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Clerk-Commissioner Annette Wexler

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



It is the winter season and it is my wish that all the snowbirds are enjoying their stay in our community. Our population doubles in the winter time. If you are a snowbird, hopefully you are enjoying your stay with us and will come back for many years to come. It is important that the Town of Pembroke Park keeps evolving as each season rolls by. I am proud to let you know that we are in the process of millions of dollars' worth of improvements and development in our Town. It is because of development and improvements that we have been able to maintain the same tax rate for the last twelve years. Obviously, development is a very important part of our stable economy. If you notice, you will see images of our new development along Hallandale Beach Boulevard.

At the site of the old Bobby Rubino's restaurant, there is a new shopping center being constructed. This center will have new shops, and new retail, providing opportunities for others to come and shop in our Town. At the entrance gate to Seneca Industrial Park you will see the area is fenced off. The east side of the entrance to Seneca on Southwest 32nd Avenue is now being developed as the Seneca Town Center. I am very pleased to report that there will be a day care center, restaurant, various shops as well as offices in this building. We are working very hard to have a major grocery chain lease property in the Center as well. There is also a three story office building that is being developed nearby with single tenants on each floor. Each floor is already rented to those tenants. A lot more is happening throughout the Town. We have two new buildings, Buildings A and B, in the Seneca development center and Coca-Cola is beginning a major expansion on their property.

These are just some of the examples of what is happening. All of this is within areas that are zoned for this type of development and will meet very strict and rigorous codes for construction. What it means to the public is not only more opportunities to stay in the area and shop in the area, but it also maintains our stable economy so that we can do our best to not raise taxes or go into debt for future improvement. The fact that developers are investing millions of dollars in our Town bodes well for the future.

FLOOD PLAIN MAPS REVISED PROVIDING SAVINGS FOR OUR RESIDENTS

The Town Commission, led by Commissioner Howard P. Clark, Jr., challenged the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps ---- and won! FEMA has recently updated the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. They had proposed changes to the maps that would have significantly increased the number of residents who were in the flood zone. Many areas would have been added to the flood hazard area while others would have required new homes to be built much higher.

The town filed an appeal based on the drainage improvements that the Town has completed over the past decade. The new maps came out on August 8th 2014 and most of the Town was removed from the special flood hazard area. The savings to residents on flood insurance and construction costs could easily top one million dollars over the next few years.



TOWN HELPS BUSINESSES

The Town Commission is working on updating all of our ordinances to require identification signs outside every business denoting what business is transpiring in that building. This will make it easier for us to coordinate business development and organize our businesses into a network for mutual benefit.

Goodbye to a Friend

The Town of Pembroke Park has lost a great friend to all of us. James Tisdale (JT), our Chief Code Officer, passed away on Saturday, January 17th. He was a friend and a special part of our community. He rose through the ranks in the Town from beginning work on our roads and streets crew to become Chief Code Officer. Whatever obstacles were placed in front of him he quietly and with dignity surmounted them. Unfortunately, he could not overcome this last obstacle and we lost him. He can never be replaced. All segments of our community are in deep sadness and mourning for this tragic loss. **Goodbye our friend.**



James Tisdale



Annual Toy Drive a Huge Success

Thanks to the Stratton Corporation and its foundation plus many other organizations and residents of the Town, our annual toy drive was a triumph. Over 450 children were given toys and other goodies for the holidays. The evening started on the east side of Town in order that the children did not have to travel far. The Stratton Corporation on Park Road was the headquarters and did a wonderful job. Santa arrived on a fire truck and proceeded to take pictures with the kids. After the east side of Town, Santa and the group came over to Town Hall where children on the west side of town were equally delighted. Not only did they receive toys, but in our back parking lot they got pizza and other refreshments along with a bounce house, a DJ, and many other fun and games activities. It was a wonderful community event and a continuation of the cooperation between our industry, our government, and our community. We look forward to doing this again next year.

Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you to the staff of Town Hall and the Town Commission for their contributions to our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Over 80 families were given surprise food baskets consisting of an eight to ten pound turkey and all the fixings and sides for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. Many staff as well as Commissioners helped to distribute the food as well as collect it in Town Hall. These 80 deserving families were noted by their park managers or their residential managers as those in need of a holiday pick-me-up. We are very proud to be able to help provide such a wonderful repast for all. Next year we'll be doing it all over again and looking forward to your donations at Town Hall prior to Thanksgiving.



Health Fair

The Town has added another event to our annual schedule and sponsored a Health Fair at the Oglesby Preserve on November 15th. We appreciated our firemen providing vegetarian burgers and other refreshments to the crowd. As people meandered along the walkways of the Preserve, they could get various tests provided by different organizations assessing their health. There were counselors there to talk about Obamacare and the Affordable Health Care Act. There were booths where nutrition, special counseling, family counseling and many other types of health related questions could be answered. The Fire Department provided a "graffiti truck". A fire truck that you were allowed to paint on, which provided a lot of fun for both the kids and the parents and other adults that were there. Two DJs kept the crowd entertained on both sides of the Park. Hundreds of residents were tested and given the results of their various health examinations in order to understand any steps that needed to be taken at a later date to maintain their physical well-being. Lots of questions were asked, lots of answers were given, lots of food was consumed and lots of fun was had by all. We are looking forward to the next Health Fair that will be held early Fall next year.

Oasis Project Comes to Town

The Town Commission and the Town of Pembroke Park are very pleased to announce the opening of a special reading room at Watkins Elementary.

This is called the Oasis Project and is developed in conjunction with the Scholastic Group. Funded by contributions from the Town of Pembroke Park and the City of West Park, the Oasis Project supports an environment of learning for people of all ages who need to develop better reading and comprehension skills.

There are many members of our community that for various reasons, including English as a second language, have difficulty reading and understanding what they are reading. The Oasis Project is geared to help everyone in this regard.

If you need further information please call
Joan Greene at Town Hall at 954-966-4600 extension 218.
We will get the information to you.
You may also call Watkins elementary School for further information.

February Back to School Supply Program

In the upcoming months we will be taking donations and collections to provide back to school supplies to our students who may have used up by now the ones that were provided in August. Since our school system is on a year round basis, we have new students arriving in mid school year.

In February the Town will be giving out school supplies to our elementary and high school children.

**If you would like to be a part of this event please contact
Joan Greene at Town Hall at 954-966-4600 extension 218.**

Commission News

Vice Mayor Gina Cohen lives in a mobile home that backs up onto one of our many lakes. She noticed that the soil was eroding due to lake water action. It seems that this is a problem throughout our community. We are shoring up our seawalls around the Town where there is public access. However, we are not able to shore up any seawall that is strictly on private property. If you are having a problem and it is adjacent to a public right-of-way, please let us know so we can provide protection for the problem. Please call Joan Greene at Town Hall at 954-966-4600 extension 218 and let her know your problem.

Commissioner Emma Shoaff Has Been Working With the Department of Transportation to Provide Better Linkage Regarding the Traffic Lights along Hallandale Beach Boulevard.

Hallandale Beach Boulevard is a State road and therefore is maintained by the State Department of Transportation. Commissioner Shoaff who lives at Green Acres Mobile Home Park noticed that the lights were not coordinated properly and there were a lot of back-ups and traffic problems for her residents to have ingress and egress. She brought it before the Town Commission as a problem. The entire Commission voted to examine the problem and meet with the Department of Transportation in order to see what could be done. Commissioner Howard Clark was appointed lead Commissioner and he, along with staff members, met with D.O.T. executives. They understood the problem. Commissioner Clark even discussed the number of accidents that had occurred and brought photos of the traffic problems.

One of the items was of particular interest to Vice Mayor Gina Cohen, who represents Dale Village. Vice Mayor Cohen had been working with the County to try to put better barriers up on Hallandale Beach Boulevard in front of Dale Village Mobile Home Park. There have been a number of crashes into their wall that separates them from Hallandale Beach Boulevard. The DOT has said that they will consider additional guard rails. At that point, Commissioner Clark, having had the permission of the Commission, offered the Town's help to pay for the guard rails to facilitate for them to be utilized sooner than later. We are still awaiting the decision from DOT regarding improved protection along that area from 40th avenue all the way to 56th avenue on the north side of Hallandale Beach Boulevard. You should also notice better coordination on the lights as you travel eastbound on Hallandale Beach Boulevard due to the continued work of Commissioner Shoaff.



Park Road School Bus Stop Changed Following Residents' Complaints

At the start of the school year, it was noticed that the school bus stop along Park Road was changed by the School Board. The area that they changed it to along Carolina Street was not the best to protect children and provide them with the most safety while they wait for the bus. It also created more difficulty for them when they exited the bus and had to cross Park Road. The problem was brought to the attention of Commissioner Annette Wexler and she discussed it with the entire Commission at a Workshop in which the Commission gave Commissioner Wexler and Commissioner Clark the go-ahead to work with the School Board to change the location to a safer one recommended by the parents of the children that use the bus stop.

Within two weeks, the School Board had changed the location to a much brighter, lighter and safer one on Park Road and parents could breathe a little easier for the safety of their children. Kudos to all concerned. To the citizens who brought it to the notice of our Commission and to our Commissioners who took immediate action to solve the problem. Please remember that Park Road is a major thru-way in our Town and everybody must take caution when driving or walking along that Road. There is a lot of traffic, and there are some blind driveways. Please drive cautiously along Park Road, especially when school buses are in use. We are exploring options to slow down this traffic on Park Road and we are of course, looking at all options.

**If you have any suggestions, please call Joan Greene at
Town Hall at 954-966-4600 at extension 218.**

Je Suis Charlie



Commission Stands in Solidarity with the People of France against Terrorism at Home and Abroad

At the meeting held on January 14, 2015, the Town Commission replaced all their name plates with the phrase "Je Suis Charlie" (I am Charlie) in solidarity with the people of France against terrorism in all its forms. We have learned that nowhere in the world is safe from terrorists and we must all stand together against this scourge. Our Commission sends its thoughts and prayers to the families of the people who were killed by such atrocious acts of violence.