

- HOMES  
& BUSINESSES IN
- DEERFIELD BEACH
  - LIGHTHOUSE POINT
  - HILLSBORO BEACH
  - POMPAÑO BEACH
  - BOCA RATON

# Observer

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## OF INTEREST



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*“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

Proverbs 3:5-6

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## Veterans gather to honor military service

By David Volz

Veterans Day is a time of reflection for current and former members of the military. For those who served in combat, it is a time to remember close friends who did not return home and to value the sacrifice so many citizens have made. Often military people will come together and remember the hardships they have faced and even the positive experiences they have had.

A group of veterans assembled at the Deerfield Beach Fishing Pier to honor those who served, Tuesday, Nov. 11. A brief service was conducted, then a wreath was placed in the water from the end of the pier. Members of the Deerfield Beach American Legion Post 162 gathered to

share some of their memories.

Ed Hammond, 85, was at a submarine base at Pearl Harbor the day the Japanese bombed. He served in the U.S. Navy there and on a troop transport that carried 2,300 Marines in the Pacific. “I remember all the people who did not come back and it is something I think about,” he said.

Eddie Cruz, commander of the Deerfield Beach Post 162, said he is proud of the members of his organization and the work it does for veterans and the community. This past Monday, the U.S. Marine Corp celebrated its 233 birthday at the Post. “We do community service work for the needy and we do a Christmas Angel Tree program,”

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## West Deerfield residents want more parks

By David Volz

For years there was a roller hockey rink at Villages of Hillsboro Park. This rink hosted competitive roller hockey and many young people learned the sport there. But over time, the rink fell into disrepair and the city removed it.

A rink was built at Pioneer Park but that rink is not in use at this time.

There are no city-sponsored competitive athletic programs in the western section of Deerfield Beach. A group of West Deerfield Community Alliance members are asking city officials to look for ways to offer athletic opportunities.

Shirley Mitchell has been vocal about the need for athletic programs in western Deerfield

Beach. She is also concerned that there are few places for teenagers to spend free time constructively. She does not believe the TOWER Club is adequate for the city’s young people.

“Why should our kids have to go east to play roller hockey and other sports?” Mitchell asked. “The TOWER Club has no attraction for kids. Young people have to go east to play sports or they go to Coconut Creek and play on the teams there. This means Deerfield Beach loses money.”

Colleen DiDonato said that she remembers when her children played competitive hockey at the rink at the Villages of

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## Nov. 15 is “America Recycles Day”

November has been designated “America Recycles 2008” month, a national event that encourages all Americans to make a commitment to the environment by promoting the merits of recycling and buying recycled products. Broward County Waste and Recycling Services Division is promoting several events that commemorate Nov. 15 “America Recycles Day.”

### DEERFIELD BEACH

• Thursday, Nov. 13, 7 to 8:15 p.m.

Join the Recycling Division for an Environmental Film Festival, featuring *The Story of Stuff* and clips from *Human Footprint*. Stay for a lively discussion afterward on how to become more eco-conscious in daily life. Enjoy light snacks and music. Movies to be shown at the Public Works Facility, 401 SW 4 St.

• Friday, Nov. 14, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The City of Deerfield Beach invites you to start your day with a complimentary coffee in a recycled “Broward Recycles” mug from Starbucks, 130 S. Federal Highway, Deerfield Beach (this location only). For more information, call the City of Deerfield Beach at 954-480-1420.

• Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The Recycling Division will be at the International Fishing Pier, 200 NE 21 Ave., for an America Recycles Day Environmental Education Workshop. Presentation will include recycling discussion about natural resources, waste reduction and composting. For more information, call 954-480-4454 or visit Deerfield-Beach.com and search “recycling.”

### FT. LAUDERDALE

• Nov. 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pledge To Recycle at the Museum of Discovery and Science, 401 SW 2nd St., Ft. Lauderdale. Explore the science behind saving the planet through energy conservation, recycling and eco-friendly management of waste. Enjoy recycling and conservation science presentations, a recycling relay race, papermaking and more.

• Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It’s Recycle Mania at Young At Art Children’s Museum. \$1 Off Admission when you bring a bag containing recyclable items (good for up to four people). 11584 W. State Road 84, Davie. For more information, call 954-765-4999.

## Women of Faith



Close to 8,000 Women of Faith filled BankAtlantic Center, Saturday, Nov. 8. Just over 1,000 gave their lives to Christ. The message: Learning to rest in God’s infinite grace. Guest worship leaders included American Idol’s Mandisa and Nicole C. Mullen (“I Know My Savior Lives.”) Featured speakers were Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg and Luci Swindol. The conference visits 29 major U.S. cities. For more information on next year’s conference, visit womenoffaith.com or call 888-49-FAITH.

Photo by Diane Emeott

# Community helpers recognized

Eight Shining Stars of the Pompano Beach community were recognized in a special ceremony at Carrabba's Italian Grill last week.

"There are no amount of words to go about recognizing the contributions being made," said Ric Green, Pompano chamber president presenting the awards.

Pictured are the recipients of various awards: Richard Porraro, DDS, Light of the Community Award; Bettye Lamar-Larkins accepts for Pat Larkins, Tony Spadaccia, Waste Management, Businessman of the year; Karla Nelson, Comcast, Light of the Community Award; Neal Vinkemulder, Wooden Shoe

Gardens, Light of the Community; Marge Muth, Kraeer Funeral Home, Businesswoman of the year; Scott H. Thomas, executive VP for Stimpson Company, Founders Award; Jerry Bowman, insurance agent, Stewart Kester Award; and Bob Harpest, Eddie Accardi Motors, Community Service Award.



# Parks

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Hillsboro Park. The teams did well and many youngsters enjoyed the experience. "We need more youth sports in this area," she said.

Deerfield Beach *does* offer a wide range of sports programs for young people. There are two youth football teams. But there are no parks in western Deerfield Beach large enough to accommodate sports leagues. The area is built out and it would likely take a bond issue to purchase land to make into a park suitable for ballgames. Most of the sports take place at West Side Park and Pioneer Park.

Gary Lothar, a leader of the West Deerfield Community Alliance, said he would like to see more recreational activities available for residents of the western section. "We need to look at sites we can use to build more athletic fields in West Deerfield Beach," he said "We might be able to use Quiet Waters

Park through a partnership between the city and the county. We might be able to use the Tam O'Shanter golf course. I would also like to see covered play areas in the parks."

Bill Ganz, a leader of the West Deerfield Community Alliance, said he is disappointed the city has not taken advantage of opportunities to develop parks for athletics. "I know the city does not have land in the western portion of the city, but I would like to see more programs here," he said. "Right now parents have to drive their kids to the eastern portion of the city to play competitive sports."

Ganz also said there need to be activities to keep young people out of trouble. He is concerned about young people hanging around with little or no supervision. "I would like to see more athletic and recreational programs for the kids here," he said. "Because of the economic situation the city is in, I don't think the city should

expand the athletic program now. But I think it should be a long-term goal."

According to Rami Altherr Musto, spokesperson for Deerfield Beach, the Parks and Recreation master plan incorporates a recreation facility in the city's western section. For years, the Parks and Recreation Department has been actively exploring options for land acquisition in the west.

Where to place a recreation facility?

Some options being explored include the Broward County School Board property adjacent to Quiet Waters Elementary School and the Tam O'Shanter golf course in the Crystal Lake Community. But neither of these options have proven to be viable under conditions the city can support. The Parks and Recreation De-

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# Lowe's and Pompano Chamber to hold free boat decorating class

46th Annual Holiday Boat Parade set for Dec. 14

The Pompano Beach Lowe's Home Improvement Center has scheduled a free event on Saturday, Nov. 15, for captains interested in decorating their boats for The Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce's 46th Annual Holiday Boat Parade. The class will run from 10 a.m. to noon in the training room. Lowe's is located in the Pompano Citi Centre at 1851 N. Federal Hwy.

entry fee for boats and is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 14, will be judged in several categories for vessels of all sizes. All boat captains are encouraged to attend this event for tips on lighting, décor, sound and entertainment. Lowe's will provide refreshments and will be holding drawings for door prizes.

Participating boats will line up in Pompano's Lake Santa Barbara on the evening of Dec. 14, before heading north

up the Intracoastal Waterway, passing through Light-house Point and Hillsboro Beach before ending in Deerfield Beach at the Hillsboro Boulevard Bridge. Awards will be given the winners at the Chamber's Business with a Twist event on Jan. 7, 2009.

For more information, or to enter your boat in the parade, please call the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce at 954-941-2940

## Parks

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partment relies on matching grants from the state and county to maximize city funds. These grants allow the city to gain the most from taxpayers' funds. Deerfield Beach Middle School Athletic/Aquatic Complex and Westside Park are both recipients of matching grant funding. But acquisition of these grants depends on the city having matching funds available before a grant can be awarded, according to Altherr Musto.

### Voter support

Another challenge is getting voter support. In 2007, the Parks and Recreation Department

placed a bond referendum on the ballot to obtain voter approval for acquiring a bond to use as leverage for obtaining more grant funding. The referendum failed and without the matching funds needed, the Parks and Recreation Department is unable to apply for matching grants. Without grant funds, the master plan will take longer to implement. But city staff is continuing to explore other financing options to allow the city to move forward with the master plan, Altherr Musto said.

Commissioner Pam Militello said she would like to see more

athletic opportunities for young people in western Deerfield Beach but there is little land available.

"There is no land left and even if we had some, we don't have the money for buying more property," she said. "I don't think the taxpayers will vote for a bond issue."

Militello said the athletic fields in eastern Deerfield Beach receive plenty of use. She said people often complain about the overused condition of the fields. "The fields never have a chance to recuperate from use," she said. "It is a tough situation."

## Veterans

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said Cruz, a Vietnam veteran. "We help all the veterans in the community and I think it is important to remember the service they performed for us."

Jeff Munsell, a chaplain for the American Legion Riders, a group of veterans who ride motorcycles together, led the service on the pier. He acknowledged the important service that all military veterans have provided the nation.

"I think it is important to remember veterans today," he said. "We visit veterans in the V.A. hospitals and look for ways to help them. We also welcome veterans who are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan."

Ray Gonzalez, who served in the U.S. Marine Corp, was at the Chosen Reservoir in Korea. This was an important military engagement during the Korean War. "I served where I was

sent," he said. "I think America needs to be vigilant."

Also participating in the ceremony were six former ship mates from the U.S.S. Tisdale, a destroyer that served in the Pacific during World War II. They took part in a reunion at the Howard Johnson's on Deerfield Beach and were glad to be included.

Said Gene Small, a Lieutenant on the ship who now

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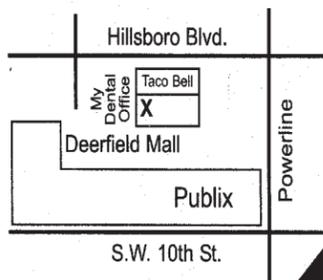
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