

## Mayor's Report, 28 January 2025

Another year has flown by in the Village, and I want to thank the residents for your continued support for the Commissioners and Staff. Through responsible management of external funds, thoughtful budgeting, and strong collaboration, we successfully reduced the 2025 millage rate to 6.85, a trend we hope to continue since the Town's financial position is stronger than in many years.

Residents overwhelmingly voted (387/100), to approve our new Town Charter which will serve us for many years. As your Mayor, I would like to understand why 100 residents voted against the new charter. This many nay votes are indicative of why we strive to increase engagement with our residents with workshops, Mayor's Town Halls and Commission meetings. I welcome your feedback to understand the concerns or address any our failure in communication. Contact me at [Mayor@melbournevillage.org](mailto:Mayor@melbournevillage.org) or come to the informal Mayor's Town Hall. (See March calendar, page 11) We're working hard to boost engagement with our residents, so in addition to the meetings mentioned above, you can now sign up for the Town's MARVIN report to be better informed. (see page 2)

Other 2024 accomplishments made possible by utilizing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds include refurbishing our streets signs with reflective paint, new AC systems, roof and septic system at the Town Hall, new roof for Public Works garage, adding electricity and lights in the Public Works pole barn, and repair of the Dayton sidewalk, to name a few. In addition, we completed exterior renovation of the Hester Wagner Community House, replaced the Hall Road culvert, hired a lobbyist, and had our first "clean" audit in many years. And, the Town is fully staffed with a stable, cohesive team working well together and with residents.

It is our intent to keep the momentum going in 2025! After a few setbacks, installation of the HWCH septic system is slated to start soon, and we WILL get our playground installed this spring! We are working closely with our lobbyist to bring in more funding to offset costs for additional projects (see page 3). The Commission will work on updating policies and the personnel manual, create a committee to review our Town Codes (see page 4), and work on instituting a new and improved Town Website. Public Works will use the dry season months to work on stormwater projects and clear Town Right-of-ways (see page 6).

This edition of the Cardinal is chock full of important news and updates which represent just some of the projects your Commission, Town Staff and volunteers are working on for the benefit of us all. Cut out and keep the Calendar page for key dates and important numbers on the back.

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your Mayor another two years - let's keep the conversation going.

Sue Ditty, Mayor