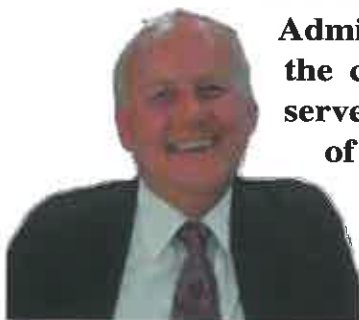




Bob Vitas New Town Manager

For four months following the departure of our former Town Manager, the Town Council actively sought a logical replacement. Councilmembers took advantage of the services of the Florida City and County Management Association/International City County Management Association (FCCMA/ICMA), an organization that assists small towns in such a search. Based upon the Council's detailed expression of the needs of the Town, FCCMA developed a list of ten potential candidates for the position. The Council then spent days pouring over resumes and comprehensive background checks. Then on October 8, 2015, the Town Council met with the five Town Manager finalists. Councilmembers asked each contender the complete list of 15 questions that had been compiled by FCCMA to facilitate making a well-considered choice. Following a discussion of what was best for the Town, the Council unanimously chose Bogdan "Bob" Vitas to be our Town Manager and he was sworn in on November 9th. He hit the ground running and has already met with the Council and the staff (including the police force) as well as Townspeople.



Bob comes to us with a background as City Manager of Key West, FL and Village Administrator of Lake Zurich, IL (less than 40 miles from Chicago, the community had a population of about 18,000). Earlier, Bob served as City Administrator of Lewiston, ME, and Administrator of the Town of Menasha, WI. His experience coupled with a Master's in Public Administration Management and Development means he would have been eligible for the position even under our previous more demanding qualifications requirement.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Town Clerk Yudy Alvarez and Police Chief Carl Webb who in cooperation with Mayor Bonnie Fischer and Town Attorney Brad Biggs commendably covered the role of the Town Manager for over four months. With them and our new Town Manager, we look forward to a period of enrichment and harmony.

Happy Holidays

MAYOR'S MEMO

Clearly, we need a strong Town Manager; hiring the right one is one of the most important decisions any Town Council member can make. As a group, we have chosen Bob Vitas to be that leader. Let's all stand behind him as he addresses the challenges facing us so we can move forward and make South Palm Beach – already the “Best Town on the East Coast” – even better.

Because of our proximity to the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway – and the real and potential problems that go along with that – South Palm Beach has both more and more varied concerns than some other municipalities. But all of Florida's oceanfront communities share problems associated with beach erosion. We therefore need someone who can work and build relationships, not only with South Palm Beach residents and nearby towns, but with County and State governments. The much-needed beach-renourishment project has been complicated and delayed by various levels of bureaucracy that we must deal with before moving forward with it.



Bonnie Fischer

During my brief tenure as your mayor, I've focused on building bridges between our barrier-island town and communities throughout the Sunshine State that share our interests and challenges. Toward that end, I attend the annual Florida League of Cities convention as well as the biannual Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association conferences. I also represent South Palm Beach on the Ocean Coastal Task Force, which makes cohesive recommendations including setting priorities concerning coastal resources to the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD (CAAB)



CAAB members had a very busy summer scheduling our exciting 2016 season of events. The entire season is dedicated to our 60th anniversary.

One of our very special events will be our anniversary celebration dinner on February 1st (see page 7 for details).

The Lecture and Music Series has been revitalized (see page 4 for details). Still leaning toward political topics, the Lecture Series will also feature life-long learning. The Music Series will include contemporary music such as Porter and Gershwin. The 2016 Cultural Series Spotlight will be mailed to all South Palm Beach condominiums shortly.

If you or your neighbor will not be in Town at that time, ensure that Town Hall has the address to which you want the Spotlight sent. Remember, last season we sold out the first night of the Lecture Series very quickly.

Local artists are scheduled for their presentations in the 2016 Art Shows being held on the second Sundays in January, February, and March 2016 from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM. It will be another fantastic art season with free refreshments.

Our first Bus Trip of the season will be an excursion to the Hard Rock Casino on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. Other bus trips will occur in January, February, and March 2016, with plans for other great locations. Anyone attending the Hard Rock Casino Bus Trips will need to register at Town Hall, and will pay the bus driver \$22.00 (cash) for trip, play money, and driver's tip.

Free Ice Cream Socials will be held on the third Sundays of January, February and March 2016 from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM. You cannot beat the new and delicious flavors that are available each year.

The extremely popular and informative Wellness Program (see page 5 for details) will be held on the first and third Thursdays during January, February and March 2016. Bethesda Hospital doctors will provide current medical information. Free refreshments will be served.

The 2016 Robert Welstein Quest for Knowledge (see page 5 for details) offers another year of interesting speakers and new topics. The program is held every Monday morning from 10:30 AM until noon, including a Question and Answer period after each speaker's presentation. This program is free to the public and refreshments will be served.

The Town of South Palm Beach's Book Discussion Group has a terrific attendance and vibrant discussions every third Tuesday. Its first meeting was held on November 17th 2015 and will continue through April 2016. This program is free with no preregistration required. The books can be picked up in Town Hall.

We're excited to be bringing back Bingo. Beginning January 6th, it will be held in Town Chambers Wednesdays at 10:00 AM until noon.

Last but not least, is our very popular on-going Yoga Classes, held each Saturday at 9:30 AM, in Town Council Chambers. There is no preregistration, but we do ask for a minimal donation of \$5 to defray costs.

You can watch Channel 99 or feel free to call Town Hall at 561.588.8889 for all of South Palm Beach's updated information.

LECTURE AND MUSIC SERIES

For the 20th consecutive year, the CAAB has put together a spectacular Lecture and Music Series. The offerings are as follows:

\$70.00 PER SERIES



2016 LECTURE SERIES – WEDNESDAYS “A” AND THURSDAYS “B” AT 7:30 PM

January 13th and 14th: Irving Labovitz, J.D. – “What Protection for Religious Freedom did our Founding Fathers Actually Insert in our Constitution?”

January 27th and 28th: Dr. Kevin Wagner – “Race to the White House: Inside the Presidential Primaries”

February 10th and 11th: Stephen Waldman – “Changing the Face of America: The Election of 1912”

February 24th and 25th: Dr. Andrew Kahn – “Havana: Capitalist Reforms in a Socialist State: The Obama Diplomatic Initiative”

March 9th and 10th: Dr. Robert Watson – “Dysfunction in Washington: History Causes, Solutions”

March 23rd and 24th: Dr. Frank Alcock – “Restoring Transparency, Accountability, Competition, and Trust in Government”



2016 MUSIC SERIES “C” – WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 PM

January 6, 2016: Yoko Sata Kothari – Piano Recital

Karen Braunstein (Soprano) & Friends from The Palm Opera; Pianist Ed Shuman

January 20th: The Great American Songbook

February 3rd: Anything Goes! Songs and stories of Gershwin and Porter

February 17th: Sounds of Sondheim (and Brown)

March 2nd: Impressions of French Song – Debussy, Faure, and Others

March 16th: The German Song Cycles of Mahler, Schubert, Schumann, and Brahms

Other CAAB programs include:

2016 ROBERT WELSTEIN QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE -

Free every Monday (excluding holidays) at 10:30 AM January 4th through March 21st, 2016

January 4th: Donald Singer – Topic TBD

January 11th: Robert Krasnow – “My Father was a Ballet Dancer—My Mother was a Lumberjack...What am I?”

January 18th: Attorney Joseph Karp – New Laws that Affect Seniors

January 25th: Steven Daniels – TBD

February 1st: Rochelle Walters – The Academy Awards

February 8th: Rabbi Leonid Feldman – TBD

February 22nd: Barry Silver – Current Events

February 29th: Natalie Schneider – Climate Change

March 7th: Judge Lisa Small – Civic Responsibilities

March 14th: Mercedes Rodas – Credit Confidence

March 21st: Larry Newman – Preparing for the Triathlon



2016 WELLNESS PROGRAM — Free lectures sponsored by the Bethesda Hospital East/West Thursdays at 10:00 AM

January 7th: Dr. Acey J. Albert, Internal Medicine - “Got a Coupon for That?” What is Value-Based Care?

January 21st: Dr. Reagan L. Ross, Vascular Surgery – “Vascular Disease in Seniors”

February 4th: Dr. Robert Zann, Orthopedic Surgery – “Total Joint Replacement: What you Have to Know”

February 18th: Dr. Raymond Leveillee, Urologist – “Kidney Tumors and Cystic Lesions: When is it Time to Worry”?

March 3rd: Dr. Acey J. Albert, Internal Medicine – “Not a Nursing Home! A Medical Home”

March 17th: Dr. George K. Daniel, Cardiologist – “Heart Murmur: Diagnosis and Treatment in the 21st Century

BUILDING DEPARTMENT



It has been busy here at the Building Department with renovations and restorations. Permit values this past summer reached to just over 2 million dollars compared to last year's number of approximately 1.5 million. In October alone permit values were over one million dollars !!

The fiscal year ended September 30th and contractors will need to renew their registration to work in the Town. Many have already done so in order to avoid the rush.

There have been some changes to the Florida Building Code that went into effect July 1st, and the result is that there are higher standards for the industry, which in turn means safer buildings for you, the residents.

Some exciting news on The 3550 Project. The demolition has been ongoing for a month now and the seawall construction has started. There are several procedures in place to minimize the effect that this demolition and construction of the seawall will have on the Town and its residents.

As always, if you have questions about contractor registration or work that needs to be permitted in your building please don't hesitate to call us at 561.588.8889.



POLICE DISPATCH



Carl Webb

In an Allstate survey of the US cities with the worst drivers, three of the top five are in Florida. In another study, four Florida metropolitan areas were among the ten most dangerous urban areas for pedestrians in the country. Florida has the highest pedestrian fatality rate based on population in the nation - - about one out of every five traffic-related deaths in Florida involves a pedestrian. This is said, not to alarm you, but to alert you.

Some of these figures are due to the large number of tourists and immigrants, who may not be aware of local roadways and rules as well as our older population, which has slower reaction times and as pedestrians are more prone to serious injuries and deaths. There's not much we can do about that here in South Palm Beach. But, some pedestrian deaths are due to elements such as limited visibility and pedestrians' failing to use crosswalks. These factors we can influence.

Our Police Officers do their part by minimizing speeders on A1A. We have also petitioned the Florida Department of Transportation for a pedestrian walkway; but their surveys considered such a modification unnecessary. Unless and until that situation changes, to stay safe, residents must adopt a defensive posture. Assume our roadway is apt to have some distracted and/or careless drivers. Cross at the crosswalk. We can't advise you to just maintain extra diligence in crossing A1A where the curvature gives both the driver and the pedestrian maximum visibility. Contrary to popular belief, the pedestrian does not always have the right of way. Florida Statute 316.130(10) states, "Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway."

Stay safe!

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER



South Palm Beach was incorporated and a charter issued in June 1955. Rather than celebrating in June, as might seem the obvious time, it was decided to wait until our beloved Snowbirds could join in the reveling.

So, on Monday February 1st we are taking over Mario's Restaurant at 225 E. Ocean Ave. in Lantana. Festivities start at 6:30 PM. The cost including tax and tip is just \$32!

Please RSVP by calling 561.292.2292 as soon as possible.

Prix fixe Menu

Appetizer (Choose one): Tomato and Mozzarella, Meatballs, or Rice Balls

Greek Salad

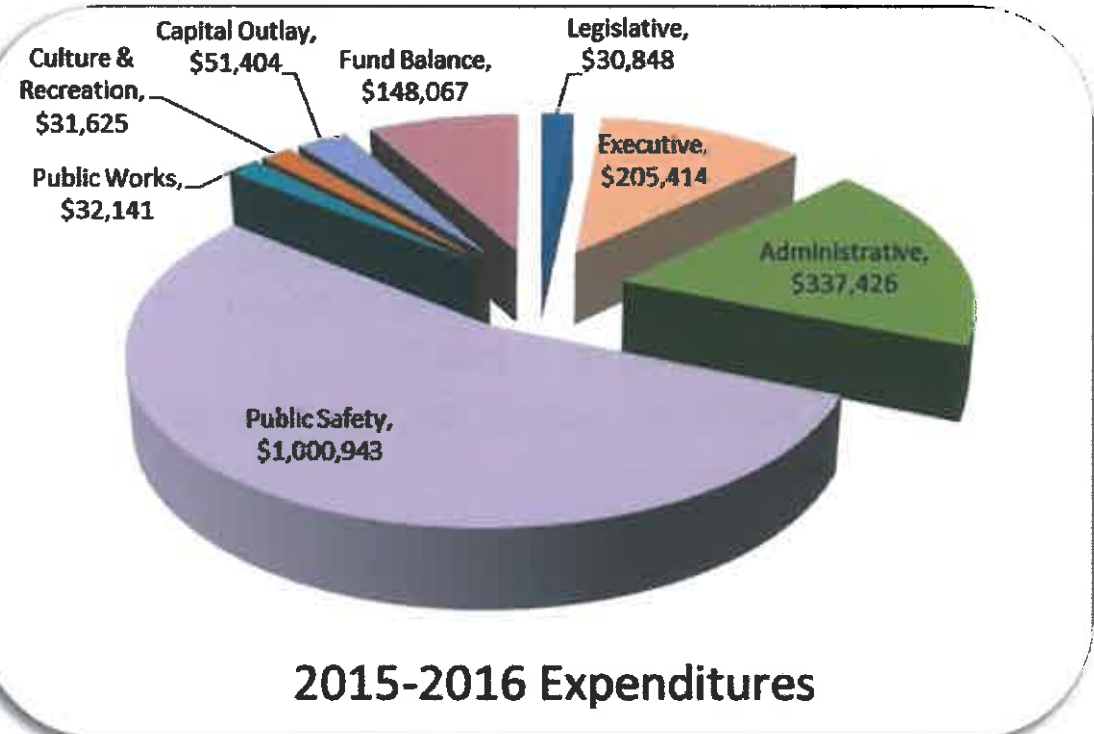
Entrée (Choose one): Chicken Parmigiana, Eggplant Parmigiana, Penne ala Vodka, Snapper Francaise, or Veal Parmigiana

Dessert (Choose one): Strawberry Shortcake or Strawberries with Whipped Cream

Coffee and Tea

\$32 including tax and tip. Cash bar

Town's Adopted General Fund Budget



On September 29, 2015, the Town Council of South Palm Beach approved a Fiscal Year 2016 (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016) Operating Budget of \$1,837,887 with expenditures and revenues as shown.

The millage rate necessary to fund the Town's General Fund is 4.3174, the same as last year's.

