



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lisa Liotta, Deputy Director  
City of Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency-Downtown District  
Office: (954) 921-3016  
lliotta@hollywoodfl.org

### **Octogenarian and Wife Dance Their Way Through Downtown Hollywood**

HOLLYWOOD, FL – June 26, 2009 – When Mort and Carol Schomer dance in the streets of Historic Downtown Hollywood, their smooth moves, exuberant style and flashy attire often elicit applause from onlookers.

But the North Miami Beach couple are not your typical street performers. Mort Schomer is a very spry 80 years old and Carol is 78, and they go dancing just about every night of the week for the sheer fun of it, and to stay active and young at heart.

The Schomers, who will celebrate their 57th anniversary July 6th, perform various dance styles, including the Two Step, Cha Cha and especially Swing, for which they've developed more than two dozen different patterns. "People flip out when we do it," Carol said.

A few times a month, the Schomers enjoy dancing their way through Downtown Hollywood, where their favorite spots offering live music include Chocolada and La Piazza Pasta Café. They also frequent the outdoor Hollywood Beach Theater along the Broadwalk, Las Palmas Tropical Grille & Sushi and Nikki's On the Green at the Hollywood Beach Golf & Country Club.

"No matter where we go, we put on a show," said Carol. "We just have so much fun."

As Mort, a retired optometrist, added: "You have to have a reason to get up in the morning."

As the Schomers' passion for dancing grew through the years, so has their inventory of dance costumes, which have completely taken over their dining room. Mort's "jazzy" outfits alone fill 12 racks and include about 250 jackets, a few hundred pairs of pants and a couple hundred pairs of shoes. The Schomers typically spend one day a week coordinating their outfits for the upcoming week of dining and dancing excursions.

After a night on the town, they'll stay up as late as 5 a.m. watching TV. The secret to their seemingly boundless energy? "We take a lot of vitamins," said Mort, whose strict daily regimen consists of 40 vitamins. A heart attack and bypass surgery in 1972 served as "a wakeup call," and Mort has since lectured on vitamins and nutrition and is writing a book on the subject, *Help Your Child Build a Better Mind*.

Mort and Carol, who met back in 1950 at Ohio State University, relocated 30 years ago from Cleveland to South Florida, where opportunities to go dancing proved more plentiful. The Schomers are part of a group of more than a dozen couples who regularly hit the South Florida dance scene.

Long after their friends have called it a night, Mort and Carol can often be seen dancing the night away in Downtown Hollywood.

- more-

"There's many places that are very good to eat and there's many places that are very good to dance," Mort said. "It's a great area."

To learn about Downtown Hollywood businesses or events, call 954-921-3016 or visit [www.downtownhollywood.com](http://www.downtownhollywood.com).

The Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was created under the authority of Florida's Community Redevelopment Act of 1969. The CRA's mission is to encourage economic development through the use of tax increment financing by funding development, special projects and enhanced services that address areas of community concern. The Downtown District was established in 1979 to promote Hollywood's central business district including Historic Hollywood Boulevard, Young Circle and nearby residential neighborhoods. The Downtown District is approximately 580 acres and extends from 22nd Avenue on the west to generally 17th Avenue on the east, Johnson Street on the north and Washington Street on the south.

# # #