

Now that the busy, but thankfully short, election season is complete for the City of Orlando, thank you for your support of my re-election, which allows me to serve as your City Commissioner for four more years. As you have heard me express, I am grateful for the confidence you have placed in me and am humbled by your support—this is truly a privilege I don't take lightly. With that in mind, thanks for this opportunity to update you on some important things happening around our community

In case you weren't able to make it to OUC's Reliably Green Event that took place at the end of last month at the College Park Community Center, below is some information about this new initiative. OUC is pledging their long-term commitment to continued conservation and sustainability practices throughout their projects and programs while also searching for new and improved green technologies. Along with their commitment, OUC is also working to educate all of us on ways that we can not only be green but also save green in the process. To garner some new conservation ideas while learning about the many commercial and residential incentives, rebates and credits that are available for adopting green energy practices, check out OUC's new website, www.reliablygreen.ouc.com. As we celebrate Earth Day at the end of this month, we can all reflect on how even small changes in our personal habits do make a difference.

As you have probably heard or seen, the Downtown College Park Partnership has taken the leadership to bring a Farmer's Market to Edgewater Drive. If you haven't already visited, please check out this event taking place every Sunday between 10 a and 4 p in the parking lot of Eidson Insurance, 2807 Edgewater Drive. As we all look to do our part to support small businesses, the City's Buy Local program is continuing to grow. For more info on this ever-expanding network, check out www.buylocalorlando.net.

On Monday, March 8, FDOT Area Secretary Noranne Downs provided an update to the Orlando City Council on SunRail and Florida's High Speed Rail Corridor. The current plans call for Phase 1 of SunRail to be completed in early 2013 (from DeBary to Sand Lake Road) with Phase 2 scheduled to complete the system from Deland to Poinciana by early 2015. Fashioned after the trains in Charlotte and Denver, each cabin will have up-to-date technology and be environmentally friendly. For the latest information, check out www.sunrail.com.

In addition, Florida's High Speed Rail received an important boost a few weeks ago as President Obama highlighted it as one of the top three recipients of federal funding. This Tampa-ORLANDO-Miami project will start with the first phase between Orlando and Tampa, to be operational in 2014. It was assuring to hear from Secretary Downs that FDOT shares our commitment to connectivity between commuter rail and high speed rail, creating an extensive multi-modal system. I am confident that this initiative, underscored decades ago as part of Florida's important future plans for alternative transportation methods, will become a reality in our generation.

Through the first quarter of 2010, the Orlando Police Department (OPD) has been committed to its annual mission statement of expanding its community-based initiatives. I am extremely proud of our District 3 Neighborhood Watch program as they have continued their record of distinction within our City through the beginning of this year. With more than 15 meetings already taking place in 2010, many focusing on the initiative of educating our residents on Economic Crime and Identity Theft, I am glad that our Neighborhood Watch groups are continuing their efforts to engage residents in crime prevention.

The Orlando Police Department is also focused on implementing the new Crime Free Multi-Family Housing Initiative. This is a certified, nationwide program designed to help tenants, owners, and managers of rental properties keep drugs and other illegal activity off their property. More than 40 communities within the City of Orlando attended the first training session. OPD's website contains much useful information, not only about these two programs, but also about many other new initiatives, including details about how Orlando has recently joined many other law enforcement agencies nationwide to partner with web-based crimereports.com to provide easier access to public crime data. Check out www.cityoforlando.net/police for more details on these and many other ways that OPD is working hard for our City residents.

For more ways on how your City is working for you and how you can partner with us to improve your community, please consider joining Mayor Dyer on Saturday, April 10th at the City's 5th annual Neighborhood and Community Summit, taking place at the Downtown Orlando Marriott. For more information, please visit www.cityoforlando.net or call 407-246-2169.

Again, thanks for your continued support and if my office can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact myself, my aide, Jessica Stead, or our District 3 Liaison Officer, Kevlon Kirkpatrick. Our detailed contact information can be found at www.cityoforlando.net/district3.