

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations, Inc.

By Judy Goldberg

The Alliance of Delray meeting began at 9:30 AM with Dr Lori Vinikoor, our President providing a few updates. Our Vice President, Arnie Katz, welcomed our guests for the meeting. We were told that the free standing Emergency Department building was defeated by our City commissioners, 5 to 0 against .Which is great news as the High Point Community was backing up to this and the sirens, lights, and noise would have been unbelievable. The fact that we have a great facility right down the road, Delray Medical Center, with all the emergency needs without going north to JFK was a total win/win.

Our June Alliance Breakfast is fast approaching and our July meeting will be a "4th" Celebration as we did last year. An abundance of produce from our own farmers in the Ag Reserve. Tasting is permitted!!!! Lots of fun and activities. Please plan on joining us.

Captain Mike Morales of the Palm Beach Sheriffs' Office, (District 4) stated that Sheriff Bradshaw has reinstated a special security for our Houses of Worship. As we do in schools, there would be an alert to shelter in place if danger is noted. This would be an extra layer of security, sadly needed, in todays' climate. The Captain also said that the Police are cracking down on a group of young people who break into storage buildings on 441, do "donuts" or wheelies with their cars and generally wreck the facility while foolishly filming themselves for social media!!! Not too smart. Many arrests have taken place and the area is being monitored. Another scam is happening in gated communities. An "Uber Eats" car is let into the community. They then drive around until they find an unlocked car with the fob inside! They steal the car and head back to Broward County where most seem to come from. Our Sheriffs contact the Broward Sheriffs Office with details and about the car's make and the police have been arresting them when they return to that district. Message is....LOCK your cars and NEVER leave the fob inside the car. Also, hide all valuables.

Chief Bill Stansbury representing the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, (we are District 45) said that hurricane season is right around the corner and being prepared is a must. Stock up on batteries, fans, water, food to be eaten without heat, etc. Make sure that your important papers are in a water-proof travel bag. Know your evacuation route or center. Important to plan ahead. He said that the call volume has decreased from 3700 calls to 3200 as snowbirds head home. Station 45 at Jog and Linton continues to be the busiest station.

Our Representative, Kelly Skidmore, said that the special session in Tallahassee was concerned with redistricting maps. The delegates MUST get the budget passed by the end of May. Also, we must check our ballots as some of the candidates that we would vote for may be moved to a different district. If you would like to get more information or speak with her and her staff, the office is at Atlantic Ave and Hagen Ranch behind the Bank building.

The main speaker of the day was Ernie Barnett, Director at Florida Land Council & Former Assistant Executive Director of South Florida Water Management District. We learned about the water system and how Lake Okeechobee has changed over the years as well as all of our wetlands. Floodplains have been greatly altered with our canal systems and dams. The department works with environmental and Everglades restoration. Lake Okeechobee is our liquid heart for water and 95% comes from further North into the lake. Over the years, walls and dikes have been created to stop the flooding in that area as well as downstream. The vast percentage of the Everglades is west of I95 and agriculture is the most important asset to the area. PBC's main winter vegetables are grown in the Agricultural Preserve. It feeds us! That is the importance of keeping this area as safe as possible. Heavy flooding occurred back in 1920 to 1928. Over 2000 lives were lost. We were shown amazing maps of the incredible change in our areas. At one time, flooding would take over the area and our current Delray neighborhoods. No one could live here back then. Through thoughtful planning and dams like the Herbert Hoover Dam, we have developed some major control of the storms and floodplains. The

use of levies, pumping stations and canals (highways for water). The goal is to capture water, keep the land safe and dry. Mr. Barnett taught us about filtration management, treatment plant areas, purification of our water system. By creating all of these systems and canals, we can have our clean water and a safe environment. The flood control systems pump off the flood waters quickly. Otherwise, we could not live where we are today!

Our last speaker of the day was Nancy Demonstranti, P.G., Lead Hydrogeologist, Water Supply Planning. South Florida Water Management. This department does a 5 year update on our water supply. They also plan a 20 year projection for water usage. Information on landscaping cycles and agricultural water needs are analyzed along with sources like utilities, environmental and restoration data. This all creates a plan for our lower East Coast going into the future. Also, surface water/fresh ground water helps us with conservation. Environmental protective and restoration strategies are used to take us into the future with plenty of clean, drinkable water! We are fortunate to have these dedicated, smart people working to keep our water supply untainted and available by just turning on the tap!

Our next meeting will be our Annual Breakfast in June.

The July meeting will be held in the South County Civic Center, (now known as the Dr. Andre' Fladell Civic Center) 16700 Jog Rd, across from Morikami Gardens. Like last year, this will be our July 4th festival, fruits and vegetables from your own Ag Reserve. Fun, food and a chance to get to know our neighbors and farmers that supply us with all of this. Doors open at 9AM. The meeting starts at 9:30AM. All invited to attend. See you there!