

Commissioner Sue Gunzburger

Broward County Commission, District 6

It seems like every day we're bombarded by bad economic news. That's why I thought this might be a good time to remind you of the many things Broward County has to offer that don't cost much and can actually relieve stress!

Parks and libraries come to mind. One of my favorites is West Lake Park. The **north side** features the Anne Kolb Nature Center Exhibit Hall, trails, observation tower, Intracoastal dock, kayak and canoe rentals, and a pontoon boat tour. The exhibit hall features a 3,500-gallon aquarium. The south side of the park features shelters that may be reserved in advance and picnic tables and grills are available. There are also two playgrounds, a fishing platform, a walking path, and tennis, basketball, volleyball and racquetball courts. There's also a boat launch for non-fossil fuel craft.

Hollywood North Beach Park on North Park Road is popular. It's located at A1A and Sheridan Street and provides access to 1.1 miles of public beach and beautiful views. Picnic areas are available. The 60-foot-tall wooden observation tower provides a cardio workout that's picturesque.

The landmark Hollywood Broadwalk is over two-miles with the nostalgic feel of a Main Street thoroughfare. Best of all a stroll on the Broadwalk doesn't cost a thing!

T.Y. Park is well known for its shady picnic areas, numerous shelters, a new hard-bottom pool and campgrounds. There's a two-mile loop of newly paved pathways for walking, jogging, skating, and biking. The swim lagoon is adjacent to the park's Castaway Island water playground complex. Athletic courts and picnic areas are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

C.B. Smith Park on Flamingo Road in Pembroke Pines is a 299-acre park. There are picnic areas, shelters and bike paths. You can also play miniature golf or enjoy the golf range and batting cages. Camping, tennis, racquetball, basketball, and horseshoes are available too. The Paradise Cove water park is also quite popular.

The Long Key Nature Center and Natural Area is located in the Town of Davie. It's great for hiking, bird watching, and trail riding. There's large nature center building and exhibit hall. Guided nature walks are available upon request.

There are other parks nearby too, like the Arts Park and Holland Park in Hollywood and John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Dania beach. To make reservations, inquire about park fees or for more general information please visit www.broward.org/parks.

You can also exercise your mind at public library! In our neighborhood there's the Hollywood Branch library, Hollywood Beach Bernice P. Oster Reading Center, Sterling Road Branch Library, and the South Regional/Broward College Library in Pembroke Pines. These libraries offer more than books. There are computers, DVDs, audio and video cassettes, books on tape, CD-ROM Software and periodicals and so much more. For more information, visit www.broward.org/library.

We're fortunate to have warm weather year round and our beautiful parks and libraries can be enjoyed for free or a nominal fee. Exercise, read and before you know it, your worries slip away!

Please visit my web page at www.broward.org and fill out the "priorities survey." I need your input.

Enjoy!