSO provided security tips below to help protect your home and family.

Shopping:

- Be aware of your surroundings and park in a well-lit area.
- Never carry large amounts of cash. If using an ATM, do so in a safe location during daylight.
- Never place valuables or expensive purchases inside your trunk as criminals often stake out parking lots.
- When returning to your vehicle, stay alert and have your keys in hand.

Protecting Your Identity:

- Pay for purchases with a credit card instead of a debit card.
- Shop online only with companies you know and trust.
- Research any organization that calls seeking charitable donations prior to donating by visiting www.charitynavigator.org. Never provide personal information over the phone and never wire money.

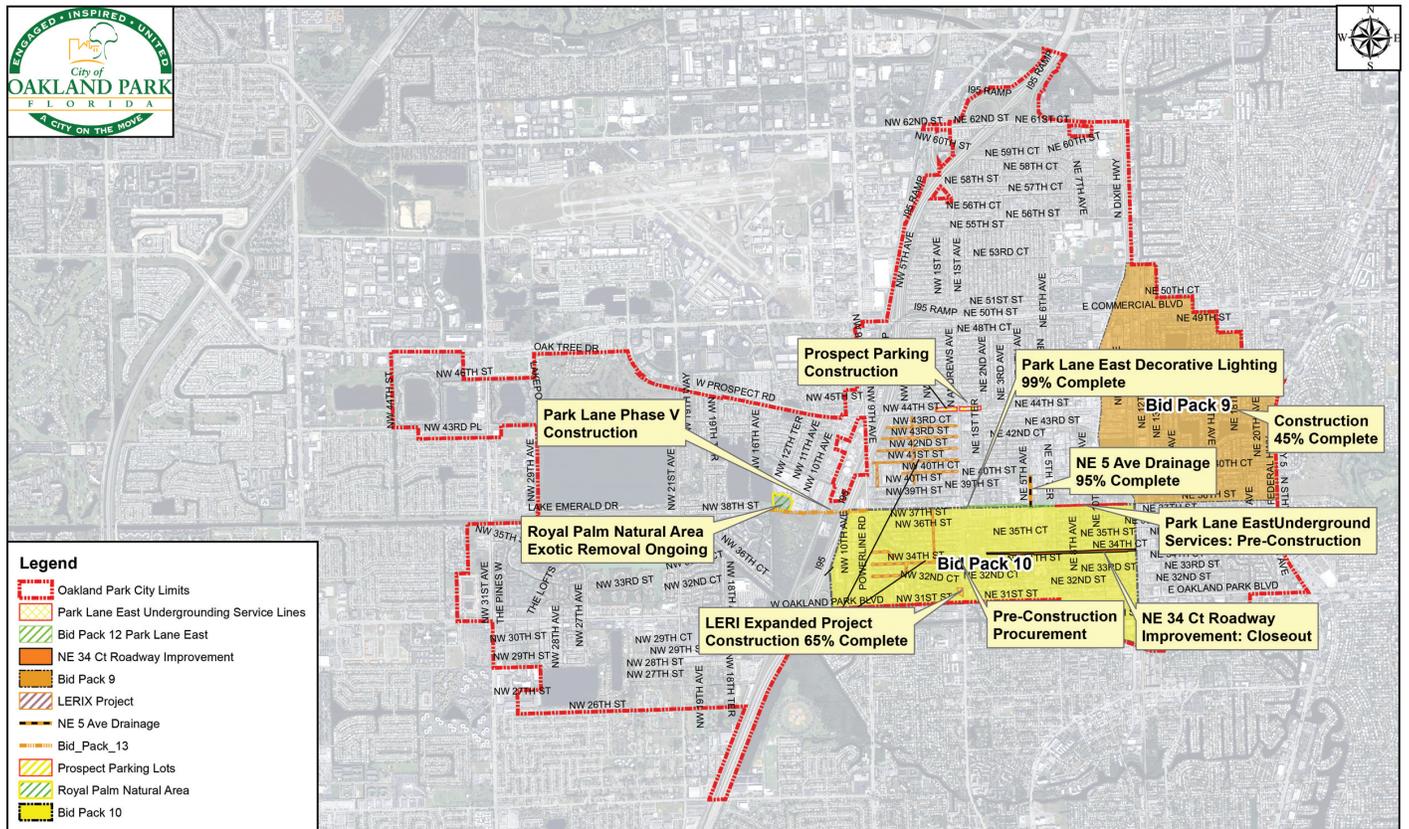
Securing Your Home:

- Store gifts or wrapped presents in area that cannot be seen from windows or doors.
- Destroy gift boxes or conceal them in garbage bags before placing them for trash collection.
- Secure your doors, windows, garage, storage sheds and gates.
- If going out of town, leave a parked car in your driveway or ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway.
- Have the post office hold your mail and stop your newspaper delivery.

Sign up for BSO's free Home Watch program. A deputy, community service aide or COP volunteer will check on your home regularly while you are on vacation. To sign up for this free service, visit www.sheriff.org/homewatch

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Projects Under Construction



Capital Improvement Projects December 2015

Projects Underway (Construction)	Location	Status	Estimated Completion
Park Lane East (FPL Decorative Light Work)	Park Lane from NE 11 Ave to Andrews Ave	Closeout	Punch List
Garden Acres Industrial Area Improvement	NE 45 St to NE 6 Terr & NE 7 Ave north of Prospect Rd	Closeout	Punch List
NE 34 Ct Roadway Improvement	NE 11 Ave to NE 2 Ave on NE 34 Ct	Closeout	Punch List
Park Lane East Underground Service Lines & Pole Relocation	Park Lane from NE 11 Ave to NE 6 Ave	Construction	Dec-15
Royal Palm Natural Area	Southeast corner of School Board Property west of NW 10 Ave and north of Park Lane	Exotic Removal	Dec-15
LERIX Drainage Improvements	Between Oakland Park Blvd and Prospect Rd and Powerline Rd and Andrews Ave	Construction	Feb-16
NE 12 Ave Entry Archway	Entrance to NE 12 Ave from westbound Oakland Park Blvd	Contract Execution	Apr-16
Bid Pack 9 Infrastructure Improvements	Between Dixie Hwy and Federal Hwy north of Park Lane to City Limits	Construction	Jul-16
Bid Pack 1 Phase 4 Inflow & Infiltration Lining	Citywide within service area as needed	Construction	Oct-16
Bid Pack 13 (Park Lane Phase V)	Park Lane West from Powerline Rd to Royal Park Drive	Construction	Oct-16
Prospect Rd/Andrews Ave Parking Lots	NE and NW side of intersection of Andrews Ave and Prospect Road	Construction	Oct-16
Bid Pack 10: Central Zone South of Park Lane	Between I-95 and Dixie Highway south of Park Lane to City Limits	Pre-Construction	Jan-17

Holiday Reminder: The City's Solid Waste Division will be closed on Christmas (Friday, December 25) so there will be no residential, commercial, recycling or bulk trash collections. Commercial dumpsters will be emptied December 24 to make up the missed day of service. Regular garbage, recycling and bulk services will resume on Monday, December 28. All Solid Waste services will be provided as regularly scheduled on January 1, 2016. Please call **954-630-4452** for more information.

