

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT



Robert J. Bradshaw
Town Manager

Fiscal Year 2008/2009 was anything but quiet for Town staff and residents. Perhaps the biggest issue to surface was utilities. The Town had contracted with the City of Vero Beach in 1986 for 30 years of water and electric service, with the opportunity now upon us to explore the best option for future provision for the residents. In November 2008, the Council appointed Tom Cadden to begin due diligence research for the Town in preparation for the 2011 deadline to notify the City of Vero of our intention to decline or renew the contract. He has represented the Town on the City's Utilities Commission, and also is a member of the Competitive Contract Negotiation Act (CCNA) Committee with Building Official Richard Jefferson as this committee investigates consolidation of water/wastewater/reuse services in the County. Rest assured, we are acting on behalf of the residents to provide the best services at the lowest possible cost.

Our Town Council elections took place in March 2009, with no challengers to the incumbent Frances Atchison who was joined by Gerard Weick and Michael Ochsner. We congratulate them and welcome the two new council

members, as well as congratulate the appointment of William Kenyon as Mayor and William Ahrens as Vice Mayor.

Following another tumultuous year in the nation's and Florida's economic situation, the Town has carefully managed its financial resources and has maintained the excellent level of service that you have enjoyed as a resident. For the third year straight, we were able to avoid increasing taxes and keep the static millage rate of 1.3923. The Designated Emergency Fund reserve, segregated in the General Fund balance, remains at a comfortable \$2.4 million.

The Public Safety Department's efforts over the past three years to implement and verify procedures has earned state accreditation, making it one of the 125 of 400 Departments that have achieved this elite status.

An attempt to remove County lifeguard protection from the Tracking Station Beach was thwarted in September, thanks to your Council standing firm on behalf of Public Safety. This life-safety issue resulted in life-saving measures almost immediately when a father and son were prevented from entering a very dangerous water situation.

Again, in response to a strong stand illustrated by your elected officials, initial plans for sand trucks to use both the Barber and the Wabasso bridges for the beach renourishment project were successfully defeated, with the Wabasso bridge and A1A impacting our Town only as far as the Sea Grape beach access by the Marbrisa neighborhood.

The Building Department has been successful in achieving an improved ISO rating for flood insurance discounts, as has the Public Safety Department by earning an enhanced fire safety ISO rating.

Another three-year extension to the Public Safety Collective Bargaining Agreement was successfully negotiated with minimal legal involvement.

The Council, staff and I continue to work diligently to protect you, the Town and its atmosphere. As always, you are encouraged to stop in or contact us through <http://www.irshores.com> with your comments and ideas.



Robert Bradshaw passes the gavel to newly appointed Mayor Bill Kenyon