

January City Happenings

The City of Orlando began the New Year by holding the change of command ceremony for the Orlando Police Department on January 10, 2008, signaling the official transition of the department from Chief Mike McCoy to Chief Val Demings, the 36th chief of police and the first female police chief in the City of Orlando. Thanks to those who attended this traditional ceremony that not only highlighted the leadership of incoming Chief Demings, but also served as an outward symbol of the Orlando Police Department's commitment to preventing crime and maintaining the vitality and character of our urban neighborhoods.

Chief Demings' message was simple- she wants to make sure that "every division, every unit, every person understands that we are in the crime fighting, crime reduction and crime prevention business. If we are doing anything that does not meet those goals, then we need to change what we are doing."

We continued our focus on crime prevention as well as citizen and business participation by hosting open houses in each of the 6 commission districts throughout January where residents could meet and talk with Chief Demings. Thanks to those of you who attended the District 3 Open House at the College Park Community Center on January 16th.

If you were not able to attend this event, please look for Chief Demings' attendance at an upcoming Neighborhood Watch meeting in your community. If you aren't aware of a Neighborhood Watch group in your area, please call the Neighborhood Watch ambassador for District 3, Jehan Shelton, at 407-246-3773 to get involved. Please look for more detailed information on these meetings in the next few weeks.

January also brought with it the official opening and dedication of Harbor Park, Lake Baldwin/ Lake Susannah Trails and Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park. The event took place at Harbor Park and was certainly fun for the whole family! Thanks so much to David Pace, John Classe, and Susan Comisky for their help in planning this event and for all they do on a day to day basis to make Baldwin Park the wonderful community that it is. Also, we appreciate all that the Baldwin Park merchants did to make this event second to none!

If you weren't able to make the ceremony, I urge you to take a little time to explore all of the outdoor amenities that Baldwin Park has to offer. Take a bike ride or walk along one of the trails or just enjoy a leisurely rock in one of the rocking chairs at Harbor Park. These are your parks, so enjoy them!

Thanks for your continued support of your community and our Great City!