

Hendricks and Isles of Venice

Update

Provided by Your Neighborhood Association

Membership Reminder : 25% discount to condo and townhome associations that join as a group!

Welcome back to all of our seasonal neighbors. The holiday season is quickly approaching. While this brings lots of exciting festivities and enjoyable weather, we can also expect more traffic and congestion on our roadways.

Thank you to all of our neighbors who have been providing feedback, support and assistance.

Help make sure your voice is heard by getting involved. The Board has expanded in response to the growth of issues and neighborhood concerns. Our success as a neighborhood association can only happen with strong participation. Please consider joining the Board or becoming a committee member.

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Residential Parking Permit Program: Light at the end of the tunnel?

Many of you are aware that your HVNA has been making efforts to gain approval for a residential parking permit program (RPPP), similar to that of Colee Hammock and several other Fort Lauderdale neighborhoods. In the words of Ringo Starr: "it don't come easy."

While we were hoping a traffic survey (by the City's chosen vendor, Kimley-Horn), would be completed during the last tourist season, it simply did not happen. We elected to wait until this tourist season since summer is less of an issue for parking (unless, of course, there is substantial new development construction taking place).

HVNA Board President Debby Eisinger and Vice President Stan Stein, who heads the HVNA Parking Committee, met on Tuesday, Sept. 26 with City Parking Services Manager Bryan Green and staff member Jose Vazquez to discuss next steps. Here is a general timeline:

- An RPPP scope has been submitted by the HVNA to the City, framing the type of RPPP we wish to have.
- Kimley-Horn will conduct data collection between the last week of this October and Thanksgiving. Traffic will be monitored at various times of the day and night to determine RPPP eligibility.
- After data collection, the City verifies with the DMV the drivers of the vehicles to determine who are residents versus non-residents which would encompass transients, ride-sharing services, construction crews, beachgoers, boat show visitors, etc. This will hopefully be completed by January, 2024.
- Simultaneous to data collection, the HVNA Board obtains petition approval signatures of at least 60 percent of our Isle of Venice and Hendricks Isle property owners in order to move forward. This is a daunting task given the nature of our multi-family condominium buildings. However, with the help of neighborhood volunteers, this can be an easy task to accomplish. The Board will also use

this opportunity to gain a larger membership as signatures are gathered and become an even more vibrant organization.

- Provided the data collection and subsequent steps yield the go-ahead for an RPPP, City staff will present the traffic study findings to the City Commission sometime in the Spring of 2024. If all goes well, our two finger islands could have a much-needed RPPP in place by summer of 2024

With input from the Neighborhood Association volunteer parking committee, the proposed Residential Parking Permit Program is as follows:

- Permits are valid 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
- Parking is limited to 24 hours per spot (cars must be moved every 24 hours).
- Maximum of two (2) permits per residence.
- Space availability will be based on a first come, first serve basis, and does not guarantee available parking.
- Non-permitted vehicles may only park in permitted areas for a maximum of 2 hours.
- All parking violations will be enforced, including vehicle immobilization.

Hendricks Isle/Isle of Venice Residential Parking Permit Program is an annual program with permits valid June 1st through May 31st. Permits will not be prorated.

- Applicant must live in the applicable area (Hendricks Isle or Isle of Venice) and must provide the following documents with matching name and address:
 - Current valid driver's license or any other government issued ID that shows the resident's name, address, and photo
 - Proof of ownership or valid residential lease for the property
 - Current vehicle Registration

Maximum of two guest permits per residence are available with purchase of a Residential Parking Permit.

- The annual fee is \$40.00

We continue to invite your input on the proposed Residential Parking Permit Program. Within a certain framework, the City allows Neighborhood Associations to set the guidelines for the program. Should you have other ideas and/or suggestions on the proposed RPPP, please get involved by joining the Neighborhood Association Parking Committee.

Traffic Calming Devices?

Perhaps we can Overcome a Little Speed Bump

While, I (Stan Stein, HVNA vice president and head of the Parking Committee) was on the phone with the City Transportation Planner, Judy Erickson discussing how we go about getting speed calming devices on our Isles, an interesting thing happened. She asked me to look for a device on northbound Hendricks Isle that had been installed several years ago that displays a driver's current speed. Not having noticed it before, I looked closely and saw it partially hidden behind a newly planted tree. As I was observing the sign at about 20 mph, a pickup roared past me going at least 50! Oh, the irony!

Nothing more clearly illustrated one of our problems like the pickup truck driver, who may or may not have been a resident. Like the rest of our issues - parking, paving, speeding - this one isn't going to happen overnight.

Here are the key milestones:

Erickson explained a traffic study had been conducted in 2016. She kindly acknowledged my response that I moved here in 2016 and the traffic on our streets is far different - mom and pops have become larger, mid-rise condo buildings. Fewer people leave in the summer. Construction continues unabated. And so on. Thus, Broward County Traffic and Engineering will need to conduct another study for our streets to be considered.

The criterion to be considered for speed bumps are myriad - between 450 to 3,000 cars per 24-hour period traveling in either direction, speeds at least eight mph over the 25-mph speed limit for 85 percent of the vehicles, etc.

- At least 60 percent of resident OWNERS need to agree that this would be a good idea. It was suggested to Erickson that perhaps this could be done at the same time we are seeking 60 percent approval for a Residential Parking Permit Program, and this, while clearly a good idea, is being looked into.
- If, if, if all of this goes through (the study results may take 12-14 months), we will be put on the installation list.

Failing to accomplish the installation of speed calming devices, alternatives include targeted enforcement during peak traffic times and additional signage on both streets.

An update should be available prior to our February HVNA Annual Picnic Meeting.

Volunteers Have Raised Their Hands... More are Needed!

An HVNA Zoom call was held on Tuesday, Oct. 17 to discuss Residential Parking Permit guidelines and restrictions. More than 30 HVNA members joined, many volunteering to help garner the 60 percent petition signatures that will be needed to help push the program through.

However, to access each of the 550 property owners on Hendricks Isle and Isle of Venice, preferably by the end of February, 2024, more volunteers are needed. If you can help - even just getting signatures in your own building - please contact HVNA President Debby Eisinger at mayordebby@gmail.com or contacting her at 954-253-9538

87 Isle of Venice Project Gains Final Approval

After months of back-and-forth discussion about setback modifications, footprint size and other considerations, a mid-rise, luxury condo building is back on schedule to replace the aging and rundown El Sorrento, located at 87 Isle of Venice. When finished, this project called "Serene," will comprise 8 units, ranging in size from approximately 2,825 to 2,860 square feet.

The project was approved unanimously at the Wednesday, Oct. 18 meet of the City Planning and Zoning Commission. Stan Stein represented the Hendricks Isle/Isle of Venice Neighborhood Association (HVNA) as a majority supporter of the project.

Developer Sal Cannizarro, principle of JDFSC Properties, himself an Isle of Venice resident, agreed to several key concessions during the process, notably:

- providing off-site and off-street parking accommodations for construction crews and subcontractors during the construction of the development project;
- providing a written disclosure statement within its Declaration of Condominium or Declaration of Restrictive Covenants notifying purchases/owners as to the effective City of Fort Lauderdale parking restrictions, including the 24-hour parking rule and the Residential Parking Permit Program being pursued by the Hendricks Isle/Isle of Venice (HVNA) with the City of Fort Lauderdale;
- hiring of off-duty City police officers to facilitate traffic along Isle of Venice when large construction materials are being delivered;
- removing debris associated with the project from public right-of-way or neighboring properties and maintain the construction site in accordance with the applicable requirements of the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances, and;
- responsible for the costs of repair of all road, curbside, swale & sidewalk damage resulting from construction activities by the Developer

A Message from Debby Eisinger, President HVNA

As evident from this year's Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show activity, our seasonal residents and tourists are back in town. The busy season is officially upon us. As we prepare to embrace the moderate temperatures and numerous holiday festivities that make Fort Lauderdale such a popular Winter destination, we must also brace ourselves for the traffic challenges, likely an uptick in crime (this sadly happens all across our country and world-wide during the holiday season), more short-term rental activity along our 2 finger islands, and difficulty finding on-street parking for ourselves and guests. For those of us who enjoy quiet waterways for kayaking, paddle boarding and other recreational watersports, we can expect more boating traffic and water pollution in the coming months.

Of course, we can pick up and move to a remote island somewhere in the Caribbean or elsewhere. Fortunately, we have choices as to where we wish to reside. Fort Lauderdale is a win-win for those who like the City life which offers culture, shopping, restaurants and unlimited entertainment along with premier weather, beautiful beaches and year long outdoor sports activities.

Rather than complain about our challenges, let's continue our work together with finding solutions. While this newsletter includes updates on the various HVNA projects and accomplishments, your continued help and support is needed if we are to remain successful with our mutual goal of enhancing our quality of life along Hendricks Isle and Isle of Venice.

Having a strong and active Board is extremely important to the success of the Neighborhood Association. It is the role of the Board to vote upon various matters and issues affecting or potentially affecting the neighborhood. While membership input is tremendously important when positions on issues such as development and/or parking are being considered, it is the Board who is vested with the authority to vote and provide their advisory opinion to the government entity which has the ability to implement action. The Board is strictly advisory

in nature. However, the City and County seriously weigh the position of the Board in their decision-making process.

Currently the Board is seeking applicants with an interest in **waterway and coastal issues** or **community safety and security**.

We also invite members to join a committee.

Committees include:

Development - tasked with reviewing development applications for neighborhood compatibility and compliance and making advisory recommendations.

Parking & Roadway Enforcement - this committee is in the process of establishing a Residential Parking Permit Program (RPPP) that will fit the needs of property owners along Hendricks and Venice Isles.

Waterway/Coastal Safety and Cleanliness - the value of our properties is significantly impacted by the quality and cleanliness of our waterways. Boating and recreational water sports are paramount to our lifestyles. By working together with the appropriate governmental entities, this committee will be instrumental in ensuring the safety of our waterways.

Safety & Security - by working together with the Fort Lauderdale police department, this committee is tasked with coming up with ideas and suggestions for improvement of neighborhood safety and security.

Social Events & Activities - the committee will coordinate social events and other activities that bring our neighborhood together.
Social Media & Communications - this committee is tasked with finding avenues for expanding the HVNA's social media, keeping the HVNA website, Instagram and Facebook accounts up-to-date and assist with membership recruitment.

The Challenge of Short-Term Vacation Rentals

Short-term vacation rentals seem to have become a frequent concern and nuisance to property owners along Hendricks Isle and Isle of Venice. While many of us wish the City could regulate short-term rental locations, Florida state law precludes local governmental agencies such enforcement. This usurping of "Home Rule" (a city's ability to enact its own ordinances and self-governing laws) has been a major "bone of contention" for local governmental entities.

Hendricks Isle and Isle of Venice, with their close proximity to the beaches and the iconic Las Olas Boulevard, is an ideal location for short-term vacation renters, particularly for the young adults wanting to let loose, celebrate with loud music during all hours of day and night, and entertain large gatherings of friends.

Fortunately, the City is permitted to pass certain rules and regulations to control the negative neighborhood effects of vacation rentals. The City is also empowered with the ability to license, permit and tax short-term vacation rental properties.

Unfortunately, there are numerous short-term vacation rental businesses operating without proper licensing and/or in violation of City ordinances. With help from residents and property owners who are negatively impacted by illegal short-term rental properties, the City is making significant inroads with enforcement.

Over the past year, in response to resident and property owners' vigilance in reporting concerns with respect to unlawful violative behavior from short-term vacation rentals, your HVNA Board of Directors has been able to work successfully with the City in bringing unlawful activity into compliance. The net result has been less noise, traffic, and disruptive behavior.

As a united Neighborhood Association, we can continue our success with short-term rental enforcement. This is a teamwork effort and another reason to support and participate in our neighborhood association.



Second Annual HVNA Picnic/Annual Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 4

Mark your calendars: Sunday, Feb. 4 - conveniently positioned between the NFL conference Finals and Super Bowl - is the date for the second annual Hendricks Isle/Isle of Venice Neighborhood Association (HVNA) picnic/annual meeting. It will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m., location TBD

There are many reasons to attend, whether you're an HVNA member or not:

- Free food and drinks - if it's catered, it's covered as we say in the PR business;
- Guest speakers from the City of Fort Lauderdale who can update us on important City initiatives and answer questions.
- An update on our pressing need for a Residential Parking Permit Programs, paving, safety and other neighborhood concerns.
- Meet some neighbors you haven't met before or reconnect with those you haven't seen in a while. We live in condo buildings, not single-family homes, and some connectivity never hurt anyone.

To sign up to attend, and/or offer topics you'd like covered, please email HendricksVeniceIsles@gmail.com.

Meet Your Board of Directors



Debby Esinger
President



Stan Stein
Vice President



Jim Broder
Legal Counsel



Randy Aube
Treasurer



Jennifer Ginsburg
Marketing & Social Media

For additional information on
joining the HVNA Board or
committee please email:
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or call Debby Esinger
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