

A newsletter to  
the residents of  
Lighthouse Point



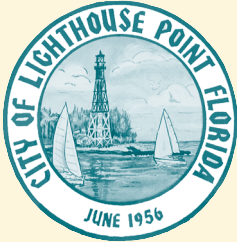
# Lighthouse Points

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

The Official City Newsletter

www.lighthousepoint.com

October 2009



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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Summer is over, hopefully taking with it hurricanes, humidity, and hot weather, and now it's time for the social season of Lighthouse Point. A great time to venture out from the air conditioning and enjoy our beautiful City. Events not to be missed, and which you'll read more about in this newsletter, start with our special Halloween event for kids on the Thursday before Halloween - October 29th, followed by our annual Lighthouse A'Glow kicking off the

holiday season on December 2nd. Mark your calendars for a brand new event on January 23, LHP's first ever Environmental Fair followed by Keeper Days February 5th - 7th, Dog Day in the Park on February 28th, and the always sold-out entertaining Dinner under the Stars which will be held on Saturday, April 10th.

### Important Items of Interest:

**CENSUS 2010:** Most of us never give the decennial census a moment's thought except when that official envelope arrives and we wonder do we really have to fill it out? Over the next few months leading up to the March 15th mailing you'll be hearing a lot from us imploring you to please fill out the form. It's not that we want to see the information - actually everything you report is strictly confidential and nobody has any access to it for 72 years. What is important is that our City's funding is highly impacted by how many people "officially" are counted here. In 2000, only 68% of our residents ever returned the form costing all of us literally millions of dollars in missed funds. It is estimated that each person counted brings approximately \$150 of your tax dollars back to our City each year. The fewer people we have counted the less money the County, State, and Federal governments give us. PLEASE remember to fill out the census form on March 15th. It has nothing to do with legal residency, homestead, or immigration; if you're here on March 15th, please be counted here. It could help reduce your taxes!

**RECYCLING:** Lighthouse Point outshines all other cities in Broward County by having the highest recycling rate per capita. Now, we are making it even easier to recycle by not requiring you to separate materials into different bins. Starting this month, all recycling items can be placed in the same container. No longer will you have to separate paper from plastic bottles, metal, and glass - just mix all your recyclables together. It will be easier to recycle with the new no-sort system called "single stream recycling." Additionally, new, larger recycle bins are available free of charge from our Public Works Department.

**FORECLOSURES:** Your City works hard to make sure our entire town looks good, not only to maintain high property values but also

to create that warm and inviting feeling every time you enter or drive through. New City signs have been installed, landscaped areas are maintained and updated, and roads have been repaved. We constantly pressure banks and lending institutions to maintain their foreclosed properties. You'll be happy to know that foreclosed properties are down substantially and it appears we in LHP have weathered the downturn much better than all other cities. As I write this there are only four (4) foreclosed properties still on the market. It highlights the fact that not only is our City financially strong but our property values appear to be stabilizing. This proves we live in a highly desirable community.

I'm proud to be your Mayor and hope to see you at all our great upcoming events!

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## Lighthouse Point Flood Zones

*Non-Shaded*

Flood Zone

*Shaded*

Non-Flood Zone

*Not to scale*

Please read the flood protection information flyer for details.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Your Library is busier than ever! When we boast "We Look for Ways to Say Yes," we mean it. Our goal is to fill your requests for informational or recreational resources. We can provide answers in print, on cassettes, CDs, DVD's, or online. The Library's catalog and resources are available 24/7 from our webpage - you may search, request, or renew from the comfort of your home. Links to research databases, or browse the card catalog, or watch a free movie are a click away at [www.lighthousepointlibrary.com](http://www.lighthousepointlibrary.com).

Calendars with educational programs for youth and seniors are available in the Library, or on our website [www.lighthousepointlibrary.com](http://www.lighthousepointlibrary.com). The Teen Advisory Board has accepted the challenge to provide regular updates on their Facebook page for teen events and activities, including their project to provide school supplies to elementary students, and to monitor the limited elementary tutoring program. The new president of the Teen Board is Christopher Hulsebosch. We welcome teens to join the Teen Board and tutoring program.

Thank you to the Lighthouse Point Chamber of Commerce for their donation of \$7,500 to provide new public access computers. The Library also has a wireless network connection for your laptop.

**The fall book sale dates are November 12th -14th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Dixon Ahl Hall**

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.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT Shopping Safety Tips

The Holiday season is right around the corner and people will soon be making their way to the shopping centers looking for that special gift for a loved one or someone special. Unfortunately, this is the time of year when criminals are also out on the prowl looking for an opportunity to take advantage of an unsuspecting victim. There are some things that you can do to ensure an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

1. When you head out to do your shopping, avoid carrying large sums of cash. Criminals target people who are observed at checkout lines. Using credit cards is safer and they can be replaced without an loss to you if lost or stolen. Remember, it's essential to contact your credit card companies immediately should they be lost or stolen so the cards can be cancelled and flagged!
2. Don't let your purse out of sight for one second. A common theft technique is to steal a woman's wallet out of her purse while she is distracted doing something else.
3. When shopping at night, park your vehicle in a well lighted area as close to the entrance to the store as possible. Shop in groups or pairs to limit the chance of you being singled out by a would-be criminal. If alone, walk to and from your vehicle in the parking lot with other shoppers. Criminals look for a potential victim who is alone and in an isolated place to avoid witnesses.
4. Be alert. Before leaving the store and heading to your vehicle in the parking lot, make sure you have your car keys in hand ready to unlock your car. Women are often targeted in a parking lot while fumbling around looking in their purse for their car keys in the dark.
5. When shopping from one store to another, avoid leaving packages in your vehicle in plain view. Secure your packages in the trunk of your car out of sight. Criminals work the parking lots looking for an easy target.
6. If you are approached by an armed offender, give them what they want. Your safety and well-being is much more important than any material items that could be replaced.

If you follow these suggestions, you will minimize the chances of being a victim of a crime. Be safe, and happy shopping!

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

**SMOKE DETECTORS:** There should be at least one detector on each floor Installed between the bedrooms and the rest of the living area. If you sleep with the bedroom doors closed, additional smoke detectors should be installed in each bedroom. Test each detector monthly. Change the batteries when you change your clock to and from Daylight Savings Time.

**ANNUAL TOY DRIVE:** It's that time again. The Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue is collecting NEW UNWRAPPED toys for children. We need toys for all ages - birth to teens. They will be distributed to needy children living in the local area a few days before Christmas. It's easy to participate - just drop the toys off at the Fire Station (3740 N.E. 22 Avenue) by December 20th and we'll do the rest. The children receiving these gifts and the Fire Rescue Department thank you for always making this toy drive a big success.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Halloween - Thursday, October 29th**, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Dan Witt Park. Open to all Lighthouse Point children ages 12 and under. The costumes and creativity makes this an event not to be missed!

**Health Fair - Saturday, November 7th**, 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 2nd**, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Frank McDonough Park. The premier holiday event not to be missed. Santa, snow, 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 - 2010

**Nautical Flea Market - January 30th - 31st**, at Pompano Community Park. The best place to shop for all your nautical needs! [www.nauticalfleamarket.com](http://www.nauticalfleamarket.com).

**Environmental Fair- January 23rd**, at Frank McDonough Park.

**Keeper Days - February 5th - 7th**

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

**Dog Day in the Park - Sunday, February 28th**, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Dan Witt Park

**Dinner Under the Stars - Saturday, April 10th**, 5:00 p.m., Frank McDonough Park. A fun evening with dining, live music, and dancing!

## ALL NEW HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

Open to all Lighthouse Point boys and girls, ages 12 and under. Thursday, October 29th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Dan Witt Park. Costume contests for all age groups! Bounce houses, face painters, rides, and entertainment! Pumpkin patch photo area! Free refreshments and candy for every child in costume! Parents, bring the children for a new fun night of activities.



## 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LHP HEALTH FAIR

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2009  
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 your non-foil wrapping paper, and your paper and plastic - for details visit our website, [www.lighthousepoint.com](http://www.lighthousepoint.com), or call 954-946-7386

## KEEP THIS WEEKEND OPEN:

### FEBRUARY 5-7, 2010

### "KEEPER DAYS"

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual "Keeper Days" weekend is right around the corner.

## "LIGHTHOUSE POINT - OUR CAMELOT"

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](mailto:jtrudel@lighthousepoint.com).



## LIGHTHOUSE A' GLOW

Lighthouse Point will celebrate the 7th Annual Lighthouse A'Glow - A Family Gathering. Mark your calendars for Wednesday evening, December 2nd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Frank McDonough Park. Kick off your Holiday Season with this most special family event.

## LHP'S FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR!

Save the Date! Saturday, January 23, 2010 - the LHP Environmental Committee is hosting an exciting Environmental Fair and Plant Sale, and fun-filled family day of activities, at Frank McDonough Park from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be booths with information on solar energy, saving water, recycling, building rain barrels, backyard wildlife habitats, and much more. There will also be vendors with environmentally friendly products as well as vendors with unique plants you won't find at local garden centers. There will be a kids art contest called "Trash to Treasure" in which kids use recycled objects to create art, some fun games, and hands on demo booths.

The fair is being hosted by the LHP Environmental team. This group combines the Beautification Committee, the Community Wildlife Habitat Team, the LHP Mobile extension office, and the LHP Sprouts. Our goal is to beautify the City, maintain our Community Wildlife Habitat Certification, educate residents on sustainable gardening techniques, and answer questions about residential landscapes. The LHP Sprouts is a venue for kids ages 5 to 12 to teach them about our environment. The Sprouts have fun environmental activities and also help in the work around the City.

We are looking for vendors and information booths. If you are interested in having a booth - please contact Taryn Palo at [gardenhelp@bellsouth.net](mailto:gardenhelp@bellsouth.net), or 561-789-4318. We need irrigation specialists, environmentally friendly products, native plant vendors, recycled products, specialty plant vendors, composting information and supplies, and more.

Bring the family and join us for a day of fun and learning.





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

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## IMPORTANT NEWS

Always check [www.lighthousepoint.com](http://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](http://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](http://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 17th at Frank McDonough Park, 9:00 a.m.  
Ages 7-9

**YOUTH SOCCER:** Registration  
Wednesday, October 21st at Dan Witt Park, 7:00 p.m. Ages 10-13



### GIRLS SOCCER:

Registration  
Tuesday, December 1st  
at Dan Witt Park,  
7:00 p.m. Ages 11-15

### YOUTH BASKETBALL:

Registration  
Monday, January 4th  
at Dan Witt Park,  
7:00 p.m. Ages 10-13

### INSTRUCTIONAL JR. BASKETBALL LEAGUE:

Registration  
Saturday, January 9th  
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 maintain a Class 7 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to see if you are in a mapped floodplain. The information is also available on the City website at [www.lighthousepoint.com](http://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 38<sup>th</sup> 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 the area at the issuance of a Hurricane Watch, or no later than 48 hours in advance of the storm. 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: 317-848-2898, 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.**