

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations, Inc.

Serving the Membership ♦ Improving the Community Lifestyle ♦ Working Toward Sustainable Development

Applying Resilience Thinking to Our Natural Resources

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April 2022 issue of The Alliance Connection

IN PERSON MEETING at the South County Civic Center

Wednesday April 6, 2022

Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk & Comptroller

How Can the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller Help You?

**Also, Updates from PBSO, PBCFR, and
Government & Elected Officials**

Doors Open 9 AM Meeting Begins 9:30 AM

Bagels and Coffee/Tea Served

Come and Enjoy!

The Public is Welcome



Joseph Abruzzo is the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Palm Beach County, and proudly serves as the county's protector of public records and public funds. He was sworn into office on January 5, 2021.

As Clerk, Mr. Abruzzo leads a team of nearly 650 employees who serve more than 1.5 million Palm Beach County residents and oversees an annual operating budget of \$70.5 million. As the Comptroller for Palm Beach County, he is responsible for ensuring the proper investment and legal use of taxpayer money.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE ALLIANCE:

Lori Vinikoor, President

Arnold Katz, Executive Vice President *Norma Arnold, Vice President* *Allen Hamlin, Vice President* *Ken Markowitz, Vice President*

Carol Klausner, Secretary *Deborah Borenstein, Treasurer*

Directors: Rob Cuskaden Paul Finkelstein York Freund Judy Goldberg Evelyn Spielholz Susan Zuckerman

Assistants to the President: Rose DeSanto John Gentithes Rhoda Greifer Joel Vinikoor

Bob Schulbaum, Chairman of the Board

Legal Counsel: Joshua Gerstin

Alliance Meets with Florida Secretary of Transportation to Request Expedited Expansion of Atlantic Avenue



On February 28, 2022, the Alliance leadership met with Kevin Thibault, Florida Secretary of Transportation, and Commissioner Maria Sachs to discuss the public concerns about the delay in improving infrastructure in south Palm Beach County, construction of a bridge over the Turnpike and Flavor Pict Road and expediting expansion of Atlantic Avenue between State Road 7/441 and Jog Road.

Secretary Thibault indicated that these projects are planned to begin during fiscal year 2024 and there still are insufficient funds available to accelerate the schedule. Projections are that there will be no significant relief until the end of the

decade. The Alliance will continue to work on ways to expedite the expansion which is desperately needed for the Atlantic Avenue corridor.

Other issues addressed included the need for sound walls for communities bordering the Florida Turnpike when the expansion to ten lanes occurs and speeding concerns along State Road 7/441.

Photo: Secretary Thibault seated next to Commissioner Maria Sachs (standing).

Lyons Road Widening Begins Next Phase

On February 28 the Palm Beach County Department of Engineering began the next phase to widen Lyons Road from two to four lanes. This work includes paving from the L-38 canal to south of 152nd place. Over 2,000 homes in four communities use this portion of Lyons Road as their primary entrance.



The roadwork is scheduled to be completed by 3rd Quarter of 2022. New signals at intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Lyons Road, the final stage of this project, is contracted to be completed by 10-21- 2022. At that time the expansion of Lyons south of Atlantic should be complete but there will be a need for additional work to expand the roadway to accommodate slow moving farm vehicles.

Separate the myths from the facts.

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For updated visitor info, visit palmbeachhealthnetwork.com.

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Summary of March 2, 2022 Meeting

President Lori Vinikoor welcomed attendees to the meeting

- President Vinikoor showed a video of the Boca Raton-Delray Beach area around State Road 7/441 that is a part of the Ag Reserve. GL Homes is proposing a land swap that would increase the density of the area with a 1250-unit development.
- Board Members Rob Cuskaden, Judy Goldberg, Lori Vinikoor, Norma Arnold, and Carol Klausner whose terms of office were about to expire were reelected to the Board. York Freund, was elected to fill a vacant position
- Captain Rob Sandt of the PBC Sheriff's Office told of the traffic problems in the area and the Sheriff Department's work to combat speeding, and reckless driving and inattentiveness. He once again admonished drivers to always remove any valuables from their cars and to lock the doors when leaving the vehicle.
- Chief Pete Hund of the PBC Fire Rescue announced that Chief Duren will leave Fire Rescue to become Assistant to Verdenia Baker. Patrick Kennedy will fill the vacancy.
- Palm Beach County Commissioner Maria Sachs supplied the group with many interesting facts.
- The Department of Transportation (DOT) reports that many people are moving to this area, and as a result, the DOT is scheduled to begin widening State Road 7/441, Lyons Road, and W. Atlantic Avenue to handle the anticipated increase in traffic.
- Eric Call, Director of Parks and Recreation of Palm Beach County, announced that there has been a 30 - 40% increase in attendance at County parks during the Covid pandemic. Mr. Call reported that the Palm Beach County Park System is the 2nd largest in Florida and the 11th largest in the United States. It was noted that proximity to parks increases property values as well as producing environmental benefits and physical and mental well-being. Mr. Call presented a video that gave an overview of the PBC parks, beaches, pools, trails, golf courses, and more.
- Bonnie LeMay, Administrator of the Morikami Museum and Gardens related how the Morikami was donated to PBC in 1974. It is a part of the Parks and Recreation Department. A master plan for the area was created. The museum, the expanded gardens, the artisan village, and so many more additions and improvements attract many visitors all year round. Plans for the future envision controlled growth and a retreat style opportunity found in a Japanese Inn.

The next meeting of the Membership will be held on April 6, 2022. The speaker will be Clerk & Comptroller Joseph Abruzzo. Topic: "How Can the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller Help You?" Please come for bagels, cream cheese, coffee/tea and very special cupcakes!

Submitted by Carol Klausner, Secretary




Current PBCFR Fire Chief, Chief Duren (photo left), was approached by the County Administrator, Mrs. Verdenia Baker, and asked if he would join her staff as one of the Assistant County Administrators for Palm Beach County. He accepted her offer and while he will be greatly missed by the Alliance and members of PBCFR, it is exciting to announce that Assistant Chief Pat Kennedy (photo right) has been picked to replace him as the new Fire Rescue Administrator for Palm Beach County. Chief Kennedy worked much of his career down in the south end of the County and he still lives in the west Boca Raton area.



Attendees to the March 3, 2022, meeting were given VIP passes to visit the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. The Museum was donated to Palm Beach County in the 1970s. It consists of 16 acres of authentic Japanese gardens, exhibitions of Japanese art, an authentic tea house, museum store an award-winning café and year-round cultural programming. Morikami remains the nation's only museum dedicated to Japanese living culture and its gardens are recognized among the finest outside Japan.





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Photo from left: Lori Vinikoor, President, Bonnie LeMay, Director of the Morikami, Eric Call, Director PBC Parks & Recreation and Bob Schulbaum, Chairman of the Board



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Alliance Works for Its Member Communities



The Alliance facilitated negotiations between member community “Waterways” and the Department of Transportation to install fencing and shrubs on land cleared of non-native vegetation during a Turnpike project.

The Alliance assists schools and non-profit organizations that serve less fortunate members of our community.

Several years ago, the Alliance “adopted” Orchard View Elementary School to help the underprivileged. Photo: this month Orchard View received a donation from the Alliance. From left are Ambassador to the school Harvey Arnold, Secretary Carol Klausner, Vice President Norma Arnold, and Orchard View Principal Danielle Garcia and Assistant Principal Dawn Sarnelli.



The Alliance worked with the Palm Beach County Engineering Department to eliminate traffic backup caused by traffic light timing problems on Lyons Road.

Upcoming issues of the Alliance Connection will be reporting on the following:

- Proposed CMR “Commerce” designation for the Urban/Suburban Tier and Agricultural Reserve Tier (similar to “light Industrial” land use).
- New preserve requirements for the CMR designation in the AGR Tier.
- Proposed increased housing density in the Agricultural Reserve.
- Changes in Planned Unit Development requirements in the AGR Tier.
- Commercial node of the Terra Nova development.
- Coastal High Hazard Area Map Amendments.
- Proposed Storage/car wash/restaurant on Big Apple Bazaar site.

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations, Inc.

Preserving the Community Lifestyle

10290 W Atlantic Ave. #480504

Delray Beach, Florida 33448



Important Information Contained in this Newsletter

TO:

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