

Biscayne Park fair provides info on village services

Posted on Sun, Mar. 02, 2008

Vice Mayor Steve Bernard's fair brought many Biscayne Park residents out to get a wide range of information they normally would have to go to multiple locations to find.

For Biscayne Village resident Malinda Cleary, the one-stop service information fair Feb. 23 at Ed Burke Recreation Center is exactly what she needed. Cleary received multiple services at Biscayne Park village without driving to the post office or doctor's office.

North Shore Medical Center staff checked her cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure at no charge. Within seven minutes, she got her results, and proceeded to Miami-Dade County Go Bus for passport renewal information.

"I came to get a golden passport for the Metro bus and then I'm going to figure out how to get a passport renewal," Cleary said. "Within five minutes I'll have it all done. This is great."



From NANAY'S elder and youth service to Florida Power & Light representatives providing information on how to save money through free energy audits, residents got a chance to obtain information from different governmental and nonprofit community outreach agencies at the fair.

The event took on a life of its own. Bernard originally arranged the information fair to notify residents about the March 1 Homestead Exemption deadline for seniors.

He wanted to make residents aware of different types of help available from the Miami-Dade property appraiser's office.

Commissioner Chester "Doc" Morris and Biscayne Park resident Karla Gottlieb gave the program a push through their involvement within the community.

Morris was able to get North Shore Medical Center to participate while Gottlieb assisted Bernard to bring nearby organizations such as the Human Services Coalition to the information fair.

"I think it's great we have a commissioner that is so gung ho about assisting people," Gottlieb said. Village Police Chief Mitch Glansberg and officers checked residents' home for safety concerns.

The event also provided an opportunity for residents to meet with code enforcement officer Sira Ramos, who checked for potential code violations.

Commissioners are talking about making the event an annual affair or even quarterly. Bernard said he would try to have that type of event at least on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner Bob Anderson also said the event seemed to have had a good turnout and he would like to hold this type of event at least annually.

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