



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

Crosswalks:

Many of you have concerns about the crosswalks that have been eliminated in Redington Beach.

The decision to do this wasn't taken lightly and happened as a result of 4-6 months of public meetings and public input. The Florida Department of Transportation or their consultants attended 3 of those meetings.

Background:

1. The issue began with a presentation from the Department of Transportation (DOT) indicating plans to install medians at the crosswalks on Gulf Boulevard in Redington Beach. By the DOT's own criteria some of these were unsafe; others were inconvenient for residents.
2. Public meetings were held to discuss the location, size, and desirability of the medians.
3. The DOT revised its plans; repositioning the medians to reduce residents' inconvenience and reducing the size of the medians. There were still objections to some median locations. At this point, the DOT stated its policy that if we did not have a median, we could not have a crosswalk.
4. It was disclosed that traffic flow on Gulf Boulevard in Redington Beach is not high enough to warrant any crosswalks according to DOT criteria.

In a subsequent public meeting it was argued that crosswalks led people to assume they were safe, neglect safety procedures, and get hit. Therefore, the crosswalks themselves were a safety hazard.

Considerations in eliminating the crosswalks:

1. Pedestrian safety overall (because Redington Beach doesn't have center lane medians)
2. Vehicular traffic for residents who live along Gulf Blvd and have to navigate the concrete islands.
3. Vehicular traffic for residents turning on to side streets from South Bound Gulf Blvd or turning from side streets to South bound on Gulf Blvd.

The crosswalks decision was never going to please all the residents of Redington Beach, regardless of the choices we had available. To date, the comments and people who have come to town hall indicate one half for the decision and one half not supportive of the decision. In closing, I encourage all who cross Gulf Blvd to use a crosswalk, but if you chose to cross on an avenue without a crosswalk, please use extreme caution.

Nick Simons

**IMPORTANT HURRICANE INFORMATION
ENCLOSED**

Emergency Management

By Mark A. Davis

Pinellas County no longer offers sandbags

Pinellas County no longer offers sandbags to residents of unincorporated areas in the county during hurricane season.

The County was forced to reevaluate the effectiveness of the sandbags after flooding in 2004—the record-breaking year when four hurricanes hit the Florida peninsula. Now, officials urge residents not to rely on sandbags to save their homes from flooding during heavy rainfall.

“Sandbags are intended for a small water flow protection up to 2 feet. They don’t seal out water and offer very little resistance to flooding,” said Pete Yauch, the County’s director of transportation and stormwater. “The 35-to 40–pound bags would take considerable effort and time to stack enough of them to have even a minimal effect. Moving water would be able to pick up the sandbags”.

The County has been working with the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes to help dispel some of the hurricane myths and eliminate the false sense of security some residents feel by using sandbags.

A quick internet search will show a great number of companies manufacturing systems to help reduce or eliminate flooding. One of the options is a type of sandbag made of absorbent materials that rehydrate when exposed to water, water filled barriers or physical barriers mounted on their home structure. Consumers are advised to check several sources, get customer reviews, and check the license of any contractor installing a system at their home.

As Florida’s Tropical storm/Hurricane season is quickly approaching, once again it is time to go over your plan with your family. If you have pets, know ahead of time where they will go. There are some pet friendly shelters but most are not. DO NOT wait until the last minute to make life saving decisions.

Although Pinellas County is no longer giving out sandbags, The Town of Redington Beach is still offering them to Town Residents along with sand as soon as an official storm warning has been issued. As always they will be located at Town Hall and sand across the street from Town Hall behind the double gates at Friendship Park. Please have proof of residency with you.

**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.



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.***

Code Enforcement officers are not recognized, as are police, fire fighters, paramedics, lifeguards, etc., for saving lives; but their roles can be similar and just as important. Too often their efforts go unnoticed, even after code compliance has been accomplished due to their collective efforts and specialized expertise.

Code Enforcement officers save lives and protect property on a daily basis. They are certified and trained to provide for the safety, health and welfare of the citizens through equitable enforcement of building, zoning, housing and other codes or regulations.

Code Enforcement officers are dedicated, well-trained, and highly responsible individuals. They sometimes risk injury when inspecting vacant buildings and vacant lots, often confronting hostile violators and unrestrained animals. They take their jobs seriously and are proud of their profession.

In this quarterly issue of the Towns newsletter, I am giving everyone a recap on several ordinances and local laws that seem to be repeat violations. The Towns Codes are for the safety of everyone. As you read through some of these items, try asking yourself what the Town would be like if these laws weren't enforced or even on the books.

Animals

Reminders: Recently I have received numerous resident complaints of dogs in the Town Park. Please be aware it is unlawful for any person to bring, have, or allow any animals in Town Parks, recreation areas, or on the beach (Town ordinance: Section 4-3) It is also required of anyone walking their dogs to have them on a leash at all times (section. 4-5).

- Spring is here and your vegetation is now out of its dormant stage and will soon be growing vigorously once again. Since this is always a constant complaint of Town residents and as it is also a Town Ordinance, No grass or weeds shall be permitted to remain over twelve inches in height. (Section 12-2(8). Please make arrangements to have your lawns mowed if going out of town. It's easy to forget how fast things grow here in Florida.

- Trailers are another top ordinance violation. No more than one boat or boat trailer is, or any utility trailer are permitted on any residential property unless it is parked out of the view of the public, in an enclosed carport or garage (Section, 21-46, 21-47).

- Pinellas County Utilities current water restrictions effective March 13th 2013 are a Southwest Florida Water Management District Order SWF2013-006, phase III Extreme water shortage deliration. The irrigation of established lawns and landscaping is authorized for one-day-per-week and watering is prohibited between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., regardless of property size. Residents in Redington Beach may water from 12:01 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., only one of these two available watering times shall be used. For more information on watering issues call Pinellas County Utilities (727) 464-4000, or Southwest Florida Water Management District at 1-800-836-0797. Reclaimed water users may irrigate three days per week from April 1st to June 30th.

Code Enforcement Continued

- Are you aware that your home address must be placed where they can be seen. Imagine a life or death situation occurs and the emergency response personnel have to waste precious moments trying to figure out the home address for the lack of numbers posted. Section 6-4 requires all structures to display the address on the mailbox or on the front of the structure where it can be seen.

- No construction is permitted on Saturday's or Sunday's (substantial) This includes erection, excavating, demolition, alteration or repair of any building.

-For ALL new construction and major alterations a drainage site plan drawn by a registered or licensed architect or engineer shall be submitted prior to issuance of a building permit. (Section 6-59) This is so no additional rainwater is ending up on an abutting neighbors property creating flood conditions.

There are many ordinances that are not listed here, all for the safety and welfare of the Towns residents. Remember the Code Enforcements mission statement: To insure a safe, healthy environment consistent with the community needs and Town Codes while striving for voluntary compliance and Public Awareness. If you should have any questions concerning codes ordinances, please give me a call at 727-391-3875. The Code of Ordinances is on the town's website under "Municode"

Public Works — By Mark A. Davis

- Lots has been happening in the Public Works area this last quarter. The Towns green spaces and parks have had their irrigation systems gone over and repaired, getting them ready for new plantings, the Park Board has picked out replacing some that have died and to just add some for beautification of the grounds. Now that the chance of frost or a freeze is over with, we will be planting soon.

- The Public Works assistant has been very busy cleaning outfall pipes that were encrusted with oyster shells, cleaning them allows storm water to drain much quicker, while complying with NPDES regulations also.

- The large flower pots on 161st are causeway have been stained with a terra cotta color and buttonwood trees in them were replaced with new Robeline Palms giving them a brand new look.

- Town entrance signs have been spruced up with fresh paint.

- Friendship Park has had more receptacles added in preparation for some of the events that are held regularly there.

The Towns part time gardener, Chelon Glass deserves a big thank you as she is forever trimming and weeding the parks and cul de sacs which is a never ending difficult and hot job.

- The water temperature will soon be warming up and swimmers will be once again enjoying this activity. The Public Works staff will be replacing any swim Buoys in need this coming month.

- Plans are on the way to replace much needed stop signs throughout the Town that are faded. At the same time, more of the high intensity strips that attach to the posts themselves will also be added.

- New Bon Fire Policies, effective immediately Bon Fire Permits will be issued only to Redington Beach residents. No Bon Fires will be permitted during sea turtle nesting season, May 1st to October 31st. The fires must be extinguished by 12:00 pm. The location for bon fires shall be exclusive to 160th Avenue beach park only unless you reside on the gulf, in which case they will be allowed at your home location with the proper permit.

Bon fires cannot be within fifty (50) feet of any building. The removal or disturbance of any vegetation on the beach is prohibited. Residents are responsible for ensuring that any and all fires are completely extinguished prior to leaving the area and are solely responsible for ensuring the area is left clean and clear of any debris. The Town reserves the right to refuse a permit for failure to adhere to policy. Town trash cans are not to be used or filled with debris left over from bon fires. Weekends have the most usage and trash cans are needed for every ones use.

NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

By: Mark A. Davis

The Stormwater Management Program is part of the NPDES Program. It’s 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 contaminates 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 contaminates. As care takers of this land, 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 provision 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.

Important Telephone Numbers:

- To report illegal disposal of hazardous materials of chemicals call Florida Department of Environmental Protection at (813)-744-6100
- For information on local oil recycling sites call (800)-741-4337
- For information on safe handling or disposal of pesticides call your local Coop extension service at (800)-426-4829

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 maybe 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. Flies 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 cause diarrhea in humans

Cryptosporidium: 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, a fever or cough.

PET WASTE AND WATER QUALITY.....CONT'D

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 operation 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 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.

Landscape and Fertilizer Tips for Homeowners and Those Who Hire Lawn Services

Here are tips to protect water resources:

Fertilizer

- Do not apply fertilizer before heavy rain.
- Use a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer product.
- Always read and follow instructions
- Apply no more than the maximum amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Only fertilize twice per year, only during the growing season.
- Use a deflector shield on all broadcast fertilizer spreaders.
- Keep fertilizer and pesticides off sidewalks and driveways and out of water bodies.

Protect the waterfront

- Fertilizers should not be applied by either professional applicators or homeowners within 10 feet of a water body (such as a bay, lake, stream, canal, wetland or pond) unless deflector shield is used. With a deflector shield, fertilizer may be applied within 3 feet of a water body.
- Waterfront property owners should establish a 6 foot low maintenance or "no mow" zone adjacent to water bodies to reduce the potential for fertilizer residues entering bodies of water.

Mowing

- Mow your grass regularly and at the highest recommended height so that clippings and their nutrients can be recycled.
- Keep lawn mower blades sharp.

Cleanup

- Leave short lawn clippings on the lawn. They provide nutrients to your lawn and result in a 20-30 percent reduction in fertilizer use.
- Keep grass clipping, vegetable material and vegetative debris away from storm drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies and roadways.
- Never hose down chemical spills. Keep absorbent materials such as 'kitty litter' onsite for spill cleanup.

Plants

- Select landscape plants that are well adapted to your site and have low water requirements.
- Treat specific weed areas rather than resorting to general "weed and feed" mixtures.

PINELLAS COUNTY 2013 HURRICANE SHELTER LIST

MARCH 5, 2013

MANDATORY EVACUATIONS OF LEVEL A

Name	Address	City	Type	Capacity
Tarpon Springs MS	501 N. Florida Avenue	Tarpon Springs	G	1413
Dunedin Highland MS	70 Patricia Avenue	Dunedin	SpNS, PFS	1996 (1596 SpNS + 400 pet
Ross Norton Recreation	1426 S MLK Jr. Avenue	Clearwater	G	405
McMullen Booth ES	3025 Union Street	Clearwater	G	885
Oak Grove MS	1370 S. Belcher Road	Clearwater	SpNS, PFS	1984 (1584 SpNS + 400 Pet
Largo HS	410 Missouri Avenue	Largo	G, HFS	641
Pinellas Park HS	6305 118th Avenue North	Pinellas Park	G	2767
Bauder ES	12755 86th Avenue North	Seminole	G	773
Sexton ES	1997 54th Avenue North	St. Petersburg	G, HFS	915
John Hopkins MS	701 16th Street South	St. Petersburg	SpNS	1113 (113 SpNS)
Thurgood Marshall MS	3901 22nd Avenue South	St. Petersburg	G, PFS	4002 (3602 Gen + 400 Pet Owners)

Total Shelters: 11

Shelter Key

16, 894 Total

G = General Population

PFS = Pet Friendly Shelter

General = 11,401

SpNS = Special Needs Shelter

HFS = Homeless Friendly Shelter

SpNs = 4,293

Pet Owners = 1,200

TOWN OF REDINGTON BEACH**WHAT EVERY TOWN RESIDENT SHOULD KNOW REGARDING FLOOD SAFETY, FLOOD INSURANCE RATES, FLOOD INSURANCE AND FIRE SAFETY****FLOOD SAFETY:**

Local flooding could occur in the Town, as a result of storms and during high tides. Flooding is dangerous and can happen within a short period of time. Even though water appears to be moving slowly, a flood 6” deep moving at a 3 ft. /second can knock people off their feet; a flood 2 feet deep moving at the same velocity can float a car off the road. The message is clear: Do not attempt to walk or drive in flood conditions.

PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES:

Protecting a property from flood damage include retrofitting, grading a yard, correcting local drainage problems and such emergency measures as moving furniture and sandbagging. In times of hurricanes and tropical storms, measures should be taken to protect against high winds. One should consider installing storm shutters and reinforced garage doors.

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM):

The FIRM is a map published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that is used by the County Building Department, realtors, lending institutions, architects, engineers and surveyors to determine in which Flood Zone a particular property is located and the base flood elevation (BFE). This information is useful to engineers and architects in building design and insurance underwriters in rating flood insurance policies. Lending institutions are now legally required to mandate that property owners with mortgages carry flood insurance on properties located in the flood zone. Since Redington Beach is a barrier island, the entire Town is designated a Special Flood Hazard Area and is located in either a VE or AE Zone. The town has several Base Flood Elevation (BFE) heights. The BFE is the height above mean sea level to which the lowest structural member / floor support of a new structure must be elevated to survive flooding so severe that its height is expected no more often than once in a hundred years. Information on the flood zone or the base flood elevation for your property can be obtained by calling the Redington Beach Town Hall on (727) 391-3875 and/or checking Web site: www.townofredingtonbeach.com

ELEVATION CERTIFICATES:

All new construction or substantial improvement requires a surveyor’s elevation certificate to document the height of the floor, structure and equipment, as well as breakaway walls, or hydrostatic relief vents required in enclosures for garage storage below the BFE. The town maintains a file of these certificates, and can provide copies to anyone as per availability.

It should be noted that the official file and elevation certificate information is what is used to determine insurance rates, or if enclosures or additions to living space have been made below flood level. These illegal enclosures or changes will not be covered by insurance; only permitted expansions documented as meeting codes will be covered. Elevation Certificate copies are on Town web page: www.townofredingtonbeach.com

FLOOD INSURANCE:

The Town of Redington Beach participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Community Rating System (CRS) and currently has a rating of 7 with 10 being the lowest and 1 being the highest rating. Each rating below 10 gains property owners in Redington Beach, a 5% reduction in their flood insurance premiums. Since Redington Beach is currently rated at 7, we enjoy a 15% reduction. If you haven’t already done so, you need to advise your insurance agent that Redington Beach has a new NFIP/CRS rating of 8 at this time, so you receive the proper discount. (Please note that the 15% discount becomes effective May 1, 2013) Insurance writers should know this now, but it is best to check. Remember normal homeowners insurance may be required to participate in some grant programs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

The Town is graded by NFIP/CRS and awarded points for various activities ranging from adopting flood and storm drainage ordinances, educational projects such as this newsletter, for which we are allowed points. Some actions such as a mitigative retrofit and elevation of structures may qualify for grant monies.

Unfortunately, your elected officials and town staff can't do it all! To a large extent, it depends on the cooperation and assistance of residents and property owners to make it work. Here are some ways you can help: keep erosion silt and trash out of drains — drains flow to the intracoastal waters and affect beaches.

As a participant in the NFIP and NPDES the town has adopted ordinances on building construction, Stormwater drainage, filling, grading and excavation. If you see any construction or excavating done without a permit posted, contact the building department.

There are numerous Stormwater inlets on public and private properties in town. The Public Works Department inspects these inlets on a biannual basis to determine if they are being maintained. If you see anyone dumping trash, lawn clippings, etc. into these inlets, contact the building department. If seen at night or weekends contact the police department at 582-6200.

THE TOWN'S PART:

Your elected officials; in an ongoing effort to keep the town safe from the dangers of flooding, has authorized or implemented the following: Redington Beach contacts with Pinellas County Building Department. They stand ready to advise property owners, architects and contractors regarding acceptable methods of flood proofing of proposed new construction or existing structures and to assist with applications for grant monies (see below). It also has an extensive library on these subjects free of charge. In the event of a storm, flood proofing can be accomplished by sandbagging door openings, etc. (not hydrostatic relief) or building a berm around your property to protect it from flooding.

The Town Commission has named Mark Davis, Public Works Director as the Town's Emergency Management Coordinator and has adopted the Pinellas County Hurricane Evacuation Implementation Guide. In the event of a storm, citizens are advised to stay tuned to FM 94.9 as a primary source of storm data and WRBQ FM 104.7 as a secondary source. In the event of a hurricane, the police department receives regular updates from Pinellas County Emergency Management.

The Town adopted a Flood Management Plan, including requirements for the FEMA 50% Rule. This states that, if a property is damaged more than 50% or if an owner wants to make substantial improvements, which exceed 50% of the fair market value of the structure only (not including the land), the owner will be required to bring the building into compliance with the NFIP regulations and town ordinance requirements for new construction. Literature on this is FREE of charge from the Town hall & Gulf Beaches Library in Madeira Beach and online.

AVAILABLE GRANT PROGRAMS:

Include: FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) RFC (Repetitive Flood Claims) SRL (Severe Repetitive Loss). Other information on retrofitting existing homes along with the above programs information is available at Town Hall. For residents considering applying for grants, it will be necessary to have the following items to determine eligibility and funding:

- Current appraisal
- Current survey — site approval
- Current elevation certificate
- Recent estimate of construction costs to perform mitigation retrofits

The Town can help once all of the information is gathered by electronically submitting the application.

FREE sand bags are available at Town Hall; each resident is allocation 20 bags

FREE of charge, FIRM information, hazardous recovery info and brochures are available at Town Hall & Gulf Beaches Library in Madeira Beach.

CHECK OUT TOWN WEBSITE:

www.townofredingtonbeach.com

For links to FEMA, STATE & COUNTY AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS.

BE ALERT FOR GAS LEAKS:

Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated. Before evacuating, make sure the gas has been turned off.

HURRICANES

Hurricanes are violent storms which bring intense winds, heavy rain, a storm surge, floods, coastal erosion, landslides and tornadoes. While it is difficult to predict the exact time, place and force of hurricanes, residents of the Atlantic and Gulf Coast states must be prepared. The season for hurricanes is June through November, with most hurricanes occurring mid-August to late October. Each season, on average, six hurricanes form in the Atlantic Ocean of which two become major hurricanes.

KNOW YOUR RISK WHAT TO DO

- Contact your local emergency management office to learn about evacuation routes and emergency plans
- Get additional information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov), Citizen's Corps (www.citizencorps.gov), the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) and NOAA's National Hurricane Center (www.nhc.noaa.gov).
- Buy flood insurance. Anyone can get flooded, even if you don't live in a designated flood zone. There is a 30-day waiting period before activation of flood insurance policies. Homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. Ask your insurance agent or go to www.floodsmart.gov.
- Inquire about emergency plans and procedures at your child's school and at your workplace.
- Make a family disaster plan that includes out-of-town contacts and locations to reunite if you become separated. Be sure everyone knows home, work and cell phone numbers and how to call 9-1-1.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit with food, water medical supplies, battery-powered radio and NOAA Weather Radio batteries, flashlights and other items that will allow you to get by for 3 days after a hurricane hits.
- Gather important documents such as birth and marriage certificates, social security cards, passports, wills, deeds and financial and insurance records. Store them in a fire and flood safe location or safe deposit box.

PREPARE YOUR HOME BEFORE THE STORM

- Install permanent wooden or metal storm shutters or board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood.
- Install metal straps or hurricane clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure.
- Trim trees and clear rain gutters and downspouts.
- Plan ahead for protection of pets and livestock. For information go to www.fema.gov and search on :Pet Owners".

AS THE STORM APPROACHES

- Remember that a ***Hurricane Watch*** means the onset of hurricane conditions is possible within 36 hours; a ***Hurricane Warning*** means the onset of hurricane conditions is likely within 24 hours.
- Have a full tank of gas in a vehicle, cash and your disaster supply kit ready to go.
- Make sure every family member carries or wears identification.
- Listen to the radio or television and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for current information and be prepared to act quickly.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to maximum cold and keep closed.
- Secure your boat or move it to a safer mooring.
- Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water for bathing, flushing toilets and cleaning, but do not drink this water.
- Secure or bring inside such outdoor items as patio furniture, kids’ slides and power mowers.
- Turn off propane tanks. Shut off other utilities if emergency officials advise you to do so.

EVACUATE IF YOU :

- Are directed by local authorities advise you to do so.
- Live in a mobile home, a high-rise building, on the coast, a floodplain, near a river, or an inland waterway, or otherwise feel your will be in danger.

IF YOU ARE TOLD TO EVACUATE:

- Turn off all utilities if authorities advise you to do so
- Don’t delay in evacuating once you get word to leave.
- Stick to designated evacuation routes. If you need help, this is the most likely place to find it.
- Take your most reliable vehicle and avoid taking multiple vehicles that create gridlock.

IF YOU CANNOT EVACUATE AND ARE STAYING IN YOUR HOME:

- Go to a safe indoor place for refuge, such as an interior room, closet, or hallway. Stay downstairs only if you are not in a flood prone or storm surge area.
- Do not go outdoors during the storm, even in its early stages. Flying debris is extremely dangerous.
- Close all doors, brace external doors, stay clear of windows and keep curtains and blinds shut.
- If necessary take cover under a heavy table, or under something protective.
- Don’t be tricked by a sudden lull in the storm, it may be the “eye” passing over. The storm will resume.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE STORM:

- Use extreme caution going out of doors. Be alert for downed power lines, broken glass and damage to building foundations, streets and bridges and coastal or hillside erosion.
- Keep listening to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.
- Watch for closed roads. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, **Turn Around and Don't Drown**
- Stay on firm ground. Moving water 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from power lines.
- Once home, check gas, water, electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Never use candles or other open flames indoors.
- When using a generator, avoid electrocution hazards by following manufacturers instructions and standard electrical code.
- Do not drink tap water until you know it is safe.

THE RECOVERY PROCESS:

- For direct assistance to individuals and families contact the American Red Cross or other local voluntary agencies.
- Check newspapers, television, or radio news for information on disaster assistance available.
- If you have property damage, contact your insurance company as soon as possible.
- For information on helping children deal with disaster, visit www.fema.gov or get a copy of FEMA 478 *Helping Children Cope with Disaster*. To obtain other fact sheets and publications call the FEMA publication warehouse at 1-800-480-2520. You can also visit DHS' www.ready.gov.

Preparing for a hurricane....Disaster Supply Kit

Here are the most important items for your Disaster Supply Kit. Stock up today and store in a water-resistant container. Replenish as necessary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Two weeks supply of prescription medicines | • Mosquito repellant & citronella candles |
| • Seven day supply of non perishable/special dietary foods | • Fire extinguisher (small canister, ABC type) |
| • Drinking water/containers 1 gallon / per person / per day (minimum 7 days) | • Instant tire sealer |
| • Flashlights and batteries for each member of the family | • Whistle and /or distress flag |
| • Portable radio and batteries | • Cooler(s) |
| • First aid book and kit including bandages, antiseptic, tape, compresses, aspirin and aspirin-free pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, and important numbers (i.e. Poison Control Center, Non Emergency Fire and Rescue, and Non-Emergency Sheriff's Office numbers) | • Plastic tarp, screening, tools and nails, etc. |
| | • Water purification kit (tablets, chlorine (plain) and iodine) |
| | • Infant necessities (medicine, sterile water, diapers, ready formula, bottles) |

Disaster Supply Kit....Cont’d...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean-up supplies (mop, buckets towels, disinfectant) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiet games, books, playing cards and favorite toys for children |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camera | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-electric can opener | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important papers and irreplaceable keepsakes (driver’s license, special medical information, insurance policies and property inventories, photographs) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extra batteries for camera, flashlights, radio portable TV and lamps, etc. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Garbage can or bucket with tight-fitting lid and kitty litter (for emergency toilet) | Precious commodities and before and after a storm: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic trash bags | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cash (with no power, banks may be closed; checks and credit cards unaccepted and ATMs may not be operational) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toilet paper, paper towels and pre-moistened towelettes or baby wipes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charcoal, matches and grill (Do not use indoors) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice |

If you evacuate you also should take:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pillows, blankets, sleeping bags or air mattresses | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A corded phone that does not require electricity |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extra clothing, shoes, eyeglasses etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Battery or solar powered charger for cell phones. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Folding chairs, lawn chairs or cots | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.) | |

FEMA

Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. From 2007 to 2011, the average residential flood claim amounted to almost \$30,000. Flood insurance is the best way to protect yourself from devastating financial loss.

Flood insurance is available to homeowners, renters, condo owners/renters, and commercial owners/renters. Costs vary depending on how much insurance is purchased, what it covers and the property's flood risk.

All policy forms provide coverage for buildings and contents. However, you might want to discuss insuring personal property with your agent, since contents coverage is optional. Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before your policy goes into effect. That means now is the best time to buy flood insurance.

FEMA has advised that the flood insurance discount will be available on 1st May, 2013. If you have already renewed your flood insurance policy, then the discount will apply on your next renewal.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is only one raccoon (Procyonidae) species in Florida.

There are but a few of the native wild life living in and around this area. Many are nocturnal and are only seen in the early morning hours, after dark, or in the late evening hours.

The Raccoon, Procyon lotor, is found in areas with trees, including urban areas, statewide. It is gray, brown and black with a pale brown underside. It's face is lighter with a black mask. It's hind legs are longer than it's forelegs. It is 30-35” long with a 9-12” banded tail and weighs 10-15 pounds.

It is omnivorous and opportunistic. It's diet includes fruits, seeds, vegetables, roots, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds and insects. It also forages in garbage and has displayed an uncanny ability to open coolers and other camping equipment. Food plants includes sea grapes, beautyberry, grapes, pawpaws, Crataegus spp, Rubus spp, Oaks, mulberries, cabbage palm, saw palmetto, persimmons and cactus.

The raccoon typically sleeps in trees during the day, becoming active in the late afternoon. It has several den sites within it's home range (1 mile in diameter for males, .75 for females).

Breeding usually occurs during December or January. The male wanders off in search of another mate. A litter of 3-4 kits is born about 60 days later. The female is very protective of her offsprings.

Predators incudes man, dogs bobcats, panthers and great horned owls.

Raccoons are primary carriers of rabies in Florida and may also carry distemper and tuberculosis. This is the time of year when our local Raccoons are about to be giving birth. They often look for opening in attics, under decks and any other quiet place where they would normally be left alone to raise their new families. Unfortunately they can become a nuisance with noise, destruction of screens as well as being unsanitary with their feces. You might want to consider inspecting your outside premises to check for any places where these animals can enter and take up residency in your home where they feel safe. Normally these animals are nocturnal but do occasionally break that cycle, if disturbed and can been seen during daylight hours. Raccoons that are seen roaming about in the middle of the day could also be sick. It is best to stay away from them. Sometimes it becomes necessary to catch them alive and relocate them to another area. These animals were here long before this area was settled and since they adapt so well, it is likely they will always remain.

Recently there have been several coyote sightings here in Redington Beach, This was originally a resident of the western states but they have been migrating eastward for about 30 years now. Coyotes are a shy creature who usually avoids human contact but they are also an animal of opportunity. They delight in scavenging for food through open trash receptacles, outside pet food and even small pets such as cats and small dogs that are left unattended outdoors. They mostly prefer berries, seeds and rodents such as mice, rats, squirrels, rabbits and small birds. The coyote is a very smart and cunning and has the ability to adapt to most environments very easily. These animals are almost impossible to catch and were and are known to many native tribes as the Trickster, for their ability to evade people. I have personally been face to face with coyotes and with a quick head movement they were gone without making a sound and not to be seen again. Residents of the Town should not be concerned. Their presence here is nothing more than another species of urban wildlife. Are you aware we have wild turkeys just across the bay from us? Within 20 miles of here wild boars thrive. As another part of the great circle of life, people need to learn to adapt to our four legged friends. I have caught alligators in the town and relocated them away from here. Just use a little common sense and take a few simple precautions. All is well.

E-Mail Addresses

townclerk@townofredingtonbeach.com
deputyclerk@townofredingtonbeach.com
Mark.davis@townofredingtonbeach.com
General: info@townofredingtonbeach.com

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

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 expired 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.

Leftover food in and around your home can attract unwanted pets, insects and disease.

CLERK SELF HELP CENTERS—PINELLAS COUNTY

The Clerk’s self Help Centers are designed to assist Pinellas County Citizens representing themselves (commonly referred to as a Pro Se individual) in court who are NOT represented by a private attorney and who are unable to otherwise afford an attorney. The Self Help Center is a collaborative effort between Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the Community Law Program and the Clearwater Bar Association.

The Centers provide the citizens of Pinellas County access to affordable legal assistance. Citizens can purchase forms and packets for Civil Court actions and/or schedule a consultation with an attorney for the very affordable fee of \$1 per minute (in 15 minute increments). There are no income eligibility requirements for the service which makes it available to all our citizens.

The Clerk’s Self Help Centers are limited to providing assistance in the following areas:

Divorce, Alimony, Child Support, Child custody, Paternity, Name Change, Residential
Landlord/tenant issues and Small claims

The Self Help Center has three convenient locations: (1) Clearwater (in the Historic Old Courthouse); (2) St. Petersburg (in the judicial Building) and (3) North County (in the North County Service Center). The Centers are open 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visit our website at www.mypinellasclerk.org and click on the “Self Help Center” tab at the top of the page for additional information, phone numbers and appointment schedules. Our knowledgeable staff will assist you with any questions that you have regarding the service.

The Clerk’s Self Help Center was selected as the National recipient of the American Bar Association’s 2011 Louis M. Brown Award. This honor is awarded annually to programs that contribute to the delivery of affordable legal services in innovative ways and displays that dedication in their creation, development and implementation of those methods. The Clerk’s Self Help Centers have scheduled over 13,000 appointments since its inception October 2007.

If you have any additional questions, please contact us at (727) 582-749 or (727) 464-5150. If your organization would benefit from learning about the Clerk’s Self Help Center, please contact Jeff Tomeo, Assistant Manager, Clerk’s Self Help Center, please contact Jeff Tomeo, Assistant Manager, Clerk’s Self Help Centre at (727) 224-2301 or Constance Daniels, Director at (727) 464-4815 to schedule a presentation.

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

Drop off unwanted or expired medicine for safe disposal:

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

North District—737 Louden Avenue, Dunedin (727) 582 6900 —7 a.m. to 11 p.m. / 7 days

Administration—10750 Ulmerton Road, Largo (727) 582-6200—7 a.m. to 11 p.m. / 7 days

TREASURE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT.

180—108th Avenue, Treasure Island—(727) 547-4595—24 hours / 7 days

- Look for a Lock Your Meds box in the lobby area. A law enforcement officer will assist you.
- No information is required or questions asked. The officer will not open any containers.
- This program is for the general public, and not for commercial use, including doctor’s offices.
- **Accepted:** Any prescription drug or medicine used for people or pets, including pills, liquids, inhalers, patches and Epi-pens.
- **Not accepted:** No syringes or medical equipment
- **Liquid medication:** Secure bottle caps with tape.
- **Other options:** You can also drop off medicine at an Operation Medicine Cabinet event. For upcoming dates and locations, contact the Sheriff’s Office at www.pcsoweb.com or (727) 582-6221.
- Medicine will be safely disposed of by incineration.