

A newsletter to
the residents of
Lighthouse Point



Lighthouse Points

2200 N.E. 38th Street • Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

The Official City Newsletter

www.lighthousepoint.com

October 2008



MAYOR
Fred Schorr

COMMISSIONERS
Susie E. Gordon
Thomas A. Hasis
Sandy Johnson
Chip LaMarca
Michael S. Long

CITY
ADMINISTRATOR
John D. Lavisky

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

WELCOME HOME!



Lighthouse Point plans always to be the warm, comfortable, safe community that welcomes you home each moment you return - whether from your daily routine, or a well deserved vacation. Our dedicated staff is committed to making our City the best place to live, work, and raise a family in South Florida.

But uninvited guests like hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike sometimes show up.

Luckily, all breezed by our community. Hopefully, as you read this, our 2008 Hurricane Season is drawing to a much anticipated close and the storms of Kyle, Laura, Marco, and Nana never decided to come calling on us. We all try to be prepared, but each storm brings new challenges and we must never let our guard down. Rest assured that all of us in your City administration are dedicated to keeping our community safe and secure - both before a storm to get the City ready, and after a storm to recover and put everything back to normal as quickly and safely as possible.

Lighthouse Point is not just another city - it's a Community

Mayor's Message cont. on page 2

LHP CERTIFIED AS A COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT™

Lighthouse Point is extremely proud to announce that it has been awarded certification as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Lighthouse Point is the 5th city in Florida and the 28th city in the United States to be awarded this prestigious honor. This award is important to Lighthouse Point as it continues to demonstrate the level of commitment our Community has to protect our surroundings.

LIGHTHOUSE POINT IMPROVES FLOOD INSURANCE RATING

The National Flood Insurance Program has upgraded the City's rating from ISO 8 to 7. An ISO 7 rating will allow our residents to obtain an additional 5% discount on their flood insurance premiums, for a total discount of 15%. The City provides outreach programs, education, and other related flood information programs in order to achieve the improved rating.

LIGHTHOUSE POINT AWARDED \$2,649,000 IN FORFEITURE FUNDS

The City of Lighthouse Point has received a check from the Department of Justice in the amount of \$2,649,000. The proceeds are the City's share resulting from a money laundering federal forfeiture case involving Federal and local law enforcement agencies. These funds are permitted only to be expended for law enforcement equipment, training, and crime prevention and according to LHP Police Chief Ross Licata will be used to protect the safety of our residents and police officers

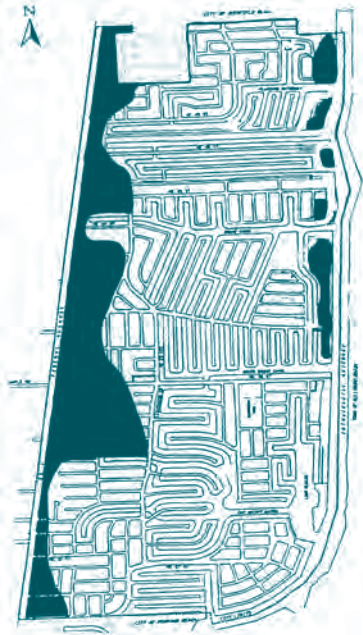
BROWARD COUNTY FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED

The Lighthouse Point City Commission recognized Lt. Pat Jones for being named Fire Fighter of the Year 2008 by the Broward County Council of Professional Fire Fighters. Lt. Jones has been selected for his dedication and professionalism to the association for many years. "We support and honor our fire fighters. They are true life savers in our Community," Mayor Schorr said. "Pat has been with Lighthouse Point for 35 years and has done an extraordinary job for our Community. We are very proud that he was a recipient of such an honor."

LIGHTHOUSE POINT FINANCIAL RATING RAISED TO AA+

Standard and Poor's, the world's oldest provider of independent credit ratings, recently announced an increase in the overall City financial rating to AA+. The only rating higher is AAA and only 34 cities in the United States have that rating. During these times of economic downturn and falling property values it is impressive that our City is recognized for its outstanding stewardship.





Lighthouse Point Flood Zones

Non-Shaded -
Flood Zone

Shaded -
Non-Flood Zone

Not to scale

Please read the flood protection information flyer for details.

where we really care and watch out for each other. We are a city that not only comes together in crisis but also in good times, and Fall brings the beginning of our fun season. Neighbors will be getting together this time of year for their annual Block Parties and, not to be missed, the City-wide events such as Halloween, Lighthouse A'Glow, and Keeper Days are just around the corner.

Finally, it should be comforting to know that challenges affecting other cities such as high foreclosure rates, reduced property values, and high tax rates are managed in Lighthouse Point with excellent fiscal stewardship. We are most proud of the fact that not only do we have the third lowest tax rate in Broward County, but Standard and Poor's, the world's foremost provider of independent credit ratings, just increased our overall City financial rating to AA+. All of these factors help to keep our property values from falling as drastically as experienced in other cities, and we do see home sales beginning to increase.

POLICE DEPARTMENT HELP STOP AUTO BREAK-INS

Theft from automobiles continues to be the number one crime we are experiencing here in Lighthouse Point. While more cars are broken into during the dark of night, daytime auto break-ins are prevalent as well. During the daylight hours the typical auto break-in occurs in the shopping center parking lots along US 1, while most nighttime auto break-ins occur in the residential areas - in the driveways and parking lots of homes and condominiums. Other common locations for auto break-ins are parking lots at City parks, and gym and fitness facilities. The common denominator in these types of crimes is that people are leaving valuables unattended in plain view inside their vehicles which exposes them to be susceptible and victimized. There are those individuals who prey on the innocence of law abiding citizens. They walk shopping center parking lots and through residential neighborhoods at night looking for unlocked vehicles with valuables inside that they can steal to make a quick buck. While auto break-ins are up, so are arrests in Lighthouse Point, but that doesn't make it any less painful when you happen to be one of those victims suffering a loss.

So.....what can Lighthouse Point residents do to prevent being victimized?

- Do not leave valuables left unattended inside your vehicle in plain view. If you must, lock up valuables in your trunk out of sight from criminals.
- Report suspicious activity and unusual persons and vehicles to the police. If you see someone walking through parking lots looking inside vehicles call the police immediately.
- When you go out shopping at night, park in a well lit area.
- The holiday season is right around the corner. When shopping for holiday gifts, do not leave them in an unattended vehicle in plain view.
- When taking your children to the park, or working out at the local gym, do not leave your wallet or purse unattended in your vehicle. These are popular locations where criminals target victims, knowing valuables are often times left in vehicles.

These common sense practices can prevent you from suffering a big loss!

RECYCLING NEWS: LET'S GO GREEN!

Recycling is important to all of us - it helps our environment and brings cash to the City. Thanks to each and every one of you who recycles your newspapers, plastic bottles and cans, etc., our City received \$90,693.95 from Broward County last year. If you need those green recycling containers, go to the Public Works Department on the north side of Dan Witt Park - they're free! For details on the City's Recycle Program visit our website, www.lighthousepoint.com, Public Works Department, Recycle Information, or call 954-946-7386.

LIBRARY NEWS

Today's climate of belt tightening makes the free resources of the Lighthouse Point Library even more enticing.

The ever growing collection of DVDs and Movies on Demand listed on our webpage www.lighthousepointlibrary.com deserves your attention. FREE Movies on Demand are from the "Hollywood Cinema Collection," or for the adventurous do-it-yourselfer, FREE assorted handyman, cooking, and exercise titles are available online 24/7. Recent popular releases are added monthly to the Library's in-house collection which is available for one week check out.

For your commuting pleasure, or a road trip with the family, the Library's selection of over 500 books on CD is a wonderful way to "read" a book.

Our Library offers free wi-fi within the building - your laptop will work here. Our staff will help you access government sites to apply for a variety of benefits, compose a resume, or do an ancestral search.

Adult Senior Education Programs are in full swing. Obtain a copy of the calendar both in the Library, or on our website, www.lighthousepointlibrary.com.

We always welcome new Volunteers! If you would like to volunteer, please call Rosemary at 954-946-6398, and let her know if mornings, afternoons, or evenings fit best into your schedule. It's fun and you get first crack at new books and DVDs!



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Halloween - Friday, October 31st, 6:30 p.m., at Dan Witt Park

A City Tradition held each of the last 46 years. The costumes and creativity makes this an event not to be missed!

Health Fair - Saturday, November 1st, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at the LHP Fire Station. Free health screenings, tests, and wellness information. Just 15 minutes here could possibly save your life!

Lighthouse A' Glow - Wednesday, December 3rd, 6:30 p.m., at Frank McDonough Park. The premier holiday event not to be missed - snow, Santa, holiday refreshments, caroling, and lots of children's activities.

Toy Drive - Thanksgiving through December 20th, bring new unwrapped toys to the Lighthouse Point Fire Station. Toys will be donated to needy families.

SAVE THE DATES - 2009

Nautical Flea Market - January 24th - 25th, at Pompano Community Park. The best place to shop for all your nautical needs! www.nauticalfleamarket.com.

Keeper Days - February 6th - 8th

Fabulous dinner on Friday night, parade and activities on Saturday, and sports events on Sunday!

Dog Day in the Park - Sunday, March 1st, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Dan Witt Park

Dinner Under the Stars - Saturday, April 4th, 5:00 p.m., Frank McDonough Park. A fun evening with dining, **live music, and dancing!**

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

Halloween night, Friday, October 31, 2008 at Dan Witt Park, the party begins at 6:30 p.m. Open to Lighthouse Point residents of all ages. Free games and costume contest. Come to the park and enjoy a fun and safe Halloween night!



LIGHTHOUSE A' GLOW

Lighthouse Point will celebrate the 5th Annual Lighthouse A'Glow - A Family Gathering - Mark your calendars for Wednesday evening, December 3rd from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Frank McDonough Park.

Kick off your Holiday Season with this most special family holiday event.



3RD ANNUAL LHP HEALTH FAIR

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon
Place: Lighthouse Point Fire Station
Testing: Diabetes, blood pressure, 12 lead EKG, and other health screenings

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

We know it may be early to think about the approaching holidays, but remember to recycle your tree, as well as all your paper and plastic - for details visit our website, www.lighthousepoint.com, or call 954-946-7386.

KEEP THIS WEEKEND OPEN: FEBRUARY 6-8, 2009

"KEEPER DAYS"

The 9th Annual "Keeper Days" weekend is right around the corner.

"LIGHTHOUSE POINT - OUR HIDDEN TREASURES"

If you have any questions, or would like to be a sponsor, please contact Recreation Director John Trudel at 954-784-3439, or jtrudel@lighthousepoint.com.





City of Lighthouse Point
2200 Northeast 38th Street
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

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IMPORTANT NEWS

Always check www.lighthousepoint.com for the latest important news and schedule changes. It's the address to the City's website, and is the information source for City news and events, senior activities, youth sports, forms, hurricane and flood information, and much more! Please take time to view our website: www.lighthousepoint.com.

CITY YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS

Sign up now for LHP youth sports leagues. For more youth sports information, go to the City website at www.lighthousepoint.com, and click on the Recreation button, or call the Recreation Department at 954-784-3439.

PEE WEE FLAG FOOTBALL:

Registration Saturday, October 18th at Frank McDonough Park, 9:00 a.m.
Ages 7-9

YOUTH SOCCER: Registration
Wednesday, October 22nd at Dan Witt Park, 7:00 p.m. Ages 10-13



GIRLS SOCCER:

Registration
Friday, December 12th
at Dan Witt Park,
7:00 p.m. Ages 11-15

YOUTH BASKETBALL:

Registration
Monday, January 5th
at Dan Witt Park,
7:00 p.m. Ages 10-13

INSTRUCTIONAL JR. BASKETBALL LEAGUE:

Registration
Saturday, January 10th
at Dan Witt Park,
9:00 a.m. Ages 7-9



City of Lighthouse Point, Florida Flood Protection Information

The following information is required to be provided to our residents so Lighthouse Point can achieve a higher flood insurance rating, thereby saving all residents of Lighthouse Point money by allowing for lower premiums for flood insurance.

Local Flood Hazard: The City has two potential sources of flooding: the Intracoastal Waterway as affected by the Atlantic Ocean and rainwater. Floodwaters can cover many blocks up to two to three feet deep, with the potential of devastating floods as a result of hurricane storm surge. In 2004 and 2005 during Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, Katrina, and Wilma, many areas in the City were flooded. Most of Lighthouse Point is in the Special AE Flood Zone (floodplain) which means that flooding in all these areas can come with little warning especially during heavy rainstorms. Floods are dangerous and even though they appear to move slowly, a flood two feet deep can knock a person off their feet and float a car.

Your property may be high enough so that it was not directly affected by flooding. However, there is always a potential for flooding in Lighthouse Point, and the next storm may even be worse. If you are in the floodplain, the odds are that once in a generation your property will receive flood damage. This flyer gives you some ideas of what you can do to protect yourself.

Visit the Building Department at 3701 NE 22nd Avenue to see if you are in a mapped floodplain. The information is also available on the City website at www.lighthousepoint.com. If so, they can give you more information such as past flood problems in the area and copies of elevation certificates for new or substantially improved buildings built in the floodplain since 2000. Even if you are not in a floodplain, there still may be some risk of flooding. If requested, the Public Works Department will visit your property to review flood problems and identify ways to stop flooding or prevent flood damage. You can contact Public Works at 954-946-7386. The Lighthouse Point Library at 2200 NE 38th Street also has flood protection reference materials.

Flood Safety: Because Lighthouse Point is near a coastal area, the need may arise to evacuate when an evacuation order or advisory is issued. When this happens, the Broward County Emergency Operations Center will issue the evacuation order. Plan in advance. If you live in an evacuation zone and an evacuation is ordered, you are required by law to evacuate. Your first and best option is to stay with family or friends who are located outside of the flood zone. If you go to a hotel, choose one located in a non-evacuation zone. A public shelter is a refuge of last resort. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort, and only one shelter in Broward County accepts pets. If evacuating out of the area, leave early – plan to leave as early as 48 hours in advance, and no later than the issuance of a Hurricane Watch. Keep in mind that a hurricane's path is uncertain and you could inadvertently evacuate to an area where the storm may eventually strike.

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Florida Power & Light (FPL) at 954-797-5000 or the City at 954-942-8080.

Turn off your electricity. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Flood Insurance: Every year, flooding causes hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage to homes and businesses around the country. Standard homeowners and commercial property policies do not cover flood losses. So to meet the need for this vital coverage, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP offers reasonably priced flood insurance in communities that comply with minimum standards for floodplain management. It's federally backed and easy to get through your own insurance agent. To learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program, call your local insurance agent. There is normally a 30-day waiting period before a new policy is issued. If you are covered, double-check to ensure the building coverage is adequate and ensure you have contents coverage. Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that could occur in Lighthouse Point, there is potential for more damage to furniture and contents than there is to the structure.

Most homes in Lighthouse Point are located within the flood hazard zone. We want to encourage everyone to secure adequate flood insurance protection. All flood insurance policies for properties located within the flood hazard zone receive a 15% premium reduction. This discount is due to the City's participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS program recognizes cities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, that educate their residents about local flood hazards and regulations, that establish flood preparedness and warning programs, and that regulate development in flood-prone areas.

To find out more, contact the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS), P.O. Box 501016, Indianapolis, IN 46250-1016, Phone: 317-848-3578, E-mail: NFIPCRS@ISO.COM

Property Protection: There are a number of ways in which property owners can protect against flood damage. Electrical panel boxes, air conditioners, water heaters, and washers and dryers can be elevated or relocated to a location less likely to flood. If flooding is likely, and there is sufficient time, relocating essential items and furniture to upper floors or higher locations will minimize losses. Sandbags can be placed to help keep flood waters from reaching your possessions. Another way is to keep the water away is by regrading your lot or building a small floodwall or earthen berm. These methods work if your lot is large enough, if flooding is not too deep, and if your property is not in the floodway. The Building Department can provide this information. Another approach is to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways. Keeping stormdrains free of debris will reduce flooding. Installing hurricane shutters and reinforced garage doors will also help to protect your home against high winds.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirements - Important Note: Always check with the Building Department before you build on, alter, regrade, or fill on your property. A permit will be needed to ensure that projects do not cause problems on other properties. If you see building or filling occurring without a City permit sign posted, contact the Building Department at 954-943-6509.

Natural and Beneficial Functions of Local Floodplains: Not only do CRS activities save you money, they protect the environment, and improve the quality of life in our community – even when there's no flood. For example, when open space is preserved in the floodplain, you get to enjoy the natural beauty of the land. Frank McDonough Park is designated as a local floodplain open area.

Flood Warning System: The City of Lighthouse Point and Broward County have warning systems. After Broward County issues a warning, the latest advisories will be given on WIOD Radio 610 AM, Broward County's Official Emergency Radio Station, and on local television stations Channels 4, 6, 7, and 10, and NOAA weather radio. Tune in to these medias for instructions during potential flooding conditions. Evacuation information will also be made available. Additionally, local evacuations will be augmented by emergency vehicles notifying affected areas via loud speaker and going door-to-door as needed.

Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements: The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must be brought up to the same standards. For example, a residence damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged must be elevated above the base flood elevation.

Drainage System Maintenance: The City has a system of canals and storm drains for storm water management purposes. They are a critical part of our water management practices and are maintained on a regular basis by our Public Works Department. These drains are of vital importance since the water flowing through them not only drains our City, but also the area to the west of us. State and City law prohibits dumping or unauthorized obstruction or alteration of the drainage canals and swale areas. Residents should be alert to protecting this important City resource. Violations should be reported to Public Works at 954-946-7386, Code Enforcement at 954-784-3409, or Broward County Department of Environmental Protection and Growth Management Emergency Response Hotline at 954-519-1499. The City maintains the property and keeps the storm drains free from debris in order to allow for proper drainage during rainstorms. Do not dump chemicals, debris, and other items in the waterways, as these items can adversely affect water quality. See the map of Flood and Non-Flood Hazard Zones in the newsletter.