

## COUNCIL UPDATE JUNE 2016---from Jeff Hmara's Point of View

### TWO NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY:

#### OPENINGS FOR 1 ALTERNATE FOR EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD & 1 ALTERNATE FOR RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

If you would like to be considered by the Village Council to serve on either one of these boards, you can pick up an application form at Village Clerk's Office or download it from our web site [www.royalpalmbeach.com...return](http://www.royalpalmbeach.com...return) completed application to the Village Clerk's Office by June 22, 2016 for Council consideration at its July 7, 2016 meeting.

### DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN COMMUNITIES CONTINUES AS A MAJOR CONCERN FOR RPB

#### GL HOMES (INDIAN TRAILS GROVE) DEVELOPMENT, 2 MILES WEST OF SEMINOLE-PRATT WHITNEY ROAD, MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER TO FINAL APPROVAL.



On May 23rd, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council voted to forward Staff Report to the state's Dept. of Economic Development...this is the next step toward Board of County Commissioners final decision on GL Homes request to increase the number of homes that can be built on about 4000 acres of land west of Seminole-Pratt Whitney Rd....State Dept. of Economic Opportunity will review TCRPC Report and PBC Comprehensive Plan change request to increase the development density from under 400 to just under 4000 dwelling units and about 350,000 sq. ft. of commercial space)...after a lengthy discussion about traffic impact expected and the extent of and the importance of the road improvements (especially those to the north), the TCRPC voted to forward a modified version of the staff report to Tallahassee...final decision will be made by County Commissioners after State DEO has reviewed.

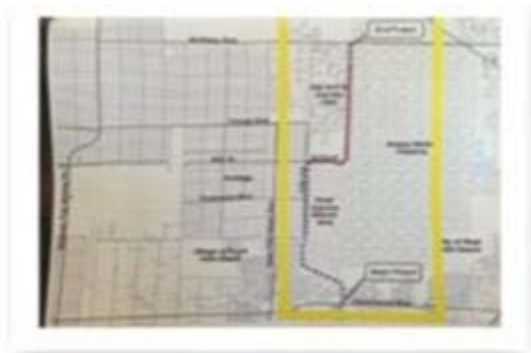
**TRAFFIC ISSUES CONTINUE GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION IN RPB**

**NEW COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY**



At May 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting public comments on shortcuts and speeding through some residential neighborhoods prompted Council to direct Staff to look into traffic calming techniques based on a study to determine where they might be most needed and most effective...this is a substantial effort, but may be more than just responsive to immediate traffic conditions, but proactive considering all the development about to take place to the west of RPB... traffic calming techniques can include traffic circles, speed bumps, speed tables, among other roadway changes...increased patrolling also can be helpful...none of these is without cost...staff will bring factual presentation of traffic conditions and traffic calming recommendations to Council, once study is completed.

**STATE ROAD 7 EXTENSION (60<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO NORTHLAKE BLVD.) CONTINUES TO BE OPPOSED BY WEST PALM BEACH**



West Palm Beach continues to challenge completion of SR 7 extension... they have now filed a petition challenging issuance of a permit by So. Florida Water Management District, one of the remaining requirements before construction can begin...the funds remain in FDOT's Work Plan for 2017, but can't be spent until a final hearing is held, currently scheduled for late August 2016...Western

Communities Counsel and FDOT has engaged lawyers to argue to continue the project...as Minto West (Westlake), Indian Trails Grove and other developments become reality, this roadway extension and others become even more critical.

### **COUNCIL HEARS CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS ABOUT SOBER HOMES AND TAKES ACTION**

At June 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting, several residents expressed their concerns about the operation of a “sober home” in their neighborhood...the term “sober home” is used to describe a residential home that is occupied by individuals, living together, while recovering from addictions...the residents’ concerns were for neighborhood safety and character...Fair Housing and Americans with Disabilities Acts come into play and limit local actions...but, there are several initiatives underway at state and federal levels to require registration and tight regulation of these activities...in the interim, Village Code Enforcement and PBSO will enforce laws to require these residences to abide by “good neighbor” rules, when they are made aware of suspected violations...also, Council agreed to have a strong Resolution drafted supporting US Congresswoman Lois Frankel’s initiative in Washington to provide strict regulation of “sober homes”...specific guidelines on the use of municipal authority, as it currently exists, is expected from Dept. of HUD and Dept. of Justice in August 2016...this should clarify local government options...a lot of other information was discussed during the meeting, which can be watched on RPB Website.

### **VILLAGE AWARDS 10 SCHOLARSHIPS TO CLASS OF 2016**

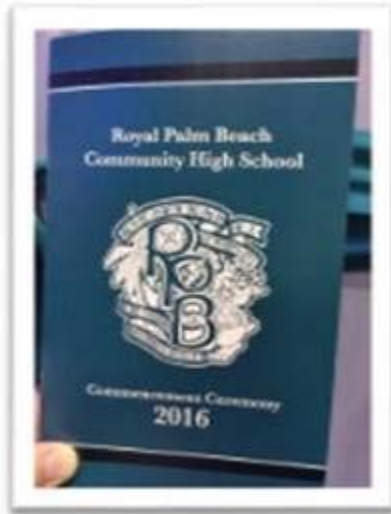
Again, this year, Village of RPB awarded ten \$1000 scholarships to deserving RPB residents who are graduating seniors...3.0 minimum GPA with significant community service and involvement...



This year, 7 of 10 recipients were graduates from RPBHS ...others were RPB residents graduating from Suncoast and Dreyfos...proud parents of a 2012 RPB Scholarship recipient sent an email to Council saying that their son

had just graduated from FAU Honors College, summa cum laude....he is going on to Medical School and plans to return to RPB area to practice medicine and do medicalthereseach.

**RPBHS CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATION ON MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>** at South Florida Fairgrounds, again this year...standing room only crowd with over 500 seniors graduating...



...excellent commencement speeches, especially the one given by Principal Jesus Armas...his theme was “accomplishments”...he gave 52 examples of individual student and faculty achievements during the school year...it was a speech with a personal touch that many talked about afterwards...a good school working to be even better...

#### **VILLAGE MANAGER MEETS WITH RPBHS STUDENTS AND FACULTY**

Village Manager, Ray Liggins, and I met with 7 students (two had already graduated on Monday; one wants to run for council)...the purpose of the meeting was to get these students/graduates interested, informed and engaged in local government (maybe even consider a public service career)...VM and I give the students an overview of municipal government from an insider’s perspective...and, we answered their questions...



The group included: ‘budding’ engineers, political science majors, lawyers, doctors and business owners...questions included: how does council and staff do what they do—we said: thoughtfully...most issues are not black or white...some are often emotionally charged...other questions were: what are salaries of village staff and elected officials and how can they (students) get involved in local government...good initial meeting, hope to follow up with some help from PBC League of Cities (through their government education program)...any ideas about how to move forward with this initiative would be greatly appreciated.

#### **VILLAGE MANAGER GIVEN HIGH MARKS BY COUNCIL DURING ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

Every year, the Council conducts a public review of Village Manager’s job performance, during past year...this review provides feedback to the VM as well as the basis for determining whether a merit pay award should be granted...Council members typically provide more detailed feedback to VM in separate one-on-one sessions...during the public meeting, specific performance observations included: the management benefits of a rigorous Strategic Planning Process the manager brought to the Village 4 years ago; the extraordinarily sound financial condition of the Village (debt-free and with substantial reserves); the exceptional family-oriented image and reputation of the Village within PBC and the state (ranked among top cities in Florida); and, the efforts toward highly effective communications that continue to improve...it was agreed that the Mr. Liggins’ performance overall was excellent...and, as a result, the Council unanimously agreed to award him a 5% merit pay bonus for his past year’s performance.

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THESE TOPICS OR ANYTHING GOING ON IN RPB—**

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