

Stuart *life* NEWSLETTER



Mayor's Gala celebrates citizens who put service above self

The community is home to a significant number of people who invest their time and talents into making our city an even more inviting place to live.



Stuart Rotary Club - Mayor's Gala Committee

But then there are those who go even further in their contributions to the community. Stuart Rotary Club is making sure they receive proper recognition with its Service Above Self Awards, which will recognize a select few at the second annual Mayor's Gala Dinner & Dance.

The event takes place May 4 at the Mariner Sands Golf and Country Club.

Don't let the name "Mayor's Gala" mislead you. Although the inaugural event attracted 11 former Stuart mayors, it's an occasion completely free of dry diatribes or political 'speechifying.' (Continued on page 2)

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“Although we celebrate our wonderful history and the accomplishments that so many individuals have achieved to make our county and city so unique, the bottom-line of the evening is that it’s a party,” says Paula Nicoletti of Stuart Rotary Club. “We have a fabulous singer and band and it’s going to be a wonderful evening.”

The event features three categories—public, private, and volunteer sectors—to properly “honor people who have done extraordinary things,” says Nicoletti.

The Gala will also feature the unveiling of the second half of the Distinguished Service Memorial. Stuart Rotary Club raised funds for the first related sculpture, which featured bronzed hands cradling a folded American Flag titled, “Above and Beyond,” by local artist Eduardo Gomez. The sculpture adorns Memorial Park.

The newest addition will be installed this coming Memorial Day. “A soldier leaves his home and his children to protect our children,” says Eduardo Gomez. “I could not get this thought out of my head. In thinking and doing research for the second sculpture, I came upon the reality that many of the soldiers who are fighting and dying in today’s wars are women.”

Tickets cost \$150 and proceeds benefit the student scholarships and charity programs conducted by Stuart Rotary Club. For more information, call (772) 600-5581.



Sneak peek at the Distinguished Service Memorial II



Walk in the shoes of the thirsty



Experience - it's often said - is the best teacher. That's why this year's Water Fest will place far greater emphasis on the experience of the "Walk for Water."

Organized by the City of Stuart and in collaboration with Students4H2O, the sixth-year event takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 21 at Memorial Park in downtown Stuart.

Also part of Global Youth Service Day—which encourages young people around the world to pledge and act on service projects that address big problems—Water Fest incorporates creative ways to inform the public on protecting our natural resources while drawing attention to the scarcity worldwide of clean water. It's a shortage that reportedly affects up to 663 million people across the planet.

Inspired by the passionate activism of Adriana Mancini - from the Clark Advanced Learning Center, who's worked to attract attention to the global clean water crisis — Water Fest features an activity that mimics the arduous march primarily young girls in developing countries must make to collect and carry water.

At 9:30 a.m., the "Walk for Water" invites participants to lug jugs of water along a designated path in the park stretching about a quarter-mile. The journey is a mere taste of the trying trudge that can consume up to six hours a day for individuals in developing nations.

Student musical performances, participating booth demonstrations and speakers will round-out the remainder the event, which features exhibits from more than 40 local organizations and nonprofits, also involves 11 elementary schools, three middle schools and four high schools.

The support of the Martin County School District has contributed greatly to the awareness of the festival and helped shape Water Fest into a "sensational learning experience," says Dave Peters, Stuart's Public Works Director.

"We apply strong conservation principles and practices to our use and reuse of our water supply, and public outreach is a big part of our efforts," Peters says. "But nothing else we do comes close to getting local young people as informed and as involved in protecting and respecting our natural resources as Water Fest. Having so many other businesses, partners and nonprofits makes it a special day—but we're especially thankful to Students4H2O for all the imagination and organization they invest to make it a success," he says.



Employee Spotlight: Officer James Hall



*Officer James Hall (left)
Chief Dave Dyess (right)*

It's not everyday that the Stuart Police Department gets to welcome to its rank, a legacy left behind by one of its own - but on February 19th, James Hall was sworn in as a Police Officer just like that of his late grandfather, Sergeant James "Sneaky" Hall.

Sergeant Hall was hired as an officer on July 6, 1956 and served the City for more than 30 years before his retirement in 1989. He earned the nickname "sneaky" as a foot patrol officer and his ability to conduct stealthy foot patrols at a time where the term "walking the beat" was far more literal.

Born at Martin Memorial in 1988, James Hall was only a year old when his grandfather retired. Sharing the same name and a resemblance to his late grandfather, James is used to the comparisons. However, James was determined to build his own legacy and resisted the urge to follow in his grandfathers footsteps. "As much as I pushed away from it, and from history, the idea of being a police officer was always there in my mind," said James.

In 2016, James attended a local job fair where he spoke with a Stuart officer who provided an overview of the department and sworn public service. Although James continued to resist the idea of becoming an officer like his grandfather, he applied for and was hired by the Stuart Police Department as a Code Enforcement Officer soon thereafter.

Once inside the department, James also found a greater appreciation for the men and women who put on the uniform and serve their community. His experiences serving in code enforcement and learning from veteran officers weighed heavily on his mind. "My wife and I prayed about it and everything fell into place after that," says Hall. James entered the police academy and graduated six months later.

"I started my career in law enforcement as a reserve with the Stuart Police Department, and James Hall was a sergeant here then. When our newest James Hall came to work as a code enforcement officer, I saw a similar demeanor in him as his grandfather and knew that he would be a good fit for our agency," says Stuart Police Chief David Dyess.

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SGT James "Sneaky" Hall

While Officer Hall is looking forward to a long career in the Stuart Police Department, he has taken the time to reflect on his life and the legacy of his grandfather, "Looking back now, having seen everything from the law enforcement side and the fact that Stuart is my home and community, I couldn't see myself working anywhere else."

As a husband and a father to his 6 year old son and 4 year old daughter, James hopes that in serving his community in the years to come, he will also provide for a better future for his family. "I'm just grateful to everyone who saw enough in me to give me this opportunity—especially Chief Dyess who thought enough of my grandfather and family to recognize my name when I applied. At the end of the day, it's all about making a difference in someone's life and that's what I have learned about everyone I work with in the City."

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK

Friday, April 20, 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Sailfish Park, Ballfield 1

Produced by: East Stuart Youth Initiative

WATERFEST

Saturday, April 21, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Memorial Park, 300 SE Ocean Blvd,

Produced by: City of Stuart

A WALK IN THE PARK FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Flagler Park, 201 SW Flagler Ave

Produced by: National Alliance on Mental Health

2018 MARTIN COUNTY SHRIMP AND LOBSTER FEST

Friday, April 27, 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Saturday, April 28, 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sunday, April 29, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Memorial Park, 300 SE Ocean Blvd

Produced by: Deuterma Productions

ST JOSEPH CHARGER 5K RUN/WALK

Friday, April 27, 5pm – 8pm

St Joseph School, 12 Mandalay Road

Produced by: St Joseph School

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 3, 12pm – 1pm

Gazebo Park, 80 SE Ocean Blvd

Produced by: First Baptist of Stuart

FUNDRAISING RECEPTION

Friday, May 4, 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Carsons Tavern, 283 SE Ocean Blvd

Produced by: Carsons Tavern for The Friends of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday, May 5, 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Memorial Park, 300 SE Ocean Blvd

Produced by: Stuart Air Show/Road to Victory Military Museum

MARCH FOR MADDIE

Saturday, May 12, 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Flagler Park, 201 SW Flagler Ave

Produced by: Colleen Schramm

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE / CEREMONY

Monday, May 28, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Memorial Park, 300 SE Ocean Blvd

Produced by: Veterans Council of Martin County

FATHERFEST 2018

Saturday, June 16, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Memorial Park, 300 SE Ocean Blvd

Produced by: Father & Child Resource Center

DOWNTOWN DASH 5K

Saturday, June 23, 5:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Flagler Park, 201 SW Flagler Ave

Produced by: MCM Timing & Results LLC



Message from the City Manager: Dave Ross



Dave Ross

City of Stuart is a beautiful and vibrant city, in an amazing location along Florida's Treasure Coast, and is home to some of the area's best art, cultural, and recreational activities.

Not only do events like this allow all of us to realize the importance of volunteering to help our neighbors, but the end result is a neighborhood filled with pride and a community that looks even more beautiful than it did the day before. I thank all of the volunteers and organizations who participated in this event.

I recently observed an evening training session with our police and fire rescue departments as they trained at one of our local schools for how to quickly and effectively deal with an active shooter. I was remembering when I was a child and going to school – I never had to even think about what to do if a shooter was on campus. While it is unfortunate that we are forced to

address such situations, I want to reassure everyone that our police and fire rescue professionals work around the clock and that we actively engage in best practices to keep our children safe. I know that our local school district professionals, as well as Martin County Sheriff and Fire Rescue professionals, do the same thing.



Rendering of Mid-block Crosswalk (streetscape project)

Most of you probably know that the City operates a micro-transit system throughout our downtown region offering free rides. In the month of January 2018 we had 4,242 riders on our trams. Please take advantage of this service as it is a great way to get to the businesses you want to visit without having to worry about parking directly in front of that business. We have several tram stops and I encourage you to download our app at either the App Store for iPhones or on Google Play for Android devices. We operate this free service seven days a week.

Finally, the City is in the process of accepting bids for construction of a Downtown Streetscape improvement plan. When construction occurs this summer, there will be some road closures; however, all sidewalks will remain open and businesses will be OPEN during construction. Once this updated streetscape plan is fully implemented later this summer, I expect that residents and visitors will be even more impressed with our amenities.