

Redington Beach Newsletter

August 2011



Redington Beach Town Hall, 105 164th Ave, Redington Beach, FL 33708

HOURS: Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

www.townofredingtonbeach.com

Phone: 727-391-3875

Fax: 727-397-6911

UPCOMING EVENTS

Public Budget Hearing:	September 8	Final Public Budget Hearing:	September 22
(Budget Hearings are held at 7:00 pm in the Town Assembly Hall			
Town Wide Yard Sales:	October 21 and 22 (Friday and Saturday)		
RBPOA Wine Fest:	November 5		

A Message from the Mayor

Dear Redington Beach Residents;

On behalf of your town commission, I thank you for your patience while our streets were being milled and repaved. Along the way we encountered some areas that needed extra work, especially on 161st East of Redington Drive. To all of you who endured inconveniences, the finished product should serve us well for the next two decades.

The Town's millage rate for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 will stay the same, as we continue to look for ways to trim expenses.

The Town's staff of four remains prepared to assist you with your questions and concerns.

Nick Simons

REMINDER:

A County Alarm Ordinance came into effect on July 1, 2009. The ordinance requires that home and business owners "shall" register their alarm systems with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office or face the possibility of being fined for any false alarms which may occur at that home or business. If a home or business owner is NOT registered the fines are as follows: for 1 to 3 alarms \$175.00, 4th-\$200.00, 5th- \$250.00, 6th -\$400.00 and 7 or more \$600.00. Registration forms are available at Town Hall or by going to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office website at www.pscoweb.com and click on the SHARP icon to fill out the registration form. Registration is free. For more information on SHARP or for answers to questions about registration, please call 727.582.2870 or email sharp@pcsonet.com.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

By Mark A. Davis

Street Resurfacing Project: The Town's street resurfacing project is coming to an end. All of the curb and gutter work has been completed. Only the existing curb and gutters that were in bad condition or in a condition that could affect the new streets in a negative way were replaced. Since these were the original gutters, most of them or approximately 99% had to be replaced.

A misconception of this project is, some of our residents are thinking this project was to prevent any flooding in Town. This is NOT the case. Redington Beach, at its highest point is under three feet above sea level, with most areas being right at sea level. The best case scenario is flooding can be alleviated but never eliminated. Your town officials are constantly looking at new techniques that could help the communities flooding issues. At present there are only a few proven techniques that apply to the Town's situation. Under drains, swales and storm sewers.

The Town's streets were resurfaced about twenty years ago eliminating huge pot holes and patches occurring everywhere. There were several years of patching and filling on a weekly schedule as the streets were actually lifting up.

BEAUTIFICATION: The Town's cul de sacs will be getting spruced up with a new application of washed shell. Public works department staff will be putting the washed shell in each area of the Town where there is existing shell.

STREET SIGNS: Public works staff will be replacing faded or damaged regulatory, warning, and informational signs in the weeks ahead. These will include stop signs and street signs. New "Solicitation Prohibited" signs in Redington Beach have been installed on the north and south ends of town on Gulf Boulevard and on 161st Avenue.

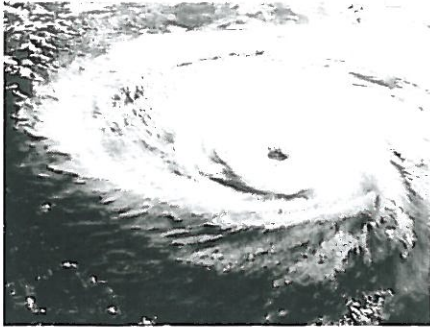
JULY 4TH BEACH CLEAN UP: The 4th of July clean the beaches event went great with a large turnout of volunteers. I would like to extend a big Thank You to everyone who participated. With an exceptionally large amount of fireworks this year, public works staff hauled off four pick up truck loads from the beach. Without the efforts of the volunteers, the clean up would have been a very difficult job. THANKS TO EVERYONE!

PARKS AND RECREATION: Three new recycled plastic picnic tables have been erected and will be placed in Friendship Park for the use and enjoyment of everyone.

The chain link fence on the south end of Town Park has been vandalized to the point of not being repairable. The fence divided the park from the vacant lot and wasn't in the best of shape to begin with. It was decided to get quotes for replacing it. A new fence that matches the remainder will be installed soon.

Swim Buoys have been replaced.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



By: Mark Davis



If you have special needs during a hurricane or storm, make sure you are signed up for the Special Needs Assistance Program. Forms are available at Town Hall (Also available on next page) During an event such as an official storm or hurricane warning, sand will be available across the street from Town Hall, at Friendship Park, until the supply runs out. At that time, the location will be relocated to Archibald Park, Madeira Beach, across from Subway Sandwiches. Sand bags are available at Town Hall and are limited to 20 per home.

Evacuation Route: Redington Beach SOUTH on Gulf Boulevard, Tom Stuart Causeway, Madeira Beach, It is recommended you make plans to stay in a home of a friend or relative, a hotel, or motel.

For many of you, your pets are considered to be members of your family. The website, www.disasterprepped.com focuses on helping you prepare those pets for potential emergencies or disasters. First the "PETS" preparedness section highlights many valuable tools and solutions at www.disasterprepped.com/pets.php

Second, there are several articles now available at the website addressing this topic.

- Disaster Preparedness for Pets; www.disasterprepped.com/preparedness.pets.php
- Disaster tips for Reptiles and Amphibians; www.disasterprepped.com/reptile.php
- Disaster Preparedness for horses; www.disasterprepped.com/preparedness.horses.php
- What's best for my pets? Deciding to stay or go; www.disasterprepped.com/pets.evacs.php
- Animals in Public Evacuation Centers; www.disasterprepped.com/pet.shelters.php

Always be prepared. In the event we are faced with a storm this season, the town will have sand and sand bags available. Information will be posted on Town Information Bulletin Boards for further information.

Category	Sustained Winds	Storm Surge	Damage
1	74 to 95 mph	5 to 7 feet	Minor
2	96 to 110 mph	7 to 12 feet	Moderate
3	111 to 130 mph	12 to 15 feet	Major
4	131 to 155 mph	15 to 20 feet	Severe
5	Above 155 mph	20 to 24 feet	Catastrophic

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: Mark A. Davis

Redington Beach

Emergency Request for Special Assistance/Transportation

(Must be submitted annually)

DATE: _____

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

HEARING IMPAIRED (Y/N): _____

CONTACT PHONE # _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

CITIZEN NEED (be specific): _____

OXYGEN REQUIRED (Y/N): _____ LITERS PER MINUTE: _____

DEPENDENT ON LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM (Y/N): _____

CAN WALK w/o ASSISTANCE (Y/N): _____ WITH ASSISTANCE: _____

REQUIRE A WHEEL CHAIR (Y/N): _____ BEDRIDDEN (Y/N): _____

Can be moved via wheelchair (Y/N): _____ HAS WHEEL CHAIR: _____

People to Accompany: _____ Relationship: _____

Request submitted by: _____ Relationship: _____

If you have special needs during a hurricane or storm, make sure you are signed up for the Special Needs Assistance Program. See form

**NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM****"ADOPT-A-STREET" Registration Form**

Volunteer's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

HELP KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL

Police: Pinellas County Sheriff
Non Emergency.....727-582-6200

Fire: Non Emergency..... 727-391-3400

Police & Fire EMERGENCY ONLY: 911

If you would like to participate in the Adopt a Street Program, gloves and trash bags will be provided. Drop off locations will be assigned where to leave the removed litter.

We have entered the annual hurricane and tropical storm season once again. Although we have not seen much activity the last couple years, everyone should continue staying alert and being prepared if a disaster should happen. We have all seen what can happen to coastal areas such as Homestead and New Orleans. Unfortunately, we are not exempt from the fury of mother nature. Have a plan. Make sure you have nothing outside that could become a projectile causing unnecessary damage to life or property. Make sure all members of the family know the plan. The safe area of your home, the evacuation route, and have enough supplies to last at least three days, such as food, water, a first aid kit, flashlights, batteries, etc. Everyone should know where they are going to go in case an evacuation is necessary such as a location of a shelter or friends home. Not all shelters are pet friendly. A little planning ahead can make your lives a little less stressful or even prevent a tragedy from happening. Remember surviving the storm is everyone's responsibility. For more valuable information, visit Pinellas County Emergency Management's official government website at www.pinellascounty.org. Stay Safe.

In Florida, hurricane preparedness is a year round exercise. The hurricane season runs for six months, from June through November, and can produce more than a dozen named storms in any given year. While most hurricanes either fail to make landfall, hit other areas, or fail to gain significant destructive strength, the lessons learned from hurricanes in Florida show us that we must always be prepared.

Here are some things you can do today to prepare for the hurricane season:

- Locate where you live and your evacuation zone. Determine if and when you would have to evacuate. **REMEMBER: ALL MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS MUST EVACUATE, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION.**
- Decide NOW where you would go if ordered to evacuate, (friend, relative, hotel, out of the region). Only use shelters as a last resort. If you choose to go to a hotel or travel out of the region, you must leave early.
- Check your preparedness checklist and obtain any items you may need.
- Keep your home in good repair. Tack down loose roofing and siding, and trim dead or broken branches from trees.
- Make the minor improvements needed to increase your home's safety. Contact a licensed engineer, licensed contractor or architect to inspect your home for structural integrity.
- Make plans and purchase materials to protect your home before the threat of a storm. (plywood, window protection, plastic sheeting, nails, etc.
- Purchase a battery powered weather alert radio.
- Inventory your property and store the list with insurance and title papers in a safe place, or send a copy to a relative out of the area. Using a video tape is an excellent way to inventory your home.
- Make sure your address is clearly marked on your home.

While the strength of a hurricane is measured merely by the sustained wind speed, the dangers that hurricanes present include much more than wind damage. Hurricanes combine storm surge, high winds, heavy rains and tornadoes in a powerful and devastating combination.

Storm Surge: Storm surge is an abnormal rise in the sea level that can reach up to 100 miles wide. It sweeps along the coast near where the eye of a hurricane makes landfall. This increase in sea level, toppled by waves is the greatest threat to life and property for those living on the coast. Remember, most hurricane related deaths are caused by drowning.

High Winds: Hurricane force winds can destroy buildings and create missiles from loose debris, and these winds can remain at hurricane force well inland. If you do not have to evacuate, remember to secure your home and cover your windows before the storm. **MOBILE HOMES ARE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO HIGH WINDS AND SHOULD BE EVACUATED REGARDLESS OF LOCATION WITHIN PINELLAS COUNTY.**

Heavy Rains: Torrential rains often in excess of 10 inches can cause destructive floods along the coast and well inland. It is important that you are aware of your flood zone. Remember your flood zone is not the same as your evacuation zone. Evacuation zones are determined by susceptibility to storm surge. Flood zones are determined by susceptibility to inland flooding from rising groundwater. If your home or street has suffered from flooding in the past, there is a good chance that you are in a flood prone area.

Code Enforcement: Issues & Updates**By Mark A. Davis**

*From the desk of
... Mark A. Davis
DPW Director and Code
Enforcement Officer*

Code Enforcement Mission Statement

To ensure a safe, healthful environment consistent with community needs and Town Codes while striving for voluntary compliance and public awareness.

Code Enforcement Issues and Updates

For Code Enforcement Questions, contact Mark Davis, Code Enforcement Officer 391-3875

It has come to this office's attention that street side parking has become a problem in certain areas. In some instances, an emergency vehicle could not pass if needed. Town ordinance allows even side address parking on streets where swales exists. In areas where there are no swales, please think before you park your vehicle on the street. Would you be making it difficult for a neighbor across the street to back out of their driveway? Or will normal traffic be able to get through? Or even worse, can a fire truck or ambulance get to an emergency medical call? Sometimes in this fast moving world of ours, we don't always consider the consequences of our actions. Please be a good neighbor and if possible, park your vehicles in your driveway and use good judgment if you must park on the street side.

Reminders:

- Animals are prohibited on the Beach
- Short term rentals (anything under 181 days) are prohibited.
- Building Permits must be posted and able to be seen from the street.
- Swales may NOT be altered or parked on.
- Motor vehicles, boats, and/or boat trailers must have a current registration and license tag on them or be parked in an enclosed carport or garage out of the view of the public.
- Utility trailers and RV's are prohibited unless they are parked inside an enclosed carport or garage out of the view of the public. (Temporary parking permits are available at no cost from the Town Hall and may be used for RV parking for up to 14 days per calendar year.
- Grass/weeds over 12 inches are prohibited.

THIS JUST IN: There has been some recent changes to the Florida Statute, 316.1951, that pertain to vehicles parked and offered for sale from a public street, parking lot, or other public property. Unless authorized by the local municipality, vehicles parked on the street or parking lot and are offered for sale are prohibited. A violation of this section is a non criminal traffic infraction. The vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense, by a law enforcement officer or Code Enforcement Officer immediately. A citation assessing a \$100.00 fine per F.S. 318.18 (21) is in addition to towing. The vehicle cannot be released to its owner by the towing yard until proof is furnished that the \$100.00 fine has been paid to the citation issuing agency. Fines collected under this section are retained by the governing authority that authorizes the towing of the vehicle.

NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

WHATS NEW: The Town's MS4 permit is up for renewal as is each local government whom discharges storm water into any federal body of water. The United States Department of Environmental Protection Agency, along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has implemented many new requirements calling it the MS4 Permit Improvement Initiative. With these revisions comes many new expenditures that are not welcome especially during these economic times. Unfortunately the Town is obligated to follow federal regulations. Each and every county, city, town, etc. in the State was able to inform EPA of their dissatisfaction with the new regulations along with the hardships they will cause for local governments and agencies to no avail. As new regulation requirements are sent to me, I will write updates in future newsletters keeping the town residents informed of new laws.

NEW FERTILIZER REGULATIONS IN EFFECT: The Town of Redington Beach is required under state and federal law to obtain and comply with the provisions of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit and the provision of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limitations that have been promulgated for nutrients in area water bodies. The State of Florida now pre-empts all authority of all local governments to reasonably regulate fertilizer and the introduction of nitrogen and phosphorus into local waterways.

Beginning June 1st, the use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus was banned in Pinellas County. The county wide ordinance prohibits people from using or even buying fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus through September 30th. As June through September is typically the rainy season, hopefully we will see less algae blooms in our lakes, streams, bays and the Gulf of Mexico. Technically red tide is caused by algae blooms and with a reduction of these chemicals being introduced into our waters, we may just have less occurrences of Red Tide. Wouldn't that be nice.

AMBIENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING: Another part of the Town's NPDES permit is a little known fact residents of the Town are not aware of is an interlocal agreement with Pinellas County and its permittees "the ambient water quality monitoring program" that was started back in April of 2003. The waters of Boca Ciega Bay and the gulf that lie within the Redington Beach borders is monitored and checked each month for contaminants, making sure beach goers are aware of any unsafe levels if they should happen to get to that level. The beaches would be closed to swimming if unhealthy conditions should occur. Residents would be notified.

STORM SEWERS; THE RIVERS BENEATH OUR FEET: If you look in the street outside of your home or office and search the parking lots around town, you will probably find storm sewer inlets. Did you ever wonder where they will go? A common misconception about storm sewers is that they go to a waste water treatment plant. This is not the case. Storm sewers transport storm water (rain) to the nearest river, lake, stream, or wetland. Storm water often contains materials found on streets and parking lots such as oil, antifreeze, gasoline, soil, litter, pet wastes, fertilizers, pesticides, leaves and grass clippings. When these materials enter lakes and streams, they become pollutants that pollute the water, kill fish and close beaches.

WHERE DOES THE STORM SEWER GO? The waters that enter storm drains typically carries pollutants such as fertilizers, oil and leaves. Where does it all go? It goes into your nearby lake, stream or wetland.

Elected & Appointed Town Officials

Mayor.....	Nick Simons
Vice Mayor/Parks & Rec Commissioner.....	Fred Steiermann
Finance Commissioner.....	Mark Deighton
Building Commissioner.....	Dave Will
Public Safety Commissioner.....	Tom Dorgan

NPDES NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM**PROTECT FLORIDA'S WATER, STOP POINTLESS PERSONAL POLLUTION
NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION****DID YOU KNOW THAT.....**

- At least 50% of the water quality problems in the U.S. result from NSP pollution (EPA)
- Five quarts of used motor oil can create an oil slick two football fields in size.
- Yard fertilizers runoff from residential areas is estimated to be responsible for one third of the excess nitrogen polluting our waterways.
- The first inch of runoff generally carries 90% of the pollution from a storm (FDEP)
- Storm drains do not go to sewage treatment plants, they lead directly to bodies of water.

WHAT IS NON POINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Commonly referred to as storm water runoff or urban runoff, non point source pollution is water pollution that cannot be traced to its specific origin or starting point.

NSP pollution comes from our home, yards, streets, and farms. For example, substances such as detergents, pesticides, oil, lawn clippings and soil erosion from lawns and construction sites pollute our waterways.

Every time it rains, these substances run off of the land and flow through our storm drainage systems and directly to our lakes, streams, rivers, and bays. THIS PROCESS CAUSES MORE THAN HALF OF THE POLLUTION TO OUR WATER BODIES.

For more information about storm water pollution and what you can do to reduce it, contact the Department of Natural Resources or your county UW Extension or Land Conservation Office, or Pinellas County Extension Service 727.582.2100.

DID YOU KNOW?

Signs have been erected at key points on our beach with a warning flag. It is Stingray Season. There are a couple things you can do to prevent getting barbed by the extremely painful sting of one of these animals. When entering the water be vigilant. These creatures seem to like the area between three to ten yards off the beach. They are relatively shy creatures and activity frightens them. They cannot see very well and rely on electro sensors/vibrations to let them know they are in danger. It is not uncommon for people to see them scooting away as they enter the water. Start shuffling you feet the moment you enter the water. Try not to walk or bounce around backwards. If you happen to get stung, it should be taken serious as people react differently to the toxic venom. A little caution when swimming can prevent a very painful and uncomfortable experience.

Basic Services:

Electric: Progress Energy	727-443-2641
Water/Sewer.....	727-464-4000
BrightHouse.....	727-329-5020
Waste Services:.....	727-572.6800
Clearwater Gas:.....	727-699-1958

E-Mail Addresses

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