

HOMES
& BUSINESSES IN
• DEERFIELD BEACH
• LIGHTHOUSE POINT
• HILLSBORO BEACH
• POMPANO BEACH
• BOCA RATON



Observer

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"He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed."
Proverbs 22:8

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BSO Trunk or Treat

By Diane Emcott

For the second year in a row, area children dressed as their favorite film characters got to stroll around Deerfield Mall, trunk or treating, on the night of Halloween.

"We're trying to make this a fun and safe annual community event," said Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Deputy Carlos Periu.

The Oct. 31 event, sponsored by BSO, the City of Deerfield and Shoppes at Deerfield, was actually first held three years ago at Quiet Waters Park before a decision was made to move it to Deerfield Mall – for greater visibility and to enhance local businesses, according to Periu, who invited other BSO Deputies and Citizen Observer Patrol (COP) to be on scene for the spooktacular holiday.

"We put this on every year. It's a great event!" said DBMS School Resource Officer Williams.

"Two years ago, we



stumbled on [this event] by accident. We've been back ever since," said the mom of three girls – two dressed like *Frozen* characters and one as *Sleeping Beauty*."

A mini train transported delighted kids around the parking lot. Kids also had a chance to see a red BSFR firetruck up close. Cinopolis Deerfield Beach movie theater provided a "photo booth" [black backdrop for photos]. Kids whose parents "liked" Cinopolis on Instagram or Facebook also got to spin a wheel to receive a



prize. Popcorn was one of the favorites. (Inside, the theatre *Goosebumps* was playing for ticket buyers.)

Among those hosting trunk or treat stations was a group from Deerfield Park Elementary Pre-K, a representative from Broward County Library and Patrick from Emerald Towing.

(1) Delilah, 7, (Anna from *Frozen*); Emily, 2, (*Sleeping Beauty*); and Olivia, 4 (Ariel from *Frozen*). (2) Kari, 4, (*Wonder Woman*) goes Trunk Or Treating at Broward County Library car. (3) Witch Isabella, almost 2 years old. (4) Here comes the Train ride! (5) Olivia, Liliana & Angelica are excited to be at Halloween night event.

Election Day

By Rachel Galvin

Did you vote? Tuesday marked the big day and the results are in. It seems everyone could come away saying they were a winner, after all both blues and reds got some wins (Dems got the House and Reps retained the Senate). Of course, nationally, there was a "pink wave" with a large amount of women gaining seats. In Florida, the Governor's race went to Republican Ron DeSantis over Andrew Gillum and, as of press time, it looked like the Senate seat would go to Republican Rick Scott over Bill Nelson in a close race. (Nelson wants a recount). Locally, Chip LaMarca, currently Broward County Commissioner, will



not be our state representative for District 93 and Pompano Mayor Lamar Fisher won the Broward County Commission seat. Ted Deutch retained his Congressional seat. These were only a few races. There were so many questions and choices on the ballot this year, everything from voting on dog racing, which passed -- meaning it will be phased out, to voting on whether we should be able to vote on casinos, which also passed. To get a look at all the

results, including other crucial races and amendments, visit www.browardsoe.org (keep in mind that this only shows how Broward County voted). The big win was the fact that so many hit the polls in a midterm election. According to the Broward Supervisor of Election website, there was a 57.39 percent voter turnout in the county.

Deerfield trims millage rate; walks Dixie Hwy. Corridor

By Diane Emcott

Deerfield Commission approved a slight 19/1000 (nineteenth of a thousandth) cut in the millage rate at an hour-long special commission meeting on a Monday night, Nov. 5. A new Operating Millage of 6.1070 + a Debt Service Millage of 0.3740 = a Total Millage of 6.4810. It received a unanimous, 4 to 0 vote, with Commissioner Joe Miller out on an excused absence.

A corresponding \$132,610 decrease in the Budget, also approved 4 to 0, will be taken from the Fund Balance Reserve (with an additional \$10,000 that was already designated to Gateway Community Outreach at Mayor Bill Ganz' request on Sept. 17 to come from the Contingency Fund).

With the new 2019 Fiscal Year already underway since Oct. 1, 2018, any savings for taxpayers will be held in escrow by Broward County Property Appraiser. Depending on individual property values, the first time individuals may see a slight decrease on property taxes would appear on their August 2019 trim notices (for the 2020 Fiscal Year), according to City Manager Burgess Hanson and City CFO Hugh Dunkley.

City management said on Nov. 5 that they would be sending the new millage rate figures to the state the next afternoon, Nov. 6.

"We already turned in a non-conforming form. We have kept in constant communication [with the state, and let them know of the options we would be presenting tonight]," said Hanson and Dunkley.

Option 1 was to keep the originally approved 6.1267 Operating Millage. (Requiring a 4/5 vote). Option 2, which the commission chose, to decrease the Operating Millage slightly to 6.1070,

required only a 3/5 vote. Additional options were to set the Operating Millage between 6.1070 and 6.1267 (Requiring a 4/5 vote), or to set the Operating Millage below 6.1070 (Requiring a 3/5 vote). In either of these cases, the Budget would have to be reworked to match the decrease in revenue, and be approved by a 3/5 vote.

Resident Glenn Sullivan pointed out that the 2nd Homestead Exemption about to be voted on at the Nov. 6 Election, if passed, would not affect property tax revenues the city receives until Fiscal Year 2020.

The projected \$2.1 million shortfall to the city would not come in Fiscal Year 2019. "I found \$3.5 million in savings if you'd like to sit down with me. I can probably come up with \$7 million. There is money galore. So much money in this budget the cut wouldn't have to come out of Reserves or Contingency."

Resident Joe Hines said he had done the math on the 2.5 percent COLA the city is going to give its 475 employees.

"I'd like to see the city reduce the millage. And certainly, I'd not like to see the Arboretum affected by this," said Hines.

(Rain Forest Phase 2 — \$125K was one of the areas designated for a cut if the city were to decrease its Operating Millage under Option 2.) Commissioners and the mayor also spoke against any cuts to the Arboretum, before unanimously voting for the slight millage rate decrease.

Background

This was the third public hearing on Millage Rate and Budget, when two public hearings are customary. The reason for the extra look at millage? A super majority 4/5 vote was required by the state at second and "final" hearing on the millage rate.

See Commission, pg. 13

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