Town of Theresa Newsletter – November 2026

2027 TOWN OF THERESA BUDGET

Copies of the budget are available upon request at the Town office, if you're interested in reviewing the numbers. In 2027, we can add a much-needed piece of equipment to the highway department; add striping and fencing to the courts; partially renovate the recreation building for bathroom and kitchenette; and put a contingency account away for future equipment needs. All of this has been done with no significant tax increase at all. We are proud of the work our team does to plan for future needs, trim expenses where needed, and keep progressing.

Also new in 2027 is an allowance to hire a professional grants writer, which is a large part of our strategic plan. We are hoping to leverage grant funding to complete many of our goals. Another addition to the budget is a grounds keeper. More on this topic under the "Strategic Plan" heading.

A couple of items to point out about the budget: The County assesses its own tax, the Indian River Ambulance Service and Theresa Fire Department assesses its own taxes, and the Town of Theresa has its own, which is the only piece we can control. Obviously, our commitment to public safety through support of first responders and safe roads is our number one priority!

We hope you're looking forward to 2027 and the new improvements as much as we are!

COMPLETION OF 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

At long last, the plan is finalized. Our facilitator, Melanie Rafferty from Cortel Improvement, presented results at our last meeting on October 14. We have given the board time to review and reflect on the plan, and we are ready to approve at our upcoming November 4 Board Meeting.

We are scheduling a Town Hall meeting to present the Strategic Plan to the public on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 6 pm. Please consider attending to hear about the Town's vision for a bright future and ask questions! The Strategic Plan, once approved, will be available on our website and copies of the Mission, Vision, Motto and Goals will be posted in the Town office. We will also keep everyone updated through future newsletters.

The groundskeeper position and grants writer position we previously reported on in the newsletter reflects our first steps in the beautification and revitalization piece of the plan. We believe you will be pleased with the results, and we encourage you to attend on November 18th!

THERESA FOOD PANTRY

Just a reminder that the Theresa Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 9am-11am. No appointment is needed. The pantry is located at the Grace Community Church 110 Antwerp Rd. in Theresa.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Town of Theresa Memorial Park & Playground. It has come to our attention that one of the memorial plaques has been defaced. We ask residents and visitors to consider this memorial park sacred ground just as you would a cemetery.

Desecrating the memorials will not be tolerated, and we are currently researching the addition of security cameras at the Recreation Center, which is unfortunate to have to do. Parents, please talk to your children about this so they understand those tables, benches, trees, etc., are honoring someone no longer with us. We're hoping this is an isolated incident, and the entire community will help us educate the public about this special place!

Winter is coming and with it comes ice! We're hoping to build on the last few years of success at the Theresa Ice Rink. Follow our Theresa Parks and Recreation Facebook page for updates. Remember it is an outdoor rink, so temperatures must drop into the teens or single digits to create safe and effective ice. That usually doesn't happen until January. Fingers crossed that the weather cooperates again this year.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

There's another side to the North Country weather, while cold temperatures and ice are great for ice rinks, they are not great for roads. Please drive safely this Winter and keep an eye out for our trucks out clearing the roads. Be careful not to leave snow from your driveway in the roadways as it can freeze and be dangerous for automobiles especially after roads have been treated.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Congratulations to the Greater Indian River Coalition on such a successful Halloween Parade complete with DJ, open markets, food trucks and plenty of Halloween spirit! What a fantastic fall evening. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Theresa! Please make sure everyone marks their calendars for the ever-popular **Light the Night Holiday Parade** on December 12th, 2026!

DOWNTOWN THERESA

Congratulations also to the Village of Theresa as we see the former laundromat and the former Colonial Lounge undergo a huge transformation. The Commercial Street Station (formerly Happy Daze) is open for business, and the Lighthouse in Theresa has a beautiful new wrap around covered porch. We're so happy to witness investments being made in the Village!

Speaking of the Village of Theresa, part of our Strategic Plan calls for collaboration with the Village leaders, and we have reached out to village representatives to discuss ways the village and town can work together for the benefit of our beautiful Theresa!

On behalf of the entire Town of Theresa board, staff and officials, we wish to take this opportunity to wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season as we go into Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Sincerely, Kris Ryder