



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

Mayor's Message

I send best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2013.

Our town hall staff has undergone some changes in the first month of the year. Janina Patrus, town clerk retired as of December 31, 2012. Our deputy clerk, Missy Clarke, was appointed to Town Clerk by the commission on January 8th. The town commission recently hired, Andrea Gamble to the deputy clerk position, please stop by and introduce yourself and say hello.

Please feel free to contact town hall with any of your questions or concerns.

Your elected officials and town staff are committed to continue making Redington Beach a great place to live.

Nick Simons

Town Hall Holiday Closing Schedule 2013

January 1	New Year's Day	September 2	Labor Day
January 21	Martin Luther King Day	November 11	Veteran's Day
May 27	Memorial Day	November 21 & 22	Thanksgiving Day After
July 4	Independence Day	December 24 & 25	Christmas Eve Christmas Day

Emergency Management By Mark Davis

Since this is the time of year when hurricanes are dormant, this is a perfect time for families to go over their plans of action, such as their evacuation route, preparing supply kits, installing safety devices such as hurricane shutters or panels, etc. Know where you are going in the event of a mandatory evacuation takes place. If you have pets, know where they can stay and know where the pet friendly shelters are located if needed.

A plan of action now, may relieve a great deal of stress and confusion in the event we are faced with a hurricane this coming season. In the months ahead, I will post some of the things as I receive them from Pinellas County Emergency Management. In informed you in previous newsletters the county is no longer issuing sandbags. We will continue this service along with sand until further notice. Stay safe. Be Prepared.

NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

"ADOPT-A-STREET" Registration Form

Volunteer's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

HELP KEEP YOU COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL

The Adopt a Street Program is proving to be successful in many municipalities in a number of ways. It reduces the cost of litter removal and improves the appearance of neighborhoods all over the country. Literally hundreds of miles of roadways are being cared for by community groups and individuals. Litter reduction also improves the quality of stormwater runoff. The Adopt a Street Program provides an effective means of contributing to the beautification of our Town. The town will assist volunteers by providing collection bags, gloves, and post a sign in recognition of your commitment.

Public Works

Since the last newsletter, several projects have taken place in the Town through the public works department. Palm trees are being trimmed, out fall pipes being cleaned, new hand rails on the deck have been constructed at Friendship Park, new plantings at 157th Beach Park, new benches in various locations to name just a few. Many things have been accomplished and as we begin the new year, much more will be taking place.

I will always report new accomplishments and projects that have taken place or is about to in future newsletters. I would like to thank every town resident who has been a positive element and wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

The Town's Park Board, as always, continues to work on beautification projects for the community and have done a wonderful job this last year. We hope to accomplish a lot in the new year ahead.

Don't forget, by donating a park bench, you can have it dedicated in memory of a family member or a loved one by adding a memorial bronze plaque on it.

We are still in need of some recycled plastic park benches for specific locations in town. Currently we need a bench at 157th Beach Park, aka Moon Park and the 161st Avenue Causeway. If this might be something you would be interested in, call me at 727-391-3875. I will supply you with the cost of the benches and the bronze plaque. You supply the verbiage for the plaque.



From the desk of...

Mark A. Davis

DPW Director and Code
Enforcement Officer

Code Enforcement Mission Statement: To insure a safe, healthful environment consistent with the community needs and Town codes, while striving for voluntary compliance and public awareness. The code enforcement officer provides interpretation and enforcement of all town ordinances and policies. Responds to citizen complaints and concerns. Researches and determines nature and severity of violation. Establishes remedial action and time required for code compliance. Maintains records necessary for effective, legal enforcement. Processes code cases through re-inspections, proper notification, and schedule for code enforcement board hearings. Reviews codes as necessary for revision/amendments in keeping with community needs. Provide town wide surveillance, surveys, and studies to monitor compliance and effectiveness of codes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – ISSUES AND UPDATES

*For Code Enforcement Questions, contact Mark Davis, Code Enforcement Officer at **Town Hall – 727-391-3875**.*

The Town of Redington Beach commission and staff strive to assure the town is a safe and healthful environment. Codes and ordinances are in place as a guide, so to speak, so that resident and visitors alike can enjoy living here. Please make a point to become educated with some of the town's regulation this new year. In most cases, code violations are violated for the lack of knowing what ordinances are in place. The City of Madeira Beach Library has an ordinance book of the town that can be viewed or stop by town hall to look here. If you are unsure of something, give us a call and we will give you a full explanation. If you have a particular concern or complaint, I will do my best to get the situation remedied. Please keep in mind that there is a legal process I must follow and although a violation will be remedied, without cooperation it may take a little time to achieve complete compliance.

In most cases a courtesy notice will be issued first, I will also try to make contact with the appropriate property owner or occupant to explain the problem. Please be assured if you receive one of these notices, you are not being harassed or picked on. You are merely being notified of a violation of a town ordinance and asked if you could correct the situation. As you could imagine, there are also times when there is no cooperation with an occupant and further action must be taken. This usually results in the form of a monetary citation and court appearance.

In cases where there is a life or heal safety issue, immediate action must take place without notification of a time frame. In instances where the town has to do a property clean up or similar, the property owner will be billed. If there is no reimbursement, a lien will be placed on that property until it is satisfied or up to 20 years. In most cases, code violations are easily remedied and can usually be prevented from happening in the first place. Mowing the yard before it reaches 12 inches is always a code violation that I receive the most. Please mow the grass or have it taken care of through a service on a regular basis. This will not only prevent receiving a notice or citation, but will also prevent rodents while helping the overall property values of the community to keep from declining.

More and more complaints have been called to my attention about residents feeding wild birds. Specifically, sea-birds. As these wild creatures start becoming use to the regular feedings, they spend less time foraging for their meal naturally and become more dependent on the free handouts. Not only is this detrimental to the wildlife, but usually becomes a nuisance and heal concern to the people living in the immediate vicinity. Please do the birds a favor and your neighbors, by not feeding the wildlife. By doing so, it will help prevent health problems, property damage, and provide for a healthy native wildlife population. You could also be violating Town Codes by creating animal nuisances and health concerns.

Code Enforcement Continued

DON'T FEED WATERFOWL

While one of the pleasures of a trip to the park has always been taking stale bread to feed the ducks, the environmental and health impacts of this activity for both humans and birds can be serious. While ducks, geese, and swans all love bread, it lacks the nutrients and roughage of their natural diet. Feeding these birds bread is similar to feeding a small child a diet of candy and soda, they may love it, but it does them no good and may cause long term health problems.

Feeding waterfowl also tends to cause the birds to concentrate in numbers higher than can be supported by the natural food supplies. This can cause problems in the winter months when fewer people come to the park or shore with food. There have been cases along the Connecticut shoreline where swans were so used to being fed at a particular location that they remained in the area long after the feeding stopped, became too weak to fly someplace with a better food supply, and eventually died of starvation. These large flocks of birds also create large quantities of waste and the serious water pollution problems described earlier in this fact sheet.

Excerpts—Code of Ordinances, Section 12-2 NUISANCES

It shall be unlawful:

- (1) to allow, suffer, or permit palmetto scrub, weeds, vines, bushes, grass, thistles, or other rank or noxious vegetable growth to grow or otherwise accumulate upon any premises within the Town or upon right of way adjacent to such property, regardless of whether such premises are occupied or unoccupied.
- (2) To allow, suffer, or permit any building or structure which by act of god, fire, decay, or other cause may become structurally dangerous, unsafe, dilapidated, or unsanitary to remain (in such condition) without forthwith doing and performing all things necessary to cause such building or structure to be reconstructed, restored, torn down, or removed, in conformity with applicable laws or regulations of the town which may be applicable in respect thereto.
- (3) To allow or permit or fail to remove anything which might be considered unsanitary by keeping, maintaining, allowing to exist or permitting anything whereby the life or health or any person may be threatened or impaired or by which or through which, directly or indirectly, disease may be caused or the environment of any person rendered unclean or unwholesome.
- (4) To allow the owner or occupant or family member of any residential living unit in any residential or commercial area of the town to park or store or keep upon his premises, in the open or in the street or area adjacent thereto, any vehicle which is not in mechanical operating condition for immediate locomotion under its own power, or any derelict or junk vehicle, or to create or permit the use of any part of his premises to be used for the storage or parking or the presence thereon of any motor vehicle not bearing a current inspection sticker and currently licensed and registered and not mechanically capable of immediate operation under its own automotive power, or to permit the storage upon the property of rubbish, old cars or old unlicensed boats or old trailers, or parts of trailers, or any other materials thereof.

Are you a responsible user?

Answer honestly and find out:

- Do Pests even exist?
- Do you try non-toxic solutions first?
- Do you use the least amount of the correct product?
- Do you read and follow all label instructions?
- Do you protect yourself, family, neighbors and pets?
- Do you understand the dangers to pregnant women and young children?
- Do you understand the connection between applying pesticides and contaminating air, soil or water?
- Do you know where to dispose of unused pesticides safely?
- Do you know the signs of pesticide poisoning?
- Do you know when and where others use pesticides?

Learn more about pesticides

- National Pesticide Information Center (npic.orst.edu/index.html) or call 1-800-858-7378
- US EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (www.epa.gov/pesticides/)
- Pesticide Action Network Pesticide Database (www.pesticideinfo.org)
- National Coalition Against Misuse of Pesticides (www.beyondpesticides.org)
- EXTOTOXNET - Extension Toxicology Network (pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet)

It's Unbelievable that....

- 3 times more pesticides are applied per acre to home lawns and gardens than are applied to agricultural crops.
- Homeowners apply an estimated 66 million pounds of herbicides and insecticides per year to their homes, gardens and lawns. This does NOT include applications made to these areas by pest control or lawn care professionals.
- 86,880 pesticide exposure cases were reported to the national network of Poison Control Centers in 2000. More than half of these poisoning cases involved children under the age of six.
- It is estimated that 72 million birds die each year as a result of direct exposure to pesticides on agricultural lands alone. Lawn pesticides cause the death of an estimated additional 7 million.
- Home lawns blanket at least 21 million acres—that's an area larger than Maryland, Massachusetts and New Hampshire COMBINED.
- Non-native weeds consume 4600 acres of wildlife habitat per day on public land in the U.S.

Learn more about how to reduce the use of pesticides, find alternatives and create a healthy backyard

- National Audubon Society—Audubon At Home (www.audubon.org/bird/at_home)
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service—Backyard Conservation (www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html)
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center—Native Plant Information Network (www.wukdfkiwer.org/npin/index.html)
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden—Gardening for Wildlife (www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/)

Hang this chart near your garden supplies as a reminder to make kinder choices.

NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

BY: Mark A. Davis

The Stormwater Management Program is part of the NPDES Program. Its purpose is to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practical to and from the Town's municipal storm sewer system using management practices, control techniques system design, and engineering methods and other provisions that are appropriate. In simple terms, the program was mandated by the EPA, and was implemented by the town in 1997 to reduce pollutants entering our waterways and drinking water supply. The town uses several methods to accomplish this task. All of which have been authorized and approved by the EPA. Swales, CDS units, grassy areas, retention and detention areas, silt fencing, booming, cofferdams, and street sweeping are just a few of the ways that are utilized for reducing contaminants prior to entering our waterways. Several years of planning took place prior to receiving our stormwater permit in which we have to adhere to and enforce and be able to provide the documentation of compliance by the town with the proof of enforcement. I hope through these quarterly newsletters, readers are more conscientious of the importance of keeping our environment free of pollution and harmful contaminants. As care takers of this land on which we live, it is important we all do our part, not only for ourselves, but for generations to come.

The water quality portion of the NPDES permit requires that construction projects be designed as such that discharges meet water quality standards of the Florida Administrative Code. New development and redevelopment often increases the impervious land surface which leads to increase pollutant levels in the stormwater runoff. Any person who wishes to engage in land development or redevelopment activities must submit a plan (drainage site plan) clearly identifying the proposed storm water management provisions and facilities. All drainage plans submitted for review and approval must include a description of those measures which will be taken to provide adequate control of the quality of runoff water. The site plan must also provide provisions for adequate control of erosion and sedimentation.

NPDES PERMIT REQUIREMENT REMINDERS:

- Prior to discharging swimming pool water into the town's storm drain system, it must be de-chlorinated. To do this, simply do not run your pool pump or add any chemicals for 3 days. Afterwards, you may allow the waters to be drained into a catch basin or the curb and gutter. EPA implemented this law two years ago.
- All construction that involves the turning of soil requires sediment and erosion controls to be utilized. This shall be accomplished by using silt fencing installed around the perimeter of the site and any catch basin structures to be properly protected.
- Any debris or soil; piles are required to have proper controls placed around them.
- Proper controls are silt fence, straw bales, gravel bags, sand bags, and fabric filters, to name a few.

The Town of Redington Beach is now utilizing the services of Team Engineering, LLC as our NPDES consultant. They will be keeping us up to date with new federal requirements. This year is a new cycle in the program and there are many changes with regulations and requirement pertaining to reporting, training, inspection, enforcement, etc. Ms. Susan Wood, P.E. will be visiting new construction sites and inspecting for NPDES compliance. She will be wearing an identification badge indicating who she is and what she is doing at the time of inspection.

NPDES CONTINUED

Any non-compliance notifications will be forwarded to me for follow up and enforcement action if compliance is not achieved within a reasonable time frame which will be written out on the notification.

As a reminder to all, NPDES requirements are mandated by the EPA and the town is required to enforce all the required regulations or be penalized with enormous fines. Everyone's cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sect 6-66 Compliance with NPDES Requirements:

Compliance Standards. New building construction within any zoning district in the town shall conform to the provisions of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency as more specifically set forth in the NPDES permit issued to the town.

The town's certified stormwater management inspector shall, at all times during building construction or development, ensure that construction and contractors maintain a system for control of construction site erosion, sediment, and water runoff.

Each building site plan for construction shall be reviewed to include the system or method to be used by the contractor to eliminate or control erosion and sediment at the construction site and potential pollution of the town's stormwater collection system.

The certified stormwater management inspector shall periodically inspect each construction site to ensure that the site does not cause erosion or sediment that may result in a discharge into the stormwater system. The certified stormwater management inspector shall maintain detailed records of all site plans and inspection of construction sites in the town for compliance with the town's NPDES Permit, and shall report such data to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency for NPDES reporting purposes.

The certified stormwater management inspector shall report to the mayor all notices of violation or stop work orders issued by the certified stormwater management inspector to any contractor or property owner for non-compliance with the provisions of this section.

Enforcement: Stop work order, other penalty. In the event that any person holding a site development permit pursuant to this Code violates the terms of this permit, or implements site development in such a manner as to materially adversely affect the health, welfare, or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or at the development site so as to be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property of improvements in the neighborhood, the certified stormwater management inspector shall issue a "stop work" order upon ascertainment of any violation of this section or other law pertaining hereto until such time as the condition that caused the "stop work" order has been, in the opinion of the certified stormwater management inspector, corrected.

Violation and Penalties: No person shall construct, enlarge, alter, repair or maintain any grading, excavation or fill, or cause the same to be done, contrary to or in violation of any of the terms of this Code. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section of this Code shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and each day during which any violation of any of the provisions of this section of this Code is committed, continued or permitted, shall constitute a separate offense. Upon conviction of any such violation, such person, partnership, or corporation shall be punished as provided for elsewhere in this Code for misdemeanors of the third degree. In addition to any other penalty authorized by this section, any person, partnership, or corporation convicted of violating any of the provisions of this section of this Code shall be required to bear the cost and expense of restoring the site to a condition acceptable to the certified stormwater management inspector in conformity with provisions of this section of this Code and shall pay to the town all costs of enforcement of the provisions hereof, including reasonable attorney's fees.

The local government comprehensive planning act requires that each city and county adopt a comprehensive plan which must include a drainage and natural groundwater aquifer recharge element. It must describe the problems and needs and the general facilities that will be required for a solution. The plan must also contain a feasible capital improvements funding plan and requires that infrastructure to support development must be funded or in place concurrent with the impact of that development. Local governments are also required to update their comprehensive plans periodically while considering the water resource rules of the Department of Environmental Protection. They are authorized to create one or more stormwater utility fees that are sufficient to plan, construct, operate and maintain stormwater systems in the required program.

Significant, new water quality policies have been initiated in Florida since 1998. Local governments are now required to obtain Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permits. With recent shortfalls, increasing demands on the general fund and with all the new environmental mandates, the importance of a dedicated source of funding for stormwater services is now more critical than ever. So far there are over 100 Florida local governments that have implemented a stormwater utility fee. These fees are in place to be used specifically for stormwater related activities and services such as cleaning, repairs, construction, etc.

Over the last several years, the town began replacing undersized storm drain lines that were deteriorated and not functioning to the capacity they were intended. Gradually, we have replaced approximately 85 to 90% of the drainage system. Under-drain systems in various areas of the Town have been cleaned as well as major conveyance pipes leading to Boca Ciega Bay in 2012 and many storm drain grates have been replaced. This year, 2013, more grates are scheduled to be replaced and more cleaning scheduled prior to the upcoming rainy season. These are just an example of how the storm water utility fees are utilized.

Water pollution comes from many sources such as residential areas, forestry, transportation, recreation, agriculture, construction, storm drains and industry. Pollution and run off are visually apparent when rain carries soil, oils, and chemicals through the watershed to a major body of water such as Boca Ciega Bay. Swales located throughout the town are there to catch some of those pollutants before they get to the bay. Pouring anything other than water into the storm drain system is strictly prohibited by law.

PINELLAS COUNTY FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

Weather & Seasonal Restrictions: No nitrogen or phosphorus may be applied to turf grass or landscape at any time of the year if the National Weather Service has issued any of these advisories: 1. severe thunderstorm warning or watch, 2. flood warning or watch, 3. tropical storm warning or watch, 4. hurricane warning or watch, or if rain greater than 2" is forecast within 24 hours.

Fertilizer Content & Application Rate: Apply fertilizers at the recommended rate per Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industry. Use no more than four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per year. Do not apply phosphorus unless a phosphorus deficiency is documented by a soil test. No nitrogen may be applied to new turf grass or new plantings for 30 days. Granular fertilizers containing nitrogen must be 50% or more slow release nitrogen and up to 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. can be applied per application. Liquid fertilizers containing water soluble nitrogen applied to turf grass or landscape cannot exceed 1/2 pound nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Per application.

Impervious Surfaces (concrete or asphalt) and Mode of Application: Any fertilizer on any impervious surface must be completely removed or swept/blown back onto the landscape. Fertilizer must be kept out of the stormwater drains, ditches, drainage conveyances, roadways or surface waters. Spreader deflector shields are required on broadcast or rotary spreaders; deflector shields must be positioned to deflect fertilizer away from all impervious surfaces and waters.

Fertilizer Free Zones: Keep fertilizer 10 feet away from the top of the bank of any surface water, landward edge of a seawall or a designated wetland.

Management of Vegetative material (grass clippings, leaves, yard debris, etc.): Keep all vegetative material out of stormwater drains, ditches, drainage conveyances, surface waters or roadways, (compost it, bag it, or sweep/blow it back on to the yard.)

NPDES CONTINUED

STORMWATER

HOW IT AFFECTS THE RESIDENTS OF REDINGTON BEACH

A clean and abundant water supply is vital to the quality of life we enjoy here in the Sunshine State. Fortunately rainfall is a common occurrence, but the resulting stormwater runoff could be harmful to the water resource.

Stormwater runoff is simply the water that flows down the street, or across the yard, or into the storm sewer following a rain shower. There is an inseparable relationship between land use and stormwater management. When streets or parking lots are paved, an impervious surface is created. Rain cannot soak into the ground. This also causes peak discharge rates to increase, meaning it takes longer for stormwater to dissipate and the chance of local flooding problems increase.

Stormwater is also a significant source of pollution. Just look around at the litter and debris as you drive along the streets. When it rains, this debris, along with the oils and fluids on the road, is washed into the stormwater system. As the runoff flows through pipes, culverts, ditches and swales, it carries this pollution with it, which eventually discharges into Boca Ciega Bay or the Gulf of Mexico. Stormwater runoff causes the following problems:

1. Sediment build up in water bodies;
2. It carries nitrogen and phosphorus into water bodies. These substances can cause the conditions that lead to fish kills and algae blooms, as well as increasing undesirable aquatic plants;
3. Eight to ninety five percent of heavy metals in our waterways come from stormwater. Rubber from tires, asbestos from brakes, hydraulic fluid, gasoline, oil and grease, as well as lead, zinc, copper, chromium, and other metal, all flow off the streets and parking lots into our waterways;
4. It costs money. Pollutants in stormwater can increase water treatment costs. Fishkill's and algae blooms can close swimming and beach areas, and other recreational areas. This can result in lower property values for homes. Stormwater also decreases the productivity of fisheries and shellfish areas.

In Redington Beach, we are concerned not only with the water quality issues of stormwater, but we are also concerned with issues of stormwater drainage or flood protection.

Let's look at Redington Beach and some of the methods used to manage stormwater.

Swales: These shallow ditches need to be planted or vegetated to prevent erosion and provide filtration of stormwater. Swales are intended primarily to improve water quality.

Stormwater Sewers: Underground pipes are used to collect and move large quantities of stormwater to help reduce local flooding. The stormwater eventually flows into the gulf or the bay. Storm sewers are not intended to improve the quality of stormwater.

Historically, Florida was developed with a "ditch it and drain it" philosophy. Consequently most existing stormwater systems were built for flood protection only, which is why the term "drainage system" is still prevalent.

One of the greatest challenges we have in reducing stormwater pollution is working with the Town's existing stormwater system. Major modifications to the existing system would not be easy, quick or inexpensive.

However, there are things we all can do to help reduce stormwater pollution. The town asks all residents to observe the following:

1. Keep your swale vegetated. This prevents erosion, traps sediment and provides filtration for stormwater. Keep the vegetation trimmed. An over-grown swale increases the likelihood of local flooding;
2. Do not sweep or blow leaves, grass clippings or other debris into swales, gutters, stormwater drains or the street, since these materials would then be washed into the bay or gulf when it rains. Instead, bag them for garbage pick up or start a compost pile;
3. Direct downspouts from roof gutters onto grassy areas instead of paved areas;
4. If you wash your vehicle, wash it on the grass instead of in the driveway or street. By doing this, the water helps irrigate your lawn and the dirt from your vehicle isn't washed into the bay;
5. If you have exposed soil on a construction site or earth storage area, use silt fences or hay bales to prevent rain from washing the soil away;
6. Properly maintain your vehicles. Leaking oil, gas, or grease is not only a hazard to you, but it also drips onto the street and driveway, where rain will wash it into the gulf or bay;

7. Fertilize and spray your lawn carefully and sparingly. Do not fertilize when storms are forecasted. Use "slow-release" fertilizers; they are more likely to be used by plants and less likely to leach out or wash away.

Regular Maintenance: Failure to properly maintain the town's stormwater system reduces the system's pollutant removal efficiency. It also reduces the system's capacity to move and store water.

To report illegal disposal of hazardous materials or chemicals, call Florida Department of Environmental Protection at 813-744-6100, Tampa; 941-332-6975, Fort Meyers; or 407-894-7555, Orlando.

For information on local sites, for biomedical waste items, call your local county health department.

For information on local oil recycling sites, call 800-741-4337.

For information on safe handling or disposal of pesticides, call your local county cooperative extension service, Florida Pest Control Association at 800-426-4829, Florida Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control at 904-727-6590, or the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at 800-858-7378.

PET WASTE AND WATER QUALITY

Pet owners, take heed... when you clean up after your pet, do you dump the waste in the street or storm sewer? Do you leave it to decay on the sidewalk or the grass near the street? If so, you may be causing pollution or health problems.

ARE YOU POLLUTING OUR LAKES AND STREAMS? Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into storm sewers by rain. Storm sewers usually drain directly into our lakes and streams, carrying many pollutants along with the water.

Pollutants commonly found in urban lakes, streams and ponds include: pet waste, oil and antifreeze, sediment, toxic chemicals and pesticides and fertilizers.

ARE YOU RISKING YOUR HEALTH? When pet waste is disposed of improperly, not only water quality suffers, your health may be at risk too. Pets, children who play outside and adults who garden are most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste. Files may also spread diseases from animal waste. Diseases or parasites that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans include:

Campylobacteriosis: A bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.

Cyptosporidium: A protozoan parasite carried by dogs, cats, mice, calves, and many other mammals. Common symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, and dehydration. May be fatal to people with depressed immune systems.

Toxocariasis: Roundworms usually transmitted from dogs to humans, often without noticeable symptoms, but may cause vision loss, a rash, fever, or cough.

Toxoplasmosis: A protozoan parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects such as mental retardation and blindness if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy; also a problem for people with depressed immune systems. Symptoms include headache, muscle aches, lymph node enlargement.

Pet waste may not be the largest or most toxic pollutant in urban waterways, but it is one of the many little sources of pollution that add up to a big problem. Fortunately, there are some simple things we can all do to help keep our water clean.

1. Flush it down the toilet; the water from your toilet goes to a septic system or sewage treatment plant that removes most pollutants before the water reaches a lake or stream. To prevent plumbing problems, don't try to flush debris such as rocks, sticks, or cat litter. Cat feces may be scooped out and flushed down the toilet, but used litter should be put in a securely closed bag in the trash.
2. Bury it in the yard; dig a hole or trench that is about 5 inches deep, away from vegetable gardens and away from any lake, stream, ditch, or well. Micro-organisms in the top layer of soil will break down the waste and release nutrients to fertilize nearby plants. Be cautious. Keep pet waste away from vegetable gardens and water supplies to prevent disease. Don't add pet waste to your compost pile. The pile won't get hot enough to kill disease organisms in pet waste.
3. Put it in the trash; check local ordinances first. Putting pet waste in the trash is against the law in some communities. Even if legal and easy, it is not the best solution. Waste taken to landfill or incinerator can still cause pollution problems. Another option is to install an underground pet waste digester that works like a small septic tank. Before buying one, check local laws that may restrict their use, design, or location.

A few words of caution; **Around your home** if you leave pet waste to decay in your yard, be sure it does not become a problem. To prevent water pollution, clean up areas near wells, storm drains, ditches, and waterways. Always remove waste from areas where children play. They are the most frequent victims of diseases from pet waste. Of course, the best protection for children and adults is washing hands with soap and water. **In Your Community;** many communities have "pooper scooper" laws that govern pet waste cleanup. Some of these laws specifically require anyone who takes an animal off their property to carry a bag, shovel, or pooper scooper. Any waste left by the animal must be cleaned up immediately. Call your city or village clerk to find out more about local pet waste laws.

DID YOU KNOW? Recently it has been brought to our attention a coyote has been seen in the 158th Avenue and Redington Drive area by a few different residents. These animals are living in every county of the state and are very shy and elusive. Trapping them is near impossible as they are a very smart animal. They are afraid of humans and are not a threat. As a precaution, pet food should not be left outdoors. Coyotes are scavengers as well as predators and will dine on garbage, food scraps, fruits, berries, as well as small rodents, small cats and small dogs. To discourage them, keep your garbage in cans with lids and eliminate any food sources you may have on your property. The only way they can be eliminated is to dispatch them, but they are protected in Pinellas County. Along with raccoons, and possums, coyotes have not only migrated, but have learned to live in urban areas in close proximity with humans. They live in large cities as well as rural areas.

TURTLE TRIVIA: Florida beaches are home to 80% of Loggerhead turtles in the US. Only 1 in 1,000 baby turtles will survive to adulthood. Turtles migrate thousands of miles, but usually return to the same beach where they were born to lay their eggs. Loggerheads lay their eggs along the Pinellas shore line beginning in May, and hatchlings continue until late October. After incubating for 2 months, the hatchlings break out of their shells and climb out of their nests. This is normally at night. Turtles scramble to the water and swim off shore. The main danger to the hatchlings is artificial light. Flash lights can scare the mother turtles when they climb up on the beach. When the babies are born, they head to the nearest light. Lights from houses and light poles make babies go inland, instead of to the water. For more information on Loggerheads, go to seefloridaonline.com/turtles.

Recycling

Single—Stream vs. Dual Stream Recycling

In recent study published in Waste 360, an analysis was conducted to determine which recycling collection method is the most effective, using 1996-2009 Florida data. With strict recycling goals set in the state of Florida, the study analyzed whether single-stream recycling, was more beneficial than dual stream recycling, in terms of the environment and economy. The research sought to determine whether the single-stream process did in fact encourage more participation among residents and if the contamination rate was affected by these statements associated with the argument for and/or against each collection method. After collecting samplings from eight dual-stream counties, all similar in population, it was reported that those counties had an average collection rate between 30 and 40 percent, while the single—stream counties had an average rate between 13 and 39 percent. The largest recycling collection rate for a county using the single-stream system was Martin County at 39 percent, while the largest rate for a county using the dual-stream system was Duval County at 45 percent.

Also analyzed were the levels of contamination and size of the recycling collection bin. This study indicated the size of the bin had little bearing on the participation rate or the amount of material recycled by residents.

Waste Services is proud to offer the municipalities they serve the option of either the single-stream or dual stream collection method.

Basic Services:

Police: Pinellas County Sheriff

Non Emergency.....727-582-6200

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

Police & Fire EMERGENCY ONLY: 911

Electric: Progress Energy727-443-2641

Water/Sewer.....727-464-4000

Brighthouse.....727-329-5020

Waste Services:.....727-572.6800

Clearwater Gas:.....727-699-1958

E-Mail Addresses

townclerk@townofredingtonbeach.com

deputyclerk@townofredingtonbeach.com

Mark.davis@townofredingtonbeach.com

General: info@townofredingtonbeach.com

Town Hall office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Notary services are available and always free for charge to residents.

The Town Commission meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the commission chambers at town hall.

Trash collection is provided on Tuesday and Fridays with recycling on Thursdays. Recycling bins are available at town hall.

Beach parking permits will expire in March of 2013. Bring in your old tag and we will give you a new sticker good through March of 2015.

Pet Safety

Adopt a pet from a City Animal Services Center. A variety of animals, from purebreds to mixed breeds are waiting for loving arms and good homes.

Wash pets indoors in a bathtub or sink using less toxic shampoos, or consider having your pet professionally groomed. Pet shampoos and soaps even when biodegradable can be toxic to humans.

Consider using less toxic alternatives such as oral or topical flea control products. If you do use flea control products such as shampoos, sprays or collars, please dispose of unwanted quantities properly. Call the Household Hazardous Waste Hotline for more information.

Spay or neuter your pets. There aren't enough homes for the many puppies and kittens born each day. Low cost spay and neuter vouchers are available from the Department of Animal Services.

Vaccinate your pets to protect them from disease. Licenses and dog licenses are available through the Department of Animal Services.

Change your pet's food and water regularly to avoid pest infestation.