

The Jupiter Courier

North Palm Beach County year in review:

Ground broken for new Marineline Center in Juno Beach

By Jeff Alexander
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Ground was broken in Juno Beach for the long-awaited expansion of the Loggerhead Marineline Center, Hurricane Frances caused \$2.5 million worth of damage, and the town prepares to look for a new town manager, its first in nearly 20 years.

In February, the 20-year-old turtle museum — renamed from Marineline Center to Loggerhead Marineline Center in November — broke ground for a 13,400-square-foot facility, which will house a visitor center, gift shop, office space, and a turtle yard with tanks in which sick and injured reptiles will heal and recuperate.

Other features in the new facility will be veterinary space, classrooms, a garage for up to five All-Terrain Vehicles and observation deck.

The name addition came when Loggerhead Club & Marina, formerly Frenchman's Marina, announced the donation of \$500,000 to the Marineline Center.

Construction is expected to begin this spring and be completed in late 2006.

Town Manager Gail Nelson, in office since October of 1985, has announced that she would retire as of June of 2005.

The Town Council has begun the search for a new town manager, and may consider internal candidates such as Matt Pazanski, its assistant finance director, who has expressed an interest in the job.

Hurricane Frances was felt in Juno Beach, causing about \$2.5 million worth of damage throughout the town. No injuries were reported, but the most extensive damage was to a two-story, oceanside residential complex on 270 Mercury Road.

The whipping winds tore the shingles off the roof and doused the inside of the eight-unit, 25-year-old apartment complex, just east of the Town Center. The building was subsequently condemned and town officials have said that it is unlikely it would be rebuilt.

Hurricane Jeanne, which followed only three weeks later, did only minor damage.

By contrast, the political scene in Juno Beach was relatively quiet when, for the fourth consecutive year, there was not a municipal election last March, although terms of two seats were up.

Council members John Thomas, who first came aboard in 2000, and Frank Fahy, first elected to the council in 1996, were returned to their seats when no one filed against them.

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