

# NMB

# Connects

NEWS & INFORMATION

SPRING 2006

A publication for North Miami Beach Utility Customers



## WATER CONSERVATION TIP

Make sure your home is leak-free. Check your water meter when you are certain that no water is being used. If the meter reading changes, you have a leak!

## Norwood Water Treatment Plant **EXPANSION PROGRAM**



Construction of the Norwood Water Plant Expansion Project is 55 percent complete. A new five million gallon water storage tank is complete and in service! All areas of the expansion project are progressing, including the operations building, membrane process building, high service

pumps building, post-treatment building, sodium hypochlorite building, and offsite electrical building.

Construction and development of four Floridan Aquifer wells and five Biscayne Aquifer wells have been completed (see

“Alternative Water Supply: Thinking Outside the Biscayne Aquifer”). These are the water supply wells for the new membrane water treatment process. Installation of well pumps, motors, and meters is in progress. In addition, the new lime sludge thickener is nearing completion.

## Alternative Water Supply: Thinking Outside the Biscayne Aquifer

In an effort to create a balance between South Florida’s growing water needs and the need to protect and restore our natural resources, one thing is clear: We need to find and utilize alternative water sources. Director of the North Miami Beach Public Services Department, Kelvin L. Baker, states, “We are dedicated to protecting our precious water resources and the environment while working diligently to meet the demand of our customers and future generations”. He added, “Thinking outside the Biscayne Aquifer and tapping into alternative sources of water does just that.”

According to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Florida’s regional agency charged with managing and protecting water resources by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply, Miami-Dade and Broward counties rely on water pulled from the Biscayne Aquifer, a highly productive portion of the surficial aquifer system in South Florida. The Biscayne Aquifer covers an area of 3,200 square miles and ranges in depth from 100 feet to 250 feet.

Water utilities as a group pump approximately 786 million gallons a day from the Biscayne Aquifer. With an anticipated 20 percent increase in demand by the year 2020, relying solely on this source may make the highly permeable Biscayne Aquifer, susceptible to saltwater intrusion.

In partnership with the SFWMD, the City of North Miami Beach has developed a program to use an alternative water supply in its water treatment plant expansion program. Four wells drilled into the Floridan Aquifer, located deep below southern Florida, will provide an alternative water supply. The brackish water pulled from the upper layers of the Floridan Aquifer is suitable for drinking provided it is purified through reverse osmosis, which is a special membrane water treatment process. This alternative water supply system—the first of its kind in Miami-Dade County—will produce around 6 million gallons of high-quality water per day.

*South Florida Water Management District Executive Director Carol Ann Wehle, spoke at a North Miami Beach City Council meeting in February, commending the City for their proactive efforts to seek out alternative water supply sources.*



We have completed the construction and development of the concentrate deep-injection well and dual-zone monitoring well. Public Services Department crews have finished the construction of the raw water supply main, which connects the new wells to the water treatment plant. The relocation of interconnects with Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department was completed last December.

Construction of the Public Services Department Operations Center water storage tank and pumping station is about 35 percent complete. The new 2 million gallon water storage tank is near completion, awaiting inspections and painting.

Assistance in funding this project was provided by the South Florida Water Management District. Since 2002, they have awarded the City of North Miami Beach \$2.39 million in grant money for the project, based on our efforts to plan and utilize an alternative water supply.

**NMB Connects** is published as a public service by the City of North Miami Beach Public Services Department at a cost of 6 cents each. For additional comments or questions contact the public information officer at (305) 948-2967.

**PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**Kelvin L. Baker, Director**  
**Phone (305) 948-2967 Fax (305) 957-3502**  
**FOR AFTER HOURS/WEEKEND EMERGENCIES,**  
**CALL THE WATER PLANT AT (305) 652-6460.**



# Public Services Director Kelvin L. Baker Wins Prestigious Education Award

The Florida Water Environment Association (FWEA) has selected Kelvin L. Baker, North Miami Beach assistant city manager and director of

Public Services, for the first-ever FWEA Public Education Award in the Individual category. The Award was presented during the Florida Water Resources Conference in Orlando on April 11, 2006.

"We are very thrilled and delighted that Kelvin Baker was awarded the first-ever FWEA Public Education Award in the

Individual category," said John A. Giachino, Public Education Committee chair of the Florida Water Environment Association. "This award is our way of giving honor to his outstanding water-conservation education and community-outreach efforts."

Serving a population of 42,000 residents and a water-utility customer base of more than 180,000, Baker provides guidance and leadership to all operations of the Public Services Department, with a focus on public education and positive mutual communications. Instituted through a Water Education Team comprising the utility's public information, water conservation and neighborhood relations' offices, Baker's public educa-

tion/communication initiatives are resulting in greater consumer awareness of water quality and resource issues.

## Reporting Environmental Emergencies, Complaints, & Environmental Crimes

The Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) responds to environmental complaints and emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To file a complaint, call  
**(305) 372-6955.**

The City of North Miami Beach and Kiwanis Club of North Miami Beach present

# Hurricane Preparedness Day 2006

**BE AWARE. BE THERE.** **FREE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS**

**Saturday, May 20 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Challenger Park\* - 16501 NE 16th Avenue**  
 \*located behind the North Miami Beach Public Library

**Hurricane Preparedness Day 2006 is a FREE community event for all ages. Learn tips on what to do before, during and after a storm. Learn how to get prepared with our "How-To" clinics and displays. Bring this flyer to the event and you'll be entered into a raffle for a generator!**

- Raymond F. Mann, Mayor
- Jay R. Chernoff, Councilman
- Kenneth A. De Filippo, Councilman
- Philippe Derose, Councilman
- John Patrick Julien, Councilman
- Myron Rosner, Councilman
- David L. Temple, Councilman
- Gary Brown, City Manager
- Howard Leonard, City Attorney
- Solomon Odenz, City Clerk



North Miami Beach, FL 33162  
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City of North Miami Beach  
PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
Kelvin L. Baker, Director



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