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COMMUNITY NEWS

'I'm proud to tell people where I live now.' Miramar's Sherman Circle gets \$2.4M upgrade

By SCOTT LUXOR

SUN SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT | AUG 27, 2021



Miramar officials recently gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to honor the work that has been done around Sherman Circle and the people who made it happen. About \$2.4 million has been spent to elevate the pride and value of the neighborhood. (Scott Luxor / Contributor)

Five years ago, the city of Miramar embarked on a journey to revitalize a historically important area known as Sherman Circle, south of Pembroke Road and west of University Drive.

City officials recently gathered for a ribbon-cutting to honor the work that has been done around the community and the people who made it happen. Both officials and residents were acknowledged at the event, making it clear that the path forward for the city is not just about the government but also getting everyone in on the action.

After about \$2.4 million of improvements through infrastructure and safety projects, along with overall beautification enhancements, the neighborhood is being restored to a point of pride for the residents.



Vice Mayor Yvette Colbourne, the point person for the [Sherman Circle](#) improvements, recognized the dedicated, hard work that the staff has accomplished over five years.

“This is more than just a wall that we have built on Pembroke Road and on Miramar Boulevard,” Colbourne said. “We have truly revitalized this area. Our staff works every day and they do a lot of great things. They’re constantly busy, and sometimes they don’t really take the time to see the impact of what they have been doing. So this ribbon-cutting gives us an opportunity to take a look at what we’ve accomplished.”



Miramar Vice Mayor Yvette Colbourne recognized the hard work that the staff has accomplished over the five years. (Scott Luxor / Contributor)

Her comments reflected on the collaborative, inclusive process the city used to accomplish its undertaking.

“Everyone should be involved in changes because the community belongs to each and every one of us,” she said. “With the support of concerned citizens and community involvement, city officials and my colleagues on the commission, we made substantial progress transforming this community infrastructure, improving safety measures as well as enhancing the look and feel of this community.”

Colbourne said while the process is ongoing, it’s important to acknowledge the progress so far, adding the recent completion of the Pembroke Road wall is a good time to appreciate what’s been done so far.

“I know that we still have a lot of work to do, and we’re going to continue the work,” she said.

Assistant City Manager Kelvin Baker said he is particularly proud of the progress the city has made.

“I love this area,” he said. “I actually moved into the city back in 1995, so I know what it was like before. Our neighbors are really happy to have these changes in their area and it clearly gives them a feeling of pride.”

Baker said he is happy that the upgrades were important for Sherman Circle.

“We’ve not only provided greater barriers for sound and security, but we’ve done improvements in the park,” he said. “Many years ago, [Lakeshore Park](#) in Miramar was our largest park, and all of the happenings in the city took place right here.”

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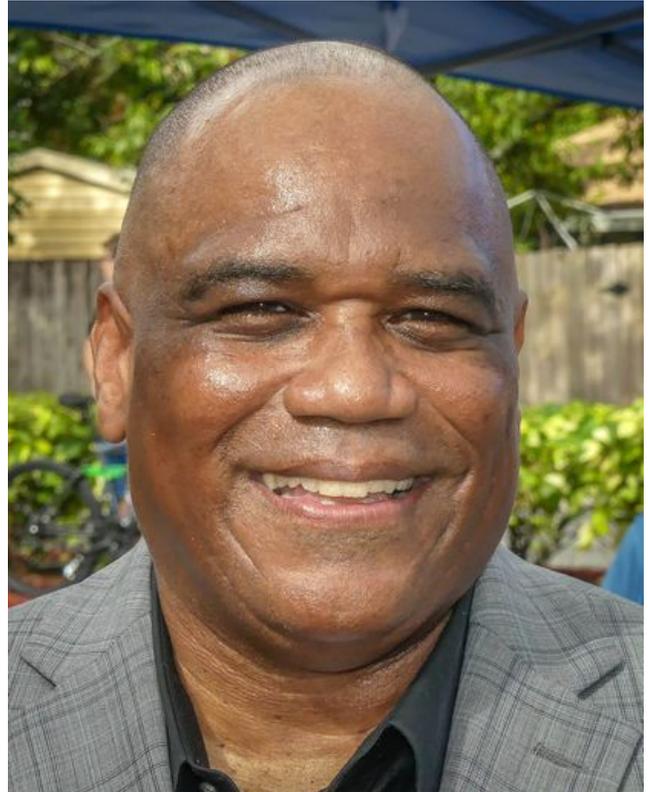
City Commissioner Wilton Barnes said he also has a personal appreciation for the new developments in the city.

“My mom passed away about 14 months ago. She owned, and our family still owns, the home that is on the southern end of this area,” he said. “I’ve seen the positive

changes over the last 30 years that are taking place in this town.”

Barnes also said he’s a fan of how the changes came about because of resident involvement.

“To the residents of Miramar, I say keep making representations to the City Commission,” he said. “This is how things get done. This is how democracy works. Always talk to us, and then it is our job to get whatever is possible done and done on time. Elections do matter. And when people elect the right people to represent them, they are able to see them come through with important projects.”



Miramar Assistant City Manager Kelvin Baker (Scott Luxor / Contributor)

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Barnes said that this moment in the city was important for him.



City officials cut the ribbon to commemorate the improvements made to the neighborhood. (Scott Luxor / Contributor)

“This is one of my proudest moments being in office, having this ribbon-cutting and seeing this come to fruition,” he said. “When good people come together, to work together, great things happen. And it’s a great day today in this community of Sherman Circle.”

Residential involvement

Colbourne, along with all of the other participants at the event, emphasized the importance of getting the people involved in the process who are directly affected by the changes.



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“I know that our residents are truly grateful for the improvements,” she said. This was not something that any one person did. Our residents and our community as a whole played key roles in this.”

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Colbourne said the people who live in Sherman Circle got her focused on making progress.

“They knew that improvements were needed. Then hurricanes came through and the wooden fences went down, and it looked that much worse,” she said. “So it was a pleasure for me to adopt this area and make it part of our Public Works Adopt-A-Street Program.”

Mel Sills, a resident involved in the Honeyplace Homeowners Association, may have been the happiest person about the changes attending the event.



Resident Mel Sills, who is involved in the Honeyplace HOA, said he's now proud to tell people where he lives. (Scott Luxor / Contributor)

“For years, I was always embarrassed to tell people where I lived because of the terrible fencing,” he said. “I felt like I lived in a poor neighborhood. But I’m proud to tell people where I live now. So thank you to the City Commission and Vice Mayor Colbourne and everybody else that’s worked with us. Our HOA does not have a big budget, but when I appeal to the city, they’re always there for me.”

Sherman Circle improvements

- Buffer walls were installed along the south right-of-way of Pembroke Road and also along the north right-of-way of Miramar Boulevard.
- Anti-litter cans and pet stations were placed throughout the community.
- Bernard Park (2350 S. Sherman Circle) received upgrades including additional lighting.

- Lakeshore Park (8501 S. Sherman Circle) received upgrades to the playground, shade structure, pavilion and landscaping.
- A bike rack and water fountain were installed.
- Streets including Sherman Circle, Bernard Boulevard, Fogg Road, Jodi Lane, Stacey Lane, and other roadways throughout the community were resurfaced. The site of the east water treatment plant underwent new landscaping and a new perimeter fence, and a new generator was installed at the facility.

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