



# City Visions

February/March 2010

## City Mounts Rapid Response To Haitian Disaster

Boynton Beach is a caring community and when the earthquake devastated Haiti on Jan. 12, it was a call to action to which the City and its residents quickly responded. In conjunction with Palm Beach County Haiti Relief, an organization founded to provide relief to Haiti following the 2008 earthquakes there, the City made available Fire Stations 4 and 5 as drop off points for nonperishable food, water and medical supplies. The donations left off in Boynton Beach and at other fire stations around the county will be consolidated by Palm Beach State College for shipment to Haiti through the Port of Palm Beach.

Another collection program was begun at Toussaint L'Ouverture High School at 1325 Gate Blvd. They are accepting nonperishable food, water and medical supplies only.

In addition to these efforts, there are two official City activities. There is a great need now for money to support relief operations. The first activity for City staff is a voluntary payroll deduction program. The money will go to either Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross or United Way. Following Hurricane Katrina, the City also initiated a payroll deduction program that raised nearly \$15,000 that was used for direct relief.

The second area of official involvement is the deployment of staff to Haiti in conjunction with the U.S. relief effort. Firefighter Vance Carpenter was sent to Haiti as a part of the Florida search and rescue team.

Volunteer Florida advises that the most effective way for Americans to assist with relief efforts is to make a cash contribution to a humanitarian organization they trust. A complete list of agencies that are taking donations may be found on the Volunteer Florida website, [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org).

## City Foreclosure Legislation Proving Effective Ordinance Meant To Curtail Blight

Deutsche Bank is the latest lender to be cited under a City ordinance adopted last Fall that holds lenders responsible for the maintenance of vacant properties in default of their mortgages. The property, which was the subject of several neighborhood complaints, is located at 1800 N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ln. The Code Compliance Board ruled on Jan. 20, 2010, that Deutsche Bank has until Feb. 4, 2010, to register the foreclosed vacant property, mow overgrown yard areas, trim overgrown vegetation and secure all doors and windows to prevent unauthorized entry and vandalism, or face fines of \$250 per day until compliance.

The legislation, which was the first of its kind in Palm Beach County, holds mortgage holders responsible to register with the City any vacant and abandoned properties in default of their mortgages. Included in the legislation is the requirement to perform routine

maintenance, which includes items such as mowing, debris removal, securing property and other maintenance related issues. These responsibilities continue with the mortgage company until the property is conveyed to a new owner. The ordinance enables the City to better identify and track vacant and foreclosed properties in times of vanishing resources while expediting the time frame by which compliance is obtained, not to mention the collection of registration fees that provide a small revenue stream.

Vacant and abandoned properties may be reported to the Code Compliance Div. by calling (561) 742-6120.

## Floodplain Management Activities Result in Additional Flood Insurance Discount

### *City Residents Will Save 15% on Policies*

According to the National Flood Insurance Program, the average flood insurance policy costs \$540 a year. Through active community floodplain management activities, the City of Boynton Beach has previously been able to drive down the cost of flood insurance for residents by 10 percent under the program's Community Rating System. Now, residents will save an additional 5 percent for a total of 15 percent following a five-year cycle visit by NFIP's rating agency.

CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS: Reduce flood losses; facilitate accurate insurance rating; and promote the awareness of flood insurance. For CRS participating communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted in increments of 5 percent.

Boynton Beach is one of nearly 900 communities receiving flood insurance premium discounts. While premium discounts are one of the benefits of participation in CRS, it is more important that communities are carrying out activities that save lives and reduce property damage. Over 66 percent of the NFIP's policy base is located in these communities.

For more information on the National Flood Insurance Program, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). For more information on the policy discount, consult your insurance agent.

## General Election Coming March 9

The City of Boynton Beach will hold a General Election on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, for the purpose of filling the following offices: Mayor At-Large, Commissioner from District I, Commissioner from District III. In order to vote, residents must be registered 29 days prior to the election. More information about the election and candidate information are available on the City's website at [www.boynton-beach.org](http://www.boynton-beach.org).

## There's a New Bookstore in Town

Inside the Boynton Beach City Library, there's a clean, cozy little bookstore run by the Friends of the Library. The store officially opened last April, but many of our seasonal visitors and new residents have not heard of it.

In the contemporary bookstore on the first floor of the new wing of the library, new and gently used books, CDs, and DVDs are sold for a fraction of the original price, usually one to two dollars apiece. The store is divided into sections for easy visibility and volunteers are on hand to help you with your choice. There is also a special little corner just for children's books.

If you are running out of room in your house, remember donations of books, CDs and DVDs in good condition are being accepted. The Friends of the Boynton Beach City Library bookstore is located at 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. Please call (561) 742-6390 for more information.

## Free Movies, Concerts on the Ave.

The Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency is hosting a series of free family movies and concerts at the Ocean Avenue Amphitheatre. The Amphitheatre is located on E. Ocean Ave. between Seacrest Blvd. and NE 1<sup>st</sup> St. Ample free parking is available on site.

The movies and concerts alternate between the first and third Fridays in March, April and May. There will be a movie on the first Friday in June. The schedule is as follows. Movies are shown from 7:00-9:00 P.M. while concerts are from 6:00-9:00 P.M.

- Friday, Feb. 19, Concert with **Wild Fire** - Calypso & Island Music
- Friday, March 5, **Movie**
- Friday, March 19, Concert with **Sundown Country Band**
- Friday, April 2, **Movie**
- Friday, April 16, Concert with **Cricklewood** - Oldies & Rock
- Friday, May 7, **Movie**
- Friday, May 21, Concert with **Pure Justice Band** - Rhythm & Blues
- Friday, June 4, **Movie**

Bring your folding chairs or blankets. No pets, please. Food and beverages available for purchase.

For more information, call (561) 742-6246 or visit [www.boyntonbeachcra.com](http://www.boyntonbeachcra.com)

## Census Day Is April 1

### *It's About Us!*

The 2010 Census is about us, because the census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in



Congress. **It's About Us!** because the census also helps determine the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. **It's About Us!** because the facts gathered in the Census shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public

health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

The City has a lot at stake, and a fundamental part of achieving a complete and accurate count in the 2010 Census is to identify, communicate and inspire hard-to-count groups to participate. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential. Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census. When you think about it, **It's About YOU!** Census Day is April 1.

To emphasize the importance of the Census, the City produced an original video that features City staff. The video is currently being broadcast on BBTV Comcast channel 18, the City's television station. It is also available for viewing on the City's website, [www.boynton-beach.org](http://www.boynton-beach.org); the City's YouTube channel, [www.YouTube.com/cityofboynton](http://www.YouTube.com/cityofboynton); and on the City's blog, [boyntoncityblog.wordpress.com](http://boyntoncityblog.wordpress.com).

Copies of this video have been requested by several cities around the state as well as the Palm Beach County School District.

## Nominations Being Accepted For Borovy Award

### *Award Recognizes Student Citizen*

Nominations are now being accepted through April 2, 2010, for the Bob Borovy "Student of the Year" Award. Created in 2000, this award recognizes a graduating high school senior who best epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and giving to the community as exemplified by the late Bob Borovy. A U.S. veteran and former Education and Youth Advisory Board member, Mr. Borovy was an active citizen of the Boynton Beach community for many years.

The recipient will receive \$1,000 and have his/her name placed on the permanent plaque in City Hall. To be eligible, nominees must be a graduating high school senior; a resident of the City of Boynton Beach; nominated by three adults (not related to the applicant); person of good moral character; performed significant volunteer work; submit an essay on what he/she has learned from performing volunteer service; and complete the application form and submit supporting documentation.

Applications are available at [www.boynton-beach.org](http://www.boynton-beach.org). For more information, call (561) 742-6224. Sponsored by the City of Boynton Beach Recreation & Parks Dept. and the Education & Youth Advisory Board.

## At the Library: A Raisin in the Sun

The award winning Theater Academy at Boynton Beach Community High School will present a scene from *A Raisin in the Sun* on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:00-7:30 P.M., in the Library Program Room. The story is based upon a black family's experiences in a Chicago suburb. This program is free. For more information, call (561) 742-6390.

**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