

## ***Season's Greetings from Commissioner Romney Rogers***



In neighborhood news...I cannot tell you how proud I am of the efforts of the Citizens Volunteer Corps in the clean-up of the not-yet-named park in Tarpon River. More than 70 hard working volunteers from all parts of the city had a great time in clearing the debris and revealing the beauty of this location. For those of you who were not able to attend, take a drive or bike ride, as I did that day, to SW 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SW 7<sup>th</sup> Street. What an awesome view! This park is 200 feet of waterfront, on the south bend of the New River. The property not only has a 300 year old oak tree but a Broward County archeologist was also there making great finds of pottery shards and various types of vertebrae. Thanks also to the many youthful volunteers from the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority's "Step-Up" Program. We even made the Sun-Sentinel. Great job everybody!

It is almost "Bowl Time" in South Florida! Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> we can partake in lots of football parties and hopefully mucho dollars flowing into our local economy. The Orange Bowl, Pro Bowl and Super Bowl will all be held at Landshark Stadium and Fort Lauderdale Beach will be a focus of lots of the festivities.

Also, I know many Holiday parties are being held this time of year and if you need a special appearance by jolly St. Nick, please let us know. I had the pleasure of passing out candy canes and wishing everyone Christmas cheer at the Rio Vista gathering at Virginia Young Park dressed in the full-monty Santa outfit. Rio Vista Civic Association did a great job of hosting the party and a fun time was had by all.

As we approach a season of hope, the winding down of one calendar year and the beginning of the next, I assess my first 9 months on the commission to see if we, the commission and staff, have adequately addressed your concerns. As can be expected, the outcome of some decisions was not what some may have desired. But I have tried, as my fellow commission members, to make the best decisions possible for the good of the city and we have worked together in a collegial manner, as promised. I am grateful to my colleagues for the opportunity to "hash-out" the details in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I trust we have made decisions that will allow our city to weather this very difficult time. I am hopeful of continued stability in the governance and management of our city and I look forward to the possibilities 2010 and beyond will bring. Along those lines, the Commission has made plans to move forward on a visioning plan. A Vision Task Force is being formed to make suggestions for the best all-inclusive process with which to proceed. With our centennial coming up in March of 2011 and many plans on the forefront for future development, I want to encourage everyone to participate in the visioning so we all can be proud of the end product.

I trust you all will have wonderful and safe Holidays!