

West Deerfield Alliance establishes a vendor list

By David Volz

There can be many advantages to belonging to an organization. One includes gaining a sense of the best people to do business with.

The West Deerfield Alliance, a group of 12 homeowners associations, is in the process of developing a

list of vendors that will be shared among the homeowners associations that are members.

"We share vendor lists," Bill Ganz of the West Deerfield Alliance said. "We want to keep the list simple. I know a handyman and he did a good job for us. Maybe you want to

try him out. It is a word-of-mouth deal, neighbors helping neighbors. We don't want companies to lobby to get on the list."

Todd Drosky is also enthusiastic about the vendor's list. "The purpose of this list is to allow homeowners associations to compare vendors and

give them a reference base to talk about," he said. "For example, tree trimming is not something done every year but if we find someone reputable, we might use that vendor. If an association does not like the vendor, we would stay away from that vendor."

Drosky said the Alliance

has about 12 vendors on to talk about," he said. "For the list and may add more. The Alliance is also discussing a sound wall that would be placed by the turn-

the city level and perhaps work with the Florida Department of Transportation to make this a reality," said Drosky.

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LHP chamber, city officials encouraging residents to shop local

By Andrea Freygang

City officials along with the Lighthouse Point (LHP) Chamber are encouraging residents to shop local.

"After we had the Taste (of Lighthouse Point), Mayor Fred Schorr sent out a letter saying shop, dine and enjoy local shops, and we're encouraging everyone to do the same," said Chamber President Michele Greene. "We're trying to highlight those businesses that continue to support local events which give back — they're here to stay like the residents and it's important to support them."

Michael Long, LHP commission president, said this year, he hopes the commission will look at what they can do to encourage more businesses to move into the Federal Highway shopping corridor.

"If you drive up, there are a lot of vacancies and we need to see what we

need to do as a city to encourage businesses," said Long. "We also have a lot of restaurants and businesses here that need support."

Long said the commission could reconsider a community redevelopment agency, which would allow the city to use tax dollars to help businesses.

"We're a small town and we have two Publixes, a lot of restaurants, but the more we encourage businesses, the better off we'll be," said Long. "We have everything here, so people don't have to go to K-Mart or the mall to get a lot of stuff. I just

don't know if people know it's all there, but we need more support for local businesses instead of going outside."

Greene said this is important because residents want to see a vibrant business corridor.

"If not, it's not a good image and we can't main-

tain the level of lifestyle and integrity the city has maintained for so many years," said Greene. "I want to encourage residents to look in their own backyard[s] to shop, dine and do business."

Greene said she is working with other businesses

in the city to help find businesses to occupy any empty bays, but is primarily encouraging locals to shop nearby.

"It helps the local economy, as opposed to shopping online or [in] other areas," said Greene. "It keeps dollars local."

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