



CONGRATULATIONS TO CITY TREASURER DARREL THOMAS

The City promotes professional development and supports staff member involvement in professional organizations. City Treasurer Darrel Thomas is to be congratulated on his invitation to join the Florida League of Cities Investment Advisory Committee. Darrell will be joining a group of ten other financial professionals from around the state.

The Florida League of Cities Investment Advisory Committee is instrumental in the development and oversight of the Florida Municipal Investment Trust (FMIvT) and other League financial services. A valued asset to the Florida League of Cities, the Committee also offers a high quality networking opportunity for the members.



The committee invites members that believe in the mission: *to help local governments operate more efficiently and to provide access to high quality products they may not otherwise be able to achieve on their own.*

Mr. Thomas also serves as Chair of the Florida Government Finance Officer Association Program Committee which is responsible for developing the educational program to be presented to the FGFOA Annual Conference. Additionally, he is also a nominee for the FGFOA Board of Directors.

Darrel's commitment to excellence in local government financial management has earned him the respect of his peers and the recognition of the City of Weston as a leader in this arena.

Mr. Thomas has been a city staff member for over four years and holds the title of City Treasurer. A graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor in Finance, Mr. Thomas also holds a Master's of Science in Finance with a concentration in Financial Risk Management from Florida International University. He and his wife Emily have two daughters, Audrey and Brianna.



Weston Rescue Company and Detective to be Honored at BSO Annual Award Ceremony

On March 14th, the **best of the best** will be honored at the Broward County Sheriff's Office Annual Awards Ceremony to be held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Amaturio Theater. It is our honor to congratulate both Weston Rescue Company 81 which will receive the *Fire Rescue Unit of the Year Award*, and BSO Weston Detective Al Rengifo, who will be presented with the *Detective of the Year Award*.

Rescue Company 81 – *Fire Rescue Unit of the Year*

Captain Melendez, Fire Fighter/Paramedic Anthony Luzardo, Fire Fighter/Paramedic Mick Dube, and Air Rescue 85 (Lieutenant Eric Delotta, Paramedic Robert Thompson)



Official Nomination letter text: In December of 2011, crews from Fire Station 81 were dispatched to an incident that every fire fighter dreads. It was the type of incident that, if you do this job long enough, you unfortunately will experience. When you hear the dispatcher advise that the nature of your response is for a small child who has been pulled out of a pool and is not breathing, there is truly no greater sense of urgency. Engine Company 81 arrived in 4 minutes and began performing CPR on this 5 year old patient. Rescue Company 81 arrived and provided advanced cardiac life support measures. Tower Ladder 81 secured a landing zone and our regional Air Rescue unit responded. Our flight medics secured an advanced patient airway and this little girl was airlifted to Broward General Medical Center to waiting pediatric staff. Following this incident, I learned that the homeowners had provided CPR to this patient prior to our arrival-that was the first and one of the most important links in the chain of survival. Continuing this chain of survival, we are proud to have the professional, dedicated fire rescue personnel that we do. Their quick response time, their training, the excellent quality of their pre-hospital emergency medical services....all of these links in the chain of survival prevented this incident from becoming a tragedy. I am happy to report that this little girl made a complete recovery and has since been discharged from the hospital. Truly the greatest gift a family can receive during the holidays. For their outstanding efforts in saving this little girl's life, it is truly an honor to nominate these personnel for Fire Rescue Unit of the Year.

Detective Al Rengifo – *Detective of the Year*

Due to the numerous outstanding examples of detective work that Detective Rengifo has provided, the official nomination letter is too long to print here. Detective Rengifo has been in the Weston Criminal Investigations Unit for over 6 years. Aside from his exemplary investigations, in that time he has established himself as a role model and trainer for new detectives and deputies in the District. Detective Rengifo is routinely called upon throughout South Florida to assist in complex situations. He is not only an excellent investigator who has superior communication skills but is also a consummate team player that can be called upon to complete any assignment. He routinely works long hours and volunteers to help with any need within the district. Each month, someone is selected out of 107 employees in the district for the Employee of the Month award. Out of 12 months, Detective Rengifo was nominated 6 times and selected 3 of the months.



Detective Rengifo was described as "a role model detective who leads by example and defines professionalism. His dedication to the community, demonstrated by his time in his cases, is second to none."



NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MAGAZINE SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON WESTON

Those who live in Weston and the surrounding area know first-hand how impressive our Weston parks are. Now more people all around the country will know as well.

Don Decker, Weston's Director of Parks and Recreation, was asked to provide information for an "Agency Spotlight" in the Parks & Recreation magazine of the National Recreation and Parks Association. The organization's mission is to advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Don was happy to assist. Being the Past President of the Florida Recreation and Park Association and former SE Region Director, he constantly strives to promote recreational activities and park space for communities.

To read the Parks & Recreation spotlight just click here:

<http://digital.parksandrecreation.org/launch.aspx?eid=a35a91a1-797a-4012-bfc0-1f30b0536dbc&pnum=12>



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

City of Weston
Broward County Florida





MUNICIPALITY: City of Weston, Broward County, Florida
POPULATION: 65,237
YEAR FOUNDED: 1996
ANNUAL BUDGET: \$7,098,400
AGENCY HEAD: Don Decker, Director of Parks and Recreation

FACILITIES:

- Three sports parks, nine passive parks, and a tennis center totaling 237 acres of park land
- 12 soccer fields, 16 baseball/softball fields, three football/lacrosse fields, eight basketball courts, eight roller hockey rinks, three sand volleyball courts, modular skate park
- 6,000-square-foot community center

PROGRAMS:

- Weston Regional Park is home to the 40,000-square-foot West Broward Steinberg Family YMCA
- 11 playgrounds with shade covers and poured-in-place surfacing
- Outdoor amphitheater, event stage
- Cultural arts programs include symphonic concert series, outdoor movies, children's theater, arts shows, and puppet shows in conjunction with the Arts Council of Greater Weston and the Weston Philharmonic Society
- Sports programs for youth and adults provided by independent organizations, such as AYSO soccer, Little League baseball, tackle football, and lacrosse and YMCA sports including baseball, flag football, basketball, and roller hockey
- Special events include Halloween Safety Expo (in partnership with the Broward Sheriff's Office), Royal Egg Hunt, Fourth of July 5K and Parade, annual outdoor concert in partnership with the Rotary Club of Weston, and winter 5K and Half Marathon, also partnered with the Rotary

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT: "To make the City of Weston the most desirable place to live, work and play!"

AWARDS/CITATIONS:

- 2004—Broward County Beautification Award for Weston Regional Park
- 2007—FRPA Media Excellence Award for "Our Parks" International Brochure
- 2009—FRPA Media Excellence Award, Print Category Magazine

CHALLENGES & ISSUES: As a contract city with a core of only nine city employees (including the Parks and Recreation director), there is a heavy reliance on outside organizations to meet the needs and expectations of residents and users. The city contracts with the Broward Sheriff's Office for law enforcement and safety; private companies for planning, zoning, engineering, administrative, community and utility services; and a private law firm for the city attorney. In total, the nine employees (city manager, assistant city managers, and department directors) oversee 30 major private contractors.

At times when the city's expectations for those private contractors are not met, good communication and collaboration between city and contractors—and quick correction of problems—becomes critical.

KEYS TO SUCCESS: The contract method of providing services enables the city to acquire and delete the amount of service it needs at any specific time, to do so in a competitive environment, and to operate without incurring burdensome overhead. Weston's Parks and Recreation Department succeeds because of the philosophy of the City Manager and Commission who view parks and recreation as an essential service. The manager and elected officials understand that parks add value to property owners in addition to providing open spaces for the community to play, grow, and live.

SHORT-TERM PLANS:

- 3,000-5,000-square-foot addition to the Community Center in the next 18 months
- Redesign of eight-acre Peace Pond Park, one of the first archaeological parks in South Florida, in next 18 months

LONG-TERM PLANS

- Development of remaining five acres of undeveloped park land as expansion of one of the active sports parks
- Repurposing of underutilized areas of existing parks to meet changing needs of the community

10 Parks & Recreation MARCH 2012 WWW.NRPA.ORG

WWW.NRPA.ORG MARCH 2012 Parks & Recreation 11



MARCH IS FLORIDA BIKE MONTH



March is Florida Bicycle Month and there are a variety of fitness and education-centered events for riders of all ages to enjoy at various County and city parks.

The purposes of this special month are to promote bicycle safety and education; to provide leisure and recreational bicycling opportunities for all ages and abilities; and to offer competitive/challenging cycling opportunities throughout Broward County within both the public and the private sectors.

Click here for a list of events for events and activities around the County:
<http://www.broward.org/Parks/ThingsToDo/Pages/BicycleMonthEventCalendar.aspx>

FIND YOUR PATH

A great tool for cyclists is the BIKE Broward Interactive Bicycle Trip Planning tool. With this comprehensive tool you can view a variety of layers over the county map, which include: Street network; Public transport; Bicycle suitability; Bicycle facilities; and Recreational.

<http://bike.browardmpo.org>

WESTON ACTIVITIES

In addition to these events and activities Weston is currently seeking members for its **Weston Bike Alliance**, which will be a group consisting of members who have an interest in promoting the use of the bicycle for transportation and recreation and will work with a city liaison on matters regarding the same.

IF INTERESTED: Please email your name, email address and phone contact to Jeff Maxwell at jmaxwell@calvin-giordano.com In the subject line, please put WESTON BIKE ALLIANCE.

On Sunday, April 29th the City is hosting the **Weston Family Fun Ride and Bicycle Rodeo** from 1PM – 4PM in the Weston Regional Park. For details on this fun, family oriented event click here:

<http://www.westonfl.org/Residents/BikeFriendly/BikeFriendlyHome.aspx>





Complete Streets Initiative Asks for Residents Help by Taking Short Survey



The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is joining communities across the country that are rethinking road design and balancing their rights-of-way for all users: walkers, bicyclists, transit riders and drivers alike.

The Broward Regional Health Planning Council was recently awarded a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant to create healthy and safe places in Broward County that are supportive of active lifestyles by “establishing ‘Complete Streets’ community design standards to make streets safe for all users, including those who walk, ride bikes and use public transportation.”

As a result of this Transforming Our Community’s Health (TOUCH) Initiative, Broward’s 31 municipalities soon will have the tools necessary to design streets that balance all modes of transportation. Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Smart Growth Partnership and Urban Health Partnerships will be working collaboratively to develop and implement the community design standards that encourage complete streets and Smart Growth Cities

Complete Streets are corridors that are deemed accessible by all modes of travel and designed to encourage physical activity.

To complete this take, the MPO is seeking the input of everyone in the community.

It's a simple 10 question survey. The MPO needs to hear from lots of people from all over the county to ensure they understand the behaviors, concerns and attitudes of those people they are trying to reach and engage about **Complete Streets**. Responses will be kept private.

SURVEY: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/browardcompletestreets>





SPLASH INITIATIVE available **FREE** at the YMCA

With summer just around the corner, families need to be educated on all of the up to date information regarding water safety.

Children are naturally drawn to water. In Florida, drowning is the leading cause of death for children under the age of four. According to the Broward County Medical Examiner, more children in our area drown in backyard pools than in the ocean.



This year's SPLASH program will feature FREE swim lessons, hands-on learning stations, including learning safe swim conditions; how to stay safe in a boat; the importance of proper floatation devices; and how to handle a water emergency.

Parents of children or organizations serving K-8th grade can register in person at the Sheinberg Family YMCA of Weston at 20201 Saddle Club Road, Weston.

This FREE Splash swim lesson offer is available on a first-come, first-serve registration basis – *child must be a non-swimmer with no prior lessons.*

WHEN:

- **Monday – Friday, March 12th thru March 16th**
- Sessions available: 5:30PM-6:00PM; 6:15PM-6:45PM; and 7:00PM-7:30PM



Interested in a home pool safety inspection?

Weston Crime Prevention Specialist, Deputy Kari Pallotto, will visit your home to inspect your pool and advise what safety precautions can be taken to ensure a safer backyard environment.

To schedule an appointment please call 954-389-2010.



6th Annual Weston Foreign Film Series presents *The White Countess*

On **Monday, March 12, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.** at the **Weston 8 Cinema**, the Arts Council of Greater Weston, Inc., in cooperation with the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival will present *The White Countess* as part of the 6th Annual Weston Foreign Film Series.

The White Countess is a film in which Russian Countess Sophia and her family find refuge in Shanghai in 1936. She supports the family by working as a bar girl and taxi dancer, but forms an alliance with a former diplomat and owner of an elegant bar. Their relationship blossoms until they are caught in the fall of the city to the Japanese invasion.



WHAT: *The White Countess*

WHEN: Monday, March 12, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

WHERE: Weston 8 Cinema (1338 SW 160th Avenue, Sunrise, Florida)

COST: \$7.00 per film at the door or in advance at the Weston Community Center (checks only) located at 20200 Saddle Club Road inside the Weston Regional Park, the Friends of the Library Bookstore in the Weston Branch Library (cash or check) or at the Community Bank of Broward, Weston Branch (cash or check).

For more information visit www.artscouncilwestonfl.com or call the Weston Community Center at 954-389-4321.



SPRING AHEAD! *SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2012*



Daylight Savings Time begins on the second Sunday in March at **2:00 am local time in the U.S.**

On Sunday, March 11th *turn clocks ahead* by one hour, ideally at bedtime on the **Saturday night before**. Manually adjust any timepieces and timekeeping technological devices that do not automatically adjust.

The purpose of DST—also known as Summer Time—is to extend daylight by an hour in the afternoons during spring, summer, and much of the fall.

The return to Standard Time begins at 2:00 am local time in the U.S. on the first Sunday in November, which in 2012 is November 4. Turn clocks back by one hour, ideally at bedtime on the Saturday night before.

This is the perfect time to also test and replace batteries in smoke detectors.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2012 - Water Meter Replacements in Country Isles

Water meters in residential communities in the Indian Trace portions of Weston are being systematically replaced, beginning with **Country Isles**. A door hanger will be placed on your front door 24 hours prior to service personnel replacing your water meter. For additional information:

http://www.westonfl.org/media/docs/misc/2012_Residential_Water_Meter_Replacement.pdf

**Click on this page to see all
Upcoming Events**

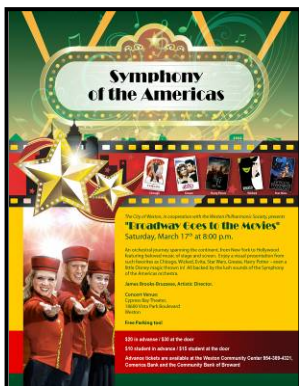


Monday, March 12, 2012 5:00PM & 7:15PM

Weston Foreign Film Series THE WHITE COUNTESS

All foreign Language films have English subtitles.

Russian Countess Sophia and her family find refuge in Shanghai in 1936. She supports the family by working as a bar girl and taxi dancer, but forms an alliance with a former diplomat, owner of an elegant bar. Their relationship blossoms until they are caught in the fall of the city to the Japanese invasion. *United Kingdom/2005/135 minutes.*
Tickets: \$7 per film and available at the Weston Community Center, Community Bank of Broward, and the Friends Book Store in the Weston Branch Library.
Shown at the **Weston 8 Cinema**.



Saturday, March 17, 2012 8:00PM

Symphony of the Americas Broadway Goes to the Movies

An orchestral journey spanning the continent, from New York to Hollywood presentation of Evita, Star Wars, and more Broadway hits thrown in!
Symphony of the Americas at the **Weston 8 Cinema**, 18600 Vista Park Blvd., Weston.

SOLD OUT



Saturday, March 24, 2012 7:00PM
8th Annual Free Concert in the Park
Blue Oyster Cult and The Outlaws

Residents are invited to a great rock concert under the stars! Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for seating and enjoy the great hits of Blue Oyster Cult and The Outlaws. **Blue Oyster Cult** spans three decades with a long and storied history, originating in upstate New York and are well known for hits which include "(Don't Fear) The Reaper", "Burnin' for You", and "This Ain't the Summer of Love". They have sold over 24 million albums worldwide.

The Outlaws are a southern rock band originally formed in Tampa, FL. Well known songs include "There Goes Another Love Song", and "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky".

Concert is held at the **Event Stage in the Weston Regional Park**, 20200 Saddle Club Road.



Saturday, March 31, 2012 11AM-2PM
BSO Fire Rescue OPEN HOUSE

An open house at Fire Station 81, 17350 Royal Palm Blvd.

Come by and tour the station, meet fire rescue personnel, paint a fire truck, meet Sparky the Fire Prevention Dog and enjoy refreshments.



Saturday, April 7, 2012 – 10:00AM
Weston Royal Egg Hunt

Over 18,000 candy filled eggs will fill four ball fields for Weston's Annual Royal Egg Hunt. There will be four age groups, for children ages 10 and under, on baseball fields #1 thru #4, in the Weston Regional Park.

Whatever you do, **DON'T BE LATE** – plan for traffic delays getting into the park as hundreds of children come out to this event each year.

ALL EGG HUNTS WILL GO OFF AT 10am PROMPTLY!

Remember to bring a basket or bag for your eggs and goodies. There will also be photos with the Royal Bunny and bounce houses available after the egg hunts.