

Mayor's Report, 23 July 2024

This July report was difficult to prepare since much of our activities were covered in *The Cardinal* that was just published. However, it is important to remind everyone that we are approaching peak Hurricane season. We had an active start with 3 named storms in June and according to forecasters we should expect more storms through the fall months. Please prepare your safety kit and/or "go" bags with items needed for yourself, your kids, and your pets. The Town provides sandbags and a sandpile available to residents at the Public Works Garage on Hall Road. Street Captains will be activated when a Hurricane warning is issued.

The Staff and Commissioners continue to work on our "To Do" list of numerous projects as you saw in the July edition of *The Cardinal*.

We recently hired a contractor to paint the stop bars and crosswalks in the village. We needed to do this due to fading and incorrect placement of some of the lines. Additional work needs to be completed, but this project should be wrapped up soon. The Town is also continuing to install the refurbished street signs. Hopefully this project will be completed by the time we end Daylight Savings Time and evening comes early.

Tonight, is the final reading of the proposed New Town Charter and includes wording for the referendum that will be on the ballot. We will publish the text of the referendum in the October "Election Edition" of *The Cardinal*, or you can come to the office to get a copy. Which reminds me – any new candidates or incumbents interested in running for a commission seat or office of Mayor must file their packet between Aug 7th and Aug 16th. We will be reading the full election proclamation later tonight.

The Finance Committee provided the initial proposed FY24-25 Budget to the Commission for review. Due to time constraints, we will not have budget discussions tonight but will schedule a Budget Workshop in the next 2 weeks. These dedicated workshops provide the Commission with time to review and discuss the budget in detail. I'm optimistic that the residential tax burden will be lower for the upcoming year since the 10% over roll-back rate, which is the highest millage we could accept, is almost the same as our millage last year (9.0898 vs 9.0145 in FY23-24). As you saw in *The Cardinal*, we hope to continue the trend of lowering our millage rate.

Thank you to everyone that made the Town's first July 4th parade and celebration afterwards a big success. Thanks too, to the parade organizers, participants, volunteers who donated the flags to the Town, and the volunteers who installed almost 600 around Town!

Thank you. Let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor