



# From The Desk Of DEAN TRANTALIS

Fort Lauderdale City Commission • District II

JUNE 2014

## City looks to improve D.C. Alexander Park

### Police to start new neighborhood crime meeting; city gains power over vacation rentals

The summer season is at our doorstep, and I am sure many of you are making travel plans with your friends or families. I hope you all make it a great time.

Back here at home, the city is continuing to explore how best to target more than \$70 million in redevelopment funds to give the **central beach area** a facelift. One of the latest ideas that the City



Commission has added to the mix is an upgrade to D.C. Alexander Park.

The commission recently asked its staff to investigate ways to connect the park better with the planned renovation of the aquatic center and serve as a bridge between the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway.

The park should be a functional and flexible space. We want it to be a place that can be used as part of special events and concerts on the beach, but it also have shade and grass for people looking for a break from the sun and surf.

Design consultants will share revised concepts for the park later this month with our Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board.

Further north on the barrier island, the historic Bonnet House is opening a south entrance at Breakers Avenue and Vistamar Street. The Bonnet House's only entrance has been through a side street off Sunrise Boulevard so the new entry will provide better access for **North Beach Village** and hotels to the south.

We're also pleased to announce a major crime initiative by the Police Department to assist the **South Middle River, Middle River Terrace,**

**Lake Ridge and Lauderdale Manors** neighborhoods.

Chief Frank Adderley is planning a new monthly law enforcement meeting modeled after his

department's internal crime-analysis sessions. The first gathering will be at 6 p.m. June 18 at the Lauderdale Manors Community Center at 1340 Chateau Park Drive.

The chief says the meetings will

focus on how to target individual offenders, including juvenile burglars. He envisions the community helping develop a strategy for crime-fighting each month with a follow-up the next month on the progress made.

There is some mixed news out of this year's session of the state Legislature regarding vacation rentals.

As you may know, city staff frequently receives complaints about neighbors renting their homes on a daily, weekly or monthly basis to vacationers. With the new law, the city won't be able to prohibit vacation rentals nor will we be able to limit the duration or frequency of rentals. However, we can adopt other regulations to better protect the community from noise, trash, and number of guests per dwelling unit.

Gov. Rick Scott also signed the state budget, which includes money for two major projects in Fort Lauderdale. There is \$150,000 to assist in dredging canals and another \$700,000 to upgrade our stormwater system.

The city previously made stormwater improvements, including the installation of tidal control valves, in **Riviera Isles and Hendricks Isle.**

With the state assistance, we will continue that work into the **Las Olas Isles and the Isle of Venice.**

A couple final quick notes:

- The city received a grant from the Florida Highway Beautification Council to improve the medians on **State Road A1A** between North Atlantic and Oakland Park boulevards. Damaged trees and trees that have outgrown the median will be removed. The medians will be replanted with palms and plantings evoking a lush tropical feel.

- A couple of the promised steps to improve traffic flow and safety on **Las Olas Boulevard** have been completed. The traffic signal at Northeast 15th Avenue and Las Olas has been re-timed to reduce traffic backing up on 15th to turn left. Also, the city installed a flashing crosswalk at Las Olas and Southeast 13th Avenue. When pedestrians press the curbside button, flashing yellow lights embedded in the pavement illuminate to stop traffic.

- The city has launched a painted intersection initiative that should help further calm traffic **downtown.**

Volunteers helped paint a mural on the intersection at Las Olas and Southeast First Avenue. Murals will soon be added on Las Olas at Southeast Second and Southeast Third avenues.

Please remember that hurricane season is underway. Make sure you're ready and have a safe and fun summer.

Sincerely,

Dean 



## Be prepared: Hurricane season begins

The 2014 hurricane season began at the start of June. Residents should make sure they are prepared and not lulled by forecasts that say this should be a slower than normal storm season.



Local emergency management officials warn residents not to 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](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/hurricane) and [www.broward.org/hurricane](http://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-power 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 10 named storms in the Atlantic region this year, including four hurricanes.

The city will host a hurricane expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 21 at War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th St.

Hurricane preparation vendors and emergency agencies will help you learn the newest measures to protect you and your family. Participants can also learn how to track storms, pack a disaster kit, administer first aid and protect pets during storms.

Remember hurricane season runs through Nov. 30.



Commissioner Trantalis joins Mayor Jack Seiler, Brazil's consulate general and leaders of the Chamber of Commerce to open the new Giraffas restaurant.



Commissioner Trantalis presents a proclamation naming May 24 as Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation Day to the charity's operations director, James DeAnda.



Commissioner Trantalis hosted a telephone town hall meeting in May in which he fielded calls for an hour from city residents who had questions or concerns.