Dear Hillsboro Beach Neighbors, ***February 2019***

We are well into the new year, and it promises to be a productive one for our Town. Before looking ahead, however, a moment of reflection is in order. This past year saw many improvements for Hillsboro Beach, both large and small. **Town Manager Mac Serda** has been an excellent steward of our tax dollars, with an end-result of improving the Town's efficiency and financial position. Kudos are also in order for Town Manager Serda and **Town Clerk Sherry Henderson** for the simple yet spectacular holiday lighting at Town Hall and the festive gathering that kicked off the holiday season.

In 2018, the first large-scale infrastructure project the Town has undertaken in decades – replacement of our water main, was completed. On the heels of that project, the sewer line replacement project began. The sewer project has been extremely challenging; however, the addition of a second construction crew has the project slightly ahead of schedule. It is now approximately 1/3 complete. The accompanying road closures have been a tremendous pain, but given the fragile state of our aging system and the recent catastrophe in Pompano Beach where a ruptured sewer line spewed contamination into the canal system for days, Hillsboro Beach is lucky to be a step ahead.

Several residents have inquired as to why these two projects weren't done together. Unfortunately, the narrowness of the island creates major limitations for the amount/kind of construction equipment that can be used in any one place. Also, the rate of progression for the two projects did not match, with the sewer project requiring far deeper access. Finally, the two projects belong to different entities – the water main project is funded by the Town's water usage charges and the sewer project is funded by the County.

Due diligence is currently underway regarding burying utility lines, which would be done before the State comes in for the final phase of A1A improvements (flood control in the south mile, sidewalk in the north mile), scheduled for 2021/2022. Fortunately, burying utility lines would not entail complete road closures. Nobody said it would be easy; however, with determination and perseverance, the end result will make Hillsboro Beach an even better place to live and/or own property.

The year 2019 will finally bring the opportunity to make our case regarding the beach situation with Deerfield. Mediation is planned for mid-March. If mediation is unsuccessful, the trial is slated for some time between April 30 and May 11. Depositions are currently being taken.

A couple of recent noteworthy items: 1) The Police Department has a new member - **Officer Vivian Torres.** Please welcome her if you see her around Town. 2) Going forward, Town Hall parking will be limited to Town business and special events with prior approval. There are occasions when available parking is insufficient, due in part to a number of unauthorized vehicles in the lot. Enforcement will commence following second reading of the proposed Ordinance. If you are aware of anyone who is leaving a vehicle at Town Hall on a regular basis, please let them know they will need to make other arrangements.

Although three Commission seats were slated to be on the ballot March 12, an election will not be held. The three incumbents (myself, **Commissioner Barbara Baldasarre** and **Commissioner Vicky Feaman**) opted to run, and no other candidates filed. On behalf of the incumbents, thank you for the trust and confidence this shows in us! March 19 at 9:30am, there will be a reorganization meeting to select the Mayor and Vice Mayor.

On behalf of the entire Commission, thank you for the opportunity to serve. We are fortunate to have a Commission and Staff who work well together, and who understand that residents are our top priority.

I hope you enjoy this beautiful time of year here on the Magnificent Mile!

Deb Tarrant
Mayor

Deb

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