



City Visions

December 2009/January 2010

City Commits 2B Fit

The City of Boynton Beach has become a Commit 2B Fit community. In his Proclamation, presented at a recent City Commission meeting, Mayor Jerry Taylor said, "The intention of the Commit 2B Fit Community Program is to affect positive change in children and families, promote increased physical activity and better nutrition in the community, and to create habits that can lead to a healthier life for all involved."

Commit 2B Fit is a non-profit organization working to combat childhood obesity and to promote overall wellness. The program is dedicated to affecting positive change in children and families by increasing physical activity levels and better nutrition. By becoming a Commit 2B Fit community, Boynton Beach will take part in an effort to promote physical activity and making healthy food choices; providing incentives for accomplishments; and sending this message to families through educational outreach and collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, schools and recreational programs.

Plans call for the City's Recreation & Parks Dept. to participate in the Commit 2B Fit after-school program, which involves maintaining a nine-week journal that helps children set goals and track nutrition and physical activity. Additionally, the City will become a community model and integrate a Commit 2B Fit component into its existing Employee Wellness Program by educating and motivating City employees to develop habits that will lead to a healthier lifestyle.

The Commit 2B Fit Program is part of a community service project in which City Comm. Jose Rodriguez (Dist. III) is participating through the 2009 Leadership Palm Beach County Program.

Art In Public Places Announces Fall/Winter Event Schedule

All events are free and open to the public.

Avenue of the Arts – Year-long exhibit featuring environmental artwork. City Hall south on Seacrest Blvd., east on E. Ocean Ave. to the Boynton Harbor Marina entrance by the Intracoastal Waterway. (Free brochures available in City facilities.)

Thursday, Dec. 10, 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Front of City Hall, 100 E. Boynton Beach Blvd. Public Art Unveiling and reception: *When Are You Coming To Visit* by Melissa Markowitz. A temporary artwork installation that evokes thoughts about our elderly.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Sara Sims Park, west of Seacrest Blvd., one block south

of MLK and Seacrest Blvds. Dedication of the *Graffiti Wall Mural* by Peter Agardy, Doug Hoekzema and John Griffin. A 25'x100' graffiti wall mural that depicts the history of music from the blues to R&B and today's scratching.

Monday, Dec. 21, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

City Library Program Room, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. Young Artist Celebration. Art Center presents young artists' exhibit.

Monday, Jan. 11, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

City Library Program Room, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. Deborah Pollack presents Laura Woodward, the artist behind the innovator who developed Palm Beach.

For more information, visit www.boyntonbeacharts.com, or call (561) 742-6026.

Advisory Boards Enable Citizens To Be Involved in the Community

The City offers a wide variety of voluntary citizen Advisory Boards that enable you to get involved in the community. A community's greatest resource is its citizens. By serving on an advisory board, you can help the City Commission gain valuable information and insights that enable commissioners to make better decisions.

Applications are accepted throughout the year and appointments made as vacancies occur to the Arts Commission, Building Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Cemetery Board, Code Compliance Board, Community Relations Board, Education and Youth Advisory Board, Golf Course Advisory Committee, Library Board, Planning and Development Board, Recreation and Parks Board, Senior Advisory Board and Veterans Advisory Commission. In naming citizens to these boards, commissioners look for people who have an interest or experience in the area of service and the necessary expertise to help accomplish the goals and objectives of the specific advisory group.

Regular and alternate members for the boards are appointed to terms of five years or less. Most boards meet monthly and a recording secretary from the City Clerk's office attends each meeting to create minutes that accurately reflect the discussions and actions of the individual boards.

A short explanation of each board and the meeting dates for each board, plus an application, may be found in the City Clerk's office in City Hall or by visiting the City's web page at <http://www.boynton-beach.org>.

Citizen Advisory Boards are a vital part of the governmental process in Boynton Beach. By serving on an Advisory Board, you can make a meaningful contribution to the quality of life we all enjoy in Boynton Beach.

City of Boynton Beach To Develop Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

This past Fall, the City Commission approved a contract with Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. (CDM) in the amount of \$195,900.00 to assist in the development of a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP will advance the City's energy conservation and environmental sustainability goals as presented by the City's Green Task Force and approved by the City Commission last February.

The grant that is funding this project is provided through the U.S. Department of Energy stimulus funding, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds allotted to the City are in the amount of \$658,900. The remaining funds will go toward implementing the project identified in the Energy Conservation Strategy, also being created by CDM. The strategy will be submitted to the DOE in order to receive the remaining funding.

Also included in the consultant's Scope of Work is the completion of a community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGE) Inventory. This inventory will be instrumental in determining a GHGE reduction rate for the City, which in turn will guide the elements of the CAP.

The consultant will be incorporating the work done by the Green Task Force, the City's Sustainability Team and a working group of citizens and staff that form the City's Green Community Alliance.

For more information on *Go Green, Boynton!*, visit www.boynton-beach.org.

One Man's Music Can Be Another Man's Noise

One man's music can be another man's noise, which sometimes results in a call to the police. In 2009, the Police Department received over a thousand complaints for excessive noise, which is consistent with the department's yearly average of about 1,450 excessive noise complaints.

Almost all of the complaints come from residents complaining of sound disturbances created by their neighbors and are resolved by officers who seek out the source of the noise disturbance and request that the offenders comply with the code provisions. Repeat offenders are given a Notice to Appear (NTA) in county court. Most repeat complaints stem from commercial establishments such as restaurants located on the waterfront and along the Congress Ave. corridor. These are handled by Code Compliance.

The **City of Boynton Beach Noise Control Ordinance** is found in the *Code of Ordinances* at Sec. 15-8. Essentially, the Code provides that no person shall unnecessarily make, continue or cause to be made any noise disturbance. A noise disturbance is any excessive noise that interferes with the enjoyment of life or property, including outdoor recreation, of a reasonable person with normal sensitivities.

The Code prohibits the creation of a noise disturbance across residential or commercial property lines, including the excessive noise caused by radios, televisions, phonographs,

sound systems, machinery and animals such as dogs and birds. There are numerous exceptions such as construction and repair activity, airplanes, emergency activity, public speaking and assembly, domestic power tools and lawn maintenance equipment.

Violation of this section is a misdemeanor in the second degree and can be punished by fine and/or incarceration as provided by state statute.

The Noise Control Ordinance establishes permissible sound levels using a decibel rating as follows:

LAND USE CATEGORY	TIME FRAME	SOUND LEVEL LIMIT
Exterior Residential	7 A.M.-10 P.M.	60 dB
	10 P.M.-7 A.M.	55 dB
Exterior Commercial	All times	65 dB
Interior Residential	7 A.M.-10 P.M.	50 dB
	10 P.M.-7 A.M.	45 dB
Interior Commercial	All times	55 dB

Enforcement of this ordinance requires the City's Code Compliance Officers to take sound measurements using equipment on which they have received training. Consequently, this ordinance is used mostly in response to complaints from citizens regarding excessive noise coming from bars, restaurants or other commercial establishments where noise levels are somewhat constant. If a code officer determines that the sound levels exceed what is permitted, a cease and desist order is sent to the owner after which the code officers will follow up with additional sound measurement. Failure to correct the violation can result in daily cumulative fines.

The **City of Boynton Beach Sound Control Ordinance**, found in the Code at Sec. 15-10, was passed by the City Commission in 2001 and provides additional controls on excessive sound. This ordinance defines a sound disturbance as any sound which is:

- Plainly audible beyond a distance of 25 feet or further from the property line in residential areas.
- Plainly audible beyond a distance of 100 feet or further from the apparent property line in a commercial zoning district, and is heard in a neighboring residential district.

The restrictions apply between the hours of 10 P.M. and 6 P.M. on weekdays and between the hours of 12 A.M. and 7 A.M. on weekends.

This is the ordinance that police officers use when they are called for sound disturbances as there is no special equipment necessary in order to determine if in fact a violation is being committed.

City of Boynton Beach
100 E. Boynton Beach Blvd.
Boynton Beach, FL 33425

Jerry Taylor, Mayor
Woodrow Hay, Vice Mayor, District II
Jose Rodriguez, Commissioner, District III
Marlene Ross, Commissioner, District IV
Ron Weiland, Commissioner, District I