

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 2010



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



As summer turns to autumn, and we settle in for yet another joyous holiday season, I hope we all can appreciate what a wonderful place Lighthouse Point is to live, work, and raise a family.

Personally, I am thankful for the extraordinary accomplishments together we have made in the last few years. Despite hard economic times, your City achieved a AA+ financial rating and has the second lowest tax rate in Broward County. Additionally, we have made some major improvements in our City:

- Completed numerous stormwater improvement projects that prevent flooding during our frequent rain events
- Improved street paving and landscaping
- Completed a new Police facility
- Renovated Dixon Ahl Hall Senior Center and City Hall
- Expanded the City Library
- Acquired DeGroff Park and created a gorgeous new green space
- Constructed a new City bridge, with another one soon to follow
- Added solar street lighting and sidewalks in several areas of the City

Our community events and recreational programs continue to grow and to be more exciting each year, all of which contribute to making our City the best in South Florida.

Most importantly, all of this would not have been possible without you, our loyal and giving residents. Many of you participate in and attend City events, serve on City boards and committees, volunteer in the Police Department and Library, teach senior citizen classes, and contribute in so many other ways. We also want to give credit to the finest, dedicated, and most efficient staff of City employees anywhere. To reach the level of achievement we have in Lighthouse Point is a tribute to the enthusiasm, commitment, selflessness, and contributions you, our residents and our employees, have all made to our City.

I love being your Mayor and I hope to continue serving as your Mayor for many years to come. There is still much work to be done and the challenges, now more than ever, are enormous. If the past is any indication of the future, with your help and continued

dedication, I know the best is yet to come. We must never be content with what we have achieved, because the future of our City rests with commitment of all of us today.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your kind words and support. There has always been that enduring spirit and willingness of all the residents of this wonderful City to pitch in and help. It is that spirit that has made our City what it is today. I am confident that together we will always improve our wonderful City of Lighthouse Point. I look forward to continuing to serve you and to seeing you at all our outstanding City events which you'll read more about in this issue of our newsletter!

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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

Volunteers offer free educational classes and activities for children and senior citizens. Program calendars are available in the Library, on our website, and on the Lighthouse Point Tender Community Bus.

Teen Advisory Board members tutor elementary school students and participate in activities to promote literacy.

The Fall Book Sale dates are November 18th - 20th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Dixon Ahl Hall.

The Homemade Pantry Bake Sale will again be offered at the Lighthouse A'Glow event, Wednesday, December 8th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Frank McDonough Park.

If you would like to volunteer your time to the Library, or need more information on Library services or programs, please call Rosemary at 954-946-6398.

SOLICITATION LAWS IN LIGHTHOUSE POINT

Lighthouse Point has strict solicitation laws. Anyone who knocks on doors to sell goods, wares, or merchandise must contact the City Clerk's Office as well as the Police Department for permission prior to soliciting. Solicitation is only allowed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Monday-Saturday, and soliciting is not permitted at all on Sundays and holidays.

You may request to be placed on a No-Solicitor's List if you do not want anyone knocking on your door. The Notice of No Solicitations forms are available online on the City website at www.lighthousepoint.com, click on City Information, then Solicitation News, or you can get a form in the City Clerk's Office. If you have any questions as to the status of any solicitor, call the Police Department at 954-942-8080, or the City Clerk's Office at 954-943-6500.

Please note: Religious or political groups that are not selling goods or merchandise, or asking for money, do not have to abide by the No Solicitors Laws nor the hours of solicitation, nor do they have to register with the City.

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

It's that time again. The Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue Department 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Shopping Safety Tips

Due to the downturn in the economy, a community like ours becomes particularly attractive to those who would perpetrate frauds and scams. In the past, we have discussed a myriad of scams and cons that are typical during the late fall and winter seasons. The typical frauds include home repair, bait and switch, and companion scams.

Here are a few new scams:

Vehicle repair scams - A person will stop a potential victim (typically a senior citizen) in a parking lot or driveway and offer to do repair work on their vehicle. In recent cases it involved improving the finish on their vehicle. Generally, the scam involves the application of wax or soap, followed by a demand for an exorbitant amount of money. The "repair" is simply a ruse to get money from an unsuspecting motorist.

Never allow random persons who approach you on the street in this manner to perform repairs or work on your vehicle. If you are approached by a passerby who suggests there is something wrong with your vehicle, it is best to take your car to a certified auto repair shop to verify if repairs are needed.

Fortune telling scam - A person may attempt to approach you at the mall or the shopping center, engage you in a friendly conversation, then ask you about your personal life. They then proceed to tell you that you have a "dark aura" that can be cleansed, for a price. Many unsuspecting people have fallen prey to this scam including a local citizen who lost tens of thousands of dollars.

People who engage in this type of behavior typically meet their victims in a public place. They utilize a technique called cold reading, a form of psychology, to learn about their victim. They look for unsuspecting victims who are driving high priced vehicles, and are well dressed or wearing large amounts of jewelry, all indicators that the potential target has money. A missing wedding ring tan line can indicate recent marital problems, etc. These scammers become adept at sizing up a potential victim quickly. Their offers to remove evil or dark energy are merely meant to separate you from your money.

Phone call scam - This scam can take many forms. One of the newer scams involves a caller claiming to be a police officer investigating a crime. The caller states that he is investigating credit card thefts and asks you for your credit card number to determine if you are a victim. Once the information is obtained, your personal identity is compromised and your credit card(s) are used to buy goods and services.

NEVER give your credit card numbers to anyone over the phone. If an officer calls you about a crime involving your credit card information, insist that the officer meet you at the police station to conduct the investigation. Do not give out personal identifying information until you have confirmed the identity of the caller. Call your local police department to verify the investigator's name and office number.

In conclusion, there are more people than ever looking to take money from unsuspecting victims. Their methods are constantly changing and are often undetectable by law enforcement until a loss occurs. Being educated and vigilant to these types of scams may save you or a family member from making a costly mistake.

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.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Halloween - Thursday, October 28th, 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 make this an event not to be missed!

Health Fair - Saturday, November 6th, 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 8th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Frank McDonough Park. The premier holiday event not to be missed. 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 - 2011

Nautical Flea Market - January 29th - 30th, at Pompano Community Park - The best place to shop for all your nautical needs! www.nauticalfleamarket.com.

Keeper Days - February 11th - 13th, Fabulous dinner on Friday night, parade and activities on Saturday, and sports events on Sunday!

Dog Day in the Park - Sunday, March 13th, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at Dan Witt Park.

Dinner Under the Stars - Saturday, April 2nd, 5:00 p.m., at Frank McDonough Park - A fun evening with dining, live music by the Low Tides, and dancing!

HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

Open to all Lighthouse Point boys and girls, ages 12 and under. Thursday, October 28th, 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 - Bring your camera!

Free refreshments and candy for every child in costume! Parents, bring the children for a fun night of activities.

LIGHTHOUSE A' GLOW

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



5th ANNUAL FREE LHP HEALTH FAIR

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon
Place: Lighthouse Point Fire Station
Testing: Diabetes, blood pressure, 12 lead EKG, and other health screenings

LHP'S ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR AND PLANT SALE

Join us for a day of fun and education on Saturday, March 5, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Frank McDonough Park. We are looking for vendors with environmentally friendly products, and unique and interesting plants, as well as native plants and organic vegetables. There will be booths on solar energy, irrigation, water management, rain barrels, and recycling. For the children, there will be "hands on" activities and a "Trash to Treasure" art contest. There will also be a recycle collection point to drop off electronic components. The fair is being hosted by the Lighthouse Point Environmental Committee. Call Taryn Palo at 561-789-4318, or email gardenhelp@bellsouth.net, for more information. Hope to see you there! Bring the family and join us for a day of fun and learning.

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

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

KEEP THIS WEEKEND OPEN: FEBRUARY 11-13, 2011

"KEEPER DAYS"

The 11th Annual "Keeper Days" weekend is right around the corner.

"PARADISE IN THE POINT"

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.

FREE RECYCLE BINS

Visit the Public Works Department at 4730 N.E. 21 Terrace to pick up your FREE recycle bins. For additional information on recycling, visit the City's website www.lighthousepoint.com, or call Public Works at 954-946-7386.

Thank you for keeping
Lighthouse Point GREEN!





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

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OFFICIAL CITY WEBSITE

Always check www.lighthousepoint.com for the latest important news, events, 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 16th at Frank McDonough Park, 9:00 a.m.
Ages 7-9

YOUTH SOCCER: Registration
Wednesday, October 20th at Dan Witt Park, 7:00 p.m. Ages 10-13



GIRLS SOCCER:

Registration
Tuesday, November 30th
at Dan Witt Park,
7:00 p.m. Ages 11-15

YOUTH BASKETBALL:

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

INSTRUCTIONAL JR. BASKETBALL LEAGUE:

Registration
Saturday, January 8th
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 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 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 measure the depth of the water.

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, Fax: 201-748-1936, 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 local radio stations, and on local television stations Channels 4, 6, 7, and 10, and NOAA weather radio. Tune in to these stations 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.