

ALLIANCE OF DELRAY RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Our president, Dr. Lori Vinikoor, started the meeting at 9:30am and John Gentithes, our board member, introduced the guest speakers.

Vice Mayor Maria Sachs, spoke first and discussed the 441 and Atlantic Avenue development that will be built on the corner opposite Delray Market Place. She is advocating that this combine community have places that we can all enjoy such as, coffee shops, entertainment area, and some shopping. A place for Delray residents to relax and enjoy. Mayor Sachs also gave kudos to our Alliance President, Dr Lori Vinikoor for being a constant fighter and advocate for the Agricultural Reserve. We cannot stop all building but Dr. Lori fights to have it used responsibly.

Alexcia Cox, Deputy Chief Assistant State Attorney and Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit for the State Attorney spoke. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Caretakers to the elderly, siblings, young children, mates to each other, both verbal and physical abuse. 1 in 4 women experience this violence and 1 in 9 men! Mental health workers are always available to help. Call if you suspect something. State Attorney Website: <https://sa15.org/>

Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office Detective Eastman, our District 4 representative, filled in for Captain Rob Sandt. Traffic crashes are up 6% from 2022. She stated to leave early for appointments. Stay calm and don't respond to another yelling at you! Do Not Engage! Wait a minute when light turns green as speeders try to "make the light" and be careful when making a left hand turn! Auto burglaries are up in all communities, gated and not. Organized crime groups know how to steal with modern technology.. PLEASE LOCK YOUR CARS AND DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN PLAIN SIGHT! Fobs should be kept away from front doors and garages as the criminals can now read the codes.

Tony Keeler spoke for the Fire Rescue Dept. Last month they received over 3000 calls with Kings Point being the highest. This is hurricane season so be prepared with all your supplies and to help with the calls, a 4th person has been added to the ladder trucks. Always call the EMTs in an emergency because they can help save your life on the way to the hospital!

Senator Lori Berman said that the legislative sessions are starting and if we have suggestions for future bills to be proposed, contact her office. This is important as many bills start with community input so don't be shy! Contact her with ideas. Website: <https://www.flsenate.gov/senators/s26>

Representative Kelly Skidmore, has her office at Atlantic Avenue and Hagen Ranch. With the legislative sessions starting in Tallahassee, send her suggestions for bills to be presented! Website: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/contactmember.aspx?MemberId=4786>

Vice Chair of the School Board, Karen Brill spoke next. She said that she never thought that we would need metal detectors in our schools but this is the way it is now. Also, LBGTQ will be honored in PBC schools and at this point no books are being banned! Teacher salaries are poor in Florida, however, but this year, a 7.5% increase plus a \$1500 bonus. Starting salary is \$51,500/year. This is because Florida only gives \$9,200 per student as opposed to NY where the number is \$34,000 per student. We must get our government to value education!

The main speaker for the meeting was Dr. James Snider, M.D. head of the South Florida Proton Therapy Institute. This innovative technology pinpoints the cancer without damaging surrounding tissues. It is an amazing since it avoids destroying other organs. The equipment is housed in a huge room with 14 feet thick walls. The Xray machine weights 300 tons and is 43 ft high! It's laser pointer protects normal tissue and saves the patient from some further, unnecessary surgery, eliminates side effects, and reduces the need for unnecessary X-rays. Website: <https://sfpti.com/>

Our last guest speaker was Kelly Jackson, P.H.D. and FAU Professor. She is also the Nurse Recruiter at FAU. Dr. Jackson is heading up two very interesting Volunteer projects for Seniors at Florida Atlantic University. These Studies include Driving Project & Microbiome/Gut/Brain Project. There is some compensation involved. For further information on how to be a part of the solution, call 561-235-4467 or email cru-dor@health.fair.edu.

Next month's meeting will be on November 1, 2023 and will feature Joseph Abruzzo, Palm Beach County Clerk of the Court and Comptroller. He will discuss all of the special services that are available to us. The meeting will be held in the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, across from Morikami Gardens. Doors will open at 9AM when refreshments are served. The meeting begins at 9:30 and always concludes by 11:30. All are invited to attend. See you there.

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Goldberg