

**Coral Springs Named one of 100 Best Communities for Young People**

By Coral Springs' Mayor Scott Brook



**A**s mayor and a father of five, I'm proud to live and work in Coral Springs. For the third year in a row, Coral Springs has been named one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People" by America's Promise - the Alliance for Youth. I am grateful to our employees and countless mentors and volunteers who contribute so much to our community's future.

The Coral Springs Festival of the Arts returns to Coral Springs on March 15 and 16 at The Walk on University Drive. In its fourth year, the festival will feature works from more than 200 artists. I want to thank all the volunteers, artists, entertainers and sponsors in advance for being a part of this wonderful event.

The Coral Springs Police Department is offering free advanced self-defense classes for women ages 13 and older. The Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) System is a national program that teaches women skills to avoid becoming a target and to fend off an attacker. This course promotes muscle memory, and helps women train in a realistic environment so they learn to survive a struggle. The next session starts Tuesday, April 22, and will meet for four consecutive Tuesdays. Classes are three hours, and the final class includes a hands-on scenario and graduation ceremony. Classes are held at the Northwest Regional Library, at 3151 University Drive, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Participants must register in advance, and be able to attend each of the four sessions. For more information, call 954-346-1227.

Congratulations to the Building Department on their successful workshops. The first one was held in January and the next one is coming up on Tuesday, March 18. At this meeting, architects, contractors and homeowners will learn about screen enclosures, pools and fences. Reservations required. The location will be determined at a closer date. For more information, please call 954-344-1041.

The J.P. Taravella Band and Orchestra is looking for tree sponsors, those who wish to have a tree planted as a gift for someone special or to honor or memorialize loved ones. The cost is \$10.00 per tree and each comes with a personalized certificate of planting, including a special message.

Funds raised by this initiative will assist the J.P. Taravella High School music program and will benefit the environment with new trees to replace those that were damaged by hurricanes or fires. For more information on this program, visit the J.P. Taravella High School band's Web site at ([www.jptmusic.org](http://www.jptmusic.org)) or for ordering information (via PayPal), log on to ([www.jptmusic.org/tree\\_donation\\_program.htm](http://www.jptmusic.org/tree_donation_program.htm)).

Two extraordinary volunteers in our community are assisting military members and families living in Coral Springs. Mickey Figueroa, an Iraq Veteran, and Mark Gagnon, a local artist and community leader, are attempting to locate armed services members in order to send them ipods and other donated items. If you know of someone serving our country, or a veteran that lives in our community, and/or want to help in this endeavor, please contact Mickey Figueroa at [mickey.figueroa@us.army.mil](mailto:mickey.figueroa@us.army.mil) or by phone at 954-918-3033.

Visit [www.coral springs.org](http://www.coral springs.org) for City news and visit our Event Calendar to view the Mayor's and Commission's scheduled office hours. Click on the Baldrige link to learn more about this wonderful distinction for our community. Feel free to email me at [sbrook@coral springs.org](mailto:sbrook@coral springs.org).

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