

TOWN OF LANTANA

STATE OF THE TOWN ANNUAL REPORT



A Look Back on 2023

and

A Look Ahead to 2024

TOWN OF LANTANA

STATE OF THE TOWN ANNUAL REPORT



TOWN COUNCIL

Karen Lythgoe, Mayor
Lynn J. Moorhouse, D.D.S., Vice Mayor
Mark Zeitler, Vice Mayor Pro Tem
Christopher Castle, Councilmember
Kem Mason, Councilmember

TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Brian K. Raducci, Town Manager
Kathleen Dominguez, CMC, Town Clerk
Mariangel Rios, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

TOWN ATTORNEY

Lohman Law Group, P.A.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

Eddie Crockett, Public Services Director
Nicole A. Dritz, Development Services Director
Stephen Kaplan, Finance Director
Kristine Kreidler, Library Director
Sean Scheller, Chief of Police
Geraldine Jaramillo, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue District Chief

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
A LOOK BACK ON 2023	1-6
Municipal Elections 2023.....	1
Town Council Visioning Session	1
Adoption of the Annual Budget.....	1-2
<i>Maintain Infrastructure</i>	2
<i>Continue beautification projects</i>	3
<i>Responsible development</i>	3
<i>How to attract/retain valuable employees</i>	3-4
<i>Continue to attract businesses (i.e., along Ocean Ave)</i>	4
<i>Promote community engagement</i>	4-5
<i>Continue to support Library</i>	5-6
<i>Dune Restoration Project – expected to resume in November 2024</i>	6
<i>Install ADA accessible ramp</i>	6
<i>Enhance Public Safety with state-of-the-art Technology</i>	6
GRANTS	7
Palm Beach County Day 2024	7
WORKING TOGETHER	7-8
LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024	8
Investing in Quality of Life	8
Working Together for Progress	8

TOWN OF LANTANA STATE OF THE TOWN ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Annual report is for the Mayor to provide the Town of Lantana (Town) Town Council and Community with a high-level executive summary of the Town's prior year accomplishments as well as the current state and condition of various operational and capital projects. In addition, it provides a preview of the goals and expectations of the coming year.

Greetings and Happy New Year! I am honored as your Mayor to welcome you into 2024, a year that we hope is filled with the promise of good health and good fortune. I am grateful to my fellow councilmembers, staff and the support of the community for all that the Town had accomplished in 2023. In addition, I look forward to continue working in a collaborative spirit, with my fellow councilmembers and all stakeholders, to identify and address the many challenges that lie ahead in the new year and to accomplish our Mission *"To preserve Lantana's small-town atmosphere through responsible government and quality service"*.

A LOOK BACK ON 2023

2023 was a very exciting year for our Town. Below you will find a glimpse of some of the more significant accomplishments that occurred during the year.



Municipal Elections 2023

In March 2023, Councilmember Mark Zeitler was re-elected and now serves as Vice Mayor Pro Tem. In addition, Christopher Castle was newly elected to serve as Councilmember alongside Vice Mayor Lynn J. Moorhouse, D.D.S., Councilmember Kem Mason and myself – Karen Lythgoe, who proudly became your new Mayor when we were sworn in on March 27th. All of us were and continue to be eager to contribute to Lantana's continued growth and success.

As a resident for 59 years, I'm excited to serve our community and look forward to working together with my fellow councilmembers to bring about an even brighter future.

Town Council Visioning Session

In April 2023, the Town Council, Town Manager, Town Attorney, department directors and other key staff held a public visioning workshop to review our recent achievements and to collaborate and develop our goals and shared vision for incorporation into the FY2023/24 Adopted Annual Budget.

Adoption of the Annual Budget

The adoption of the annual budget is one (1) of the Town Council's most critical tasks. The budget serves as a policy document, guides our operational needs and capital improvements and represents our unwavering commitment to provide high-quality services and programs to our community. The budget provides a professional and conservative financial plan that is the culmination of information shared and obtained at the Visioning Session, multiple budget workshops and numerous departmental meetings.

Budget Format/Transparency

Our detailed budget is designed to be informative and accessible. It provides a transparent overview of the financial plan to fund all of the Town's services and programs. The budget is a performance-based plan that links the primary function and objectives of each department with the financial resources necessary to achieve them. The preparation of the budget document marks a continued commitment to a planned and professional process of developing a budget that will address the Town's current and future needs.

FY 2023/24 Budget Overview

The FY 2023/24 Annual Budget of \$28.3 million was an allocation of resources that were strategically directed to achieve our mission and demonstrate the Town's continued commitment to operate in a fiscally conservative, prudent and responsible manner. Town staff continually seeks to improve their operational efficiency and effectiveness in order to maximize the utilization of our available resources.

As part of the budget process, funding is provided that allows the Town to achieve the priorities and goals that the Town Council established by consensus, at the Town Council Visioning Session. Below you will find each of those priorities and goals and examples of how each one has been implemented and achieved, respectively. It is important to note that some of the goals are long-term in nature and will be fully attained in future years.

Maintain infrastructure

- ✓ A Railroad Corridor Municipal Workshop was held in April to discuss the Florida East Coast Railway's potential closing of the W Pine St Railroad Crossing in exchange for substantial infrastructure type improvements along the Town's entire railroad corridor. Such a project would be funded in large part through a federally funded grant. Although no decisions have been made, the Town continues to work closely with all of our transportation partners and is awaiting the release of the grant application to determine the economic and logistical feasibility of moving forward on such a project.
- ✓ Installed the Sea Pines Pump Station to reduce the likelihood of street flooding in the Sea Pines neighborhood, projected substantial completion in February 2024 and final completion in March 2024.
- ✓ Our infrastructure engineer is in the process of designing Hypoluxo Island Drainage Improvements to better serve and support the island community.
- ✓ On 11/06/2023, the Town implemented a new Parking System at municipally-owned parking lots. Town residents and visitors can now pay for parking at these locations through the [ParkMobile](#) app., providing a quick and easy way for users to make payments without placing money in the meter.



Continue beautification projects

Staff has been busy beautifying our Town and improving our infrastructure to ensure a vibrant and thriving community. Here are just some of the highlights:

- ✓ Seasonal banners displaying warm colors have been hung on the Town's major corridors.
- ✓ A New Welcome Sign has been placed on Andrew Redding Rd to greet visitors.
- ✓ A new fence and concrete monuments have been added to Evergreen Cemetery. Repainting of the north fence along Lantana Rd is planned in the near future.
- ✓ New fences, water fountains and obstacle courses/exercise stations have been installed at Maddock Park Dog Park for improved safety and fun for our furry friends.
- ✓ Holiday lights and decorations have been added around Greynolds Circle and W Central Blvd.



Responsible development

We partnered with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council in 2022 and 2023 to create a comprehensive Townwide Master Plan. Following a public design charrette, we received the final report in May, which was subsequently adopted in July. The Report outlines the Town's vision for enhancing critical areas like Water Tower Commons, Ocean Ave, Lantana Beach and the Winn Dixie/Kmart site. Upgrades to US-1, the zoning code, Town Hall improvements and parking solutions are all part of the Town's roadmap for growth and progress.

During September's Second Public Budget Hearing, we approved and adopted our Final Budget for FY2023/24, which included \$100k worth of funding to support related projects. In addition, staff has formed the Master Plan Committee, a volunteer group of residents from various neighborhoods to provide input on the Master Plan and ongoing projects.

I am grateful to all of the interested residents and business owners who contributed and participated in the charette and various workshops that helped to lay the foundation for the Town's Master Plan.

How to attract/retain valuable employees

Like many municipalities, we find ourselves in a very challenging labor market and as a result, the Town has had to become creative and flexible in order to attract and retain valuable employees by:

- ✓ Offering competitive salaries and benefits.
- ✓ Offering a professional, family-friendly working environment.

As a result of these changes, the Town has experienced a significant decrease in employee turnover.

In order to strengthen leadership, ensure adequate supervision and prepare for future succession, the Police Department recently promoted the following individuals:

- Commander Thomas Mitchell to Assistant Chief of Police
- Sergeant Daniel Navas to Police Commander; and
- Detective Thomas Dipolito to Sergeant

All of these individuals are highly respected officers who possess extensive experience, proven leadership skills and a deep commitment to public safety. Their promotions will allow them to mentor the next generation of police leaders and further enhance the Department's ability to better serve our community.

Continue to attract businesses (i.e., along Ocean Ave)

The Town coordinates with the Town's Liaison from the Greater Lantana Chamber of Commerce to assist in attracting businesses to the Town. In addition, the Town Attorney and staff continue to work closely with representatives of the vacant Ocean Ave property owners on a redevelopment plan for those parcels. The Plan calls for the existing property(ies) to come into compliance with the current Town Code and to have it redeveloped in such a manner that is consistent with the approved Master Plan for those properties.

Promote community engagement

This year, the Town buzzed with exciting and successful events including:

- ✓ Drive-In Movie Nights.
- ✓ Beach Cleanups.
- ✓ Barefoot Mailman Family Beach Day.
- ✓ Egg Hunt.
- ✓ A patriotic July 4th celebration that brought friends and neighbors together.
- ✓ Spooky fun came alive during the Haunted Nature Preserve event.
- ✓ the Veterans Day event fostered gratitude to our service men and women; and
- ✓ the Winterfest Event at Town Hall brought holiday cheer.



In August, we welcomed our new solid waste partners at the *Meet the Green Team Coastal Event*. Coastal Waste and Recycling of Florida, Inc. started serving residents and businesses on October 1st as the Town's new solid waste and recycling hauler, resulting in significant savings to our residents. We want to thank all residents for continuing to make our dual-stream recycling program successful.

The Town continued to support our community by:

- ✓ lending a helping hand with a Food Distribution Drive-Thru.
- ✓ celebrated Arbor Day's by planting a tree at the Public Library; and
- ✓ brought holiday cheer with a heartwarming Toy Drive.

We also upgraded our agenda publishing system so citizens can search and find meeting materials online anytime, and stay informed by signing up to receive agenda notifications when the agendas are posted.



Continue to support Library

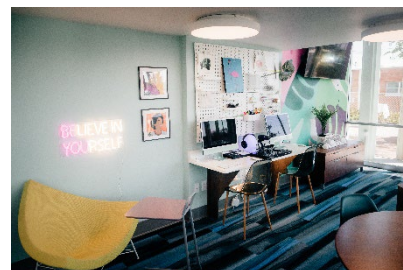
On 02/22/2023, the Lantana Public Library held its official Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony to showcase its historic building upgrades and welcome the public to the Town's new state-of-the-art Library in the heart of Lantana. In the months following, the Library has seen a 225% increase in the number of new cards issued and a 52% increase in book checkouts, which is rare for libraries! The renovation created new spaces for learning and playing, which included the following:

- ✓ *Dedicated learning and play areas* – a stimulating teen room, a vibrant kids' room, a quiet study room and a multi-purpose community room for programs and meetings.



- ✓ *Spaces for connection* – an outdoor garden for sunshine and connection and LABtana, a combined makerspace and small conference room designed for hybrid meetings.

and creating spaces and programs that will encourage interactions among residents and teach our residents skills that give them a boost; supporting literacy efforts in the community with partnerships with our schools for free library cards for all students and other outreach efforts; adding and maintaining Little Free Libraries around Town at our parks; and continue to grow the Library as a space that is welcoming to all in the heart of our downtown corridor.



- ✓ The Library's goals include offering the community the latest cutting-edge technology, video gaming equipment, and early literacy computers
- ✓ *Championing Early Literacy* – Town staff and the Library proudly joined Read for the Record (RFTR) 2023, encouraging early literacy by reading "With Lots of Love" to local schools and

daycares. We were thrilled to be recognized as the RFTR Palm Beach County 2023 Small Municipality Winner in November. The Library visited area schools throughout the year to encourage reading and Library visits. The Library is also on a mission to give every child who attends a Lantana school a free library card.



Dune Restoration Project – expected to resume in November 2024

- On 10/24/2022, the Town Council approved the 1st Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for the Dune Restoration Project – Reach 9 (Project) with the Town of South Palm Beach and Temporary Easement Access Agreement with the Town of South Palm Beach and the Town of Palm Beach which extended the term of the project through 02/28/2023.
- On 11/21/2022, the Town was informed that the Project would be delayed until late 2023 or early 2024 due to the fact that the sand stockpile that was planned to be used was washed away by Hurricane Nicole.
- On 07/18/2023, the Town was informed by Palm Beach’s Coastal Program Manager that their Town Council had decided to delay beginning the Project until at least November 2024 so that other capital improvement projects could be prioritized. As a result, the Town will continue to work closely with our municipal partners to enter into updated agreements so that this Project may resume when feasible.

Install ADA accessible ramp

- ✓ \$100k worth of additional funds have been included in the FY 2023/24 budget to replace the ADA ramp at Lantana Municipal Beach. The design and installation of the ramp have been on hold until the Dune Restoration Project, which is referenced above is completed since both projects interrelate to each other.

Enhance Public Safety with state-of-the-art Technology

The Lantana Police Department continues to uphold safety and community well-being while continuing its mission to deliver courteous, professional law enforcement and community services to our citizens by:

- ✓ *Enhanced Traffic Enforcement* – The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) continues to tackle violations and concerns throughout Town, while the reestablished Motorcycle Unit strengthens patrol presence.
- ✓ *Supporting Vulnerable Residents* – Works collaboratively with our County liaisons to help connect homeless individuals with available services.
- ✓ *Investing in Safety* – Our officers are trained and equipped with state-of-the-art technology such as body-worn cameras to ensure transparency and new equipment like computers, vehicles and safety gear to reinforce their capabilities.
- ✓ *Heroic Recognition* – Officer Arianna Morris received the 2023 Life Saving Award for bravely acting to save the life of a young boy which is a testament to the Department’s dedication to serving our community.

GRANTS

The Town has aggressively pursued operating and capital grant opportunities in areas that improve and enhance the delivery of our services. In order to maximize our potential for obtaining this vital funding, our in-house Contract and Grants Administrator position within our Public Services Department, works closely with many business partners that include:

- Ryan Ruskay from RMPK Funding (RMPK). RMPK is an external grant writing firm that assists the Town in obtaining funding for a wide range of capital improvement projects that enables us to better meet the unique and diverse needs of our community. To date, RMPK has been instrumental in the Town securing nearly \$2.1M in such funding.
- In March 2023, Mat Forrest from our Lobbying firm – Ballard Partners, set up in-person meetings with Senator Bobby Powell Jr. and Representative Mike Caruso during Palm Beach Day in our State Capitol so that the Town could gain their support in funding the Town's FY 2023/24 state appropriation request. As a result of Mr. Forrest's efforts, the Town was awarded \$1.2M to fund the Town's Water Main Replacement Project. In the coming legislative session, we will be seeking Mr. Forrest's assistance to secure \$2.5M in state appropriations to support our Water Treatment Plant and Water Main related infrastructure projects.
- In addition, we work very closely with our Congressional partners – Congresswoman Lois Frankel and her staff. Last year, Congresswoman Frankel supported and assisted the Town in securing our federal appropriation request of \$1.2M to help support our Water Main Replacement Project. In the coming year's federal budget, Congresswoman is sponsoring nearly \$1M in federal appropriations to support the Water Main and Water Treatment Plant related infrastructure projects.

Palm Beach County Day 2024

In early January 2024, members of our Town Council and the Town Manager went to Tallahassee for Palm Beach County Day. This event provided an incredible opportunity to travel to our State Capitol to observe our Legislative Process in person, meet with members of our Lobbying Firm and network with other municipalities and organizations attending the event.

The Town met with Representative Mike Caruso and aides of Senator Bobby Powell Jr. in order to discuss the opportunity of gaining their support to fund the Town's FY 2024/25 State Appropriation Requests (\$2.5M). During this time, the Town provided a first-hand account of the Town's challenging capital and infrastructure needs.



WORKING TOGETHER

The Town Council and dedicated staff are committed to working together with residents and partners to make Lantana an even better place to live, work and play. We are excited for the future and invite you to be a part of it!

Other significant projects and initiatives were completed, such as:

- ✓ Upgrading and replacing the high service pumps at the Water Treatment Plant.
- ✓ Townwide Paving (i.e., Phases I - II) across various streets and parks.
- ✓ Secured a grant through the Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant Program for stormwater infrastructure analysis.
- ✓ Completed Phase I and II improvements to the playground, green space and dog park at Maddock Park using funds from the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- ✓ Made water utility infrastructure and roadway improvements on E Lantana Rd.
- ✓ Upgraded the Town's vehicle fleet by replacing worn-out vehicles with new vehicles.
- ✓ Collaborated with Florida Power & Light Company and their contractors to install new Concrete Poles around the Town, to upgrade the lighting on Dixie Hwy and Lakeview Ave to support safety concerns and to illuminate streetlights that are in disrepair.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024



From infrastructure upgrades to green spaces, get ready for exciting changes coming to Lantana! Here's a glimpse of what our future plans have in store for you:

Investing in Quality of Life

- Expect improved landscaping, trash receptacles and various beach improvements.
- Look forward to upgraded bus shelters and smoother roads that will result from additional paving.
- The replacement of water mains along S Broadway and W Pine St in order to reduce interruptions in the provision of water service.
- Recoating of the Lantana Beach sea wall and the completion of a new stormwater pump station for the Sea Pines area that will ensure drainage protection for our coastal community.
- The beginning of the Filter Media Replacement Project at the Water Treatment Plant to improve the quality of Town's drinking water color.
- The completion and implementation of the drainage designs on Hypoluxo Island to facilitate improved drainage in this part of Town.
- Upgrade the Library's garden space to create a sensory garden and space for our youth.



Working Together for Progress

We are committed to partnering with residents, businesses and securing grants to keep these projects moving forward. Stay tuned for updates and get involved in shaping Lantana's future!



Lantana strives to be responsive to our citizens' needs and makes decisions based on the best interests of the residents' health, safety and welfare. I will continue to serve this Town most efficiently and effectively, and hearing from you and receiving your thoughts is the best way to accomplish that goal. So again, I thank you and look forward to working with each of you to make a better Lantana for generations to come.



Town of Lantana
500 Greynolds Circle
Lantana, FL 33462
(561) 540-5000
www.lantana.org