



40TH WATERWAY CLEANUP

5

HOLY CROSS'S DIRECTOR OF 2016

10

GIRLS REC VOLLEYBALL SPIKES

24

AMIKIDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH



RESTORING HOME COMFORT Volunteers Marley Joseph, left, and John Bubello prepare to plant a palm tree in front of the Fort Lauderdale home of Martha Smith. The pair joined AMilkids, a nonprofit organization that serves at-risk youth, in making various improvements to Smith's home. CARLINE JEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Residents applaud new dog area at Holiday Park

BY HELEN WOLT
STAFF WRITER

A yappy time was had by all at the dedication of Fort Lauderdale's new dog park. Canines of all shapes and sizes pranced through a crowd that was all smiles at Holiday Park.

City officials posed with the crowd for a ribbon cutting ceremony and lauded the benefits the park will bring to the city.

"More than building a dog park, we're building community," said Fort Lauderdale Vice Mayor Dean Trantalis. "By com-

ing to the dog park we can take a moment out of our busy lives and can actually meet our next door neighbors and people from other parts of the community."

The park sits on a 1.5-acre fenced parcel north of the War Memorial Museum. It's accessible through the parking lot near the roller hockey rinks.

The secure space allows dogs to exercise, run, and play freely. Small dogs are allocated 12,500 square feet. Large canines can run on 48,000 square feet.

Victoria Park resident

Gregg McKee said: "I'm always looking for places for a dog and there are so few places on city land where you can take them... It's nice having someplace to let them off the leash. A tired dog is a good dog."

Victoria Park Civic Association members sparked the dog park drive several years ago. McKee worked on its ad hoc committee. He said they first reached out to nearby Lakeridge and Flagler Village organizations who gave their support "100 per-

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Cities offer bridge to county's home-repair programs

BY ELIZABETH ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

A rare bit of good news on the home maintenance front, courtesy of Broward's Housing Finance and Community Redevelopment Division: It's home repair programs are back again.

The programs are open to residents in participating Community Development Block Grant cities including Oakland Park,

which are helping to bring awareness to the programs' return.

The main program offers a 10-year deferred payment loan of up to \$40,000 per eligible homeowner that can be used for everything from upgrading air conditioning to storm shutters.

Broward County offered the program two years ago. However, last year there was no funding. But now the program is back.

Of an initial pool of \$2.2 million, said Sue Fejes, assistant director of the Housing Finance and Community Redevelopment Division, about \$800,000 has been awarded, which doesn't go as far as it seems.

"The average roof can run \$20,000, depending on whether it is tile or not," Fejes said.

The money can be used to cover roof repair or replacement,

hurricane storm shutters, window and door replacement, and even insulation.

Meanwhile, a separate program offers a maximum \$4,500 grant for water and sewer pipe repairs including installing a new line from the house to the street; cleaning existing drain lines and deactivating septic tanks.

Contractors are pre-selected and pre-approved and, with the

exception of Pompano and Deerfield Beach residents, which offer city programs, any homeowner in Broward County with income below \$40,600 for a family of one - and \$67,300 per year for a family of six - is eligible.

For information about Broward County's Home Repair Program, call 954-357-4900.

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THE WEEK IN PICTURES



“REBUILDING TOGETHER” AMIkids of Greater Fort Lauderdale recently worked alongside Broward County Sheriff’s deputies to help clean up the home of a Fort Lauderdale resident, Martha Smith. AMIkids is a nonprofit organization that serves at-risk youth in nine states. Top left, volunteer Brooke Rabinowitz, 20, of Coconut Creek, paints the front door of Smith’s home in Fort Lauderdale. Top right, homeowner Martha Smith, of Fort Lauderdale, looks on as volunteer Keshia Walsh with AMIkids Greater Fort Lauderdale paints her front door. Below, volunteers set up house painting equipment. Left, AMIkids Greater Fort Lauderdale volunteers working to clean up Smith’s home. PHOTOS BY CARLINE JEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

