

## Mid Monthly Mayor's Memo – July 2021

Hello Residents!

The first couple weeks of July have brought its share of excitement to our Town. We kicked off the month with a great event cohosted by the AHF and the Town. We started the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend off with a parade that began in the AHF parking lot and headed along Norman and South Drive, to end at the newly placed pedestrian bridge. We then moved on to a dedication of the pedestrian bridge to all the Mayors who have served our Town, with a special note of thanks to Heidi Salmon and Willow Martin. The event ended at the Hester Wagner Community House where we all enjoyed a meet and greet with our police department, hotdogs, fresh watermelon and snow cones. All in all, it was a great event that saw over 100 of our residents come out and participate and we are looking forward to making it happen again next year!

Also, the water main project along Canal Road (in the county owned land bordering the canal) led by the City of West Melbourne is well underway and the first phase of work is already complete. I have been informed that the next phase of work will involve cutting open small portions of the land to connect the pipes that are currently exposed. We currently do not have a specific date for when this work will start, but they estimate in the next couple of months. Once that phase is complete, they will move into the testing phase of their system and eventually resodding disturbed areas.

I happy to report that following our Regular Commission Meeting on June 22, the Commission approved a bid for approximately \$22,000 to replace the culvert at Hammock and Live Oak following inspection from a civil engineer. The failing metal culvert will be replaced with a concrete culvert which will provide the town with infrastructure that will last decades longer than the last. **This work is set to begin on Monday, July 19, and estimated to last approximately a week barring any inclement weather.** We as a Commission thank you for your patience with this matter. It has lasted longer than anyone wanted, but we were bound by bid requirements and purchasing approval in our governing documents as well as the nature of working with other professionals who are not solely bound to our town. We thank you again and look forward to having that intersection opened back up very soon.

Unfortunately, while the road was closed, there was a delivery driver who struck the large Live Oak that spans across Hammock Road, causing damage and the removal of two large branches. It appears that perhaps the recent rains weighed that branch down further, coupled with an attempt by the driver to back up, is what led to the incident. We are looking into the requirements that we as a Town hold to keeping the roadways clear to a certain height as well as potentially adding additional signage along areas that are lower clearance to avoid this in the future.

The Town is in the midst of budget preparations for the next fiscal year, so be on the lookout for any meeting notices regarding that if you are interested. The Town is also actively preparing for the upcoming storm season with special attention by the police department and public works. Moving forward, it is my intention to keep the Town apprised of what is happening each month through these memos as I feel transparency and communication are great tools to keep everyone informed and engaged.

Thank you all for making this a great place to live,

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor

Upcoming Meetings:

Finance: Monday, July 26, 2021 – 7:00pm

Regular Commission Meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 – 7:00pm