

illustrations by André Ceolin. “A beautiful, lyrical story about a girl who moves from her home in Central America to the United States, and everything she leaves behind and longs for—especially her Abuela—as she makes a new life.” There will also be a cosponsored reading with Bridges on Thursday at 5:30 PM, and on Saturday, we will have our final reading day full of fun, including a piñata and special guest readings by Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro at noon and Commissioner Linden at 3:00 PM. There is a Storywalk in Kelsey Park until the end of October, readings at Brooklyn Cupcake at noon on Tuesday, October 24, and readings in English and Spanish at the Sunset Celebration on Friday, October 27, around 7:30 PM or 8:00 PM. For more information, please stop in at 529 Park Avenue or contact the Lake Park Public Library at 561-881-3330.

TOWN COMMISSION CONSENSUS

The Public Works and Special Events Departments are seeking feedback from the Town Commission on their availability to attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new W. Ilex Park Playground, as follows:

- Tuesday, November 7 at 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, November 8 at 4:00 PM
- Thursday, November 9 at 4:00 PM

DAY	M
HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY	STAKEHOLDER MEETING

The Business Before Breakfast meeting held on October 10, 2023 at the Brewhouse Gallery included a presentation by the Town Manager and Town Staff on Holiday Light Displays to the Stakeholders. The meeting became problematic when we discussed marketing and at some point during the discussion became satutory towards staff. Remember, we were present to discuss the coordination of a holiday light display between the 700 to 900 block of Park Avenue. Staff spent a considerable amount of time internally preparing for the display including MOT measures, an increase in public safety personnel from the Sheriff's Office to working on plans to provide access for two properties within the 700 block that required alternative access points from the property if the 700 to 900 block was closed off over the Friday and Saturday night display periods. The MOT plan would also provide access to businesses along Park Avenue when the 700-900 blocks are closed to traffic on Friday and Saturday Nights.

At the October 10, 2023 meeting only four businesses signed up to work with us on a Passport campaign for the Friday, and Saturday night Holiday Light Street closures. We believe the group did not include a majority of Lake Park businesses located in the CRA boundries when only four businesses signed up to partner with the CRA. Four businesses in the CRA interested in participating in the Passport program is not sufficient to host such an initiative.

The meeting venue could only be held at the Brewhouse Gallary. Our initial plan was to provide breakfast for the group in the Commission Chambers whereby we could film and tape the meeting, Jo Brockman called to say a poll was taken and everyone wanted to have

the meeting at the Brewhouse Gallery. Given the tone of the meeting, staff became the target of their frustrations.

A few weeks before the October 10, 2023 meeting, I attended the same Stakeholder meeting to discuss the concept of a holiday light display, the idea was met with overwhelming support and a desire to partner with the CRA to get plugged in and become a participating business. Not sure what happened between that period of time and the meeting on October 10, 2023. I have to believe there might be a change of heart in supporting the event. We will proceed with the event and we plan to contact all businesses in the CRA outside of the Business before Breakfast group and partner with businesses that feel this initiative will help their businesses in a positive, respectful and sincere manner to ensure the success of the Holiday Light Display and ultimately their respective businesses. We do not have to do the Holiday Light Display at a cost of \$227,000. We believe such events are necessary to bring interest and traffic into the CRA.

As we move to build personnel capacity within the CRA district, staff can only serve businesses in the CRA. We plan to task the staff to create a business group of Lake Park CRA businesses because the CRA by Law can only spend TIFF dollars on CRA activities and businesses located within the geographic boundaries of the CRA.