



City budget discussions come to conclusion

Dixie Highway discussion set for Oct. 1; Las Olas Boulevard rails project completed

It's been a wonderful summer here in Fort Lauderdale. To those who spent time away with family and friends, welcome back. Jazz festivals, Sunday Brunches and open-air markets have graced our neighborhoods throughout the season.

South Florida is once again a destination for year-round enjoyment. The summer has also been a time where a good deal of city work continues.

The City Commission has devoted many hours to discuss its budget and tax structure for the coming year.

I regret to inform you that, despite my efforts to convince my colleagues of the need reduce spending and keep taxes low, the commission has voted to raise taxes in order to keep paying out huge sums for pensions and other employee perks.

I will continue to work with our staff, the unions and the other members of the commission to change the course of spending and to ensure that we remain on firm financial footing.

Progress has been made on the redevelopment of **Dixie Highway**.

The matter will be brought before the commission at its Oct. 1 meeting to discuss the progress moving the redevelopment forward and to make an assessment on the proposed changes.

The Dixie project -- along with redevelopment monies anticipated for the 13th Street corridor -- will bring a great sense of revitalization to an area that lies in the heart of our district.

Construction crews recently finished the improvements to the **Las Olas Boulevard railings**.

The previous railings had been compared to bicycle racks or police barricades. The city and the

Florida Department of Transportation worked together to come up with a better design.

A fourth neighborhood off Las Olas Boulevard also has been added to the project to bury overhead utility lines.

The City Commission instructed engineers to draw construction plans for the Las Olas Isles. The commission previously authorized detailed designs for Idlewyld, Riviera Isles and Seven Isles.

Officials will be able to calculate how much **undergrounding** will cost once they have the drawings. Residents will then vote on whether to pursue construction and pay for it through a special assessment.

Flagler Village will break ground soon on its **community garden**. The event will be at 1 p.m. Sept. 22 at the site in the 400 block of Northeast Third Avenue. The City Commission awarded \$30,000 in redevelopment money to help start the garden.

In the area around Hugh Taylor Birch State Park and the Birch Finger Streets, the city is working with the Florida Department of Transportation to place temporary parking on the east side of **State Road A1A** until the road's reconstruction begins.

Parking spaces were lost when the road was damaged during Hurricane Sandy in late 2012.

We recently hosted a crime meeting in **Victoria Park**, where

residents have been concerned about a recent rash of home burglaries.

Broward County Circuit Court Judge Jay Hurley joined us and talked about how the court system is no longer allowing those charged with home burglary to be released on bond without first seeing a judge. A judge reviews the charges and the person's history and can set higher bonds.

Detective Carmelo Colon discussed the Police Department's crime prevention program. The agency will send a specialist to your property to conduct a free crime prevention survey of what steps you could take to improve the security of your property.

For more information, call 954-828-6421.

Fort Lauderdale's use of

SmartWater

spray as a way to deter theft and catch criminals has gained national attention.

ABC World News featured the South Florida launch of the spray in a segment in mid-August. The

news report showed how police used it in a sting operation targeting car break-ins.

Fort Lauderdale teamed up with SmartWater CSI at the beginning of the year to offer residents of the South Middle River neighborhood 500 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.

Sincerely,

Dean

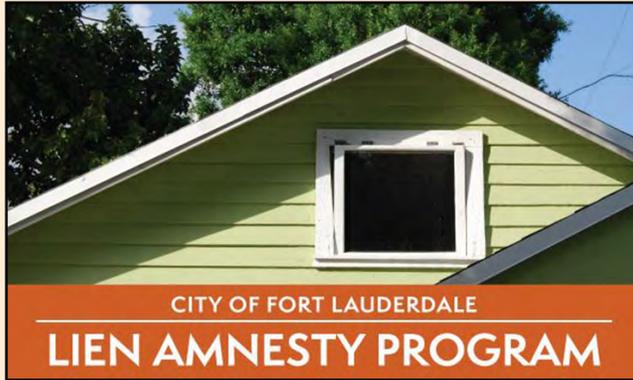


Lien amnesty program ends Sept. 30

Time is running out to qualify for up to 85% savings on outstanding code enforcement liens.

The city has extended the deadline for this special offer until Sept. 30. The code enforcement lien amnesty program was created to encourage property owners to bring violations into compliance and clear outstanding code enforcement liens at a reduced rate.

If you qualify to participate in the program, the amount of your code enforcement lien will be reduced to 15 percent of the amount owed, not to exceed 5 percent of the just market value of the property set by the Broward County Property Appraiser's Office for 2012.



In order to qualify for participation in the program, the following criteria must be met:

- 1) The property with the lien, as well as all property within the city Lauderdale owned by the same property owner, must be in full compliance with all city codes and ordinances and Florida building codes.
- 2) Any and all fees and costs associated with the code violation

shall be paid prior to the expiration of the program.

3) Any and all outstanding demolition, utility, lot clearing, or board-up liens shall be paid in full prior to the expiration of the program.

The city will not release the lien until the full payment of the fees and reduced lien amount are processed.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call 954-828-5050 or e-mail lienamnesty@fortlauderdale.gov.

An application and lien amnesty information packet can also be found at www.fortlauderdale.gov/lienamnesty.



Commissioner Trantalis joins U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings in opening the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's new Health and Wellness Center at 105 NE 3rd St.



Commissioner Trantalis presents a community appearance WOW award to Victoria Park homeowner Greg Kabel for the beautification of his property.

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