

Mayor's Report - July 2021

This month had a great start with our first town event in over a year and a half, the annual 4th of July Parade – hosted with the AHF, followed by the Pedestrian Bridge Dedication, and then refreshments at the Hester Wagner Community House. It was a great morning to come together with our neighbors and we look forward to continuing this event next year.

We have seen construction continue throughout the town with the first phase of West Melbourne's water main project being completed. We can expect to see them back in the next couple months when they begin phase two which will involve opening the ground in approximately three areas to connect the pipes that are currently above ground. There was also some unforeseen tree work that happened on Hammock Road. A local delivery truck hit the beautiful Live Oak that spans the road near the Hammock/Live Oak intersection which required some extensive tree work to remove the damaged limbs. I have since requested Public Works to begin a comprehensive review of the trees covering our roadways and to begin trimming them back higher than we have previously. The final bit of major construction news to report is that hopefully, as of this meeting, the failed culvert at the Hammock/Live Oak intersection has been replaced and the road reopened. With that being said, I have asked that the hired civil engineer survey the town's remaining culverts to provide an assessment of their overall condition. Doing so will allow the town to create a feasible plan and a long term capital budget to prepare for future replacement work that is inevitable as the culverts reach the end of their expected lifespans.

Behind the scenes, the town is conducting annual employee performance reviews as we prepare for the 2021/2022 budget season. We are continuing to make final adjustments to the first draft of the budget and anticipate a joint Commission/Finance meeting in the next two weeks. Additionally, our Town Clerk has been working to get everything advertised for the upcoming election in November. Please note that we will have five vacancies, three 2-year Commission Terms, a 1-year Commission Term, and a 1-year Mayor Term. Deadline for packet submission is Friday, August 13th at 5pm. For more information, please visit the Town website or stop by the office.

Lastly, in a bid to help the town become more transparent and informed, these Mayor's Reports are now available on the Town website. I have also started a Mid Monthly Mayor's Memo that is also posted about halfway through the month. These Mid Monthly Memos will highlight any happenings in the Village and update residents on any major work or events.

As we head into the month of August, please keep in mind that school will be starting up and our roads will be busy again. Please be aware of more kids out earlier in the morning and school buses stopping frequently.

Thank you for making this a wonderful place to live and allowing me the privilege to serve.

Tabitha Nieman, Mayor