



# County Line

A Newsletter for Palm Beach County Employees

March 9, 2007

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## Origami Extravaganza

**When:** Saturday, March 24  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Where:** Morikami Museum  
**Cost:** \$3/session, free demonstration  
Call 495-0233, ext. 218 to register.

## Birding Workshop

**What:** Friends of Okeehlee Nature Center will host a two-part Birding Workshop on the use of field guides and binoculars, bird identification and more.  
**Part I:** Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m. - noon at Okeehlee Nature Center, Large Room in Okeehlee Park located at 7715 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach.  
**Part II:** Saturday, March 31 at 8 a.m. at Wakodahatchee Wetlands located at 1326 Jog Road, Delray Beach.  
**Cost:** \$15 per person for both days.  
For more information, call 233-1400 or visit [www.pbcparcs.com/nature](http://www.pbcparcs.com/nature). Reservations are required.

## North County Life Science Corridor Promoted at ArtiGras

Citizens who visited the Public Affairs booth at this year's ArtiGras event in Jupiter, Feb. 17 through 19, learned all about the developing North County Life Science Corridor.

Public Affairs distributed giveaways and informational material, including a colorful new brochure that invites you to "join the vision." It contains a map highlighting sites near the Scripps Florida campus at FAU that may soon be home to pharmaceutical labs and related biotech companies.

The pamphlet is part of an overall marketing



Public Affairs employees Pat Truscello (left) and Javier Lopez get the booth ready for visitors on the first morning of the festival.

campaign to help residents understand the planned bioscience cluster endorsed by the Board of County Commissioners and the governor.

"The Corridor" is a

land-use planning partnership between Palm Beach County and the cities of Jupiter, Palm Beach Gardens, Lake Park, Riviera Beach and Mangonia Park.

## Property Owners Can File for Homestead Exemption Online

The County Property Appraiser's Web site offers online filing for the homestead exemption. The new feature went live on Jan. 29.

In order to begin the filing process you will need to gather necessary

documentation establishing your qualifications to file, request a personal identification number, and then you can log in.

Visit [pbcgov.com/papa](http://pbcgov.com/papa), and click on "Exemption E-file." Scroll down and

click on "Begin the Filing Process Now."

As in the past, property owners can file their homestead exemptions in person at the five office locations in the county.

For more information, call 355-2866.

# Welcome

Welcome to the following employees who were hired between Feb. 3 and Feb 16: **Community Services:** Charlene Alonso and Joquetta Milton; **Criminal Justice Commission:** Damir Kukec; **Engineering & Public Works:** Edward Handy; **Environmental Resources Management:** Hazett Ebanks and Natalie Sacco; **Facilities Development & Operations:** Lazaro Alonso, Christopher Altieri, Gary Bacher, Cleveland Chavis Jr., Robert Magrath and Christopher Ryan; **Human Services:** Doris Price-McCormick; **Information Systems Services:** Tyrell Hall; **Library:** Uzma Ahmed, Collazo Bonilla, Julianne Causey, Wenfield Georges and Martha Murray; **Parks & Recreation:** Paul Bernfeld, Cecilia Grainger, Peggy Laventure, Amber Metzler, Henry Webster and John Welch; **Planning Zoning & Building:** Yamaris McCalla; **Public Safety:** David Butler, Michelle Goods, Adina Hodge-Jefferson, Eva Nowakowski, Linda Ocon and Christine Ululati; **Water Utilities:** David Guerrero and Rebecca Koontz.

# Palm Tran Maintenance Introduces Safety Harness

In an effort to increase safety in the workplace, Palm Tran recently teamed with Risk Management to install a safety harness at both the North County and South County facilities. "We want to be sure that all the mechanics are safe while working on the roof of our buses," said Superintendent John Long. "The harness is designed to work like an automobile safety belt. When it senses quick, sudden movement, the harness will immediately lock in place, preventing a fall."

Bill Crozier and Scott Marting with Risk Management were instrumental in researching, training and facilitating the purchase of the approved harness which would fill the needs of the maintenance team at Palm Tran. The harnesses meet all safety requirements issued by OSHA.



*Palm Tran Mechanic Babatunde Atoki wears the new harness while working on top of a bus.*

# Retirement Tip

## Visit Web site for retirement information

There are two new options available through the County's Web site for viewers to locate retirement information.

The first option, which can be accessed from any location, is to type <http://www.pbcgov.com/erp/benefitschedule.htm> into the computer browser, and then click on go or press enter. The second option, which can only be accessed from a Palm Beach County BCC work location, is to type <http://pbc/1ERPSmRetir.htm> into the computer browser, click on go or press enter, and then click on Retirement.

Both of these options offer easy access to the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Web site, frequently asked questions and some of the most commonly used retirement forms.

For more information or to make an appointment with Kurt Jenkins, call 616-6884.



**Dr. Mark T. Marciano**  
**Dr. Brandee Owens Marciano**



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**[www.visionsource-drmarciano.com](http://www.visionsource-drmarciano.com)**

## CVB Names Interim Administrator

The County Convention and Visitors Bureau's (CVB) board of directors has named Jim Stuber to head up the bureau until a permanent president/CEO is selected.

Stuber has served as the CVB's outside legal counsel since its founding in 1983. He is also a principal with Stuber & Associates in West Palm Beach and spent 10 years in Washington, D.C. as legislative director for a senior member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from Columbia University and a law degree from Georgetown University.

In December 2006, the board of directors appointed a search committee which will conduct a national search for the new president/CEO.



Bear is a male, mixed-breed Chihuahua puppy. He is neutered and six months old. Being so small, only seven pounds, he wants everyone to know he can be a tough guy. He is smart and quick on his feet. Ask for animal I.D.#1294974. Call Animal Care & Control 233-1272 Adoption Office during business hours.



If you are interested in adopting a puppy or adult dog from Animal Care and Control, call 233-1272 or check the Web site, [www.pbcgov.com/snap](http://www.pbcgov.com/snap), for dogs and cats available for adoption. Bear is available for adoption at Animal Care & Control, 7100 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach.

## ERM Sprouts Goodwill at South Florida Fair

The 2007 South Florida Fair is over, and the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) is happy with the success of its display and seedling giveaway.

In keeping with the fair's theme "Dreams, Screams, Thrills, and Chills," the display included the "Beauties" (native plants) and the "Beasts" (prohibited, non-native plants) and offered fair-goers a free native plant seedling to start their own enchanted native forest.

More than 9,000 seedlings were handed out, including wild coffee, dahoon holly, orange geiger and cocoplum in an effort to encourage Palm Beach County residents to remove any prohibited non-natives and plant native trees on their properties.

The department also had a good turnout of volunteers who helped with the fair booth. More than 200 volunteer and staff hours were logged over the 17-day fair.



*ERM had plenty of free seedlings and pamphlets to give away at the fair.*



# Making a Difference

## Fellow Employees Offer “Life Support”

Knowing you can rely on fellow employees to help out with overwhelming work-related tasks is very reassuring and an important part of teamwork. Having your coworkers offer to pay your utility bills when you're experiencing health problems and financial strain is something very special. Consumer Affairs Licensing Secretary Judith Blalock experienced this and a whole lot more.

Blalock started working with Consumer Affairs in August of 2005 just after she moved to Florida from Georgia. In May 2006, after a routine mammogram, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent radical surgery shortly thereafter. She had chemotherapy, radiation and several treatments for whatever came her way.

Blalock is a warrior and a survivor. She not only battled physical challenges, but she has had to wrestle with emotional and financial difficulties. Much to her delight, her coworkers in Consumer Affairs, the entire Public Safety Department and several employees from all the departments based in her building at Four Points continually offered their support on all accounts.

The gestures individuals made were numerous, and to Blalock they were all huge acts of kindness that were very much appreciated as well as needed. Coworkers donated sick time, pooled funds to pay her utilities, ran errands and helped make phone calls. They not only bought her groceries, but also carried them up to her second floor apartment and cooked meals. Some even did housecleaning and laundry. Two handy fellow employees put up a ceiling fan in her bedroom.

The emotional support that Blalock received from coworkers has changed her life, and Blalock believes actually helped to save her life. She lives on her own and



*Blalock was chosen to be Miss October 2006 in a calendar put together by Sojourners with Healing Hearts, an African-American breast cancer survivor support group that meets at Good Samaritan Medical Center.*

doesn't have immediate family in the area, but everyone in Consumer Affairs provided emotional support and encouragement when she needed it most. Her coworkers would cheer her up, crack jokes and even tease like family members. All of this profound caring helped to ease her discomfort and give her energy to aggressively attack challenges. The things each person did made a big difference.

Blalock offers advice for anyone caught in a battle with illness. She suggests acknowledging the situation as soon as possible and dealing with it aggressively by pushing forward on physical and emotional issues. Talking to people and joining support groups are very important. She has also found it rewarding to offer help, in any way, to others experiencing a similar journey to hers. She did a lot of reading on treatments for breast cancer and wasn't afraid to ask questions. She recommends finding a doctor you can trust and feel comfortable talking to, listening carefully and making informed decisions. Blalock's religious faith is also very important to her. She said, "First and foremost, my faith and trusting God made it possible for me to be strong enough to deal with this breast cancer journey that I am on. For each day is strange and new, but as long as my eyes are on Jesus, I can and will make it."

To her surprise, Blalock received the Consumer Affairs 2006 Employee of the Year award. It reads, "Despite a devastating illness, Ms. Blalock has persevered through a very difficult year. She has maintained a solid work ethic, an exemplary attitude and an exceptional rapport with the public and staff. Though often in great physical discomfort, Judi was routinely upbeat, courteous and professional in her approach to work and the people she deals with."

The mutual compassion Blalock and her coworkers have for each other has truly made a difference in all their lives.

## ERM Employees Race for the Cure

Nearly one-third of the entire Department of Environmental Resources Management staff, not including parents, aunts, uncles, spouses, small children and pets, turned out to run, walk or hobble to the finish line in the 25th Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure® on Jan. 20.

Breast cancer has touched the lives of several ERM employees providing impetus for the outstanding participation. This year, staff expanded their fund-raising efforts to

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page - Race for the Cure*

include multiple bake sales, breakfasts, a pasta lunch and a silent auction. Nearly \$4,500 was raised. Team ERM had its own team T-shirts with a beautiful graphic design representing the County's natural areas program, courtesy of department employee Ann Mathews.

Race for the Cure® is the largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world, with well over one million participants since 2005. It raises significant funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, celebrates breast cancer survivorship and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease.

In the 25 years since its inception, Race for the Cure® has successfully brought breast cancer out of the closet, changing how the world talks about and treats the disease. It has grown to become the world's largest grassroots network of survivors and activists, investing nearly \$1 billion in the cause and turning breast cancer into a priority health issue for women, researchers, health professionals and politicians.



*Several employees from ERM participated in the Race for the Cure® with family members and even pets.*

## Make a Difference in a Child's Life

Have you ever considered being a foster parent? According to Child & Family Connections, the local nonprofit foster agency acknowledged by the Florida Department of Children & Families, there are 2,246 children in the protective services system in the county. More than 600 are in foster care with only 355 in foster homes. The rest are in shelters or group homes.

For more information, call 1-800-981- KIDS or visit [www.cfcpsc.org](http://www.cfcpsc.org).

## Africanized Honeybees are Here to Stay

Sugarcane, Rice and Sod Cooperative Extension Agent Dr. Ronald Rice of the University of Florida/IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension office recently presented a workshop to Environmental Resources Management staff about the dangers of Africanized honeybees. Dr. Rice stated that these bees are in South Florida, and they are here to stay, representing a very real safety issue in the workplace in both agricultural and urban settings.

The workshop included differences between domestic (gentle) honey-producing European honeybees and Africanized (more aggressive) honeybees. Dr. Rice talked about workplace safety issues, how Africanized honeybees may display a disproportionate defense response to perceived threats, emergency procedures and appropriate first aid responses.

Dr. Rice would like to increase awareness of agriculture and safety issues in the county through educational programming. If you or your organization would like more information, or a presentation on Africanized honeybees, contact Dr. Rice by email at [rwrice@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:rwrice@ifas.ufl.edu) or by phone at 996-1656. Or visit [www.pbcgov.com/coopext/agriculture/newsletter](http://www.pbcgov.com/coopext/agriculture/newsletter) to read the Agricultural Extension Newsletter (Sept. - Oct. 2006 issue) that contains an article on Africanized honeybees.

The following are some safety tips about Africanized honeybees:

### What should you do if you find bees on your property?

1. Stay away from all honeybee swarms and colonies.
2. Get away from bees as quickly as possible.
3. While running away, protect your face and eyes as much as possible.
4. Take shelter in an enclosed area such as a car, truck or building.
5. Call a local beekeeper, pest control company or local Cooperative Extension agent for assistance.
6. Do not hide in water or thick brush.
7. Do not stand still and swat at bees. Rapid movements will cause them to sting.

### What should you do if you are stung?

1. Pull or scrape stings from skin as soon as possible. Most venom is released within one minute.
2. Seek medical attention if breathing is difficult or if stung many times.

— Adapted from [honeybee.tamu.edu](http://honeybee.tamu.edu)



## Eye Care

### Computer-Related Problems

A recent survey of optometrists found that about 14 percent of patients complain of symptoms that stem from computer work. These symptoms include headaches, eyestrain, blurry vision, dry and irritated eyes, sensitivity to light and neck or backaches.

Eye stress and strain may be caused by a combination of individual visual problems, improper viewing habits and poor environmental conditions, such as glare, improper workstation set up, dirty screens, poor lighting and viewing angles.

Headaches are the primary reason most people seek an eye exam. They're also one of the most difficult problems to diagnose and treat effectively. Visual-related headaches most often:

- occur toward the front of the head
- occur most often toward the middle or end of the day
- don't produce visual auras of flashing lights
- occur in a different pattern (or not at all) on weekends
- occur on one side of the head more than the other.

The following tips can help prevent the vision problems associated with computer work:

- **Reduce glare.** Avoid placing your computer in front of a window, as the difference in brightness from outside and your screen can strain your eyes. Also, make sure all windows have adjustable shades, so you can control the amount of light coming into the room. Anti-glare screens help.

- **Check your contacts, blink more.** People blink about three times less frequently than normal when they are sitting in front of the computer. While infrequent blinking can cause dry eyes for everyone, it especially affects contact lens wearers. Try to use rewetting drops often. (Be sure the drops are not the kind that whiten the eye.) Irritated or dry eyes can also cause blurry vision.

- **Adjust your monitor, keep your screen clean.** To minimize back and neck strain, the center of your monitor should be about five to nine inches below your line of sight. In other words, if you look straight ahead at

your desk, you should be able to peer over the top of your monitor. Blurred vision can be the result of something as simple as a dirty screen, poor viewing angle, reflected glare or a poor quality or defective monitor.

- **Take a break.** Eyestrain usually results from a combination of poor ergonomics, improper work habits or an undetected visual condition. A complete eye exam, an on-site ergonomic evaluation and instruction on correct working habits should all be considered. When you focus on close-up objects (such as reading materials) for extended periods of time without taking breaks, your eye muscles begin to adapt to that range of vision. This stresses the muscles which then have difficulty relaxing. When you look away, other objects may appear as a brief blurred image as you change from near-to-far or vice versa. Use the 20/20/20 rule for visual breaks from computer work. Take a 20-second break every 20 minutes. Focus your eyes on points at least 20 feet from your terminal. Keep your eyes moving while looking at various objects at various distances.

— Adapted from [sciencedaily.healthology.com/eye-care](http://sciencedaily.healthology.com/eye-care) and *The American Optometric Association, Journal of Optometry*

## National Living Well Week

“Raising kids, spending smart, living well” is the theme of national Living Well Week, March 11-17.

Whether you are trying to manage your money, control your diabetes through meal planning and exercise, make a decision about insurance, balance work, personal and family demands or get tips on how to parent effectively, the Extension Service can help.

The County Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences is offering the following classes at the Clayton Hutcheson Building, 559 N. Military Trail:

- **Closing Your South Florida Home** - Class provides information on how to close up a home for the summer.

**When:** March 13 from 10 a.m. to noon, free

- **Premarital Prep** - Couples receive a certificate that they take with them when they apply for their marriage license. The three-day waiting period is then waived, and they receive a \$32.50 discount on their marriage license. The cost is \$20 per couple, and both parties must attend both sessions. Registration required.

**When:** March 12 and 13 from 6 to 9 p.m.

For more information, call 233-1742 or visit [pbcgov.com/coopext/facs](http://pbcgov.com/coopext/facs).



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## open house

Thursday, March 15, 2007  
6:00 p.m.

NSU's West Palm Beach  
Student Educational Center

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At the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University, you'll develop the **entrepreneurial spirit** you need to succeed. You will learn from our faculty members who have **real-world corporate experience** in their fields of expertise and are qualified to offer **professional insights** and guidance that will help you achieve success in the workplace. Our **innovative approach** to learning helps ensure you can thrive no matter what your life and career goals are. The Huizenga School will prepare you to meet the demands of the cutting-edge marketplace through real-world learning.

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# Classified Ads

Do you have something you want to sell, trade or give away? This is the place for County employees to advertise free of charge. E-mail your ads to [countyline@co.palm-beach.fl.us](mailto:countyline@co.palm-beach.fl.us) or send them via interoffice mail c/o The County Line, 1102 Governmental Center, or fax them to 355-3819. **Ads need to be submitted three (3) weeks in advance of publishing.** If you want to know the classified ad due dates, visit the County Intranet Home Page. (Just type "pbc" in the address field of the browser and touch enter, and then select County Line On-Line.) Archived County Lines can be viewed on the Intranet for an extended time period. Ads may be edited to save space. Please note: The placement of paid advertisements and/or use of brand names with this newsletter does not imply an endorsement of product or services by Palm Beach County and its employees. **POLICY: Employees can advertise the same item(s) only once. This includes all category listings. Items submitted more than once will not be published.** For more information call Public Affairs at 355-2754.

## Furniture

**Kissing Chair** - antique wicker, \$65. Call 339-0189.

**Twin-sized platform bed** - with 4 drawers and cubby door for storage on side of bed. Comes with headboard designed with shelves and platform, nautical theme, all wood, great condition, very durable, only need twin mattress, no boxspring needed for platform bed. \$125 OBO. Call 289-5246.

**Coffee table** - round, stone base, coral color, \$300 OBO. Call 685-8193.

**TV cabinet** - with shelves and doors, excellent condition. Wood-grain finish in soft pink pastel. Great for displaying your favorite photos, DVDs & CDs. \$155 OBO. Call 602-2669.

## Vehicles

**2001 Ford Ranger Edge** - V6, tow bumper, tool box & many other extras. Looks like new w/only 85k miles. Asking only \$7,900. Call 373-3843.

**2004 Ducati 999 Superbike** - yellow, two seats, well-maintained and garage-kept. Beautiful bike w/ 4,500 miles. \$11,000 OBO. Call 315-8786.

**1994 Mazda Protégé DX** - 4-door, red, 4 cyl., 5 spd. manual, 195k mi., \$1,000 OBO. Call 339-1773.

**2004 Hyundai Accent** - 4-door, sporty & well maintained. Runs like new. Asking only \$7,900. Call 373-3843.

**2004 Honda Shadow** - 600VLX deluxe, v-twin, garage-kept, 4,800 miles, black with extra chrome, Honda backrest, fat rear tire. Call 844-1748.

**2000 BMW X5 SUV** - 4.4i all-wheel drive with all bells and whistles, navigation, sport cold weather premium packages, recent tires, 73k mi., still has warranty, 6-disc changer am/fm cassette, premium sound, extra clean, all power. \$20,850. Call 289-5246.

**1984 26' Cross Country Sportscoach RV** - GM 454, 4kw on board Onan generator, Coleman roof, air, new tires, microwave, large refrigerator/freezer, gas/electric/ 12V-DC. Good condition \$5,000. Call 747-7658.

## Property for Sale

**Beautiful 5-acre property** - in Lake City, Columbia County, close to Gainesville, \$85,900 negotiable. Call 543-3138.

**120 acres** - Tallahassee area. Can be developed, 10 & 20 acres per lot. Planted spruce farm, great hunting tract. \$6,000 per acre OBO. Call 685-8193.

**Two lots Ocala area** - Belleview Estates, .33 acres, corner oversized lot in a great community to build a home, \$37,500. Marion County, Silver Spring Shores, .43 oversized lot, ready to build your home, \$42,900. Call 317-2099.

## Residence for Sale

**2/1 house near downtown Lake Worth** - Dixie and Lucerne area. Comes furnished or unfurnished. Recently reduced to \$169,999. Rent on monthly basis for \$1,100 including utilities. Can be viewed by calling 523-2624.

**2/2 Condo** - \$186,000, Palm Beach Gardens, corner unit, first floor, 1,087 sq. ft. Newly remodeled kitchen and tile floors. 2 miles from I-95, Downtown at the Gardens, and Gardens Mall. Call 422-8938.

**2/1 house Lake Worth** - large lot, new roof, new kitchen, new appliances, city grant money available (\$75,000). Call 685-8193 for price.

## Residence for Rent

**West Palm Beach studio apartment** - located south of Palm Beach Lakes and east of Olive in the Historical Providencia Park neighborhood. Single-story unit with dedicated parking. No pets. \$650 per month + electric (first, last & security deposit). Call 301-4011.

**Efficiency apartment for rent** - clean, affordable, unfurnished, close to downtown Boynton Beach. \$125/weekly, \$250/bi-weekly. \$350 security deposit with no lease. Water bill taken care of; you take care of any other essentials including electric. Call 312-4136.

## Roommate Wanted

**Lake Worth Village** - double wide, very clean/nice, \$550/month. Call 236-3226 after 5:30p.m.

## Boats for Sale

**15 foot Boston Whaler** - 1986 hull, 2003 70hp Yamaha, fishfinder, bimini top, many extras.. Financial hardship forces sale. \$6,200 OBO. Call 964-5192 and leave message.

**1988 Oceanic Open Fisherman boat** - with 200 hp Johnson with trailer. \$8,000 OBO. Call 317-2099.

## Miscellaneous

**Whirlpool washer and dryer** - almond, good condition, seasonal use, \$350 OBO. Call 339-1773.

**Almost new Janis Cruiser 24"** - cost \$200, asking \$150. Older Sears Free Spirit 10-speed ladies, cost \$100 new, asking \$25. Call 575-7911.

**Sears 7.5hp outboard** - 20", never run, outboard stand, both for \$50. Call Doug at 395-8404.

**Landscape 4 x 4s** - 8-ft., approx. 30. \$25 OBO. Call 685-8193.

**Glass blocks** - great condition, approx. 40. \$4 each. Call 685-8193.

**10 roof panels** - metal grey powder coated. 10-foot length. Call 685-8193.

**Baby grand piano** - good condition. \$2,500. Call 685-8193.

**1991 Yamaha Wave Runner with trailer** - 700 cc motor, runs great. \$1,200. Call 262-2416.

**Surf ski** - competition kayak, 19' long, paddle included, needs some fiberglass repair. \$20 OBO. Call 364-1338.

**Motorized medical chair lift** - light beige cloth, original cost \$1,200, used briefly for 3 months, excellent condition. Asking \$400 OBO. Leave message or call 627-3730 after 5 p.m.

**Records** - 45 RPMs, 1950s and 1960s, various artists, conditions & prices. Call 582-6016.

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# County Line

Published biweekly for  
Palm Beach County employees  
by Public Affairs

## Board of County Commissioners

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