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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

February 2018

Already we are one month into the new year, a year that will bring much-needed infrastructure maintenance to the Town. For those currently in residence, you're aware the water main project is underway. We can expect minor traffic disruptions for the foreseeable future. The target completion date for this project is May 27. The sewer line project (funded by the County) will follow immediately after. There's nothing exciting about getting new infrastructure, but it's a necessity. We apologize for the inconvenience of work having to be done during Season; the duration of the two projects (which cannot be done simultaneously) means we had no choice.

Typically, the Town would be gearing up for a March election right now, however, the expense of an election will be saved this year. The two Commission seats up for election had candidates who were unopposed. Sitting **Vice Mayor Irene Kirdahy** will be returning to the dais, and **Andy Brown**, former President of the Port de Mer Condominium Association, will fill the remaining seat. Andy has an impressive background in community and public service, having previously spent thirty years in law enforcement, eight years on the Fire Pension Board of another Broward municipality, and many years of Board service for multiple non-profits. We look forward to Andy joining the team at Town Hall!

The situation with the beach in the north end of Town is once again dire, with waves hitting the seawalls of several buildings. An emergency beach nourishment has been approved with FEMA dollars planned to cover 75% of the cost. The nourishment will be completed before turtles lay their eggs in March. As we all know, this is merely another temporary fix, given that the erosive impact of the Deerfield groins remains unaddressed.

Regarding the groins, the court case with Deerfield will be assigned a date in November 2018. This does not mean the case will necessarily be heard in November, only that a specific date will be assigned. In recent developments, Deerfield's lead attorney has removed himself and his firm from the Deerfield case. Perhaps his replacement will be open to rational discussion of the situation given the conditions outlined in the groin permits – conditions that stipulate Deerfield had to agree to mitigate downdrift damage in order to be permitted to install the groins in the first place.

Also beach-related, on December 11, the Town received a Recommended Order from the Administrative Law Judge for the Boca Inlet hearing. Although the Judge determined that backpassing 80,000 cubic yards of sand at the Boca Inlet could be permitted (which was not what we wanted to hear), his finding that the Deerfield groins are the primary cause of erosion in Hillsboro Beach may prove to be beneficial in the Deerfield case.

In closing, I would like to commend **Town Manager Mac Serda** and his staff for the improvements being made to processes and procedures at Town Hall. As part of these improvements, the Town will be transitioning this month to Calvin, Giodano & Associates (CG&A) for Building Services. Improving our customer service in this area was glaringly necessary. Even prior to the official start date of the CG&A contract, CG&A has proven to be extremely responsive to contractor and resident needs alike.

Should you have any questions or comments for Town Manager Serda, myself, or any one of your Commissioners, please don't hesitate to reach out. It's why we're here!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor.

Sincerely,

Deb

**Deb Tarrant
Mayor**



Email: dtarrant@townofhillsborobeach.com

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☆ **Dear Hillsboro Beach Neighbors,** ☆
☆ **May 2018** ☆

☆ There has been a lot of activity in Town since the February newsletter. For starters, the **water main project** is in full ☆
☆ swing, and our entire town looks like a construction zone – which it is. Traffic during Season was substantially ☆
☆ impacted, and just to make things a little worse, FPL decided to complete their pole-hardening initiative during ☆
☆ March/April (previously left unfinished in the north end of Town). Once the water project is complete, the **sewer** ☆
☆ **replacement project** (funded by the County) will commence, and take approximately one year to finish. Please ☆
☆ continue to be patient while we make progress that is long overdue. ☆

☆ Also related to our A-1-A artery is the fix recommended by DOT for the traffic problems at the **intersection of A-1-A** ☆
☆ **and Hillsboro Boulevard**. The traffic study we requested nearly three years ago (finally) yielded results stating that ☆
☆ an additional 4' easement is required in order to address the problems at this intersection. DOT has previously ☆
☆ “studied” the situation on multiple occasions and done nothing with the results. We are hopeful they will take action ☆
☆ this time, given the congestion gets worse every year. Should DOT agree to move forward, however, the need to ☆
☆ acquire easements means this would be a VERY long-term effort. ☆

☆ As most of you are aware, in March, the Town completed a “small” **beach nourishment** (\$2.6 million) in the north ☆
☆ end of Town. This nourishment was 75% funded by FEMA with the balance covered by the Town. Weather ☆
☆ conditions were not ideal and the project actually had to be shut down for a few days. The sand was getting washed ☆
☆ away faster than the contractor could put it down. The project was basically an effort in futility for the northernmost ☆
☆ area, however, properties further south received a slight improvement in their beach profile. Northeast winds have ☆
☆ remained strong much later than usual this year, continuing to exacerbate the negative impact of Deerfield’s groins. ☆

☆ Regarding the **lawsuit against Deerfield Beach**: 1) Deerfield had to retain new counsel because their original lead ☆
☆ attorney, Bill Scherer, removed himself from the case. As a result of having new counsel, Deerfield requested a post- ☆
☆ ponement for the trial date. The trial has been moved from October 31 to the week of January 7, 2019. 2) On April ☆
☆ 12, a hearing was held to clarify a legal technicality as to how the petitioners (that’s us) should be listed. Because the ☆
☆ State is not doing its job to enforce the conditions in Deerfield’s groin permits, the Town originally filed the petition ☆
☆ (lawsuit) under F.S. 120 as “State of Florida, Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund *ex rel.* Town ☆
☆ of Hillsboro Beach vs. City of Deerfield Beach.” At the April 12 hearing, the Judge ruled that Hillsboro Beach has the ☆
☆ right to stand in the shoes of the State under F.S. 120 without invoking the State of Florida as a petitioner. So, the ☆
☆ petition will go forward simply as “Town of Hillsboro Beach vs. City of Deerfield Beach.” Again, this was a legal ☆
☆ technicality and does not change the content of the lawsuit. ☆

☆ As of May 1, we are two months into the 2018 turtle season. Statistics for last year’s turtle season show Hillsboro ☆
☆ Beach had the best overall performance in Broward County with the highest density of nests and the lowest ☆
☆ percentage of hatchling disorientations (where baby turtles head the wrong direction because of artificial light). ☆
☆ GOOD JOB!!! In general, property owners in Town work hard to follow State and local restrictions for lighting visible ☆
☆ from the beach. While doing a great job for our turtle friends, our Code must also consider the safety of our ☆
☆ residents. Accordingly, the Commission plans to have additional discussion to ascertain that turtle-lighting require- ☆
☆ ments are reasonable and provide for residents’ safety. ☆

☆ Also on the subject of safety, **Chief Tom Nagy** has asked that this newsletter include a clarification for something ☆
☆ important to us all: **If you need immediate police assistance, Hillsboro Beach Police officers will respond quickest** ☆
☆ **if you call our Police Department directly. That number is 954-427-6600. Please take a moment to program** ☆
☆ **this number into your mobile phone.** If you use 911, you will be routed to Broward County’s dispatch service. ☆
☆ Fire/rescue services can be dispatched by our Police Department, as well as through 911. ☆



Dear Hillsboro Beach Neighbors,

August 2018

If you're spending the summer in Town and finding time for the beach, you have likely noticed the situation with our safety buoys. The July 4th holiday brought a record number of boaters to our shoreline, which highlighted the need for our buoy system to be maintained in order to protect swimmers. We have been struggling to get the buoys replaced since Hurricane Irma left us 25 buoys short. There is only one primary service provider for buoy installation in this area. Also at issue is the fact that shifting sands have buried many of the buoy moorings, making the water too shallow for the type of buoy we normally use, thus requiring the buoys to be refabricated. In June, we were able to replace 10 that were missing. The remaining 15 are on-order with an installation timeframe of 45 days. Please know, Town Manager Serda is pushing hard to have the service provider make Hillsboro Beach a priority. In the meantime, the Police marine unit/boat will be spending more time beachside, and the Police ATV will be spending more time on the beach as well.

The Commission recently held a preliminary discussion for the 2019 budget. The decision was made to hold the millage rate at no higher than the current 3.5, which is the same rate as the past three years. Budget meetings will be held at Town Hall on September 12th and 24th at 5:00pm. Residents are welcome to attend!

We are fortunate to have many residents actively involved in what goes on in our Town. Recently, an extremely thorough proposal was presented to the Commission by residents Rene Males and Gabrielle Hodgins regarding the possibility of burying utility lines after completion of the water and sewer projects, and before the final raising of the road and resurfacing by FDOT. This is something that has been discussed repeatedly by various Commissions over the years. With the assistance of Town Manager Serda, this Commission has agreed to do the necessary research to either move this project forward or kill it once and for all. In addition to the obvious factor of cost, the question of right-of-way/easements is a significant determining factor. There is no argument that burying the utility lines would be a plus aesthetically. In addition, as Hurricane Irma proved, buried lines are far more resilient to the elements. Following Irma, FPL stated that only 19% of buried lines suffered outages, whereas 69% of lines on concrete poles and 82% of lines on wooden poles went down. Beyond the inconvenience of losing electricity, cable, etc., many of our residents depend on medical devices that require electricity. You may recall following Irma, the deaths of twelve residents in an assisted living facility in Hollywood were linked to a loss of power. However, while there are a number of advantages to having buried lines on a barrier island, there are many difficulties in making that happen on such a narrow island. We will keep you posted...

Regarding the current water main project, we are finally coming into the homestretch. The project has run into a number of significant unexpected issues causing it to far surpass the original estimated timeframe. The silver lining, however, is that FDOT has agreed the Town will not have to resurface the road between the water and sewer projects, saving the Town \$159,000. Driving through Town has been painful these past few months, and given the fact that the sewer project is scheduled to take a year, we have more pain in store. To put this in perspective, however, the news of constant water and sewer line breaks in surrounding municipalities shows how fortunate we are to be ahead of the curve in replacing our 60-year-old infrastructure.

With regard to our beach litigation, there is no news to report. The legal team is working through the legal process of motions, filings, etc. The trial is still set for January – we are hopeful the Judge holds to that date.

You should receive your 2018/2019 TOHB Information Guide under separate cover shortly. I encourage you to flip through the Guide – it has lots of pertinent information for our residents. Please pay special attention to the reminder about protecting our turtle nesting habitat. The density of turtle nests on our beach gives us a distinction most residents view with pride, but it takes special consideration for our “flipped” friends to make this happen.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to me or any member of your Commission or Town staff. We are here for YOU!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Deb

**Deb Tarrant
Mayor**



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☆☆ **Dear Hillsboro Beach Neighbors,**

☆☆ **November 2018** ☆☆☆

☆☆ With high-season fast approaching, we are headed for a turbulent year on A1A. Although the water main project is winding down and should be completed before the majority of snow birds fly south, the satisfaction for this accomplishment has been overshadowed by the inconvenience and chaos created by the County's sewer project, which has not gotten off to a good start.

☆☆ The Town's understanding for the sewer project was that it would last one year and include complete road-closures for two weeks in five different locations. The two-week complete closures were to take place only at each of the five "lift stations" that manage the sewer system. However, the first two-week closure at the beginning of October immediately turned into four weeks, at which time, elected officials and residents were blindsided by a memo stating the project would have a "moving road-closure" for its duration. This means that some section of Town would be completely blocked for a full year. Needless to say, this sent shock waves throughout Town.

☆☆ To address the situation, the Town held a meeting on November 2nd with FDOT, Broward County representatives, the engineers in charge of the project, and the construction company under contract. The unilateral decision to have a "moving road-closure" did not follow required protocol, which includes extensive community outreach, consideration of the needs of stakeholders, and adequate alternate routes. As a result of the November 2nd meeting, it was agreed that all parties would be represented at a **community symposium to be held at Town Hall on November 29th at 7:00pm**. In order to understand the magnitude and logistics of this County project and to voice your concerns, I urge you to attend.

☆☆ In addition to the issues created by the complete road-closure, there is massive confusion about the wording on the sign boards warning motorists that A1A is open in the south end of Town to "Local Traffic Only". All parties agreed that the wording should be changed to say "Road Closed" in order to reduce the number of people who approach the closure only to have to turn around. **IT IS IMPORTANT FOR HILLSBORO BEACH RESIDENTS TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE EXACT ADDRESS OF ANY ROAD-CLOSURE.** Although emergency vehicles will be given egress at all times, and Hillsboro Beach residents *within the actual construction zone* will be able to reach their homes at all times, for all other residents, the location of a closure will dictate whether you need to go north or south when you leave your home. Up-to-date information is available at <https://hillsboromilesewerinfo.com>. You can also receive text alerts by sending a text from your phone to: **474747**. Into the message box, type: **BCSEWER**. For direct communication of your questions or concerns, please call the **HOTLINE at 877-223-8235** or send an email to hillsboromile@dickeyinc.com.

☆☆ In other Town business, preparation for the beach litigation is going well, however, here, too, we have encountered frustration – the judge has once again allowed the trial date to be pushed back. Rather than a spot on the early January judicial calendar, the Town's case has now been bumped to May. Unfortunately, we have no recourse in forcing an earlier trial date.

☆☆ A bright spot from the October Commission meeting was the decision to do the legwork for burying our utility lines. Now is the time. With the assistance of a point-person to shepherd the project through FPL's requirements, there is a real possibility we can make this happen. This individual is a former FPL employee who has a track record of overseeing overhead-to-underground projects to completion. We will know more in a few months, after the first evaluation phase has been completed.

☆☆ As difficult as it will be for the near future, we must address our infrastructure. We need to look beyond the current inconveniences and focus on what our Town will be like at the end of the rainbow. Most residents appreciate the low-key nature of Hillsboro Beach, however, most also agree that structural updates and a mini-facelift are in order after years of neglect. This Commission is committed to getting these projects completed. Ultimately, we will all be a little prouder of our piece of paradise as a result.

☆☆ **Please contact me, your other Commissioners, or your Town staff with thoughts or questions anytime!**

Deb Tarrant Mayor



Deb

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