



From The Desk Of **DEAN TRANTALIS**

Fort Lauderdale City Commission • District II

JANUARY 2016

Improvements planned for Progresso

City considers options to upgrade seawalls; plans for railroad quiet zones move forward

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The city's New Year's Eve event was a tremendous success. We dropped a decorative anchor at the Downtown Countdown in front of a crowd of more than 10,000 people. It definitely was a fitting scene for a city that prides itself on being the yachting capital of the world.

We can look forward to some big progress in Fort Lauderdale in 2016. One area will be Progresso Village, where a major project to improve the streetscape is set to begin.

The City Commission recently signed a \$1.9 million contract for the construction of new sidewalks, relocation of existing fences, construction of new swales, installation of new landscaping, relocation of existing catch basins and storm drains, and installation of new pedestrian lighting.

The project area encompasses Sistrunk Boulevard to the south, Sunrise Boulevard to the north, Northwest 5th Avenue to the west and North Andrews Avenue to the east. Redevelopment of the area has been a priority for the city.

Most of the streets in Progresso do not have sidewalks or adequate lighting. Easy access to transit is limited without sidewalks even though the area has one of the highest riderships in the county for Broward Transit and the Wave streetcar will begin running along Andrews Avenue within the next couple years. Flooding is also frequent after major storms.

The work has been several years in the making. After obtaining some grant funding from the Florida Department of Transportation, the city hired the Corradino

Group in 2012 to determine a scope of work and design the needed improvements.

Seawall upgrades

At the request of the City Commission, our public works staff is investigating whether to update Fort Lauderdale's policies regarding seawalls.

During the king tides last fall, seawater topped some walls and caused neighborhood flooding in spite of new control valves installed on the stormwater system. The king tides were a foot higher than meteorologists predicted and 18 inches over average high tides.

Global climate change will only make this worse. Scientists project sea levels in South Florida could rise some 20 inches in the next 45 years.

Fort Lauderdale currently sets a maximum height for seawalls. Most new seawalls are built to this height, but some coastal communities like Miami Beach set a minimum height for seawalls.

Our growing network of tidal control valves and higher seawalls can be a frontline defense against extreme high tides. However, to effectively prevent neighborhood-specific flooding, all seawalls in a location would need to be raised. That would come at a substantial cost to both the city and private property owners.

The public works staff is exploring the viability of new seawall standards. In addition to the cost, other factors that must be considered include whether the first floors of buildings would be lower than seawalls, whether there would need to be fill to stabilize higher seawalls and what the impact would be regarding drainage on surrounding properties.

This review is part of the city's ongoing efforts to deal with climate change. I'm

pleased to say that we are recognized as a leader among coastal communities in this regard. In December, the city was honored with the 2015 Climate Leader Award from the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact.

Railroad quiet zones

Fort Lauderdale joined other local communities late last year in applying to the Federal Railroad Administration to establish a quiet zone countywide along the Florida East Coast Railroad line.

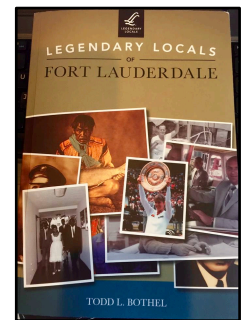
The city has been working with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization for more than a year to develop plans to upgrade railroad crossings so trains no longer must sound their whistle each time.

The application to the federal government is the result of this collaborative effort. As a result, we hope to preserve the quality of life for residents along the railroad tracks when the All Aboard Florida/Brightline passenger service begins.

Legendary Locals

In closing, I'm proud to announce that I was recently featured in a new history of the city, *Legendary Locals of Fort Lauderdale* by Todd Bothel. The book recounts such prominent locals as Frank and Ivy Stranahan, hotelier Bob Gill, tennis star Chris Evert and businessman H. Wayne Huizenga. I was listed because of my long-time work on behalf of civil rights in the area. It was truly an honor.


Sincerely,



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, INC. AND THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT PRESENT

2016 KING HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

UNITED WE COMPLETE THE DREAM



MONDAY, JANUARY 18 **NEW PARADE ROUTE**


MONDAY, JANUARY 18 | 9:00 AM LINE-UP | 10:00 AM START
ANNUAL KING HOLIDAY PARADE AND UNITY MARCH

The ANNUAL KING HOLIDAY PARADE AND UNITY MARCH has a new route that will start at NW 5th Avenue and Sistrunk Boulevard to Andrews Avenue, south to Huizenga Plaza in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18 | 11:00 AM
CELEBRATION OF UNITY MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Immediately following the parade the Celebration of Unity will get started at Huizenga Plaza, Las Olas and Andrews Avenue, celebrating the rich cultural diversity of Broward County with music, dance, art, storytelling, and food from all over the world. Other activities at the Celebration of Unity will include the MLKCC DAY OF SERVICE project that will provide educational supplies for homeless children. Individuals may also participate in the taping for a documentary, "A Penny for Your Thoughts on Race." Additionally, there will be multimedia presentations and performances from the Fund for Racial Progress in America's recent Shine A Light concert. Bring your lawn chair and imagination. "United We Realize the Dream....."

954-828-5323 | www.fortlauderdale.gov/MLK | www.kingholidaycelebration.com




Commissioner Trantalis joins other commissioners at the annual Light up Sistrunk celebration at the start of the holiday season last month.



Commissioner Trantalis and the rest of the City Commission drop anchor to ring in 2016 as part of the Fort Lauderdale's Downtown Countdown party.

Useful phone numbers

- Commissioner Trantalis' office
954-828-5923
- City's 24-hour customer service center
954-828-8000
- Code compliance hotline
954-828-5207
- Police non-emergency
954-764-HELP (4357)