



JUNE 2013

Beach issues, marine industry receive city focus

Victoria Park weighs dog park options, Middle River Terrace votes on Dixie upgrades

It has been a busy month since our last newsletter, and much activity is taking place in and around the barrier island.

The City Commission recently met to discuss strategy for boosting the marine industry. The industry accounts for more than 90,000 jobs and is responsible for more than \$1.2 billion a year in gross sales.

In spring 2014, the Florida Inland Navigation District will begin dredging the Intracoastal Waterway from Port Everglades to approximately a mile north of Las Olas Boulevard.

We also are exploring the feasibility of expanding the Las Olas Marina. The figures we have been shown by our consultant are being disputed by other members of the marine industry, so the debate continues.

The city also is looking for ways to strike a better balance between the protection of sea turtles and the need for lighting along the beach. Residents are invited to attend meetings being hosted by the city to discuss how we can reassess our current policies in order to enhance the safety of beach-goers and residents without compromising the turtle mating season.

The next meeting is at 6:30 p.m. June 26 at the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

A proposal being considered reflects the recommendations of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which can allow light sources that are not directly visible from the beach. It encourages the construction of dunes to block artificial light from the beach.

We want to revise city code before the start of the 2014 nesting season.

Now for some news on other projects in District 2.

The city recently hosted a meeting for the Middle River Terrace

neighborhood about improving Dixie Highway.

This meeting was scheduled so transportation planners could explain the two designs and address funding possibilities.

We all agree that we should take the "highway" out of Dixie Highway.

The main difference in the plans is one has a 12-foot multipurpose path that could be used by cyclists and walkers while the other has dedicated bike lanes.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization, which funds transportation projects, stated at the meeting it would pay for about half the cost of the project with bike lanes. It will not provide financial aid for the plan with a shared-use path because it doesn't conform to agency standards. The city would have to find other ways to pay for that plan.

The city will conduct a neighborhood vote and bring that recommendation to the commission for a final decision. The hope is to make the process as fair as possible, so that everyone's voice is heard.

We also met in early June with Victoria Park about building a dog park. City staff offered three potential locations -- one near Art Serve on the east side of Holiday Park, one near Parker Playhouse off Federal Highway and the other on vacant city property on the north side of Sunrise Boulevard next to Pet Supermarket.



The civic association will weigh the options and report back to the city on what should be done.

In South Middle River, the city manager has been asked to review unused city-owned property to find locations for a community garden and pocket park. This is part of a new city initiative to sell land for which the city has no future purpose. At the same time, it provides the affected neighborhood with an opportunity to enhance amenities at the lowest cost.

In the Idlewyld neighborhood, the city has agreed to allow a community book exchange station on right-of-way on Clematis Place. And, in Progresso Village, the city will add historic street names to signage that will soon be installed.

Remember too that on July 2, the City Commission will also hold a public hearing on the project to bury utility lines in the Las Olas Isles, Idlewyld, Riviera Isles and Seven Isles neighborhoods. It will be at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Sincerely,

Dean

Hurricane season 2013 is underway

The 2013 hurricane season began at the start of June, and weather forecasters are expecting an active to extremely active couple months in the Atlantic.

Local emergency management officials warn that residents should not be complacent just because we have not been hit by a storm since Wilma in 2005. As the season starts, residents should review their family emergency plan and assemble a hurricane supply kit.

The city of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County offer detailed information about hurricane preparedness on their web sites, including the county's Hurricane Preparedness Guide. Please visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/hurricane and www.broward.org/hurricane.

Everyone should have emergency supplies for at least three days. Those supplies should include at least one gallon of water per person per day, non-perishable

food that is ready to eat, a battery-powered flashlight, a battery-powered radio, a first-aid kit and a reserve of prescription medicine.

As part of your family action plan, you should determine if you live in an evacuation zone and where you would go if ordered to evacuate. It's also prudent to inventory your possessions, assess your home for vulnerable spots, trim trees and check the condition of shutters and back-up generators.

The forecast calls for seven to 11 hurricanes in the Atlantic region



this year, with three to six of those becoming major storms. While the National Weather Service makes no prediction of where storms could go, it does note that the U.S. coastline is at increased risk during active seasons.

Remember hurricane season runs through Nov. 30.



Commissioner Trantalis joins Commissioner Romney Rogers and Mayor Jack Seiler at a Great American Beach Party event honoring hotelier Linda Gill and her family.



Commissioner Trantalis joined NFL Super Bowl champion Brendon Ayanbadejo for an anti-gay discrimination fund-raiser by Equality Florida.

Commissioner Trantalis hosts regular community forums to discuss the agendas of upcoming City Commission meetings. They are held at 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month in the 7th floor conference room of City Hall except when the commission is in recess.

If you would like to receive an email version of this newsletter and other updates from Commissioner Trantalis, please send an email to swyman@fortlauderdale.gov or call 954-828-5923.