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Walk's objective to raise kidney disease awareness



By [Lady Hereford](#)

Neighborhood Post Staff Writer

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For sufferers of kidney disease, it seemed the path toward greater awareness of their life-threatening ailment has been a road less traveled.

On Saturday, the Palm Beach County chapter of the American Association of Kidney Patients will take steps toward change by sponsoring "A Walk in the Park," a 3-mile walk in John Prince Park in suburban Lake Worth to raise money for programs that benefit kidney patients.

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Registration for this first-time event begins at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Smythe Pavilion, and the walk begins at 9. Registration is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Organizers hope the walk will bring attention to kidney disease and the toll it takes on the body.

"It's a silent killer, and it's an unknown among people in our community," said chapter President Jan Symonette.

She said part of the proceeds from the walk will go toward the Coalition for Independent Living Options, a West Palm Beach-based organization for people with disabilities.

In the past, the local chapter of the kidney patients' association also has donated money to the Transplant House in Miami, which offers housing to family members of transplant patients.

Symonette, a transplant recipient, said the chapter is a 100 percent volunteer organization that is focused on patient-to-patient education. It is based in suburban Lake Worth and is affiliated with the national organization, which is headquartered in Tampa.

Saturday's event will include raffles, including a special raffle for a signed Miami Heat basketball and jersey. Raffle tickets are two for \$5, and tickets for the basketball and jersey are \$10 each.

After the walk, participants are invited to a barbecue at noon sponsored by Worth Builders of Palm Beach. The beverages for the event were donated by Coca-Cola, Symonette said.

Walk participants will receive a T-shirt. For information about the walk, call the American Association of Kidney Patients at (561) 434-4559.

Energy audits: Lake Worth Utilities customers can learn ways to save energy and lower their utility bills through a new online energy audit service, officials announced last week.

The Home Energy Saver program is the result of a recommendation by the city's Electric Utilities Task Force. Customers can perform their own home energy audits, receive a personalized energy profile and learn how to reduce energy use and save money.

The service is available through the city's Web site, www.lakeworth.org.

Palm Tran meetings: A Palm Tran representative will speak to residents during two meetings next week.

The meetings are scheduled for 11 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Mid-County Senior Center, 202 N. H St., Lake Worth, and from 10 to 10:30 a.m. April 18 at the Lake Worth Towers, 1500 Lucerne Ave., Lake Worth.

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