

Coastal/Greenacres Observer

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Office of the Mayor Village of Palm Springs

Happy New Year! On behalf of the Village of Palm Springs Village Council, I want to wish you all a wonderful and successful 2020.

This past year has been another exciting year of challenges and change for the Village that has resulted in new growth along our commercial corridors and within our residential neighborhoods, increased assurance that we are receiving the lowest feasible cost for all purchases and redefining our organizational responsibilities and structure to ensure that the highest levels of productivity are achieved.

Our primary focus continues to be that the Village remains a vibrant community filled with neighborhoods that foster a “small town feel” and values our various cultures and our natural environment. We have an incredible staff, and every day they strive to provide customer service that is second to none. At the same time, we work to provide facilities, services, programs, activities and projects to our community that support a high quality of life.

Additionally, the financial sustainability of the Village remains a critical issue for the Village Council and this year we have worked to put our residents and businesses first.

2019 Accomplishments:

Below are some of our major accomplishments from this past year.

- Created the Palm Springs Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to assist in creating new jobs, promote investment, improve safety, provide retail/commercial services and improve wastewater and stormwater issues within our Village

- Partnered with surrounding communities and state and local agencies to improve the safety on Lake Worth Road. As a result, we have been notified that this very dangerous roadway will finally be improved in 2022 and that an estimated \$6 million in grant and outside funding will be provided to make long-overdue improvements. [i.e., streetscaping, pedestrian cross walks, roadway striping, bus stop enhancements and alternative transportation opportunities – bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.] to provide a safer environment for pedestrians, vehicles, bikers, etc.

- Awarded 27 Property Improvement Program (PIP) re-development matching grants (up to \$5,000 each) to help Village property owners make needed improvements

- Installed new Village street signage throughout the Village to promote community pride, home ownership and property and business investment

- Approximately 200 new jobs were associated with the construction and/or operation of various new

residential and commercial developments as well as the development of new businesses within the Village

- Completed renovations of the Village’s Library to promote a safe, healthy and fun environment for our community

- Utilized stormwater funding to complete critical drainage projects at Cypress Lane and Alemeda Drive to manage and attempt to eliminate flooding in several of our neighborhoods to improve the livability of our community

- Continued the Village’s road resurfacing project where over the past 5-years more than \$1.68 million has been invested to provide safe roadways for our residents and visitors.

- Opened the new Areca Palm Fitness Park (utilizing federal grant funding) that includes 12 outdoor ADA accessible exercise stations under a covered fitness pavilion within the Village Complex to assist our residents in making healthy lifestyle choices

- Awarded eight, \$1,000 scholarships to selected high school seniors who live within the Village as part of the annual Village scholarship program

2020 Planned Projects:

We have been busy in 2019 and expect this to continue with the New Year. During 2020, we are expecting to see new residential and commercial development

growth along with a number of new businesses that are planning to open and will result in new jobs and will significantly contribute to the Village. Additionally, we are planning to take on a number of projects that are expected to lead to an improved quality of life within the Village, including:

- Construction of new commercial restaurants and offices as well as new single-family and multi-family residential projects

- Development of the new Foxtail Palm Park (Kirk Road and Park Lane) that will be primarily funded with federal and other local grants as well as outside dollars and will include playground equipment and a walking trail around a new lake

- Utilize sales tax dollars to expand our Police Department building and provide our staff with the needed space and improvements to ensure that we remain a safe Village. We are hopeful to complete the design and permitting this year and possibly begin construction/expansion by the end of the year

- Replace 14 Police vehicles that will ensure that we have replaced all of our Police vehicles within the past 7 years (more than \$1.97 million has been spent to provide this necessary resource for our officers)

- Village Complex ball-field renovations to ensure a better playing surface for our

leagues and citizens (funded with sales tax dollars)

- Redevelopment of the Village Hall Complex Playground and Sago Palm Park with sales tax (and potentially state grant) funding, which are expected to include installation of new playground equipment, protective/safety surfacing, shade structures, renovate/replace restrooms (Sago) and a kayak launch (Sago)

- Replace aging water and wastewater pipes throughout the Village to improve the reliability of our utility services while reducing costs and potential line breaks

- Reline manholes and sewer pipes throughout the Village’s utility service area to prevent/reduce infiltration/inflow into the Village’s sewer collection system, thus, reducing annual disposal costs

- Begin various stormwater improvements projects throughout the Village - Miller Road, Frost Lake, Carol and Rex Avenues, Lakewood Road and Gulfstream Road – using the Village’s stormwater fee to improve community drainage and public safety during significant rain events

Proposed Charter Amendment - “Preservation of Local Police Department”:

Office of the Mayor
Village of Palm Springs

During the upcoming elections on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the Village Council is asking our Palm Springs voters to decide if you would like to have the opportunity to provide input and weigh in on any future question on whether to abolish, merge, outsource or transfer our police department services to another agency or entity. This proposed Charter Amendment (titled “Preservation of Local Police Department”) would give our voters in Palm Springs (rather than just the Village Council) the opportunity to decide if they would like a voice in either supporting or opposing any future questions that may be asked on whether the Village’s Police Department should be preserved.

We as a Council believe that any decision that would include abolishing, merging, outsourcing or transferring our police department services to another agency or entity is too important of a decision for us (as a Council) to solely make ourselves without our community’s input; thus, we have agreed unanimously to support presenting a proposed Charter Amendment to our voters on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 (same election date as the presidential primary election).

Slow Annexation and Promote New Development and Investment:

Beginning in 2015 and continuing through 2020, the Council has committed to slowing our annexation efforts and begin focusing our efforts on economic development and redevelopment opportunities to help create jobs, grow our tax base and increase our overall quality of life by making the Village a more attractive community.

Property Taxes, Utility Costs, Garbage Rates & Stormwater Fees:

This year, the Village Council again agreed to support the lowering of the total property tax rate within the Village for the 7th consecutive year. Although the economy is doing well, we know that it can be difficult to support the cost of a home and family. As a result, we, as the elected officials within our Village, are always trying to find ways to provide the highest levels of service to our residential and business community at the lowest cost possible. Additionally, we are committed to saving our property owners money this year by:

- Not increasing water and sewer rates for 2020

- Maintaining (no increase) our residential garbage rates for the 4th year in a row

- Modestly increasing our drainage and stormwater fee

It should be noted that all funding from the Village’s stormwater fee will only be used to support the cost of drainage-related projects that make an impact in our community and will not be used for administrative services in any way.

Please visit our website – www.vpsfl.org - where you can sign-up to receive Emergency Alerts and our Village E-newsletter as well as find out about Village events, happenings and breaking news as well as pay bills, report issues and concerns, sign-up to receive reminders that your utility bill is coming due and sign-up for camps and recreational activities.

This past year has been a very good year and we are looking forward to 2020 and the success that it will bring to the Village...

As your Mayor, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and for all of the support that you have provided. Together, we will continue to ensure that the Village is a great place to live, work and play and is always thought of as “A Great Place to Call Home.”

Mayor Bev Smith,
Village of Palm Springs

Bus Service to Beach

LAKE WORTH BEACH - Palm Tran began new bus service to Lake Worth Beach Casino on January 5. The new service is made possible through a partnership of the City of Lake Worth Beach and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. The City funded needed curb improvements and the creation of a bus bay and the County is funding the operation of the new service. A kickoff ceremony for the new service will be held on Friday, Jan. 10, at 10:30 a.m. at the new stop at the beach. The stop is located near the entrance to the beach and will be served by Palm Tran’s Route 62.

Everyone is encouraged to bring their coolers, beach chairs, towels and other items on board the bus. The cash fare is \$2 each way. There are two convenient park and ride locations on Route 62 – the

Lake Worth Beach Tri-Rail station and the lot at Lake Worth Road and Florida’s Turnpike. Route 62 also serves numerous other destinations including: the Lake Worth Road Target, the Mall at Wellington

Green and Wellington Regional Medical Center. Route and schedule information is available at: www.palmtran.org.

The kickoff event will feature remarks from local dignitaries.

LW Beach New Website

LAKE WORTH BEACH -- The City of Lake Worth Beach now has their improved City website up and running.

Following an initial update in June of 2019 the City’s webmaster continued to work with departments and users to further improve the website including switching

to a more versatile platform. The new website provides an easier way to navigate the wealth of information users need to know about the City of Lake Worth Beach.

Further developments are planned to ensure the website continues to remain relevant and useful for

residents, visitors, and businesses while adhering to best practices and modern principles of effective web design.

For more information or questions contact Ben Kerr, the City of Lake Worth Beach Public Information Officer at 561-586-1631 or email bkerr@lakeworth.org.