



JANUARY 2014

## New year brings new neighbors to district

### Climate change summit planned; home break-ins targeted in Middle River Terrace

I would first like to wish everyone a healthy and happy new year! The Downtown Countdown on Himmarshee Street on New Year's Eve capped off a spectacular series of holiday events around the city. Thousands of residents and visitors attended festivities from the Winterfest Boat Parade to Light Up the Beach. We live in an exciting city!

Along with the start of the new year, please welcome some new neighbors to District 2. As a result of recent census figures, the City Commission redrew the boundaries of the four commission districts in December.

District 2 now includes the Sailboat Bend neighborhood as well as more of Progresso Village and Flagler Village. I'm sorry to say we lost LauderGate Isles and Bal Harbour. They're now in District 1, but the adjacent East Point Towers persuaded commissioners to remain in our district because they recently joined the Lake Ridge Civic Association.

Let's all work together to create a better quality of life for everyone.

Here is some other news affecting the district.

Before the holiday break, the City Commission agreed to a multi-year plan to repave municipal streets. The new **Pavement Management System** established an electronic database detailing the condition of all streets. This allows staff to prioritize which roads are in most need of repairs and deploy our resources accordingly.

The commission committed \$2.2 million for repair work this year and plans to spend \$700,000 each of the next four years. Feel

free to contact my office to see if your neighborhood is next in line.

As a low-lying coastal community, it's critical that Fort Lauderdale prepare as best it can for **climate change** and the rising sea levels. The city has a lot going on in January in this regard.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration selected Fort Lauderdale to participate in a special three-day training session designed to help staff address planning priorities for climate adaptation.

Following this training, the city will host a public meeting to discuss with residents the potential effects of climate change and initiatives that could be taken.

This meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at City Hall.

Planning is continuing for the start of **passenger rail service** along the Florida East Coast Railroad. This includes a downtown rail hub for the All Aboard Florida plan, providing service between Orlando and Miami.

The city is lobbying for additional stops to be included on the regional commuter line that's envisioned for the communities between West Palm Beach and Miami.

In addition to the downtown hub, the city is looking to establish a stop at NE 13th Street. A preliminary study showed a stop there would generate

one of the highest ridership rates in the entire 85-mile corridor.

It sounds like a lot of train traffic, so the city is moving ahead to develop **quiet zones** where trains would no longer need to blow their whistles at road intersections. The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization has allotted \$2 million toward railroad crossing improvements needed to establish such zones.

We are also working with the Police Department to deal with the unprecedented level of home break-ins in the **Middle River Terrace**.

Police officials and community leaders will soon meet to discuss an action plan. I'm also urging the Police Department to target the area as part of a new high-tech law enforcement program.

In last month's newsletter, you read about a first-of-its-kind partnership with IBM to develop crime prevention tactics using advanced data analysis. The city has now committed \$200,000 in law enforcement trust fund money to staff the project.

The money will pay for officer overtime to reduce criminal activity in high-crime areas based on the information gleaned from the data analysis. Hopefully, we can use this specialized program to help Middle River Terrace.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to consider attending an important workshop on Jan. 29 where the City Commission will discuss **homelessness** and its impact on the community.

This is follow-up to a fact-finding symposium I held last fall that was attended by many of those committed to helping the homeless. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the 8th floor conference room of City Hall.

Sincerely,

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# SmartWater spray helps police solve vehicle burglary



Fort Lauderdale's use of the theft-deterrent SmartWater spray recently helped police nab a burglary suspect.

Fort Lauderdale teamed up with SmartWater CSI early last year to offer residents of the South Middle River neighborhood free theft-prevention kits.

The spray is a forensically encoded

liquid that can be placed on valuables. Visible only under ultraviolet light, the long-lasting marker helps officers identify thieves and return stolen property.

Police detectives were recently investigating a rash of vehicle burglaries in the area of Northwest 7th Avenue and West Sunrise Boulevard. They planted a decoy car containing a laptop computer secretly marked with the SmartWater spray.

The detectives saw three suspects walking near the car and one of them opening the door and removing the laptop. According to police, the three fled and were detained.

Utilizing a black light to spot the SmartWater, the detectives identified the laptop as the one in the decoy car and made an arrest.

## Upcoming District 2 meetings

Commissioner Trantalis invites you to join him twice a month to review the agendas for upcoming City Commission meetings.

The forums are held the first and third Monday of the month, the day before commission meetings. They take place at 5:30 p.m. in the 7th floor conference room of City Hall.

Because of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the next agenda review meeting will take place on Jan. 21.

The agendas for City Commission meetings are posted online the Friday beforehand at [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov).



Fort Lauderdale rang in 2014 with the Orange Bowl Downtown Countdown in Himmarshee Village. Commissioner Trantalis joined other city officials at the event.



Commissioner Trantalis joined neighborhood activists for the 13th Street Alliance's annual Miracle on 13th Street event in Middle River Terrace Park.



Commissioner Trantalis joined residents of South Middle River for their annual holiday party and fundraiser for the neighborhood association.