



# Mayor's Message

2017  
summer  
edition

Greetings from  
Mayor Glickstein



## City Commission

Mayor Cary Glickstein

Vice-Mayor Jim Chard

Dep. Vice-Mayor Shirley Johnson

Commissioner Mitch Katz

Commissioner Shelly Petrolia

## Upcoming Events:

Aug 1: National Night Out

Aug 2: Public Workshop for  
Master Plan

Aug 2 & 15: City Commission  
Meetings

Aug 19: Always Delray  
Comprehensive Plan Meeting

Sept 4: Labor Day  
(City Hall Closed)



Delray Beach City Hall

100 N.W. 1st Avenue

Delray Beach, FL 33444

Phone: 561-243-7000

Website: [mydelraybeach.com](http://mydelraybeach.com)

Twitter: @citydelraybeach

Facebook: @cityofdelraybeach

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I hope you're enjoying your summer wherever that may be. For our "locals" that stuck around, I hope you're enjoying the slower pace. For our snowbirds and vacationers, we look forward to seeing you when you return. While the "dog days" of summer are here, know that your city commission and city staff remain as busy as ever. Over the following pages I'd like to share some of that important work with you.

In a city known for its ability to throw a party, we did not disappoint with our annual Independence Day celebration offering much family-friendly fun. Delray Beach again hosted thousands throughout our downtown and beaches who enjoyed a beautiful July evening and fireworks to cap off our country's 241<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Our town continues to garner local and national accolades - success stories and achievements to be proud of. To name a few: *USA Today* recognized Atlantic Avenue as one of the "10 Great American Shopping Streets." *Southern Living*, considers us one of this year's "Great Coastal Communities." With 24 playgrounds within our city parks, we received the 2017 Playful City USA designation awarded to select cities that "make it easy as possible for kids to play." And, most significantly, we received our 3<sup>rd</sup> All-America City Award, making us the only city in Florida to receive this prestigious award three times!



To be sure, all the attention was not positive, which underscores the paradox of our time. The same month our city was honored with news of winning our 3<sup>rd</sup> All-America City Award, the *New York Times* and *NBC News* highlighted our struggles with an intractable opioid epidemic sweeping the nation and a recovery industry besieged by bad actors and criminal enterprises who prey on vulnerable people in their care (see story links on page 5). The city commission is intently focused on this multi-faceted challenge, and our proactive efforts to confront this will continue as we collaborate with others for solutions.

With evolving needs comes room for improvement; overall, however, I remain pleased with the direction of city hall. We have a full-service city that grew up fast - from a small, seasonal town to a complex 24/7 city that left city hall management behind years ago. Our funding priorities remain on public safety and infrastructure upgrades while managing the many other competing priorities of a diverse population. We are now a 1,000+ employee/volunteer organization competing with the private and public sectors for personnel talent in a robust economy. Yet, I feel confident we have, and will continue adding to, a roster of dedicated employees who will have the right resources, direction and responsibilities to deliver the superior quality services you deserve.

In a town more popular now than at any time in its history, there is no shortage of important work to be done and while your attention over summer may be turned elsewhere, your city's business affairs have our full attention. So, until the breeze shifts north, I hope you find some shade of your own and can take a break from that summer book to read on about some of the many interesting things happening in our great city.

As always, please stay tuned and watch our progress.

Cary Glickstein

Mayor



# Mayor's Message

**2017**  
**summer**  
**edition**

## What does it mean to be an **All-America City**

The National Civic League, the organization behind the All-America City award, was founded in 1894 by civic reformers, Theodore Roosevelt, Louis Brandies, and Marshal Field to address ineffectiveness of local government. It is called the All-America City Award, rather than All-American City Award, because it recognizes the whole community and not an individual. Winning the All-America City Award, regarded as the oldest and most prestigious national civic award, reinvigorates our community's sense of civic pride, while also garnering national attention – a proven boost for recruitment of talent, jobs and investment. The few cities honored each year are models of civic excellence, in that they demonstrate how to be collaborative, innovative, and impactful using civic engagement to solve important problems.

### Where Did We Start?

5 years ago, as part of a national call to action, we embarked on a city-wide, collaborative effort to improve reading proficiency among our at-risk youth. At that time, for nearly 3,000 kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, 81% did not have access to summer reading, 10% were chronically absent, 70% did not read at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and 66% live at or below poverty level.

Using a unique data sharing agreement with the school district we created just for these issues, we drilled down to understand the extent of problems and measure our progress. We then developed 3 specific strategies to reduce absenteeism, tardiness and the summer reading slide, and engaged many members of the community that included, educators, parents, students, non-profits, city staff, city agencies, community partners and volunteers to execute those strategies.



*From L to R: Mayor Glickstein, Janet Meeks and Joe Gillie*

### What did we accomplish?

We reduced chronic absenteeism from 10% to 1%. We increased from 43% to 81% the number of kids with access to summer camps with academics - starting with 60 kids to now over 1000. In the past 2 years, we achieved an increase of 22% in the number of low-income children now reading proficiently!!!

### Awards are great, but why is this work so important?

Children that can't read with their peers, can't learn math or science and fall further behind each year and the downward spiral to poverty begins anew. A child of college-educated parents hears 30 million more words - **30 million more words**, by the age of 4 than a child reared by parents living in poverty. It is a fact that if kids cannot read at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, their chances for success in school and careers plummet dramatically. Think about that – by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade many academic and career patterns are rooted, and every year more than 80% of children from low-income families miss this crucial milestone. So, to the many people who jumped in to help, who recognized that as a moral issue all children must gain fairer access to the starting line - a heartfelt **THANK YOU!** While we cannot turn back the clock or start a new beginning for our kids, we can help shape a new ending for them. That is why the **ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD** - all 3 of them, belongs to all of us.





# Mayor's Message

2017  
summer  
edition

## Economic progress improves our **Quality of Life**



While growth is the lifeblood of any successful city – large or small, we are a passionate citizenry and how we grow will probably always be a sensitive issue, and for good reason – we care deeply about our town. We have experienced strong debate over past years about large development projects, and our citizens are justified in their concern about the cumulative impacts on our community. Neglecting to update antiquated development codes that spoke to a different time and need, but did little to address context-sensitive development and architectural authenticity that our town deserves, lead to less than optimal project approvals and caused unnecessary division among neighbors and neighborhoods.



Add multi-generational and multi-ethnic stakeholders who view our city differently, and we are somewhat of a “3-legged stool.” From our older generation that sees the town as it was – smaller, calmer, quaint and more neighborly, but where employment opportunities and cultural amenities were not of paramount importance; to my generation, with children at home or in school, who reminisce about that quieter time but also recognize local economies compete for people, businesses, cultural amenities, employment and fun things to do; to our younger generation, the millennials, who see the world, and their role in it, very differently and want a far more urbanized town that contemplates a more sustainable future, the solutions for which are sometimes at odds with other generation’s notions of growth. Thus, finding that elusive “4th leg” of the stool requires tolerance of other views, as we all need to *bend* a little to reconcile the need to protect that which makes Delray so unique and livable with the dynamic economic, cultural and environmental realities of a competitive, rapidly changing world.



As we struggle to strike the appropriate balance, I’m proud of the many policy initiatives the city commission and staff have implemented. From new, award-winning land development regulations and ordinances that should never stop evolving, to the ongoing development of our city’s new Comprehensive Plan – **Always Delray**, meant to codify our diverse perspectives and objectives for how we want to live, work, play, and grow over the next 5, 10 and 20 years.

So, whether a village-by-the-sea or a full-service city, our progress and growth will continue - gracefully and respectfully.



# Mayor's Message

2017  
summer  
edition

## Economic progress improves our **Quality of Life** *(Continued)*



We are fortunate to have many examples of city-wide growth. Our city's largest employer, Delray Medical Center, considered one of America's best hospitals, is expanding healthcare for our citizens with a newly opened patient tower that adds 96 private rooms dedicated to neuroscience, orthopedic and surgical care, cardiovascular and rehabilitation clinics, expanded laboratory and imaging technologies, and a rooftop helipad to expedite trauma patient transfers. In addition, Photon International has started construction of a new, state-of-the-art Delray Radiation Oncology Treatment Center. Scheduled to open in 2018, this 40,000-sf facility, is one of only 22 in the country to offer "proton therapy," an advanced form of radiation with fewer short-lived and long-term side effects than traditional radiation. Both additions add to the excellent healthcare available in our city while creating many interesting career opportunities.

Some other notables: Believing that as West Atlantic goes, Delray goes, the city commission is intent on hastening the progress on West Atlantic Avenue and are happy to report the Community Redevelopment Agency's contract to sell land to Publix, a highly desired use for nearby residents that will further catalyze continued redevelopment of this critically-important area. We're happy to see new and architecturally interesting professional office space on Federal Highway between Atlantic and Linton, where we have an effective street grid to promote development and employment opportunities beyond our downtown. At the north end of Federal Highway, we have new, smart-looking townhomes, attractive rental housing, a real French bakery and even a Chocolate Factory to stimulate economic activity. Kaufman-Lynn's new corporate headquarters is well underway on Congress Avenue, and with it comes compelling architecture and over 100 high-paying jobs. Attractive and colorful apartments now greet people coming into our city from I-95, and further west, Delray Square at the corner of Atlantic and Military Trail, is scheduled to undergo a long-overdue, complete renovation. Whole Foods 365, the first of its kind in Florida, is coming to Linton Blvd. and will expand our healthy food options. And, iPic Theater has broken ground, where I'm confident we will all enjoy having a movie theatre back in our downtown, absent since we lost the Bijou Theatre in the 1920's and the Delray Theatre in 1962. In all, just a sampling of the diverse, citywide growth that expands our tax base, cultural and recreational amenities and employment opportunities.

One thing is certain, there is no perfect development but we will continue our ability to adapt again and again. In the end, however, the true touchstone for progress is shared prosperity and our ability to provide for the many ways people want to live, work and play in our city, and the ways we can all take advantage of the opportunities our city can create.

Some new additions to our city:



Proton  
Partners  
International







# Mayor's Message

**2017  
summer  
edition**

Our city finances

## Remain Strong



Financial strength is the heartbeat of any organization and those that use taxpayer dollars must be evermore circumspect. Unlike for-profit companies, we don't have widgets to sell, the cost and price of which can be adjusted as context requires. We have only quality of life to sell, and according to recent data we are selling it better than most with our property values rising last year greater than any large, full-service city in the county. With those increased values comes potentially higher property taxes unless millage rates are reduced to replicate taxable values of prior years. The basis for this determination will be our fiscal year budget approved by your city commission in September. I'm happy to report your city commission approved a preliminary, maximum millage rate of 7.09000,

which represents the 5th consecutive year of reductions in total millage rate. Whether the millage remains at the current reduced rate or is reduced further is predicated on the city's budget and we encourage your input.

### Challenges?

Despite the ever-present urge to further reduce taxes, beneath the streets of our 106-year old city lies a world of potential trouble. Like many older cities, the systems that deliver our drinking water from the tap and carry away what's flushed has aging parts that could fail at any time. While we have prioritized these repairs, there is significant and costly work to do as we fight the clock and mother nature.

### Bright Spots...

As a coastal city, vulnerable to natural disasters and now, like other popular places, man-made ones, we have accumulated a \$37 million reserve fund, far more than at any time in our city's history to address these contingencies, emergencies, and other critical capital improvement projects that cannot wait.

Voters recently approved a countywide penny sales tax that will expire in 10 years to fund infrastructure improvement projects throughout our county. The county will receive a large portion to spend at its discretion for county-owned projects, some within our city, while our portion, estimated at nearly \$38 million, will be used for city-directed projects. Rather than wait for incremental payments over the next 10 years where project and capital costs would undoubtedly increase, thus limiting what we could complete, the city recently closed a \$31.5 million Capital Improvement Revenue Bond to complete needed infrastructure projects now rather than later. Leveraging the city's stellar AAA credit rating - the highest rating afforded any local government, the Bond was priced at a very attractive fixed interest rate of 1.96%. Further, the Bond will not increase your city property taxes at all; the city will utilize the penny sales tax payments for repayment of the Bond's principal and interest. With the city's strong financial profile and high credit quality, Bank of America, who financed the Bond, relied on our city's: (i) strong management, (ii) healthy financial reserves and budget flexibility, (iii) vibrant economy and (iv) low debt burden. I'm very pleased with the results of the transaction as it represents an innovative, proactive approach to get shovels in the ground.



# Mayor's Message

**2017**  
**summer**  
**edition**

## Volunteerism. . . It's as good for you as those that need you

Earlier, I noted our 3<sup>rd</sup> All-America City Award was community-driven. We didn't receive the award or achieve the improvements in early education without the help of many people from every corner of the city pitching in. In fact, if you look back over many years of our city's collective achievements, we have accomplished amazing things only by working together, collaboratively, with many quietly volunteering their time for the benefit of others. Public service through volunteerism can provide immeasurable personal satisfaction knowing you are making a meaningful difference in your own community. There are other reasons to jump in - it's good for you, too! Social interaction reduces blood pressure, increases endorphin production and reduces stress. The time spent helping others, especially the many children in our community that would benefit from your life experiences, will heighten your self-confidence and sense of self-worth while you interact and exchange ideas with new people in new surroundings which can also help lessen loneliness and depression. Active involvement, where you can - when you can, in any volunteer opportunity can only increase your personal quality of life. But, volunteerism isn't only for our elderly who may have more time. There are great opportunities for our young people, as many of you can relate easier to other young people that need mentors and role models. All the organizations below will welcome your help.

**Milagro Center**

695 Auburn Ave, Delray Beach, 561-279-2970  
Milagrocenter.org

**Delray Beach Public Library**

100 W. Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach, 561-266-0194  
Delraylibrary.org

**Habitat For Humanity South Palm Beach County**

181 SE 5th Ave, Delray Beach, 561-819-6070  
Habitatsouthpalmbeach.org

**Miracle League of Delray Beach**

1905 SW 4th Ave, Delray Beach, 561-414-4441  
Miracleleaguepalmbeachcounty.com

**Sandoway Discovery Center**

142 S. Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach, 561-274-7263  
Sandoway.org

**The Delray Beach Police Department's Volunteer Program**

300 W. Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach, 561-243-7888  
Mydelraybeach.com

**City of Delray Beach**

100 NW 1st Ave, Delray Beach, 561-243-7000  
Mydelraybeach.com

**Delray Medical Center**

5352 Linton Blvd, Delray Beach, 561-498-4440  
Delraymedicalctr.com







# Mayor's Message

**2017  
summer  
edition**

## Beach improvements are **On Schedule**

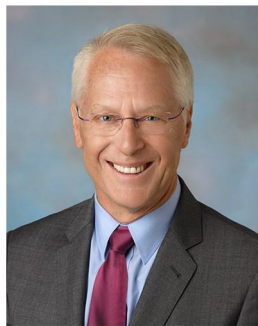
For those in town this summer, thank you for your continued patience as we are working hard to finish our beachfront. As you can see, the beach area improvements are now really taking shape. The beachfront renovations commenced in April and I'm happy to report we are on schedule for an October completion of wider, meandering sidewalks, new gazebos, landscaping, benches, and showers to improve your beach experience. We look forward to seeing you then when we cut the ribbon just in time to welcome back our seasonal residents and visitors. Next to come are new, colorful ocean-rescue stations to better protect the over 2 million beachgoers we host every year on our beautiful beaches.



## *Delray Beach City Commission*



**Cary Glickstein**  
Mayor



**Jim Chard**  
Vice-Mayor



**Shirley Johnson**  
Deputy Vice-Mayor



**Mitch Katz**  
Commissioner



**Shelly Petrolia**  
Commissioner



# July 4th Celebration



*SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!*