**Mayor's Message**

**Goodbye to a Friend**

The Town of Pembroke Park has lost a great friend to all of us. James Tisdale (Jr), 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*

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**Flood Plain Maps Revised**

The Town Commission, led by Commissioner Howard P. Clark, Jr., challenged the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps — and 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 18, 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.

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**Town Helps Businesses**

The Town Commission is working on updating all of our ordinances to require identification signs outside every business demoting 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.
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 400 children were given toys and other goodies for the holidays. The event started on the east side of Town in order that the children did not have to travel far. The Stratton Corporation in 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 bouncy 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 nominated through our residential managers or 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 will 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 sponsors a Health Fair at the Stratton Preserve on November 12th. We appreciated our frequent providing vegetarian burgers and other refreshments to the crowd. As people meandered along the walkways of the Preserve, they got serious travel provided by different organizations examining their health. There were counselors there to talk about Obamacare and the Affordable Health Care Act. There were booths about nutrition, speech 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 (2) kept the crowd entertained on both sides of the park. Numerous of vendors were located and gave 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. Lists of questions were taken and sets of answers were given. All of food was consumed and lots of fun was had by all. We are looking forward to the next Health Fair then we will have another Fun 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 Wabasso Cemetery.

This is called the Oasis Project and is developed in conjunction with the Strawberry 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 our community.

If you need further information please contact Joan Greene at Town Hall at 954-966-4600 extension 218. We will provide the information to you. You may also call Wabasso 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 items 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 school supplies to our elementary and high school children.

If you would like to donate please contact Joan Greene at Town Hall at 954-966-4600 extension 218.

Commission News

The Mayor, Glenn Cohen, is mobile home lots that look as one of our many tasks. He said that the soil was heading due to lack of water intake. It means that this is a problem throughout our community. We can stop it by our bonds around where there is clear public access. However, we are not able to do them at any cost that will strike at primary property. If you can have a problem of all of it required to a public right of way, please let us know so we can provide protection for the people. Please call town offices at Town Hall at 954-966-4600 extension 218.

Commissioner Emma Shaw has been working with the Department of Transportation to provide Better Parking near the Flagler Beach Railroad. The Flagler Beach Boulevard is a State park and therefore maintained by the State Department of Transportation. Commissioner Shaw, who lives at Oak Grove Mobile Home Park said that the lights were not installed properly and they were a lot of back up and traffic problems for her residents to have ingress and egress. She brought the Town Commission for a problem. The State Commission voted to examine the problem and meet with the Department of Transportation in order to what could be done. Commissioner Howard Clark appointed him as Commissioner and he, along with staff members, with our D.O.T. counselors. They undertook the problem. Commissioners have discussed the number of accidents that had occurred and suggested plans for the traffic problems.

One of the issues with particular interest to Vice Mayor Glenn Cohen, who represents Palm Village, is the ongoing efforts made to build a bypass around downtown Flagler Beach Boulevard. The BTB has said that they will consider additional parking needs. At that point, Commissioner Clark, who had the permission of the Commission, offered the Town’s help in any way the road is to be facilitated for them to be able to be something else than this. We will still work the decision once BTB regarding improved protections along that same four lane section of the way to 200 owner on the west side of Flagler Beach Boulevard. You should also notice that there is a bypass on the east as well as Flagler Beach Blvd. Due to the continued work of Commissioner Shaw.

Je Suis Charlie

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

At the meeting held on January 14, 2015, the Town Commissioners replaced all their name plates with the phrase “Je Suis Charlie” on the name plates. The managers and 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.

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 Wooler 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 our notice of the Commission and to our Commissioners who took immediate action to solve the problem. Please remember that Park Road is a major north/south 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 slowly 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.