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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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**Local companies honored for environmentally friendly business practices**  
***Special "Emerald Awards" ceremony to be held March 13***

The Broward County Environmental Protection Department has selected several local businesses to honor with Emerald Awards. The awards recognize environmentally responsible businesses in Broward County that have displayed exceptional efforts to protect the environment.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners will present trophies to the winners at a special ceremony:

Tuesday, March 13, 2 p.m.  
Broward County Commission Chambers  
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale  
A brief reception will follow

The voluntary program recognizes businesses in four areas: waste reduction, recycling, improved operating practices, and other "green" strategies that reduce pollution and waste. Both large and small businesses are eligible to receive an award in each category. One business is also honored with the title "Environmental Business of the Year," which will be announced at the ceremony.

This year's winning businesses are:

- *Pollution Prevention: Hazardous Waste Reduction:*
  - Cylinder Head Exchange (small business);
  - Champion Audi (large business);
- *Recycling:*
  - Ameripath Florida, Inc. (large business)
- *Innovative Procedures/Process Improvement:*
  - Aquathin Corporation (large business)
- *Green Products/Practices or Programs:*
  - OXXO Care Cleaners (small business);
  - Zumro Manufacturing, Inc (large business)

Receiving an Emerald Award can help companies boost business. Research has shown that a company's environmental reputation will rival quality and brand name as criterion used by customers.

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Environmentally friendly business practices can help companies attract new customers, encourage repeat customers and boost employee morale.

The Emerald Awards program also includes a new component to reward homeowners, governments and other groups that have incorporated "NatureScape Broward" techniques into their landscaping. NatureScape yards are designed to: conserve water by using native plants in place of lawn; provide food, water and shelter for wildlife; use integrated pest control practices; reduce storm-water contaminated by pesticides and fertilizers; and recycle yard waste into mulch and compost.

The nine NatureScape Emerald Award winners are:

- *Homeowners:*
  - **Gerald and M.E. DePalma Ford**
  - **David Bogardus and John Adornato** "Special Recognition for use of uncommon native species"
  
- *Municipality/Government:*
  - **Plantation Preserve** "Public Garden with Natural Landscape"
  - **DeGroff Park** "Neighborhood Park"
  - **City of Cooper City** "Right of Way, Median and Swale"
  
- *Special Achievement:*
  - Jan and Erica Davey
  - Todd Henry DeJesus
  - Joan Kohl
  
- *Business:*
  - **WCI Communities Parkland Golf and Country Club** "Professionally Designed Sales Center"

"The winners should be commended for their efforts," said Mayor Jacobs. "We all benefit from these Florida-friendly landscaping practices."

More information, including application procedures and guidelines, is available online at [www.broward.org/environment](http://www.broward.org/environment), or call 954-519-1257.