

Dear Neighbors,

November 2017

The holidays are fast approaching, and soon we will have our snowbirds back in Town. This upcoming winter season will likely test our patience when it comes to navigating through Town on A1A. As mentioned in my previous newsletter, at the last minute back in June, the Department of Transportation forced a delay for our water main construction work, pushing the start date from June to September. On September 5, the construction company began mobilizing equipment and materials. Several tons of gravel were delivered on that day, only to have to be removed the next day when it appeared Hurricane Irma was going to bring us a direct hit. Thank goodness we were spared, but those who were here immediately following Irma know there was still a lot of debris removal that had to be done. The hurricane thus created the second major delay for our water main project, and the construction schedule once again had to be juggled. Mobilization was finally re-initiated on November 8. While consideration was given to delaying the project until after Season, because the existing pipe is in dire need of replacement and because the County sewer project is scheduled to begin on the heels of the water main project, the decision was made to proceed. On behalf of the entire Commission, I apologize in advance for the inconvenience we will all be subjected to for the next several months. The best laid plans...

With regard to our beach efforts, October was a busy month. The Administrative Hearing requesting that Boca Inlet not be permitted to back-pass sand to the north of the Inlet (given that their DEP-approved Inlet Management Plan requires them to send dredged sand south) was held on October 4 & 5. In addition, on October 25, the preliminary hearing was held for motions relating to the Deerfield Beach rock pile/groin litigation, and a trial date for the Deerfield case was set for late-October/early November 2018. It will be several weeks before the rulings from both hearings are made.

Relating to these legal filings, I would like to clarify two issues. First, the action for the Boca Inlet is not a lawsuit; it is an administrative proceeding being held at Hillsboro's request to determine whether DEP has the right to break its own rules for management of the Boca Inlet. On the other hand, the Deerfield action is indeed a lawsuit, and the preliminary hearing was held to deal with motions filed by Deerfield in response to Hillsboro's suit. The Deerfield case is very complicated, and as a result there is much misinformation floating around. The only ruling the judge made at the preliminary hearing is that the suit we brought against Deerfield in the name of the State under F.S. 120 would not be heard as a jury trial. Deerfield's attorneys were hoping for a jury trial, however, given the technical nature of the case, Hillsboro's attorneys were pleased with the judge's ruling. All other motions were "taken under advisement" by the judge and will be ruled on at a later time. This includes whether or not Deerfield is allowed to countersue Hillsboro, again requesting a jury trial in their countersuit. In the meantime, the Town is prepared to do what's necessary for the long haul to protect the rights of Hillsboro Beach residents.

Things at Town Hall are going very well under Town Manager Mac Serda. Mac and the Town Commission are excited to welcome Sherry Henderson as our new Town Clerk. Sherry recently relocated from Georgia and is loving life as a Floridian. Please feel free to stop in and say hello!

Also, please always feel free to reach out to your Commission with thoughts or questions on anything that affects our Hillsboro Beach community. We will do our best to respond to your concerns and keep you informed!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor,

Deb

**Deb Tarrant
Mayor**



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