TOWN OF THERESA NEWSLETTER – August 1, 2026

THE TOWN OFFICE

I'm excited to announce several exciting initiatives in the first six months of 2026! The Town office has undergone a transformation with the completion of a new handicapped entrance, security improvements and a refreshed interior. The next phase of improvements is a new roof to be installed over the summer/fall. Stop in for a visit anytime.

ADMIN IMPROVEMENTS

We have worked hard to implement several administrative improvements. We have developed new time keeping forms, new mileage reimbursement forms and have multiple people sign off on all vouchers. A new employee handbook has been drafted and is awaiting legal and town board review. This will ensure a cohesive team environment with transparent expectations.

The website has been reviewed and updated. We worked with the Greater Indian River Coalition to update the business listing and made other improvements. If you have interesting photos of Theresa you would like to see on our website and Facebook page, please feel free to submit them to my email at: supervisor@townoftheresany.gov.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The town board budgeted for a professional consultant, Cortel Improvement, to conduct a Strategic Planning initiative on June 5 and 6. We had town board members, town employees, and representatives from the highway department, the Theresa Progress Group, the Greater Indian River Coalition, the Theresa Free Library, the Theresa Food Pantry, and the Theresa Youth Commission, represent and participate in this two-day planning retreat. We also had Atiba Raymond, Theresa Mayor, and Tina Bartlett Bearup, Jefferson County Legislator, attend the planning meeting.

Attendees worked on a mission statement, vision statement, and drafted strategic goals. A summer committee will be established to finalize the plan. After board approval, we will host a public meeting to reveal the plan to the public. We hope you will be as inspired as we are about the future opportunities ahead of us.

SUMMER RECREATION

The Theresa Memorial Park and Playground committee built a pergola over the picnic tables, stained benches, purchased a new bike rack and installed playground rules. The town highway superintendent is preparing to seal and paint the courts.

Our Summer Recreation Program is off to a great start. Trips, swimming, and many summer activities are among the adventures Theresa's kids are participating in this summer season. The summer recreation team is trained in CPR, AED and First Aid!

The Theresa Youth Commission is pleased to announce the receipt of a generous anonymous donation in the amount of $5,000 to support the youth in Theresa. We continue to be amazed at the outpouring of support for Theresa's kids! This donation will go a long way to continuing our priorities of providing recreational opportunities, exciting trips, equipment and activities that benefit Theresa families!

CHAPMAN DAYS

The weekend of August 21st, 22nd and 23rd are the first-ever Chapman Days. There are activities hosted by the Greater Indian River Coalition throughout the entire weekend. Highlights include a block party, car show, vendor fair, chicken BBQ, soapbox derby, duck race and kids activities. We hope to see you out and about as we celebrate the rich history of Theresa. Find all information pertaining to Chapman Days on the Life in the Lakes Facebook page.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are several tax exemptions for volunteer first responders, senior citizens and disabled military veterans. For more information or to see if you qualify contact the town office or the town assessor.

THERESA ATV LAWS – SHARING THE ROAD

Please reacquaint yourselves with the ATV Law available on our website homepage, www.townoftheresany.gov. Keep in mind that this is a privilege and a benefit to our small-town living. However, recent observations brought to our attention indicate we need some friendly reminders about the law.

You must be 16 years old and up to ride ATV's roadside and helmets must be worn. You must obey the speed limits and ride on the right-side shoulder to yield to vehicles and reduce speed and noise pollution within the village limits. We want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy riding season. Please remember you can join the Indian River ATV Club for just $25/year and ride the trails!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Town of Theresa Supervisor. I will work hard to continue to expand opportunities for Theresa residents!

Respectfully ~ *Kris Ryder*