

Lake Worth Recreation Baseball & Softball

In the early 1990's Lake Worth Baseball and Girls Softball teams were top performers in the state. Lake Worth Ball Parks had been the diamonds everyone wanted to play on. The Raiderettes won the state softball championship in 1992. During this time baseball teams had gone to semi finals. As the county grew, families moved out west creating a short fall in families here in Lake Worth.

Ronnie Smith, grew up near the Lake Worth Ball Fields. He was 14 years old living on Park Street. He played for Teams sponsored by local businesses like, Buy Rite and Steve Moore Chevrolet, his favorite coach was John West of the Greenacres League, who dedicated his time to each kid not only as a coach but an umpire. During the 1990's the leagues were named the Mustang, Ponie, and Bronco.

Smith, Head Coach of the Lake Worth Recreation league, with his original southern Floridian charm, speaks parents to breathe new life into a sport and a city he loved as a child. The first season the league had three coaches and 13 girls, the Diamond Cats were born.

Through the efforts of Smith, his family and friends, the league has

grown to 60 players and 14 coaches a 300% increase in three seasons.

One T-Ball, one Baseball, and two Girls Softball teams, the Lake Worth Marlins and the Lake Worth Diamond Cats. The nine and under team was unstoppable with a nine game winning streak. The City helped the league with a trip to see the Miami Marlins. The league also participated in Red Nose day to help childhood poverty.

This year we understood the expense of getting a child to be T-Ball, baseball, and or softball ready. We want all kids to be able to fulfill their dreams by reducing the cost of equipment by paying it forward. Equipment gets donated to the league and is passed on to kids who need it. Preparations to take the field, registration and necessary equipment cost about \$220 per child and the league is working on ways to assist with expenses.

Coach Ronnie's goal is "no parent or kid will go without equipment to make their dreams to come true."

We began recycling and reusing cleats, bats, gloves, and face masks. "We took about 60 pairs of cleats home to clean, about 50 were ready to be used again. We took old bats painted them for the girls "pink was



The Lake Worth Diamond Cats



Coach Ronnie Smith with bat signed by the players.

the favorite color" and a sticker with their number in black was affixed. This lessens the financial burden for a family and creates memories to last a life time.

Coach David Winter said "I try to follow the Positive Coach Alliance teachings, I believe coaches should not only focus on creating a better athlete but help create a better person, not only how to handle the wins but how to handle mistakes, and losses. Better Athletes, Better People approach."

There are several ways to help sponsor a team, through our banner creation marketing, or sponsoring a child.



The Lake Worth Marlins

Lake Worth Alumni Foundation and Dollars for Scholars Celebrate \$1,000,000 in Scholarships

The Lake Worth High School Alumni Foundation and Dollars for Scholars celebrated breaking the 1 million dollar mark in scholarship money given to local students since forming in 1999.

The Alumni Foundation raises money to cover 100 percent of the costs of Dollars for Scholars to insure every dollar donated for scholarships goes to scholarships.

The two organizations gathered to celebrate eclipsing the 1 million dollar mark and thank spon-

sors and supporters for their contributions through the years.

Former Lake Worth High School Principal, David Cantley said, upon his retirement he wanted to start an Alumni Foundation. He made it happen, then found Dollars for Scholars and knew the Alumni Foundation needed to pay the expenses of Dollars for Scholars.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on financial need, grade point averages, college entrance exam scores, extracurricular and

community involvement and recommendations from teachers and guidance counselors.

Doris Welsh and Paul Blockson Co-chair the Scholarship Selection Committee. Welsh explained the applications which are filled out online are anonymous to the committee, with only an id number and no identification of gender or race to keep complete objectivity in the process. Welsh said, "it is the objectivity of the process that makes me sleep at night."



Dollars for Scholars President Dave Cantley and Alumni Foundation President Harold Gilmore celebrate having eclipsed the million dollar mark in scholarships given to deserving students. More photos pages 6&7.

PS Summer Reading Program

Get an early start for your reading logs and sign up for the Palm Springs Library Summer Reading Program "Build a Better World." The Kickoff Party for this program will be held June 5 at 10:30 with a Build Your Own Yogurt

Bar, along with special guests balloon entertainer, Amazing Sean and Miss Sunshine State Teen 2015.

For more information contact Karen Hoeffcker at 965-2204. Palm Springs Library is located at 217 Cypress Lane, Palm Springs.

Beer and Hymns #4 ...Goes Gospel

By Helen Vogt Greene

The popular Beer and Hymns hosted by the First Congregational Church of Lake Worth will return on June 9. There is a reason that this event has grown: people love to "make a joyful noise," have lots of fun with friends, and not be afraid to sing with gusto.

Yes! Yes! Richmond Schmidt, the host with the most, and Allan Herbst, the man with music's magic fingers, will be there to make sure that everyone has a real good time. There are some musical surprises planned.

The admission is free. Food is available for purchase and everyone

is welcome.

Once again, Aioli's Restaurant at 7434 South Dixie, just across the North bridge on the left, in West Palm Beach, will serve their great southern food. A variety of beverages (alcoholic and nonalcoholic) will be available. Aioli's is owned and operated by one of Lake Worth favorite family's, Melanie and Michael Hackman.

The date again is June 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Drinking in moderation, singing the old southern gospel music from the heart, and sharing the evening with friends, who could ask for a better evening? For information call 561-582-6691

Summer at Lake Worth Public Library

Six Sizzlin' Saturdays

Each listed program takes place in the Library from 2-3 p.m. and is designed for children ages 5-10.

June 10 - Crazy Days of Summer

June 17 - Lego Building
June 24 - Buttons and Boards Crafts

July 8 - Crazy About Cars

July 15 - Lego Building
July 22 - Hamertime Crafts

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#### "Build a Better World" Summer Reading Program

Sign up beginning Saturday, June 3, and pick up a reading log and goodie bag. Add each book read

to the reading log. Bring it back to the Library once a week and earn a prize. Last day to bring in log will be Saturday, July 29.

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Special Storytime Programs

This special program is offered for children ages 5-10 and will be held on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12 and 19. Each week will be a new building challenge using a variety of materials. Interested in building? Come and join in for a summer of fun.

For more information call the Lake Worth Public Library at 533-7354.

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We expect Justice, accept Justice, proclaim Justice.