

A new term; a new set of challenges

New juvenile crime program launched; extra time granted for Shippey House preservation

I would like to thank everyone who turned out to vote in the March 10 election. I'm pleased to have received such a strong vote of confidence as your District 2 city commissioner.

Ours is the most diverse portion of Fort Lauderdale, and it's important for everyone to be engaged in setting our future direction.

We've accomplished a lot together over the past two years, but the next three will be critical for our neighborhoods. We'll truly be deciding what type of community that Fort

Lauderdale will become as we consider new proposals for development and how best to preserve our quality of life.

Speaking of quality of life, there are updates to important issues since our last newsletter.

There is some good news to report in the fight against juvenile crime. For the past couple years, many District 2 neighborhoods have grappled with the problem of youths burglarizing homes and breaking into cars. I've worked with court administrators and law enforcement looking for solutions.

The U.S. Department of Justice has now agreed to provide Fort Lauderdale with specialized technical assistance in developing a comprehensive strategy to fight juvenile crime. The Diagnostic Center at the Office of Justice Programs will help identify factors contributing to juvenile recidivism and ways to improve case processing and pre-trial intervention strategies.

Let's hope that we can continue to come up with innovative ideas on reducing juvenile crime through this program.

On another front, the city decided to give time to save the Shippey House, once home to early local Judge Fred



Shippey. Preservation efforts unfortunately stalled after the house was moved from its original location in Sailboat Bend to the Himmarshee Village historic district.

But there is new momentum, including someone who is willing to pay for a new porch. I'm helping out by earmarking some of the remaining District 2 park bond money. The Friends of Shippey House hope to give the home a fresh look within six months.

Preserving historic structures are part of the fiber that makes a community a special place to live. It would be a shame to falter now in seeing the Shippey House project to completion.

At the end of February, the Broward County School Board gave initial approval to a boundary change that will allow families in Victoria Park, Sunrise Key and Flagler Village to send their children to nearby Harbordale Elementary.

This was a hard-fought effort. The City Commission passed two resolutions supporting the neighborhoods. We also helped bring together parents and school administrators to discuss options. We need to stay vigilant in advance of the

School Board's final vote on April 8.

March 7 marked the ribbon-cutting for a major upgrade to the stormwater drainage system in Victoria Park. The area around the entrance to Sunrise Key and along Northeast 20th Avenue from Northeast 7th Street to Sunrise Boulevard has been long prone to flooding.

As part of the work, the city added eight tidal control valves to minimize tidal flooding. This should be particularly helpful during seasonal high tides.

The project is part of broader drainage improvements planned citywide.

Earlier this month, the city also lent its support to an effort to make improvements to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. The Friends of Birch State Park are seeking \$250,000 in state grant money to expand the park's trail system with routes along the old scenic railroad line. Other changes, including an arts and education center, are expected to follow.

My office has received many complaints about lighting on the beach at night. Sea turtle nesting season has begun, so street lights on the beach have been dimmed or turned off. We do this so hatchlings are not disoriented when they make their way to the ocean.

But I share the concern that the darkness along State Road A1A is dangerous for both drivers and pedestrians.

Our staff has long said the city is simply following state requirements, but I've asked that the City Commission soon revisit the matter to see how we can improve the situation.

Sincerely,

Family Fun Ride/ Moonlight Movie: March 21

Celebrate Florida Bike Month with the city on March 21 at our Family Fun Ride and Moonlight Movie in the Park events. They will take place from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at Holiday Park, 1105 G. Harold Martin Drive.

Enjoy a relaxed 5-mile bike ride through Victoria Park. Then catch the Pixar family-friendly movie “UP” on a big outdoor screen.

A bike rodeo and bike safety demonstration takes place from 5 to 6 p.m. There will also be bike registration and helmet fittings available from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The bike ride will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m., while the movie will start at 8 p.m. Remember that bike helmets and bike lights will be required for the ride.



Commissioner Trantalis joins Commissioner Robert McKinzie and former Commissioner Tim Smith in congratulating winners following the first Funky Fun Run put on by the 13th Street Alliance and HOMES Inc.



Commissioner Trantalis honors Sherrill Nelson for her long-time civic involvement and her work on behalf of the sport of swimming during the recent annual meeting of the Idlewyld neighborhood association.



Students from Stranahan High show Commissioner Trantalis their science project at the school's booth during the city's second annual Neighbor Support Night at Fort Lauderdale City Hall.



Commissioner Trantalis presents a proclamation for Conservation Pays Month to Jennifer Jurado, Broward County's environmental planning director, and County Commissioner Lois Wexler.