



Town of Haverhill  
4585 Charlotte Street  
Haverhill, FL 33417

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
PERMIT NO. 4600



# Winter 2023 Newsletter

## State of the Town - 2023

Jay Foy, Lawrence Gordon, and Teresa Johnson were re-elected to the Town Council in March 2023 to serve a three-year term. Mayor Foy represents the Town on the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force, and at the Palm Beach County League of Cities' District II & III meetings. Vice Mayor Gordon finished his term as the President of the Palm Beach County League of Cities this year and continues to represent the Town on the Federal, State and Local level through his involvement with the Florida League of Cities, National League of Cities, and the County and Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials. Council Member Johnson represents the Town on the Palm Beach County Re-Entry Task Force and the Citizens' Committee on Airport Noise. We offer her our congratulations on receiving the YWCA Dorothy Height award for work she has done in the northwest community this year. She also organized a Town Hall event for our State Legislators to discuss new laws regarding immigration, permit-less carry, and more with our residents in July. Council Member Caranci represents the Town as the Alternate Delegate on the Palm Beach County Multi-Jurisdictional Issues Forum and has assisted Administration with FPL vegetation management and streetlighting projects this year. Council Member Withington assists with safety enhancements.

Town Administrator Tracey Stevens was selected as the President-Elect of the Florida Government Finance Officers' Association Palm Beach Chapter in June and received an award for her outstanding service and dedication to the Association in November. She also represents the Town on the Palm Beach County Multi-Jurisdictional Issues Forum as the Voting Delegate, and also served on the Town of Gulf Stream and City of Greenacres Audit Selection Committees this year.

We offer our congratulations to Deputy Town Clerk Jean Wible for achieving the distinguished designation of Certified Municipal Clerk as recognized by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks', after many hours of dedicated education and training over the past several years.

The Town's Building Official, Bill Denison, phased into retirement in January, and we thank him for his many years of service to the Town. Durrani Guy is now serving as the Town's Building Official on a contractual basis.

The Town continues to appreciate the relationship it has with the PBC Sheriff's Office and PBC Fire Rescue Department who help keep our residents safe. We also appreciate the relationship we have with our many vendors and contractors who help keep us operating.

The Town replaced its "Welcome to Haverhill" signs this year to a more attractive and welcoming sign for the community.

## Town Council Members and Town Staff

Jay G. Foy  
Mayor

Lawrence Gordon  
Vice Mayor

Dennis Withington  
Council Member

Ray Caranci  
Council Member

Dr. Teresa Johnson  
Council Member

Tracey L. Stevens  
Town Administrator

Jean Wible  
Deputy Town Clerk

Joe Petrick  
Public Services Coordinator/  
Code Enforcement Officer

Durrani Guy  
Building Official

Rodrick Jones  
Public Works

Council meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Special meetings and workshops are held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. as needed. All meetings are open to the public and the agenda is posted on the Town's website [www.townofhaverhill-fl.gov](http://www.townofhaverhill-fl.gov)

## Protect our Storm Water Drainage Systems

The Town of Haverhill is regulated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. This program regulates storm water discharges that lead directly to surface waters. The storm water drainage system collects all the rain water that runs off hard surfaces such as roofs and sidewalks. This storm water runoff drains into catch basins. If that runoff contains pollutants, then those pollutants are routed to the nearest canal, lake and eventually the ocean. Water pollution damages the environment and wildlife and can restrict recreational activities like fishing, swimming and boating.

Please help us protect our waterways by controlling discharge pollution. Be aware of an accidental oil or paint spill, soapy wash water, wastewater and grease that may be draining into our catch basins. These are pollutants and illicit discharges. Please do not blow grass clippings into the storm drains and remind landscapers not to as well.

Every little bit helps and we appreciate your efforts to help protect our environment!

## State of the Town - 2023 (Continued)

In October, the Town rolled out a new mass notification system to alert residents of emergency situations, construction projects, and town meetings and events. We invite residents to participate.

The County installed lighting for the tennis courts in Haverhill Park this year. In addition, we have requested that lighting be installed for the basketball courts. We also continue to monitor the Palm Beach County Road Improvements Program, as well as its bridge improvement plan for the Belvedere Road bridge over the E-3 canal. The County is currently in the re-design phase for the bridge project. Regarding land development, construction of the 40-unit Haverhill Court Townhomes project located on Haverhill Road has commenced, and an application was submitted to the Town recently by a developer to voluntarily annex property off Wallis Road to construct another 100-unit townhomes project.

A speed trailer with radar was purchased this year to help slow down traffic on Belvedere and Haverhill Roads, as well as in some of the neighborhood areas where speeding has been an ongoing issue. Another safety installation includes the flashing lights at the stop signs on the corner of Park Lane and Cyprus Lane. Staff will continue to monitor to ensure the continuity of safe neighborhoods in Haverhill.

The Town negotiated a ground lease with Verizon to install utilities on the communications tower on Town Hall property. Additional revenues will be collected by the Town beginning this year.

The Town adopted several Ordinances this year addressing the following:

- Comprehensive Plan EAR-Based Amendments
- Switching from two regular Town Council meetings and one workshop per month to one regular Town Council meeting per month and workshop meetings held as needed.
- Applications for Noise Waivers
- Creating an Alternative Code Enforcement Procedure to Allow the Code Enforcement Officer to Issue Citations
- Creating a requirement to place house numbers on both the main structure and mailbox
- Addressing exotic vegetation removal by adopting the prohibited plant species list in the Florida Administrative Code and the noxious weed list of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Requiring rental dwelling units in the town to obtain a license and inspection from the Town

The FY24 budget was adopted with a reduction in the millage rate from 4.35 to 4.05. There were increases in several expenditure line items as prices continue to climb with inflation; however, the increase in property values helped to offset those prices, thus allowing a decrease in the millage rate.

The Town hosted a Trunk-or-Treat event on Halloween for our residents and the event was a big success. Staff received many positive comments and a plea to hold this event again next year.

In August, the Town partnered with Palm Beach County and received a grant from the Resilient Florida Grant Program to perform a vulnerability assessment as required by Florida law. Technical data regarding the Town's critical assets will be collected to identify vulnerabilities to climate threats.

The Town was in a good position to pay off its drainage loan this year with Infrastructure Surtax revenues, saving the taxpayers thousands of dollars in interest charges. Also with the Infrastructure Surtax proceeds, the Town was able to pave the Public Works lot on the rear side of Town Hall.

The Town continues to work on projects utilizing the \$1,023,921 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received from the federal government in response to the COVID pandemic. Projects include audio/visual upgrades in the Council Chambers, vehicle purchases for the Public Works and Code Enforcement Departments, upgraded drainage systems, new street light installations throughout the town, additional traffic calming installations, and reconfiguration of the Town's ballfield into a passive park for town events.

The Town Council adopted Ordinance 518 which requires property owners to place house numbers on the main structure and also the mailbox.

Do you rent out your property? If so, please contact Town Hall to obtain a rental license as required.

Congratulations to Jean Wible, Deputy Town Clerk, who received the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks!

Back Row from left to right: Councilor Dr. Teresa Johnson, Mayor Jay Foy, Vice Mayor Lawrence Gordon, Councilor Ray Caranci, Town Administrator Tracey Stevens.

Front Row from left to right: Renee Basel, Town Clerk of Gulf Stream, Deputy Town Clerk, Jean Wible, and Greg Wible.



Town Council Members and Town Staff attended the Palm Beach County League of Cities' Annual Gathering in Glades County in December to donate toys and network with colleagues from around the County.

From left to right: Tracey Stevens, Town Administrator; Jean Wible, Deputy Town Clerk; Dr. Teresa Johnson, Town Councilor; Lawrence Gordon, Vice Mayor; Joe Petrick, Public Services Coordinator; and Dennis Withington, Town Councilor.

## Town Partners with CivicReady to Launch Mass Notification System

The town has implemented a new mass notification system in order to help keep residents informed and to enhance our safety measures. For more information and to sign up to receive important alerts that could directly impact you and your family, please follow these steps:

1. Visit our website at [www.townofhaverhill-fl.gov](http://www.townofhaverhill-fl.gov)
2. Click on Alerts & Notifications at the bottom left of page
3. Click on Sign Up
4. Complete the sign up form to subscribe
5. Make notification selections
6. Click Sign Me Up
7. Please make sure you confirm your account to ensure you are receiving notifications

Questions? Call Town Staff at 561-689-0370 Ext 1