

West Deerfield residents want sound wall

By David Volz

A growing number of residents in western Deerfield Beach want a sound wall along the Florida Turnpike portion that runs next to their neighborhoods.

The matter was discussed at a recent West Deerfield Community Alliance meeting with three Florida Turnpike Authority representatives present to answer questions. Currently there are two phases of development involving the South Florida portion of the Turnpike.

The first phase runs from Atlantic Boulevard to the Sawgrass Expressway. This phase will receive sound walls where they are approved, according to Henry Pinzon of

the Turnpike Authority. The second phase, which is now under study, would run from the Sawgrass Expressway north to Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. The results of this study will be made public at a hearing in September.

There are three criteria for the area to receive a sound wall. 1) the noise must exceed 66 decibels, 2) the installation of the sound wall must decrease those decibels by 5 decibels and 3) it must be cost effective. The Turnpike will not build a sound wall in west Deerfield until it expands the roadway from four lanes to six lanes, according to Pinzon. If approved, the sound wall would be built in the area of the Coquina Lakes neighbor-

hood.

Actual construction of a sound wall would be at least five years into the future. "There is also the question of where the money would come from to do this project," said Drosky, of the Alliance. "All revenue comes from tolls collected and taxes from sales of items at the Turnpike plazas. There is no funding from the legislature. Because of the economy, tolls are down so there is less money for construction projects."

But people are still hopeful. "I would like to see a sound wall," Drosky said. "The noise there is too great and the only buffer along the Turnpike is a 4-foot high wall with some sporadic trees."

Colleen DiDonato of the Alliance agreed. "From what we hear from officials, we still have to be put in line to wait for a study to see if the area of Coquina Lakes will qualify for this project," she said. "Hopefully it will meet the criteria. It is very frustrating for residents. They have already had one expansion in the 1980s and now they will have to wait until September for the results of the study."

Mayor Peggy Noland believes Deerfield Beach should receive this sound wall. She said that too often Deerfield Beach is forgotten by state officials and that the area's residents would benefit from a sound wall.

Deerfield Dist. 4 meeting Monday

On Monday, May 11, Commissioner Bill Ganz will hold a District 4 meeting at 7 p.m. at the BSO West Substation, 580 S. Powerline Road in Deerfield Beach. Residents are encouraged to attend to discuss current issues, future needs, and goals for District 4. The meeting will conclude with a question-and-answer session. For additional information please call 954-480-4263 or e-mail web.commission@deerfield-beach.com.

Tri-Rail denied critical money

The Florida Legislature did not pass the amendment that would have provided Tri-Rail with a dedicated funding source.

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority had been hoping that the state legislature would pass an amendment that would have provided an additional \$2 surcharge on rental cars. A group of senators wrote a letter to Gov. Charlie Crist, Senate President Jeff Atwater and

See *Tri-Rail*, pg 17

Letters to the Editor

Caryl Berner speaks at Deerfield Commission meeting

At the Deerfield Beach commission meeting I attended on May 5, it was disappointing to hear that Caryl Berner feels her voice has been silenced by our newspaper.

I am not aware of any organized effort here at the *Observer* to disregard all Letters to the Editor she may have submitted or submits. We have published many letters on her behalf over the past 24 months. We receive letters weekly and many times have to choose which ones to publish based on available space that week and timeliness of the subject matter.

Many letters have been published from residents of Century Village east and have many times put others on notice if residents have been treated unfairly. We feel good about helping Century Village readers with their concerns.

In fairness to your charge that this newspaper refuses to print your submissions, here is the letter we were unaware of receiving. It was resent to us at our request on May 6.

Jim Lusk
Vice President
Observer newspaper

Hats off to City Clerk's office

Dear Editor:

With all the turbulence that has gone on in Deerfield Beach, I would like the citizens of this City to know that they have a City Clerk's office that is well above average. During this last campaign, I know all the candidates were well taken care of by Ada Graham-Johnson, our City Clerk and her staff. During the hectic pace of running a campaign, these women made sure our reports were in on time and saved many a day for me. When I would thank them, their response was, "We're just doing our job." In this day and age, just doing your job gets a "thank you" from me since most people don't even do that. These women went above the call of duty and [are] always doing it pleasantly. I'm confident that I can speak for all the candidates in expressing our appreciation to the City Clerk's office.

Caryl Berner
Deerfield Beach

Thank you so much!

Dear Editor:

The write-up you did for the [Apr. 30] *Observer* covering the "Cuisine of the Region" was wonderful; thank you again for the great job you do covering our events around town! The exposure for the [NE Focal Point] really helps keep everyone aware of that very special community center and what we accomplish for so many!

Joan Roberts-Gould, CLTC
Deerfield Beach

Dear Editor:

I certainly concur with Joan on the coverage of the Cuisine in the newspaper. We are also very grateful for the *Observer TV* publicity concerning the Cuisine of the Region. It is definitely a community event of which the *Observer* is a major part of our community.

Thank you for all you do to promote positive articles concerning the entire NE Focal Point Campus activities and programs. We appreciate you and all your support. Have a great day and a wonderful weekend!

Donna DeFronzo,
Director, NE Focal Point Senior Services Center
Deerfield Beach

Stalking incident in LHP

Dear Editor:

Re: LHP Commander Mike Oh [in the Apr. 30 *Observer* Crime Watch brief on stalking] should be reminded of the six-year stalking and harassment situation and the following three-year period with a disregarded injunction in LHP, all on his watch. Commander M. Oh seems to have a continual problem negating the existence of this or his participation with it. See lighthousepointflorida.net. Click BLOG on the homepage. Thank you.

Gail Pfistner
Lighthouse Point



FuNetiks

PANE, PANE, GO AWAY

By Jim Moore

My docter and I think alik
I didnt reelize it at ferst
Weer both afrade for ovr nashun
So for informashun we therst

Wenever I mak an apointment
Or bring pane to my doc for a fix
Fiv minets into my alement
And we start tawking politics

Tho we hav a meeting uv minds
Eech uv us haz a diferent aproch
And we hav such heeted discushuns
Sumtimes I think we need a coach

Last visit I got so red in the face
The doc smild and sed, Jim, no mor!
I no, doc, I can be a pane in the nek
But thats wut I cam to see yoo for!

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